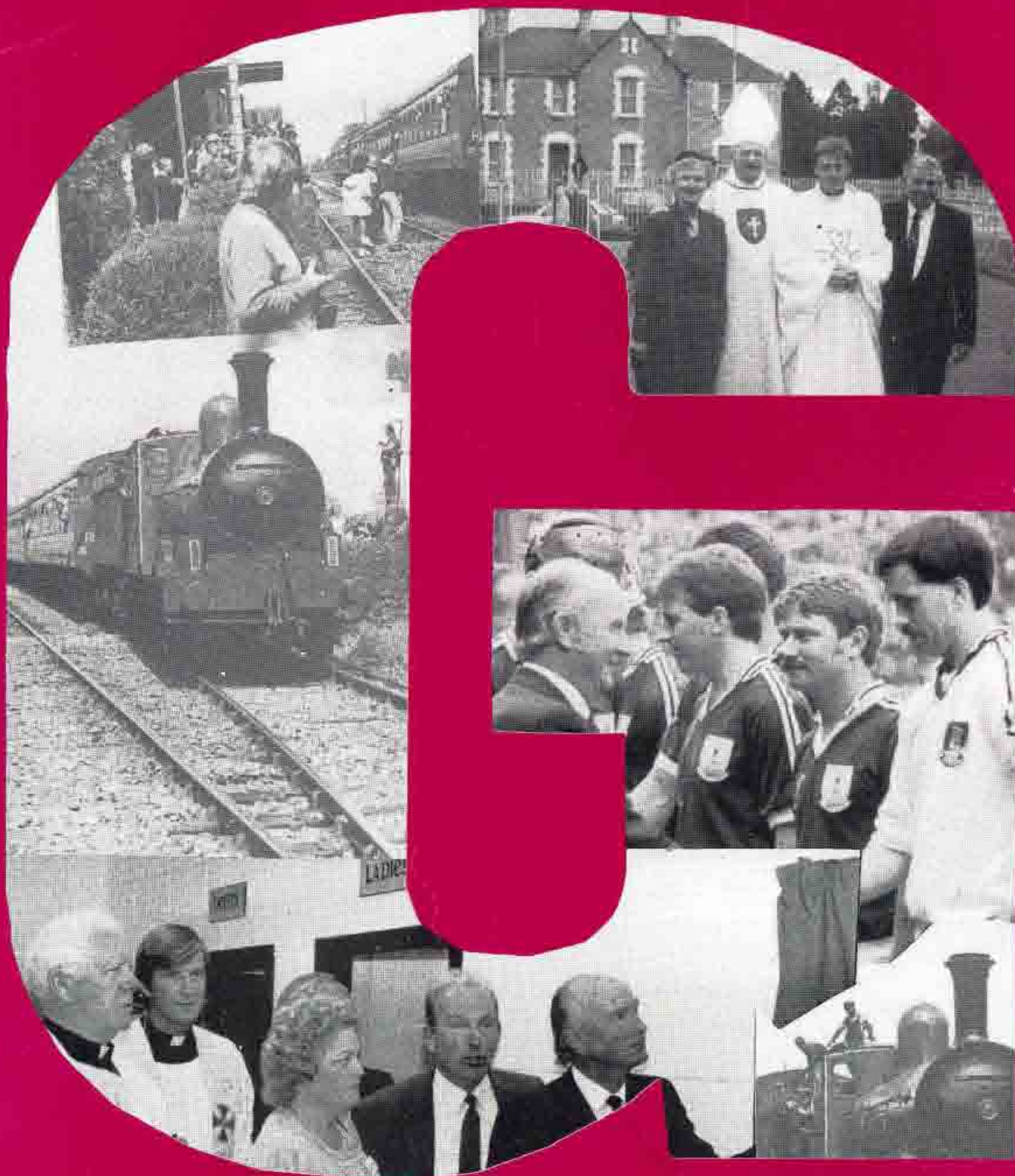


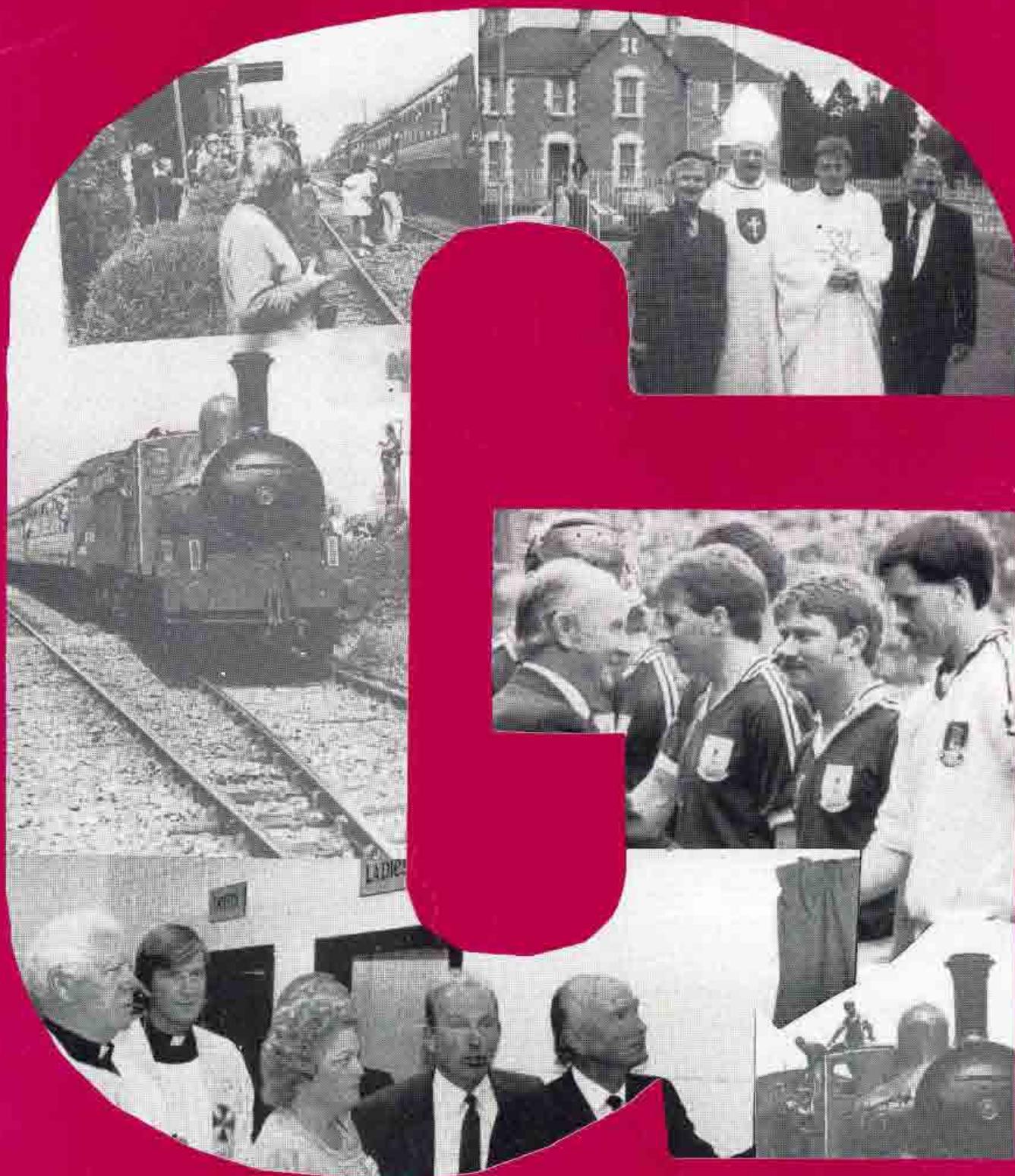
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GERRY, HELEN AND MARY

Christmas 1987

EDITORIAL 23rd ISSUE

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

Editing: Mossy Clabby, Colm Ward, Pius Murray, Margaret Linnane
Photography: Mossy Clabby
Typist: Margaret Linnane

Editorial Board: Evelyn Roche, Monica McGrath, Ingrid McGrath, Nicholas Cafferky, Sean Leahy, Jimmy Collins, Johnny Spelman, Paddy Cooke, Dick Burke.

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

Cover Photos:

1987 has been a very eventful year for Gort and South Galway. We had a Presidential visit for the opening of the Community Centre, an ordination, the great hurling treble, to which the hurlers of the area contributed hugely, the visit of the old steam engine, the appointment of a Junior Minister and a very successful Music Festival, to mention but a few.

We are delighted to produce another issue of Guaire to record some of these events. We are very grateful to all our contributors and look forward to their continuing support.

Articles, photographs, poems, stories, etc. are always welcome. Please come along to the next "Guaire" meeting and ensure that the magazine will continue to appear in future, if only on an annual basis.

We wish all our readers a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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OUT AND ABOUT

WINNING GOLD AT INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The International Special Olympics are held every four years. This year over 5,000 athletes travelled from all over the world to the University of Notre Dame, Southbend, Indiana where the games were held from 1st - 8th August.

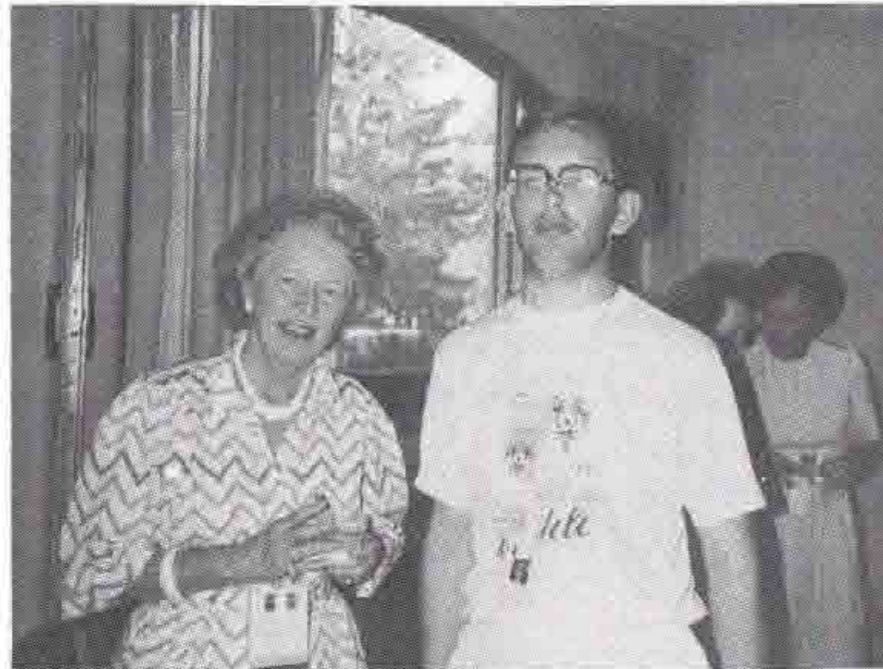
Sixteen athletes competed in the games from Connaught, having qualified from the All-Ireland Special Olympics. James Neylon from Orchard Centre, Gort, and a native of Corofin, Co. Clare, was one of these athletes. He

was a member of the Irish Bowling Team. He won a gold medal in the mixed-doubles competition with Maureen Sheridan from Dublin.

After the games the Irish Team went to Milwaukee for a three day holiday before returning home.

Here they visited the Zoo and went to the Great America Fun Fair.

There were great celebrations upon his arrival home and his family are all very proud of his gold medal.



Mrs. Maeve Hillery, wife of the President, with James Neylon at the University of Notre Dame, Southbend, Indiana.

Welcome

Welcome to Fr. Eamon Dermody, C.C. on his appointment to Gort. We wish him well during his stay in our parish. Farewell to Fr. Martin Coen, C.C. and best wishes in his new position in Galway City. Sincere thanks to Fr. Martin from the editorial board of Guaire for his valuable contribution to the magazine during his brief return to Gort.

Céad Míle Fáilte to Gort, is extended to all the families who have taken up residence, in the fine housing development in Crowe Street, during the year. We wish them many happy years in their new homes.

Invitation

Past Pupils Re-Union of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Convent of Mercy, Gort. An informal get-together of past-pupils and parents will take place in the school hall on Sunday, December 27th commencing at 4 p.m. Everyone welcome! Special guest: Sr. Catherine.



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OUT AND ABOUT

STREET LEAGUE

The Street League Final between Crowe Street and Tubber Road attracted a large crowd on a sunny afternoon in October. Crowe St., in the all-red strip had the advantage of a stiff breeze in the first half, and they made full use of it, piling on the pressure from the throw-in. Powered by the three Donovan boys John, Martin and Dan, they kept the opposition scoreless in the first half. Even with the wind behind them in the second half, Tubber Road could make little impression against a rock-solid Crow St. defence, in which Neil Carey was outstanding, and Brian Coen between the posts made some fine saves. The Fahey brothers, Michael and Sean made good use of any chances that came their way at the other end.

Tubber Road were best served by their captain John Rodgers and the Nestor brothers Conor and Garret. Roy Costello could not be faulted for the two shots that passed him. The full-time score was: Crowe St. 2-2, Tubber Road 1-0.

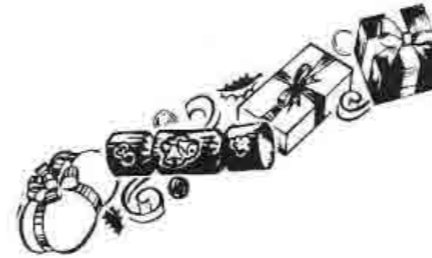
After the game both teams were treated in the Burger Hut by the League Sponsors, the Bank of Ireland.



The victorious Crowe Street team: Back row, left to right: Sean Fahey, Martin Donovan, Brian Coen, Michael Fahey, Neil Carey, Dan Donovan. Front row, left to right: Ciaran Duffy, Brian Gormally, Thomas Donovan, Michael Connors, John Donovan (Capt).



Runners-up, Tubber Road: Back row, left to right: Patrick Loughnane, Keith Killeen, John Bourke, Roy Costello, Garret Nestor, Paddy Joe Lyons (trainer), John Rodgers (Capt), Conor Nestor. Front row, left to right: Gerard Stanford, Joseph Stanford, James Quinn, Paul Glynn, Justin McDermott, Conór Bourke, Martin Hayes, Fergal O'Dea, John Killeen.



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OUT AND ABOUT

FUNDRAISING- WHEN MONEY WAS MONEY

Our photo shows members of the Collection Committee of the Saint Colman's Church Restoration Fund, at Kylemore Abbey, where they were entertained to lunch by the then Parish Priest, Archdeacon Cassidy, as a mark of his appreciation of their work. The year was either 1937 or 1938.

The Group travelled in a 'cavalcade' of cars, and after a most enjoyable day in Kylemore had their tea in Galway on the way back, and then went to the pictures.

Garrett Griffin R.I.P. drove the P.P.1 car, which broke down in Oranmore on the way home, and we had to get the loan of a car to take us home! 'Twas a day I'll always remember.

Tom Staunton



Back row, left to right: R. Lahiffe, W. O'Connor and M. Brennan. Third row: J. Griffin, J. Donnellan, T. Nally, J. Keane, D. Madigan, M. Spellman, M. Fahy. Second row: M. Finnegan, G. Griffin, G. ffrench, J. Spellman, A. O'Connor, J. Glynn, Fr. W. Moran. Front row: G. Heenan, T. Staunton, P. O'Shaughnessy and Tom Finnegan.

