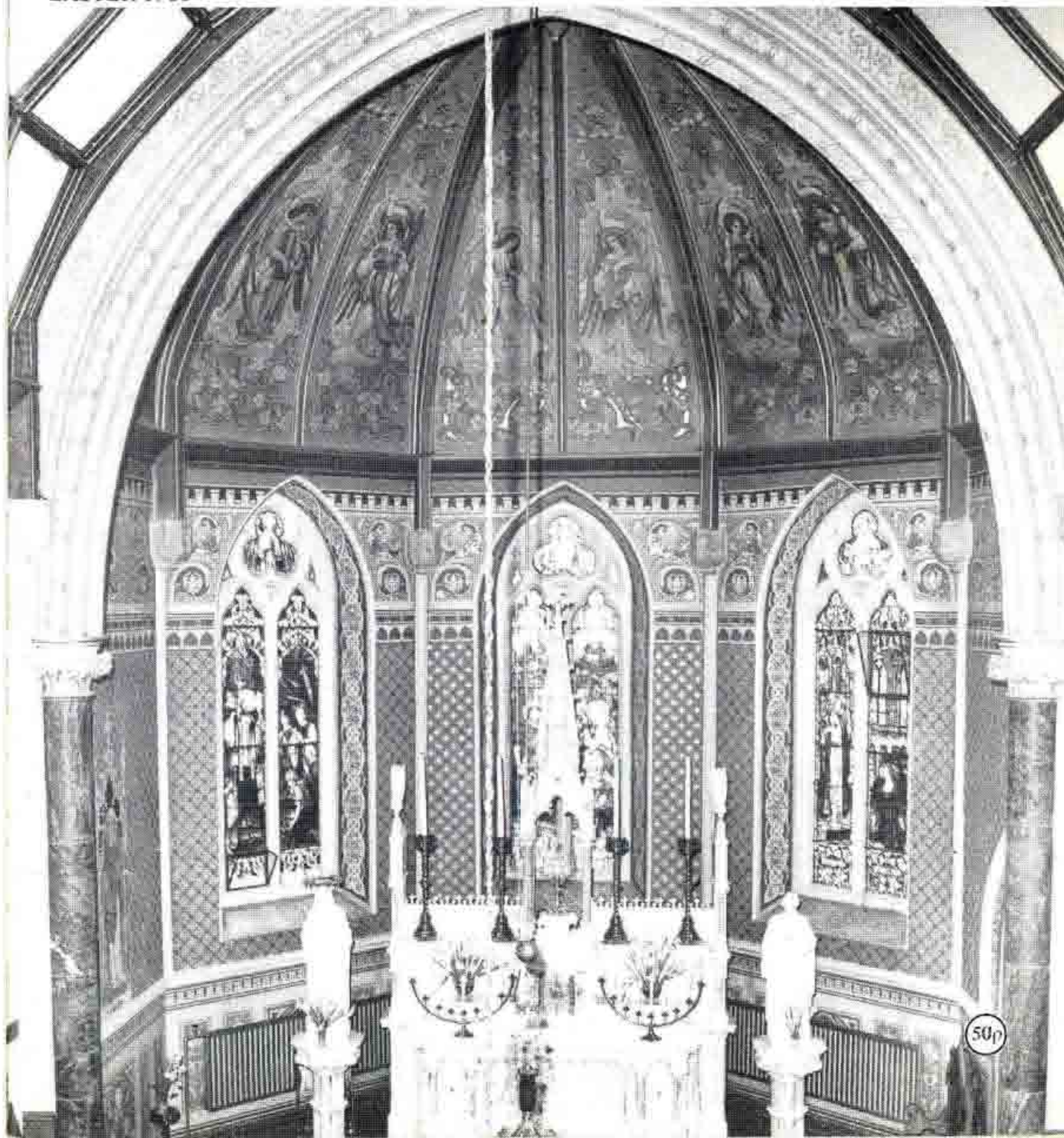


# QUAIRE

EASTER 1981

11th Number



50p



# GUAIRE

*A Happy Easter  
to all our Readers*

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Guairé is an independent magazine about Gort parish. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board.

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## CANON GEORGE LOOKS BACK

In this interview with Peadar Ó Conaire



*Canon Quinn P.P. Gort 1971-1980*

**Canon, I believe one of your first appointments as a young curate was to Scotland?**

Yes, I was there from 1933 to 1935. It was a great experience for me as a young priest. I met many

fine people there and made many friends. I became very friendly with the Mayor of Falkirk, after I saved his son from drowning. He invited me to play tennis with him one day. During the course of the

evening a friend of his arrived for a game. I took him on and defeated him; who was he but the Scottish champion!

**You were switched from Scotland to Connemara in 1935?**

That's true. I was sent to Lettermore. Fr. Andy Moran was in Carraroe at the time and we were great friends. Both of us learned German (or tried anyhow!) so that we could welcome the Germans if they landed, shortly after the beginning of the war. Both of us were keen swimmers. We often swam across from Carraroe to Bealadangan, hailing the turf boats going to Aran. One woman was amazed to see what she considered to be a muc-mara (dolphin) in the bay late in the year. She had a great laugh when I told her that I was the muc-mara!

We discovered a loose flagstone in the floor of Fr. Andy Moran's house one evening. On investigating, we found that it led to a cellar in which the old Parish Priest, Fr. McHugh, made poteen! He had the name of having the best drop in Connemara!

**You obviously enjoyed your years in Lettermore.**

I had a marvellous time. It was the only place I lived like a lord, although I often hadn't a penny! I had full fishing and shooting rights from the landlord, Mr. Berridge of Screebe Lodge. Shooting was a big thing out there at that time, especially grouse and hare. I was very fond of cards too. Many's the game I had with Pat O'Connor and Tadhg O'Shea, who were teaching out there. *Cont. next Page*

From Previous Page

The people were very shy. I remember bringing a group of women on an excursion to Galway. It was in the Summertime and we stopped in Salthill. They were amazed to see men and women together changing into swimming gear on the beach. 'Náire, Náire', they said.

A small number of parishioners lived on the island of Inis Treabhair. I remember one very stormy night, three men came to ask me if I would accompany them to the island to help a Mrs. Molloy who had cut her leg chopping timber. The doctor had refused to go with them on account of the bad night. The woman was bleeding very badly, so I stitched her leg and stayed with her till morning. When the doctor arrived he decided that the wound would not have to be re-stitched! So I was doctor and priest!

**You have travelled extensively throughout the world, Canon. Tell me about your travels.**

My God, it would fill a book! I was always interested in travel, as far back as my student days. I remember asking the captain of a cattle ship in Dublin if he would bring me to France. He wouldn't hear of it at first, but he agreed to let me on board after I promised to earn my passage by doing jobs for him. I brought my bicycle and had a marvellous time cycling around France. I remember distinctly getting out of "bed" (a seat in a park!) one morning in Brittany to find my

whole body covered with insects.

My trips abroad were not all leisure and pleasure. I generally did a lot of writing and photographing on those trips. I remember doing a series of articles on the work of Sr. Bertha Hummer in Munich and popularising her lovely figureens in Ireland. One of the articles subsequently appeared in eighteen magazines.

I would say that Egypt and Russia are probably the most extraordinary countries I ever visited. I made a few trips to Egypt. Cairo really caught my fancy. Russia is a fascinating country in many ways. The absolute scarcity of ordinary commodities, not to mention luxuries is always apparent. I remember the look of sheer joy on a Russian boy's face when I gave him a packet of Rolo I had in my pocket.

I recall going for a swim in the Black Sea on a most beautiful day and not another person appeared on the beach. I brought home a Russian hat to Fr. Jordan as a present.

**Fishing was another one of your hobbies.**

Yes, I was keen on it since I was a youngster. I had a boat on the Corrib for years (it is still there in fact). Of course I was interested in the history of the islands on the lake, especially Inchagill. The old monastery there was neglected for years, but I got the place cleaned up and Mass is celebrated there once a year. I remember reading, "The Corrib Country" by Oscar

Wilde's father many years ago and that particular book made me very enthusiastic about the whole area.

Cooking was also a hobby of mine. Banana flambé was my favourite dish. It has to be as sweet as honey, as hot as hell, and as black as night!

**You always had a passion for swimming. Why?**

Anyone who swam regularly from Lahinch to Liscannor in all sorts of weather, as I did, must have had a passion for swimming. The reason I started learning how to swim at all was that two young lads from St. Jarlath's College got drowned in the river near my home place. I decided there and then that I would learn how to swim. I started getting Irish lessons from an old man around the same time. His name was Seoirse Mac Fhonghal. He had a fairly big class of youngsters. The poor man was only paid two pence a night per pupil for teaching fools like us!

**Of all your achievements in Gort, what gave you most satisfaction?**

Buying the factory field and having it for the new school and the swimming pool. What would it cost now?

**Finally Canon, how do you see Gort progressing in the future?**

Well, it is basically a good town. It's up to the people themselves; the town will progress as far as they want it to progress. There is need for more houses. The new school will come and the swimming pool too, in time.

This Magazine recently gave me the opportunity of meeting for the first time Mr. Joe Mitchell, an Assistant County Engineer responsible to the South Galway Region for all services of Galway County Council. My meeting with Joe Mitchell, who holds a Masters Degree in Engineering, soon ended my original idea that the people of the area were more familiar with the good work he does rather than with the man himself. He was quick to point out that fourteen years attached to the South Galway area has made him well known.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

I found the man to be most courteous and chatty during our meeting and more than capable of controlling his most responsible and capable job. I was greatly impressed during our conversation at what I felt was this man's ability to size up situations much faster than normal, an ability which is no doubt put to use every day of his working life. I was equally impressed at the praise he affords his work force. He makes a very relevant point that his job of recommending the best possible approach to a particular project is of no benefit if the work force are not capable of doing the job. Joe Mitchell knows of and indeed appreciates the capabilities of his work force and holds them in high esteem.

#### THE JOB:

Joe Mitchell commutes daily from his home at Maunsells's Rd., Galway to his tiny but comfortable Office at Queen St., Gort, usually transacting over half of his daily duties en route, as the greater part of this man's work is transacted out of doors rather than in his Office. I was surprised to learn that fifty four men and one girl are employed through his Office, a higher rate of employment than that which exists through all of the factories together

## MEETING JOE MITCHELL

By Mr John Finnegan

in Gort. He and his staff cover an area from the Clare Border to Kilcolgan and from Kinvara to Craughwell, taking into account also the area of Peterswell, Castledaly, Kilbeacanty and Derrybrien. I was impressed to learn that in 1980 almost half a million pounds passed through the Gort Council Office into the South Galway area. Space would not permit detailed descriptions of all aspects of work to which Joe Mitchell is attached. To mention but a few, his Office is responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of roads, a total of 360 miles of roads when you add it up. The Office is also responsible for the re-construction of roads, the erection and maintenance of sign-posts, white lining and resurfacing, for water supply and sewerage, both of which keep his Office extremely busy. Mr. Mitchell makes the point that water supply in the area is good. Water supply in the town of Gort has improved drastically in the past year, due mainly to the installation of booster pumps at the local reservoir and the fixing of water leaks at Crowe St. He understandably refused to comment on the proposed new water supply scheme for Gort. Almost all Planning Applications and Housing Loans are dealt with through the Gort Office,

an average of 8 each week, and Joe Mitchell is responsible to view every site in relation to Planning Permission and make recommendations. Domestic refuse is another big part of his Office programme as is litter control and the maintenance of hedges, sidewalks and grass margins. His office is given the refuse collection vehicle only one day per week, on which day, Friday, his men have to pack in a long, hard day's work. In ten or twelve hours, they operate a house to house refuse collection in the town of Gort and in all surrounding villages. The Gort dump, he says, is almost at full capacity and that if an alternative suitable site became available, Galway County Council would purchase it immediately.

His Office is also responsible for the maintenance of Public Toilets. Apart from these services mentioned, which we too often take for granted, his Office has as many more responsibilities which require his attention and the attention of his staff less frequently than the services already described, but nevertheless play a very important part in our environmental surroundings.

#### VANDALISM:

Like the majority of us, he fails to understand why vandalism exists. He accepts however, that it is a problem which all areas experience and which appears to be on the increase. Vandalism in the South Galway area costs the County Council many thousands of pounds per annum. Broken windows, damaged sanitary wear in public toilets, and theft of life-bouys and litter bins, the breakage of ornamental street trees and disruption of sign-posts are common forms of vandalism in the area. I was amazed to learn that the average life span of a life bouy at

*Contin. Next Page*

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## TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION '79



Flashback to 1979 when Gort won an award for being the tidiest and most litter-free town in Co. Galway. One of the functions of the Co. Council office in Gort is to keep the town tidy and presentable. This it does well.

