

QUAIRE

SUMMER 1984



£1

GUAIRE

Due to shortage of space some articles and poems have had to be left over. They will be included in the Christmas issue.

SUMMER 1984

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

Editor: Peadar O Conaire.
Design: Josephine Ward.
Typist: Hilda Roche.

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Editorial Board: Frank Lally, Nicholas Cafferkey, Paddy Cooke, Evelyn Roche, Chris O'Shaughnessy, Bernadette Fennessy, Michael Bermingham,

Sean Leahy and Michael O'Dwyer.

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

EDITORIAL

Guairé magazine has been coming to you for the past six years. We have always tried, as far as possible to cater for the various interests of our readers. Young people have claimed from time to time, perhaps with some justification, that the magazine tends to be too sentimental. How can this be changed? The obvious way is to have more young people involved in the magazine. Articles, poems, letters, etc., from young people

are especially welcome.

The base of this magazine needs to be broadened. "Guairé" is read in the parishes of Beagh, Kilbeacanty, Peterswell and Kinvara, yet the Editorial Board is comprised entirely of people who live in Gort parish. Practically all articles etc. submitted for publication are from Gort people. I hereby issue an invitation to people in neighbouring parishes to join Guairé. We need you.

One word about costs. Soaring! The last issue cost

£1,100 Eight hundred copies were sold. Simple mathematics will tell you that without our advertisers we would not survive too long. We are deeply indebted to them.

Early in September the A.G.M. of "Guairé" will be held. New members will be very welcome. And remember you don't have to be a writer or a poet to join.

I hope you all enjoy this issue of our magazine. Gach rath oraibh.

PEADAR O'CONAIRE

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Out and About

ATHLETICS

1984 - Olympic year again - The World's top athletes having their sights set on Los Angeles. - The Soviet Union and some of their allies pulling out - The suggestion that the Olympics return to Greece in their true amateur form on a permanent basis. All this just a few short months before the greatest sporting occasion in the world.

Reports reaching us from Los Angeles suggest that the City is a "No go area" for the ordinary sport follower due to the high commercialism of the games there apart altogether from the cost of getting there from this part of the world. Indeed one wonders how many true amateurs (as we understand the word) take part in these games at present. Nearer home we have the winners of the Men's and Women's National Marathons disqualified because the form of advertising they carried was not in accordance with the regulations.

While on the subject of Olympics, what are Ireland's prospects in the athletic events? We have athletes capable of winning one or more gold medals, Eamon Coughlan, John Tracy, Declan Hegarty (Hammer), Carey Maye and Regina Joyce and a number of world class athletes who are just failing to make the big break through. It is just 28 years now since the little fancied Ronnie Delaney, although then the world indoor record holder, slipped by the main bunch of contenders for the most coveted prize of the games in Melbourne - the 1,500 metres. Since then we have had a lean time in Olympic Games.

Back home again we have the local South Galway Athletic Club going from strength to strength. The club members and officials through whose dedication the club has become one of the leading clubs in Connaught are

now supported by the local Banks, Business etc. It is not that they are looking for a rip-off from advertising or publicity but to assist in providing a much needed recreation in the area. The Galway County Athletic Championships were staged this year in Gort for the 3rd successive year. Indeed it has now reached the stage that other clubs in the county are reluctant to stage them due to the high standard of efficiency and expertise by the South Galway Club.

The South Galway Athletic Championships held recently at St. Colman's Park attracted the largest crowd to date. We had some very spectacular performances from the young athletes. We expect the majority of these will leave their mark at County and Provincial level by the end of the season. The more impressive ones during the past year, Richard Landon, Colin Casey, Gerry Burke, David Linnane, Leonard Forde, Niall Clabby, Patrick O'Sullivan, Mary Standford, Ann Marie Kelly, Carmel Burke, Nora and Mary Dooley.



One of South Galway A. C.'s promising young athletes, Richard Landon.

The Club have now acquired a new set of hurdles designed and manufactured by Malachy Quinn's Engineering Works, Labane. They have also acquired a complete new set of singlets.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LTD.

