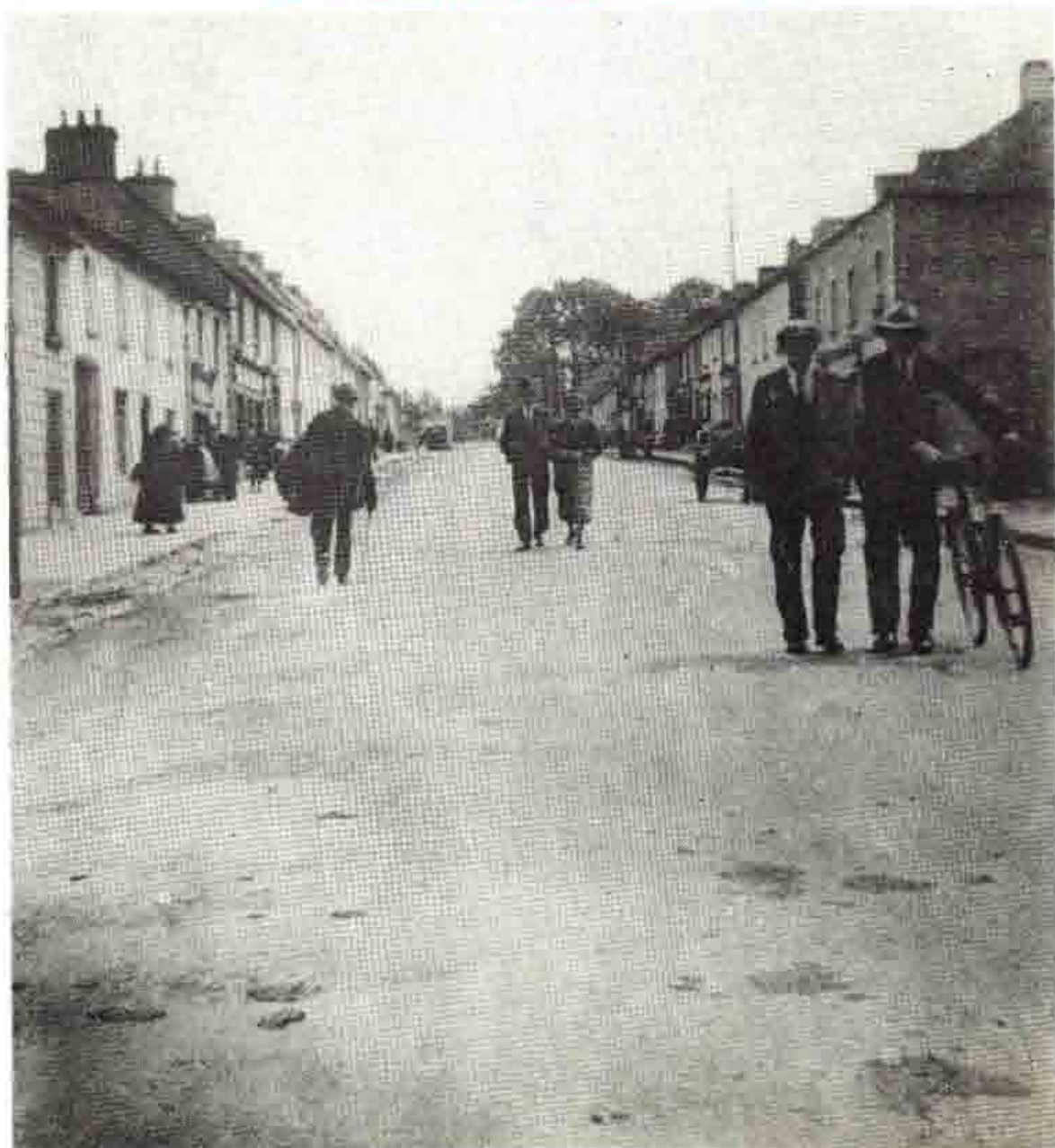


# QUAIRE

**SUMMER 1983**



**GEORGE'S STREET, GORT, AS IT USED TO BE.**

**PRICE 80p**



## SUMMER 1983

Editor: Peadar O Conaire

Management Board:

Frank Lally,

Nicholas Caffertey

Paddy Cooke,

Sean Leahy,

Michael Bermingham,

Evelyn Roche,

Chris O'Shaughnessy

Design: Josephine Ward

Typists:

Margaret Linnane, Hilda Roche

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## EDITORIAL

15th ISSUE

*Guairé Magazine has been with us for five years now, the first issue, edited by Fr. Enda Glynn, appeared in October 1978. No magazine can survive without the dedication, work, and goodwill of many people. Numerous people contribute in different ways to make Guairé a success.*

*Those who invite friends and neighbours to submit articles, those who seek out old photographs, those who advertise through its pages, those who sell the magazine etc.*

*Guairé is a community-based magazine. Its survival depends on you. Do you know someone who could contribute a poem or an article? Articles, comments, etc, from people living abroad are especially welcome. If you are in business, would you like to advertise in the magazine? Have you an old photograph (or indeed a new one) that could be included in 'Guairé'? Why not write a letter telling us what you think of the magazine? Is there a neighbour or friend whom we should interview? Are you a member of a club or organisation, and would like to tell us about its work, etc?*

*Guairé should be, and I hope is, a magazine of the people, for the people and by the people, of Gort – to paraphrase the immortal words of a famous statesman.*

*May I on behalf of the Management Board take this opportunity of thanking all those who help 'Guairé' in any way. We thank our readers who are so faithful and appreciative of our efforts. We thank our advertisers without whose patronage we could not carry on. A special word of gratitude to our contributors who ensure that we never go short of material.*

*Go mba fada buan sibh go leir.*

Peadar O Conaire.

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# Out and About

## KILTARTAN YOUGH CLUB SUCCESS

The County Finals for the Galway Federation of Youth Club games were held in Loughrea, on the 5th March. Kiltartan represented South Galway in debating, girls basketball under 19, boys table tennis under 16 and under 19 quiz. The members of the debating team were Marguerite O Flaherty, Seamus Cafferky and Peter Melville. The motion for the county final was "As a nation we have lost our sense of Identity." The proposers were Ballinasloe. After a tough debate Kiltartan were the winners. Afterwards we went to the disco, where we were presented with our medals and also we had our picture taken for the Connacht Tribune.

Three weeks later on the evening of March 25th, we set off for the Area Finals in Donegal accompanied by our leader Mrs. Gretta Cufferkey. Our travelling companions were Craughwell Youth Club. We arrived in Letterkenny at about 12 o'clock. We were very kindly given accommodation by Mrs. Cafferkey's brother. When we arrived at the Youth Centre, next morning, we discovered we had a bye into the final. Sligo had withdrawn from the first round of the debates. We went forward to meet Milford Youth Club, Co. Donegal. The motion was "The Catholic Church is the real government of Ireland." We were the proposers in this debate. Kiltartan emerged as winners. We were delighted because this debate was very close and nerve-wracking. We then returned to the Youth Centre after having a meal. At six o'clock we set off for the journey home. We arrived home at 1.30 a.m. We were exhausted but very happy.

Kiltartan then went forward to the National Finals in Leisureland on Saturday, April 30th. The motion for the debate was "That the breakdown in law and order is a myth created by the media."

We were the proposers of the motion. We were beaten by a team from Wexford who went on to win the final. We may have been disappointed but I could safely say we would do it all again because we enjoyed it. The main aim of the competitions were to promote friendship among the youth of Ireland. I believe it succeeded because everybody enjoyed themselves. I would like to express a special word of thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Cafferkey who spent so much time and energy helping us. I would also like to thank Sr. M de Lourdes for all the helpful advice and information she gave for all the debates.

Marguerite O'Flaherty

Canon Quinn Park, with its shrubs, trees and tarmac paths, looks splendid this summer. Just beside it, at the back of the church is the grave of Canon George, marked by a beautiful tomb-stone.



Canon George's grave behind St. Colman's Church

## FASHION SHOW

Gort put on its Annual Fashion Show at Sullivans Hotel recently. It was a great success. Over three hundred people turned up. The proceeds went to the coffers of the Drama Group and the Musical Society. Clothes for modelling were supplied by Don Coen, Liam Higgins, Supperlook, Ann Coen and Marie Devlin. Models were all locally picked, and did a great job at displaying the clothes. The committee of the fashion show wish to thank all those who helped make it such a wonderful night.

## GORT ARTS GROUP

Kitty North

On the 28th June, the Gort Arts Group will welcome Artist Tim Goulding (son of the late Sir Basil Goulding) who will hold an illustrated lecture of his work in the Library commencing at 8 p.m. Tim Goulding has represented Ireland at many International Exhibitions, including 'The Sense of Ireland' in London in 1980. This lecture offers an excellent opportunity for the people of Gort to view and appreciate the works of one of Ireland's prominent contemporary Artists. The Art Group hopes that as many people as possible will avail themselves of this opportunity.

The dates of the annual event of the Yeats' Summer School in Gort this year are 3rd to 13th July. Dr. Louis Muinzer, from Belfast University, takes the course through the poems and plays of W.B. Yeats the plays and folklore tales of Lady Gregory and the poems of the blind poet Raftery. Any one interested in taking part in this course on a daily or weekly basis should contact Sr. Damian at the Convent of Mercy, Gort, who will be only too pleased to answer any queries and give any information required. She will also take bookings, so join your friends and come along to enjoy the works of some of Gort's most famous citizens.

# Out and About

## ATHLETICS

Gort and surrounding areas have a long and proud history in Athletic achievements. A world record was set up in Gort by Matt Roseingrave just before the turn of the century. Famous athletic meetings took place at Gort late in to the 1940's. With the revival of the sport in the 1970's in the Country, Gort were quickly on the scene. They formed an athletic club in 1975 and concentrated mainly on juvenile athletics. In its first year of existence the club was very successful at County and Connaught level. The following year, however, in order to cater for interested youngsters from adjoining areas, the club changed its name to the South Galway Athletic Club. Success was almost instant and by 1977 the South Galway Athletic Club was sweeping through Connaught taking Connaught Regional titles almost at will. The Connaught Regional I might add, includes all the Connaught Counties and County Longford. While the club gives every encouragement and assistance to young athletes, who show distinct promise, the main emphasis is not on winning County, Provincial or National titles, but to cater for the large number of young people who might never reach that standard. An example of this is the light-hearted approach by the club officials and youngsters to training. During training sessions, strict discipline is demanded, but immediately training is over, the children commence their own fun games.

What has now become known as the South Galway Athletic Championships were originally held on St. Patrick's Day. As a result of enclément weather on one or two occasions the events were transferred to a later date and now take place on the third Sunday in April. The meeting is becoming more popular year after year and this year St. Colman's Park was taxed to the limit. The organisers regard it as the most important meeting of the year.

In 1975, 1976, & 1977, 1982 and again this year Gort hosted the County Galway Athletic finals. The events were well organised and the club received plaudits from all over the county for their efforts. The success of the Club lies mainly in the extremely dedicated and efficient members it has attracted over the years. Indeed

their efficiency and dedication is well and truly reflected in the very generous response by traders and business organisations for sponsorship this year.

Since its foundation the club has changed officers twice. It has had Three chairmen: Brendan Murphy, Peadar Burke and presently Mossy Clabby. Sean Gleeson was the first secretary and he was followed in that office by Mrs. Una Murray who really did dynamic work for the club. The present holder of the office is Dan Casey. Other members of the club are Jimmy Hickey, Gerry Burke, Greg Lunden, Fred Broderick, Padraic Flanagan and Colm Diviney. All contributed and are continuing to contribute enormously to the club.



The contractor: Michael Fitzgerald



Preparing the site for a new Boy's N.S. at Tubber Road

The people of Gort were delighted to see bulldozers moving in on the site of the new Boys School on Tuesday, April 5th. The contractor is Michael Fitzgerald of Claren-

Cead Mile Fáilte to Mr. & Mrs. Joe Moloney and family, who have moved into their new house at Church Street. Joe, whose brothers Vincent and Seamus live in Gort, is a retired bus driver.