From Previous Page

the water bridge at Bridge St. and at the swimming area at Ballyhue is twenty four hours during the summer time. I was equally amazed to learn that the public toilets in Gort are closed each evening at eight o'clock as a matter of necessity, due entirely to vandalism. In fact, quite recently, toilet rolls were used to light a fire on the floor of the ladies toilet in Gort.

It has been a pleasant fourteen years for Joe Mitchell in Gort. He accepts the fact that most of the work carried out by his work men in the area goes un-noticed in the public eye. Human nature being what it is, few of us ever consider the tremendous work being done in our area by Joe Mitchell and his hard working staff – we sometimes only know of their existence when the water pressure is down or when there is a sewerage problem. My meeting with the Assistant County

Engineer has certainly made me more conscious of the more pleasant surroundings that he and his men create for us. I would like to thank this very busy man for affording me the half hour of his precious time in conducting this interview and I hope his remaining years in Gort will prove as happy and fruitful as the years past. I also wish Joe and his staff well in the new Offices which Galway County Council are acquiring for them in Gort.

For your holidays to all far away places – Lourdes, U.S.A. etc.

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The Irish National Opera Company was invited to Gort to perform Rossini's Comic Opera, "The Barber of Seville" on February 6th, by the Committee of The Gort Arts Group in conjunction with The Regional Development Authority and subsidised by the Arts Council of Ireland to the extent of £750.

To have been present at this production was a high human experience. That each artist taking part was passionately devoted to his and her role was quite evident. The gifted group captured the appreciation of the audience almost immediately.

#### EXCELLENT ACTING

Veronica McSwiney – the renowned pianist rendered her accompaniments with splendid finger dexterity and exquisite sympathy with the interpretation of each singer.

Frank Dunne as Count Almaviva favourable conveyed his amorous longings to win the heroine Rosina, as his bride.

Frank O'Brien as Figaro truly portrayed his role as Barber. These two singers with their strong sonorous voices matched each other admirably as they unfolded the story with clarity.

## THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

by Sister Cecilia



Sr. Cecilia, so much part of the music life of Gort.

Eileen Donlon as Rosina captured all hearts by her youthful appearance, her rare voice and charm of grace.

Peter McBrian as Bartolo proved an over-watchful guardian of his ward Rosina in his difficult role.

Padraig O'Rourke as Don Basilio, scrupulously performed his exacting tasks.

Patricia Dolan as Berta filled her role very aptly.

Patrick Ring as Fiorello,

combined his triple role with conviction. Warm congratulations to Barry McGovern, a producer of distinction, also to Robert Lane for his artistic setting and to the Vocal Director, Gerald Duffy, whose beautiful numbers gave such pleasure to a delighted audience.

The Sisters of Mercy felt privileged to have had such a highly – rated cast perform in their School Auditorium.

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# A LOOK AT GORT

by Sean Leahy



Sean Leahy

## EXTENSION

There is no truth whatsoever, that Pat Burke (local inn) is extending his business to include a beer garden out the back, this was taken up at the last meeting of the "Turkey Pluckers Association", it was said that a beer garden would be a popular item in the town, but against that, Mr. Burke would have to supply music from table to table, and their local mouthorgan player refused. Mr. Burke said that in the near future he may extend, but in the meantime the new indoor extension will have to do.



## STOLEN CAPS

In the the last year, at least fifteen caps have been stolen from different publichouses, the latest theft was from a pub in Church street, where a new cap disappeared in a matter of a few minutes. The

hotels suffered quite a few disasters, and one popular hotel owner stated that people with wellingtons would have to be searched leaving the premises, as suspicion rests on the caps being smuggled out in wellingtons. The Gardai are completely baffled, and a spokesman for them said they were keeping their eyes open and their caps well pulled down over their eyes. Whoever is guilty of this crime will surely see the suffering and inconvenience caused to people with no hair.

## CARROT GROWERS

The carrot growers of Royal Avenue, Gort, ar looking forward to the planting of seeds, but last year, they suffered a terrible blow from the carrot worm, this worm is a small long worm with twenty seven legs, yellow in colour, and blends in beautiful with the colour of the carrot. All farmers in the area are asked to examine their carrots, and if finding one it should be immediately destroyed by burning with petrol (petrol is supplied by Mickie Roche). Sometimes it is very hard to spot the pest, but if you catch the carrot in your left hand and sing a verse of Danny Boy directly at it, they will appear, as they love music. A lot of



them have been spotted on Royal Avenue. This led to the cutting down of most of the hedges. There is a second carrot worm, not as damaging as the first, as this pest has twenty eight legs, and walks more steady, but the one with the twenty seven legs has not such a grip (he being minus one) and keeps sliding down the carrot, this causes the skin of the carrot to be damaged, and so rot sets in. Please keep your eye open for pests.



## ARIES CALLING

Shy, unattached man of eighty five, would like to meet girls ageing from seventeen to twenty-one with a view to friendship and marriage. R.C., T.T. non-smoker. Interests: badminton, sky diving, underwater swimming. Own house (with mortgage), own bicycle. Only genuine girls need answer. Box 4536.

## GOOSE INJURED

A goose was knocked down outside Sullivans Hotel on December the 20th last. The owner of the hotel cared for the goose till it was almost ready to be set free, but when the day came, it was spotted that the goose could not take off, the local vet was called, and after close examination it was disclosed that the goose had a broken back

axel. The search has gone on since, for a back-axel for the goose. Johnnie had several offers but they were not the right size. There is now a reward offered for the first suitable axel. It would have to be a 1978 axel with a self-tapping screw at each end (colour don't matter).



Anyone who had goose for dinner Christmas day may still know where the carcass is, and with a bit of luck the axel may still be in perfect condition.

## ROO CINEMA

The drive in cinema, in Gort, is almost completed. When it opens it will have space for two hundred cars. Speaking to its manager, Tom Hannon, he said it would be a great boost for the district, and he knows it will be well supported. A special net will surround the cinema. It is a precaution to keep the snakes out. Next year, Tom said they would start on the Motel but at present, funds are small.

## UNUSUAL FLEA

For the past twenty years, the people of Garabeg have had a very easy time, but this year misfortune again, the Buck toothed flea has struck. This flea was very active in the early sixties. Many people had to emigrate, as the flea was draining them of their strength. Once again this parasite has been sighted. Dr. Joyce and a team of other doctors are on the move to stamp out these pests. The origin of this type of flea is unknown, but several were seen on the road to Loughrea. They seem to frequent the boggy area, but are now coming in with bags of turf from our local bogs.

They measure about a quarter inch, brown, with buck teeth, their legs are long and hairy. They differ to the ordinary flea completely, as these fleas are always humming. If you get one in your hand, then close your left ear with your finger, and listen close to the flea, you will hear him humming softly. If he does not hum immediately, start him off with a little humming yourself, he will always join in. If he doesn't, he is quite harmless and should be released immediately. The sale of D.D.T. has risen in the town, but it don't seem to have any effect on them. This flea is

dangerous and should not be confused with his cousin, The Ballylennon Buck toothed flea who is completely harmless and only eats turnips.

## BATTERED HUSBANDS

A collection was made from house to house in Gort last week. It was in aid of the Battered Husbands Association. A church gate collection has been arranged for Sunday next. It is hoped that enough can be raised to form some kind of shelter for those unfortunate husbands who suffer from the lack of understanding from their brutes of wives. Some of these people live in constant fear of their better half, meetings have been arranged in Sullivan's Hotel for Friday nights where Judo will be taught as a means of husbands defence. The more we have, the stronger will be our force. Remember united we stand, divided we fall.

There is no truth in the rumour that Willy Quin painted his bicycle green for St. Patrick's Day. The contract has been given to Mr. David O'Flaherty, who will paint it in a beautiful shade of Emerald green.

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The Budget has come and gone and to many was much as expected. The politicians have drawn their conclusions. The Economists are perhaps not impressed. The captains of industry are concerned, and the man in the street is, to say the least, confused. That confusion arises because of the lack of understanding at what might best be described as the nuances of economic and social policy, the priorities for which tend to fluctuate in line with political expediency.

Another major contributory factor to such confusion is the almost total inability of the public in general and tax payers in particular to comprehend the import of changes introduced at Budget Time. This lack of understanding is directly related to the complexities of the existing Tax Code.

It is my intention through this column to assist you in understanding the complex Tax legislation, so that you maybe in a better position to understand what your correct Income Tax Allowance etc. should be.

On the 5th April we entered a new Income Tax year. The Income Tax year ending on the 5th April 1981 is known as the Tax year 1980/1981. The Income Tax year beginning on the 6th April 1981 and running to the 5th April 1982 is known as the Income Tax year 1981/1982. The Income Tax changes introduced in the recent Budget will take affect from the 6th April 1981.

Currently all readers who are being Taxed under the P.A.Y.E. system will be receiving certificates of Tax Free Allowances for 1981/1982. Sometimes the certificates of Tax Free Allowances issued by the Inspector of Taxes are not correct. To facilitate you in checking your certificate of Tax

## TAX TALK

by Austin M. Slattery  
Chartered Accountant



Austin Slattery, a chartered Accountant, who will answer readers' queries in future issues of *Guairé*.

Free Allowances I am setting out hereunder what various personal allowances should be.

### Personal Allowances

Single Person	£1,115.00
Widowed Person	£1,185.00
Married Person	£2,230.00
Married Man (year of marriage)	£2,345.00
Widow/Widower in (year of bereavement)	£2,230.00

### Child Allowance

Children £195.00  
Incapacitated children £500.00  
The Income limit of a child is restricted to £80.00. Any income that a child may have in excess of £80.00 is deemed to be the income of the parent.

### Other Allowances

Blind Persons Allowance	£ 400.00
Blind Couples Allowance	£1,000.00

Age Allowance, single person £ 80.00  
(Person over 65)  
Age Allowance, married person £ 180.00  
Allowance for person employed to take care of incapacitated person or spouse £ 500.00

In addition to the above allowance there is a special allowance of £600.00 (£1,200.00 to a married couple) for employees Taxed under the P.A.Y.E. system. This allowance does not apply to proprietary directors or their spouses.

### Exemptions

The exemption limits for individuals on low incomes and for individuals aged 65 and over are as follows:

Single and widowed persons	£2,000.00
Married Couples	£4,000.00
Single and widowed persons aged 65 years or over	£2,300.00
Married couples aged 65 or over	£4,600.00
Single and widowed persons aged 75 or over.	£2,800.00
Married couples aged 75 or over	£5,600.00

Marginal relief will apply to persons with incomes slightly in excess of these figures.

Any person in any of the foregoing categories, whose income does not exceed the specified limits is totally exempt from income tax for the tax year 1981/82.

The Income Tax rates for 1981/82 are as follows:

### Single and widowed persons.

Rate	Taxable Income
25%	First £1,000
35%	Next £4,000
45%	Next £2,000
55%	Next £2,000
60%	Next £9,500

### Married Couple

Rate	Taxable Income
25%	First £2,000
35%	Next £9,000
45%	Next £4,000
55%	Next £4,000
60%	Above £19,000

In addition to the foregoing there are some other reliefs which people can claim.

### Medical Insurance:

Claimable by a person who in the year preceeding the year of assessment has made a payment to an authorised insurer e.g. V.H.I., under a contract which provides specifically for the payment of actual medical expenses resulting from sickness of the person, his wife, child or other dependents.

### Medical Expenses:

In addition to Medical Insurance Relief, tax relief is granted on medical expenses incurred by a qualified person in respect of health expenses incurred in the provision of non routine health care. The amount claimable is the excess of the cost over £50.00 for an individual or over £100.00 for a family. For example if somebody incurred medical expenses in a year that cost him/her £400.00 and didn't have medical insurance if

that person were single he/she would be able to claim £350.00 as an additional tax relief. A married couple would be able to claim £300.00 as additional Tax relief.

### Interest payable

The maximum allowable interest is £2,400 per annum (£4,800 for a married couple) except in the following circumstances where there is no limit:

- Interest paid on loans for business purposes.
- Interest allowable against rental income.
- Interest on money borrowed to pay debt duties.
- Interest on money borrowed by certain individuals in acquiring an interest in a company or partnership or in granting a loan to a company or partnership.
- Interest on monies borrowed by certain companies to acquire interest in another company or to grant a loan to another company.