GORT R.F.C.

While Gort Rugby Club did not have any silver on display following the 1986/87 season, the team reached the final of two competitions and were undefeated in the Connacht Junior B League.

The season started earlier than usual with the playing of what we believe to be the first Mixed Rugby match played in Gort. This game was a fund-raising

venture for Sport Aid, and was a huge success.

Off the field the club successfully published a local Telephone Directory. Copies may still be purchased from Sean Mullins.

For the season 1987/88 the club have some very attractive home fixtures with teams from Munster and Leinster as well as teams from Connacht. There are great expectations this year with the team already having beaten Our Ladys Boys' Club, Galway, winners of the Connacht Junior Cup. A noted development this year is the fielding of an underage team. History was made in October when Gort fielded two Rugby Teams on the one day.

The following were elected at the A.G.M.:

President:	Colman Keane
Hon. Sec. and Connacht Branch Rep.:	Jimmy Hannigan
Hon. Treasurer:	Gerry O'Donnell
P.R.O.:	Sean Mullins
Captain:	Michael Mullins
Vice Captain:	Gabriel Piggott
Fixture Secretary:	Brian Kilroy
Committee:	Dr. Richard Joyce John Kilroy Dermot Duffy Dr. Brian Jennings Michael Slattery Gerry O'Grady

OUT AND ABOUT

ATHLETICS

South Galway Athletic Club were very active during the past year and their athletes brought many honours to the club. The year started off with the South Galway Sports. This event has proved to be a great success through the years and this year was no exception. Those athletes who qualified at the sports went on to compete in the County Track and Field Championships which were held in Galway. The club had a big representation there on both days and won a total of 67 gold, 42 silver and 26 bronze medals between individual and relay events. Qualifiers from the county went on to compete at the Connacht finals which were held in Claremorris, Lanesboro and Manorhamilton. There were some fine individual performances by the following:- Irial Conroy, Alan O'Grady, Gregory Landon, Oliver Roche, Mark Donnelly, Richard Landon, Colin Casey, Anthony Coppinger, David Linnane, Sean O'Grady, Noel Mullins, Gerard Burke, David Casey, Jason Kenny, Colin Burke, Leonard Forde, Marie Fahy, Shirley O Connor, Aideen Hickey, Christine Kelly, Aoife Clabby and Colman Donnelly. A total of 25 gold, 24 silver and 28 bronze medals were won at this stage of the competition.

At the All-Ireland Championships Richard Landon gave an outstanding performance when winning gold in the U-15 Long Jump and then on the following day made it a double by taking bronze in the 200m Hurdles. David Casey also finished up a very good season by taking bronze in the U.16 Long Jump. His brother Colin came very close to winning bronze in both the Long Jump and Triple Jump events. Irial Conroy was 5th in the 100m Hurdles and Gregory Landon was 6th in the Discus event. Aideen Hickey ran a very good 200m Hurdles, Jason Kenny put in a good performance in the Long Jump and Triple Jump and Colin Burke and Anthony Coppinger also performed well in their first outing at National level.

The club was well represented at the County Cross Competitions which were held in Portumna and Renmore recently. Gregory Landon secured the bronze in the U.13 200m. Oliver Roche won silver in the U.14 2000m and Patrick Diviney won bronze in the same event. Richard Landon still on a winning streak brought home gold in the U.16 4000m. They now go forward to the Connacht finals which will be held in Boyle and Portumna.

Each year an award is presented to the best athlete from each of the thirty two



counties. This year it was a first for South Galway A.C. when Richard Landon was selected Juvenile Sport Star of County Galway for 1987 because of his outstanding performances during the year and was presented with the Bank of Ireland Award at the Star Awards Dinner which was held in Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullinger recently.

At their A.G.M. held recently in Glynn's Hotel the following officers were elected for the coming year:- Chairman James Hickey, Hon. Secretary Dan Casey, Treasurer Greg Landon, Vice-

The U.17 Relay team after winning gold at the County Community Games. The team from L to R: Colin Casey, Jason Kenny, Richard Landon, David Casey and David Linnane.

Chairman Fred Broderick, Assistant Secretaries Evelyn Roche and Kitty Gillane, Committee:- Gerry Burke, Arty Kenny, Peadar Burke, Brian Kilroy, Peter Walsh and Mossy Clabby.

GORT PIONEERS

There has been a Ladies Branch of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association in Gort since 1st February, 1930, when twelve ladies were enrolled. This remained as a "Ladies Branch" until November 1961. The Men's Branch began in 1947 and remained "men only" until 1964, when these branches amalgamated. There was also a centre within the Convent Secondary School and students in the Convent Primary School were encouraged to become Juvenile members. The last meeting of the Mixed Branch was held on 20th November, 1983.

In January, 1986, a meeting was held at the Parochial House in an effort to revive the Pioneer Movement in Gort, and a provisional committee was formed. Mass for the South Galway Group which comprises Kinvara, Ballindereen, Craughwell, Kilchreest,

Peterswell, Kilbeacanty, Ardrahan and Gort, was celebrated in Gort Church and was followed by a concert in the Convent Gym on the 26th January, 1986. Various activities were participated in and a number of meetings were held. The first A.G.M. of the Gort Pioneers was held on 15th December, 1986 and during the year we participated in the South Galway Juvenile and Junior Quizes, performed "Muldoon's Oriental Cafe" at the Concert held at Our Lady's College, and enjoyed the Annual Social.

Our year begins with the September meeting and arrangements are being made for a table quiz for Junior and Senior members, for lectures, a Concert and a Social. We are really rejuvenated and welcome members and those wishing to join, to our meetings, held on the First Monday of each month at St. Colman's Hall.

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OUT AND ABOUT

JOE COONEY RETIRES

Joe Cooney was honoured by the Gort Hurling Club at a function in Springs Nite Club on Aug. 30, 1987 to mark his retirement, after 48 years service, from Burke Bros., Drapers, of Bridge Street, Gort. The function was attended by colleagues of Joe's on and off the field, and an attendance of 300 people had a most enjoyable night. Presentations were made to him by Tom Staunton, (his former workmate) and Josie Gallagher, on behalf of the Club and his many friends.

Joe came to Gort in 1939, at the age of 26 years, from his native Kilconieron, to take up employment with Burke Bros. A great lover of G.A.A. games, he played both senior Hurling and Minor football with Gort in the Forties, and was also a faithful supporter of the Galway Senior Hurling and Football teams down through the years. He also represented Gort at Billiards. Joe will certainly be missed around Gort for his genial company, and the game of twenty-five. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

GORT I.C.A.

The above Society hosted a very successful group meeting this autumn, and had a very pleasant evening of lectures, light entertainment, and tea with outside guilds. During the year some of our members re-opened the Taisce Information Centre, and added a Craft Centre at the old Weigh-House in the Square, and had a very enjoyable and successful season. Members are just finishing courses on Toy Making and sweet and chocolate making for the Festive Season.



Back row: M. Cahill, N. Mullins, G. Lally, T. Staunton, K. Fahy, J. Commins, P. Piggott, M. Helebert. Front row: S. Devlin, S. Linnane, J. Cooney, P. Fahy, P. Jordan.



Josie Gallagher making a presentation to Joe Cooney on Behalf of the G.A.A. Club.

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OUT AND ABOUT

HURLING TICKET DRAW

A free draw for Stand Tickets for the Hurling Final was held at the Bank of Ireland on the Thursday preceding the match. Over eight hundred customers had entered for the draw and Pearse Piggott drew the winners:- Frank Walsh, Cross Roads, Peterswell, Ronnie Burke, Beagh, Gort and Patricia Moylan, Kinvara.

The main office of the Bank was crowded for the Draw and refreshments and savouries were served by the staff.

Ronnie Burke (centre) being presented with his Hurling Final Ticket by Dudley Solan (left) Manager, and being congratulated by Michael Hennessey and Johnny Spelman.



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Cure for Sleeplessness — ten pints and four brandies.

Cure for Hiccup — Drink four gallons of water

Cure for a broken nose — Keep your mouth shut.

Cure for Toothache — Fill your mouth with water, turn your back to the fire and wait till the water in your mouth boils.

Cure for Love — Marry her bills.

Cure for Sleepwalking — Cut off your two big toes.

Cure for baldness — Draw rabbits on your head and from the distance they will look like hairs.

Cure for Corns — Wash them with acid.

Cure for tired feet — Walk on your hands.

Cure for Homesickness — Carry a picture of the present government and you'll never want to come home again.

Cure for Greenfly in the garden — Cut off their heads.

Cure for a Hangover — Count your change.

Cure for itch — scratch it.

Cure for blisters on your hands — Stop working.

Cure for heartburn — Don't eat for four days.

Cure for Cold Feet — Set your shoes on fire.

COHMALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ EIREANN

Comhaltas and National Culture tend to grow more and more every day. The County Fleadh was hosted this year by the Killimor Branch. Entries in all sections were far in excess of other years.

Irish nights continue on a weekly basis throughout the summer months, and are continuing every two weeks during the winter season. The local branch had winners in Ceol an Gheimhridh competitions at both County, Connacht and All Ireland level, in Ceili and set Dancing.

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OUT AND ABOUT

KILBEACANTY & DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB 1987

This very progressive and eventful season began in McCarthy's Meeting Room, Kilbeacanty on the 19th February, 1987 at the Club's A.G.M., where very careful attention was given to the election of the following Committee:

President - James Curley
 Chairman - Josie Gallagher
 Vice-Chairman - John Quinn
 Treasurer - Michael John Cahill
 Asst. Treasurer - James Curley
 Secretary - James Regan
 Asst. Secretary - John Moran
 P.R.O. - Tommie Minogue
 Committee:

Michael Duffy, Georgie Fahy, Paddy Donohue; Junior Members: Michael Fahy, James Curley, Martin Cahill.

The Secretary then informed the meeting of the projected programme for the season ahead. The first activity to take place was to be educational. Three members of the Central Fisheries Board came to McCarthy's Lounge on the 26th of February to meet all our members, plus a large gathering of locals. Together we watched a film on river pollution and fish life and had a long and enlightening session of questions and answers.

Unfortunately, the word pollution has been very much to the fore in many households that are dependent on automatic water supply. Our Club feels that we must continually remind ourselves that keeping our rivers clean and free of pollution is not only good for the fish life but also essential to our own presence in this world. We would remind people, that it is the fish life that is first affected, so our river stock is our first



A very happy group of anglers.

line of warning. This leads to any good, foresighted angling club appointing Water Keepers. For his assistance in this matter, we thank our club Solicitor Colman Sherry, and for their voluntary labour, the following appointed Water Keepers - James Curley, Michael John Cahill, John Moran, Michael Duffy and Micko Quinn. How reassuring to know that people still exist who are prepared to give of their "time" to ensure that our waters and fish stock are under their watchful eye. In these days of department cutbacks, where service administration becomes a burden, attitudes can become careless and so streams and rivers could, alas, become refuse tips. Our Club is delighted to state

that our river, thanks to our volunteers, is pollution free, and we would ask all our neighbours to maintain this standard.

We are reminded by reports from Junior members Patrick Lally, Martin Cahill and Michael Fahey that Angling is a sport that can be enjoyed by all ages, male and female and, most important it takes you out amongst nature's beauty - a reward that is immeasurable!

This year our members have had the privilege of competing for the McCarthy Cup, presented by the McCarthy family in honour of the late Donal McCarthy and the Curley Fallon Cup, presented by James Curley and James Regan, in honour of the late Joe Curley and Joe

OUT AND ABOUT

Fallon. The Father Duffy Cup, kindly donated by Rev. Father Duffy, P.P., will be presented to the club's best overall Junior Angler of the season at our annual social.

The Club fished a "Fly By Night" competition, sponsored by Dudley Solan, a Pike, Perch and Trout competition, sponsored by Hughie O'Donnell, and also competed against Loughrea, in a competition on Loughrea Lake, sponsored by Tommie O'Donnell. A team of anglers competed in the All-Ireland Brown Trout Fly Fishing Championships held on the River Suir. We also competed in the Connacht Cup Inter-Club Competition on Loughrea Lake, plus many other individual competitions fished up and down the country. We had a very active season and some very good fishing enjoyed by all.

During the season the need for a Club House became evident - a place to congregate and share ideas and skills of fishing. We are delighted to announce that Michael Duffy and family have donated a site for same at Duffy's Bridge, to be used for the sole purpose of the Kilbeacanty & District Angling Club's activities.



The Club wish to thank all landowners, sponsors, the McCarthy Family, the Duffy Family and all who helped, in any small way, to make the past season a success. We take this opportunity of wishing all readers and friends of the Kilbeacanty Anglers a very Happy Christmas.



Members of the Angling Club pictured after the day's events.

~ RIVER TALK ~

by James Curley (a junior member)

Every Evening, I will be
 Up river in Kilbeacanty.
 With rod and reel, and hook and cap
 And box of flies across my lap.
 Now I'll do my best and try
 To catch a big trout with my Butcher fly.
 Now I have to sit and wait
 And hope the fish will not be late.
 But late or not, what does it matter
 When you hear the Ould-Fellas natter
 About the one that got away,
 He gets bigger and bigger every day.
 And you'd want to see Jimmy Regan squirm
 If he heard you mention about the

WORM
 THE WORM - YOU LITTLE BRAT
 IS NOT ALLOWED
 AND THAT IS THAT!!

GORT G.A.A. NEWS

1987 will be remembered with mixed feelings in Gort. On the County scene, the disappointments of losing the 1985 and 1986 All-Ireland Finals were banished as young and old alike celebrated the well-deserved victories of the Senior County Team in winning the unique Treble of All-Ireland Championship, Ford League and Railway Cup Competitions. The great contributions of long serving Sylvie Linnane and fellow club members John Commins and Pearse Piggott, were a great source of pride to everybody associated with the club, and their success is fitting reward for their dedication, endurance and effort over many seasons. Sylvie is now one of the few Galway hurlers to possess two senior

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FROM MICHAEL AND TINA HENNELLY

OUT AND ABOUT

All-Ireland medals, while John has his own record of Minor, Under 21 and Senior All-Ireland medals.

On the local scene, the year was a disappointing one, with the senior team bowing out in the county semi-final to outright winners Athenry. Our junior team were beaten in the county quarter-final by old rivals Kiltormer, while our under-21 team made a very tame exit early in the championship. Our minor team failed to qualify for the knock-out stages, while despite great dedication to training and effort, both the under-16 and under-14 teams failed to win championship honours.

On the social scene, the club organised a farewell presentation and dance for Joe Cooney, following his retirement from business in the town. Joe, who had been a notable player in his youth, had been an ardent supporter and friend of the club for over 40 years. We wish him well in his retirement. The juvenile section of the club organised a very successful dance on the occasion of the visit of the All-Ireland Winning Team to Gort.

Despite the disappointments of 1987, the club look forward to 1988 and perhaps 12 months hence, we will be celebrating a county championship in Gort!

GORT CAMOGIE 1987

Although, the club failed to win any competition, 1987 was a successful year in the development of Gort Camogie Club. The progress of the club is best assessed by considering the achievements of its players and teams during the past season.

The U-12 and U-13 teams failed to emerge from their respective sections,

however, the U-14 team reached the quarter-final only to be defeated by Mullagh, the county's leading underage club for the past few years. The minor team were defeated in the County Final by Mullagh.