Ex-Garda Tony Gillespie, who died recently, took up duty at Gort G.S. fifty years ago. He was a native of Co. Mayo. He is survived by his sons P.J., Don, William, Noel and Gary, and daughters Carmel, Mavis and Rose.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

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# Out and About

Gerard Heenan B.A., N.T. who died recently was principal of Gort Boys' N.S. from 1929, until his retirement in 1970. A native of Tipperary, he was a keen hurler in his younger days. He was a prominent member of Gort Hurling Club in the 30's and 40's. The funeral cortage was met by a guard of honour of past and present Gort hurlers, at the outskirts of the town. The attendance at the funeral Mass included Dr. Cassidy, Bishop of Clonfert and a large number of priests and nuns, as well as pupils from Gort Schools

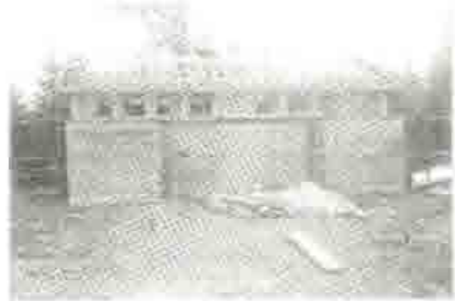


Mr. Gerard Heenan R.I.P. (right) with Colie Cooney

## THE GORT CONNECTION IN A FILM EPIC

The film Gandhi has won world wide acclaim, but how many people know that one of the men who helped Sir Richard Attenborough in its making is the son of a Gort born woman, Kathleen Burke of

George's Street. Michael Monks is the assistant Editor of the script of this great film. Michael is the elder of two sons of the late John Monks who was married to Kathleen and died in the second World War. He was in the R.A.F. Michael is married to Hillary, a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Linton of Middledon, Lancs. They have two children and live in Wimbledon.



Ready for roofing. This photo of the new toilets at Coole was taken last April.

Visitors to Coole this Summer will be delighted with the progress being made on the construction of toilets adjacent to the site of Coole House. The contractor is Mr. Nolan from Oranmore. The new toilets

will have facilities for handicapped people. It is hoped that work on the project, including landscaping will be completed before the end of the Summer season.

Five Students from St. Colman's V.S. Gort, were members of the Galway Voc. Schools Team that defeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Hurling Final (Replay). They were, Gerard McInerney (Capt), Micheal Flaherty, Martin Killeen, Al. Callanan, and Patrick Lally.



Few have forgotten the floods that occurred in the Gort area last January.

The above photo. shows the extent of the flooding on the 'Racecourse' and 'New Line' between Gort & Tiernevan.

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# Out and About

## 'CUPIDS ERROR'

The play Cupid's Error written by local playwright Sena Leahy, was performed by four pupils of Our Lady's College in the college auditorium on 11th March, 1983.

The play was staged again at the Third Annual Amateur Drama Festival at Kiltulla on 30th March. The adjudicator was Miss Garry Hynes of the Druid Lane Theatre, Galway. Micheal Cunningham, son of Garda Michael & Mary Cunningham, Galway Road, Gort, received a highly commended actor's award for his performance as 'Jim'. The other members of the cast were Austin McInerney, (Pat) Brendan Carr (Sponger), and Shane Quinn (Mary) Producers were: Seamus Waters, and Seamus Robinson.

Sean Leahy started writing way back in 1960, while still in the Navy. He has written two other plays as well as 'Cupids Error', namely 'Molly's Choice', and 'Mulligans Yank'. A collection of poems by Sean was published in 1978, entitled 'Heart of Ireland'. Another book called 'The Emigrant' is ready for the printers. Sean, who is a regular contributor to this magazine, has had articles published in the local and national newspapers, as well as 'Ireland Own'. 'Cupid Error' and one of Sean's other plays will be staged in Gort soon by popular request.



Successful young actor Micheal Cunningham with his trophies.

## A.G.M. GORT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Gort Community Council — formed just over a year ago with a view to providing Gort and South Galway with a Community Centre — held its first Annual General Meeting on May 9th, 1983.

The Council was happy to report a successful year in which £43,873 had been raised for the project. This was mainly obtained from the 52 weeks 500 Club Draw (also incl. is the £15,000 from the Swimming Pool fund). During its first year the Council has also purchased a site from Galway VEC for the nominal sum of £100.

The plans for the Complex have also been drawn up and have been forwarded for Planning Permission. As soon as these details are worked out it is hoped to begin work on Phase One of the project, which will involve the construction of the portal frame and roof. This phase would have to be contracted and is estimated to cost in the region of £45,000. The remaining phase would be conducted by direct labour with the aid of the Youth Employment Scheme. £45,000 has already been sanctioned under this scheme.

The estimated cost of the complex is £250,000 which is, hopefully to be financed as follows (the following suggestions have already been submitted to the Government):

1. The Youth Employment Grant to be raised from £45,000 to £85,000 and to be paid over 2 years. (45,000 already sanctioned).
2. Capital Grant of £82,000 towards cost of materials, again to be paid over 2 years.
3. Local Contribution to be collected by the Committee — £83,000 (£43,873 has already been collected).

The complex will include the following facilities:

The total floor area will be 21,000 sq. ft. The ground floor will incorporate the following facilities: Main Hall with stage facilities etc. (area: 4,480 sq. ft.) which can be used for badminton (3 Courts), Basketball (1 Court), Volleyball (1 Court) and Indoor Soccer. The hall may also be used for Drama, Pantomime and Concert production. The Ground Floor area will also incorporate 2 Squash Courts, One Handball Court, 1 Gymnasium with full training facilities, 1 Stage with Dressing Rooms and full ancillary facilities including Ladies and Gents Dressing Rooms, Shop, Office, etc.

The First Floor area will include Recreation area with Tea Room, Kitchen and Mineral Bar. There are also plans for 3 Meeting Rooms, a Billiards Room and Viewing area for Courts and Hall.

### FUND-RAISING:

The Council are planning various fund-raising activities over the next year — the corner stone and mainstay of which will be the contin-



Fr. Jimmy Walsh pictured on the site of proposed new Community Centre.

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# Out and About

uance of the 500 Club Draw for another year. It is also planned to organize the Autumn Festival and Mayoral elections.

The Council wish to thank all members of the public who have supported them in the project — especially those who participated faithfully in the 500 Club Draw. A special word of thanks to the sponsors of the Super Prizes and also to Mr. John Sullivan of Sullivan's Hotel, Gort, for his generous provision of facilities for our meetings, weekly draws, etc.

The Community Council is now a Limited Company and the following Directors of the Company were elected for the coming year:

President: Fr. Jimmy Walsh C.C.

Chairman: Michael O'Grady

V.Chairman: Paddy Grealish

Secretary: Teresa Moloney

Asst. Secretary: Mary Fahy

Jnt. Treasurers: Ml. Breathnach and Eamonn Fahy

P.R.O.: Fr. Jimmy Walsh C.C.

Jimmy Regan

James Fahy

Peadar Burke

Eamon Melvin

Rose Mullins

Christy McNevin

Eamonn Roche

Michael Roughan

Don Coen

Mary Rochford

Norman Rochford

Aggie Jennings

John Roche

Other Directors to be co-opted  
Mr. Colman Sherry L.L.B.

was retained as Legal Adviser

Gort Apostolic Work Society was formed in 1968, and in that fifteen years, members work has gone to many countries. Vestments and Altar Linens have gone to India, Africa and South America. Members meet every Thursday night in the Convent of Mercy, at 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and at the end of the season, all articles are put on display in Sullivan's Hotel. Mrs. Nuala Murphy, President, welcomed new members this year,

and said it was gratifying to see interest growing in Mission Work and she also thanked the Honorary members, as their contribution goes towards buying the materials needs for making Vestments, Copes and Altar Linens.

## GORT BRIDGE CLUB

A most enjoyable evening was held in Sullivan's Hotel on May 3rd, to mark the closing of the 1982/83 Bridge Season.

Mass which was offered for the deceased members of the club was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Enda Glynn and attended by club members and friends.

Dinner and presentation of prizes followed.

Guests of honour who were welcomed by Mrs. Dairin Coen (President) included Mr. & Mrs. Sullivan (Sullivan's Hotel), Mr. Michael Durrand, Manager Allied Irish Bank, Mr. & Mrs. Shaw, Bank of Ireland.

Winners were:

President's Prize

1st Michael Cunningham

2nd Brid Burke

3rd Nuala Spelman

Sullivan's Cup

1st Maria Fennessy & Dairin Coen

2nd Greg Lundo & P. Cunningham

3rd Chris O'Shaughnessy

and Brid Burke

Best Gross: Jack & Nuala Murphy

Allied Irish Banks Cup  
1st Justin Sadleir & C. Fennessy  
2nd Sheila Duffy & Bridie Murray  
3rd: Deirdre Malborough  
and Anne Coen  
Best Gross: M. O'Shaughnessy  
and Joe Muldoon

Bank of Ireland Cup  
1st Mary Sadler & Cecily Coen  
2nd Fr. Enda Glynn & Mary Kelly  
3rd Marie O'Shaughnessy  
and Fr. O'Connor  
Best Gross: Joe Muldoon and  
Michael Cunningham

Pairs Competition  
1st: Mim Maloney & Joan Griffin  
2nd Jack Farrelly & Pat Craddock  
3rd Fr. Enda Glynn & Mary Kelly  
Best Gross: Joe Muldoon and  
Michael Cunningham

Team of Four  
1st Fr. Enda Glynn & Mary Kelly  
Pat Fitzgibbons & Mary Noone  
2nd Maria Fennessy & Dairin Coen  
Deirdre Malborough & Anne Coen  
3rd John Moylan & T. McGovern  
Chris O'Shaughnessy & Brid Burke

Clarinbridge Crystal Trophy  
1st C. Fennessy & Justin Sadler  
2nd John Moylan & T. McGovern  
3rd: C. O'Shaughnessy & B. Burke  
Best Gross: Fr. Enda Glynn &  
Mary Kelly

Bridge Season 1983/84  
will reopen on Tuesday Sept. 6th  
le cunamh De. New members  
will be welcome.



Mrs. D. Coen, presenting the  
President's Prize to the winner,  
Michael Cunningham.

(photo courtesy of The  
Connacht Tribune)

## Anne's Footwear,

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# GORT & DISTRICT SHOW

## GORT & DISTRICT SHOW SATURDAY 27th AUGUST

A list of classes for this year's Show is given below. Entries will close on Saturday 20th August, and it should be noted that this year an exhibitor will not be allowed to enter more than two exhibits in any one class and there can not be more than two exhibits in any one class from the same household.

### HOME PRODUCE SECTION

1 lb. Roll of Salt Butter.  
½ lb. Tub of Cottage Cheese  
Six brown Eggs  
Pot home made Jelly Jam.  
Pot Strawberry or Raspberry Jam.  
Pot Blackcurrent Jam.  
Pot Gooseberry Jam.  
Pot of any other Jam.  
Pot Chutney.  
Six home-made plain Scones.  
Jan Sandwich Sponge Cake (Plain)  
Jam Sandwich Sponge Cake (Dec.)  
Brown Soda Cake  
White Soda Cake  
Rich Fruit Cake (not iced)  
Borwn or White Yeast Bread

### GARDEN PRODUCE SECTION

Two Heads of Garden Cabbage.  
Any early variety of Potatoes —  
named, six to the dish.  
Record Potatoes, six to the dish  
Any other main crop Potatoes,  
named, six to the dish

Dish of five Desert Apples.  
Dish of five Cooking Apples.  
Three Parsnips  
Three Garden Carrots, stump  
rooted variety.  
Three Garden Carrots, long rooted  
variety.  
Five Large Onions.  
Five Onions suitable for market.  
Three Cauliflowers.  
Three Heads of Table Beet any  
variety.

Collection of Vegetables, six variety  
Two heads of Lettuce.  
Two heads of Celery.  
Six pods of Garden Peas.  
Four home grown Tomatoes.  
Collection of less common vegs.  
four varieties, named.

### FLOWERS SECTION

4 Hybrid Tea Roses  
4 Floribunda Roses.  
6 Sweet Pea Blooms  
4 Gladioli Blooms.  
6 Dahlia Blooms  
3 Begonia Blooms.  
Bunch of cut Flowers — not less  
than 6 varieties.  
Best Flowering Pot Plant.  
Best Non-Flowering Pot Plant.  
Best Foliage or flowering plant.  
in hanging basket.  
Best Flower Arrangement.

### HANDCRAFTS SECTION

Souvenir strictly home-made  
in Leatherwork.

Souvenir strictly home-made  
in Woodwork.  
Souvenir strictly home-made  
in Metal  
Souvenir strictly home-made  
in Needlecraft.

Piece of Coloured Embroidery.  
Crochet any article in Wool.  
Crochet any article in Cotton Threa  
Any Aran hand-knitted Garment.  
Pair of hand-knitted Men's Socks.  
Something New from something Old.  
Any article in Rushwork.  
Any article in Patchwork.  
Any article in Quilting.  
Any article in Mecramme.

### CHILDREN'S SECTION

confined to children attending  
Primary Schools this year  
Six Queen Cakes  
Apple Tart  
Greatest variety of Wild Flowers in  
Jam Pot  
Miniature Garden, container max-  
imum 12" by 12"  
Piece of Embroidery  
Something New from Old  
Small Scuviner  
Best dressed doll, garments in hand-  
knit or crochet.  
Any article in Shells and/or Pebbles  
Picture Poster of 'Gort Show'  
approx 15" by 11" (375 by 275  
mm)

### POST PRIMARY SECTION

confined to students attending  
Secondary & Vocational Schools  
this year.  
A Dessert from one of the follow-  
ing: cold sweets, pastry type,  
gateau.