The allowance of £2,400, will also be available to persons claiming relief under (a) to (e) above. In addition interest on "bridging" loans where an individual sells his only or main residence and acquires another is allowable up to a maximum of £2,400.

### Life Assurance

Relief of one half of the admissible premium is available in respect of a policy taken out on or after the 2nd February 1978. In the case of policies taken out before that date, relief is available as follows:

Irish Insurance Companies  $\frac{2}{3}$  premium  
Non Irish Insurance Cos.  $\frac{1}{2}$  premium.

There are a number of rules that apply in determining admissible Life Assurance Premiums. They are as follows:

- The insurance is on the life of the individual or his spouse.
- The policy has been taken out by the individual or his spouse.

Cont. next Page

## TALENTED DANCER



Isabel Fahy

8 year old Isabel Fahy of Circular Road, Gort is a talented step dancer.

Starting her rhythmic taps at the age of 3 and she has to date won an All-Ireland Medal for jig under 9 at the Oireachtas Competitions held at the Mansion House, Dublin in February.

Previously, she had accumulated a big number of prizes, in many parts of Ireland, plaques, gold medals, trophies and silver cups - in all she has over 300 prizes to her credit and must be acclaimed one of Ireland's most outstanding step-dancers, with further conquests no doubt to come, with our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to a grand representative of Guaire land.

Daughter of Sean and Esther Fahy, and a pupil of the Anne O'Loughlin School of Dancing, Isabel looks forward to her next outing ag Feis Shligigh at Easter and will no doubt bring further honours to Gort Inse Guaire.

For the record, Isabel should hopefully be a great camogie player, being grand-niece to the famous Mick Gill, the only man in Ireland to win two All Ireland Hurling Medals in the one year, with County Galway's triumph in 1923 (played in 1924 due to the political situation) and in that same year of 1924, as a member of the Garda Síochána, won a second medal with Dublin, where he was then stationed.

W.M. Quinn

- (c) The premium on which relief is granted is restricted to 7% of the Capital sum assured.
- (d) The aggregate of the premiums on which relief is granted cannot exceed  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the individual total income for the year.
- (e) In the case of policies effected after the 2nd April 1974 the maximum admissible premiums are £1,000. As and from 1980/1981 this amount is increased to £2,000 in the case of a married couple electing for joint assessment.
- (f) In relation to any endowment policy issued after the 16th May 1973 relief is conditional amount other things on the term of the insurance being for at least 10 years.

**How does one claim these allowances, I hear you ask?**

By simply completing a return of Income Form (Form 12) at the beginning of each Income Tax year and submitting it to your Local Inspector of Taxes. The basic form is quite easy to complete and can be done in a very short time. The form can be obtained by writing to your local Inspector of Taxes. The Inspector of Taxes for this area is located at Hibernian House, Eyre Square, Galway.

For people who have more than one source of income e.g. a farm, rental income or investment income, a more detailed Return of Income Form must be completed. This Form is a Form No. 11.

The easiest way for people to understand what their Tax Free Allowances should be, after they are aware of what their allowances are is by examples.

I propose to illustrate future articles, with examples.

Readers are invited to submit any income tax queries that they may have to, "The Editor", Guaire, Gort, Co. Galway.

Margaret Linnane

# GORT

The Poor Law introduced into Ireland in the late 1830's, resulted in the building of a large number of workhouses, mostly on the outskirts of towns. Ireland was divided into Poor Law districts, called unions and each union had a workhouse. The Gort union was practically co-extensive with the diocese of Kilmacduagh.

Gort workhouse was built on a site of  $7\frac{1}{4}$  acres and was completed in 1841 at a cost of £5,350. December of the same year saw the first admission of paupers into the workhouse. A school was set up within the workhouse in 1842 for the younger inmates. Appointment of teachers, together with management of the school was in the hands of local guardians, among whom were: James Lambert (Aggard), Lord Gort, Baron de Basterot, J. Martyn (Tullyra), James Daly (Castledaly), James Lahiffe (Cloone) and Arthur Alexander of Cahermore.

The workhouse was unable to cope with the extra burden placed on it during the Famine years. "Hundreds flocked to the workhouse, the cry of destitution becoming everyday more loud." The building had originally being designed to accommodate 500, but during the Famine sheds were built in a yard to the right of the workhouse which housed about



The old Fever Hospital, today the home of Paddy Coughlan and family

300. In 1846, Martin Daly Nolan, M.D. Esq. of Ardahan Dispensary appealed for erection of a fever hospital in the Gort district. This was duly built in 1847, a short distance from the workhouse, and stone for which was quarried at Gillane's of Glenbrack.

In 1848, the schoolchildren of the workhouse were moved because of contagion and lack of space. Since the completion of Lough Cutra Castle, Bridge House (former residence of Lord Gort and now Convent of Mercy) was uninhabited. It was given for the use of Anne Harte, N.T. and about 250 poor girls. The boys and their schoolmaster, Cornelius O'Loughlin N.T. were transferred to Lawn House, Church St. About 200 boys were housed there.

### Filth and Disease

Conditions in the workhouse itself were extremely bad. In February of 1848, we have the following account taken from Captain Hanley to the Commissioners of the Board of Guardians:—

"The wards, yards, etc. present one scene of confusion, filth and disease. The dietaries are in the same state of neglect, books are not kept up, and matters left entirely to the discretion of the master and matron. It is hardly possible to conceive a house in a worse state, or in greater disorder."

In a yard to the right of the workhouse and in a day room opening into it were housed about 500 women and children. These women were known as the "black women", and were so called, I presume, to distinguish them by their rags and dirt, from the cleaner clothed women of other wards.

# WORKHOUSE

Here we have the following account taken from S.G. Osborne with regard to these pitiful creatures, when he visited the workhouse in 1850.

"They sleep close packed in long sheds, have no sheets, and must either sleep naked or in their rags, as it was admitted, indeed it was very evident, they had in very rare cases no body linen. The one day room for this living mass of filth, was crowded, as much as the yard. The condition of the children, 129 between 5 and 9, stirred in with this mass of festering humanity can hardly be imagined."

### ORDER IS RESTORED

Mr. Osborne's observations of conditions in the workhouse were in direct contrast to those of the Dean of Kilmacduagh, J. O'Birmingham, who visited the workhouse around the same time. He declared himself impressed by the cleanliness, order, regularity and the wholesome food administered by the inmates. Dean Birmingham praised the master and matron and ranked the workhouse among the best he had ever visited. Others who refuted Mr. Osborne's allegations were; Martin Daly Nolan M.D., James Slater (Clerk of the Union), Barbara Birmingham (Matron), Delia Purcell (Ass. Matron) and Mary O'Shaughnessy (Wardswoman).

In 1851, at a meeting of the Guardians of Gort, Thomas A. Joyce of Rahasne Park proposed that the Sisters of Mercy be admitted into the workhouse in order that they could instruct the inmates in their religion and visit the sick. It was unanimously accepted. The workhouse was run by a matron who received the princely sum of £30 per annum. (£9 more than the workhouse teachers), while the nurses received £8. The Sisters of Mercy did not take charge until 1874.

### HAPPY MEMORIES

Let us conclude this article on a happier note, here we have an extract from Mr. Joseph A. Glynn's - "Memories of a Gort Hospital", far removed from Mr. Osborne's earlier distressing account.

### UNDER SISTERS OF MERCY

"A narrow path led to the main workhouse block and this was bordered with flowerbeds always in flower, according to season. Mr. Dulea's rooms came next, (schoolmaster) and then the dining hall, a cold flagged room used only for meals. Next one passed into the beautiful Chapel, where there were always a few old people saying their prayers, and from here through the vestry into the hospital. The wards had waxed floors with a strip of carpet down the centre, and a large

fire in the winter-time around which those who were able to get up, sat or read or just chatted. Around the walls hung the Stations of the Cross. The windows in the wards looked out on the beautiful laid out garden, with seats, flower beds and borders and a magnificent greenhouse. The men occupied themselves making fredwork frames or doing some little chores for the Sisters.

The great event in the workhouse and hospital was the Christmas tree for the poor little waifs and strays who were reared there in the days before boarding out was adopted. The event generally took place on St. Stephen's Day and was held in the dining hall. There were toys and packets of sweets for every child, tobacco and other gifts for the grown ups and a plentiful supply of barm bracks and tea for all. Sr. M. Xavier, the matron, was the soul of the party and it was a lesson in love to see the little ones crowd around her clamouring for toys. In Summer, it was customary for the children to picnic in Coole Park, as guests of Lady Gregory, who conveyed them to and from the workhouse in her cars and gave them a very happy day by the lake."

NOTE: The workhouse was closed in 1922 and the Sisters returned to the Convent at Bridge House. Today nothing remains of the original workhouse except piles of grey stone. The Convent built on after the sisters of Mercy, is in perfect condition and is now the residence of Mr and Mrs. Thomas Griffin.

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Helen Glynn

Last June when our home economics teacher, Mrs. Croffy, told the class about the "Young Home Economist of the year competition", my attention was at once captured. She explained the rules and asked if anyone was interested in entering. As mine was the only hand raised, it was decided that I should be the one to represent the school in this competition.

In order to qualify, I had to cook "An Irish Welcome" dinner for four people and take photos of it, make and model an outfit, and construct a project from one of seven choices. So throughout the summer holidays I was kept very busy.

#### DOWN TO WORK

When I came back to school after the holidays I decided to tackle my outfit first. After changing my mind several times, I finally decided on making a suit and blouse. I chose a light grey, light wool fabric for the skirt and jacket and a contrasting wine coloured satin fabric for the blouse.

After completing my suit I started my project. The topic I choose was, "A Look at Loneliness". I found this project very interesting as it made me realise how depressing life could be with no one to even care you existed. When this was finished I cooked my "Irish Welcome".

The menu I choose was as follows:

Prawn Cocktails  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Creamy Potato Chowder  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Stuffed Crowned Roast of Irish Lamb  
Baked Potatoes in their jackets  
Baby Carrots  
Brussel Sprouts  
Thin brown gravy  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Pineapple Cheese cake  
or  
Old Fashioned Sherry Trifle  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Irish Coffee  
and  
Irish Porter Cake

After taking the photos I was all set for what was to come.

I was in for a big surprise on the 16th January when I was told that I was selected as one of the ten regional representatives in the country to participate in the National Final in Dublin on the 24th January. I was both thrilled and excited and could hardly wait as there were talks of appearing on the Late Late Show. Though sadly this was not to be.

#### THE DAY IN DUBLIN

Finally, the big day arrived. At about 7 o'clock in the morning, my mother and I arrived in Ballinasloe, where we met Mrs. Croffy. The three of us then set off for Dublin, and arrived there bright and early around 10.30 a.m. With an hour and a half before the actual

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## A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

Helen Glynn

competition we went out to view Dún Laoghaire.

At 12 o'clock we arrived at the Sion Hill teacher training college in Blackrock - where the competition was being held. Here I met Maura Greaney, a third-year student from St. Joseph's Convent, the Galway regional junior finalist. She modelled a beautiful outfit and had a project done on water.

After viewing some of the other girl's projects, I stood back to admire the two beautiful gas cookers which along with two Brother sewing machines were the prizes for both the junior and senior winners.

At one o'clock, the interviews began. I was interviewed by Don Cockburn of RTE, Paula Daly of the McDonnells Food Kitchen, a well-known Dublin dress designer and by one of the staff from Sion Hill. They were all asking questions on the work which I had done. These interviews went on until half past four, after which the spectators were allowed in.

After being presented with plaques the two winners were announced.

To round the day off there was a lovely buffet to which we all were invited. My disappointment at not winning soon wore off as I chatted to some of the other girls afterwards. This trip to Dublin will remain in my mind forever, but I must sincerely thank Mrs. Croffy for all her help in preparing me for the final.

## JOHN LENNON

By Noreen Minogue

born, Liverpool 9th October 1940,  
died, New York 9th December  
1980.

It must be one of the most depressing ironies of all times that millions of people have been waiting five years for the return to musical activity of John Lennon and are now dumbstruck by the utterly devastating fact that he's dead. The facts are well known - a psychopath from Hawaii, Mark Chapman, shot John Lennon several times outside the Dakota apartment block at about 11 p.m. on Monday, December 9th. No one really knows why Chapman shot John. His reasons weren't very important but now the world's greatest songwriter is dead.

