

SUAIRE

guaire

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 stmas 1978.
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er: Lough Cutra Castle

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THE ANTIQUE SHOP, GORT

Michael and Margaret Honan
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Housewife of the Year

Gort makes its mark

Enda Glynn

When Mick Cahill opened the *Woman's Way* magazine on 15th September in his home in Glenbrack, he saw a 'unique competition advertised.

It was a competition to find out Ireland's Housewife of the Year for 1978. Mick said to his wife Anne: "Did you see that competition. Why don't you do it?"

Two months later in the fashionable Burlington Hotel Anne came as near as made no difference to becoming Housewife of the Year. The award was won by a Skibbereen housewife, Mrs. Margaret Carmody, who thus brought another All Ireland to a county where such honours almost grow on trees.

But first back to September. The Housewife of the Year competition is organised by Calor Kosangas in association with *Woman's Way*. In 1975 *Woman's Way* ran a Tidy House Competition and Anne Cahill won a transistor radio for her entry on that occasion. She took Mick's advice in September and entered the Housewife of the Year Competition.

The advertisement announcing the competition asked the entrants to give the following information:

- 1) How much a week do you think it costs to provide nourishing meals for
 - a) an adult
 - b) a child.
- 2) How many children have you?
- 3) What are your spare time interests?
- 4) What do you consider to be the most important qualities of a good housewife and mother.

Anne answered these questions. 500 other housewives did the same. A team of adjudicators scrutinised the answers and 42 Housewives were selected for seven Regional Finals.

Anne was one of those selected and preparations got underway for the Western Regional Final in Galway on 2nd November.

REGIONAL FINAL

There were two aspects to the Regional Final – a cookery demonstration and an interview. Each contestant had to prepare a nourishing two course meal for four adults costing under £6. Liz Boylan

bouquet of flowers and a Calor Kosangas double burner picnic stove. Dublin was the next stop.

The National Finals were a streamlined affair. A lot of activity was packed into two days in Dublin's Burlington Hotel. The seven finalists checked in to the Burlington for lunch with the adjudicators on Monday November 27th. The four adjudicators were:



Mrs. Anne Cahill is congratulated by Jim Sherwin on winning Regional Final of Housewife of the Year.

and a Cathal Brugha St. teacher were the judges. Each contestant was also interviewed by Jim Sherwin.

A good contingent of Gortonians were in Leisureland to cheer Anne to victory. Anne was now the Western Region Housewife of the Year. She got a handpainted sash (value £19), a

Mrs. Patsy Lawlor, President Irish Countrywomans Association; Mrs. Maeve Durkin, President Irish Federation of Womans Clubs; John Thompson, Joint Managing Director *Woman's Way*; Barney Evans, Marketing Services Manager Calor Kosangas.

PACKED SCHEDULE

gain there were two aspects to competition — the cookery demonstration and the interview. Cookery on Monday afternoon run on the same lines as in May — a two course nourishing for four adults costing under £1. Anne presented her dish — Irish Goulash, side salad, wine and Mandarin Yogurt Banana cream. 60 marks were allocated to this part of the contest.

On Monday afternoon Anne was accompanied by her husband Mick and all the finalists with their husbands. They were led by coach to the Braemmerns, Churchtown for a Christmas Dinner Party and Cabaret. This was a joyable session with Des Keogh and Austin Gaffney among the entertainers.

All the finalists and their husbands stayed in the Burlington Hotel on Monday night. Anne's husband, Mick, thought it nice to be with the elite — on Monday night.

Tuesday started with a visit to the Gort Lesser at 10.30, lunch with Jim Sherwin at 1, a touch up from Betty Moran (Make-Up Womans Way) in the afternoon, a rehearsal and a long reception in the evening.

The proceedings were enlivened by the families and friends of the finalists linked up on Tuesday afternoon. A group from Gort travelled up specially for the occasion. Anne's sisters, Sr. Aidan, Sr. Vincent of Mercy, Limerick and Sr. Marius Presentation Convent, Galway, joined the group. Colman and Coilín Bradley, Labane, in Galway on business, also paid the finalists a visit.

Among the other dignitaries present were Minister of State at the Dept. of Industry and Commerce Maura Geoghegan-Quinn, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Paddy Belton and the Belgian and French ambassadors and their wives. 2,000 people were seated with many more standing in the aisles.

INTERVIEW

At 7.30 one of the Burlington Chefs gave a Cookery demonstration and then the interviews, conducted by Jim Sherwin got under way. Anne was the fourth person to be interviewed. She was asked about her interests outside her home, her work with the aged, her views on care of the aged. Should they be looked after at home or sent to hospitals? She came down strongly in favour of keeping old people at home and of improving care services for the old.

She was asked about sex education and how she implemented her view with her own family. Her views on contraception were sought — a new contraceptive shop opened in Dublin that day. How did she think the consumer could be protected and what would she do with the £500 if she won. Jim Sherwin was a wide-ranging and

penetrative interviewer. 60 marks were allocated to this section.

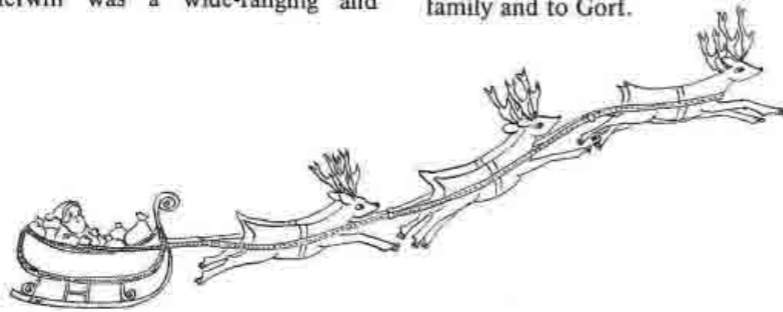
The judges adjourned and came back with their verdict at 11 p.m. The feeling in the hall was that it was a close call between the Cork and Galway finalists. Cork won the verdict — Margaret Carmody was chosen Housewife of the Year. It has since been remarked in one of Gort's houses of parliament that Anne was within "a fried egg of winning".

There was no disappointment in the Cahill family. Just a feeling of satisfaction to have competed and come this far. "To win and lose is the sportsman lot". Anne got a bouquet of flowers, a cosmetic set and a Calor Kosangas 1600 cooker.

After the results were announced there was another party and reception for the finalists, their families and friends. Entertainment was by Joe Cuddy.

And in the light hours of Wednesday morning the loyal Gort troop of followers, joined by the Cahill family, journeyed into the West. It was a journey shortened by Eddie Fennessy and his friends as songs from every county were sung with great gusto.

Glenbrack is now quiet. Anne Cahill brought credit to herself, her family and to Gort.



Tadhg Kelly looks back

in this interview with
Peadar Ó Conaire

P. Tadhg, you played hurling at club and county level in the 40's and early 50's, but your hurling memories probably go back much farther.

T. I wasn't at the 1923 Final of course — I was only three years old at the time! Three Gort men — Bobby Gibbs, Jim Morrissey and Ned Gilmartin — played in that All-Ireland Final. They flew in from Canada to see us play New York. 'Crap' Fahy from Kilbecanty was with them. They treated us well.

P. Gort had some great hurlers in the 30's. Do you remember them?

T. Yes, the county championship winning team of '34 was a great team. There were two teachers on that team, Mick Keating the goalie and Gerry Heenan the corner-forward. Stephen Carty and Joe Glynn played in the centre of the field. Mattie Brennan (R.I.P.), Jack Hardiman (R.I.P.), Martin Hayes, Peter Howard, Coley Cooney and Patrick Rock (R.I.P.) were the backs. There were two Linnanes Paddy (R.I.P.) and Mick (R.I.P.) in the full-forward line. The other three forwards were Paddy Iclan, Jack Deeley (R.I.P.) and Tom Vaughan. George Dooley, Tom Staunton, Patrick O'Connor and Mickey Cahill (Deerpark) were the subs. The team was trained by Gerald Piggott, Johnny Lane and Henry O'Shaughnessy.

P. Did you play much hurling as a schoolboy?

T. Indeed I did. Mr. Heenan N.T. put up a cup and a set of medals in 1933 for Gort Boys N.S. This was for the promotion of the Irish language in everyday life. Different streets played and all

the matches were conducted through Irish. Every pupil had to speak Irish throughout all the games. It was a very good idea on Mr. Heenan's part. Fr. Feeney C.C. was very enthusiastic as well. He helped the juvenile hurlers. We used to play in the paddock behind the church.

P. How did the young lads manage for hurleys in those days?

T. Well, Paddy Cahill in Coole would always saw ash roots for us free of

P. Can you remember any other great hurlers from that era?

T. Marty Collins R.I.P. was a natural hurler. Josie Howard, Paddy McNeill and Jack McNeill were also in the top bracket at that time, and of course Walter O'Connor, now in London, won an All-Ireland Junior C'ship medal with Galway in 1939.

P. Where used the local matches be played in those days?

T. In Carty's field in Rindifin and



Tadhg Kelly to-day.

charge. We could get a good root ourselves and seldom had to purchase hurleys. We always collected the price of the sliotar around town. Pat Keane publican R.I.P. would always give us a good start. All the shopkeepers used to contribute. We used to buy the best of sliotars from Edward Treiston for six or seven shillings. Even if we were short a few coppers he never refused us.

sometimes in Jack Hardiman's field.

P. Your hurling career blossomed in the 40's.

T. I played in the All-Army Final of 1944 in Croke Park. It was a great game. Around 1946 Tony Reddin used to make hurleys for us. He played for Galway and later became a star Tipperary goalkeeper.

Tomás Ó Quigley

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George's St.

Local, national and international problems solved here.

Was it hard stuff in those days Fadhg?

You'd hear their bones cracking nan! There was definitely more yard shouldering than there is now. The timber wasn't spared either!

Tell me about the 1951 League.

It was a memorable one. We defeated Wexford in the 'home' final and qualified for a trip to New York for the final 'proper'. We boarded a T.W.A. plane at Shannon and touched down in New York 13 hours later. The game was played at the Polo Grounds - baseball grounds. I remember 'Inky' Flaherty tripped over the batters mound twice missing certain goals in the process. Stevie Gallaher (brother of Josie) hurled for New York. We beat them by two or three points. We came back by boat (the *ieuwamsterdam*) to Cobh. It took 6 days to make the trip. We came from Cobh by coach to the Imperial Hotel in Galway for a reception. There was tremendous excitement in Galway and of course Gort people came out in their hundreds to greet us. It was a memorable occasion.

Who would you say was the best player you ever played on?

Edge Keogh undoubtedly. He is a great overhead striker. If he had possession you couldn't stop him. Indeed I would rate the Wexford team of '50, '51 very highly - all big men but great sportsmen. Wexford County yard officials and supporters are second to none also. A few members of the Galway team are two hours late arriving at Barry's Hotel for the reception after the '51 League 'home' final. The Wexford officials were still there waiting to fill the cup for 3pm.