The Council Committee are pleased to report that after one and a half years of planning and preparation the bulldozer moved in on the site on the 20th of March. Mr. Frank Higgins has the contract for the preparation of the site and the laying of the foundations. It is hoped that this work will be completed in about four weeks time. M/s Oran Precast have the contract for the erection of the portal frame and roof. Construction of the beams and girders are at an advanced stage and they will be ready to move on to the site as soon as the foundations are complete.

A temporary delay was caused when the water main for the town had to be re-routed otherwise the building would have to be placed over it.

The initial cost of building was estimated at £250,000. We were promised by the then Minister for Sport that the Government would grant us £2 for every £1 collected. This meant we would have to raise approx. £90,000. This we tackled vigorously in the following manner; Autumn Festival, Draws, Sponsored Walks, King/Queen Contest, Irish Night, dances, etc. etc.

Today we are happy to tell you we have collected £80,000 of this target, however, the picture has changed drastically due to the economic situation in the country and this Capital Grant now will be greatly reduced, which in fact means we will have to strive without Fund Raising Campaign to enable the extra funds to meet our original target.

We are indeed indebted to the many people who have contributed so generously to our fund raising in the past two years.

The efforts of the Committee will have to be re-doubled to continue the campaign and we have to make a special appeal to you now to continue the good work and in particular we ask the

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Out and About

people who have not yet had the opportunity of contributing to make sure they give us their support in this year's campaign. It's encouraging to know that the sponsorship for the coming year has been greatly increased - you

will be filled in on the details when our canvassors call on you for your support.

At a meeting recently we appointed Mr. John Mooney, Student Engineer to supervise the complete project. With your

co-operation and contributions this centre should be in use in two years time. No doubt you will agree it is time for Gort to have this facility available for our community - most towns of our size are enjoying the comforts of such a complex.



The Ladies of Gort I.C.A. celebrating the 36th Birthday Party of the guild in their premises at Boland's Lane. Founded in 1948 it's one of the oldest organisations in the Parish and is still going strong.



Gort Boys' N.S. team that defeated Oughterard 2-8 to 2-3 in the City League football final.

One of the many beautiful shop fronts to be seen in Gort. More of them in the next issue.



Pictured at the Presentation of prizes to the Winners of the Gort Tidy Towns Competition. Left to right: Michael Bermingham Tidy Towns Committee, Patty Cahill, Bank of Ireland, Eamonn McGann, 3rd Prize-winner, £10, Christopher Piggott 2nd - £15, David McConn,

Bank of Ireland, Imelda Kelly, the winner who received £25. The Competition is judged on the correct placing of eight slogans re. Tidy Towns in order of importance and is sponsored annually by Bank of Ireland, Gort.

Out and About

GORT SOCCER CLUB 83-84.

This was perhaps the worst season so far for Gort. The season started badly with a run of four defeats and we picked up our first points against Kilcoran in our fifth game.

proceeded to draw our next two games. The first of the suspensions from the league then occurred. Every club in Galway was supposed to pay £20 a month towards dressing rooms in Terry land but we didn't because we needed the money more. We were suspended but were reinstated a month later when it was made known that the F.A.I. knew nothing about these payments and that we were right not to pay it. However, Gort's financial position was in a bad way i.e. in the red with the bank and we also owed the Galway F.A. £80 for fines etc. When we couldn't pay this we were again suspended and we won't be taken back into the league until we pay this.

We would like to thank all those who supported the club and the few that sponsored us. We would like to see more people showing interest in the club, for a town of its size Gort should have a very good soccer club, so maybe next year we will get more backing and support.

THE SQUARE IN TWO ERAS.

F. Lally.

Paddy Cooke started something in the Christmas Number with "CROWE LANE (STREET) 50 YEARS AGO

If Crowe Street why not the Square? With the help of Josie McInerney, Church St., who gave me two list of names taken from old record books I have been able to put together something of the Square in 1930 and for contrast 1984.

Starting as did Paddy Cooke at Sullivan's Hotel and moving along the northern side of the Square.

1930

Patrick Lally, Hotel.
Patrick Burke, Drapery.
Michael Quinn, Postman.
Mrs. Shinnors, Shop.
Thomas & Agnes Coen, Publican.
Peter Greene, Hardware.
John Sylver, Butcher.
Alfie Dolan, Butcher.
Bartley Finnegan, Butcher.