#### THE QUARRYMEN

In 1955 at the age of 15 years he set up his first band called "The Quarrymen" at the Quarrybank Grammar School in Liverpool. That same year, Paul McCartney joined it and this sparked of the most succesful songwriting partnership of modern times. In 1958, George Harrison joined them. They had Pete Best on drums. In 1962, Ringo Starr replaced Pete on drums. They

called themselves, "The Beatles". In 1961 Brian Epstein, became their manager. In August, John married his first wife, Cynthia; two months later their first single was released,



Noreen Minogue, a keen Beatle enthusiast

"Love me, Do". They released 22 new singles and everyone of them reached the top five in the British Charts.

#### HARD TIMES

In April 1964, the Klu Klux Klan threatened to kill John. In 1967, his marriage began to break up and the Beatles manager committed suicide. Also that year, John had a part in a film and he met the lady who would change his life. After John divorced Cynthia, John and Yoko became inseparable. Cynthia left them their son, Julian. Now the band began to fall apart. On the 20th of March 1969, in Gibraltar they got married. In 1975 they had a son, Sean. This brought his music career to a standstill. All this time he told nosey reporters that he was watching his son grow up. Everything was very quiet for John until just before his death, he released, "Starting Over". It was all going to happen all over again for John.

John we're all going to miss you!

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\*\*\*\*\*



# WHAT GORT NEEDS

Having been approached to write this article, the first thought that sprang to mind was how one should go about it. After much thought, I decided that there are four main groups of society in Gort and to get the views of a random selection of these groups would be vital to the writing of this article. These groups, I decided were:

1. The Senior Citizens.
  2. People involved in rearing a family.
  3. Youth.
  4. Those involved in religious work.
- I tried my best to get the views of both sexes in each interview but in certain cases, I found that this was not possible.

I would also like to add that the views quoted are the views of the subjects of my interview and do not reflect my own feelings.

Niall Clabby

## 1. The Senior Citizens

In this section, I interviewed two people, one male and one female. They are Mrs Fallon and Mr. Matty Carthy and their views were as follows:

**Mrs. Fallon, Georges St.**

**Int:** "Tell me Mrs. Fallon, what do think Gort needs?"

**Mrs. Fallon:** There are just a few things I think Gort needs. Firstly, I would love to see an improvement in the way the streets are kept. As well as this, I think parents of young children should ensure that they behave themselves in Church and not be interrupting Mass."

**Int:** "What do you think of facilities in the town?"

**Mrs. Fallon:** "Oh, I think that we should have a community centre in Gort. Like, take for example, members of the Youth Club who have run from pillar to post every Friday night in order to attend different things. This centre would not only benefit the youth of the town, but could be used by all age groups.

**Int:** Is there anything else you would like to add Mrs. Fallon?"

**Mrs. Fallon:** Just one last thing, I feel that there should be a greater public spirit in Gort. We are all too willing to criticise the priests and the way they run the parish. If we all did our bit to help them, I think Gort would be a nicer place to live in.

**Int:** Thank you Mrs. Fallon.



Matty Carthy, who returned to Gort in 1979

The next senior citizen I met was Mr. Matty Carthy of the Ennis Road. He did not want to say much on the subject as he said that he had only been in Gort a short while. However, he did give 3 points on which he allowed himself to be quoted. These are:

1. That Gort needs a Community Centre.
2. That the street lighting should be extended further along the

Niall Clabby



Ennis Road as it can be very dangerous where you can't see where you are going. He himself has had two accidents on the footpath in the dark.

3. That Gort needs a pedestrian crossing. This is of vital importance for senior citizens as cars go through the town at high speed sometimes.

## 2. People rearing children

In this section I interviewed a married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke of the Ennis Road. Their views were as follows:

**Int:** Well as a couple rearing children in Gort, what do you feel the town needs?

**Mr. C:** I think it needs some sort of local authority body, similar to town councillors, and that body should have legal status, because basically the County Council and other similar bodies are too remote from the day to day running of the town.

**Int:** "What do you think Gort needs in the line of facilities?"

**Mr. C:** Basically a community centre with facilities for all the

population of the area especially for the senior citizens and young people.

**Mrs. C:** I think that the community centre should incorporate a cinema. I also think a museum that would incorporate a tourist information centre is a necessity.

**Mr. C:** I think as well that Gort needs better telecommunications for business and private. It also needs a better fire fighting system and a local ambulance service. Also an up to date water supply is necessary for the town, capable of giving an adequate water supply for private and commercial use. A good water supply is necessary for the development of Gort as an industrial centre. It also needs an adequate housing system for young married couples. And there is also need for more jobs to keep young people in the area to settle and have families. Because if you get the jobs, the social facilities will come later.

**Mrs. C:** In my view there should be a pedestrian crossing in the

vicinity of the health centre. As well as this, I think that there is room for a choir or music society which would stage performances and would be independent of the Church Choir. I also think there should be a music teacher who would cater for both males and females of all age groups.

**Mr. C:** I also think that there should be proper play facilities for children with hard courts for basket-ball and tennis and leisure facilities for elderly people. As well as this as this there should, I think, be a full time games teacher employed in all post primary schools."

**Mrs. C:** A small point, it would be a great "relief" if toilets were installed in Coole Park.

**Mr. C:** There should be proper parking facilities in town, either off street or areas marked off in the square.

**Int:** Is there anything else you would like to say?

**Mr. C:** One last point, I think that there should be development of one story houses near the town centre for Senior Citizens.

**Int:** Thank you Mr and Mrs Cooke.

## 3. Youth

In this section, I again interviewed two people. They were Miss Geraldine Maloney, Georges St. and Joseph Roche, Bridge St.

Their views were as follows:

*Cont. next Page*



The St. Colman's Vocational Senior Hurling team who were defeated in the Connacht final recently

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Geraldine Maloney

Miss Geraldine Maloney, George St. When I first asked Geraldine for an interview, she stated that she could think of very little to say about what Gort needed. However, later that evening she gave me a list, with ten points on what she thought Gort needs. I quote word for word her opinions.

1. An outlet for senior citizens to congregate.
2. A proper town hall.
3. A record shop.
4. Housing facilities.
5. A Chemist shop that will stay open on weekends (a few hours on Sunday perhaps).
6. New factories.
7. A Community College where students may have a greater range of subjects to choose from.
8. A better water system.
9. A more efficient telephone system.
10. An Ambulance service.

The second youth I interviewed was Joseph Roche, Bridge St. — Senior Student at Our Lady's College.

**Int:** Well Joseph, what do you think Gort needs?

**Joseph:** Before I answer that question, I would like to say this, in my view, Gort is a town

which has completely neglected its young people. When I was on the committee of Gort Youth Club, I found that the view of the Senior Citizens was that, if we didn't do something for the Church, e.g. cleaning, that we were useless. I also found that parents disliked many things about youth, for example, we came under fire for such things, as clothes, music etc. I would like to see a better understanding between adults and youth.



Joe Roche

**Int:** Besides better relationships between adults and youth, what else do you think Gort needs?

**Joe:** I feel that Gort needs a community centre for all age groups. It also needs a playground for younger children. I think that ambulance and better fire services are necessary in a town such as Gort. There is also a need for more housing facilities, especially for young married couples.

**Int:** Is there any other point you wish to comment on?

**Joe:** Well yes, one last point. In my view, Gort is a perfect centre which does not exploit its tourist potential to the full. If

this point is not taken up by Ireland West, tourists or some local organisation, I can see Gort losing a large proportion of its tourist business to other places, e.g. Lisdowry.

**Int:** Thank you, Joseph.

#### 4 Things I would like to see in Gort

In this section, I could only get the views of one person: Sr. John from the Convent of Mercy. She could not give me the interview but gave me a list of what she thought Gort needs. The list reads as follows:

1. To use already existing facilities e.g. halls, courts, field, library and country walks to the full.
2. An equipped playground for the children.
3. A social service centre which could be used as a day centre for senior citizens, where they could come together for a chat and for companionship. It could also be used for other services in the parish, such as Senior Citizens Weekly Club, Laundry Service, Meal Service.
4. A small hospital which would enable people to be kept in their own locality, rather than leaving their friends and go to big over crowded hospitals.
5. Perhaps the greatest need is something that will evoke a better community spirit and an awareness of each ones role in the parish — through greater participation in all aspects of its life.

#### Conclusion

Firstly, I would like to thank the people who permitted themselves to be interviewed. Without their help, this article would never get off the ground.

Secondly, it is my hope that we, the people of Gort, especially those in authority, will read this article and take up some of the suggestions and create for ourselves a better community.

# GORT BOXING CLUB

Our Boxing Correspondent



Three representatives of Gort Boxing Club: Michael Donoghue, John Roche and Gerard Harrigan

The ancient Greeks and Romans and probably the Fir Belgae practised a form of boxing. The noble art, however, as we know it today dates from the middle of the last century. Gort Boxing, however, came a little later, in fact in 1980.

This was pretty late, as many of the country's towns have had well established clubs for years. That the young men of Gort are now alight with boxing fervour can be attributed to the match which the energetic Fr. Eada Glynn of the Youth Club set to the ready tender in the person of Jim Regan, who graciously agreed to put his time, talent and experience at the disposal of the said young men to the tune of about 8 hours per week. (Jane, can you ever forgive us! ?)

#### Our memories of the first year

Looking back over our first year, it is difficult (1) to imagine that it has passed and (2) that so much has been achieved in so short a period. There are so many things to remember — the night Jim Regan arrived with Michael John Heffernan's punch bag — then there was the night that Fr. Glynn arrived with a car-load of boxing gloves that would keep Joe Louis going

for years and for free!

There were nights that bits of equipment were attached to walls with hammers and expletives. There was that insignificant Church gate collection on a Sunday in February, when Gort gave and gave and lifted us from the canvas for the first time! There was that dancehall proprietor on the Ennis Road whose generosity was good for a tidy sum. There was Fr. Carney who put the College at our disposal. I could go on and on!

Boxing, however, is not about all of these things. Its about training, self-denial, true grit, raw courage. Its about being in the College on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 10, skipping, sparring, sweating, push-ups, punches and now and then, a bruise. Its about doing what your's told, how your's told; so that eventually, as you face your opponent in the loneliness of that ring, you will know what to do when that bell tolls. Actually, its hard to visualise what its all about if you haven't been to a training session and seen Jim put his boys (forty or more at a time) through their paces. Its well worth a visit, and you are welcome as long as you don't interfere with the training!

A Boxing Club is not a Boxing Club until it boxes and eventually we boxed our first tournament. The date was Nov. 29th 1980; the venue, Teach Furbo. Our boys looked mighty on the night, resplendent in their green and gold — we even had a marching sponge!

We did well on the night, one win, one loss, as the adage says, "you can't win 'em all."

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

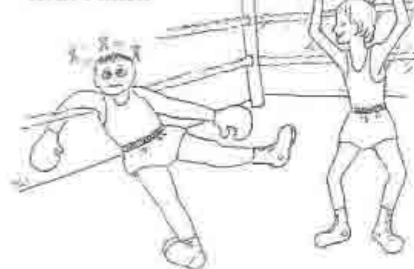
From Teach Furbo to Westport for the Connaught Novice Championships, where Gabriel Figgott was our best contender, but unlucky to go out to the eventual winner in the semi-final. We've had our wins, Gabriel Figgott, Anthony Coppington, Francis O'Donnell, John Roche, Paddy O'Reilly, Franklin Crawley, all scored. We've had our losses too, majority decisions against us, etc. "Lamer" you were unlucky once!

For the future, we hope to keep on punching. We go to Carrick-on-Shannon last Sunday of March for the Connaught Juvenile & Youth's Championship. Who knows, next stop, National Stadium, maybe?

Come May, we hope to run our own local extravaganza, when we hope to show our home supporters what we've been trying to achieve.

In conclusion, may I say, thank you to our trainers, Jim and Colie, to Fr. Carney and all our supporters who have made it for our boys and for me, the writer, a year I have much enjoyed and will long remember.

Yours in sport,  
K.O. Punch



# out and about

## Frank McGuire

The recent death of Mr. Frank McGuire, M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone brought to light a not widely-known Gort connection with the former M.P. Frank McGuire's father was a Detective Guard, stationed in Gort and lived in George's St. for many years. Mr. McGuire Senior was married to the former Miss Winkle, whose father, Martin, served in the old R.I.C.

Frank's brother, Noel, who had declared his interest in the vacant House of Commons seat, was baptised in St. Colman's Church, Gort on 26th December 1930. One of his godparents is Tommy McGovern, Ennis Road, Gort, who remembers the McGuire Family vividly.