P. Did you enjoy your hurling days?

T. They were the best years of my life. We didn't care where the night fell on us! I made many good friends. The chat and the singing on the journeys home used to be great. Josie Gallaher used to sing 'When it's lamp lighting time in the valley', I remember.

P. You were a team-mate of Josie's for a number of years. How would

you rate him?

T. He was the best forward in Ireland in his day. He was very accurate and had a deadly 'cut'.

P. You retired in '52. Why?

T. I had 7 years of county hurling behind me. I was thirty two and living on my own. It was time to hang up the boots and settle down.



GORT I.C.A.

Chris O'Shaughnessy

The Gort Guild of the Irish Country Womens Association was founded in February 1948. Its first President was Mrs. Mai Morrissey. Thirty years later the Guild is still flourishing.

The main aim of the movement is the promotion of better living in rural Ireland. Over the years there have been lectures on subjects like Gardening, Literature, Social problems, good grooming, cookery, first aid, hand crafts and painting.

Miss Angela Coen, a member of the Gort Guild, was awarded a scholarship to the College of Art, Dublin from 1951-1954. From there she was awarded a further scholarship to Stockholm, Sweden to a weaving school for further studies. Angela has been a great help to the Gort Guild down the years, especially in the handcraft field.

Membership today is 30.
President: Mrs. K. McGrath Seehan, Gort.

Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Chris O'Shaughnessy.

Treasurer: Mrs. Mary Cunningham.

ACTIVITIES

Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month in the I.C.A. Hall - new members are always welcome. Proceeds of whist drives, jumble sales etc. are the main sources

of funds for the movement.

As reported elsewhere one of our members, Mrs. Anne Cahill, distinguished herself in the 1978



I.C.A. Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Cunningham

Housewife of the Year competition. At the moment craft classes take place every Monday night - shell craft, crochet and embroidery are the main craft.

Educational outings take place usually each June. Westport House, Glen of Aherlow, Rock of Cashel, R.D.S. Spring Show, Connemara (Pearse's Cottage), Adare Manor, Lough Key Forest Park and the Burren Centre are among the places visited.

The I.C.A. provides a valuable outlet for the women of Gort. Even with the mushrooming of many new organisations in the town in recent years the I.C.A. still provides a most useful service.

Gort Town Hall

Geraldine Monahan

would cost between £30,000 and £34,000.

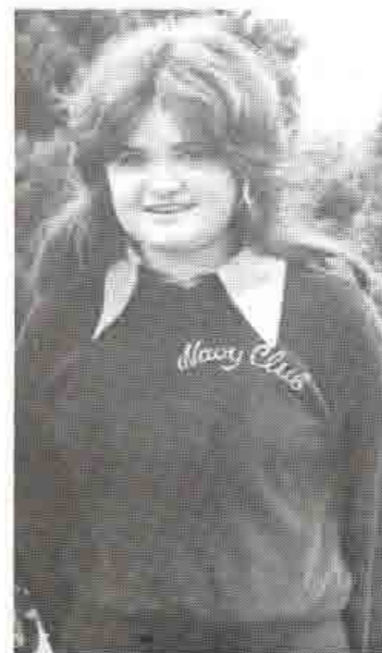
All local clubs backed this wonderful enterprise but apparently some difficulty arose at decision level, regarding trustees etc. What a pity. Facilities were planned for youth, volley ball, indoor basketball, indoor soccer, plays to accommodate 200, card rooms, billiard rooms, full size badminton court and a large meeting room, two showers and ladies and gents toilets.

What happened? The youth could do with these plans being carried out.

CAMOGIE

Geraldine Helebert

One of the main games that the girls of St. Colmans Vocational school participate in is camogie. The



Geraldine Helebert

senior team had a good season last year when they won the Connacht Championship but unfortunately

were beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final.

So far this year, out of four matches we have won three, beating Athenry, Loughrea and Woodford Vocational School, by a good margin but were not so lucky with Loughrea Convent when we were beaten 4-3 to 3-1. Also this year junior team was taking part in a championship, but unfortunately they didn't have so much luck as it was their first year taking part in any competitive competitions. The senior team still have a good chance of winning the championship if all goes well.

Camogie like every other game is very competitive. It needs a lot of practice and perseverance. It's a team game and without a team spirit it is so hard to play.

SOME THOUGHTS ON UNIVERSITY LIFE

Anne O'Shaughnessy

I would like to point out a fact you may not be aware of. It is this. At the moment there are over fifty students in U.C.G. alone who have gone to school in Gort. This is a phenomenal number and I think it reflects the intellectual potential of

the young people of Gort. Let us hope that it stays this high.

It seems highly unlikely that any of these young people, who have come to university from Gort in the last few years, have been totally unaffected by the change between College and school life.

This change poses different problems for different people. The worst off are those who were completely unprepared, that is, those who have a warped idea of university life and all it stands for. If you are thinking of going to university why

talk to someone who is there and will put right any illusions you have about it.

SETTLING DOWN

Unless you were a boarder in a boarding school you will find living away from home for the first time a new experience. Some people adjust quickly to the new way of life. Others are less fortunate and take a long time to settle down. Sometimes they take as long as a year.

My opinion is that people do not settle down until they have made friends, or joined some clubs and societies. In other words they will be content until they have an interest in college life. The impression in some people's minds of students is that of

irresponsible young people who throw wild parties much too often, who think about nothing else except drugs, drink and sex. I am not saying this is completely untrue because that would be ridiculous. But the majority of students are humane, responsible young people who have a lot on their shoulders and who try to make the most out of life while they can.

It seems ironic that in a few years time when all of these students graduate, they will automatically become respectable members of our society.

University is a great education for any young person. I would like to see the schools in Gort contributing as much to the universities in the future as they have done in the past. A bit of education never goes astray. It benefits the whole community.



Anne O'Shaughnessy



Gort Convent of Mercy

Sr. Damian

Gort convent was founded in 1857 by Mother Aloysius Doyle. She nursed the sick and wounded in The Crimean War 1854-56. It was on the invitation of Fr. Shannon that the Mercy sisters came to Gort.

Education, house visitation and nursing duties in the old workhouse were the first duties of the Mercy sisters. These early years of hard work took their toll - 13 sisters died in the first twenty years. But they persevered and today the happy voices of children and young girls may be heard in well equipped schools.

In October an exhibition of art depicting the life and times of the first Mercy Sister Catherine McAuley was held in Gort Convent. The work of the pupils was refreshingly uninhibited.

A Mass thanking God for the gift of the Mercy Sisters to Galway diocese was celebrated in the Cathedral on 2 December. Principal celebrant was Bishop Casey who said in his homily that the Mercy sisters nursed the sick, helped the poor, and educated children at a time when few others cared.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded by Catherine McAuley in 1778.



Songs

Compiled by Imelda Farrell

A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY LANE

Paul Diviney

I took a walk down a country lane
One very early morn,
And I saw some fields,
Full with rich yellow corn.

I walked on further down the lane
And I came to the riverside
On which I saw some drops of rain
And some pinkings swimming five astride.

I walked on further, until,
I came to a bed of Daffodils,
Each one with seven leaves and a stem,
With a heart of pure yellow petals.

I walked on further down the lane
Until I came to a field of trees
Some trees had nuts coloured brown
And some had just plain green leaves.

I walked on until,
I came to the end of the lane
Fields stretched before me,
With sheep being herded into their pens,
And cows grazing in the nearby glen.

I turned around to look at the lane,
Which contains the beauties of God,
That grow and cherish,
So let's hope they will remain.

These are the things,
of beauty and wonder,
That God made for all of us,
Yes! that God made for all of us,
The beauties of this country lane.

A ROSE HAS TO DIE

Recorded by The Dooleys

Do you remember how we used to love last
Summer,
And how you held me tight and we would
dance the night away.
And then the Autumn leaves came down,
And took away the love we found
And left me in a lonely world of grey.

Chorus
Cause a Rose has to die every time you tell a
lie
A promise once its given must be true:
Watch each Rose bow its head when it knows
our love is dead and it's never going to
bloom again for you.

On the beach the lighthouse lights were shining
And I remember how they used to shine for
you and me.
And the park where the roses grow
And whispered I love you
There is nothing left but weeping willow trees.

Chorus:

HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO YOU

Recorded by Olivia N John

Guess it's mine - is not my first heart broken
My eyes are not the first to cry
I'm not the first to know there's just no
getting over you.
I know I'm just a fool who's willing to sit
around and wait for you.
But baby can't you see there's nothing else
for me to do
I'm hopelessly devoted to you.

Chorus:
But there's nowhere to hide
Since you pushed my love aside.
I'm out of my head Hopelessly devoted to
you, hopelessly devoted to you.

My head is saying fool forget him
My heart is saying don't let go.
Hold on till the end that's what I intend to do
Hopelessly devoted to you.

Chorus:

TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP

Recorded by Crystal Gayle

It's 3 o'clock in the morning and it looks like
its gonna be another sleepless night.
I've been listening to your dreams and getting
very low,
Wondering what I can do,
Maybe I'm being foolish as I haven't heard
you mention anybody's name at all.
How I wish I could be sure it's me that turns
you on,
Each time you close your eyes
I've heard it said that dreamers never lie.

Chorus
You've been talking in your sleep.



Imelda Farrell

Sleeping in your dreams with some sweet
lover,
Holding on so tight lovin' her the way
You used to love me.
Talking in your sleep with lovin' on your
mind.

Maybe I've been foolish 'cause I haven't
heard you mention anybody's name at all.
How I wish I could be sure it's me that turns
you on.
Each time you close your eyes
I've heard it said that dreamers never lie.

Chorus:

SANDY

Recorded by John Travolta

Stranded at the drive-in
Branded a fool
What will they say Monday at school
Sandy can't you see I'm in misery.
We made a start, now we're apart
There's nothing left for me
Love has flown all alone
I sit I wonder why, y.y.y
Oh why you left me Sandy
Oh Sandy baby someday when high school
will be gone
Somehow someday our two worlds will be
one.

In heaven for ever and ever we will be
Oh please say you'll stay, Oh Sandy.
SPOKEN Sandy you hurt me real bad. You
know it's true. But baby you got to believe me
when I say I'm helpless without you. Love has
flown all alone. I sit and wonder. Why, Oh
Why you left me Sandy. Sandy, Sandy. Why
Sandy.

Hawkins

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WALSH'S LOUNGE BAR

The Square, Gort.
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POETRY

REVERIE

M. Scully

od alone on a five eyed bridge,
 saw swift waters gurgle through,
 ntle waves and ripples too,
 id seaward to the Country's
 lge.
 s Autumn, and the pastel
 ades,
 een, to gold and yellow hue,
 river's banks a patchwork true,
 leaves entwined with grassy
 ades.
 oken bough lay half submerged,
 ark removed by waters flow,
 oving onwards did they go,
 they were with ocean merged.

the bridge of limestone hewed,
 ath the pale autumnal sun,
 tched the speed of the river's
 n,
 matched my thoughts to it's
 any moods.
 tumbled oe'r the rocks of life;
 eddied into lonely pools;
 wandered down the path of
 ols,
 strode the avenues of strife.
 ight of life that is so akin,
 ie ceaseless flow of the water's
 y,
 passing year; but a moments
 y,
 a dream to bathe one's
 emories in.