Galway Minor Camogie team won their second All-Ireland title in 1987 and Gort were well represented with Caroline Linnane, Suzanne Burke and Gina Cahill on the team. Susan Murray was also on the victorious Galway panel. Bernadette Fahey was unlucky not to have gained her place in the squad.

Other promising underage players during the year were Elaine Diviney, Mary Brady, Marie Fahey, Loretta Connors, Deirdre Cooke, Colette Burke and the Melville sisters, Majella and Claire.

The under 18 team had not participated in any competition at time of writing.

In assessing the performance of the senior team in 1987, we are left pondering what might have been! Gort seniors did not play any League game, due to circumstances outside our control. They were defeated by St. Mary's, Glenamaddy in the county semi-final. Gort were still very much in the game at half-time but eventually lost by five points. The absence of key players Mary Kilkelly, Patricia Jordan, Mary Callinan, and Bernie and Bridget Linnane was sorely felt. There was little doubt that Gort would have won the match and the championship if they had been available to play.

Gort Camogie Club hosted a very competitive and entertaining 7-a-side Tournament in St. Colman's Park in late June. Once again St. Mary's,

Glenamaddy defeated Gort by the narrowest of margins, in a gripping final.

Despite their lack of success the seniors, captained by Mary Sullivan, are a credit to their club.

As Secretary of the County Camogie Board, Anne Murray of Gort worked hard at county and club level to keep the organisation of camogie in Galway running efficiently.

The club wishes to thank all who helped and supported them during the year. A special word of thanks goes to our sponsors without whose help we could not have survived financially, and to those who contributed so generously to our Church Gate Collection.

Club Officers 1987

President: Peadar Burke
Chairman: Jerry Sheehan
Vice-Chairman: Michael Linnane
Secretary: Una Murray
Asst. Secretary: Anne Linnane
Treasurer: Norman Rochford

Underage mentors: Mary Sullivan, Anne Murray, Peadar Burke, Mrs. Connolly, Anne Linnane and Gerry Cahill.

We wish you Season's Greetings

Gort c. 150 Years Ago

Barrow: "We passed through the little town of Gort, which consists chiefly of a street of neat houses, with some decent-looking shops, and the people who appeared at the doors were cleanly and tidily clad".

OUT AND ABOUT

GORT SHOW 1987 SPECIAL PRIZES

Home Produce: sponsored by Gort Show, Mr. Patrick Piggott and Milford Flour (Donegal): Winners - Miss Mary Martin, Miss Maura Glynn, Mrs. Kitty Fahy, Mrs. Mary Hurley, Mrs. Anna Costelloe, Sr. M. Paschal.

Wine: sponsored by Brewcraft Ltd. - Winner: Joseph Quinn

Garden Produce: sponsored by Vincent O'Shaughnessy and Gerard Keane & Sons - Winners: Raymond Forde, Bridget Collins.

Flowers: sponsored by Whitegate Nurseries - Winner: Geraldine Hynes.

Most Outstanding Floral Exhibit: sponsored by Mr. Noel Mullins - Winner: Mrs. Mernie Gleeson.

Handcrafts: sponsored by Kinvara Handcrafts - Winner: Sheila McDonagh.

Children's: sponsored by Coens Drapery & Footwear - Winner: Miss Olive Loughnane.

Post Primary: sponsored by Bros of Charity - Winner: Aileen O'Doherty.

Fruit Cake: sponsored by McDonnells - Winner: Maura Glynn.

Wildflowers: sponsored by Michael Birmingham - Winner: Rita Crowe.

RAFFLE:

1. Germania Cooker, sponsored by Calor-Kosangas - Winner: Anne Kennedy; 2. Lawn Mower, sponsored by B. Coen & Sons - Winner: Frank Lally; 3. Engraved Mirror, sponsored by Greaney Glass - Winner: Sr. Marie Oranmore; 4. Hurley & Ball, sponsored by Connolly Bros - Winner: G. Moylan;

5. Hurley, sponsored by Connolly Bros - Winner: Kenneth Hogan.

Weight judging:

1st William Doorhy, Caherbrien, Gort; Joint 2nds, William Doorhy, Shane Mahon, Gurteenboy, Michael Finn, Rineen, Ross O'Donnell, Beagh.

Gort I.C.A. "Guess the weight of the Cake" Competition was won by Sr. Oliver, Convent of Mercy, Gort.

QUIZ



GARDENING CLUB

A draw for a Garden Weeder, presented by Black & Decker was held. All who entered the competitions were eligible for the draw. Margaret Connors, Blackwater, Gort, was the lucky winner.

Results of Gardening Competitions

The following are the results of this year's competitions organised by Gort & District Gardening Club.

VEGETABLE GARDEN for the Toddie Byrne Perpetual Trophy:

1st Toddie Lahiffe, Peterwswell; 2nd Patrick Lally, Lisbrien, Gort; 3rd T.F. Clabby, Ennis Rd., Gort.

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN:

1st Peggy Kearney, Ballyturn, Gort; 2nd Anna Costelloe, Tubber Rd., Gort; 3rd Mary Walsh, Cois Cuain, Kinvara.

SMALL ORNAMENTAL TOWN GARDEN:

1st May Wallace, 18, Crowe St., Gort; 2nd Gretta Roche, Church St., Gort; 3rd Peter Fahy, 24, Crowe St., Gort.

1. Who are they?
2. Where was it taken?
3. What was the occasion?

£5 prize to first under 16 year old person with correct answer to Editor.

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OUT AND ABOUT

GARDA GOLF OUTING

President: Joe McInerney, Captain: John Forde, Vice-Captain: Ronnie Killeen, Treasurer: Pat Cradock, Secretary: Paddy Grealish, Lady Captain: Brigid Piggott, Treasurer: Sheila Duffy, Secretary: Bernie Cummins.

At the A.G.M. which was held in January the promotion of new members was discussed and it was decided that all new members would be accepted for half the subscription plus the entry fee. This proved to be a very successful venture and many badly-needed young golfers joined the club in 1987.

There was also some development on the course. The orchard was cleared and a new green is being built there. A new green is also been built across the railway, and it is hoped to have these in play next year.

The club has succeeded in employing four people, under the Social Employment Scheme, for one year, beginning June 1987. Various projects have been planned and work is in progress at present. It is hoped that the quality of the course will be improved as a result of these efforts.

A word of congratulations to the Captain John Forde, and Lady Captain Brigid Piggott for the very successful year in office.



Photo shows second from left, Eric O'Shaughnessy, Captain of the Dublin South City Garda Golfing Society in 1986 presenting his prize to fellow South Galway man Michael Holland, who is a sergeant attached to Crumlin Station and who came originally from Iserkelly; his mother was a Regan of Lisatunna, thereby making him a cousin of Regan's of Lisatunna, John Leech, Kinvara and Rocks of Cloone. Others included are Junior Gordon on left, I.C.S. Building Society (sponsors) and on right Dermot McCormack, Captain of Stackstown Golf Club, which is the only police-built, owned and run Golf Course in the world! Eric, from Rinerush was a well known member of Gort hurling teams of the 50's and 60's and played with the New Ireland Club in Dublin until 1974.

MUSICAL SOCIETY

The Musical Society will, next February, be presenting their 7th Pantomime. Following a lapse of twenty two years, pantomime returned to Gort in 1982 with the presentation of "Sinbad the Sailor". This was followed by "Red Riding Hood" (83), Cinderella (84), Aladdin (85), Ole King Cole (86) and Robinson Caruso (87).

The pantomime chosen for February is "Jack and the Beanstalk". The script this year is one of the funniest undertaken by the Society, with plenty of music, song and dancing. The cast is as follows:

DAME: Kevin Glynn
SIMON: Niall Finnegan

OUT AND ABOUT

JACK: Audrey Killeen
BARON: Jimmy Hannigan
SABRINA: Celine Mullins
HANK: Michael Quinn, Roo
CRANK: Gerry Murray
DEMON: Imelda Counihan
FAIRY QUEEN: Mary Counihan
GIANT: Kieran Reddy
PRODUCER: Colman Keane
ASST. PRODUCER: Kevin Glynn
MUSICAL DIRECTOR:
Aine O'Doherty and Mary Kealy
SCRIPT
by Ray Quigley, New Ross, Wexford.

This year the Society have already run a number of functions including a Fashion Show. They are also presently engaged in a Christmas Fund Raising Venture for two local charities, St. Vincent de Paul and Gort Social Services. Eleven people agreed to lose weight between October 30th and December 11th and obtain sponsorship for each pound lost. The "weigh in" will take place at a dance in Sullivans, on Friday 11th December.

The Committee for the coming year is as follows:-
Chairman - Colman Keane; Vice-Chairman - Rene Brennan; Hon. Secretary - Della Lally; Ass. Secretary C. O'Connor; P.R.O. - Jimmy Hannigan.

Committee: Bernie Costello, Annette Lally, Pat O'Donnell, Celine Mullins, Gerry Murray, Mary Counihan, Maria Fahey, Kathleen O'Connor, Patsy Molloy, Michael Quinn, Roo, Kevin Glynn.



Pictured at a presentation to the Show Society are from left: Pat Bourke, Bob Forde (B. Coen and Sons Ltd., Gort), Eileen Glynn (Organising Secretary Show society), John Redahan (Calor Kosangas Ltd.), and Dick Burke (Vice-Chairman, Show Society).

GORT & DISTRICT SHOW SOCIETY

Gort and District Show Society held its 7th annual Show in the Community Centre on the 29th of August, 1987.

There were over eight hundred entries in the Home and Garden Produce, Flowers, Wine Making, Handcrafts, Children's and Post-Primary Sections. There were further entries in the Bird, Cat and Dog shows.

Other attractions included Trade and Display Stands, a presentation of 'Nellie in the Telly' (for children) by the Galway Theatre Workshop and displays of Irish

Step-Dancing by the McCreaner School (conducted by Marie Gavin) and by the Mary Fraughen School.

Mr. Frank Fahey, T.D. (Minister of State) officially opened the show and Gort I.C.A. provided the catering.

The officers of the Show Society are: Chairman - Padraic Giblin; Vice-Chairman - Richard Burke; Organising Secretary - Eileen Glynn; Ass. Secretary - Mary Carey; Consultant - Richard O'Gorman (B. Agr. Sc. Hort); Treasurer - Ann Walsh.

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OUT AND ABOUT

BALLINDEREEN: COUNTY MINOR B CHAMPIONS 1987



Back, left to right: Noel Lane (Manager), Eamon Lyons, Francis Killoran, Christy Quinn, Gerry Helebert, Finbar Meehan, Christy Helebert, Padhraic O'Connor, Michael Hynes, Sean Lane, Philip Hynes, Michael Helebert, John Gill, Michael Coen (Trainer). Front, left to right: Mark Gill, Michael Hynes, Noel Linnane, Michael Gallagher, Paraic Kelly (Captain), Sean Flaherty, Aidan Mannion, Alan Lane, David Hynes.

At last Ballindereen have won a County Final, after a long wait of 45 years. On the 27th September, the minor hurlers of Ballindereen defeated Moycullen in a thrilling replay at Athenry. The final score was 0-13 to 0-11. The victory captured the imagination of the whole parish, and came

appropriately during the club's Mayoral Campaign. It was fitting that John Jordan, captain of the Ballindereen Junior team, which won the County Final in 1942, was on the platform to welcome home the victorious team. All members of the panel attend or have attended Gort schools!

OUT AND ABOUT

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

6th CLASS, CONVENT OF MERCY, GORT, 1960

Teresa O'Grady	Mrs. George Rowcroft, Salford England
Mary O'Flaherty	Mrs. Sean Wallace, Crowe Street
Kitty Glynn	Mrs. Hugh O'Donnell, Tubber Road, Gort
Teresa Cusack	In Gort
Elizabeth Broderick	Mrs. Val Burke, Gort
Emily Porter	Mrs. Pat Carty
Claire Moran	In Gort
Mary O'Donohue	Mrs. Denis Collins, Feakle
Sile Kelly	Mrs. Clem Gallo, Philadelphia
Margaret Kelly	Mrs. Frank Sapp, New Jersey, U.S.A.
Philomena Scanlon	Mrs. Arty Kenny, Ballyhugh, Gort
Delia Rock	In Galway
Rosaleen Cummins	Mrs. Sean White, Cloughnaceva
Helen Gilligan	Mrs. Patrick Diviney, Lough Cutra
Breda Shinnors	Mrs. Pat Tuite, Tullyallen, Drogheda
Anne Murphy	Married in Co. Roscommon
Philomena McNevin	Mrs. Mulqueen, Killnasoolagh, Newmarket on Fergus
Eileen Fahy	Mrs. Sean Glynn, Ballyturin, Gort
Christina Gallagher	Married in England
Patricia Kenny	Mrs. Scanlon, London
Joan Boyle	In Switzerland
Eileen Egan	Johannesburg, South Africa

BOYS SCHOOL 6th CLASS 1960

John McCarthy	Limerick?
Edmund Treston	Loughrea
Val Williams	Gort
Richard Treston	Ennis
Michael Wallace	Galway
Gerry O'Dwyer	Dublin
Donie Burke	Limerick
Bernard Stanford	Gort
John Blake	London

KILTARTAN N.S. Sixth Class 1960 (June)

Frank Fahy, Corker	(Now living in England)
Patrick Quinn, Ballyaneen	(At home)
Patrick Downey, Carrabane	(Living in Dublin)
Gerard Conroy, Glenbrack	(Living in England)
Dermot Coen, Gort	(in Business - Coens)
Patrick J. Baldwin, Ballyaneen	(Farming)
Eveleen Regan, Lisatunna	(Working in England)
Mary Donoghue, Kiltartan	(Married in Feakle)
Mary Cahill, Rinerush	(Married in England)
Mary Hynes, Rinerush	(Married in Wicklow)
Bernadette Quinn, Shragh	(Married in Clifden)
Bernadette Killilea, Corker	(Married in England)



Pen and Drawing
by Robert Keran of
Georges Street, Gort

First year student at St. Colmans Vocational School, Gort.

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ARE YOU RIGHT THERE MICHAEL

During the summer, Ennis Arts Week had as one of its many attractions, the re-railing of a Steam Train, similar we are told to the type, which made its long and weary way "from Ennis as far as Killee".