CONTINUED SUCCESS TO GUAIRE FROM

## GORT & DISTRICT SHOW SOCIETY

3rd ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL, HOME PRODUCE,  
CRAFTS & DOG SHOW

IN ST. COLMAN'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, GORT  
ON SATURDAY, 27th AUGUST, 1983

Entries for All Show Classes (except Dogs)  
close on Saturday 20th August, 1983

SEE THIS PAGE FOR FULL LIST OF CLASSES

PRIZES IN EACH CLASS — SPECIAL PRIZE IN EACH SECTION

Schedule of Classes, Rules, & Entry Forms from:  
The Hon. Secretary, Pdraic Giblin, Glenbrack Road, Gort, Ph: (091) 31306

CRAFTS & EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS, TRADE STANDS

"GUESS WEIGHT OF BULLOCK" COMPETITION.

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

## GORT & DISTRICT SHOW

(1st Prize: Breakfast Cooker)  
Project from one of the following  
embroidery, applique, patch-work,  
soft toys, crochet.

Home Made Ornamental Window  
Box, rustic or painted with flowers  
sown in or in pots.

(1st Prize: Black & Decker Jig Saw)  
Picture, any medium.  
Display Sheet with 12 pressed  
Wild Flowers, named.

The Show Society will welcome  
displays of Art, Photography, Paint-  
ing, etc, and other crafts for which  
no Show classes are provided.

DOG SHOW at 2.00 P.M.

Classes: Puppy  
Sheepdog  
Labrador  
Spaniel  
Gun Dog

Handled by Child  
Terrier  
Any variety not  
classed.  
Dog I'd like to take  
home.  
Best in Show.  
Toy Breed.

It is also hoped to have Terrier  
Races - further details later.  
Entries for the Dog Show will be  
taken on the field on Show Day,  
enquiries re: Dog Show to Mary  
Carey, Crowe Street.

## A Look At Gort

by Sean Leahy

### THE OUCH BIRD

A very rare bird has been sighted  
in the Circus field (Gort). It is  
called the Ouch bird. It is a native  
of Southern Africa, blue in colour  
with a black head, yellow beak,  
and purple wings. This bird has  
never been seen before in Europe.  
A society of Bird watchers in Gort,  
headed by Mickey Roche (Garage)  
are taking shifts to see that it is  
not disturbed. The most unusual  
quality of this bird is that it has no  
legs, and often flies upside down &  
sideways. And so when it lands it  
is heard to utter a sound like 'Ouch'  
thus giving it its name. People on  
the way up Garrabeg, are advised  
to take off their shoes passing the  
gate.

### GAME OF GOLF

The game of golf is so complex,  
that it takes one years to get to  
play it properly, but if you stand  
back and think all it means is two  
balls - one 1½ inches on top of a  
ball 80,000 miles in diameter,  
the object is to hit the small one  
from off the big one, and more  
times that often its the big one  
that gets the wallop (Poor World).

### BATTERED HUSBANDS

It was discussed at the last meeting  
whether to build shelters or wait on  
till the new complex in Gort is  
built, the secretary was unable to  
comment as he was suffering from a  
broken jaw (wife did it). At the  
same meeting 200 new members

were enrolled. A collection will be  
held in the near future from door  
to door (Pub doors). Any one who  
would give towards this collection  
will have the prayers of all the  
members, so give big, as the next  
victim could be you.

### SLIMMERS BREAKTHROUGH

A new method of slimming has  
been found, it is the greatest  
method of them all, it is a method  
where you can eat anything you  
fancy at any time of the day, or  
as many times as you like! The  
secret of the diet is you can eat  
as much as you like but you cannot  
swallow it!!

### INVENTION

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invented a hair dryer that dries  
your hair underwater. It will be  
on the market before August, at a  
low cost to Gort people, so order  
yours now, from your local dealer.

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Good pedigree, had a slight acci-  
dent when as a pup, his feet were cut  
off by a mowing machine. He could  
pass off as a (Daush Hound), but  
wont win any races for you. All  
enquiries to Box 8769.

### PETS

Most people keep a pet, cat, dog,  
rabbit or bird which ever you prefer  
is your own business, but now in  
Co. Clare people are turning to

other forms of pets, Carrots, Tur-  
nips, and most unusual of all  
(Stones). Now here is a novel idea,  
a stone for a pet, nobody will steal  
it, it cant be killed on the road, it  
will always be where you leave it,  
it wont bite you, and last but not  
least, it wont run away. You can  
have hours of fun with your pal the  
stone, think of it, and get a stone  
before all the good ones are taken.



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## Our Guardians in the War Years

by W. M. Quinn



L.S.F. GORT 1939 - '45 WAR

This is a photograph of the Gort  
L.S.F. (Local Security Force)  
during the War Years of 1939 - 45.  
Front: Jackie Flynn, 'Boysie' Fog-  
arty the Lovable Sailor of Church  
Street, Paddy Connolly of Bally-  
turin and a Famous Horse Trainer,  
Miko McNevin, Mick Jordan of  
Crowe Street, and Pake McNevin,  
who drove a Model T Van deliver-  
ing Bread for Fitzgeralds Bakery,  
The Square (now occupied by Mr.  
Duffy the Victualler).  
Second Row: Jimmy Ramplin  
(Father of the late John Ramplin,  
Connaught Ranger of Garrabeg),  
Pakie Neilan, old I.R.A. man of  
Coole, Gort, Tim Kelly, Jim Fahey

of Derrawee (a Master on the Tin  
Whistle), Anon, and Mick Duffey  
of St. Coleman's Terrace.  
Back: P. Keeley, Peader Jordan  
of Crowe Street, Patrick Connors,  
Mick Gillane of The Square whose  
Bakery Baked The Famous Lady  
Gregory Abbey Theatre Barn Brack  
down through the years. It weighed  
over 2 stone was of the Highest  
Quality and was sliced for the  
Caste by Lady Gregory on  
"Opening Night" at Dublin's  
Famous Theatre, Pat Quinlan, Peter  
Gibbons, (a Ballindereen man  
whose pople owned a Pub where  
Mrs. Madigan now lives at The Sq.  
and the irrepressable and great

Conversationalist, John Moran of  
Derrybrien.  
In those War Years, I was a member  
of The L.D.F. (Local Defence  
Force) The Local Security Force  
was the Non-Combatent Volunteers  
to assist in Fire Fighting,  
evacuations, and First Aid, not in  
the picture is John Burke, the ex  
member of The British Army in  
the 1914 - 18 war and a Talented  
Jim Smith who lived beside my  
house at Church Street and was the  
Greatest Ladder Climber in the  
Group.  
The L.D.F. were Armed Volunteers

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## Social Services Centre Gort



Social Service Centre, Queen Street, Gort.

by Sr. John

The Gort and South Galway Social Service Council had for many years negotiated with the Western Health Board regarding a Social Service Centre. The Health Board then agreed to give a Grant towards the cost of this centre.

The Kilduff Residence, Queen Street, was bequeathed to the Sisters of Mercy and was later demolished. The Sisters leased the site to the Social Service Council at a nominal fee.

Mr. Paddy Ryder, Glenbrack began work on the Centre last March, and had completed a very fine building by September.

The Centre includes a Kitchen, Store, Function Room, Thrift Shop, Knitting Room, Laundry, Bath, Showers and Toilet Facilities.

The Western Health Board's Grant did not meet the total cost of Building and Furnishing the Centre the outstanding amount of £9,000 was met by local Contributions, gifts, fund-raising, and by money obtained through the Thrift Shop.

The Centre has been in operation since November 1982, providing the following services — Meals, Laundry, Weekly Club for Senior Citizens, Thrift Shop twice weekly on Friday's and Saturday's from 2.00 — 5.00 p.m. The Bath and Shower facilities are also used. The members of the Knitting Club work here on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7.30 — 10.30 p.m. providing pure wool knitwear for those who

wish to buy it. They and the ladies who run the Thrift Shop give of their time and talents on a voluntary basis and so help to boost the finances of the council.

The Centre was officially opened last February by Mr. Hannon of the Western Health Board. He paid tribute to Mr. Ryder for his very fine work, to the Health Board for providing the Grant, to the Sisters of Mercy, for providing the site, to the Members of the Social Service Council, and to all who helped to bring this project to completion.

The Western Health Board gives a Grant to this Council each year which covers of the Cost of the Services in the 8 parished of South Galway, the remaining must be met by local Fund Raising.

We in this Council are deeply grateful to all who give of their time and help and also to all who support us through encouragement, financial help and gifts. We wish to thank all who support our Fund-Raising efforts which include a Church Gate Collection, in late Autumn and our present effort — a draw in June for which there are tickets on sale.

We hope that the services provided by the members of the Social Service Council in this Centre and elsewhere will bring relief, joy and happiness to many.

Rath De orainn go leir,  
Sr. John.

## Roman Jubilee

2nd — 9th APRIL

by Fr. Martin Coen

Thirty nine of us safely landed at Rome's main airport, Frumicino, one of the busiest airports in the world. Funny enough the trip to town started with a good row with the courier, a young Dublin lady, married and resident in Rome. It was over the seat near the microphone and with the full approval of my flock, I began my commentary. She then told me that it was against the law for a mere passenger to be sitting where I was! And what did I know about Rome anyway? When I told her I had lived in Rome for seven years and had been back a dozen times, she slowed down.

Rome never loses its charm and even the 15 miles of new motorway into town manages to blend in with the surrounding countryside. My passengers were led by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jennings, Craughwell — Raymond was the recipient of the medal Pro. Ecclesis et Pontefice. Also there were Mr. Sean Kelly, ex. N.T. and his wife Mrs. Annie Kelly, N.T. two stalwarts of the Church in Craughwell. They were accompanied by their son Fr. Brendan Kelly, Our Lady's College, Gort. Fr. Brendan was a very effective leader of the liturgy. From Templemartin came Mr. & Mrs. Pat Farrell. Pat (83) and his Mrs. were just back from their fifth visit to their son Fr. Michael Farrell P.P., Florida. Just two weeks older than Pat was the very lively lady Mrs. Eileen Waithman of Merlin Park whose late husband was a grandnephew of Lady Gregory, (she has erected a monument to her relative in Craughwell's Garden of Remembrance), Doctor E. N. Feeney-Casserly came from Renmore and Tony Morrissey, a dashing and up-to-date young farmer from Monatigue, near Craughwell, a great favourite of all, but especially of the ladies. Bob Chapple, a Church of England man from Aggend gave us an ecumenical

## Roman Jubilee



Fr. Brendan Kelly and I after celebrating Mass.

dimension and with his very pleasant wife, his profession as an accountant was very useful in sorting out the millions of lire we spent. Peadar Monahan, a witty contractor from Athenry fitted in with the group of Craughwell ladies Mrs. Grady, Finnegan, Larkin and her teacher daughter Paulina all from Ballymana.

### THE HOTEL LUGANO

From my own there was my sister Marie and her husband Philip Cummins from Mullinahone. Marie is the only surviving family member who was present at my ordination on 22 May 1958. My brother Noel from Dublin and his wife Ann found a kind relative to mind their two children and they were probably the two most enthusiastic travellers. It was great that Desmond and Claire Coen, Gort, were able to come too. The Revenue Commissioners were represented by Mrs. Margaret Con-Cannon, Renmore Road, Galway. (Not many knew that her brother, Michael Flynn, for many years an Irish diplomat in Rome now resides by the sea at Ballinderreen. He is now Ambassador to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.) We stayed bed and breakfast in the Hotel Lugano in the Via del Tritone, just a few yards from the famed and stately Via Veneto where film stars are wont to display their beauty for Papparazzi (sneak photographers).

We had engaged a very cheap and most efficient bus company to take care of us for the week. On the preliminary tour we got a fleeting glance at many of Rome's great monuments including Saint Peter's Square. The bus which we had all day nearly every day, cost us only

£27 pounds sterling each. That night we dined in the internationally famous restaurant Scoglio di Frisio on the Via Merulana. Built in the shape of a sea cave, it has an international cuisine and a resident orchestra. It specialised in sea foods. We did most of our eating there and before long many were getting used to good cheap Frascati Wine and tasty Canelloni.

### EASTER MASS

Early on Sunday morning we had an early group Mass in the Irish Franciscan Church of St. Isidore. This for me was a little sad as it was here I had celebrated my first Mass. Now, most of those who were present are with the Lord: my mother, John Joe, and Eileen, Coen, Bernard and Eileen Coen Norah and Delia Quinn, Prospect House and London. Then to St. Peter's Square for the Pope's Easter Mass and blessing URBI ET ORBI. There we had some rain but not too much. Again on Wednesday we were at the Papal audience in fine conditions. To those who would like to have had positions nearer the Pope, it was pointed out that there were one million Easter pilgrims in Rome, all anxious to grasp the Pope's hand.