I thought of love, as I stood alone;
 Does it leave a man it thinks is
 broken,
 Or fight for a man it knows is
 broken;
 Which of these; choose for your
 own?
 Do you sit on the bridge of sighs and
 cry,
 In a world of so-called ever friends,
 Whose only thoughts and ever trends,
 Are to hurt, and happiness decay.
 Let judgement fly on it's own fair
 wings,
 And human thoughts, like the river's
 way,
 Flow pointless, till the end of day;
 Forget all the cherubic things.
 I watched a blackbird break the air,
 Brushing the wind with feathered
 tips,
 Flighting so free; on feathered tips,
 Leading a life without a care.
 I watched a trout, paint the river
 bed,
 As it finned it's way neath' the river
 trees,
 Moving with such gentle ease,
 And I thought of the peacefull life it
 led;
 And I thought of man's unending
 quest,
 To find such a life of tranquil ways
 And some release from his worried
 days;
 The architecture of life's bequest.

As the West was calling the setting
 sun,
 And brazen shadows softening to
 their shades,

I thought of life's sweet-sour
 charades,
 That interweave the fate of all and
 one.
 Those phanthom fingers, Tragedy
 and Joy,
 That swiftly pluck the strings of
 tears,
 Or soothe away our silent fears,
 Dependant which requires the human
 toy.
 But now my mind an eagle on the
 wing,
 Takes flight to all the beauties of this
 world,
 And niceties, instead of clouds,
 unfurled,
 Soars ever skywards; to my Lord, the
 King.

Christmas Carol "Jesus Asleep"

Air: Mozart's Lullaby

Jesus asleep in the hay,
 Mary beside Him till day,
 Joseph keeps watch o'er the Pair,
 Ass and ox in wonder stare!
 Angels now sing in the skies,
 Sheperds scare open their eyes.
 Joy then soon conquers their fright.
 True joy of this holy Night.
 True joy of this Holy Night.
 "Fear not O Men of the hills,
 We bring you joyful tidings,
 This night the Saviour is born
 You shall behold Him ere morn,
 Tell all the people afar,
 Bid them to follow His star,
 Let no one linger behind.
 Praise ye, the Lord, O Mankind!
 Praise ye, the Lord, O Mankind! "

MARKET TOWN OF GORT

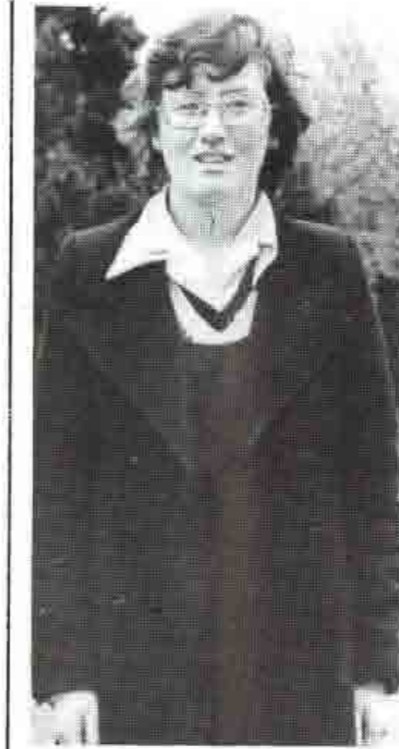
I. Fahy

From yon Market Square,
 When free from care,
 I gazed in days of yore
 But those childhood scenes
 have gone like dreams
 to return nevermore.
 They will ne'er come back.
 Alas and alack and a day was all too
 short.
 When I met my friends
 around John Glynn's
 in the Market Town of Gort.

A Health to Sonny Mullins'
 musician of renown,
 from far and near they came to cheer
 while he entertained in town.
 From Camden Square and all over
 Clare
 Loughrea and Woodford too
 Violins and pipes
 accordions and fifes
 Tin whistles and borans too,
 with the house well run
 sure we had some fun
 he gave every man his Dew.

Joe Cooley too, so brave and true
 Had played for Kings and Queens
 now you play on high beyond the
 sky
 I can hear you in my dreams.
 And Des Mulcaire is a born player.
 Chris Droney of the gifted few
 But Joe Burke, don't forget
 is hard to be 'bet'
 when lashing out a reel or two.
 To mention them all is beyond recall.
 And my space is far too short
 But traditional sounds of music
 abound
 round the Market Town of Gort.

When Hitler's crews were very bad
 news,
 'Round Warsaw and Budapest
 The Derrybrien creels with their tidy
 'maols'
 paraded with the best.
 On the Market Square I do declare
 round the Statue of Christ the King



GORT

People of Gort I'm warning ye
 And this is very true
 The youths of Gort are restless
 Because they have nothing to do.

First we had a Town Hall
 And that was simply Grand,
 But then it began to deteriorate
 And the youths were left to stand.

Then there came a pool hall
 And the youths all came to see,
 And now they keep on coming in
 And their parents do not agree.

A swimming pool was suggested
 A good one for young and old
 But that was over 2 years ago
 It will come or so we've been told.

To summerise this short little poem
 I've one more thing to say
 Provide us with some facilities
 or the youths will fade away.

Geraldine Monaghan

While bargains were made
 and prayers were said
 As the Angelus bells did ring.

Round Barrack St. we oft did meet,
 Woolbuyers with horses too
 And pony loads of scollaps
 for thatching round Curranroo.
 Herrings, sea grass and mackerel
 anything from a gossoons shirt
 Could be bought and sold in the days
 of old
 In the Market town of Gort.

The Man who made the first sliothar
 in a G.A.A. game to play.
 had plied his trade at harness making
 in Crowe St., many a day

Ned Treston, sure that was his name
 I remember him quite well.
 And also Paddy Nolan who many a
 boot did sell
 Like many more they are dead and
 gone.
 To join that good old sort
 who helped to make a jolly place
 of that grand oul' Town of Gort.

Now we'll give three cheers
 To O'Connors Engineers,
 Killeens and Top Form too
 Fire men, roadmen, showmen
 and women who make up the crew
 Last and not least our children
 Growing up long and short
 Who will make the future brighter
 for the Market Town of Gort.

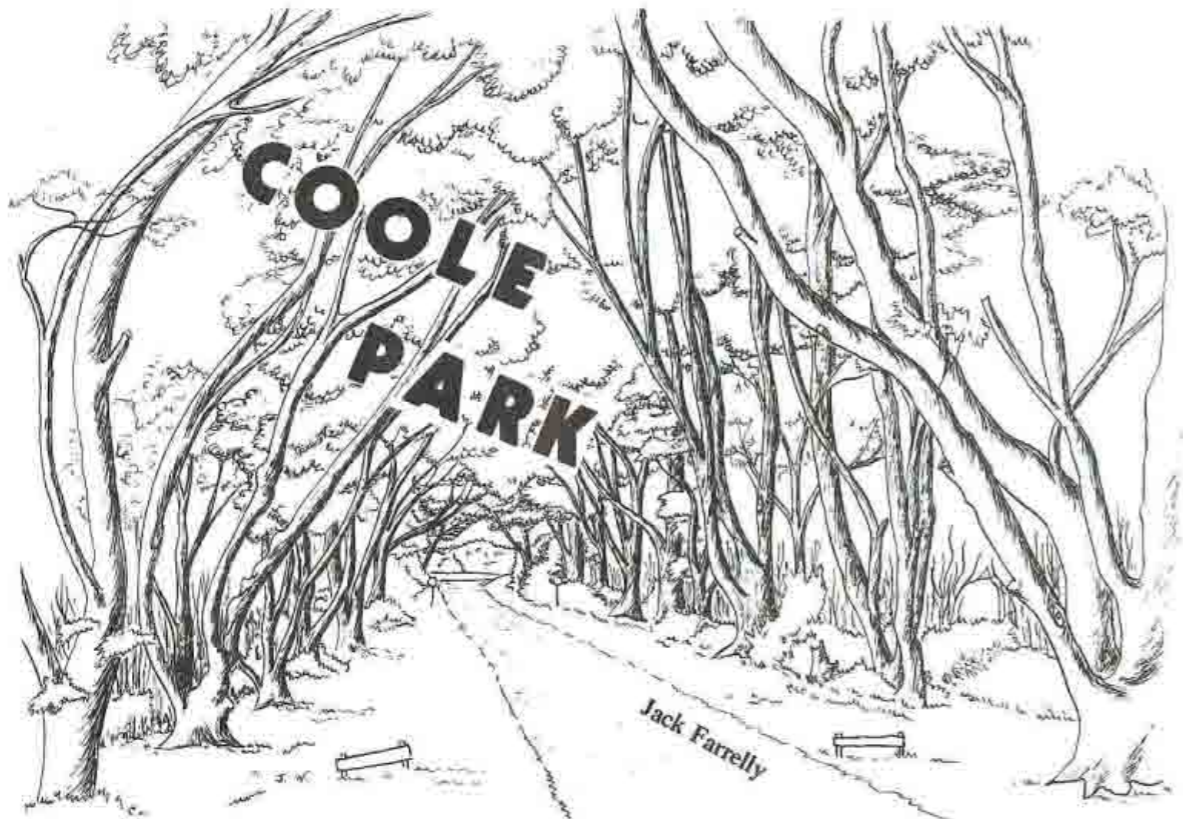
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Meet you in
KILROY'S
 The Square, Gort.
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short distance from the town of Coole Forest Park. The Park is the home of Sir William Lady Gregory. Lady Gregory is remembered in her lifetime as a poet, folklorist and co-founder of the Abbey Theatre.

Today Coole Park is the property of the Department of Fisheries. Some years back as tourism was being developed its potential with many visitors to Coole, the estate was opened to the public as a Amenity Park with its car and bus picnic area, nature trail, park and wildfowl sanctuary covering some 1200 acres of land and lake.

Coole developed care was taken to preserve as much as possible of its original state. As its entrance stands the impressive Gothic double row of Hax trees. The car parks helped visitors to avail of hours recreation by way of walking and picnics.

ATTRACTIONS

Entering the pleasure garden

where the picnic area is sited, starts a nature trail of beauty and character. A booklet is available nearby giving concise information on Coole in general. A journey through the trail is two hours well spent.

The pleasure garden dominated by its famous autograph tree has been landscaped with shrubbery beds and has the original boxwood hedges and a bust of Maecenas.

Woodland glades have been opened up around the lawns to add to the attractions and for the more courageous visitors there are six to eight miles of walks with seats along the route.