## Stardust Tragedy

The Stardust tragedy brought grief to the whole of Ireland. Two special Masses were offered in St. Colman's Church, Gort for the victims. At one Mass attended by many school children from Gort schools, 48 flowers of remembrance were presented at the Offertory by 48 pupils as a mark of respect to the 48 young people who died in the tragedy. A large group of parishioners attended an evening Mass on February 17th, the day of National mourning for the victims and the Youth Choir sang appropriate hymns. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha uasal, go léir.

## Golf

New officers have taken up their posts in both the mens and ladies sections of Gort Golf Club. On the men's front, John Moylan, a golfer of long standing, is President and Sean Duffy is Captain with Sean



*A unique pairing Sean and Sheila Duffy who are captains of the Mens and Ladies sections respectively of Gort Golf Club for 1981*

Devlin as Secretary. Work on course improvements has already started and a special effort will be made in 1981 to reduce the debt. On the Ladies front, the new Captain is Mrs. Sheila Duffy and the new Secretary, Mrs. Eithne Bermingham.

## Convent Meetings

Fr. Edward Crosby, a former curate of Gort parish, has conducted a very worthwhile series of discussions on the Gospels in the

local Convent of Mercy. All present found the talks stimulating and rewarding.

Fr. Aodan Glynn and Sr. Miriam, a Presentation Sister, conducted three discussion nights on the new Primary Catechetical Programme also in Gort convent. These talks were attended by parents of school going children who spoke very highly of their value and need.

## Irish Mass in Kiltartan

A full Irish Mass was celebrated in Kiltartan Church on St. Patrick's Day. The singing was a credit to the choir and to its director, Mrs. Bridie Long. All the singing, prayers, readings and responses were in Irish. A lot of preparatory work was involved, but it is good to see the children of Kiltartan growing up in this spirit.

The Convent of Mercy Primary School also celebrated an Irish Mass on March 13th and St. Colman's



*Connacht Champions in the Ceoil an Gheimhridh Set Competition from left: Declan Fahy, Isabel Fahy, Kieran O'Dea, Tony V. Cummins, Colin Casey, Fiona O'Dea, David Casey and Maeve Conroy.*

Vocational School had one on Tuesday 24th March.

The next full Irish Mass will be on Sunday 26th April at 10 a.m. in conjunction with Fleadh na nGael which Gort will host on that weekend.

## County Hurling Panel

Three Gort hurlers are now on the Galway Senior hurling panel - Sylvie Linnane, Pierce Piggott and Gerry Lally. The later two are eligible for the County Under 21 grade also this year and as Gort are County champions, one of them will captain the County Under 21 team.

## Badminton

Congratulations to John Cummins on his recent success in the Connacht Junior Badminton Championship final in Roscommon. John is obviously following on the steps of his brother Padraic.

## Dancing

Young dancers from the O'Loughlin School of Dancing, Gort, won Provincial and All Ireland honour recently. Declan Fahy, Isabel Fahy, Kieran and Fiona O'Dea, Tony V. Cummins and Maeve Conroy were placed 2nd in the All Ireland 4 Hand Reel Under 9 years held in the Mansion House in February.

Colin and David Casey, won provincial honours at the Ceoil an Gheimhridh finals which were held in Mountbellew in mid-March. They go forward to the All Ireland finals which will take place in Gort on the last weekend in April.

Congratulations to Rita Nolan and Desmond Boland; John Curtin and Bernadette McInerney; Eugene Nolan and Bernadette Coughlan; Billy Kilroy and Olive Neylon; Brigid Hasset and John Coughlan; Pauline Monaghan and Michael Daly; Bernadette Lally and Gerard

Connolly. Rath Dé ar na lúnuin nua phósta sin go léir.

## Card Drive

In February and March a most successful 25 Card Drive was held in Tiernevin National School, on Thursday nights. The Drive was organised by Mrs. Mary Donnellan N.T. and proceeds were in aid of Schhol Equipment. The card players who supported the drive, are deserving of thanks.



*Connacht Junior Badminton Champion John Cummins being presented with the winning trophy by Ron Atwood, manager of Elvery's Shopping Centre*

Mary Hannon, of Roo, Gort, is training to be a Ban Garda in Templemore Training Centre. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom

Hannon of Roo. Eileen Brennan of George's St. Gort has been appointed an assistant teacher at Fishbond Primary Schhol, Kilchreest. Eileen is daughter of Mrs. Mary Brennan and the late Mattie Brennan, George's St. Gort.

## Confirmation

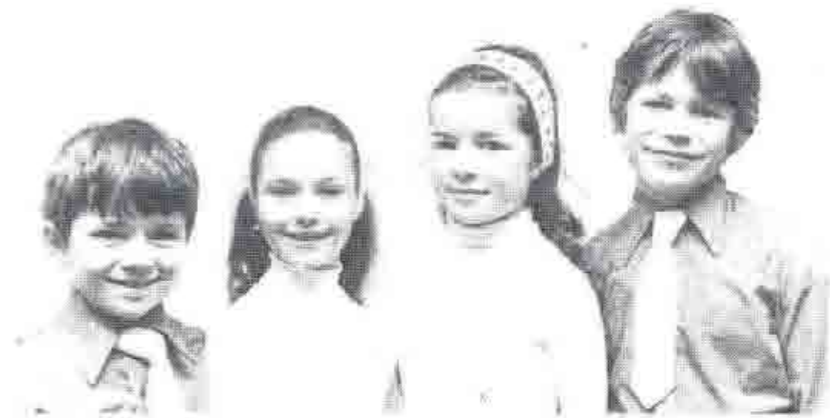
Bishop Eamonn Casey will administer the sacrament of Confirmation at 11 a.m. Mass in St. Colman's Church, Gort on Friday May 8th. The children in the various Confirmation classes in Gort Schools are eagerly awaiting the big day.

## Summer School

The Kiltartan International Summer School will be held on July 6th to July 16th at Thoor Ballylee, Coole Park and Gort. Course fee is £18 for adults and £10 for students and senior citizens. Professor Muinger will once again take charge of the course, which is a must for every one interested in Yeats, Lady Gregory and Gort's illustrious past.

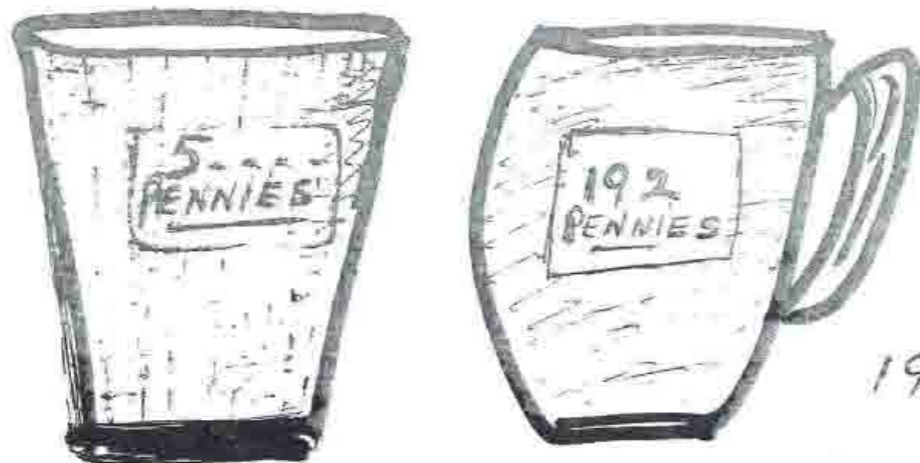
## Fleadh na nGael

Gort will host this year's Fleadh na nGael on the weekend April 24th to April 26th. The Gort branch of Comhaltas have been busy preparing for the weekend, which is once again a great honour for Gort.



*A successful dancing quartet from left: Declan O'Dea, Isabel Fahy, Fiona O'Dea and Colin Casey*

# WHEN I COULD BUY 48 PINTS OF BEER FOR £1.00



1939.

1981.

Seems incredible – like a Rip-Van-Winkle tale – but sorrowfully true!

Imagine! Six gallons of beer for £1.00. Enough to led nostalgic lip smacking longing to to-days imbiber, when two weak pints cost nearly £1.50.

Which memory is revived by the latest savage increase in the poor man's pint – only the well heeled can afford a trip to St. John of Gods today.

## Britain in 1939

None of my boozing pals in Pat Bourke's Local Inn would credit my contention – many remembered the nine penny and later the ten penny pint around the war years of 1945 – only the long gone veterans sipped the tuppenny pint during the First World War of 1914-18, but I drank William Younger's creamy topped pint of beer or Worthingtons Stout at 5 old pence – not in Ireland, but in Britain, when, like many, another Paddy, I crossed the Channel, accompanied by the late Paddy Joe Cooney, with a half dozen greyhounds.

With my capital drained in the dog tracks, Paddy Joe returned home, and I stayed on, and luckily in that high era of unemployment, found work with "The People" newspaper – not at the editorial desk, but as a door-knocker, travelling the highways and the laneways from Manchester to

by W. M. Quinn

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and over the border to Robbie Burne's, Dumfries and as far north as Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Highlands of Scotland to Aberdeen – proclaiming interest and seeking new readership for "The People".

## Low Costs

Rivalry in the newspaper world was even keener then, than it is today. We offered a free insurance policy and a Cherry Coon Club for the children, and racing tipsters that would ensure untold wealth to any readers we registered.

It was a gruelling grind that entailed walks of over six miles a day, but offered a delightful diversity of people and places, at

the then accepted wage of £3 weekly, plus travelling expenses.

Even in that "low cost everything", you couldn't afford to be a dipsomaniac or a club-goer. Digs cost 15 to 21 shillings, depending on location.

We usually procured "Room and Cooking Facilities" for 5/- weekly and buy our own grub. Our I.D. card ensured grocery credit from any branch of Liptons until pay-day, and thus we conserved the weekly food bill for two (we worked in pairs), at around 18/-, so we managed a full week's bed and board at 14/- a man. (Today's digs cost around £20).

Not only beer, but food was cheap – Bully Beef for our take-away lunch cost 10 old pence per pound (now 252 old pence or more), and as an occasional luxury, we dined in a Workingman's Club, to a delightful Hot Luncheon at 1/6 (13 new pence) – you wouldn't get a dry cooked hamburger for double that now.

Dining out was "expensive". My diary recalls one special occasion in a good class carpeted restaurant – grilled bacon, sausages, egg plus

bread, butter and cream confections – how much 2/6 or 12½ new pence – less than the cost of a small bar of chocolate in Bridge Street.

## £30 for 48 Gallons

As I mentioned, 48 pints of beer for £1 – now £30 in an ordinary pub – nearly £48 in the Shelbourne Hotel – aw! God be with the good ould times – but then we rarely had the pound.

## My Travels

I attended the Burn's festival in Dumfries – a great colourful parade and the crowning of "the Queen" and seeking her autograph – and later Kendal in the Lake District – an unending panorama of shrubs and trees and dozens of delightful lakes meandering in glorious grandeur – Killarney magnified. I worked amidst the indescribable squalor of Glasgow's Gorbels – tens of thousands of window panes replaced by card-board, or lumps of old clothing – Princess Street in the University City of Edinburgh, where tantalising tarts in fur coats paraded their "charms" – that incited my desire, but were beyond my pocket or my innocence.

"The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen" – I gazed across at the fiords of Norway as a snow blizzard blew into my frail shivering frame (I was then 20 and less than 8 stones in weight).

"The "canny" Scots were in truth a jolly generous people and I still hold many memories of their hospitality – they were Gallic, we Gaelic – brothers akin.

## Hitler brought me home

The pace and travel had reduced me to skeletal dimensions.

It was August 1939, the dark ominous war clouds were hovering over a peaceful Britain as Hitler's "goose-stepping" Gestapo invaded Austria.

Thousands were being recruited into the Defence Forces, but I had no inclination to fight for, "The Freedom of Small Nations", and wallow in the mud trenches of Flanders field or the Somme.

I took the boat down the narrow Clyde river for Belfast and arrived at dawn in time for Mass and entrained for Galway, via Dublin, with seven shillings in my pocket, and a tip for two race horses, give me by my boss (a most lovable Jewish man, Mr. Danker).

Both clicked. I can ever remember one of the horse's name, "Isle of Sky", and less 2/- for my bus fare to Labane, I arrived home, a millionaire with 35/-. I could proudly stand a drink to my Dad and his old cronic, Johnnie Helly, at Kerins's Pub.