All week there was intensive sight seeing — the great Basilicas, the Olympic Stadium, Piazza Navona, the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele with its great bargains in leather. Mass and a visit to the Catacombs was followed by the purchase of silk and religious objects. Shopping in fact was a very important part of the visit. One day was spent travelling through the South of Italy. First the historic Abbey of Monte Cassine where we had Mass. Then on to sea-side Nehuno and a view of the incorrupt body of Saint Maria Gorretti. Finally back home through the battlefield of Nettuno and the thousands of graves of the dead of the last war. Another pleasant night was spent touring the hill tower around Rome, Castel

Gandolfo, Tivoli, Albano and Frascati.

### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The high point of the week was the Jubilee Mass in the Chapel of the Pontifical Irish College, where I was six years a student and one a member of the staff. Fr. Brendan preached a nice sermon and at the end I said a few words of thanks. The staff of the Irish College, Monsignor John Hanley and Father Sean Brady gave an excellent party — tea, cakes, lashings of spirits and spumante (Champagne), Mrs. Eileen Waithman (83) made a great speech on behalf of the parish of Craughwell. Then the naughty Mrs. Waithman organised a "kiss-in" of the Jubilarian by all the ladies. The group had an interesting tour of the college with its fine view from the roof, of the Seven Hills of Rome, and they saw the monument containing the heart of Daniel O'Connell. On the way home many bought in an off-licence bottles of liquor. Then some climbed the Scala Santa, the Holy Stairs on their knees, the stairs climbed by Jesus in the house of Pilate, brought to Rome by the early church.

The last night in the Scoglio di Frisio Ristorante was merry and glad. There was songs, Champagne and plenty to eat. Next to us was a long table of Scots celebrating the Ordination of one of their members. It was every second song from then on — good Scottish songs and rousing Irish ones. I had to blow out and cut a cake. Never before had I seen candles that relit themselves. Excellent speeches were made by Mrs. Eileen Waithman, Raymond Jennings, Sean Kelly and especially Tony Morrissey. The night ended in what is rare in Rome — a pub — just beside St. Mary Major's Basilica — where a good time was had by all.

Saturday and departure. After a great week it was really great to be home.



Members of the Group at the Trevi Fountains, Rome

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**REPORT OF GORT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING**

An extract from a long lecture given by Tomas Roseingrave M.Soc.Sc., chairperson of European Economic and Social Committee, at the meeting.

As I understand it what I have been asked to do is to try and concentrate on the idea of Community, the idea of local Community, the possibilities that exist within local communities in order to make the Community a better place in which to live. If I have any competence at all in this area, it is because of the experience I have gained over a number of years in different parts of the Country, especially in my years in Muintir na Tire and the traditions that have grown up there since the organisation was founded by Canon John Hayes in 1937. So I want to say something then about the local Community with the small 'c' but the important 'c' and then to look at the local community and the possibilities for development within local Communities within the wider concept or context of the bigger community the big 'C' of Europe today — the E.E.C.

So then I am trying to put the discussion in the broader context of the E.E.C., of the World Community. Where does the small local community fit in? What can it do? What can it do for itself, for the people who comprise the local community for a town like Gort, for example. So let me just look at the problem of unemployment as it is today and without crystal gazing or looking too far into the future see what is coming up on the horizon where young people are concerned. Their possibilities of employment, the relationship of school education to development of new technologies, what's all that going to mean, and then what can you as a local community do to help in the solution of the problem.

Let me make a few remarks on some figures I picked up in Brussels within the last few days. At present in the E.E.C. the percentage of unemployed in almost 11% (10.9%) or a total unemployed registered in Europe of 12 million. I would think that you could add another 2 million to that as being non-registered. Then look at the position with regard to young people and the % of young people in that total of number of unemployed. It is now almost 39% young people under 25 years of age and Ireland has the unenviable position in that

league of being the highest with 15% unemployed. And you know very well that we here in this country have the youngest population in the 10 countries.

What about the character or the nature of this unemployment situation? First of all the high numbers of unemployed young people. Secondly it is no longer a question of school leavers. It is pushing up all the time to 25.

And if the so called recession were ended in the morning or within the next 6 months or 12 months what would be the position. Would we be able to solve the problem — the answer is NO.

Look at the nature of this problem. Is this a recession? When we are talking about a recession, we think back to the 1930's as we knew it here in this country, we experienced it, or to the 1929 crash and people would say it is near enough to that. It is the crisis situation that was endured in 1929 and into the 1930's and that passed and then we had great growth in productivity and so on. I don't subscribe to that now. I don't think that it is a recession in the sense that we have known it up to the moment. In history I think it is something more of a Quantum Leap" — a transformation of society that we are witnessing not a recession in that old sense or meaning of the term.

And if this is so and I say to you that I believe it is, then that is what faces us out here in the big World or in Europe where say the town of Gort is concerned and the people who have to live here in the town of Gort. That is the context in which we are talking and that is the situation that exists whether it is in Italy, France, Germany or in any other of the member states.

What do I mean then by this kind of picture that I am painting where a quantum leap of all society is concerned. Well I think that there are a number of points that we can certainly identify in it. The New technologies, the micro-processors, the robots and so on.

I listened to the Commissioner of Social Affairs in Brussels last week. He was in New York and there he got a forecast of what the position would be in America in the U.S. labour force before the end of this century — merely 17 years away. And this was the figure. That 2% of the present work force in the Manufacturing area of the U.S. economy would be sufficient to manufacture all that is now being

manufactured by those who are presently engaged. That came from the Rand Corporation and he got another forecast from I think the Hudson Corporation, which said the figure was 4%. So you can make up your mind as to what the situation is going to be because of the impact of the use of these new technologies.

So if that is so, where this so called Secondary Sector of the Economy is concerned, the manufacturing sector of the economy, is there any use in looking for Employment in that area or in the first sector, the Agricultural sector, and the answer would seem to be in both cases NO. So we must look into this third sector — the Area of Services, of leisure, of Recreation and so on, because there it would appear will be the opportunities for development.

So it does seem to me that we are probably witnessing the beginning of the end of the Work Model that we knew — of Leaving School — going into a job, holding that job for at least two or three long spells during the lifetime and then having a pension and so on. That there will be many many jobs which young people will hold in the future — different jobs during their life-time and if we cannot find the opportunities in the Manufacturing end of the economy then certainly by the end of the Century we will be looking for them more and more in that Service Area.

The second point that I would make, there is the question of the inter-dependence of Economies in the World today. The 1929 crash or the 30's didn't really affect us very much in this country, or Countries like us, because our economic level and living standards were so low that that kind of thing could pass us by, but it is not so today and you probably know for example in Europe today, there is a great problem where the U.S. is concerned and almost a trade war between the U.S. and Europe. And then you have the added difficulty of the challenge from Japan — how the Japanese can take on and beat the Europeans and the Americans in the whole area of manufacturing industries from motor cars, to electronics, to electrical goods and so on. They can do it and I think we could say from that, that we are talking about unemployment not in the terms of the state, not in the terms of Europe, but in the terms of the world — in other words it's

**REPORT OF GORT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING (Continued)**

a global problem, it is a world problem and the solution will have to be found at the global level.

So what kind of guidelines could we look to if we have problems in our own community. I found a quotation from G.K. Chesterton recently which said something like "the appropriate response to Confusion is laughter and the only remedy for earnest but empty headed rightness or orthodoxy, what ever you like to call it, is paradox." And I believe that the paradox is in the present and in the immediate future, that unemp-

loyment cannot be solved as such simply at the state level or at the higher level of the E.E.C., because if Europe could have solved it, it would have solved it long ago and if words alone whether spoken or on paper then it would have been solved. And the paradox seems to be that while the Confusion and the problems are of a major order at that level strangely enough, I think that it can be solved at the much lower level of the local Community — provided that certain things can be operating.

Provided first of all that the Community is sufficiently motiv-

ated that there is sufficient spirit in the local community and I am talking quite clearly about principles like Christian Charity and social justice, social charity to have a kind of consciousness within a Community for all its people; for all the people in the different sectors whether they are employers whether they are workers or farmers or whether they are commercial people or whatever. Whether they are unemployed, whether they are underprivileged, whether they are disabled, whatever they are, the whole community should have concern I think there are two words which I would use to describe that concern as the Caring Community.

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Colie Cooney	Tadhg Kelly	Tom Vaughan
Paddy Icklam	Maurice Ahearne	Jack Deeley
Josie Howard	Steve Gallagher	Josie Gallagher

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# DOWN MEMORY LANE



A gathering in the Square. Unveiling of the Statue?  
Corpus Christi Procession?



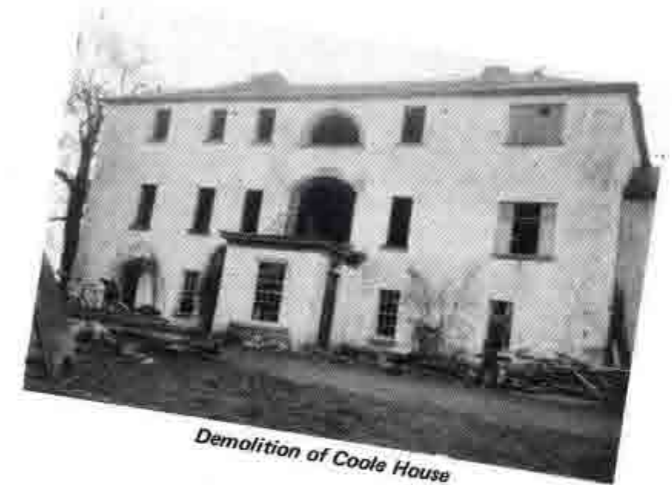
This old photograph was discovered by two French tourists  
in a box of view cards in Finnegan's Paper Shop recently.  
Can you name the people in it?



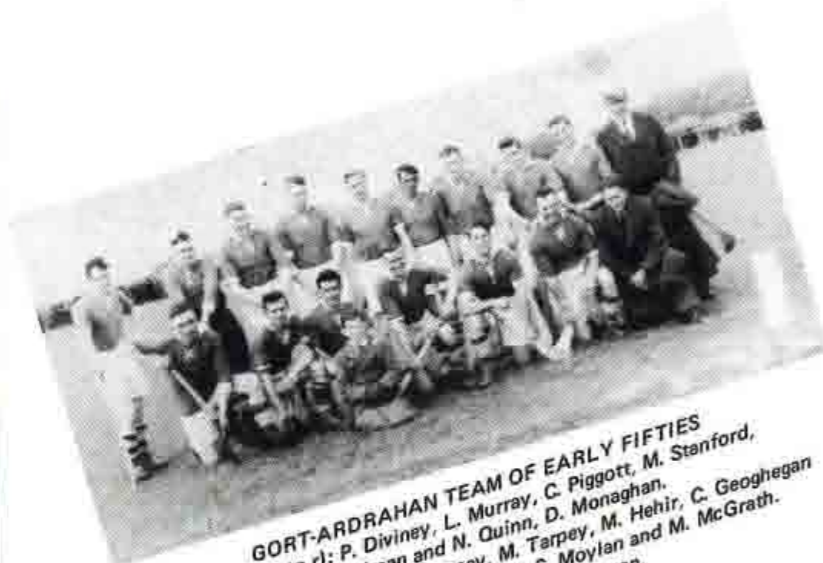
The late Paddy Nolan of Crowe St.  
a talented musician and a fine  
shoemaker.  
Photo: W. M. Quinn



The Gort Rugby team that defeated U.C.G. in the Junior Cup Final of '37



Demolition of Coole House



**GORT-ADRAHAN TEAM OF EARLY FIFTIES**  
Front (l to r): P. Diviney, L. Murray, C. Piggott, M. Stanford,  
J. Spelman and N. Quinn, D. Monaghan.  
Back: (J. Gallagher, M. McInerney, M. Tarpey, M. Hehir, C. Geoghegan,  
D. Murray, E. Conole, G. Madden, S. Moylan and M. McGrath.  
Mascot - Stephen Carty's son.