The Deerpark and Wildfowl sanctuary were developed to preserve the wildlife aspect of the park. And of course there are the seven woods of Coole: Páirc na Lee, Páirc na Tarbh, Inchy wood, Páirc na Carraig, Coill Dortha, Coill na nO and Shanwalla.

The Swans of Coole and the famous stone seat are interesting features. The whole area oozes history and is a reminder of the golden age of Irish Literature.

Lady Gregory's love of Coole and of its seven woods, immortalized by Yeats, comes through in nearly all her writings. It is said whenever she received a fee or royalty she planted another tree.

In her house Lady Gregory often entertained such distinguished Irish people as George Bernard Shaw, Douglas Hyde, Sean O'Casey and J.M. Synge.

But today Coole is still a wonderful place. A journey through the peace and quiet and beauty of these woodlands cannot but evoke appreciation of the wonderland of nature that is Coole Park.

Every year there is a new development in Coole. But the peacefulness and environmental aspects of the area are never disturbed. A journey through Coole is a journey to heaven for the nature lover.

"I have heard the pigeons of the Seven Woods
Make their faint thunder and the garden bees
Hum in the lime tree flowers".

Apostolic Society

Gort Branch

The Gort Branch of the Apostolic Society is ten years in existence. The Apostolic Society itself was founded in the 1920's in Belfast which is still one of its strongholds. Its aim is to promote work for the missions and to give practical assistance to people working in mission countries.

Every diocese in Ireland has a branch or branches of the Apostolic Society. There are a number of branches in the Galway diocese, Salthill was the first to be founded closely followed by Gort. The movement is particularly strong in the rural parishes with active branches in Kilshanny, Kilfenora, Craughwell and Kilbeacanty.

The Gort branch has about twenty active members and they meet every Thursday night from 7.30 to 9. The Sisters of Mercy have kindly made a room available. Vestments are made for Churches in mission countries, garments of various kinds are knitted, equipment for new Churches, crucifixes etc. are made and crafts — all work is practical and the priests and nuns who have come back from the missions have said how much they appreciate support from the homeland.

LOCAL HELP

There are three occasions during the year when the Branch go to the people of the locality for support: a) honorary members — there are about 80; b) Collection on Mission Sunday and c) Display Day. The local people have been very generous on all three occasions and this is much appreciated.

Dean Hynes, the late and respected parish priest of Gort, helped start the branch in the parish and valuable assistance is also given by the pupils of Tiernevan School. Here Miss Mary Donnellan and her pupils do lovely leather work.

In recent years the form of help to mission people has changed. Money is now channeled into buying tape-recorders, knitting machines etc. to help people learn these skills themselves. As well local missionaries usually bring back with them some

of the practical work performed at the Thursday night meetings.

For the local display Johnny Sullivan allows free use of his hall and there is also a Diocesan Display which the Bishop of Galway attends.

Speakers from the various Orders and Religious Communities working on the missions visit the Branch during the year. They speak on progress being made and how valuable the voluntary effort is to the movement.

The Officers of the Gort Branch are:

President: Mrs. Nuala Murphy;
Vice-President: Mrs. Pauline Glynn;
Secretary: Mrs. Chris O'Shaughnessy;
Treasurer: Mrs. Nora Hill.

New members to the Branch are most welcome to carry on the excellent tradition of giving practical help to the missions. If you can please help.



President of Gort Branch
Apostolic Society
Mrs. Nuala Murphy.

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out and about

ie Kenny, 7 Ballyhugh, Gort left the Lebanon in November with 14th Infantry Battalion. He is in a group of 300 who will serve as a peace-keeping force for the U.N. He will be in the Lebanon for six months.

is son, Derek, tells us that Artie will be living in a tent 2000 feet above sea level near Tibili. They will experience snow, rain and heavy winds for several months before the weather improves.



Bernadette Lally and Erica - 1 in 47.

3 was a busy year for mothers and priests! In the first ten months of the year there were 47 baptisms. Dé ar na gasúir go léir agus ar an nithéoirí.

There were fourteen marriages in the churches of the parish during the year. Congratulations and good wishes to the Organs, Tierneys, Hivans, Mulherrins, Carey's, McKelfords, Kavanaghs, Kerrins', O'Leary's, Solans, Donoghue's, and Minogues.

Christmas greetings to the priest in our first issue, Lourda Kelly, Ennis Road, who is now in London.

*The Golf Club is now in its closed season. Turkey competitions were keenly contested but the festive bird eluded quite a few. The Annual General Meeting will see a new Captain and President installed. At the moment the pundits favour The Square and Glenbrack for these onerous posts. However the challenge from Ennis Road cannot be lightly dismissed and Bridge St. could yet enter the hustings. Will the A.G.M. bring a new Secretary? The New Year promises to be exciting on and off the golf course.

*Gort Chamber of Commerce is proceeding with plans of twinning Gort with Balleroy in Normandy. Chamber representatives expect to visit Balleroy in February. The United Towns Organisation is assisting with the project. Various social and sporting groups in Gort should benefit considerably from the project.

*The Chamber also helped the Telephone Actions Committee in its campaign with the Dept. of Post & Telegraphs to get one direct dialing facility for Gort Exchange. Many

subscribers have withdrawn payments for six months of rental and call charges, to emphasize the need for improvements.

*The Gort Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann will host the County Galway Fleadh in April 1979. Preparations for same have started.

*St. Colman's Day was very enjoyable and eventful this year. Canon Quinn celebrated open air Mass at the Well and the day was lovely. Devotion to St. Colman is very strong in Kiltartan and the passing years have only sweetened the melodious voice of Miko Mulcaire, whose rendering of the traditional hymn to St. Colman was much appreciated.

*Congratulations to Michael Cahill, Deerpark and Patty Hough, Bank of Ireland, Gort on their recent engagement.

*A Dress making class is held once a week in St. Colman's Vocational School. The class is well attended and is conducted by Mrs. Kathleen Croffy.



Gort L.D.F. Pipers Band 1943: Back row from left, Edward Treston, Paddy Mullins, Larry Quinn, Tom Skehill, Thomas Mullins, Josie Gallagher, J.J. Keane. Seated: Vincent Moloney, Kevin Treston, Wally Connors, Joe Early, Frank Dealy.

*Some families in Gort are finding baby-sitters difficult to come by. If you would like to offer your services in this area please give your name to anyone associated with Guaire - see page 2.

*Gerard P. Fahy has started work as an Engineer with C.I.E. in Athlone. Michael Gallagher is taking up a post as an Accountant with C.I.E. in Galway. Theresa Fahy of Corker, Gort has joined the staff of St. Finbar's Hospital, Cork. Paul Cox has taken up a post with the E.S.B. Sile Breathnach is teaching in the Presentation Convent, Middleton, Paula Pigott is teaching in Clane National School, Francis Coen has started as a trainee nurse in Dr. Stevens Hospital and Colette Griffin is in France on a one year scholarship. Finally Anthony Larkin has started training as an Aer Lingus pilot.

*Congratulations to Eoin Foley and John O'Donnell on graduating from U.C.D. with B.C.L. Honours.

BOYSIE FOGARTY

January 3rd will be the fourteenth anniversary of Boysie Fogarty's death. He was one of the great characters of Gort.

Boysie was plagued with illnesses for many years, was in and out of hospitals, yet he never lost his sense of humour. He loved to play harmless pranks on his neighbours.

A Tailor by trade, his home was an open house to all. He held nurses and guards in very high esteem. Many nurses and guards in high-ranking



Boysie Fogarty

positions no doubt have memories of their early days in Gort and Boysies open fire.

Church St. with Boysie, Joe Connolly and Tom Casey was a richer place. May they rest in peace.



*Hurling in Our Lady's College is in full swing. The senior competition, played on a League basis, saw Our Lady's beat St. Mary's, Garbally College and losing to Portumna. The Junior team beat St. Mary's while the Juveniles beat Loughrea and Garbally before losing to Portumna. Portumna appear the team to beat this season.

*Gort Vocational School won All Ireland Honours last season. Three of this victorious team, Patrick Caulfield, James McNerney and Gerard Niland are available for the 1978-79 season. In their one outing to date the Senior team beat Portumna. The Under 14 team have beaten Portumna and Moneenageisha. On the football front the senior team were narrowly beaten in their first two games.

*Gort Branch of the I.C.A. have won a scholarship to An Grianán in Termonfeckin, Co. Louth for one of its members. The all expenses paid trip, sponsored by Bank of Ireland, will be in February.

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THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

COMES TO GORT

Teresa Moloney

Prayer Meetings started in Gort in the first month of this year. Since then the numbers are increasing steadily. Young and old are very welcome to these meetings.

The purposes of the prayer meetings are:

1. praise, worship and honour

2. build up the Body of Christ as brothers and sisters.

3. learn to be a caring and loving people – to build each other up with love and affection.

4. Jesus himself said where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in their midst.

5. Coming together to pray each one for the other. This support we need. All share with each other in crosses, hardships, illnesses, sorrows of life and also the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The testimony of Christian lives attracts others. Through our brothers and sisters we experience God's love.

SHARING

It is a joy to share with others and to know that no one is alone in his test. Charismatic renewal is a new freshness of what Pentecost means – the life of the Church.

The message is that God is



The Mass concelebrated by 17 bishops, 1,500 priests before 30,000 people was striking. The singing of the charismatic song 'You shall be my witnesses' was beautiful.

Bishop O'Mahony closed his homily by saying to all charismatics on that June Sunday "Go forth in love and joy from Dublin to the whole world and proclaim the Good News".

This we are trying to do in Gort, changing our lives. He is touching hearts.

Gort meetings are every Monday

night at 8. The procedure is: opening prayer, singing of hymns ('He prays twice who sings'), scripture readings, testimony sharing. Once a month the Eucharist is celebrated – the greatest act of love on this earth, the Last Supper and Calvary combined.

June 1978 saw an International Charismatic Conference come to Dublin. Thousands from eighty countries gathered to praise the Lord. Cardinal Hume stressed the task of finding out what the Spirit is saying to the Church today – and the conditions which help us listen.

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Gort Country Markets

Chairwoman: Mrs. May Brennan.
Secretary: Mrs. J. J. Burke.
Treasurer: Mrs. Chris Shaughnessy.
Controller: Mrs. Phil Nelly.

Gort Country Markets opened on 1st December, 1977. A registered company with thirty four shareholders it has twenty four regular suppliers.

Various Products:— Fresh vegetables, home made cakes, jams, marmalades, honey, potatoes, eggs, and crafts – are sold to the public every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30. Premises are rented from Nestors, Bridge St.

The National Organiser of Country Markets gave advice to the Gort Branch before starting and members are happy with progress to date. A consistent high standard of product is insisted upon by Mrs. Nelly, Controller of Gort Country Markets.



Mrs. Phil Nelly and Mrs. Heather Smyth of Gort and Kilbeacanty Country Markets.