"England must be a great place," I heard them say. If only they knew, but I suppose it was a great place then, when a farmer's boy was lucky to get five bob a week, (25p) for a seven days slavish work – £12 a year was the usual earnings.

## Thrupence each way

There were then, or for decades afterwards, no licensed bookmakers shops in Britain. You gave your bet to an agent in the "Close" (a recognised hall-way) or at certain pubs. You trusted him with his "Time Clocked" leather bag, and he always cam back with A.T.C. (anything to come).

Bets as low as thrupence (a "Kid's Eye") it was was called in Ireland, were readily accepted. Today, course bookmakers in Leopardstown or Galway's Ballybrit proclaim notices – "No Bets Under £5".

But it was a frugal and more placid age then – when a man could journey hopefully to the Galway Races with 15/- (75p) in his pocket; have a shilling bet on The

Plate, enjoy currant buns and lemonade for a few pence and cycle home happily, "broke to the ropes" – and men stood hopefully at "Sullivan's Corner" opposite the Church for a thrown-away "Woodbine Butt" – they'd rush to pick it up and draw the last dregs with the aid of a pin – necessity is the true mother of enjoyment and wealth; who wants to be a millionaire – I dont. A "toucher" for a shilling was endowed with the wherewithal of a delicious lingering pint, a sigle packet of 5 Woodbine and a precious penny to save. Incredible? Them was the times that was. Today the times that is! – when a £90 pay packet creates less "real" enjoyment than the "skiffy's" five bob a week, down on her knees, under the rigid eye of Her Imperious Mistress.

## Fr. Matthew Haughey

Taxes must be gathered somehow – but will "putting the pint or the ladies vodka and tonic" beyond reach, create a new and more fearsom "Irish Mafia", – will they go "Underground", as did the Maffia in America in the 30's and brew "Home distilled Lethal Brews", that will create a "Monster" more killing and demoralising than the "Hooch" of the States.

During Prohibition in America, over two and a half million died from "Log Alcoholical" – a spirit distilled from wood shavings brewed in certain concoctions.

At nearly a pound for a pint bottle today, I miss my "hangover". At least I knew the enemy, but today am forced to evade him, for as Mrs. O'Brien said so wisely in "When Lint was Lint" (I read it in the Guaire), "Calaco Trouble" is mighty repellent, and the most effective "Pledge" on earth – otherwise we'd need new acres of ground for the Saint John of God's Crowd.

## GORT A.F.C.

Niall Finnegan



Niall Finnegan and Freddy Smith, the Coach and Manager respectively of Gort F.C.

Colours: Tangerine, White Shorts, Black Socks.

Ground: Barry's Field and St. Colman's Park.

Nickname: The Tangerine Dreams

On 20th Sept. 1980, a meeting of interested patrons formed Gorts first soccer club. After some early teething problems, the present committee evolved.

Chairman: Derek Smith, Secretary: David Carty; Treasurer: John Lawlor, Assistant Treasurer: Robbie Porter; President: P.J. Lyons; P.R.O. Jarlath McInerney; Manager: Fred Smyth and Coach: Niall Finnegan. The club was affiliated to the 2nd division of the Galway F.A. league.

### Building the Club

The founding of a soccer club was step not taken without some apprehension. Was there a real need for a soccer club and would it survive? To answer the first question, the members felt it had become apparent that the need for such a club was there. While in no way undermining the great hurling tradition of the area, it seemed that there was a lack of regular organised competition for those who wished to play with the larger ball. (Indeed on our present team, many of our stalwarts perform with distinction on the hurling field). Over the years, Gort has produced many fine footballers. However,

having left minor level, these talents became dominant due to the lack of any real follow through to senior level. Indeed the same problem prompted Kinvara United to form over 4 years ago. In the present day, through the excellent work of such as Mr. Peter Conroy and Frank Lally, many fine young footballers have developed and their skills pass almost as a matter of course to the soccer field.

As to the second question, could a Soccer Club survive? It is to the great credit of the people of Gort and our eternal gratitude to you that it has flourished. The amount of sponsorship we have received and the general goodwill towards the club has been overwhelming. In return, the club offers itself as an amenity to you, especially in the winter months, when many sports are curtailed.

At present, the club boasts over 40 registered players. Unfortunately, in our first year, the club is only allowed field one team and perhaps some of our younger members feel neglected. However, if sufficient interest is shown, the club hope to field a reserve team next year and perhaps an under age team. The club wish to sincerely thank the members of St. Colman's Park Committee for the use of St. Colman's park and also Mr. Patrick Benny for the field at Ballyloman.

### Disappointments for team

Unfortunately, to date we have hardly set the world on fire on the field of play and the club is at present in the bottom half of the division. Our biggest disappointment to date was losing the first South Galway Derby to Kinvara. Their extra experience proved just too much on the day. However, two excellent draws with the league leaders and second placed teams have promised a better future and we are looking

forward to our two cup competitions at the end of the season.

Membership of the club is £1 which can be paid to any of the committee. We would like to see some more senior members in our ranks. The club ran a successful league and functions during the year and next year hopes to provide more extensive facilities for our members. Above all, our aim is to offer a further amenity to the youth of Gort and the winning of any trophy's must be subservient to this.

### Looking Ahead

Generally, we have a home and away game on alternate weeks. Notice of the matches appear in the Connacht Tribune and are posted at Water's newsagents and the Corner Confectionery. We look forward to seeing you at our next home match.

Finally to our sponsors and the other sporting clubs of the town, thank you again for your co-operation; to our supporters, may you multiply in your hundreds, and in 1981, "may football be the winner?"

The following verse describes an unusual happening of recent times in the league of Ireland. Can you explain the circumstances and name the player involved.

He wasn't abusive, he didn't play 'rough'. But when sent to the line, the ref said, 'I've enough!' Debarred from the ground, he left with a frown, For acting the fool, the laugh of the town.

All the clues you need are in the 'words'.

First correct answer out of the hat will receive a voucher for £3.

### And for our younger readers:

1. Only one non-league team has won the F.A. cup. Who are they?
2. What international team does Kenny Dalglish play with?

3. What English League side does Freddie Smith follow? £2 Voucher.

### Did you know?

The fastest own goal record was scored by Torquay United's Pat Kruse, when he headed into his own net, only 6 seconds after kick off v Cambridge United on Jan. 3, 1977.

The smallest crowd at a football league fixture was for the Stockport County v Leicester City match at Old Trafford on 7 May, 1921. Stockports own ground was under suspension and the "crowd" numbered 13!

The highest score recorded in a British first class match is 36. This occurred in the Scottish Cup match between Anbrooth and Bon Accord on 5 Sept. 1885 when Ambrooth won 36-0. But for the lack of nets and the consequent waste of retrieval time, the score must have been higher!

The biggest goalkeeper representative football was the England International Willie J.

Life is a series of decisions and among those decisions that each of us make will be one concerning a career. There are different stages we go through in our decision making. As children, we play "Doctors and Nurses". Sometimes we set out the role of our parents career. This stage lasts until we are about nine or ten years of age.

The next stage is one of fantasy where we imagine different types of careers. This is an important stage and we should fantasise, not only for the present but for twenty years from now.

The third stage at about sixteen years of age is where we decide. In deciding we should take into

"Fatty" Foulke (1874-1916). His last games were for Bradford by which time he was 26 st!

Gort AFC	5
Foxhall United (Tuam)	1

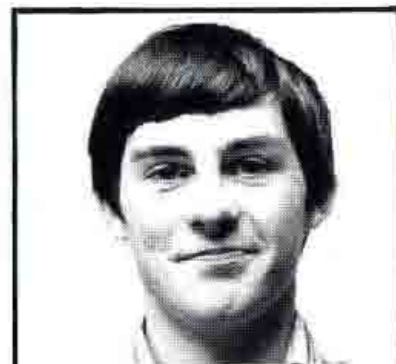
On Saturday 20th of March, all the early promise shown by the team finally paid its full dividend. In Barry's Field, the team recorded its first win in the league. The result, against Foxhall United (Tuam), was, achieved in a very convincing manner.

A goal in the first minute by G. Wallace was followed in quick succession by goals from Niall Shaw and Rodney Higgins before Foxhall Utd. pulled one back to leave the half time score 3-1.

In the second half, Gort again dominated the exchanges and goals by Niall Shaw and Gerard Lally left the final 5-1. With Vincent Mullins and Patrick Fahy out through injury, it was pleasing to see the younger members of the team blend in so well, some of whom were receiving their first trial in our colours. This result brings the teams present total of points to six and consolidates our position in the

middle of the table. With any fears of re-election now put firmly behind us, we are looking forward with renewed enthusiasm to our two cup competitions:

TEAM: M. Brennan, J. McInerney, P. Crowley, N. Finnegan (Capt.), A. Waters, G. Walsh, G. Lally, S. Ori-Orison, N. Shaw, G. Wallace, P. Higgins. Subs: C. Crowley, G. Fahy, J. Cummins.



All Ireland Youths and Junior Cross Country Champion Michael Killeen

Congratulations to Michael Killeen who won two All Ireland Cross Country Championships recently. He won the All Ireland Youths in Dunboynne, Co. Meath and the Junior All Ireland in Moyne, Co. Tipperary.

## CAREERS

Tom Lally

consideration our skills, our natural talents and our financial state. School teachers can give a lot of useful information to us about our abilities.

We should visit as many areas of employment as possible. We should challenge ourselves on our decision e.g. If you are going to be a nurse, how will you cope with suffering? How will you cope with death? If you cannot cope with these, then there is little point in you considering nursing as a career.

Something that people do not

consider is at what age are they going to marry? It is difficult to continue full time education and also be married. This is something that in particular affects men.

It is important to apply for as many jobs as you can. It is worth remembering that jobs are now scarce and you may have to lower your limits or to wait for some time before the right job comes your way.

One final warning: be careful about moving to another city or county. Many people suffer from depression in large cities. Make sure you have a contact before you go, with whom you can chat or call if in need.

# DEBATING

by Rosemary Fahy

## Great run by Gort Team

The path of success for St. Joseph's Secondary School debating team began in Nov. 1980. The team, Bernadette Fennessy, capt., Noreen Corcoran, Annette Kennedy and Mairead O'Driscoll hosted their first challengers, Calasanctius College, Oranmore, in St. Joseph's school in the first round of the Junior Chamber of Commerce debating competition.

The motion, "That free education has become a costly failure", was argued convincingly by both sides, but St. Joseph's eventually emerged as winners.

The next round of the competition was held in Calasanctius College, Oranmore when St. Joseph's met what must have been one of their most difficult opponents, three-times-in-a-row Galway Champions, Headford. Here again the Gort girls showed their delight when the adjudicators decided that their interpretation and delivery of the motion, "That the abundance of money ruins youth" was the most convincing.

## Local Derby

By now they had qualified for the final of the Galway Chapter of the Junior Chamber debating competition. Their opponents being Our Lady's College, Gort. So the 'gift of the gab' is not lost in Gort. St. Joseph's Gymnasium was packed to capacity on the night of the 12th December for the final. The motion that, "The Irish lack initiative" was both interesting and invigorating, one in which the audience became as involved as the teams, judging by their participation when discussion was opened to the floor.

Who had won was anybody's



The St. Joseph's Convent Debating team. From left: Annette Kennedy, Mairead O'Driscoll, Noreen Corcoran and Bernadette Fennessy

guess as both teams seemed to equally surpass each other. But however, the tension was relieved when rapturous cheers received the verdict that St. Joseph's had done it again.

## Bug catches on again

In February, the debating 'bug' caught on again as Bernadette, Noreen, Annette and Mairead entered the Western Regional semi-finals. Their opponents being St. Cuan's, Castleblakeny. Both teams proved to be very knowledgeable on the subject of trade unions when they debated the motion, "That trade unions have become a social menace". However St. Joseph's tasted success once again and were now into the Western Regional Finals. Their opponents were the Mercy Convent, Tuam who had done extremely well in this competition the previous year. Bernadette, Noreen, Annette and Mairead again in ground favourable to them Calasanctius College. Oranmore had to argue that above all things what Ireland did not need was an Ayatollah! But the girls were by this time adept hands at debating and by the

end of the night every one in the hall even, I would say the opposition had to disagree that Ireland needed an Ayatollah (God between us and all harm). Certainly the adjudicators felt so for they elected Gort as qualifiers for the All-Ireland Quater Finals held on March 18th in the Parkway Motor Inn in Limerick. Here they met a very competent team from Listowel who had done extremely well in this competition the previous year.