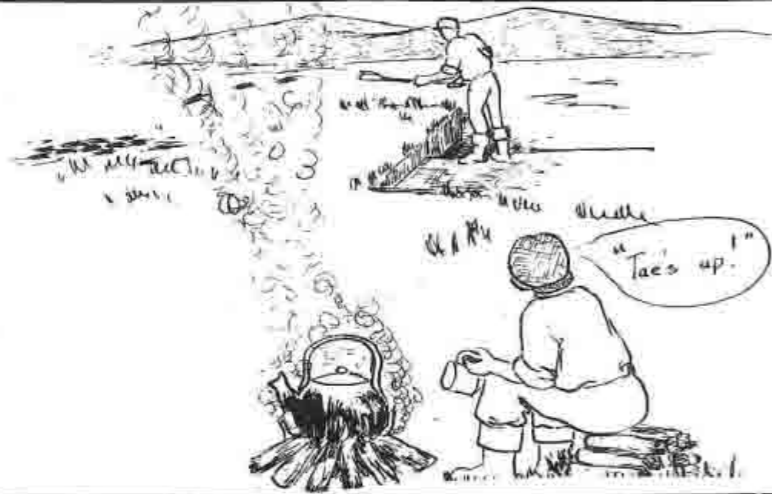
The late Pat Shaughnessy of Church Street.  
Photo: W. M. Quinn



Some years ago a group of Gort teenagers performed  
Lady Gregory's play "Spreading the News" on the site of Coole House  
Can you name the Actors/Actresses?

# TURF

by Geraldine Killeen



It's that time of year again when Dad, for he never fails, and with unashamed calm utters the fatal words. And as he does, the sky darkens, the sun fails, flowers wither, paint blisters on the wall, water freezes in the pipes, and through this, with birds and all mobile fauna inside a radius of 5 miles leaving naught but dust as they fly through the descending mist to their place of rest, the junior residents of our household stop, galvanised into shocked suspension, shrieking inwardly, like so many Shakespearean shrews, at the words "It's nearly time to hit the bog".

Official Mourning is then declared and we young 'uns are like condemned men. Yes, the good of the lengthening evenings and the gentler days is well and truly taken out of Springtime when we are thus sentenced. No known amount of consolation can lift our desolation — even Mam's encouraging talk of toasting limb extremities on frosty nights when winter winds howl again, seems poor reward for backache.

### Lambs to the Slaughter!

Now I can imagine how you readers, are saying we are lazy, but honest to God, we went off up the mountain for the first time like lambs to the slaughter, and this is what embitters us. We rejoiced when we heard that Dad had "got a bank". We had heard of the healthy, hearty 'tradition' of saving turf when we were very small and all along it held a real mystery and fairytale promise. To at least go to the bog was like an Enid Blyton fantasy come true and the near-teenage Killeens made off like mugs!

Squeezed into the car with the sleans, sandwiches and a euphoric picnic atmosphere we headed off

for the first time. We were celebrating. Our parents told us it was not going to be a treat but we took no notice. The people on the bog eyed us like foreigners — looking like holidaymakers we couldn't have looked more foreign in that place of sweaty labour. But the dreams soon became a screaming nightmare!

### Eaten Alive!

After half an hour we were dead beat, but Dad was only starting. Spreading out the soggy sods of peat was murder. The gnats were eating us alive and our backs were broken. Illusion turned to disillusionment with grime on every exposed body part. Thus, it is little wonder that at this time of year, when the promise of the turf cutting and saving season beginning anew, the gloom envelopes us. Call it ....

There are a lot of difficult tasks associated with the bog. Spreading, clamping, footing and a lot of discomforts, itch, mucky paws and legs, the "fear gortach" (perpetual hunger) to mention but a few. However, nothing, I mean NOTHING comes close to the scourge of the plagues of Midges that accost you on humid, cloudy, days or dewey evenings! The Jews thought they had problems with the locusts. Gimme a locust any day! They, at least, confined themselves to the foliage and vegetation. Midges are blood-thirsty insects and the hunger of the bog gets to them too! Worse still, because they are everywhere and penetrate everything, you cannot put a morsel to your lips without these pests colonising it first, to an extent when weathered neighbours joke across, as you feed yourself; "meaty are they?!"

### Home Sweet Home!

When finally it is time to go home

you count your blessings as you creak upright and mozey on down to your mode of transport shouldering implements, tools and what contained your victuals. But when you sit you find you've been mercilessly windburnt on the back where your tee-shirt rode up while you were bending and the bleak thought then confronts you, of your likely place in the queue for the bathroom hangs over you all the way home as every bump, sway and rattle rattles your anatomy's every aching part!

So, bitten to the degree where you look like you have leprosy, itching to an extent where you cannot help but scratch, aching to a point where you only want to die, and tired as a Miser's ass, you collapse into bed, fed, watered, washed and wishing the morning would never come. Your eyes close cursing Splagnum Moss (that plant chiefly responsible for the laying down of bogs in the first place), all insect life, the acid grime, your need for heat in winter and the fact that once, way back then, you were innocent enough to think the bog was fun!

Thus perhaps you understand, reader, the terror Spring holds, for the promise it brings is one of living death in the Irish version of Siberia (though not so cold) the bog. And thus, in resignation we'll go to our doom again this year — if it ever stops raining, mute, and for two reasons, we all know we need the fuel and Dad wouldn't listen anyway.

Life is a shocking circle.

## SWING INTO SUMMER IN STYLE



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**"EBONY"  
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The Square, Gort.

## A HORSEMAN'S DREAMS by Maxie Scully

My father was a keen sportsman and had a great passion for horses. I was four years of age when he introduced me to ponies. He taught the basics of riding and I rode in my first show in Loughrea where I came first. From then on I progressed to hunting. I went hunting at week-ends with my father who was, at that time, Joint-Master of the Clare Hunt. I used only compete in showing classes until the age of seven.

One day I had given cheek to my mother and my father decided that my punishment was to make me jump a very small obstacle and that was to be my introduction to show-jumping. From then on I put up more and more obstacles until such time I was jumping a full set of fences. Then I started competing at Shows around Galway with both Johnny and Billy Kilroy, and my sister Olga.

Every Sunday during the summer we would be heading to Shows around Galway. We had a very strong team from Gort in those days. I don't think there was a show in Ireland where we went that we did not come back without at least one ribbon or trophy. I had ponies such as Patience, Red Hot and Coolarne Hero while Billy and John had Spider, Du an Alla and Coad Drum. My biggest achievement in those years was coming third in Dublin at the Horse Show on Patience. My aim then was to win the Points Championship in Connacht, which I did eventually.

### EVENTFUL YEARS

One of my biggest let-downs ever was when I had been chosen on Coolarne to represent Galway in the All-Ireland Pony Club Championship — I could not go as I had pneumonia, so Billy stepped in and rode him very successfully and they won the All-Ireland that year. At that time we became members of the local Pony Club which was run by Lady Hemphill at Tulira Castle. It was here that we learned the finer points of horsemanship. Those years when I look back were the most fantastic I have ever had.

I competed in Showjumping Cross Country and Dressage and that year we won the All-Ireland three day Event Championship and we were off to England to compete against the might of Great Britain. Alas, my horse contacted a virus and could not go, so the team was reduced to three members.



A youthful Maxie shows how its done  
(photo courtesy of The Irish Press).

At this stage we were travelling further and further afield and winning all over Connacht. I then decided that I would like to represent my Country at Junior level, so I went to Frank McGarry during my Summer holidays to get extra tuition. I worked extremely hard at polishing up my style of riding and attempting to take on all of Ireland in order to get into the final four horses for the Irish Team. I got on the short-list at which I was overjoyed, and put in long hours working horses in order to be able to come together better and form a stronger partnership. Unfortunately we did not get on the team.

### IMPORTANT DECISIONS

It was at this stage of my life that I had to make decisions as to where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do. Showjumping is an expensive sport and I did not want my father forking out money all the time and getting very little in return for it. Therefore I decided that the best way for me would be to enter the Cadets in the Irish Army and get into the Equestrian Corps, so I set about working in that direction. Mind you, in order to have got on so well on the ponies, as I am sure my colleagues will agree, we had to give up a lot of our recreational time from school and put a lot of effort into our ponies. But I must say, if I were to do it all over again I would do exactly the same.

I eventually got my Cadetship, but I was unable to accept as both my kidneys had failed, and I had to go on a Kidney Machine. The following two years were the most traumatic of my life so far. Everything I had ever wanted had suddenly disappeared. However, my friends helped me overcome this and got me to fight it. Without all the good care I received from Doctors and Nurses, and all the help from my friends and family, I would not have survived. I kept up the riding, but not at Competition level and this too helped. Eventually, I received a transplant

and life really meant something to me. At this stage I had been doing Hotel Management and I decided to qualify and make a career for myself. However, having qualified, I realised that it was not the life for me. I was given an opportunity to join a Company where the hours were a lot more flexible, National Aluminium. I have never looked back. After about three or four years absence from the horse scene, I wanted to get back at it again, a friend of mind loaned me her horse and I was "on the road again". Heading to Shows all over the country, I realised how the scene had changed so much — the fun and enjoyment had gone out of it. It had become so professional and cut-throat. One night at the Dublin Indoor International, I saw a competition in the Bare Back go very close to setting a new World Record and I decided I wanted to do this. I trained hard from January onwards but the horse I was riding collapsed at the Galway Show in June. I looked around unsuccessfully for an alternative Horse.

### A WORLD RECORD

On the opening night of the Indoor, I saw a horse that I liked and asked the rider — Francie Kerns from Sligo — and the owner — John Rogers — to give me the horse for the bare-back. Eventually, I got him and was one of three to set a new World Record. Was I scared of the jump? — you bet I was scared but with guts, determination and ability the stars are the limits. I have since bought the horse and have set a new Irish Record of 6' 8" as well as riding him for Ireland.

My aim with him now is to represent Ireland in Los Angeles in 1984 at the Olympics. I owe a lot of my success now to people like my family, the people of Gort, Bernard Stanford, Marion White, Doctors and Nurses from Merlin Park and Jervis Street. These are just a few who have helped me achieve my Dreams.

# Remembrance of things past

(From Patrick J. Burke,  
Santa Monica, California.)

When I was fourteen years old I left Gort to go to the Patrician Brothers Boarding School at Mount St. Joseph, Tullow, Co. Carlow. By that time I had seen excellent productions of Shakespeare's "Othello" and "Hamlet" by McMaster, George Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" by the Dovell Dramatic Company, the Carrickford Company's plays about the frozen north and the gold rush and Mark Wynnes Company's melodramas dripping with sentiment but loved by all, The Boneyer Westwood Opera Company had introduced me to my first operas; Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" and W. Vincent Wallace's "Maritana".

Every night for a week I had followed with bated breath the fortunes of the "Timber Queen" and was thrilled by the performance of Ramon Navarro - Charleston Heston could not hold a candle to him - in the original "Ben Hur".

Then there were the productions put on by the local amateurs: "Charley's Aunt", "The Rising of the Moon" and the memorable "Professor Tim" with remarkable performances by Michael Tuohy the schoolmaster at Tiernievan and Gort's own Dan Sullivan. At school I felt a quiet satisfaction and pride to be a native of Gort, a town that provided me with such a rich cultural background. Very few of my fellow students had actually been to a play performed by professional actors and most of them would not have known an opera from a cock of hay.

## Gort's Literary Tradition

Imagine my surprise and joy when, in the course of studies, I came across the lines; "So again to Gort, the splendid, where the drinking cup goes round." If my memory serves me aright, I think I found this reference to Gort in a long poem by Sir Samuel Ferguson.

Even now here in California where I live when I am introduced to people from such undistinguished places as Sneem, Knocknagoshel, Killusty or Irishtoige and who, when they hear I'm from Gort look blank, I take care to point out to them that Gort was the centre of Irish Culture. Kathleen Hoagland in her monumental '1000 Years of Irish Poetry' says of the famous blind poet Anthony Rafferty, "he led a wandering life in the neighbourhood of Gort, Co. Galway." About two miles on

one side of Gort, at Coole Park lived Lady Augusta Gregory who contributed so much to the literature of the late 19th and early 20th century both in original plays, poems and essays and in her splendid translations from Irish. The Nobel prize-winning poet, dramatist and essayist William Butler Yeats lived within three miles of Gort on the Loughrea side, while farther down the Galway Road at Tullira lived the playwright Edward Martyn. It could be said with great justification that the Abbey Theatre in Dublin was founded from Gort because of these three: Lady Gregory, W.B. Yeats and Edward Martyn were almost solely responsible for its foundation.

And if all that is not enough, Gort has been made famous for all time by James Joyce in the cyclops chapter of his novel "Ulysses". "Good-bye Ireland I'm going to Gort". In this connection it is interesting to note that Joyce modelled the main character in this chapter, the Citizen, on Michael Cusack the great Irish patriot, who founded the Gaelic Athletic Association. Joyce met Cusack but Cusack but considered him narrow-minded and disliked him intensely. Be that as it may, it strikes one as a little more than coincidental that the mention of Gort in association with the Citizen indicates the possibility that Joyce knew that Michael Cusack taught for some time at Lough Cutra National School.