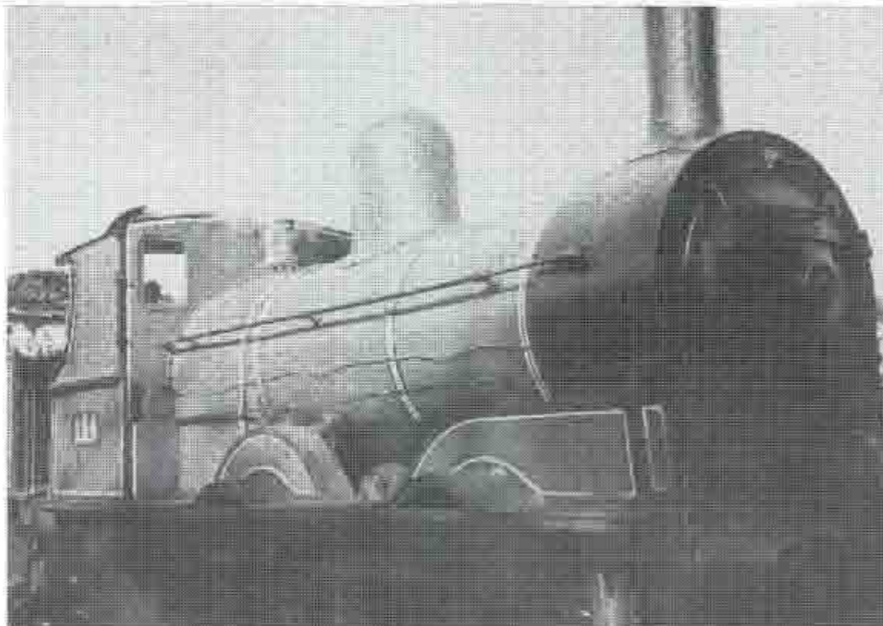
The West Clare Railway is now legendary and I, like many others in Gort, was eagerly awaiting the journey if not the experience. Four trips were scheduled to leave Gort at some time or other on the Sunday, going to and fro from Ennis. I arrived at the Station at about Twenty Minutes in advance of the scheduled departure time. The crowd was gathering. With ten minutes to go before departure I was amazed with the Crowd which had gathered. When I arrived initially I met a well known Medical Doctor from County Galway. He had a small bag with him, which I felt contained sandwiches and a flask. I began to wonder to myself — "Had he been on the trip before, was it a long passage?". I did not show my concern to those who intended coming on the trip with me, as it might be off-putting to say the least! With minutes to go before scheduled departure you could feel the buzz of excitement at Gort Railway Station. There was one small problem — no Train. I spotted my friend the Doctor looking at his Map. I thought again to myself — was he working on the basis that this Train might in fact "break down on the way" and he would have to get his own way home?

Rumour became rife. "The Train was stuck somewhere near Crusheen . . . it hasn't left Ennis yet . . . it's stuck near Barefield as they were using the wrong type of Coal, etc."

Time passed by and approximately 65 minutes after scheduled departure time the Train arrived from Ennis having reversed all the way.

When the Train pulled in at Gort Station it was a sight to behold. People were like sardines inside in it. Minutes passed and it suddenly struck everybody that nobody was getting off! Whether they were able to get out or did not want to nobody rightly knew!!

It was decision time. Many on the Platform decided they would not risk it. I looked over at the Doctor, who was dressed as if he was about to tackle



Steam locomotive 184 which was provided by the Railway Preservation Society for the trips from Gort to Ennis. Locomotive 184 is based in Athlone. The old engine of the West Clare Railway was engine No. 5 — Slieve Callan, and is now on display in the Percy French Memorial Park next to Ennis Railway Station.

Mount Everest — binoculars, camera, etc. He did not move, he observed. It was time to go. My companions were braver than I. The steam was rising. The Officials on the Train clamoured out that there was no room. We jumped on regardless and invited those on the Platform to get up on top, an offer which they surprisingly declined. The Doctor had departed. Being a medical man I suppose he felt it safer not to travel.

The Whistle went and at snail's pace we puffed out of Gort. With standing room only we slowly but surely picked up speed; it was great, the excitement of it all.

We were half-way to Ennis when it dawned on all of us that nobody had a Ticket. This trip was really living up to its expectations. An Official came along and asked us for Tickets. With the way the Train was packed it must have taken an hour for the poor man to get from the first Carriage to the last. He looked bewildered when my friend demanded seats. The great God Himself could not have got a seat on that Train it was so packed. Everybody laughed. The smiles

began to wither, however, when the Train commenced stalling-starting, stalling-starting, puffing and then conking out.

Nobody seemed to know where we were. I thought of the good Doctor and his Map. He probably had a compass too.

We finally got going, and eventually reached Ennis. It was lashing rain. I am not exaggerating when I say that the raindrops were as big as golf balls. The cry went up "Everybody out and only those with Tickets back on". We stood on the Platform remonstrating with the Officials to allow us back — no deal. I felt that there was no point in telling them that our Tickets had fallen out the window. Everybody was getting drenched wet and nobody had a coat. We were stuck in Ennis.

This Train had really lived up to its expectations. It was about an hour late leaving Gort, it took 1½ hours to get to Ennis after a number of unscheduled breakdowns and no amount of money could get us back on.

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ARE YOU RIGHT THERE MICHAEL

Were you ever in Ennis on a really wet Sunday with no coat and with every place closed and no way home? Think about it.

Over two hours later, drenched wet, but nearly sick from laughing, we got on the Limerick Bus. I looked out at the rain, sighed and said to myself "Goodbye Ireland, I'm off to Gort".

It was a memorable day. A free trip to Ennis on a Steam Train, a few breakdowns thrown in with standing room only.

Yes, the West Clare Railway was obviously something else. Imagine all the way from Ennis to Corofin, Ennistymon, Lahinch and on to Killee. If our trip was anything to judge by, then that journey could possibly have taken two days.

Phil the Fluther.



Winsome lady waits for West Clare's whistle!

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TRIBUTE TO DAME KIERAN-BREEDEN

The late Dame Kieran-Breeden was born in Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A. she was the daughter of Joseph and Frances Kieran and was of Irish descent on both sides of her family. Interest in and love of Ireland was instilled in her at an early age. She loved Ireland and the people of Ireland. From an early age she dreamed of restoring an Irish Castle and made that dream come true.

Having completed her studies at the University of Tennessee in 1947, she embarked upon an acting career, adopting the professional name of Kieran Paschall, at the Barter Theatre, before moving onto New York and Broadway. In the 1950's she ceased acting professionally and moved to Palm Springs, California.

She married John Norton Breeden in 1967. She and her husband took an active interest in the San Francisco Opera Company of which Mr. Breeden's mother, the late Emma McNear Breeden was a founding member. After her husband's death in 1983, Mrs. Breeden bought and restored the Neo-Gothic Tullira Castle together with its 12th century tower. The castle had been designed by Ashlin with stucco work by Grace.

The chapel in the tower was very important to her and because of her work in restoring it and her many contributions to charitable causes, she was in 1985 accorded the title of "Dame of Honour and Devotion" in the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Chevalier de Malta on the 21st of June, 1985. The ceremony took place in Denver, Colorado.

The Tower became once more a place of prayer, and she had the happiness of having Mass celebrated there. It was

here Edward Martyn attended Mass in his day and his large Rosary beads are displayed in the Chapel.

by Sister M. DAMIEN
Convent of Mercy/Gort

Dame Kieran Breeden was a gracious hostess to the students of Kiltartan Summer School. My first impression of her was that of a warmhearted lady, and that impression lasted during the brief few years she spent in Tullira.

She received us on the steps of her castle as one to 'the manor born', and invited us to see what had been done to restore the beauty of Tullira. One student wrote of her impressions of that day: "I'll never forget my first impression, it was so dramatic! as she swept regally down the elegant staircase she reminded me of Gloria Swanson (stature, make-up, dramatic entrance etc.) she said "welcome to Tullira Castle" and had meant it".

She was justly proud of the wonderful restoration work she had accomplished. Like the original owner of the castle,



A view of Tullira Castle

who was a benefactor of Art and Literature in Ireland, Dame Kieran spared no expense in bringing to light details of stucco work, originally designed by Grace. Part of the decor was an interpretation of the four seasons, intermingled with the Martyn Coat of Arms. The gold embossed leather wall covering was also restored and cleared of the grime deposits of olden day turf fires.

Another point of resemblance with the work of Edward Martyn, who encouraged the arts in his day by buying Impressionist Paintings, was Dame Kieran's commissioning of paintings which adorned the walls of Tullira.

Mrs. Breeden maintained the interest in horses and in the Connemara Stud farm established by Lord and Lady Hemphill. This stud is renowned internationally and competes successfully at the R.D.S. Horse Show. The castle and its livestock were featured in a P.B.S. television special in America in 1985.

Sadly Mrs. Breeden died in early May 1986, a tragic loss for Tullira, and indeed Ireland. May she rest in peace.

KILTARTAN HURLING TEAM

This team holds nostalgic memories for me, for my mother Ann Hawkins, was born at Lissatunna, Kiltartan, alongside St. Colman's Well - and she never failed to take us, first in the ass-and-trap and later in the Ford motor car to its annual pilgrimage. The well has healing power for eye complaints, to which I bear incontrovertible testimony, for my brother's failing sight - beyond recall said Dr. Foley and others - was fully restored after bathing his eyes in the holy waters.

By W. M. QUINN

I am still a regular visitor to my mother's Holy Well and always experience a spiritual renaissance when I do. In fact, I firmly believe that more ecclesiastical attention should be focused on St. Colman's Well.

The Team:

Thanks to Kathleen Hayes, Castletown, Kiltartan, and now at 27 Beechlaw Park, Ballybane, Galway, we can view most of the great Kiltartan team of 1933/34. I recall them well; I would say they wore jerseys of green with sashes of gold (I did not check), but they were ever a dedicated non-rowdy team, and could beat the best of Gort and Kilmacduagh.

This old photograph shows:
Front Row: Martin Hayes, James Fahy, Jack Regan and Andrew Quinn.



Middle Row: Pat Baldwin (the best goalminder of all times), Brendan Downey, Josie Fahy and Mick Hayes.

Back Row: Willie Fahy, Mick Cahill, Eddie Diviney, Denis Regan and Jack Healy.

Footnote: Jack Mulcaire was of a very musical family, his sister sang beautifully over Radio Éireann in the 30's and Jack had the privilege of trying to teach me the violin in the early 30's. I was a

complete flop. Our parlour in that age was the "Community Centre" where Jack gave violin lessons and the now famous Michael Coleman gave dancing lessons. Then, most parishes had annual feiseanna and I still have a medal presented to me by the late Paddy Fahey - father of our minister Frank - in the step-dancing section - Incredible!!

Supreme dancing champion of that time was Dominic Monahan of Ardahan, a first cousin to that maestro of the violin - Joe Leary.

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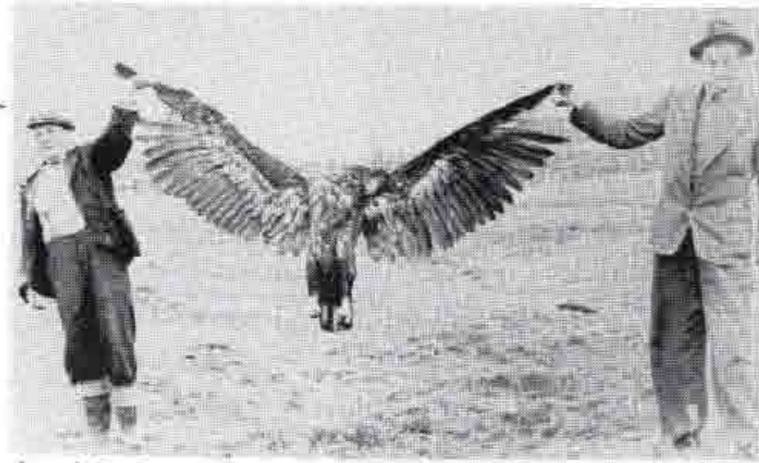
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ROCHFORDS, THE SQUARE



BEAGH HURLING CLUB, SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS 1928

Front row: John C. Carran, Martin Keady, Mickey Murray, Mick Gilligan, Roger Fahy, Paddy Fahy. Middle row: John Gormley, Paddy Gilligan, Michael Egan, Michael Shaughnessy, Tom Joyce, Jimmy Moylan, Paddy Shaughnessy, Robert Moylan, Johnny Murray, Hubert O'Toole, Father Cawley P.P., Michael Clandillon (School Principal). Back row, Jim Fitzpatrick, Lal Forde, Willie Halloran, John Keenan, Miko Shaughnessy and P. Healy.



Joseph Burke and Christopher Keran holding a Golden Eagle, shot at Lough Cutra circa 1942.

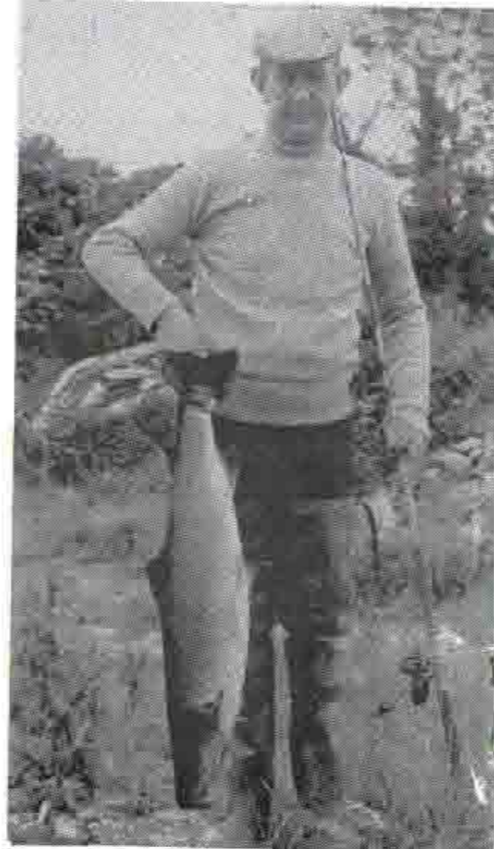


LOUGH CUTRA BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL CIRCA 1924/25

Included are James Dolan, Lakefield; Michael Shaughnessy, Cregmahon; Denis Moroney, Dromandoora; Paddy Hanrahan, Lough Cutra; Mattie Glynn, Fahy; Eddie and Sam Doyle, Dromandoora; Jimmy Geoghegan, Jack Harte and Leo Whelan, Shanaglish.

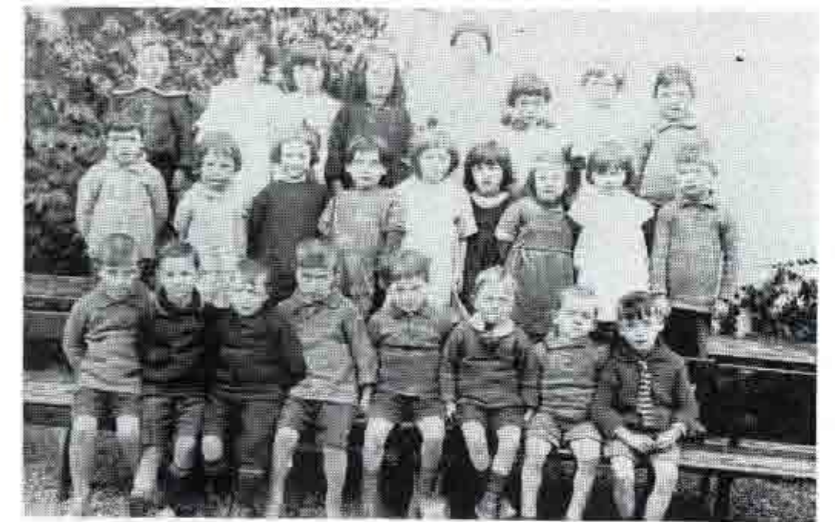


The late Celia Keeley of Boherbue, Kinvara competing in a sheep shearing competition, in what is now The Canon Quinn Memorial Park in the early fifties. Her assistant is her brother, Mattie. May they rest in peace.