As well as serving the public, Gort Country Markets have given its members a pride in their own skills and resources. Some money has been

made. Its success is an example of what can be achieved by true community effort.



went on for long hours with an odd break for a pint of porter. All this selling and buying took place on the street, each group of neighbours taking care of their own herd of cattle. Cows that today would fetch £300 – £400 were sold for £15 – £16 in those far off days of the 1930's.

families tired, weary and sometimes very hungry.

Another big attraction to the fairs were the Hawkers and travelling people. The hawkers had their stands set up in different parts of the town, selling goods at lower prices than they would be sold in shops.

Fairs also added to the business life of the town but due to the formation of the co-operative Livestock Marts fairs came to an end. To us that seemed a very hard kind of life with all the modern conveniences we have today but to the farmers of that time fairs were an important aspect of their lives and they enjoyed themselves. Most of these farmers have very happy memories of these days.

FAIRS IN GORT

Catherine Cummins

Gone are the days when fairs were held in Gort. Those were the times when the farmers had to walk long distances with their stock, they were up at the crack of dawn and sometimes they did not go to bed at all. A group of neighbours usually collected the stock to be sold and everybody set off together. This of course made a journey of twelve miles or more, less tedious, each one cracking a joke or maybe singing a verse of a song.

Cattle dealers usually arrived by train the previous night and stayed in hotels. The bidding for cattle commenced early in the morning and

A LONG DAY

When the deal was made the cattle were walked to the station and then were taken by train to different parts of the country, maybe to the midlands or to Northern Ireland or even to the North Wall for export to Britain.

At the end of the day the farmers made their way home to their



Humour



W.M. Quinn

Alcohol is an excellent liquid for preserving anything but secrets.

A Ladies Toilet For Gort

Oh charming girls come listen
the the news that's going around;
No provision for the weaker sex
In what's built on public ground.
We ladies are all furious,
And say that its not fair
to devote exclusive usage
to men upon the Square.
Do they think we are inhuman
that with will power we abound?
or else they b'lieve our kidneys
must be reckoned mighty sound.

SCHOOL FOOL

Jacqueline Fahy, aged 11

One day during an art lesson at school, I got paint all over my hands. Teacher told me to wash and on the way back from doing so I saw my friend come out of the room to ring the bell to end the lesson. I hid behind a wall to give her a fright when I jumped out and shouted 'Boo!' I got the fright of my life when I saw standing in front of me the headmaster. My friend had gone the other way down the corridor. The Headmaster was very understanding and didn't punish me. I was very lucky!

HATS

Pamela Jordan, Aged 11

In long ago days when hats were worn
But now adays their only torn.
Granny had pink ones
Blue ones and brown
And she always wore one
Coming to town.
She looked so pretty
With her wide brimed hat
Sitting on her pony and trap
When she died

She passed it on to me
But I only wear it going out to tea.

BADMINTON

Rynagh Piggott, aged 11

Badminton is a lovely game
Always for fun and always for fame
We have got a court for the
Badminton
It's in the dark and out of the sun
But we've got a light over it
Is costs only two shillings and a bit
It's in the Hall not far away
So if it's rainy why don't you play.

CREATION

Deirdre Reddy, Aged 10

God created the world in seven days;
He created man and all his ways;
He created the cows, the horses and sheep
And looks over all awake or sleep.
He created the air, the land and the sea,
And whatever I may do, may he watch over me
He created the plants and also the trees,
He created the typhoon and also the breeze,
He created the earth, the moon and the sun
In seven days he had it all done.

LAUGH

Anne Nestor, aged 11

Once there were two boys named
"Mind your own business" and
"Manners".
They decided to raid an orchard.
"Manners" went on the tree while
"Mind your own business" stayed on guard.
A Civic Guard came by. He asked
"Mind your own business" his name.
"Mind your own business" he replied.
The Civic Guard asked him where
were his manners.
"Up in the tree" he replied.

A PARTY I ATTENDED

Marian Carr, aged 10

I went to my friends party
We ate and we drank and were all hearty.
We sang and we danced till we were tired
Then the birthday presents we admired.

We played some games of hide and seek.
And shouted and laughed until we were weak.
When we ended we gave a sigh.
Because it was time to say good-bye.

RIDDLES

Sheila Cunningham, aged 11

What has quills and grunts?
A porky pine.
What horse wears pyjamas?
A clothes horse.
What is black and white and read all over?
A newspaper.
What's a sea-monsters favourite meal?
Fish and Ships.
What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer.
Why are ducks always in debt?
Because they have bills.
Why did the policeman climb the tree?
Because he was in the Special Branch.
Why did the cow look over the wall?
Because she couldn't look under it.
What has two wings but cannot fly?
A football team.



Marian Carr, Sheila Cunningham, Jacqueline Fahy, Anne Nestor.

Why is it never safe to sleep in trains?

Because trains run over sleepers.

What has an eye but no head?

A needle.

What is the difference between the North Pole and the South Pole.

All the difference in the world.

Why did the boy Scout feel dizzy?

Because he did too many good turns.

When is a sheep like ink?

When it is in a pen.

OUR SCHOOL

Cora Fahy, aged 10

In 1858 the lower portion of the present Convent was first used as a Primary School. By degrees the numbers of the pupils increased. By 1880 there were 500 pupils in the school, of which one hundred were boys in infant school.

The school was not big enough to cater for his number of pupils, so it was decided that a new school was needed. The nuns got a small grant from the Government. But the people of Gort raised the rest of the money through donations, bazaars, concerts etc. The new school was completed in 1887.

In January 1944 the school was destroyed by fire and for nearly two years the pupils had to attend school in part of the convent and in Saint Colman's Hall. Our present school was built at a cost of £15,000 and it was blessed and re-opened by Dr. Browne the then bishop of Galway on the 28th of August 1946. It consists of classrooms, cookery room, music rooms, and the General Purpose room. At present there are



Rynagh Piggott, Pamela Jordan, Deirdre Reddy, Cora Fahy.

134 girls and 49 boys attending the school.

I AM A RIVER

Tara Anne Nestor, aged 8½

I am a river. I started on a big mountain. I came down through fields, I saw cows, lambs, sheep, and horses. Other streams joined me, and I became a river. When I was a small stream children jumped over me and laughed. But now I am too big. They have to put a bridge over me. I ran down into a city, as I ran down I broke out new banks. I did not like the city not one little bit of it, because I heard someone say this, "Lets throw these old cans in the river".

Other people put litter and dirty pipes in me and on my banks too. Lots of people threw old dirty water that was used after dirty dishes. Most people put sweet papers in me. People did not care for me. But even though people did not care for me I did not stop, for I knew something was waiting for me. I was going much faster now and I was at the edge of the city and before I knew it I was out of the city, because I was going faster than normal. I was glad to get out of the city. I liked the country much much more than the city. It was not long before I reached a nice little cute town standing at the bottom of a huge mountain. I liked it there. People cared for me and a little boy said this "We can fish here." I saw nice little tidy houses full of very nice people but it was a small town so I ran out of it into the country. It got windy very windy. Then I got very big it was the sea. That was the something that was waiting for me.

STREET LEAGUE FINAL

David Coen & Enda McNerney



Enda McNerney and David Coen

A large crowd of supporters lined up at St. Colman's Park on Saturday to watch the Street League football Final between the holders, Georges Street and Ennis Road. Georges St. had disposed of Crowe Ennis Rd. had defeated Church in the Semi-Finals. Frank Lally scored the Final.

Enda Moloney opened the scoring with a point for Ennis Rd., but for the rest of the first half Georges St. were on top. Peter Mullins, Georges captain, inspired his team with 10 solo runs. The Burke twins and Tony Conway were also impressive for the reds. Niall Clabby the Ennis goalkeeper saved shots from a blank range towards the end of the first half.

NEW SPIRIT

There was a new spirit in the Ennis Rd. team in the second half.

THE PARISH SCHOOLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

There are four teams in the Parish League - Kiltartan, Kilmacduagh, Gort A and Gort B. Each team has 11 players and some subs - a goalkeeper, two backs, two midfielders and two forwards. The team panels were:

Kiltartan: Peter Melville, Kevin Egan, Michael Egan, Michael Diviney, Ken Conroy, Tomas Melville, Ann Diviney, Laurence Diviney, John Cahill, Glen Cahill and David Lally. The Kiltartan goalie is Ann Diviney.

Gort A: Enda McNerney, David Coen, John Kenny, Tony Conway, Noel Gormley, Joseph Gleeson, Paul Mulcaire, Alan Devlin, Gerard Lally and Paul Diviney.

They laid siege to the Georges St. goal immediately and were rewarded by goals from Alan Devlin and Paul Diviney. The last ten minutes were very exciting as Georges St. tried desperately to get back into the game but when the final whistle sounded Ennis Rd. were clear winners having scored 3 goals and 1 point against

Georges St. 1 goal and 2 points.

After the game Mr. Conroy presented the O'Conaire Cup to Ennis Rd. captain, Enda Moloney. He praised the two teams for providing such a good game and said he felt the pep-talk given to the Ennis Rd. team at half time, by Mr. Moloney was a great help to them.



Peter Melville

Gort B: John Gleeson, Billy Kelly, Seamas Breathnach, Anthony Burke, Kieran Burke, Enda Moloney, Peter Mullins, Derek Kenny, Gerard McGann and John Roche.

Kilmacduagh: Tomas Driscoll, Ian Cahill, Martin Connolly, Billy Glynn, Gabriel Glynn, Dermot Flaherty, Martin Cooley, Paul Flaherty, Brian Mullins, Peter Coen, Brendan Cooley, Noel Finnegan, Gary Linnane, Kieran Helebert and Thomas Linnane.

Referee: Frank Lally. Frank is a great worker.

There were six games, each lasting 30 minutes. The first game was

played between Kiltartan and Kilmacduagh. It was played on a Sunday and the day was fine and sunny. Kiltartan won.

A most exciting game was the one between Gort A and Kiltartan. The players were very tired at half time. Kiltartan won by a point. Kiltartan beat Gort B by four points. Gort A beat Gort B and they also beat Kilmacduagh in a very sporting game.

The final is between Gort A and Kiltartan.

A LITTLE ABOUT OLD GORT



Colin Fennessy

Old Gort was once proud to have its own hospital. It was at the top of George's St. and was run by Mother Francis, a Mercy sister. Because of the high rates it was closed as a hospital in the 1930's and patients were transferred to the old Central Hospital in Galway. It then became a

NAMES OF GORT Niall Clabby

Gort like nearly all towns in Ireland is rich in Irish and Norman names. Their names probably came to be with the banishing of the Irish to the land bordered by the river Shannon. This explains why many of the names in Gort are of Irish descent.

Many famous tribes were banished to Connaught e.g. the O'Connors. It is strange how the Irish tended to take the name of famous ancestors as their own second name e.g. Brian Boru his descendants would take the name Ó Briain or of Brians kin.