Ed. Walshe, Publican.
Pat Keane, Publican.
John Canny, Shop.
Thomas Stephenson, Shop.
Thomas Lally, Shop.
Pat Hanrahan, Publican.
Mrs. Williams, Dressmaker.
Michael Corbett, chemist.
Lavinia Boland.
James O'Sullivan, Draper.
Charlie Boland.
Archdeacon Cassidy P.P.
Fr. O'Hara C.C. & Fr. Tarpey C.C.
Crossing to the "Church Side" and moving Eastwards.
John Kilroy, Publican.
Mary Halvey.
Michael Gillane, Baker.
Frances Hayes, Publican.
John Waters, Publican.
Mrs. O'Grady, Shop.
Martha Glynn.
J. J. Ward, Shop.
Agnes O'Grady, Bakery & Publican.
Michael Reidy, Harness Maker.
Michael Broderick, Publican.

1984

John O'Sullivan, Hotel.
Mrs. Donohue, Shop.
Mrs. Donohue.
Mrs. A. Collins.
Angela Coen, Craft Shop.
Paddy Jordan, Supermarket.
Birdie Sylver, Shop.
Mrs. Mitchell.
John Walshe.
John Walshe, Publican.
House Demolished.
Mrs Madigan.
Frank Finnegan, Butcher.
Eileen Lally, Shop.
Mrs. Hanrahan, Publican.
Sean Devlin.
Sean Devlin.
J. C. Murphy, Solicitor.
Mrs. Cleary, Dentist.
Frank Glynn, Veterinary Surgeon.
Tomas O' Quigley, Hairdresser.
Crossing to the "Church Side" and moving Eastwards.
John Kilroy Jnr., Publican
Mrs. Burke, Drapery.
Liam Gillane, Shop.
Miko Carr.
Patrick Piggott, Flats.
Patrick Piggott, Shop.
Denis Daly, Engineering Works.
Mrs. Rochford, Insurance Agent.
O'Grady's Restauraat & Pub.
Landmark Bar.

Starting at the Southern end of the Courthouse side of the Square.

1930

Henry O'Shaughnessy, Shop.
John Spelman, Publican.
Munsterr & Leinster Bank.
Miko Fitzgerald, Bakery.
Mrs. Melville, Guest House.
J. E. Hazell, Harness Maker.

1984

Vincent O'Shaughnessy, Shop.
The Punch Bowl Bar.
Allied Irish Bank.
Sean Duffy, Butcher.
Sean Duffy.
Roger Fahy, Flats.

Some points worth mentioning.

Nearly all publicans ran groceries and some traded in corn and wool.

In times gone by "Shop" and "Bar" might provide a number of requirements.

Note bakeries and harness makers, two of a number of trades no longer practiced in Gort.

Charles and Lavinia Boland were the last members in the town of a once big merchant family which owned Boland's Lane, and at some period had the right to have it's own coins minted.

Which is the Western end of the Square? Is it at Boland's Lane or at what was the Curate's House and is now Tomas O'Quigley's? I may have stepped into Church St.

If you've noticed any errors in the above the Editor would be delighted to hear from you.

Michael Reidy's Shop has gone, having been absorbed by the Landmark Bar, formerly Broderick's.

Shortly before sending this article to the printers, Mrs. Nora Burke, The Square, loaned me a Boland coin - too late to have a photograph. Perhaps you have some information about "Boland's Money." (It seems there was just one denomination)

E.G. What was the coin's value? In what circumstances was it used?

What was its relationship to the state currency?

Out and About



Members of Gort Youth Club on their bed-push to Kinvara.