## Lady Gregory

I teach two classes for adults at Santa Monica College; one on James Joyce and the other on Shakespeare. As readers of "Ulysses" will recall there are many references in it to both Lady Gregory and Yeats. When I tell my students that I knew Yeats and Lady Gregory when I was a child they look on me with amazement. I go on to explain that Yeats was a frequent figure on the streets of Gort and I remember distinctly sitting beside him on a seat at the railway station. For the big church festivals such as Easter and Corpus Christi; Richard Treston, Joe Keane and I were many times let off from school to go down to Coole for flowers for the altar. Lady Gregory herself would come out to meet us, talk to us graciously without condescension and call the gardener John Diviney to give us whatever flowers were available along with, for ourselves, what-

ever fruit happened to be in season.

A surge of indignation possesses me when I think of the wanton destruction of Lady Gregory's home at Coole. If she had been a rabid hater of Ireland and everything Irish then there might have been some justification for the action of the Land Commission. Why did the people of Gort stand silently by and witness that act of gross obscenity?

My good friends John and Rita Joyce, both of Gort who now live in Tuam, recently gave me a present of "Life of Lady Gregory" by Elizabeth Coxhead. It contains some fascinating details such as the opinion of Paudeen Coneely of Inishmaan who struck by her excellent grasp of the Irish language and regarded her as "a very simple, easy lady with no airs to her at all".



The Town Crier

Then in my Shakespeare class when the text is "Hamlet" and we come to the lines where Hamlet is giving advice to the players: "Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue. But if you mouth it as many of our players do, I had as lief the town-crier spake my lines." I know exactly what Hamlet meant and so does everyone in Gort who remembers our very own town-crier, Johnny Kelleher. Whenever there was a play, a variety show or a film on at the town hall or wherever Jimmy Connors was holding an auction, Johnny paraded from one end of the town to the other, ringing his bell and pausing every ten to fifteen yards to make his announcement. It was well nigh impossible to understand a word of what he was saying, although we always managed to catch: "Doors open at 7.30 p.m.; beginning at 8.00 o'clock sharp!" But he served a useful purpose by making people aware that there was something on and thus aroused their curiosity to make further enquiries.

# Remembrance of things past

## MY RECENT VISIT TO GORT

During my recent visit I was walking along the lower end of the Square on my way to call on Mrs. Bridget Madigan when just as I had gone past Ned Walsh's pub I was hailed by great friend the biquitous Albert Mullins.

"I want you to meet someone".  
"Who is it?"  
"You'll see".

And there was Pat Fennessy looking like a two-year old in spite of his eighty seven years. I was so delighted to see him after such a long time, though it took him some minutes to place me. "I remember" I said "the first day you came to work for Jimmy Connors. You came from Co. Clare either Feakle or Scariff".

"Faith, you're right there but tell me, how do you remember that so well?"

"I was probably nine or ten years old at the time; and what's more I remember the time that Jimmy Connors worked at Mitchell's saw-mill and used to come up to Fitzgeralds for his meals". This really impressed Pat and I felt flattered that he considered that I did not look old enough to recall all that.

Bridget Madigan was away in Dublin so I crossed over to visit Jack and Eileen Kilroy and to talk to Eileen about her uncle Michael Linnane. Only a short while before I left Los Angeles on my way to Ireland, Michael Hynes (a brother of Jack Hynes of Newquay) and I attended Michael Linnane's funeral in Alhambra where he had made his home since retiring from the Fire Dept. in New York. God rest dear Michael's soul but he was a thorough gentleman, highly respected and loved by all who knew him. Although born in Belharbour, Michael as a child lived in Gort in the house of his Uncle, Thomas Hardiman and to no one were Gort and its people more dear than to Michael. On his visits to Ireland, he never failed to visit all his friends in Gort especially the Kilroys, Una Deely, Ellie Carty and Mary Fahey. Now I know her name is Mrs Tom Finegan in the same way that I know May Keane is Mrs. Larry Broderick and May Gallagher is Mrs. Martin Brennan but I always think of them as I knew them before I left Gort.

One of the con-celebrants at the Requiem Mass for Michael Linnane at St. Teresa's Church in Alhambra was Father Joe Glynn from Clough-

nacava. Father Joe as he affectionally is known to a wide circle of friends and admirers, has the reputation of being one of the best retreat masters in Southern California. As a matter of fact, before I even knew he was in this area, Vincent Healy of Pacific Palisades, (a first cousin of Kevin Burke's of George's Street) told me about this marvellous priest from Gort. Vincent and his wife May are constant participants in the days of prayer organised by Father Joe.

A couple of nights ago, Fr. Joe and I talked Gort for hours over dinner at the Round Table on Wilshire Boulevard. We both shared disbelief and indignation at the perversity that motivated the inverted snobbery of who ever wanted the name Cloughnacava to be changed to something as stupidly banal as Circular Road. Gort Inse Guaire should be proud of its place names that have hundreds of years of history behind them.

Some years ago, when I worked part-time in a department store here in Santa Monica, I remember this big, handsome man in his late sixties. I had not spoken ten words to him when he said; "Either Mayo or Galway". I was astonished that, to me, a complete stranger was sharp enough to detect my accent.

"Galway", I said.

"What part of Galway?"

"Gort"

"Do you know Martin Coen?"

"Well, I did. But Martin died some years ago, God rest him".

"Did you know Henry Shaughnessy Mattie Geogheagan? Ned Gilmartin. And as the line from the song "The Mountains of Mourne" says "there we stood talking of days that are gone", and I didn't care if the whole population of Santa Monica looked on. His name was Barney Cawan who was what we called a Commercial Traveller for some firm that dealt in chemicals. He came to Gort from Dublin by train, stayed in Glynn's Hotel and did his rounds. Now he lives in Brentwood with his wife to whom he introduced me later on. Then I also met his son and since then we have all become good friends because Gort was the common bond between us.

## Memories

Out of the thousands of memories that throng my mind, some stand out in sharper relief than others. Eddie Treston on the violin and his sister Elsie on the piano playing

"My Blue Heaven" and "Ramona" at the Golf Dance or the Rugby Dance; Nicholas and Rebecca Maloney who did the catering and especially that wonderful trifle they used to make. As children we were ready to do anything to get into the Town Hall to gaze with envy at the grown-ups as they fox-trotted and one-stepped to the strains of the very "latest" music.

How proud I was that my Uncle Jimmy Morris was on the Galway team that won its first All-Ireland Hurling Championship and also how proud I was of the other Gort men on the team; Bernie Gibbs and Ned Gilmartin. It was my father Pat Bourke that took me to my first All-Ireland Final at Croke Park in 1929. I shall always remember him as a kind, gentle and loving man, God be with him always. That was the year that Mick King of Galway City, one of the most brilliant hurlers of all times was injured in the first ten minutes of the game. This spelled disaster for the Galway team who went down to ignominious defeat by Cork. And I remember after the game, going with my father into Barry's Hotel and talking to Mick King. Jack Berry the Gort man who trained the Galway Team for many years was also there.

Where does one stop when it comes to reminiscing about Gort? I think that OMAR KHAYYAM, the Persian Poet supplies the answer in these lines from his famous RUBAIYAT; -

"Alas! that Spring should  
vanish with the rose!  
That Youth's sweet-scented  
Manuscript should close!  
The nightingale that in the  
branches sang,  
Ah whence and whither flown  
again, who knows?"

## ROOTS

390B Heritage Village,  
Southbury,  
Connecticut 06488,  
U.S.A.  
May 20th, 1983

Dear Sir,

My father, Thomas J. Diviney came to New York, U.S.A. from Gort in 1891. He was born Nov. 27th, 1871, the son of Patrick Diviney and Julia Fogarty Diviney and was baptised in Kilbeacanty. I am anxious to learn more about my grand-parents, and would be grateful if any members of the Diviney or Fogarty families would write to me.

Yours sincerely,  
Thomas J. Diviney

**SCHOOL MISSIONARY PROJECT**  
by a special correspondent

**VOCATION**

There was no thunderous parting  
of the sky,  
No angel choir, or any trumpet  
sound  
Only a voice, tenacious and as shy  
As breaks of crocus thrusting  
from the ground.

And no archangel flamed down  
through the night  
To poise or bend above her as she  
prayed  
Only a thought, refrain — like,  
whisper-slight  
Encouraged her, half-joyful,  
half-afraid.

No love-at-first sight raptures,  
and no whirl  
Of coloured dreams caught her  
in ecstasy  
When Christ's call found the  
mild heart of a girl,  
And grew deep as the dawn:  
"Come follow Me"!

The above verse by Beda Herbert, tries to delve the mystery of a Religious vocation, and the mystery became more mysterious as pupils of St. Joseph's Secondary School traced Missionaries, who were past pupils. The project was organised by Father Michael Brennan C.C. Furbo, who is Diocesan Catechetical Adviser. Pupils busied themselves finding names and addresses, making contact with families of Missionaries and corresponding with Missionaries. Time was a limiting factor as project had to be submitted by a certain date. Research was under the following headings — Home — where the 'seed' was sown and nurtured, School, that continued the nurturing, until it blossomed forth into the mystery that is a Religious Vocation, which sends the Missionary with an urgency to share their precious Gift in lands undreamed of unknown, and often with no hope of ever seeing their beloved family or Fatherland again. Order or Congregation of Missionary, Culture of Country, work done by Missionary, were other headings.

Happily many of the students have close relatives, who are past-pupils and Missionaries and undertook the task with a sense of pride. Rita Stanford worked on a project on her aunt — Sr. Gemma Stanford, a Sister of Charity working in Texas. Eithne Cahill contacted her grand-aunt — Sr. Thomas Kileen in far away Petermaritzburn, Southern Africa. A Dominican Sister. Deirdre Forde made a study on her

aunt, R.I.P. A Sister of Mercy, who spread the Good News in England, together with her two cousins, Celine Kelly, member of Opus Dei at work in Mexico and Carmel Kelly who was a distinguished student qualified with distinction as a Medical Doctor, and has devoted her life as a member of a lay Organisation, now working in the States of America. Orla Higgins traced the life and work of her grand aunt Sr. Philomena Gilligan serving God and the church as a Sister of Mercy in England. Ellis Crowe proudly presented a project on her grand aunt Sr. Colman Neylon. A Sister of Mercy of The Galway Community, who founded The Sisters of Mercy in Merritt Island, Florida. Maura Greaney's grand Aunt Sr. Basil Quinn, a native of Gort is a Presentation Sister working in India, currently attached to Charismatic Renewal Centre in Bombay, and a personal friend of Mother Teresa of world renown. Jean Murphy undertook a project on her connection Sr. Agnes Fahy, a Contemplative Sister also a native of Gort, who on the invitation of the late Cardinal Cushing Archbishop of Boston, for an Order of Contemplative Nuns in his Diocese — was among the Founders of the Cistercians in the United States. She remained six years until the new foundation was flourishing in Wrentham Massachusetts, and was recalled to the Abbey in Glencairn, where she died an untimely and sudden death in 1978 R.I.P.

**In Maori Land**

The most satisfying account was on St. Colman Roche who was on vacation from New Zealand. Pupils were fascinated as Sr. Colman spoke to them of her family, her school days, leading to her vocation as a Sister of Mercy, when as a young girl, at the age of eighteen, she sailed far away to New Zealand.

Her account of the History of Catholicism in Auckland aroused great interest, since it was due to an Irish immigrant, the only Catholic there, who repeatedly requested the Ministry of a Priest, when finally the request was granted, and an Order of Priests served there. Sr. Colman was sent to Powerenga in the North, a village that was totally Maori, so that many adjustments required in order to understand the Maori language, as well as their culture.

The story of the coming of the Maoris to New Zealand in twelve outrigger canoes, their inter tribal

warfare, their lives — are all told in song and dance. Poi Dance — Long and Short Dance, Haka — Ceremonial Welcome to Maori Morae (Meeting House), War Dance, Huia Feather Chiefs at the Maori house, Flax skirts with bodices and hair bands in Maori designs — Red, Black and White. Their aesthetic sense is highly developed as witnessed by the Carvings on their Meeting Houses and Food Stores. Their Art and Craft Training Centres, where Elders pass on the crafts of their ancestors, Sister Colman had a collection of those Native Crafts on display and were photographed by the Students. Kiri Te Kanawa, an opera singer of world renown, actually sang at Wedding of Prince Charles. Sinead Keane, Cora Killeen, Catherine Cahill and Maria O'Reilly came away, very happy after several interviews with Sr. Colman.