The Norman names of the town are not as common the Burke (De Burgo) and the Welsh's from Wales. No town would be perfect without its queer names such as Ó Clabaigh (Clabby) which means of the wide mouth. Our names are sometimes very old - this we should be proud of.

shelter for the homeless.

The first Post Office in Gort was run by a Mrs. Mitchell and her sister Miss Quinn. Mr. Mitchell had a timber yard at the rear of the Post Office. It was rented by a Mr. Lahiffe and is now the residence of the clerical staff of Our Lady's College, Gort.

Today's Courthouse was once the residence of an old established Gort family, James Nestor and sons.

The first secondary school in Gort was opened on the Ennis Road in the early 40's by a Kerryman, Mr. Brazil. It was a private school. Vice-Principal was Mr. Goff.

was called Liberty Hall. It was on the Galway Road where James Hickey lives today. Mr. G. Keane of Bridge St. owned the local cinema in Crowe St. For nine old pence people thronged weekly to the entertainment of silent movies. Mr. G. Keane also had a sheep wash in Crowe St. at the back of the new council estate.

Old Gort had two water mills. A Mr. Burke ran one in Kinincha and the other was run by the Hynes family on Station Road.

There are two islands on the river Beagh. Gort island is in the Mercy Convent grounds and is beautifully kept. The second island is called Nuns Island and is at the back of Mr. Heenan's house in Ballyhugh.

I like to learn about old Gort.

ENTERTAINMENT

The first recreation hall in Gort



Front row from left: Seamas Hayes, Alan Devlin, Enda Moloney, Garret Piggott, Declan Fahy. Patrick Jordan, Frankie Glynn, Alan Glynn and Padraic Gillane were also on the team.

Back row from left: Brendan Carr, Christopher Piggott, Paul Mulcaire, Niall Clabby, Paul Diviney, Seamas Breathnach and Shane Minogue.

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Crowe St., Gort.
Drink and relax in pleasant atmosphere.

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AL STUFFING:

2 lbs lean veal
2 lbs lean bacon
1 small onion chopped
2 cups breadcrumbs
2 oz melted butter
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
Pepper and salt
Eggs.

Mix the veal and bacon. Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the chopped onion and cook. Mix together the meat, breadcrumbs, seasonings, parsley. Add the onion melted fat and bind together with the beaten egg.

SAUSAGE STUFFING:

1 large onion (chopped)
1 lb sausage meat
2 oz lard
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
1 teaspoon mixed herbs
Pepper and salt.

Method: Sauté chopped onion in oil. Add the sausagemeat and sauté until golden. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well.

STUTNUT STUFFING:

2 lbs bacon
2 cups breadcrumbs
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
2 oz butter
Eggs
1 cup chestnut puree
1/2 cup rind of lemon
Pepper and salt.

Mix chestnut puree. Chop bacon and fry. Add all ingredients together and bind with beaten egg.

ROAST TURKEY:

1 lb fried sausages. Thin brown sauce. Cranberry or bread sauce.

CHRISTMAS COOKERY SECTION

Kathleen Croffy

ALMOND PASTE:

1 lb ground almonds
1 lb. castor sugar
1/4 teaspoon almond essence
1 tablespoon whiskey
1 tablespoon sherry
2 eggs

1. Crush all lumps from almonds.
2. Add castor sugar. Beat the eggs and add the whiskey and sherry to them. Add this to the almond and sugar and mix to a stiff paste. Turn out on a sugared board and knead well. Roll out and use as required.

Sugar: Use icing sugar.

MOCK ALMOND PASTE using no almonds, very economical.

4 ozs. semolena
4 ozs. sugar
1 1/2 teaspoon almond essence
2 ozs. margarine
2 tablespoon water
1 dessertspoon rum.

1. Melt margarine in water over low heat.
2. Add semolena, stir, cook for one minute.
3. Add sugar, stir and cook for one minute.
4. Add essence and rum. Cool, cover and leave in fridge overnight.
5. Bring to room temperature and use as required.

ROYAL ICING:

1 lb icing sugar
2 egg whites
juice of lemon
A few drop of blue
1 teaspoon glycerine.

Method

Sieve sugar through sieve. Mix with the half beaten egg white, lemon juice and glycerine. Beat for 10-15 minutes.

MINCE PIES:

Pastry: 8 ozs flour
4 ozs margarine
8 ozs mincemeat
A little beaten egg
A little water.

Make pastry: By rubbing margarine into flour and adding cold water to make a stiff paste. Roll out thinly. Cut into rounds. Grease a baking tin. Line each case with a round of pastry and fill with a spoon of mince. Cover with another round of pastry. Seal the edges and brush over with beaten egg. Bake in a hot oven (450 or Reg. 7) for twenty five to thirty minutes.

COLD SWEETS

BAKED ALASKA:

7" round sponge cake
1-2 tablespoon sherry
1 block of ice cream
3-4 egg whites
4-6 ozs castor sugar.
1 can fresh fruit (fruit cocktail).

Pre heat oven to 450 or Reg. 7. Place the sponge cake on a heatproof dish. Sprinkle with sherry and cover with fruit. Arrange the ice cream on top. Whisk the egg white stiffly and fold in the castor sugar. Pile the meringue on to the dish covering the cake, fruit and ice cream. Place in the oven immediately and cook for two to three minutes until the outside begins to brown. Serve at once.

CHOCOLATE YULE LOG:

1 chocolate Swiss Roll
4 ozs chocolate Butter icing
Butter icing:
2 ozs icing sugar
2 ozs chocolate powder
2 ozs butter
1/4 teaspoon vanilla essence.

Sieve chocolate powder and icing sugar together. Cream in butter and add vanilla. Spread over swiss roll and score with a fork to get the 'log effect'. Decorate with holly and dredge icing sugar on top to represent snow.

Bringing Light to Derrybrien

John Joe Coreless

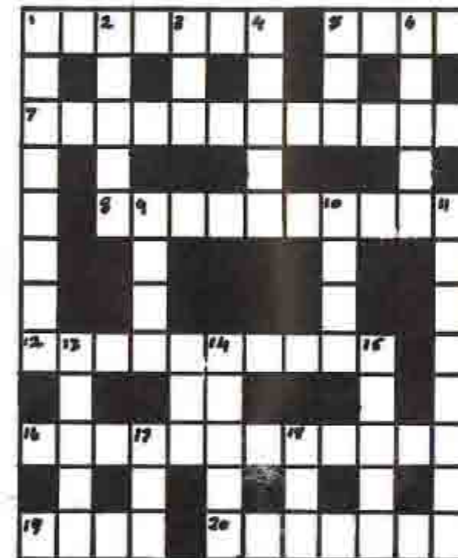
'Twas the year of '55, that remarkable year
When the turf was so scarce and the water so dear,
The E.S.B. thought it a suitable time to light up the houses in old Derrybrien;
But 'twas not to burn them the E.S.B. meant
For the grand people there were full of content,
But they could not do stitching so well in the night
So the E.S.B. said we'll give them great light.

They employed all the men they could find all around
From Ballinakill to the Cross of Kanespound
Kilbeacanty, Gort and as far as Crusheen
On the hills about Laught they were

all to be seen.
We were digging great holes in the fields all around
And ruining the surface of valuable ground.
Such mighty big 'sportages' you never did see
Big lumps of the toughest and hardest doughbee.
'Twas heaven help the Ganger he had a hard time
In watching the dodgers all along the line;
For we'd rather be talkin' than sinkin' the holes
Or sittin' down smokin' than liftin' the Poles.
We were diggin' and pickin' with picks and with spades

And cuttin' tobacco with penknives and blades.
And after the dinner if the Gaffer's away
We would steal to Matt Tully's to drink cups of tay.

Well faith Derrybrien is a lovely grand place
As me Dad used to say - a people of grace,
Its the greatest and grandest North, South East or West
And around Joe Egan's and Macs is the best.
So hurrah for the men of that old E.S.B.
And the pints of chape porter
And Matt Tully's free tea.



Across

1. Bevelled.
2. Draught excluder.
7. Silage Cover 7-5.
8. Impregnated with wood alcohol.
12. Trinity of space.
16. Prefabricated.
19. Razor-sharp.
20. Marked.

Down

1. Victual Receptacle.
2. Mechanism to tighten.
3. Spasmodic.
4. Un-steady, kind of mountain goat.
5. Keynote anglicised.
6. Timber not native.
9. It can be of mind or appetite with the indefinite article.
10. You would store it in one down
11. Protected.
13. Vexed.
14. Wounds.
15. Stunted tree.
17. Kind of capsule.
18. Could be mineral or sailor.

First drawn correct solution from hat wins a voucher valued £5.00 at Coens Pharmacy Department, Gort.

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For high class grocery and fruit.
Your custom appreciated.

MHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN

branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí
nn was formed in Gort in
er 1977. A year later interest
sh music is blossoming in South
ay. Why?

omhaltas Chairman in Gort,
éal Cunningham, suggests two
rs: firstly the co-operation of a
erful team of musicians and
dly the different fortnightly
ons of all Comhaltas functions.
ter the O'Loughlin School of



altas Chairman, Ml. Cunningham.

rs visited the United States in
interest in Irish music gained
ntum in the region. The result
is was the forming of a
altas Branch in Gort in honour
late Joe Cooley.

entertainers were many — Chris
y, Chris Nestor, Paddy Darcy,
Jordan, Tom Mulkerrins,

Tony Niland, John Moloney, Tony
Diviney, Tommy Niland, Joe Clancy,
Michael Howley, Martin Fahy, Paddy
Joe Lyons, Frank Holland, Peter
Gardiner, Paddy Cooley, Milo
Mullins, Pat Walsh, Tom
Shaughnessy, Coilín Moran and Sean
O'Neill.

Activities consisted of an Irish
night every fortnight in different
locations. These sessions were
informal and often the full quota of
musicians performed.

During the year Féile Ceoil Gort
Inse Guaire was run by Comhaltas.
This was a competition for all
musical instruments and Irish
dancing with competitors ranging
from five to seventeen years.

SERVICES FREE

Radio na Gaeltachta recorded
sessions as did Ciarán Mac Mathúna
for his traditional Irish Music
programme on R.T.E. Radio. A
special Irish night was organised for
the Gort Autumn Festival. At the
moment Irish dancing classes for
adults and teenagers are taking place
in Nestor's Arcade. These classes are
well supported — almost 30 attend
with Mrs. Attracta O'Dea and Mrs.
Margaret Carr as instructors.

An unusual but welcome feature

of all Comhaltas sessions is that
services by the musicians are given
free of any charge. In late October
these musicians were entertained to a
meal in Ennis. It was deserved.

Comhaltas has also many young
entertainers. The O'Loughlin School
of Dancing perform at many of their
functions. This service was
acknowledged in November when
they were entertained to a film and
meal in Galway, by the Gort branch
of Comhaltas.