Plea: Thanks to the good management of various fundraising efforts down the years, as a result the Youth Club is in a very sound financial state. This is not the case with many other clubs in the Sth. Galway area. The Club has also a very large number of members. This is not the case in any other club in Sth. Galway. The Club has no adult leaders who are willing to come along on a Friday night to lend a hand, help or encourage. This is not the case in any other club in the Sth. Galway area and thus, the lack of facilities is the greatest problem facing the Youth Club. For some reason parents seem to be reluctant to become involved with the club. Many reasons are given - "I'm too busy," - they're your children and the club is not, as one adult described it "a baby sitting organisation." "I wouldn't fit in" - turn up on a Friday night and find out for sure. Most common however is "I would if I were asked." Of eighty parents invited to a Youth Club social evening in the College on the 11th of April only twenty-two parents turned up. Strangely at this meeting the young people of Gort were praised for their generosity and selflessness by the Regional Director of the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul and by their Spiritual Director.

Great praise has been made of the Community Centre and how,

when it is built it will provide facilities for all the people of Gort. We look forward to the building of this centre, we have contributed a very large amount of money towards the cost of the building but we feel that it is pointless in having a community Centre unless you have a Community spirit. This, as the young people of Gort know, is a thing we are lacking in.



(Left to right) Aileen Egan, Niall Clabby and Fiona Corless. Debate Winners.

FLYING BALLOON

Little did Robert Keran of George's St. realise that the gas filled balloon he bought at the Show in Dublin and let off at the back of his house would be found in Gloucestershire! Robert received a letter from an English farmer saying: "Your balloon was picked up on my farm here in Gloucestershire so I thought I would let you know how far it had travelled." Yours faithfully, Sam Keys.

GORT & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

By Michael Bermingham, Chairman.

Gort and District Gardening Club is now four years established and still going strong. The interest is kept very much alive by the Lecturers, Discussion and Demonstrations in addition to the Major Annual Event which the Gort and District Show.

The following are some of the Lectures organised during the 1983 - 84 session.

- (a) Vegetables in Season.
- (b) Flowers suitable for window boxes and hanging baskets.
- (c) Flower arranging.
- (d) Christmas Decorations.
- (e) Colour in the Garden all the year round.
- (f) Vegetables for the Commercial Grower.
- (g) Bedding Plants and Flowers.
- (h) Preparation, Care and Planting Shrubs.
- (i) Green houses, Cold frames, and Plastic Structures.

The members and all interested, are delighted to learn that plans are being prepared to establish a Garden Centre in Tullira Castle as a part of the Development Programme by its new owner, Mrs. Karen Breeden.

Out and About

GORT GOLF CLUB

by Paddy Grealish.
PRESIDENT: Michael Bermingham.
CAPTAIN: Christy Fennessy.
VICE CAPTAIN: P. J. Brennan.
TREASURER: Bob Forde.
HON. SECRETARY: Paddy Grealish.
COMMITTEE: John Moylan, Gerry Cahill, Noel Mullins, Paddy Maloney, Gerry Cooney, Niall Finnegan, Oliver Roche.

The Golf Programme for 1984 began with the Captains "Drive in" as the official introduction to the members and an equally warm welcome for Christy Fennessy and Mary Noone. This event was followed by a mixed foursomes and later by a Cheese-and-Wine party in addition to a Club Social which was enjoyed by members and friends.

In addition to the standard competitions The Gort Golf Club were hosts to the Past and Present Officers Presidents, Captains, Vice Captains, Hon. Secretaries and Hon. Treasurers of Co. Galway Clubs also Ennis which is a great supporter of ours. It was a most enjoyable event in which seventy competitors took part. The "Irish Nationwide Building Society" provided valuable prizes and Val Hoarty was the winner in a Stableford Competition.

Topform (as recited by Pat Casey after he won the Club Cup)

There are a few people I must thank as a result of my winnings,
 Both my markers on the first day
 Christy Moran and Doc Jennings.
 Christy laid down the law
 and the Doc gave me some rare injections
 To stop me driving the ball in
 all the wrong directions.
 Into round one I went and as I stepped into the ring
 my first opponent was "The Brandy King."
 He hit me hard, I was barely staying alive
 'til I hit him below the belt
 with a birdie at hole number five.
 Then came Brendan Dolan, an electrician, of mighty stock
 But I was the "live wire" that evening
 and 'twas Brendan got the shock.
 Next came John Moylan
 who made me suffer nerves
 But I ducked all he threw at me
 with some neat footwork and body swerves.
 Then, as the song says "The Candy Man Can"
 And I knew the "Cooney Man Could"
 Gerry threw everything at me
 As indeed I knew he would.
 I was fortunate to beat him
 which really is not the norm
 Because he was unlucky to meet
 In an evening when I was in
 TOPFORM.