J. J. Noone, Gort, with the 24 lb. salmon he caught at The Pool, Kilcolgan.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



JUNIOR INFANTS 1926 — CONVENT SCHOOL, GORT

Top row: Sonny Nestor, Margaret Burke, Nellie Burke, Mary Cusack, — Barrett, Nancy Flanagan, Debbie Counihan, Matty McNeill. Middle row: Jack McNeill, Phyllis Cahill, Lily Hynes, Lily Frank Hynes, Lil Hoarty, Julia Hoarty, Mary Teresa King, Chrissie Hughes, Michael Joe Nestor. Bottom row: J. P. Heiher, Jack Williams, Colie McNevin, Colie Hehir, Pa Kennedy, Brendan Buckley, Teddy Corbett, Jack Corcoran.



Left to right: Lady Amptill, Michael Loughan and Kevin Burke, Newmarket-on-Fergus.



Gort's well-loved hoteliers of the forties and fifties, Molly and Dennis O'Brien of Glynn's Hotel.



GEORGES STREET MINORS (1927)

Front row: Jack Burke, Johnny Gallagher, Frankie Moloney, Mick Burke, Joe Keane, Paddy Carty, Josie Gallagher and Joe Maloney. Back row: Mattie Carty, Colie Maloney, Josie Burke, Christy Carty, Brendan Moloney. At rear: Pat Burke and Hugh Loughnane.

GLORIOUS GALWAY!

1987 will go into the hurling annals of the G.A.A. history books as the greatest ever year for the Galway senior hurling team. Indeed they almost managed an embarrassing sweep of all the premier hurling titles, having being narrowly defeated by only a single point in the Oireachtas Final last June. To have won League, Railway Cup and All-Ireland medals in the one year is a feat unequalled by any other county.

Ah, but dear reader, can any other hurling victory really compare to that most sought after and much coveted All-Ireland medal? Railway Cup, League, and Oireachtas all pale in comparison to same. Yes indeed, it certainly is the "Big Daddy" of them all! It represents the ultimate achievement for any hurler and the constant goal for all our county teams. Mind you, I can remember a Galway hurler telling someone who asked if his All-Ireland medal (1980) was really 100% gold, that it was 99% sweat!! That remark would appear to contain some truth after watching this year's torrid final in Croke Park.

Was there a Galway man or woman among that milling throng in front of the Hogan Stand whose heart did not swell with pride and emotion when the McCarthy Cup was raised aloft by the victorious Captain Conor Hayes? How many times in recent years have we suffered the agonies of defeat... but on that wet, blustery Sunday in September all was forgiven... even forgotten in the ecstasy of victory!

While everyone is proud of our County hurlers no one is more so than the people of Gort. And why not? Haven't we a total of seven players from Gort and South Galway on the Galway hurling panel?... and all are past-pupils



Peter Conroy welcoming Sylvie Linnane, John Commins (a past pupil of Peter) and Joe Cooney, on the occasion of their visit to Scoil Eoin B.N.S., Gort, with the Liam McCarthy Cup.



Anthony Cunningham, Joe Cooney, Sylvie Linnane, Sr. John, Rosemary Lahiffe, Sr. Enda, Kathleen Forde and John Commins.

GLORIOUS GALWAY!

of Our Lady's College and and St. Colman's Vocational School.

John Commins (Gort); Sylvie Linnane (Gort); Pearse Piggott (Gort); Steve Mahon (Beagh); Anthony Cunningham (Peterswell); Noel Lane (Ballindereen); and last but by no means least "man of the match" Gerry McInerney from Kinvara.

There is an old saying that in order to really appreciate victory, one must first of all experience defeat. Galway hurlers have had an abundance of lessons in this regard over the past number of years. For too long they have had to settle for the "always the bridesmaid... never the bride" tag where major titles were concerned. Consequently, I'm sure no-one (with the possible exception of Kilkenny) begrudges them their present status as the number one team on the hurling chart.

Everyone certainly loves a winner and at the moment the hurlers are very much in demand. Why, no social occasion is complete unless some members of the team are present! All the intensive training which takes place before an All-Ireland is vital it would appear, not only to ensure success on the day but also to ensure stamina for all the social engagements which automatically follow!! But who's complaining?... for that my friend is the difference between winning and losing an All-Ireland Final!

This year there was an estimated 25,000 delighted supporters waiting to greet the team on their triumphant return with the McCarthy Cup. One cannot help but wonder how many of that same crowd were there last year or the year before, when the results were quite different? Lady Luck plays a major role on the outcome of all Finals, and in 1987 (at last!) she certainly smiled on Galway!!



Up Galway!

Note:

I have since been rather sharply informed that this year's Oireachtas

Final has yet to take place. Apparently the final last June against Wexford was actually the 1986 Final so...

THE CUP RETURNS

By BRIAN MURRAY
5th Class

FROM the moment Noel Lane struck the sliotar past Kevin Fennelly and into the Kilkenny net, Galway seemed on course for a glorious victory. Even as Conor Hayes lifted the McCarthy Cup and wiped out the bitter defeats of 1981, 1985 and 1986, back west in Gort preparations were underway for celebrations to welcome home the conquering heroes. The cup was back in Galway hands once again.

Of the Galway panel seven players have attended schools in Gort. These were John Commins, Sylvie Linnane, Anthony Cunningham, Noel Lane, Gerry McInerney. Steve Mahon and Pierce Piggott, who have certainly kept the great reputation of the solid south proud and true.

Three members of the Galway team came to Scoil Eoin. All morning the pupils had waited with eager anticipation for the arrival of the McCarthy Cup. It was a historic day for our school as autographs were signed and the cup passed around. John Commin's must have felt at home among his former teachers. We listened attentively to his wise words of advice to the up-and-coming young hurlers of Gort. We were reminded once more of another first for Gort, as the late Ned Treston made the first sliotar used under G.A.A. rules, in a match between Galway and Tipperary, this year's semi-finalists.

We look forward to the future when hopefully some of the current pupils of Scoil Eoin will grace the fields of Croke Park, on an All-Ireland Day and once again bring home the McCarthy Cup to where it truly belongs.

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GORT BOYS' SCHOOL IN THE '40's

The fact that Gort had a Boys' Secondary School in the 1940's came about more by accident than design. In 1940 William J. Brassil, a secondary school teacher from south Kerry, and Jim Gaffney from Loughrea, founded a secondary school in the town of Loughrea. There had been a local demand for such an institution, and its advent was greeted with enthusiasm by the general body of the community. From day one the school was successful, class numbers increased, and it enjoyed good support. It seemed set fair for success, when out of the blue on a Sunday morning in the late summer of 1942, it was announced from the altar of the Cathedral, that the De La Salle Brothers were coming to Loughrea, to open a secondary school and that their school was worthy of support!

By **TIM McCROHAN**

During the school year 1942/43, it became obvious that the Brassil school was losing support, and so in September 1943 Messrs. Brassil and Gaffney set up a new school on the Ennis Road in Gort, in the house on the Ennis side of Albert Mullins' residence. There had again been local demand for a school, and the project had the blessing of the clergy, and of the Bishop Dr. Michael Browne.

Once more, the school prospered, with lads coming from Gort, Kilbeacanty, Tubber, Ardahan, Nogra, and other places. Sadly at Easter '44 it met with a reverse in the death of Jim Gaffney R.I.P., and so it was that on 1st September 1944 I arrived by bus to The Square of Gort to take up my appointment as assistant to W.J. Brassil.

The building in which the school was housed was certainly a fine dwelling-house of the time but was totally unsuited for use as a school. Indeed, when I listen to all the talk about "cut backs" and think about what we tried to achieve at that time, I have to smile — we were so far "back" there was just no place to "cut"! Despite all this, the lads came on their bikes in the wet and the cold — they did study, and they sat exams. I can still remember most of them, though the one who most often comes to mind nowadays is Bill Fogarty, from Tubber, now of R.T.E., whose name appears regularly on the T.V. screen — I also remember Frank Lally of the Square, who was a fine student.

Gort was my second teaching appointment, and my first "digs" in Gort were with Mrs. Melville-Ryan in The Square; subsequently I spent some time with Mrs. Nelly, in what was formerly the Workhouse, and when one considers teachers' salaries in those days, not an inappropriate spot for a teacher! My last "digs" in Gort were with Mrs. P.J. Burke at The Square. I have fond memories of my time in Gort. I met my wife Lucy Lambert there, but I should stress that she is positively a Kilbeacanty woman!!

Coming from Caherciveen in Co. Kerry, I thought I knew a small bit about football and so, I lined out for Gort one Sunday afternoon. My notice for the game was short — in fact I was just relaxing after Mrs. Melville-Ryan's fine lunch, when a guy stuck his head around the door and said "You're picked for today". I have to say that South Galway football was different from anything I had known; or maybe it was just

something I ate! I developed an interest in hurling while in Gort, and afterwards trained school teams in Kilkenny — so now you know where Kilkenny got the skill.

Social life in Gort centred around Dan Ryan's cinema, the odd dance, circus, or a Road-Show, and of course the hurling. During the winter months there were games of cards in Mrs. Melville-Ryan's with Sergeant Campbell, the late Nicky Brady, Willie Quinn (to whom I send my regards) and the aforementioned Dan Ryan whom we regularly tried to divest of the takings of his cinema in the game of "Slippery Sam" — Happy days.

During my first two years at the school, we had classes up to Inter Cert and then in '47 Leaving Cert. By 1948, however, it became obvious that the venture was doomed — numbers were not increasing, and even if they had we could not accommodate them. To run courses up to Leaving Cert would require a minimum of three teachers, and that was not on, as the money was not there to pay them, and also at that time people who could, sent their sons boarding to St. Mary's College in Galway. From a combination of all these factors it was with regret that in 1948 we closed down our operation in Gort and moved to Causeway Co. Kerry where we had a successful school up until W.J. Brassil's death in 1956, R.I.P. and indeed which I kept on until 1959. From there (Kerry) I went to Kilkenny (where I lived for some time in a house which afterwards featured on the R.T.E. show "The Riordans") and finally to St. Joseph's school in Galway from which I retired last year.



Tim McCrohan working on some of his computer collection.

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FOGARTY

Sean (cure-all) Fogarty, was born on the outskirts of Galway City, on the Oranmore roadside, in or about February, in the year of 1760. His parents (what is known of them) were travelling people, tinsmiths by trade. At the early age of seven years, he showed a distinct gift for healing. He is reputed to have had a cure for ringworm, whooping cough and high fever, and as he grew in body and age, had the gift also of being able to foretell the future. It was Sean that predicted the 1798 Rising in Wexford,

By **SEAN LEAHY**

likewise the Great Famine of 1846. He could also predict, for an expectant mother, the sex of her child to be. When he was twenty-one his parents died, so he spent a lot of his time travelling from town to town, curing as he went. He eventually arrived in the village of Gort, building himself a wooden structure as a home, where now stands Sullivan's ballroom.



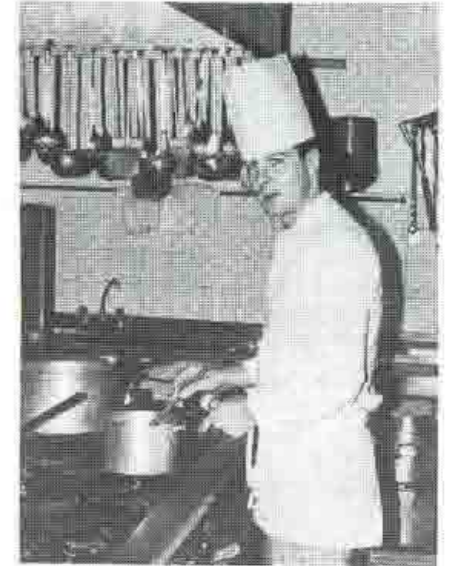
Fogarty's healing stone in the hand of author Seán Leahy.

He carried with him at all times his healing stone. To be cured of your ailment, you had to hold the stone in both hands, and say "I believe in Fogarty". You said this while standing

on one leg, with the other leg facing towards Derrybrien. Then Fogarty would dance around you singing a little ditty that went something like this:

*O powers that be
I call and shout
to cast from (Pat)
this trouble out.*

Immediately the person felt ease, and in no time at all, he was completely cured. Sean wrote a lot of songs about his neighbours, unfortunately, this did not make him a very popular person in the district indeed. He often had to run for his life from the wrath of his foes. It is reputed that he had about two hundred cures in and around Gort. On his way to Galway in the year 1880, he was knocked down and killed by a team of runaway horses. The kind people who brought his body back to Gort, buried him not far from where his shack stood, and by my recoking that exact spot is under where now stands Sullivan's Restaurant. It's no wonder they call it "Fogarty's". More say he was buried in the old graveyard of Gort. But when they were digging the foundation for the restaurant his stone was discovered and authenticated by Dr. James Herald of Dublin, who had a



Francis Sullivan creating 'Fogarty' magic in the kitchen of Fogarty's Restaurant at Sullivan's Royal Hotel, Gort.

drawing of same stone. This curing stone is on display in Sullivan's Hotel. It is reputed that Fogarty's ghost is seen at certain times of the year and can be heard singing his little song, as he dances his way down the Galway Road.

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TOWNLANDS OF GORT PARISH

Place names in Ireland are hundreds, and in some cases, thousands of years old. Names of places in rural areas are usually much older than those in towns and cities. Place names were invented to describe places as people saw them, and they are therefore valuable sources of information regarding the people who lived in those places, their methods of cultivating the land, the landscape itself, and how it looked at that time (wooded etc.), locations of holy wells, churches, fairy forts etc...etc....

PEADAR O CONAIRE

A great number of place names are lost and many more will soon be, unless they are recorded. How many Gort people could name even a half of the townlands of the parish? In the seventh issue of Guaire (March 1980) I picked a random sample of place names from the Gort area and classified them under the headings (a) Mountains and elevated places; (b) glens & plains; (c) rivers and marshes; (d) Nature, woods etc...; (e) location and shape, and (f) man and his use of the land. I did not confine myself to Gort parish on that occasion. In this article I list the place names of Gort parish only, in alphabetical order, using the Ordnance Survey Map 1921, giving the derivation of each name (accurately I hope!).

Ballyaneen:

Baile & Anach, diminutive: Ainín. Homestead of the moor or bog.

Ballybaun:

Baile & Bán. Homestead of the untilled land (plain, dry pasture).

Ballyhugh:

Baile Mhic Aodha. Homestead of Hugh (McHugh?).

Ballylee:

Baile & Liath (same as lea?). "Liath" possibly grey, but uncertain.

Ballymurphy:

Baile Ui Mhurchú. Homestead of O Murcha (Murphy).

Ballylennan:

Baile - Ui - Leannain. O'Lennan's town (townland).

Ballysheedy:

Baile - Ui - Shioda. O'Sheedy's town (townland)

Ballylaughan:

Baile & Lochán. Townland of the pond.

Ballymulfaig:

Baile & Mul (mullach) & feag. Townland of the rushy hilltop.

Ballynamantan:

Baile - na - Mantán (meantán). Homestead of the gap or possibly townland of the marsh tit, great tit, etc.

Ballynastaig:

Baile - na - staig (staic). Homestead of the posts or stakes.

Ballyvoher:

Baile & bóthar. Townland of the road (i.e. with road leading to it etc..)

Baurach:

Dinutive of Ban. Pasture land.

Cappavarna:

Ceapach & Bearna. The plot of land (laid out for tillage) of the gap or pass.

Carrownavohanaun:

Ceathrú na bhfothanán. district (quarter) of the thistles.

Castletown:

Castle & Town. Townland of the castle.