Listowel proposed the motion, "That it is not always the same to be a good man and a good citizen." After a very tense and interesting debate, Listowel won the night. Yet the girls from St. Joseph's receive our heartiest congratulations for getting so far in this competition — the toughest of all secondary school debating competitions.

The team would like to thank all their supporters for their support over the last number of months. They would also like to give a special word of thanks to Sr. De Lourdes, Margaret Linnane, Miss Mc Hugh, St. Colman's School and Our Lady's College debating teams for their invaluable help. It is greatly appreciated.



Sean Leahy

## FAMINE DAYS IN IRELAND

Hunger is hunger, starvation is starvation. Quite a big difference 1846 saw famine in our own little Isle, when it took nearly half of our population, either by famine or emigration. Thanks to God famine in Ireland is a thing of the past. But it again reared its ugly head in many other countries. I have seen such terror in some of the countries I travelled in, something to be remembered and never forgotten. I wrote a poem in 1970 about the famine days in Ireland. But in all fairness, it could be any of our starving countries.

*O weep no more, my green Hibernia,  
at last our crops are seen again.  
The beasts are back upon the meadow,  
beasts so light, just bone and skin.  
How dark those days of 46 were,  
when all our crops and cattle died.  
O tell the tale to us, grandfather,  
he lifts his old grey head, and sighs.*

*O yes my child, those days were hellish,  
nothing moved upon our land.  
Those fields of grass, so green, stopped  
growing,  
our crops they failed, like grains of sand.  
Our cattle starved, died then rotted,  
the wind it howled through leafless trees.*

*It brought starvation to our people,  
and left them dying on their knees.*

*I saw a woman, dead of hunger,  
she died, where she laid down to rest.  
Her failing infant, cries with hunger,  
as it claws its mothers, empty breast.  
A man had died in Gort na Sagart,  
with withered grass between his teeth.  
He craved not for a banquet supper,  
But rotten grass, he could not eat.*

*I saw the graves of twenty people,  
carted there, at dead of night.  
They died of plague, and starvation  
buried together, out of sight.  
A trunk of bogdeal, be your headstone,  
covered up, forgotten quick.  
With their failing limbs, they leave them,  
homeward bound to tend their sick.*

*We won't get help, from foreign  
countries,  
yet their ships are on the bay.  
But they have heard of plague, amongst  
us.  
so they turned, and sailed away.  
The coffin ships, that lay at anchor,  
in our silent, fishless bay.  
Are loaded down, with corpse-like  
figures,  
bound for lands across the sea.*

*But those that stayed, and lived  
remembered,  
I was one of those my boy.  
That's why you see those tears appearing,  
that's why with grief, I have to cry.  
But soon that green appeared in patches,  
God had saved our little Isle.  
But for years, I saw those faces,  
without a glimmer, of a smile.*

Sean Leahy

## Song of My Heart

*As I sit in my home, in far off Australia,  
My memories linger, on days that are  
gone.  
But the moon up above, is the same that  
shines o'er you,  
Town of dear Gort, and land of my song*

Chorus

*Over the ocean, way cross the valley,  
Down to the green fields, that I left to  
roam.*

*Carry my message, and tell all I love  
them,  
I'll see you soon, dear Gort and my  
home.*

*Gone are the days, when I used to  
wander,  
Over the hills, and down by the sea.  
Catching the trout, that rose to the  
feather,  
near the castle of Yeates, in old Ballylee.*

Chorus

*I've seen the far lands, of many a  
country,  
the sands of the deserts, and jungles so  
brown.  
But n'er will I see, a sight to outdo you,  
As you dear Blackwater, in old Ceann na  
hAbhainn.*

Chorus

*I picture my mother, she stands by the  
roadside,  
Waiting for letters, from far o'er the  
foam.  
Dear mother I'm lonely, but not for you  
only,  
I am pining for Gort, my old Irish home.*

Chorus

*Lovely Blackwater, I know you'll keep  
flowing,  
On your lonely journey, way out to the  
sea.  
Please stay for a while, in the home of  
my childhood,  
Kiss the dear banks, and say its from me.*

Chorus

*And if I am to die, in this land of the  
lonely,  
Please carry my body, to the spot I love  
best.  
There near the town, of good old King  
Guatre,  
With a pillar of limestone, you lay me to  
rest.*

Sean Leahy

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**JORDAN'S SUPERMARKET**

The Square, Gort  
Good service and the keenest  
of grocery prices.

"When I die everything goes to my Wife and Family. There's no need to make a Will. Anyway, it's time enough."

Many a man has said that and in later years his bereaved Family have suffered unnecessary distress and expense because of his reluctance to make a will. Statistics show that a great many Irish people and practically 50% of Irish farmers do not make their wills, though in latter years the position would seem to be changing with more and more becoming conscious of the necessity of doing so. Many people have an innate fear of making their wills too often associating it with dying.

As a Will is simply the expression of a persons wishes concerning the distribution of his property after his death one should have no fear in making it. Remember always a Will speaks from death only in that one can change it as often as one likes. It is unlike a Deed of Transfer or Deed on Conveyance which ordinarily have immediate effect.

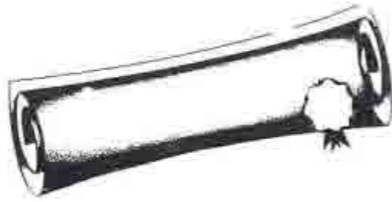
A valid Will can be made by any person who:

(1) Has attained the age of eighteen years or is or has been married.

(2) Is of sound disposing mind.

In view of what has been said, it is thus advisable that as soon as one becomes entitled to Property, be it Real Property, i.e. Land, House or Personal Property, i.e. Money, Investments etc., one should make their Will. A near fatal accident, travelling abroad either on business

## WILLS



By our Legal Correspondent

or holidays or sudden illness often alerts people to arrange their affairs by making their Wills.

### Formalities of a Will

It is not absolutely necessary to have your will made with a solicitor once the formalities have been complied with. These are that:

(1) The Will is in Writing.

(2) It shall be signed at the foot or end thereof by whosoever is making their Will (The Testator).

(3) Such signature is made or acknowledged in the presence of two witnesses present at the same time both of whom should witness the Testator's Signature with their signatures. Home - made Wills are, however, often a cause of trouble and expense. Without an understanding of, for example, the Succession Act, 1965 and the Capital Acquisitions Tax Act, 1976 ones intentions are often frustrated. The Legacies of a badly drafted Will can frequently be family squabbles, beneficiaries' gossip, expensive litigation or a greater liability for Inheritance tax.

Under the Succession Act, 1965,

if a Testator leaves a spouse and no children the spouse shall have a right to one-half of the estate. If the Testator leaves a Spouse and children, the Spouse shall have a right to one-third of the Estate. A Child has no absolute right to part of the Testator's Estate, though in certain circumstances the Courts may order that provision be made for the Child out of the Estate. These Rights must be contrasted with the situation where a person dies Intestate, i.e. without having made a Will. If an Intestate dies leaving a Spouse and no Children, the children shall take the whole Estate. If an Intestate dies leaving a Spouse and Children, the Spouse shall take two-thirds of the Estate and the remainder shall be distributed among the children in accordance with certain rules. The latter can cause great problems and hardship. For example where a man dies without having made a Will leaving a Wife and Five Children, the Wife becomes entitled to Two-thirds of the Estate and each of each of the Children take one-fifteenth. The problem is greater if any of these children are Infants - under Twenty One years of age. A properly drafted Will would avoid anything such as this happening.

### Role of Executor

In any properly drafted Will, provision will be made for the appointment of an Executor. The role of the Executor is very important as he is the person appointed by the Testator to

administer the Estate in accordance with the terms of the Will. In the case of larger Estates it is advisable that more than one Executor be appointed. Where there are Infant Children, the Executors are usually appointed Trustees and Guardians. The appointment of one as Executor, Trustee or Guardian does not prevent him or her from Benefiting under the Will or Witnessing it, though if he is to benefit under the Will, he should not witness it.

On the 1st of April, 1975, Death Duties or Estate Duty were abolished and replaced by Capital Acquisitions Tax. The Capital Acquisitions Tax Act 1976 introduced two Taxes i.e. (1) Gift Tax and (2) Inheritance Tax. The latter applies to Inheritances arising on deaths on or after the 1st of April, 1975. Whether a liability arises for this Tax depends on a number of factors including the relationship between the deceased and the person entitled on the

death. By making a Will one can arrange their affairs so as to avoid any liability for Tax or alternatively if there is to be any liability to reduce the incidence of same to a minimum.

Realizing thus the certain protection a Will can give, the necessity for doing so cannot be emphasized enough. What is in your Will remains a secret, known only to your Solicitor and yourself.

Need one say more?



The Our Ladies' College Gort Senior Hurling team, who recently won the Connacht Championship.

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# What is happening in Gort?

## 1. Chamber of Commerce

A petition with as many signatures as possible is being organised in an effort to get a better water supply in the Gort area. Fr. Harry Bohan of the Rural Housing Movement is prepared to come to Gort and assist young married couples in owning and building their own houses at the cheapest possible cost 1981 standards.

## 2. Macra na Feirme

The Club are preparing an entry for a special competition sponsored by Allied Irish Banks with a top prize of £350. A 4 Year Development Plan for an underdeveloped farm must be drawn up. The farm in question is situated near Portumna and has been visited by Macra members.

## 3. Country Markets

The Market is held every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 in the Courthouse. Home made cakes, jams, marmalades, free range eggs, vegetables and crafts are on sale at very competitive prices.

## 4. Taisce

The preservation of Hynes' Mill is an immediate priority. Taisce Chairman has spoken to the Mart Chairman who has promised to preserve the Mill.

## 5. Bridge

Some new members have joined after attending special classes. Allied Irish Banks and Bank of Ireland have sponsored two Perpetual Cups for the Club. A mini-congress with representatives from Athenry, Loughrea, Portuman, Kinvara and Ennistymon was held on March 1st. Winners were two Mrs. Ruane's from Athenry.

## 6. Golf

A special Mixed Foursomes was run off for The Year of the Disabled on March 29th. The committee hope to improve the 1st hole by acquiring an extra piece of land. A special draw is being organised to improve the Club's financial position.

## 7. I.C.A

Craft classes continue every Monday night with a general meeting of members every second Monday. Padraic Giblin gave a very interesting talk to members on Banking in early March.

## 8. Billiards

The Coen Cup is in full swing with Liam Gillane, Christy Fennessy, Tim O'Driscoll and Christy McNevin in strong contention. Interest is high and it is difficult to get a game during peak hours.

## 9. Badminton

The Structural Committee Cup, a Doubles Handicap Event, is being run off. In a great Juvenile Competition, Barry McNevin beat Joseph Gleeson in final. In the Junior Doubles final Enda McInerney and John Roche beat Mary McNevin and Gerard McGann.

## 10. Snooker

Limerick beat Athenry in an exhibition game in February. In a fascinating match, Willie Higgins beat Joe Feenick.

## 11. Drama

The Junior I Act Drama Festival was held in the last weekend in March. It was excellent entertainment for an appreciative audience. The Senior 3 Act production of "The Righteous are Bold" was also an outstanding success.

## 12. Arts Group

The highlight was the staging of the Barber of Seville in the convent auditorium. Many afterwards expressed the view that it was the best production ever staged in Gort.

## 13. Fishing

Members have linked up with a new Sea angling Club formed in Galway and with the Fanore deep sea Fishing Club. Competitions were held at night and some Gort members tasted success.

## 14. Mentally Handicapped

A very successful Buffet Social was held in February. £375 profit was made. Special guests on the night were the children from the Brothers of Charity Orchard House who enjoyed themselves immensely. The envelope collection was also an outstanding success with over £1,200 being raised.

## 15. G.A.A.

Interest is high and an improved performance from the Senior team is expected in 1981. There are 3 Gort players on the Co. Senior panel. The 25 Drive organised by the Club was an outstanding success and the Special Draw also helped to improve the Club's financial position.

## 16. Soccer

This is a new Club aimed at the youth of Gort and filling a long felt need in the town. March 20th saw the club record its first big victory beating Tuam 5 - 1. Anyone interested in the Club should contact Niall Finnegan.

## 17. Rugby

A cheque for £1,300 was handed to Gort Social Services from the Rugby Club recently. The Club are

still in contention for the Culligan Cup but have been eliminated from the Clare Cup and the Ard na Cregg Cup. The Club propose to send a Physically Handicapped person to Lourdes.