The Comhaltas provides an ideal
outlet for people in the middle years.
It also introduces the wonderful
tradition of Irish music to teenagers.

All involved has worked hard.
Their efforts have restored to Gort
an awareness of something uniquely
Irish.

The Founding Committee of the
Gort Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí
Éireann was:

President: Brendan Long; Chairman:
Micheál Cunningham; Joint
Secretaries: Mrs. Maureen Spellman
and Mrs. Theresa Moloney;
Treasurer: Chris Nestor; Committee:
Mrs. Mary Rochford, Mrs. Enda
Daly, Mrs. Nora Brennan, Mrs. Rose
Mullins, Paddy Darcy, Paddy Jordan
and Mrs. Attracta O'Dea.

were in the party including three
from Gort — Angela Donnellan,
Michael Kilroy and Edel
Cunningham. The party gave
concerts in New York, Boston and
Long Island. At Eisinghower Park the
party were the guests of Joe
Kennedy, a Bord Failte
representative on the East Coast.
20,000 people gave a standing
ovation at this concert.

There is one feature of the
dancing that is a pity. Many dancers
leave the school at thirteen or
fourteen. It would be great if these
stayed on as Irish dancing is an
excellent pastime, a great medium
for making friends and
tremendously fulfilling.

AMERICAN TOUR

In 1975 the dancing school had a
successful three week tour of the
United States. Twenty five dancers

YOUTH DANCING

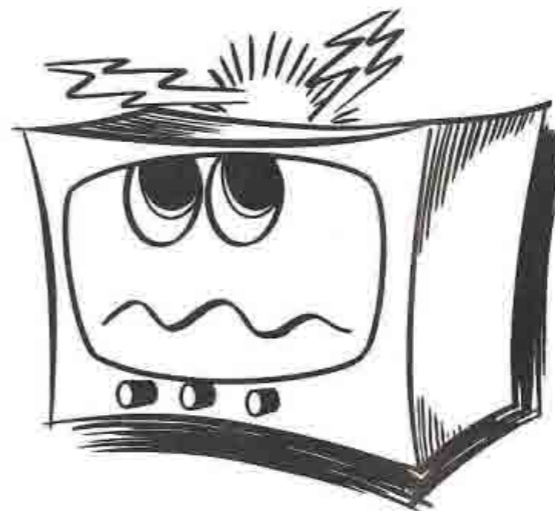
Edel Cunningham

O'Loughlin School of
ig began in Gort in 1971.

ce then the class has expanded
ost of the dancers who started
at time are now very
enced having competed in
feiseanna throughout Ireland,
ng numerous medals and
s. These feiseanna include the
ntas and the All Ireland. The
at this school also take part in
a nÓg and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí

ig feature of the class is Set
g which now is being revived
taught by the School of
g. Many pupils, boys and girls,

RTE 1 & 2



Bernadette Fennessy

When I heard we were to have a
new Irish television channel, R.T.E. 2
instead of the famed British channels
B.B.C.1, B.B.C. 2 or I.T.V. my first
opinion was great! We can now
argue which is worse R.T.E. 1 or 2.

Since the new channel opened my
opinion has changed completely. Not
only does R.T.E. 2 offer a choice,
but it offers a good choice. Families
are already arguing over the channel
they want to watch. The solution to
this problem of course is to have two
T.V. sets in each house.

R.T.E. 2 has been a hit with the
younger generation because it shows
programmes like "Sha Na Na" on
Saturday nights and "Top of the
Pops" on Thursday. "Mind your
language", Bruce Forsyth's Big Night
and 'The Paper Chase' are also hits.

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hot bread, sweets, ices and grocery
go to

MARTYN'S, BRIDGE ST.



HALLOWEEN

Eva Martyn

This Halloween in my opinion was
enjoyed by most people. For
instance there was an Old Folks
Party in the Credit Union Hall where
the old people had tea and later
listened and danced to the Céilí
music.

For the teenagers there was a
Disco in Nestors Arcade and I think
that most teenagers enjoyed
themselves. A bus brought many
young people from Clarinbridge on
to Gort. We heard the two pop songs
from 'Grease' — 'Sandie' and
'Summer Nights'.

The smaller children enjoyed
themselves too. Some children
dressed up in old clothes and sang at
many doorsteps. Also most children
had masks and witches hats and
plenty of nuts.

There were Halloween parties in
many houses and some bonfires too.
I think we all enjoyed Halloween.
Don't forget to have a happy and
cheerful Christmas.

Gort Youth Club

The Youth Club in Gort has been organised and has commenced a season. The background to this organisation merits explanation. Bishop Eamonn Casey appointed Tom Tarpey as Diocesan Director of Youth Work in July 1978. Fr. Tarpey ran a very successful youth club in Lisdoonvarna for many years and spent 1977-78 studying youth work in Swansea University. He is qualified for his new post.

On the invitation of Michael Egan and Fr. Enda Glynn, Fr. Tarpey came to Gort on 1 November and discussed the Gort Youth Club with some young people. A plan of action was drawn up.

Firstly the youth of the town were invited to a meeting in the Gort Union Hall. They listed over 50 ideas of a social and sporting club which interested them. They suggested the names of some people who might be willing to help with the youth club.

These adults were approached and led to a meeting. After two meetings between the adults and the Youth Club Committee, the end of which Fr. Tarpey presided, a programme of activities was drawn up.

The seven activities were: one for boys, First Aid, Plays, Singing, Badminton, Table Tennis and Mixed Soccer. Every youth club member picks two activities and on a Friday night does one from 8 to 9 and another from 9 to 10.

ACTIVITIES assisting are:

The activities are now in full swing on youth club night, Friday. The adults assisting are:

Cookery: Eileen Egan and Brigid O'Regan.

Plays: Eileen Mulkerrins and Pat O'Donnell.

First Aid: Kathleen Nestor and Marie Devlin.

Badminton: Christy McNevin and Michael Reddy.

Singing: Eithne McCarthy and Patricia McNevin.

Table Tennis: Evelyn Roche and Theresa Moloney.

Soccer: Johnny Cummins, Mossy Clabby, Sheila Duffy, Matt Murphy and Paddy Crowley.

Information for this article was supplied by Mona Martyn.



Chairperson, Mona Martyn

Overall helpers: Michael McGann and Fr. Enda Glynn.

Youth Club Committee:

Chairperson: Mona Marthy.

Secretary: Kathleen O'Regan.

Treasurer: Coilí Roche.

P.R.O.: Aidrian Moloney.

The new Youth Club programme would never have materialised without the help of Fr. Michael Carney, Micheál Breathnach and Noel Mullins who allowed the Youth Club avail of the respective facilities under their responsibility.

The youth are also appreciative of the adult help. Fr. Tarpey has emphasized how important it is for the youth club to be accepted by the community. While there will never be 100% approval, is it too much to expect that those not approving would respect the charity of silence.

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.

KILTARTAN

Una Burke,
Patricia Connors



Thomas Hansberry, Oliver Forde, Joseph Ronan, Ida Forde, Noreen Quinn, Veronica Hynes and Catherine Nolan.

Second Class: Martin Downey, Joseph Regan, Michael Kelleher, Michael Flanagan, Patrick Walsh, Michael Cahill, Michael Hansberry, Patrick Hynes and Rita Diskin.

Third Class: Gerard Killilea, Thomas Quinn, Patrick Hansberry, Rena Fahy, Patricia Walsh, Josephine Donohue, Mary Geraghty, Teresa Nolan, Rena McAllen and Brenda Killilea.

Fourth Class: Denis Regan, David Fahy, Mary Baldwin, Nuala Diskin, Pauline Quinn, Ann Cahill and Rita Killilea.

Fifth Class: Bernard Cunningham, Aidan Cahill, Eamon Fahy, Desmond Forde, Brendan Flanagan, Margaret Donohue, Brigid Hynes, Maureen Killilea and Eileen Diskin.

Sixth Class: Francis Fahy, Patrick Quinn, Patrick Downey, Dermot

Coen, Patrick Baldwin and Gerard Conroy, Mary Donohue, Eileen Regan, Mary Cahill, Mary Hynes, Bernadette Quinn and Bernadette Killilea.

The present teachers are Mr. N. Cafferky and Mrs. B. Long. Sixty-six is the present number of pupils on rolls.

Kiltartan was made famous when Lady Gregory wrote her play, *Kiltartan Cross*. It was also at Kiltartan Cross Raftery met Mary Hynes, about whom he wrote the poem "Máire Ní Eidhin". A 100 yards from Kiltartan Cross lie the remains of Robert Gregory, about whom Yeats wrote "An Irish Air Man Foresees his Death".

Kiltartan church was built in 1842. It stands near the river, where St. Colman's mother, Rena, was nearly drowned. The stone, which is said to have been tied around her neck, can be seen in the old ruin in the cemetery.

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Large selection school requirements in stock.

HARTE'S PUB

Bridge St., Gort.
Music every Saturday and Sunday nights.
Very pleasant setting for a nice drink.

DOWN to EARTH

There is nothing like a handcraft bringing us down to earth. The most ingenious fancies will take a tumble if they cannot make our saw-cuts neat and true, make a clean joint or drive a nail straight.

Creations of fine craftsmanship have been reared upon hard facts. The essential value of such work is that it compels us to acquire the skill or the patience. There is no half measure for the craftsman who wants to do good work.

A great deal of theorizing, the froth and bubble of temporary life, is cursed by a lack of headwork against too little work. Expert contradicts expert, prophets disagree, all revolving in circles of words and figures.

The craftsman who wants to do a job has to set about it honestly and in good faith. He is not betrayed by the rash optimism of the amateur thinking a thing looks so easy when he will do it in no time at all — having learned long ago that nothing is as easy as it looks.

He takes great care at every stage in preparing, assembling and finishing, knowing that if a snag is to develop, experience will get him past it. He will not create snags through his own carelessness.

EFFORT

It is this apprenticeship to the

Seamas Conway

A hard fact of woodwork and especially of furniture making which turns the amateur into the skilled worker and the skilled worker into a craftsman. Each advance has to be made through his own individual effort. He may receive help and advice from a man of more experience, or he may struggle unaided. But according to his effort and determination so will his skill be and so will it grow.

It is this which gives a man a sense of balance of belonging to a real world — over which he has a limited power. An awareness of these limits are a challenge to some men. The wish to break through to do even finer work. They are prepared to give themselves up to it, to let it absorb them. From this background the finest craftsmen emerge.

For the rest of us it is good to learn something of our limitations, to know how our own temperaments can hinder or help us. Then impatience can be kept on the leash till it becomes the finest of patience and can work out in the fingertips

like a sense of intuition. In a craftsman intuition is a lovely thing because he has come to it by a long road.

PERSEVERANCE

Somewhere along the road has been his own sturdy will which has kept him working time and time again, when he could have gladly thrown down tools and quit. For life is like that. Things we started in high hopes go stale and there are moments when difficulties crowd in. The man who can persevere in spite of them learns to be a master of himself and acquires a mastic touch in the work of his hands.