**VISITS TO FAMILIES OF MISSIONARIES**

Other pupils visited the homes and families of Missionary Past-Pupils in their neighbourhood. Una Burke and Patricia Connors of Kiltartan express their gratitude to Mrs. Annie Forde and Eda for their kind welcome and help, as they carried out their research on the life and work of Sr. Sally — a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Apostles, at work in Nigeria. They received information on the origin and History of the Order, directly from Ardfoyle, Co. Cork, where the Order had its origin. Sr. Sally works in Nigeria, where two other past-pupils worked — Sr. Una Nelly of Gort who is now a lecturer of Modern English at U.C.C. and Sr. Gretta O'Reilly — A Holy Rosary Sister working with the Ibo Tribe and is Mother General of the Native Sisterhood there. One set of twins who became Nazareth Sisters in Hammersmith, England were taken care of by present twin Sisters — Mary and Ethel Flaherty, Srs. Philomena and Annette O'Dea were grand nieces of the late Doctor O'Dea Bishop of Galway, and Fr. Paddy O'Dea of Clarendbridge. Srs. Amata Griffin, a Franciscan Sister works in the U.S. has been in continuous contact with the Sisters of her Alma Mater while Sr. Lena O'Sullivan also of Gort is a Dominican Sister in New Zealand, her class mate — Mrs. Mc Govern gladly imparted very happy memories of her. We are indebted to Mrs. Kerins of Georges Street, who recounted her memories of her Sister-in-law Sr. Kerins of French Sisters of Charity who worked in France and England, among the underprivileged and is gone to her

**SCHOOL MISSIONARY PROJECTS (Cont.)**

reward. She also enabled us to contact Sr. Margaret Corbett also a native of Gort until the fifties, when the family moved. Sr. Margaret is a member of Sisters of Christian Instruction, and is a Social Worker for the Crusade of Rescue in London. Sr. Margaret expressed her appreciation on being remembered.

**To the Four Corners of the Globe**

The great up-surge in Religious Vocations in the early days of twentieth cent. was remarkable, whole families were prepared to devote their lives to the spread of the Kingdom of God. Mrs. Broderick of Goretti House, Georges Street gave a full account of her five first cousins — the Flannagan Sisters from Shanaglish. Three of whom worked in England and two in Sth. Africa, they with four first cousins, the Fitzpatrick Sisters and Four cousins, Harte Sisters is a testimony to the remarkable Missionary Spirit of those days. Marie Fahy of Tieraneevin contacted Srs. M. Albeus and Patrick Carr, both of whom did trojan work, as Sisters of Mercy in England, and were happy to co-operate with a detailed account, together with visual aids in the form of booklets

and large photographs of their lives and work in their efforts to lead souls to God.

Srs. Margaret Treacy, Teresa Minogue, Mary Keely, Marcella O'Brien and Hilda Clery spread the Kingdom in U.S, England, Macau, and Florida had been boarders in the forties and fifties. Sr. Gertrude Glynn lived in Bridge Street, and worked as a Sister of Mercy in England. The last Sister to enter traditional Religious Congregation was Anne O Shaughnessy of Labane Ardahan. Margurite Burke, a neighbour visited her home and talked to her parents, Anne was very pleased to send the requested information, with booklets and photographs that gave an insight into her work as a Sister of the Order of Jesus and Mary. Also remembered with pride and joy are those past pupils who have devoted some time as lay missionaries — Bernadette Murray, Noreen Quinn and Marion Mulcair.

One can not dare to number the lives that have been touched by those Missionary Past-pupils — thirty five in all working in five Continents, sharing faith and setting the downtrodden free. The project was brought to a fitting

conclusion with a Liturgy, presided by Fr. Michael Brennan and with the privilege of a special guest Missionary, Fr. Jack Casey, who suffered the rigors of concentration camp in China, where he was a prisoner for 18 months. It took the form of Missionary Hymns, Readings from scriptures, an account of the work of our Irish Missionaries in Europe in the sixth century. The pupils listened to a taped interview by I.T.V. with Fr. Jack Casey after his release. Afterwards Fr. Casey presented the tape and remains as a precious treasure in the School. There was a presentation of the Icon of St. Francis (made in Travellers workshop in Galway) to those taking part in project, after an address of welcome, by Connie Murray to the distinguished guest. Special Prayers for the Missions and our Missionary past-pupils and the rendering of 'Totus Tuus as a tribute to Pope John Paul II, the world's greatest messenger of Peace, concluded the ceremony. The special poster for the occasion was by Elaine Joyce who selected 'How Lovely on the Mountains are the feet of them who bring Good News of Peace', as her theme. With pride and joy we keep those brave Missionaries in our thoughts and prayers.

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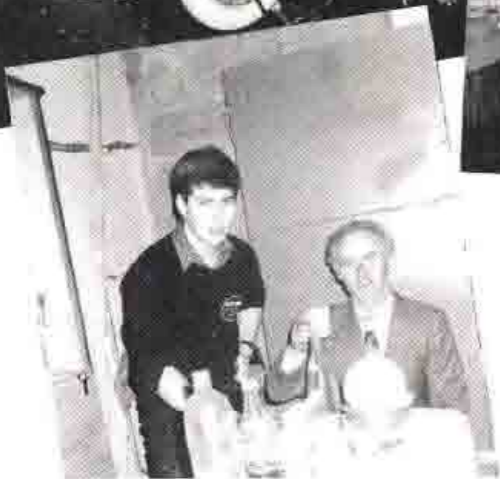
"The Tender Touch"



"I'll never get to Derrybrien"



Finalists in 1984 Gort Wild Rose Competition



"Here's looking at you kid" Mick Cahill and Kieran Reddy

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### GORT & DISTRICT MUSICAL SOCIETY by Niall Finnegan

Come next September the long line of weekly rehearsals will begin again for the members of Gort and District Musical Society. One wonders what prompts so many people (over 80 in last year's production) to give of their time and energy to put on a show, they of course never see. It takes great dedication to brace oneself to head out into those cold winter evenings often with the only "heat" being provided by an overworked producer or director who has "blown a fuse". Yet for the last two years such was the case and the result was two very successful shows.

Through the promptings of Colman Sherry and other interested parties Gort and District Musical Society was revived in 1981 with the intention of putting on some sort of show that year. It was decided to put on a pantomime and the ensuing Sinbad The Sailor proved to be a great success. Last year under the genial chairpersonship of John Finnegan the society again produced a 'winner' with their very light-hearted version of 'Red Riding Hood'. The Society is aware that although the present group is largely new to the stage it is of course carrying on a great tradition of pantomime in the town that was very strong in the fifties and early sixties.

In its short time of revival the society has done well, and has started to collect its own wardrobe, and in co-operation with the Dramatic Society has invested a lot of money in a new lighting system ON T.V.

Of course who can forget the night we got nationwide approval, when it seemed all of Gort stood still and the T.A.M. ratings of "Countrywide" soared as eager eyes looked out for Mammy and Daddy on television. All of this talk of almost instant success belies the trojan work put in by so many people behind the scenes, the real stars. Through the efforts of two great finance committees, the society, through organising dances etc. and its very successful fashion show, has managed to stay in the black, no

### RED RIDING HOOD Photos by Peadar O Conaire

mean achievement these days.

However for our society to survive it must draw further from the coffers of the area and above all from its personnel and that means YOU. If you want to answer the call of these bright lights, or can simply drive a nail straight, there is a place for you in the society and rest assured you will be made most welcome. Especially we hope more younger people will take interest, and we know there are many more strong-voiced men out there who would greatly enhance our chorus line. Therefore we thank you most sincerely for your support so far, and hope you will continue to do so, especially by coming out to see our shows in the future.

This year's production 'Cinderella' will be under the watchful eye of our wily chairperson, James Hannigan who hopes to continue the high standard of the two previous productions. So don't be afraid to put yourself forward as a budding Cinderella. If that doesn't succeed, we might find a place for you as an ugly sister!

So here's wishing the Society all the best for 1983/84 and please God we will see you all early in 1984, for another opening of another show.

At this year's A.G.M. the following Committee were elected:

Chairperson: James Hannigan  
Vice-C.P.: Aine O'Doherty  
and Dan Casey  
Secretary: Annette Lally  
Asst. Sec.: Annette Cooke  
Chairperson of Finance Committee:  
Paddy Cooke  
P.R.O.: Niall Finnegan  
General Committee:  
Eileen Brennan  
Bridget O'Regan  
Kathleen Maloney  
Charles Foley  
Tom McNevin  
James Lynskey  
Pat O'Donnell  
Martin O'Connor  
Bernard Costelloe.



"The Corridors of Power",  
two former chairperson's,  
Colman Sherry and John Finnegan



Get it right tonight or else!  
Fr. Kelly and Colman Keane



"What do you mean its not hanging  
properly?" I Colm Ward & Co.

**TERCENTENARY OF THE  
SISTERS OF EVRON**

by Sr. Angela Linnane

The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Evron celebrate this year the tencentenary of the foundation of their congregation. Their foundress, Perrinne Brunet, was born on November 6th, 1654, into a family of simple farmers living in the country of Bas-Maine, France. While still very young she felt drawn to religious life but her parents opposed her wishes and she was given in marriage to Rene Thulard, a man of some importance in the district. Six years later she was left a widow with no children.

She returned to her family home and devoted herself to good works and the instruction of children in her village. Her desire for religious life persisted and on the advice of her brother-in-law, Pierre Thulard, parish priest of La Chapelle-au-Riboul, she spent two years learning to run small schools and to care for the sick. On her return to La Chapelle-au-Riboul, she began to put her skills into practice and was soon joined by others, so that at the age of 25, she became the foundress of a Society dedicated to teaching and the care of the sick. She derived her inspiration from St. Vincent de Paul and based her rule of life on his while forming her sisters in the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

Gradually her Society spread throughout the province of Maine. In 1720, she responded to a request from the parish priest of Evron by sending two sisters to found a house there. Madame Thulard died on November 9th, 1735. Her work continued to thrive until in 1789, on the eve of the French Revolution, there were 194 sisters, including 23 novices, serving the sick and the poor from 81 establishments.

**Heroic Resistance**

On the outbreak of revolution, the sisters were scattered. Some were sent to prison for refusing, like many of the clergy, to take the oath of the Civil Constitution. Two of these sisters were sent to the guillotine for their adherence to the faith and to the church and

their vocation. Sister Jeanne Veron and Sister Frances Trehet were both teaching in the School of Charity of St. Pierre des Landes when the mayor of the local revolutionary committee arrested them for giving hospitality to the 'Chouans' (the Catholic peasantry who remained loyal to the Church) and caring for their sick and wounded. In March 1794, they were sent to prison to await trial. The scaffold had been erected opposite their prison and they could see the heads of their fellow victims falling to the ground as they waited their own turn.

On March 13th, Sister Frances was led out to the tribunal. Her only answer to those who accused her was: "Whether they are revolutionaries or loyalists, they are all my brothers in Jesus Christ. I refuse my services to no one." They tried to force her to take the Civil Oath which would signify her approval of the anti-religious laws of the Republic, but she refused. That same day, she was taken with thirteen others to the scaffold. On leaving the prison, she sang the Salve Regina with a loud, clear voice, and exhorted her fellow victims to die bravely. Before she ascended the scaffold, she gave her crucifix to one of the soldiers who kept it as a token of divine protection.

A week later, Sister Jeanne Veron, who was in a very severe state of illness, was led out in a wheel chair to face her accusers. She was condemned on five charges:

giving hospitality to the loyalists and tending their wounds

assisting the priests who had remained faithful to their ministry within the Catholic Church.

sheltering them and finding hiding places for them

refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance to the Civil Constitution

These two sisters of Madame Thulard's Society who had sacrificed their lives in loyalty to the faith, the Church and their vocat-

ion to care for the sick, were beatified by Pope Pius XI on June 19th, 1955.

In 1905, the dispersed sisters were reunited and given as their Mother House the Benedictine Abbey of Evron which had been "literally devastated by the revolution." 143 of them came together there and with the advent of 19 new members, a new era for the Society dawned. It received its first approval by the Church in 1709 and became a fully approved religious institution with the introduction of vows in 1838. By 1884, it numbered 1,736 sisters and had 341 establishments in France. They ran primary and boarding schools and worked in hospitals and old people's homes.

**New Trials & New Spirit**

The French laws of 1902, which forbade members of religious congregations to teach, affected nearly 300 schools managed by the Sisters of Evron. Some were secularised in order to continue teaching. Others in great numbers went back to the Mother House. New fields of action had to be looked for. Groups emigrated to Belgium, England and Canada.

Later in the century, in accordance with the decrees of Vatican 11, the sisters set out to renew themselves in the spirit of their foundress. Social and cultural changes prompted them to try another way of life. Moving out of their institutions, they came, in the spirit of the Incarnation, closer to their contemporaries by sharing their working conditions and housing. They left some of the headships of their schools and the management of their hospitals to lay people. They now live their daily life in small fraternities, witnessing to the gospel by upholding human rights and respecting the dignity of man through their engagements in a number of teaching and pastoral activities.

At the beginning of the 20th century some sisters left France for Filey on the East Coast of England. Later they opened a

**TERCENTENARY OF THE  
SISTERS OF EVRON**

school at Romiley, near Manchester, and continued their work with children and their families. Numerous vocations led to the opening of an English speaking novitiate and enabled their work to extend to areas round Liverpool and Manchester. In Ireland they have a convalescent home in the west at Lisdoonvarna.