Carrowbaun:

Ceathrú & Bán. District of the pasture land.

Castlequarter:

Castle & Quarter. District of the castle.

Cloonearla:

Cluain - an - Iarla. The Earl's meadow.

Coole:

An Chúil. Corner or Recess.

Corker:

Carcair (Latin, Carcer meaning a prison). A narrow or confined pass.

Cloonanaha:

Cluain - na - ndatha. The coloured meadow.

Cloonteen:

Diminutive of Cloon (Cluain). Small meadow.

Cloonafunshin:

Cluain na fuinsin (fuinseog). Meadow of the ash trees.

Crannagh:

Cranna, Trees i.e. wooded area.

Deerpark:

Deer & Park (Field or Park of the deer)

Doonowen:

Dun & Eoin. Owen's fort (residence of a chief within an earthen rampart)

Drumminacloghaun:

Droimin a' chlochain. Little ridge (back, surface) of the paved road (causeway).

Faunin:

Fánán - Slope.

Garryland:

Garrai & land. The land of the garden (field) Land divided into fields.

Glenbrack:

Gleann & breac. Speckled (Multicoloured) valley (glen).

Gort:

An Gort - the Field.

Gort Inse Guire:

Field of Guaire's island.

Gortnaquilla:

Gort na Coille - field of the wood.

Gortnasteal:

Gort - steal. Field of the gushing water.

Kilmacduagh:

Cill - Mac - Duagh. MacDuagh's Church (cell).

Killomorran:

Cill - Ui - Mharthain. O Morain's (O Marthain) Church.

Kiltartan:

Cill Tartain. Church of St. Tartan.

Kinnincha:

Ceann & Inis (inse). Head (point) of the island.

Knockauncoura:

Cnocan Cuara(ch). Small round shaped hill.

Knockaunatouk:

Cnocan a'd teabhaic. Small hill of the hawk

Lisrabirra:

Lios - rath - biorra. Fort of the Spring wells.

Newhall:

New & Hall. The new hall.

Newtown:

New & town. The new town.

Rock Park:

the Rocky Park (field of the rocks)

Roo:

Rue(Ru). The herb rue (ru, rooa) or rua meaning red.

Rindifin:

Rinn & doimhin. Deep point (of river?).

Rineen:

Diminutive of Rinn. Little point (extremity, promontory)

Rinrush:

Rinn & Ross. Extremity of the wood (wooded height).

Sheeaun:

Sui(an). Seat, hunting station, throne etc....

Srah:

Sreath. Holm (low-lying land on a river bank).

Tawnagh:

Tamnach. Cultivated spot in a wasteland.

Termon:

Tearmann. Church land affording right of sanctuary.

Tiernevan:

Tir & Naoimhin., Land of the little Saint.

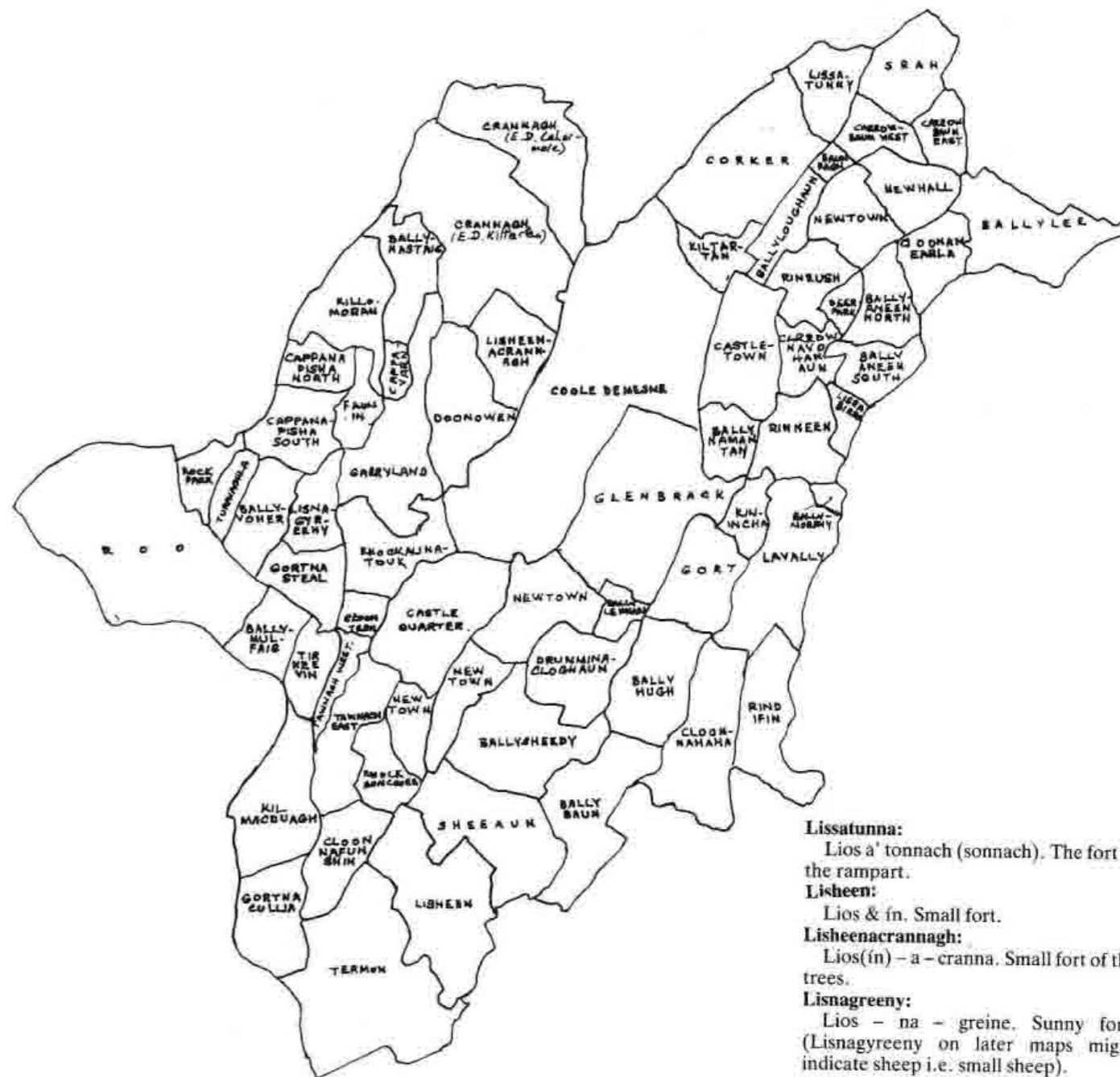
Turavaghla:

Tor a'bhalla. Bush (shrub) of the wall (or steep rocky height of the wall, i.e. steep rocky height with a wall around it). Another possibility: Tur - tuar (as in Turlough) i.e. dry. Turavaghla - Dry wall.

My sincere thanks to Paddy Grealish who supplied the map.

Lavally:

Leath - bhaile. Half a townland (town, homestead).



Lissatunna:

Lios a' tonnach (sonnach). The fort of the rampart.

Lisheen:

Lios & in. Small fort.

Lisheenacrannagh:

Lios(in) - a - cranna. Small fort of the trees.

Lisnagreeny:

Lios - na - greine. Sunny fort. (Lisnagreeny on later maps might indicate sheep i.e. small sheep).

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ORDINATION-AN ONLOOKER

by Niall Clabby
O.F.M.

My memory is a very strange thing; I find that things can lie dormant there for years and then bubble to the surface at the right moment. During Joe Roche's Ordination in Thurles last June I found this happening to me again. A few years ago the late Mark Scully published a book of poems one of which was entitled "Ordination". It dealt with how his dislike for large, elaborate Churches faded away when he was present at an Ordination Ceremony and was struck by the beauty and solemnity of the ceremony and the nobility of the young ordained. Such was the case with me in Thurles. After three years with the friars, I've begun to see that ordinations have a certain pattern, a good day out (an even better night), a time of great joy for the new priest and his family and also a sign of encouragement for those of us still in formation. Normally it is very easy to write an article about these events, you just mention the numbers of priest, bishops and archbishops, wax lyrically on the solemnity of the ceremony, the magnificence of the flowers and, if really stuck, the colour of the flowers!

Liturgically, musically and visually the ceremonies in Gort and Thurles were excellent. Obviously a great deal of effort had gone into every detail of the day and the pride of the community in its son manifested itself in a celebration which marked the culmination of many weeks of preparation. Forgive me if, for a personal reason, I don't go into the exact details of the day. I said above that this type of article is generally very easy to write, this one isn't. For me Joe's Ordination and first Mass were much more than just another liturgical triumph because I grew up with, or marginally after him. He is also the first man I've known well who has become a priest and his friendship has been a great support to me over the past few years.

One point, however, is worth making (and here I'm not being original as it was the theme of his sermon). God uses many ways to communicate his will to us especially the situations and people around us. As a man, as a priest; Joe has been formed by Gort and will carry with him the benefits of that formation for the rest of his life. As well as being a great day for Joe and his family, his Ordination was a great day for the community, a day in which we celebrated the calling of one of our number by God to the ministry of the priesthood.

Joe is a priest because of his family, the people of Gort and the many others God used to touch his life and help him come to his decision. It is their love and their prayers that have brought him this far.



Fr. Joe Roche, pictured after his ordination with his mother Evelyn, Bishop Eamon Casey and his father Oliver.

ORDINATION

By M. A. SCULLY

*I care not for the sombre halls;
Nor tapestries on pompous walls;
Nor can my homage find express,
Within this austere wilderness,
Nor can my prayer be warm in stone;
Nor Tabernacle sway my tone.
Yet here upon an Altar high,
A noble youth will prostrate lie;
In homage to a gentle Power,
Who welcomes him within His tower,
I paused and thought of Nature, there,
And how its Author chooses men;
With that the stonework melts away.*



Proud moment as Fr. Joe cuts his ordination cake, helped by his mother Evelyn and watched by his father, Oliver.



Fr. Joe Roche

CAMOGIE COMES TO GORT

The first Gort camogie team had its beginning in the new Technical School. I should know as it was I, with a few companions, who started it. Being an only daughter with three brothers, I was a right tomboy and was well instructed in the game of hurling by them, and loved it. When we moved into our new school building in the 1930's we couldn't believe our luck, it was so wonderful compared with the old cramped conditions we had previously endured. In my enlightened eyes all that was missing was a hurling

by MADGE WARD

team! A few of us started to practice camogie in a field on the Tubber Road, then used for hurling. Practice was after we had finished our classes at the school. Few of us knew the 'ins' and 'outs' of the game, all I knew was that I wanted to play. Eventually, Mr. Sweeney, a young teacher came to coach us, but he seemed more interested in putting me in goal and shooting the ball at me, than coaching the whole team or even 'marking your man'.

Time went on, and I was away from school for a few days when word was sent out to me in Tubber, that a match was arranged, against the camogie team from Tuam College. This was to be played on the following Sunday in Loughrea. Orders came to wear a white or cream blouse and a navy or black skirt. My kind neighbour Nancy Geagan allowed me to borrow her best black skirt. I cycled off to Gort in high spirits to join my team, of which, I was captain, for the great day. My memory is poor as to the names of the players in the team but the name I remember best was Mary Roche, and for a very good reason, as

you will see later. She was to be in goal. Christy Carty drove one of the cars. One or two non-players accompanied us together with Miss O'Friel and Miss O'Farrell, our teachers. Had we known what was in store for us we would have been shivering with fright all the way there!

It turned out that the Tuam team were seasoned players and a hefty lot, more like hurlers than Camogie players. As we lined up before these formidable lassies one of them shouted out "Who is playing left back?" "I am", I said, "Well", she said aggressively, "You are on our best player!"

The game started, and we were only about five minutes into the game when someone was shouting for a large safety pin. One was got and I tied up Nancy's skirt as best as I could. In my first encounter with their 'best' player her camogie stick handle caught the skirt and tore it down the side at least eight inches from the top! This got me going. Poor Nancy was forgotten and I decided to make the best of a bad job. Play resumed and anyone could see we hadn't a hope in hell of getting anywhere. Christy, bless him, on the side line, was roaring at one and all to 'mark your man'. Tuam played and cursed their way through us like hefty men rather than girls. We were the 'genteel' new recruits from Gort. Poor Mary, in goal, did her best but they were coming fast and furious. I looked behind me once and there was Mary, her hurley thrown away, gathering up the last ball, rolling into the goal! I remember we were quite shocked at their language. It was Jaysus here and Jaysus there. In all we were no match for the Tuam lassies. It was the

one and only match I had a chance to play at the 'Tech'.

Years later, after I married and came to live in England, I heard that the Gort Camogie Team was doing very well. Once when I went home on holiday Christine O'Shaughnessy was nursing a broken nose earned on the playing fields of Gort.

Looking back to that first match which we lost 13-0, afterwards both teams got together for a nice tea. But Miss O'Friel, of pleasant memory, at least helped us to regain our composure. She came over and whispered to me 'Go up Madge and thank our hostess (which I did), never mind, dear, at least, ye behaved like ladies!!' Such was the painful birth of Camogie in Gort.

It's a small world, as was demonstrated a few years back. A dear cousin Fr. Paul Kelly, in New Zealand, visited his college friend (and coincidentally the son of a friend of my mother's in Limerick) Fr. Don McAuliffe, in Australia. In his usual Christmas letter that year, he mentioned being introduced to a lady from Gort named Roche. When she heard he was from Ennis she said "I remember a young priest named Kelly coming from Gort to bless Madge Burke's car". But, was it the Mary Roche of the Camogie team? I have a feeling someone told me she had emigrated.



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NOT SO VERY LONG AGO

by JIMMY COLLINS

There was a time when mankind used to have their own remedies for any kind of hurt or ailment. Indeed there used to be a belief that for every hurt or pain to the body, God had planted a herb to cure, and so here are a few herb remedies and old cures, for what they are worth.

1. For freckles, you wipe the face every night with the juice of a cowslip.
2. For cuts, the web of a spider was widely used, or sprinkle a little lime and cover with a clean cloth.
3. For bee sting remove the sting if possible and the juice of an onion rubbed on immediately is a sure cure.

4. To promote the growth of hair, equal quantities of olive-oil and a sprig of rosemary with a few drops of nutmeg (more information on this subject can be had by contacting the writer).

5. For a clear and healthy skin it is hard to beat the nettle. A good bunch of young nettles boiled in water is also excellent for a stomach upset.

6. For a mild burn, cut a potato in half and rub the juice on it right away.

7. If you have an earache, get somebody who smokes a pipe to blow the smoke into your ear with the stem of the pipe.

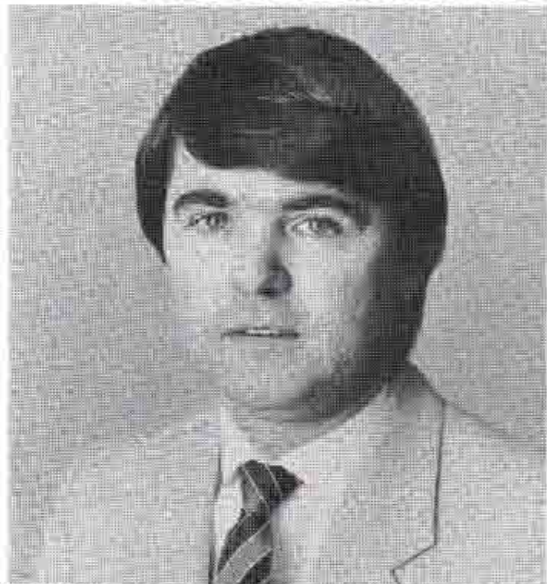
8. For that nagging cough get a jar of pure spring water (if that can be got

now). Put a good fist of lime into the water and leave it overnight. When the lime has settled, take a few mouthfuls of the water every day, and the cough is gone.