This is the man who gets the best out of life. Work which he can show as his own creation stands as a witness to his quality. He reveals himself in something uniquely his own and can feel satisfied and fulfilled.

It is a feeling which no money can buy and for the lack of it many men in the world today are sick with the malaise of frustration and boredom. The fact that the true enjoyment of life is best achieved through the discovery and development of personal and creative skills does not occur to enough people today.

We can all feel at home as long as we are conscious within ourselves of some kind of power to cope with life's demands — a power which we alone by the persevering effort of our will can release and see develop into fruitful work. But if we fail, we fail lamentably because we shall have betrayed the best of ourselves.

CHRISTOPHER FENNESSY

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GORT MOTOR WORKS

Prop; M. Roche

Specialist — Oil, all grades.
Tyres, batteries and big selection of accessories.



Badminton in Gort



Patricia Monahan

There was Badminton in Gort many years ago but it was not until 1974 that it was revived. At first the Club hadn't many members but as interest in Badminton grew the members began to increase.

Badminton is played in St. Colman's Hall and in 1975 the Club entered its first team in the Galway League. The team members were:

Men: Pat Burke, Ronnie Killeen, Patrick Griffin, Raymond Forde, Christy McNevin (Sub.)

Women: Patsy Hough, Vera Harrington, Teresa Lyons, Olga Scully, Salena Carthy (Sub.)

The team wasn't very successful in the 1975-76 season but it didn't give up hope. They trained hard for the next season and were a little more successful. Some games were won but Gort didn't win out their section. The panel for 1976-77 was:

Men: Pat Burke, Raymond Forde, Ronnie Killeen, Christy McNevin and Johnny Donoghue.

Women: Cynthia Piggot, Teresa Lyons, Patsy Hough, Vera Harrington, Mary Coffey.

CHANGE

A change took place for the 1977-78 season. Two Fourth Division teams played in the League. Gort A did very well and won their section. They were beaten by Clifden in the Semi-Final. The Gort A team was:

Men: Ronnie Killeen, Pat Craddock, John Nolan, Christy McNevin, Gerry Donoghue.

Women: Patricia Monaghan, Martina Walsh, Patricia Walsh, Geraldine Monaghan and Selena Carthy.

The Gort B team also did well,

winning many of their games. This team was:

Men: Colman Molloy, Mick Jordan, Dan Casey, Kevin Donoghue, Tommie Loughrey and Micheál Cahill.

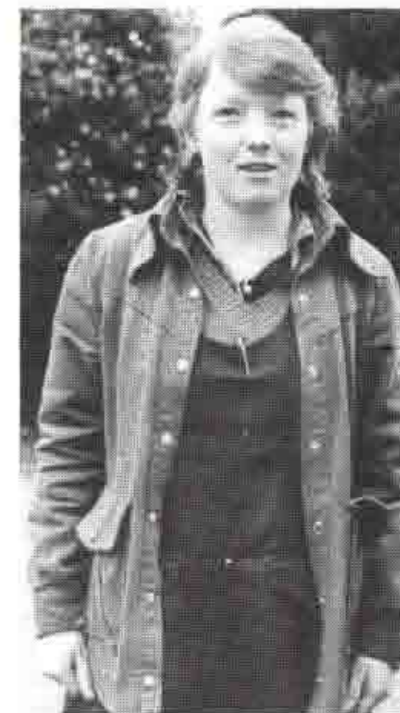
Women: Patricia McNevin, Dolores Oakley, Mary Carey, Teresa Lyons, Patsy Hough and Vera Killeen.

Now the Club is in the middle of this year's League. Team A went up one division to division three. Both teams are doing well in the League.

The Club also entered players in the Loughrea Open Championships. Patricia Walsh and her sister Martina got as far as the final of the Ladies Doubles. This year the two Monaghan sisters got to the final which was a fine achievement.

Badminton then has grown in strength since 1974. There are over 100 members now and there would surely be many more except for the poor facilities. The Hall is badly in need of repair and proper facilities. Next year we hope to have a Second Division, Third Division and Fourth Division team competing in the League. The present teams are:

Third Division Men: John Nolan, Ronnie Killeen, Pat Craddock, Christy McNevin, Gerry Donoghue.



Pat Monahan

Women: Patricia Walsh, Geraldine Monaghan, Martina Walsh and Patricia Monaghan.

4th Division Men: Colman Molloy, Micheal Reddy, Dan Casey, Johnny Donoghue.

Women: Patricia McNevin, Dolores Oakley, Gene Leahy, Mary Carey and Vera Killeen.

CLASSIC BALLROOM, GORT

Christmas Dancing Special
Friday, December 22nd

Gina, Dale Hayes and the Champions.
Dancing 9.30 to 1.30. Adm. 150p
Enjoy yourself in the Classic during the Christmas season.

Badminton Connacht Convent Schools

Martina Walsh

Badminton is becoming a popular game in Ireland. It is played in the four provinces, especially Ulster, Leinster and Munster. Recently it has gained a strong footing in Connacht where there are over thirty Badminton clubs in County Galway. It is not only being played in various clubs but it is now being played in schools. This year St. Joseph's secondary school has produced two Badminton teams, a Junior and Senior team. Teams from various schools in Connacht compete in the Connacht League which began in October and continues until March. Last year the Gort senior team reached the Connacht final but were beaten four games to two by Taylor's Hill. It was the first year there was a Connacht team for the school.



Margaret Purcell, Deirdre Finnerty, Geraldine Killeen and Betty Liddy - all boarders at St. Joseph's, Convent of Mercy.

The team members were: Agnes Connaire, Patricia Walsh, Jean Coen and Martina Walsh.

1978-79

This year's Senior team is Patricia Walsh, Jean Coen, Christina Halvey, Martina Walsh and Stephanie Healy. In the Senior League there are eleven teams competing: Foxford, Roscommon, Enniscrone, Tuam, Claremorris, Glenamaddy, Taylor's Hill, Athenry, Loughrea, Headford and Gort.

There are ten teams in the Junior League: Foxford, Enniscrone, Drumshanbo, Glenamaddy, Athenry, Headford, Taylor's Hill, Oranmore, Roscommon and Gort. Mary Rose Harrington, Margaret Purcell, Geraldine Killeen, Betty Liddy and Deirdre Finnerty, all boarders in the Convent, make up the team.

Badminton is becoming very popular and many schools are putting it on the school curriculum. It is a fast game, requiring skill and fitness.

Above all it is a game which the young and the old can play and everyone gets enjoyment from it.



Senior team: Martina Walsh, Christina Halvey, Stephanie Healy and Patricia Walsh.

I was ambling up George's St. the other afternoon.

Just above the red bridge coming towards me were three strapping lads.

As I drew almost level, I put my arms out in a stopping gesture. "Whoo", I said, "are ye university students?"

The lad on the outside was blonde, the other two were dark-haired - the blonde lad proved the most voluble. "Not exactly - Our Lady's College", he said. "Begor then", I added, "ye must be mighty clever. For that's a famous seat of learning. Are ye farmers sons?" "Well our ould lads have a few acres all right and a few Fresians and charrolets" they said.

"Well then", I cut in, "could ye tell me what is a duck?" The dark lads looked non-plussed, but the blonde was quick off the target. "Well all I know is if I got into the ring with Mahommad Ali - I'd duck".

I shook my head dismally at Ireland's "Future Farmers". They continued down towards the Square - three well-mannered youths.

PUTTING THE DUCKS TO BED

What put ducks into my head? It was the recurrence of a hateful thought that had dogged and tormented me for fifty years. For "putting the ducks to bed" used to be my frustrating chore as a boy.

Every farmhouse in the 30's had hens and turkies in season. Lake side dwellers had geese - Fiolains - rightfully called 'Macks Smile' - for they depended on sustenance on what they could forage from the lake waters. They had breasts as sharp and unflashed as the then famous razor blade.

Our ducks had a routine as regulated as a Model Girls diet. Out they came in the morning with a proud imperious Quack Quack that belied the few blue duck eggs they had left behind.

Ducks were always uneconomic. They still are. Ducks are a stubborn and unsubduable species. They lack affection and scorn patronage.

Their early morning bath, so disdained by humans, was a joyous ritual to them. They snozzled their beaks against the green waters on the pond in the haggard, rivulating the

water over their well-oiled backs - gobbled down their breakfast of mashed oats and boiled potatoes, and like soldiers in regimentation, set off for the corn-field in single file over the dew drenched grass, gobbling up unsuspecting slugs en route.

They disdained the haggard and the precincts of home till the call went out at even-tide. "Did anyone go for the ducks yet?" My mother was first to give the command.

It was my unenviable task, being the youngest, to round up the ducks.

Back they would wobble in similar single file along the well trodden path and like us children they didn't want to go to bed. Putting in the ducks was a heart scald. They banded together in a desperate last ditch stand. They beckoned their heads in scorn.

ELUSIVE

Hens can be "shushed" or frightened or fatigued into the hen house, but the stubborn ducks might go right or left or quack out of beam.

They went into disarray in a seeming well-planned manoeuvre to outwit my efforts. Now if a sheep goes out the gap, the others follow in sheep-like intuition.

Not ducks. One duck in, maybe two or three ducks in but there was always at least one duck to foil the effort. He or she, (you can't tell the sexes in a duck as you can in hens and cocks) will prove as elusive as a wet eel. You can outwit a hen, force her to her corner, but a duck can "duck" in a fashion that defies subjection.

THE DUCKS

Attrition is unknown in Duck Land. When the last is in, amid a spate of blasphemy from myself that can only be obliterated by my next confession, they bunch unsubdued in a corner of the duck-house, conquered but recalcitrant, quack-quacking in uneasy defiance.

Ducks are a thing of the past except for the monied gourmet.

Nowadays it's 'chicken a la carte, chicken and ham, braised chicken, chicken hot from the grill'. The timid cackling hen is cooped today, denied even the motherly affection of her brood.

It's an artificial world, but it has its recompenses. If they only had cooped up ducks in my youth, the chore of putting the ducks to bed would be non-existent and I would have less grey hairs in this, my twilight, haunted by memories of the sneaky, slippery wet footed monsters.

"Yes sir, roast pork, chicken and ham, or duckling with apple sauce a la carte" intones the waiter at the Egon Ronary selected Dromoland Castle Hotel.

"Waiter, I'll settle for chicken and ham". Though I hate its monotony tender duckling in the most sumptuous surround conjures up memories I'd much rather forget.

Yes mother you were so good in so many ways, like ordering me to devotions or getting my shoes polished or having my hair washed, but telling me "round up the ducks and put them to bed" - that I will always recall with horror.

But it was in the times and for that I'll forgive her. I cannot recall anything so elusive as those fleet-footed, quacking defiant blooming ducks.

So the lads from Our Lady's College, in their new found Emancipation have a lot to be thankful for.