## 18. Community Games

Preparations have commenced for the different competitions, indoor and outdoor. South Galway athletes face stern competition once they leave their own parish. Last year saw the Casey boys from Glenbrack make it to Mosney and take home All Ireland medals. Hopefully 1981 will be more rewarding.

## 19. Camogie

Training takes place every Saturday in St. Colman's Park at 11 a.m. Girls from Kilbeacanty, Gort, Ardahan, Kiltartan and Kilmacduagh try and improve their skills. Gort has entered teams in the Under 14, Minor and Junior grades in the County. The Club can boast of some fine individual players.

## 20. Youth Club (Gort)

The Club are planning some fund raising activities for The Year of the Disabled. A team from the Club won an Inter Club Quiz competition in Ballyvaughan in March and took home valuable trophies.

## 21. Youth Club (Kiltartan)

This year's Debating Competition was a great success. A big improvement was evident to the adjudicators. The Club's disco was

held in the Classic, Gort and was a tremendous success. The Club also participated in games run off by the National Federation of Youth Clubs.

## 22. Athletic Club

A very successful Card Drive was held in Glynn's Hotel in February. A Sport's Day in St. Colman's Park normally held on St. Patrick's Day had to be postponed because of the poor condition of the field but it will be held in Mid-April.

## 23. Gardening Club

Monthly meetings of the Club in

the Vocational School are well attended - on average 50 members. In late March Miss Maria Prenderville gave a very interesting lecture on 'Herbs and Unusual vegetables'. Interested or prospective gardeners should contact Michael Bermingham.

## Gun Club

A Social to raise funds for the Club will be held on Sunday 12 April in Glynn's Hotel. The Club has spent £300 destroying vermin in an effort to preserve duck in the locality.

## WORLD POVERTY

Marie O'Reilly and Edel English

What we must do for under developed countries?

There are many underdeveloped countries in the world today. The luckier inhabitants of these countries barely eke out a subsistence living by peasant farming, the more unfortunate unable to farm, utterly die of starvation. Why is this being allowed still to occur in present day modern life?

The simple answer is that people of developed countries are thoughtless to the needs of the third World and are only content in making their own life a success.

### Willing contributions necessary

Enough aid is just not being sent to the Third World. People in Ireland do contribute to organisations

which the poorer nations, but many do it as if under obligation and to "keep up with the Joneses". Contributions, (no matter how small), should be made regularly and more importantly, willingly. By contributing to these organisations, food, medical supplies, etc. can be sent out to relieve the poverty of the Third World.

Today, more and more people are willing to give up a few years of their life to devote to the Third World. These voluntary helpers work in Africa, South America etc. without payment. We think this is a very good idea, but unfortunately, it is not being discussed and encouraged enough in our schools. With a little encouragement more young people will consider devoting

*Gort. Next Page*



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# BRIDGE



Our Bridge Correspondent

There are over 80 Bridge players in the Gort region. A keen Bridge player has given £10 to Guaire and it will be given to the person who makes the best attempt at solving the following four Bridge problems.

1 North  
S. Q, 7, 3  
H. A, 7, 6, 5, 4  
D. 6, 4  
C. 8, 7, 6

West  
S. —  
H. K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 3.  
D. 10, 9, 8, 7  
C. Q, 4.

East  
S. 5, 4, 2  
H. —  
D. K, 5, 3, 2.  
C. K, 10, 9, 5, 3, 2.

South  
S. A, K, J, 10, 9, 8, 6.  
H. 2  
D. A, Q, J.  
C. A, J.

Contract is 6 Spades. How can it be made after the opening lead of H.K.

2. N  
S. Q, 6, 2  
H. J, 7  
D. A, J, 2  
C. A, K, 8, 3, 2.

West  
S. 8, 4  
H. A, Q, 10, 9, 6, 2  
D. 8, 3  
C. J, 7, 4

East  
S. K, 10, 9, 5, 3  
H. K.  
D. 9, 7, 6, 5  
C. Q, 5, 3

South  
S. A, J, 7  
H. 8, 5, 4, 3  
D. K, Q, 10, 4  
C. 10, 9

Contract is 3 no trump by South. East has overcalled spades and West, hearts. Opening lead is S. 8.

3. N  
S. 2  
H. A, K, 8, 6  
D. K, J, 9, 4, 3  
C. 7, 5, 2

West  
S. A, 7, 5  
H. 3  
D. A, 10, 8, 7, 2  
C. Q, J, 10, 3

East  
S. 4, 3  
H. 10, 5, 4, 2  
D. Q, 6, 5  
C. A, K, 9, 6

Contract is 3 no trump by South. Opening lead Spade 7. How can the contract be put down.

Attempted solutions should be sent to Guaire, Editorial Board, c/o Fr. Enda Glynn, C.C. Gort.



South  
S. K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 6  
H. Q, J, 9, 7  
D. —  
C. 8, 4

Contract is 4 spades. Opening lead is Club Q, followed by a switch to singleton heart. How is 4 spades made

4. S. A, J,  
H. K, 9, 6  
D. Q, J, 9, 5  
C. Q, J, 10, 6

West  
S. 7, 6, 5  
H. Q, 8, 4, 3  
D. A, 7, 2  
C. A, 5, 4

East  
S. K, 10, 4, 3, 2  
H. J, 5, 2  
D. 8, 4, 3  
C. 7, 2

South  
S. Q, 9, 8  
H. A, 10, 7  
D. K, 10, 6  
C. K, 9, 8, 3.

# WORLD POVERTY

From Page 31

some of their time to a less well off society.

## Education

In Ireland many young people regard education as a nuisance, but in Third World countries young people would love to be educated. And still they are deprived of it. Young people who grow up ignorant, remain ignorant, while if

they had been educated, they could help their own countries to prosper.

Too many underdeveloped countries are controlled by leaders who are callous to the country's needs. By replacing these with young educated natives only, shall the country prosper as a nation. The choice is partly ours; shall we support a callous leader or leaders?

The underdeveloped countries can and will survive with help from the better-off nations.

By supporting organisations such as "Trocaire" and "Concern" and by offering our services freely to the Third World, the words "hunger", "social injustice" and even "poverty" can be eliminated from the English language.

## Kitty North

Members of the Guaire Art Group who have been attending the Oil Painting and Graphic Art classes at the Vocational School during the winter evenings, have been inspired to continue with this relaxing and rewarding hobby, and by its association with the Gort Arts Council has been able to arrange a 'Painting Workshop' for one week at the end of May, under the expert guidance of Anne Tallentire, late instructress with the Irish School of Landscape Painting and at present enjoying a painting holiday in Greece.

Anne will be giving lectures, demonstrations, practical help and

encouragement to the Students in the medium of their choice. She is particularly good with 'beginners' and the members of the Group who has attended her 'workshop' last year enjoyed every moment at the end realizing that they had acquired a new interest in life, seeing the beautiful scenery and buildings that surround us on all sides with an artist's eye, and perhaps translating them into pictures for the sheer pleasure of doing so.

The fee for the week's course is £10, and anyone who is interested in joining the Group will be very welcome, even if they have never painted before.



Mrs. Kitty North.

Kitty North, a hard-working member of the Guaire Arts Group

We are all indebted to the Sisters of the Convent of Mercy who so kindly put their Art Room at our disposal, giving us great enjoyment by attending the courses themselves and extending their encouragement to everyone interested in participating in the creative aspect of the visual arts.

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## THE ALLIED IRISH BANKS

GORT

Manager: M.J. Durand  
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In the year 1927 as I was on my way up the land to cut hay I noticed the horses getting uneasy. I looked around but could see nothing. On my way back there was a black cluster of bees in the headland. This was in the third week of July. My father collected the swarm into a cardboard box. He was a good carpenter and was able to make his own hives. He also made the skip hive. This was a very old method of hiving bees.

A swarm emerged from this hive the following year. This swarm was put into a wooden hive having bar frames and sections. This was the modern method which is still in common use. In order to take honey from the skip hive a lot of the bees had to be destroyed. This method meant that you destroyed the swarm in order to take away honey. The operation involved the use of fumes from brimstone. You had to dig a small hole in the ground about the size of a saucepan. The brimstone was ground into power and melted in a metal pan and it gave off fumes which killed the bees in the bottom part of the skip or straw hive.

Straw hives were made from wheaten straw with the ears clipped off. The straw was twisted into rope and stitched with a long briar split in two. My father later modified the construction of this type of hive when he realized the great loss of bees in recovering the honey. He made a new design of skip by placing sections in an upper addition to the hive. This contained 15 sections and was fixed to the skip by means of four pins of galvanized wire. When removing the sections all you had to do was to remove the pins and the sections. There was no loss of bees and little or no trouble.

#### FELLOW WORKERS

In those days I remember there

## BEEKEEPING



by Jack Killeen

were four or five people in the parish who had bees and handled them well. They were Henry Cloran, John Rourke, Pakie Neilan and Josie Corley, Minie and Henry Shaughnessy. There was great contact between beekeepers in the parish and even in adjoining parishes. I remember giving swarms to Fr. John Considine, the Fahys of Tulira, the Burkes and the Coens of Ballymaguire and of course to my Gort fellow beekeepers.

Swarming occurs when the hive becomes overcrowded. The swarm leaves the hive and settles on a branch of a tree close by before they eventually take off for their new home. To collect a swarm from a tree branch is quite simple. Place a box under the swarm and give the branch a few quick shakes to knock the bees into the box and cover it over immediately. Place the bees in their new hive late in the evening. Some people just remove the lid off the hive and shake the bees into the hive. This I always counted wrong. I prefer to allow the bees to crawl



Jack Killeen today

into the hive through the entrance. I smear the entrance to the hive with honey to attract them in. I place my swarm on a white sheet laid in front of the hive and marvel at the sight of seeing such a great number of bees each making its way into its new home led by the queen.

#### GENTLENESS

Gentleness is most important when handling bees. I have always used the wing of a goose to gently persuade the bees to move in the desired direction or to urge them off the sections. I can manage to work with the bees without gloves. Sudden movement aggravates the bees and makes handling of them more difficult.

I have got a lot of stings from time to time. One time I was getting ready to go to a play in Gort but a visit to the bees just beforehand put a stop to that. I got so many stings in the face that my eyes were closed. I wouldn't see Gort not to mind the play.

This year was to my memory, the worst year I experienced for beekeeping. I would call it 'a black out'. The bees never got a chance to collect even enough honey for themselves. I'm a bit of a character about the weather forecast. If the bees return to the hive before noon, rain is on the way and I must bring my coat with me no matter how fine the day is.

The old people always told us to keep some honey in reserve during the year, no matter how you'd manage. For in the time of children who would have whooping cough, or yourself having a bad cough or a sore chest. Put two spoons of honey into your cup, add half the cup of lukewarm water. Take this before you get up in the morning and before you got to bed at night. Beekeeping is a most fulfilling pastime.

## THE POSSIBLES

By Juvenile

#### Motto

"No matter how high a throne a man sits on, he still sits on his bottom."

With notable successes already chalked up the residents of Glenbrack Rd. and Circular Rd. have begun to lobby support for the much needed updating of Gort itself. They claim that it is outdated and is just not suitable to the 1980's. They blame the town's name 'Gort' for the failure to bring employment into the area. Older people, however, may resent the change of name and are planning action quietly. But the experienced campaigners will not be thwarted by conservatives and with proven ability and positive front running tactics they are expected to triumph.

Local councillors are keeping the situation "under close scrutiny and constant review". They are not

quite sure at this stage who will win so they do not know which side to back. With an election looming the matter could have serious implications for their chances.

T.D.

Who will be the next T.D. from the Gort and South Galway area? The candidates have already made themselves well-known and have almost fallen over each other attending meetings, opening telephone kiosks and delivering rousing republican speeches at the drop of a hat.

The total takeover of the Gort and South Galway Connacht Tribune column by one candidate is a distinct advantage and has virtually sown up the public relations side of the campaign. However, the Chairman of the local Fianna Fail/circus Michael (gach áit) Breathnach said that the issue

would remain unresolved until the total vote of all the cumanns was 'tallied up.'

#### GOLF

Gort Ladies Golf Club were pleased and surprised by the presence of an extra member at the A.G.M. which was staged in late January. The members welcomed the new addition as they felt it showed an increased interest in ladies golf in the town. The handicap and pedigree of this new member is not known but she is believed to favour the in-to-out backswing and the long follow through. She is thought to have a tendency to jab her short putts, but shines under pressure.

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