**In Canada and Africa**

For 75 years they have served the Church in the Canadian West, caring for the people in rural centres and modern hospitals as well as in schools and pastoral work.

In 1957, sisters went out to the Ivory Coast where they have opened a Regional Vocational Training Centre where African women take a three-year course. They now have five missionary posts there where, among other activities, they devote themselves to the training of lay catechists. In 1928 Canon Hayward pioneered the Deaf work. This group of people were more or less neglected - a forgotten group. In 1960, Father Chaires Hollywood joined Canon Hayward in the work. The Canon died two years later and Father Hollywood bravely carried on. He asked our Provincial for sisters to help with the work so in 1964 three sisters went to help and since then the work has developed in all areas beyond all expectations. Now we have two residential homes for the Deaf, one in Liverpool, and one in Manchester. In Manchester there is a team of 8 - Father Hollywood, Father O'Meara and six sisters, doing residential, pastoral and social work. In this community (1) Sister Mary Angela Linnane from Gort is working with the Deaf, and finding and training volunteers in the various work we do - day care, families, elderly, holiday schemes for the mentally handicapped, hard of hearing, and the Deaf.

The Deaf are a lovely people to work with - simple and open. I am grateful to my superiors for pushing me into this work as one's full potential is developed, and above all, God becomes very real and meaningful in one's life.

Anyone who would like to know more about us and this work please don't hesitate to contact me. There are no redundancies in this work!

**Gort I.C.A. A Humble Beginning**

by Mae Morrissey

Oul wans can remember long ago events but not yesterday's, nor last week's, so it seems like yesterday that we started the Guild in Gort. It was a new idea. At the time there was only the town Association in Galway. It was uphill work to find a place to meet. Thanks to many generous people who gave us sanctuary. We met as "Boysie Fogartys" and Tom Nelly's and many, many time at the rectory, a few times at St. Colman's Hall and the Courthouse. Then up the other end of town we were accommodated by Mrs. Nelly in the old workhouse and at Georgie Daly's. They were all very forbearing, but we were always 'on the beg'.

remember auctioning a huge laced black corset, moving it in and out like a concertina. One week Singers Sewing Machines lent us several sophisticated Sewing Machines that could do embroidery, etc. and ran a dressmaking class.

I wonder if the street lights still go off at midnight? Walking up Main Street in the dark was a big hazard. Even in the middle of the road the pylons under the bridge could hit you.

Later we bought Sweeneys next door and Peter Waishe removed the dividing wall. Then we had a big hall. We held our socials there and had lectures on all sorts of subjects. Even at this late date, I apologise to Philomena Gilligan



A Class in progress, October 1956

After a lot of politicking, the C.E.O. Galway Vocational Committee agreed to let us hold our meetings in the "Tech". Hurray we thought, we had arrived, but we hadn't. At the meeting to arrange the Guild Meeting, we found we had to submit a time-table for the year, the Agenda for each monthly meeting, leave no materials on the premises, except during meetings, etc. etc. That was the first and last meeting at the Tech.

And then we bought Willie Quinn's cottage in Bolands Lane. That raised a few laughs, and eyebrows, but we all set to wash and clean it out, have lights installed, paing the windows and doors and we had a home at last, and muddled along from month to month, hopefully with an outline Agenda for next meeting.

We had Rush, Cane, Soft Toy Demonstrations, all the usual and to our credit, we helped with the local Agricultural Show, ran Jumble Sales - now they were fun. I

who held the ladder, while I sloshed white wash all over the ceiling.

Who remembers the rush cutting? All those beautiful bundles of rushes tied and left to be taken home when men and cars were available? The horses ate them meantime.

A lot of our benefactors have passed on to their reward. But one man still thrives, thank God. Fr. Dermot Higgins (now Canon) did great work with and for us. We went to An Griamam and swept the boards with our one act play. Sergeant Holly was a great help when we went in to the Blood Transfusion Business. Angela went to the College of Art and to Sweden.

I can't think of any hope except that I hope the Guild prospers and has even half as much fun as the first members did.

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Best Quality Beef, Lamb and Pork  
Fresh Chickens Daily  
See our Summer Specials

**GORT I.C.A.  
IN MODERN TIMES**  
by Chris O'Shaughnessy

From the above small beginning Gort I.C.A. has come a long way. We have now forty members and we hold weekly work classes. Crafts including Rush work, Cane work, Crochet, Celtic embroidery, Dressmaking, Quilting and the last and most successful class was upholstery.

Members arrived with all kinds of chairs, some had been bought from roadside traders and others had been in hiding for years and they were a rather pitiful sight. The class was conducted by Mrs. Turst from Barefield and the end result of the broken legs, and crushed springs was a joy to see. Gay Byrnes Late Late Show of upholstery was nothing compared to this class.

This month twelve members of the Womens Institute from Sussex England, are paying a return visit to Galway as guests of Galway Federation and Gort Guild are hosts to them for an afternoon.

A visit to Coole Park, Ballylee Castle and Kilmacduagh will be on the Agenda and a meal in the I.C.A. Hall in the evening. Our 35th Birthday Party was the highlight of last month. Our founder President Mrs. Morrissey travelled from Dublin to be with us

also Mrs Carolan a founder member travelled from Dublin. It was a most enjoyable evening. Mrs. Nell Giblin our current President is the

most active President for many years, a kind and considerate person who makes all members happy to be in I.C.A.



25th Anniversary, 5th March '73



Members of Gort I.C.A. Guild with guests who attended the Guild's recent 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Book yourself  
a sound future—  
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The bank of a lifetime

RHNI

## POET'S CORNER.

### THE RATS GENERAL MEETING by Sean Leahy

The rats had all gathered up there in the dump,  
Sitting and waiting, on all that old junk.  
Some wore their fur coats, as the night it was cold,  
While more came in sweaters, now they were the bold.  
They came in their thousands, from over the land,  
Big ones, small ones, and babies by hand.  
They all were a smiling, nodding and greeting,  
All had gathered for the General meeting.

Some sat on old boxes, more in bean tins,  
A family squatted in an old rusty bin.  
While more chewed on bones, and green leaves of cabbage,  
The children played games between all the old garbage.  
On an old bed of feathers, sat eight sturdy rats,  
With collars and ties, and silken top hats.  
Their hair well groomed, but their brows were well beaten  
They were there as full members, of the general meeting.

The minutes were read, by a rat with buck teeth,  
Who quickly had all the old rats, on their feet.  
A clapping, cheering, and stamping the floor,  
And shouting their heads off, for just a bit more.  
Their treasurer told them of the financial slump,  
The secretary mentioned, the state of the dump.  
We will clean up the place, and put in right seating,  
They all shouted (yes) at the general meeting.

If we clean it up right, said a rat with three legs,  
The people wont class us, as dirty old pigs,  
They may come to like us, and want us around,  
And not move the dump, three miles out of town.  
If they should do that, said a rat with one eye,  
We will all starve to death, and most of us die.  
Then we'll all march to Gort, and there do our eating,  
That closed the debate, at the General meeting.

A place it was cleared, and dancing began,  
While the old, and the babies, looked steadily on.  
For the rats danced a polka, then a half set,  
Followed through with some waltzes, and songs of the best  
They sang, and they danced, while the bottle went round  
A few could not take it and fell to the ground.  
Then they all chewed on bones, and such things  
for eating  
it ended the day at the General meeting.

### THE CABBAGE PLANT by W. M. Quinn

I saw a limped, cabbage plant  
Wilt int he dry brown clay  
Drained of life it seemed,  
In a twine-green coloured way.

I case my head in feeling  
For some farmer's useless toil,  
I visioned a labour lost,  
I passed, it made me smile.  
I went past that self same garden,  
Six weeks later I now recall,  
and marvelled that such a puny plant  
Had grown so strong and tall.

Then I visioned cabbage and bacon  
and thought on how little I knew,  
How one small plant so insipid,  
Upheld the head it grew.

As I sat by the farmer's table,  
While the good woman piled my plate  
I visioned that wilted cabbage plant —  
Thank God but land is great.

### THE WANDERING TINKERS by W. M. Quinn

With hundreds of different 'homes'  
Of hazel rods staked,  
On the side of the roads  
With smoke grimed canvas overhead,  
And cherished straw,  
For a ground floor bed,  
And the close-by tingle  
Of a haltered mare  
Cropping the 'long-acre' grass  
A tinker sleeps, peaceful,  
Yet wide awake  
For each passing car  
or some farmer who'd make  
attack on a moonless night.

Wandering wanderer without a home  
Destined for endless unending roam .....  
West Clare to-night — a kindly people  
and the very next night  
Near Kilmacduagh steeple.

No rent, no rates, no electric light,  
But forever the throb of a heart in fright  
From the limb of the law or a farmer's gun  
or a 'pitch' that's 'staked' by a rival clan.

Scorned, despised in a road-side tent  
In a life of aimless wandering spent  
Give ear to the wizened tinker 'touch'  
A penny does lots but it isn't much.  
who knows but your children or grandsons yet  
Will sleep where the grass is dewy wet.

### TODAYS CHILD by Mark Scully

The gilded temple to the God of wine,  
Full brimmed with laughter of his own design,  
Rewarding foyer of the flattered fool,  
Who learns to leave, for his idol's school,  
A lonely child.

The altar to this Bacchine power,  
Where pilgrims worship, hour by hour,  
And trade their pale minds' discontent,  
has for its Host and Sacrament,  
A lonely child

The feebly-fabricated tear,  
Becomes, next round, a bawdy cheer;  
And with a faked flamboyant touch,  
Forgets, nor wants to care for such,  
A lonely child.

The fretted face and pleading eye,  
That prays to Him, in His endless sky,  
Oh, please God, help my daddy, please,  
For I am if he cannot cease,  
A lonely child

Oh Daddy, how I love you still  
Oh please, oh please, please find the will,  
To say goodbye to your wine and see,  
The joy and hope you'll give to me,  
A lonely child.

# MILESTONES.

## BIRTHS

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

1. Michael and Sheila O'Dwyer, Ennis Road on the birth of their son Francis Richard.
2. Vincent and Ellen Keane, Crannagh, on the birth of their son Trevor Martin.
3. Joe and Ann Regan, Corker, on the birth of their daughter Arlene Rena.
4. John and Concepta Hayes, Tubber Road, on the birth of their son Alan John.
5. James and Helen Lynskey, Cloughnacara, on the birth of their son Alan Christopher.
6. Anthony and Dolores O'Connor, Crowe Street, on the birth of their daughter Maria Dolores.
7. Patrick and Bernadette Hayes, Castletown, on the birth of their daughter Patricia Mary.
8. Gerard and Ann Killilea on the birth of their son John Paul.
9. Liam and Columba Higgins, Loughrea Road, on the birth of their daughter Aisling Mary.
10. Kieran and Carmel Kerins, Bridge Street, on the birth of their daughter Claire.
11. Gerry and Helen Finn, Garra-beg, on the birth of their daughter, Catherine Mary.
12. Bernard and Ann Stanford, George's Street, on the birth of their daughter Orla Mary.
13. Richard and Pauline Ryan, Kiltartan on the birth of their daughter, Alison Teresa.
14. Justin and Mary Sadler, Crowe Street, on the birth of their daughter Isobelle.

## MARRIAGES

Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to the happy couple who were married in the parish since the last issue of 'Guaire'.

1. Michael Lynskey, Shragh, and Mary Monaghan, Ballyhugh — in St. Colman's Church, Gort on March 26th, 1983.

## DEATHS

Since our last issue of 'Guaire' we have been sadly bereaved. To the families, relations, friends, and neighbours of the following we extend our sincerest sympathy.

Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamuacha

1. Kevin Nestor, George's Street, on 1st Nov. '82 formerly of buried Ballinruan.

2. Kathleen Nestor, Tarmon on 12th Dec. '82. buried in Kilmacduagh.
3. Joseph O'Dea, Tubber Road, on 1st Jan. '83. buried in Gort.
4. Thomas Walsh, Tarmon on 8th Jan. '83 buried in Kilmacduagh.
5. Brigid Glynn, Ballylee on 3rd Feb '83, buried in Kilbeacenty.
6. John Rock, Garryland, on 4th Feb '83, buried in Kilmacduagh.
7. Delia Edward, Ennis Road, 20th Feb '83, buried in Kilbeacenty.
8. Elsie Treston, for. Crowe St. on 13th April, buried in Kilmacduagh.
9. Patrick Diviney, Newtown, Kiltartan, on 13th April, buried in Kiltartan.
10. Anthony Gillespie, Carra, on 20th April, buried in Gort.
11. Michael Donohue, Killamoran on 22nd April, buried in Kilmacduagh.
12. John Burke, George's St. on 15th April, buried in Shanaghlish.
13. Gerald Heenan, Ballyhugh, buried in Gort.

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