9. Anyone who has a chest complaint turn to the goat, yes that scraggy looking animal! Milk from the goat is certain to bring relief to anyone with a chest problem. Remember the goat is the only animal that doesn't get cancer.

There are also some herbs for the making of a very powerful "Love Potion". More about that some other time.

Now anyone who wants to take all this with a grain of salt, well its o.k. by me.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kilbeacanty man Frank Fahey on his re-election to Dail Eireann and his subsequent appointment as Minister of State at the Department of Education with responsibility for Youth and Sport on 13th March, 1987. His wife Ethelle (nee Griffin) is of course a Gort woman — behind every great man stands a great woman!

HILARY'S

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GORT & SOUTH GALWAY COMMUNITY LEISURE CENTRE



The President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, officially opens The Gort and South Galway Community Leisure Centre.

For many years a very zealous Committee have been working non-stop, first to acquire a site and then to collect enough money, but on Sunday 23rd August, 1987, their efforts came to fruition with the official opening of Gort and South Galway Community and Leisure Centre. For that Committee it had been the culmination of what sometimes seemed an impossible task but on that Sunday, a dream was made a reality.

The appreciation of the people of Gort was shown by the large numbers that came for the historic opening ceremony, which was performed by the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick J. Hillery. The President was welcomed by Mr. Michael Breathnach, Chairman of the Community Centre Committee. A Presidential Guard of honour was then reviewed by Dr. Hillery.

The Band of the Western Command under the baton of Captain Brendan Power provided rousing music for the entertainment of all.

There was an ecumenical blessing of the centre of Mons. Michael Spelman representing Bishop Eamon Casey, and Rev. Leslie Forrest representing the Church of Ireland Community.

After the cutting of the tape, President Hillery made a tour of the building and mingled in a very relaxed manner with all present, speaking to some of Gort's Youth, who put on displays of various sports in his honour. All who attended were treated to a sumptuous meal, music was provided by local musicians, and displays of Irish dancing were given by local dancers.

Outside, the atmosphere was carnival. In brilliant sunshine the children were treated to a Barbeque.

Many tributes were paid by the visiting dignitaries to the people who had worked so tirelessly for many years. Mr. Breathnach thanked all the people in U.S. and Britain for their financial help and paid special tribute to Mrs. Teresa Moloney, who from its inception, had given the project her full support and had worked very hard to see it through. The Centre is now being managed very efficiently by Mr. Paul O'Halloran.

"SPRINGS" ROSE 1987



Miss Olive Mulkern, winner of Miss Spring 1987.



Recently, I was walking through an old fragment of woodland along the shore of Lough Cutra. Here is a list of the species which I noted growing in a small, 500 metre, stretch: Ash, Hazel, Beech, Willow, Birch, Hawthorn, Holly, Alder, Oak, Wych Elm, Sycamore, Crab Apple. Growing underneath, and scattered among the above trees were: Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Privet and Spindle.

The above list is only an example of the rich variety of plants to be found in the fast-disappearing remnants of our once extensive Native Woodlands. This small part of our National Heritage accounts for less than 1% of our total land use.

While enjoying my walk among the trees, I couldn't help thinking about the farmer who owned the land. For him, or her, the trees were at best firewood, or at worst, scrub to be bulldozed away in order to make up new, but bare fields. Our native hardwoods are being removed in this way at an alarming rate. That 1% figure which I mentioned earlier, is a dwindling one. In order to reverse this sad trend, tree groups have been formed throughout the country to encourage the planting of native hardwood trees wherever possible.

CRANN GUAIRE was formed last January, at a public meeting in Gort. Our purpose is to foster a greater awareness of the value and beauty of our native hardwood trees. In order to further this purpose, we are willing to work with public bodies and individuals within the Community to organise the planting and care of trees. Already this year, working in co-operation with local residents and the County Council, we have planted over 150 Oak and Beech saplings in St. Colman's Park in Gort. This winter it is hoped to plant a small grove of trees at the public car-park by the beach at Lough Cutra. All this work is being carried out on a voluntary basis, but trees, protection, and fertilizer cost money. The Committee therefore welcomes all offers of funds or work from the public. Offers of help or enquiries may be made to the Secretary, Mr. Felim Burke, Gardenblake, Peterswell, Co. Galway, or Phone Mr. Howard Konick at (091) 31848.

ARE YOU GOING TO THE PICTURES?

Gone are the cinemas from most of the country towns, another sign of the times, and of the influence of television. When we were young the picture-house was a must for all. In our town we had pictures three times a week, Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays. A big poster announcing the forthcoming attractions was strapped onto the E.S.B. pole in the square. There was no excuse for not knowing what was on, and the bellringer of the town was out in his glory, ringing his bell and shouting at the top of his voice, the name of the film and featuring stars.

Admission prices to the cinema varied, four old pennies for the stools out front, one shilling for the chairs under the balcony, and one and eight pence for the balcony, where all the "Gods" went. The seats here were real cinema seats, more likely three or four generations old with the stuffing well pulled out and assured the patron of a comfortable night's viewing! My favourite method of collecting the admission price of fourpence was washing and selling two pound jam-jars @ 1d each. These were always in demand by the shopkeepers as they used them over and over again selling bulk homemade jam. Mind you, in those days jam-jars were not to be found lying around as is the case today, but we were ruthless in our quest and usually ended up with the admission price and maybe a few coppers for sweets as well. It was not unusual to see people outside the cinema who did not have the full admission price and a common request to passers-by was "Have you got a wing?" (wing meaning penny). There they were forced to stay until the full four pence was obtained, or occasionally the man at the door would let them in for whatever amount they

by SEAN LEAHY

managed to gather. However, at this stage the best of the film could in fact be over, and the latecomers were the source of great irritation as they insisted on asking questions to get themselves up to date with the story.



Inside it was a hive of activity; people sitting on forms, smoking, eating, chatting and as usual the children racing up and down. The courting couples were all on the back seats, waiting impatiently for the lights to go down, and I'm sure half of them never saw the picture at all. Up in the balcony were the "Gods", the only ones who could afford the 1s.8d. Under the balcony were mainly married or courting couples, dressed to kill, while out at the front were the boys waiting for the lights to go out and the start of that night's adventure. If it happened to be a cowboy film, lots of the lads sported their holsters and guns, loaded with caps, which they discharged frequently, much to the annoyance of the "Gods" and the manager, the latter vainly trying to keep some semblance of order.

Then at last the lights went out, to the stamping of a hundred pairs of feet. The manager was often forced to come on stage and give out about the bad behaviour of the patrons, and warn that if there was any more of it, the show would be stopped. Then he would officially warn the "fourpennies" to keep quiet or out they would go and not get back in a hurry.

Back to the picture! On this particular night it happened to be a cow-boy, "Hop-along Cassidy" our hero riding his big white horse, dressed completely in black, fighting the bad guys, comforting the damsels in distress and finally riding off into the sunset. The hall was never quiet during the show. Comments and raucous laughter could be heard from all over... "Look out Hoppy, he's behind the rock"... "Sneak up on him,....." "I told you so"... and finally "Will you shut up" would come from the far corner. The flashing of the usher's light, might put a stop to the racket for a while. With the stamping of the boards when the film went wrong, and the apple butts whizzing by your ear (if you were lucky), the talking, and the odd person being evicted, the scene in the cinema was a night's entertainment in itself. Picture's over! Everybody surging towards the exits, all happy after a great night's outing, and looking forward to the next night and the hope of more jam-jars to help gather the admission fee.



SPIRALLING COST OF THE 2d PINT

(Condensed from a longer article by W.M. Quinn)

Over 80 years ago Pat Hanrahan, a young man from Ballinruan, Co. Clare, having spent some years in the States of America, returned and purchased a pub with offices and garden at the Square, Gort, for £65.

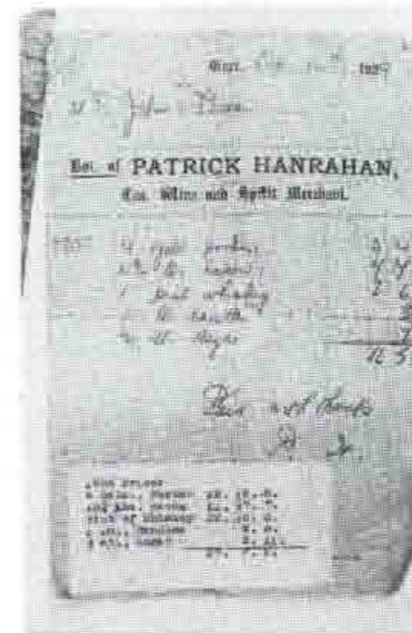
In those simple "God-fearing days" a 30 acre farm was a hard sell at £100, a newborn calf cost half-a-crown (12.5p), a stone of spuds cost five old pence, and a Derrybrien load of turf (after a long wait) cost under five shillings (25p)—a lorry load of turf today is over £300. More important than all those however, old men recall that a pint of porter that would stick to the counter cost... "tuppence"; imagine it, one hundred and twenty pints for one pound!

Times have surely changed, and as Paddy Nolan, our late lamented and lovable shoemaker used to say "why look back?", still I feel when he hit "Calico Trouble" (when all you feel in your pocket is the calico lining), that he, like the rest of us yearned for the Tuppenny Pint with its dreaded hangover!

SPIRALLING COSTS 1909 TO 1987

Items	Year 1909	Year 1966	Year 1987
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
32 Pints Porter	0. 5. 4	2.15. 8	40.00
Bacon (10.75lbs.)	0. 7. 7	1.17. 1	11.20
1 Pint Whiskey	0. 2. 6	2.10. 0	16.80
1 lb Candles	0. 0. 5	0. 2. 0	2.00
Sugar (Quarter Stone)	0. 0. 7	0. 2. 11	1.22
TOTALS	0.16.5	7. 8. 2	71.22
	or	or	or
	82.5 pence	£7.41	

So in the turn of the century the Grocer's and Publican's Bill has risen from 16s.5d. to today's £71.22, and astronomical 9000% approx. increase.



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★ GORT BOXING CLUB 1980-1987 ★

GORT BOXING CLUB

1981 - The first tournament took place on the 1st May 1981. In that year the Club had its first major wins in the juvenile Championships in Ballinasloe when James Fahy and Kieran Fallon went on to win two Connacht titles. The Club had 59 competitive bouts that year - 25 of which we won.

1982 - A year in which boxing was rather inactive in Galway, preference being given to tours to the U.K. The Club had various minor successes at local tournaments.

1983 - A very active year for Galway Boxing. James Donoghue and James McInerney won two Connacht Championship Novice Titles in Westport. Five Boxers took part in the Carraroe tournament where we had two wins. At the under 19 County Championships in Oughterard James Fahy put up a brilliant performance against Colm O'Toole. Unfortunately this did not secure him a win, but at the under 19 Connacht Championships in Castlerea he won the title. From the Connacht to the National Stadium in Dublin where James got to the final of the under 19 light-heavy section being narrowly beaten by an exceptional Ulster Boxer. Seven Juniors boxed in the juvenile Championships in Teach Furbo, four of whom went through to the finals, resulting in two juvenile champions in Garrett Piggott and Patrick Donovan.

1984 - Four boxers that year made it to the National Stadium at Youth level. James Donoghue, Gerard Connors, Patrick Joseph Donovan, and Roger Carey, who although not winning titles



ROGER'S BIG DAY

Roger Carey shakes hands with President Hillery while Micheál Breathnach referees.

were a credit to the Club. This was also the year Sean Mannion of Rosmuc made his bid for the World Light-middle weight against Mike McCallum. The Club organised a Welcome Home reception in Sullivan's Hotel. Before leaving Sean visited the Vocational School, the Boys National School, and Our Lady's College.

1985 - The Club had four Connacht Champions that year in Brendan Mulcair, Anthony Coppinger, Barry McNevin and Roger Carey. Two of these boys also securing County Championship titles namely Barry Brennan and Anthony Coppinger. All these boys boxed in Cork and put up very good performances.

1986 - James Fahy boxed in Dublin but was beaten. He boxed against

Northern Ireland in Monivea; went on to box for the Gardai in the European Police Games and represented his Country in the States.

1987 - Johnny Donovan, Gerry Donovan, Anthony Corbett and Roger Carey boxed in Oughterard, with Johnny Donovan getting through to the Connacht Championships in Galway where he secured a title and was presented with his Trophy by Francis Fahey, T.D... Minister of Youth and Sport. Johnny went on to box in the finals in Dublin which unfortunately he lost.

Titles are hard to come by and each and every boxer representing the Gort Club whether they won or lost were a credit to the Club and carried our colours with pride.

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AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 1988

POET'S CORNER

In Praise of Mary Kinsella

By SEAN LEAHY

Mary Kinsella is a day pupil at Orchard Centre, Gort, where she is at present learning shorthand. Mary is a most unusual young lady, gifted with a talent for writing. She makes the most of her talent, by composing poems, and writing short stories. This young person hails from Loughrea, where I'm sure she is held in high esteem. I have often talked with her for hours on the subject of poetry and short story writing. One poem in particular from her collection comes to mind - it is called "Words". Mary would like to see her work published. I'm sure that in the near future a book by Mary Kinsella will be in every good bookshop.

WORDS

By MARY KINSELLA

*Words can make you happy,
and words can make you sad.
Words can make you think of things,
things you never had.*

*Words can be upsetting,
some words can be to please.
But most of all words can be made,
to put your heart at ease.*

*Words that we use every day,
words that make us shout hip hip hurray.
But the words I want to say,
is that I am happy here today.*

THE BEAUTIES OF THIS WORLD

By RENA McGRATH
(9 Years)

*The beauties of this world
Are for you and me to see,
I like to hear the birds
Singing merrily in a tree.
I like to see the leaves
Dancing in the breeze.
There are lovely mountains high
Where grouse do nest and heathers grow,
And silver streams are flowing
To and fro.
I long to find this happy land,
Which we'd all like to know.*

KERAN'S BAR

GEORGES STREET,
GORT

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

ORDINARY MAN

By JOHN SULLIVAN Jnr.

*Depression crowds around me, like doth the sky unto the sun,
My mind cannot concentrate on what I shall become.
As a fool should I sit here, never to read or write, to be fed by
spoon and hand,
And put upon a bed at night.
Or should I attack my way and make work my key to that
phrase loved by so many:
"See how successful is he".
No I shall just be an ordinary man and go upon my way.
Sane mind and sane pocket, never to fret on what other people
say.
God, happiness and love my master, yet servant of none. Yes
this life I like.
An ordinary man I will become.*

THANK YOU, FROM THE TOWNHALL

By SEAN LEAHY

*At last my creaking timbers creak no more,
my windows rattle not, when winds rush by.
No sagging rotten wood, make up my floor,
I now will live, though once condemned to die.*

*I stood alone, with old and saddened frame,
to watch you leave, and never say goodbye.
For years you never spoke, or called my name,
I thought "My God" that I was left to die.*

*Again I am admired, by young and old,
no longer shall I crave for light or heat.
My doors keep out the weather, when it's cold,
my friends will do their best to keep me neat.*

*I thank you all, who cared so much for me,
you rallied to the call, to heal my trouble.
And what you did is very plain to see,
I could have been, another pile of rubble.*

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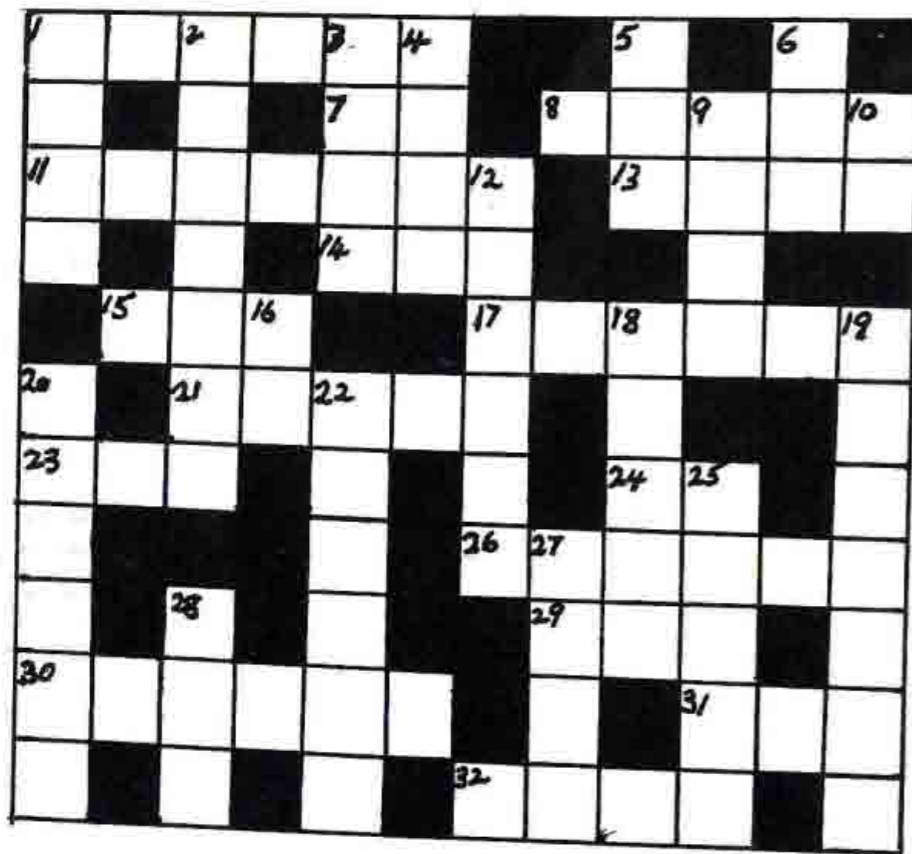
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CROSSWORD



Across

1. Home of the McCarthy Cup now.
7. Irish cow.
8. Irish City.
11. Excitement after the hurling.
13. Our Country.
14. Help Out.
15. Insect
17. You are this after getting off the plane.
21. Faithful
23. Ancient Irish Spade.
24. Small Verb.
26. Indian Tent.
29. That Lady.
30. Tillage Implement.
31. There's a famous one from 8 across.
32. Not far.

Down

1. Where most of us live.
2. Townland nearby.
3. If you can you are this.
4. English city.
5. Another insect.
6. Do Wrong.
9. Peel of lemon.
10. Plural of you.
12. Colour.
16. Double this toy to make it go up and down.
18. Horsey sound.
19. Foreign Country.
20. You have 17 across after this.
22. Weed.
25. Curse.
27. 13 across is one.
28. Craft.

Across: 1. Galway; 7. Bo; 8. Derry; 11. Revelry; 13. Eire; 14. Eke; 15. Fly; 17. Landed; 21. Loyal; 23. Loy; 24. Is; 26. Wigwam; 29. She; 30. Harrow; 31. Air; 32. Near.

Down: 1. Gort; Lavally; 3. Able; 4. Denmark; 5. Bee; 6. Err; 9. Rind; 10. Ye; 12. Yellow; 16. Yo; 18. Neigh; 19. York; 25. Eke; 27. 13 across is one; 28. Art; 29. Near; 30. Harrow; 31. Air; 32. Near.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

Saint Peter was walking around Heaven, when he noticed the gate between Heaven and hell had come off its hinges.

He called Satan and said: "Look, the gate needs repairing — we fixed it last time, it's your turn now".

"Get lost", said Satan. "Well", said Saint Peter, "you'll be hearing from our solicitor about this".

"Really", said Satan, "and where are you going to find one among your lot?"

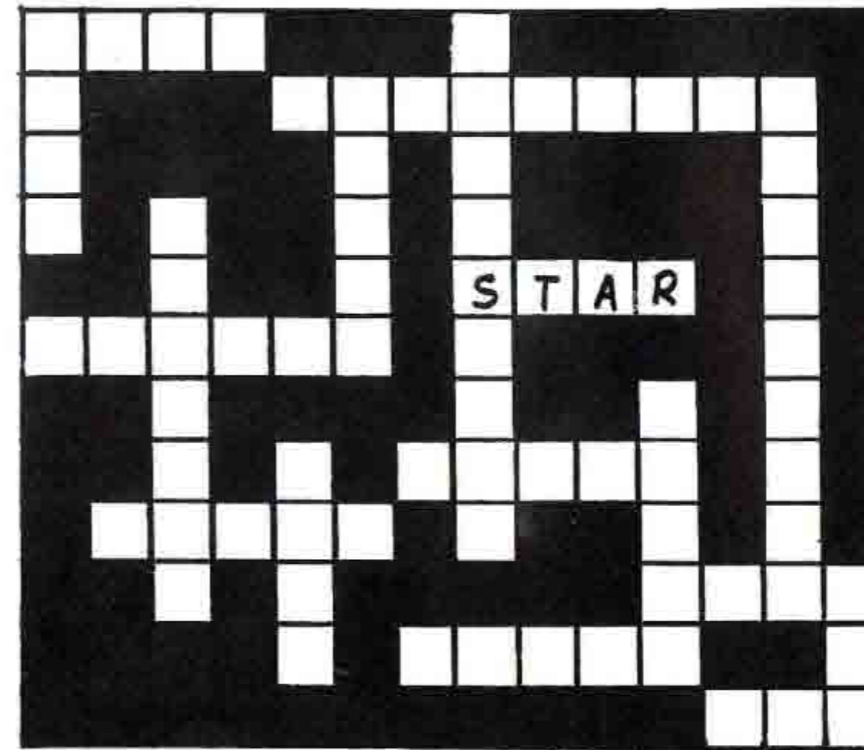
Jimmy Collins

BOAT BUILDING IN GORT!



Dermot Keran, of Georges Street standing beside the 18 ft. lake boat which he and Paddy Maloney, also of Georges Street, constructed from native timbers. Surely a first for Georges Street?

CHILDREN'S PAGE

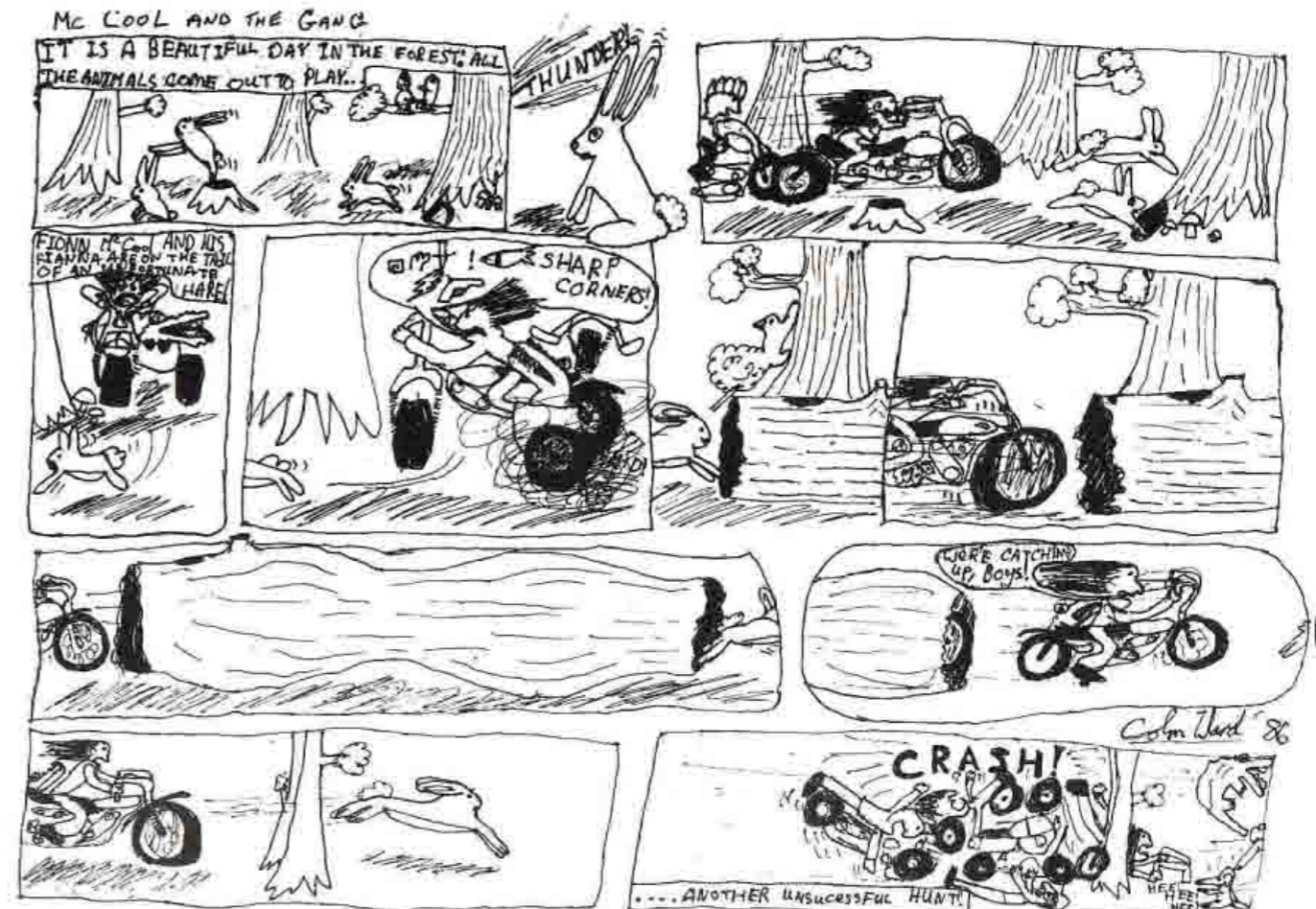


WORD FIT

By STEPHEN WARD

Place these words into their correct position on the grid:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3 letters: | EVE, ICE |
| 4 letters: | CAKE
CRIB
STAR
TOYS
TREE |
| 5 letters: | CAROL
ELVES
HOLLY
PARTY
SANTA |
| 6 letters: | GLOVES |
| 7 letters: | SNOWMAN |
| 9 letters: | BETHLEHEM
CHRISTMAS
MISTLETOE |



MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Congratulations to the following on the birth of their new family members.

Brian Christopher Quinn to Patrick and Kathleen, Kilmacduagh.

Anthony Francis Finnegan to Niall and Rose, Glenbrack Road.

Niall Martin Gavin to Gerard and Pauline, Blackwater.

Robert Pearse Piggott to Raymond and Máire, Castletown.

Niall Stephen Forde to John and Eileen, Castletown.

Helena Elizabeth Cunningham to Bernard and Helena, Castletown.

Conor Paul O'Grady to Sean and Mary, Killomoron.

Valerie Jacintha Wall to John and Mary, Ennis Road.

Paula Patricia Nash to John and Ann, Cloughnaceva.

Eoin Michael Loughrey to Michael and Dympna, Crowe Street.

Susan Patricia Fahey to Kevin and Bridget, Corker.

Mark Anthony Stanford to Joe and Nancy, Ballybane.

Alan Patrick Finnegan to Patrick and Josephine, Kilmacduagh.

Fintan Eric Daly to Michael and Pauline, Crowe Street.

Tara Leigh Hennelly to Michael and Martina, Georges Street.

Lorraine Stephanie Porter to Robby and Catherine, Ballyhugh.

Edward Gerard Delargey to Edward and Margaret, Coole.

Rita Ann Flaherty to Christopher and Josephine, Garryland.

Shane Vincent McNevin to Vincent and Mary Ann, Garrabeg.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couples who were married in the parish since the last issue of "Guaire".

Patrick Lynskey, Shragh to Maura Deely, Peterswell.

Thomas Lyons, Ballinasloe to Bernadette Crehan, Ballinastague.

James Stewart, Kilchreest to Helen Nolan, Ballyaneen.

John O'Brien, Caherlistrane to Mary Brigid Murphy, Glenbrack.

Stephen Glynn, Philadelphia to Mary Hannon, Roo.

John Mullins, Carlow to Bernadette Halvey, Cloughnaceva.

Michael Bermingham, Kinvara to Fidelis Kelly, Newtown.

Michael McNamara, Milltown Malbay to Caroline Larkin, Glenbrack.

Colman Rock, Garryland to Catherine Kerins, Ballinastague.

DEATHS

Since our last issue, we have been

sadly bereaved. To the families, relatives, friends and neighbours of the following, we extend our sincerest sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Christy Murphy, Coole.
Mary Cooley, St. Colman's Terrace.
Jim Minogue, Ennis Road.

Annie Griffy, George's Street.
Teresa Barry, Bridge Street.

Emily Mitchell, The Square.
Roger Fahy, Ennis Road.

Martin Morgan, Seehan.
Pat Fennessy, Church Street.

Lily Callanan, George's Street.
Eileen Lawlor, Station Road.

Anthony Glynn, Cloughnaceva.
Mary Burke, Kiltartan.

Mary Counihan, George's Street.
Ellen Doyle, St. Colman's Terrace.

Michael Quinn, Roo.
Mary Burke, Tiernevan.

Mary Linnane, Killomoron.
Mary Burke, George's Street.

Gerard Dwyer, St. Colman's Terrace.
Mary Ann Baker, Tiernevan.

Colman McNevin, Ballyhugh.
Michael Barry, Bridge Street.

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TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION

The Prizewinners in the Schools Poster Competition organised annually by Gort Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Bank of Ireland are:-

Convent National School

1st Noreen Scully
2nd Maureen Nestor
3rd Caroline Williams
4th Maire Cooke

Boys National School

1st Robert Keran
2nd Irial Conroy
3rd Tony Sheehan

The prizes were presented before the summer holidays by Pat McMahon, Officer, Bank of Ireland and Michael Breathnach, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, who praised all the pupils for the large number of posters entered for the competition and their high quality. He said that the purpose of the competition is to encourage young people to become aware of the importance of keeping Gort tidy and litter-free.



From left: Pat McMahon, Bank of Ireland, Noreen Scully, Maureen Nestor, Caroline Williams, Maire Cooke and Michael Breathnach, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.



From left: Pat McMahon, Bank of Ireland, Robert Keran, Irial Conroy, Tony Sheehan and Michael Breathnach, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.



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a very Happy and Holy
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