Patrick J. Donovan Gort B.C. left, V. Shay Lyons of Ennis, Ref. Colm Flynn, Ennis.

GORT BOXING CLUB

Gort Boxing Club closed the curtain on their '83-'84 season at their annual Disco at Our Lady's College on the 11th May. A most enjoyable night was had by all and presentations were made to Gabriel Piggott - Clubman of the Year; Roger Carey - Most Improved Boxer; James Donoghue - Trainer's (Jim Regan) Award. A special award was presented by the boys of the Club to Mrs. Jane Regan in appreciation of all the work she does on their behalf during the year.

The Club looks back with pride on a year which saw four Connaught Championships and seven County Championships come its way. Our four representatives at the National Championships, although they did not bring home any laurels, certainly gave notice that boxing in Gort is alive and well.

The Club tournament at Our Lady's College on April 6th was again, due to our sponsors and huge local support, a roaring success - our thanks are due to both and indeed to Fr. Carney for his ever generous use of the hall.

In conclusion a special word of thanks to John Sullivan and his Disco for his most generous gesture to the club on the night of their function.

Next Boxing Season resumes Sept. 4th 1984

Same time, Same place.
 Be seeing you in sport;
 K.O. PUNCH.



Pictured at the Drive In, Mary Noone (Ladies Captain) and Christy Fennessy (Men's Captain).

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 — Finished in Velvet —
 — Shades to Suit your Decor —



Out and About

GORT DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

Gort Dramatic Society season will commence again in September. The club's plans until Christmas are:

1. To hold a One-Act All-Ireland Qualifying Festival again in mid-November.
2. To have two one-act plays for the one act circuit.
3. To continue plans to have water installed at our premises in Boland's Lane.

A presentation was made recently to Caroline Concannon, a dedicated member of our group who was transferred to Loughrea.

The new Committee is: Aine Fahy (Chairperson); Antoinette Fennessy (Assistant Chairperson); Kitty Gillane (Treasurer); Geraldine Hennessey (P.R.O.)

GORT, COOLE & DISTRICT

ANGLER.

The season got off to a good start on Sunday 6th May. A good many anglers turned out for the first competition. The day being very bright and sunny not many fish were caught. In the evening at the weigh in First Prize was won by Paddy Burke of George's St. fishing beside him was Noel Ruane also of George's St. who came second. The Club's Secretary Patrick Cusack won 3rd prize. It is hoped to have more competitions, but like the farmers we need more rain. The level of water is very low this time of year. As soon as the water level is higher we will hold more competitions.

GORT R.F.C. 1983/84.

Overcoming serious difficulties in the early part of the season, Gort went on to put up a fine show in the Ard-na-Cregg Cup and were unluckily beaten by Corinthians in the quarter

final after a period of twenty minutes extra time.

Due to the loss of Captain Michael O'Connor because of business commitments in the United States and a series of unfortunate injuries, particularly to out-half Michael Kilroy and second row Noel Glynn, the early season did not augur well. After Christmas the Club felt they had something to prove and under the new leadership of Noel Glynn, the team decided to make a serious effort to win the Ard-na-Cregg. Under the eye of coach Tim O'Driscoll, they trained regularly and well and this was reflected in the early rounds when they convincingly defeated Ballinasloe at Headquarters and then went to Ballinrobe to gain a durable victory in the second round. The latter game was capped by a fine penalty goal by Niall Shaw from close to the right touchline and probably their best Try of the season by Brian Kilroy after some difficult manoeuvres in mid-field. The quarter Final was held in Galway and trailing at half time by a deficit of six points, Gort now with the wind behing them, looked a certainty for the semi-final. This was not to be however, as they could only manage to level the scores by the end of normal time and the game was then lost to a Corinthian's Try in the extra period.

The result was disappointing but it was felt by many observers that the Gort forwards, under the excellent coaching of Tim O'Driscoll, had played with a great deal more cohesion than in previous years and that the fault in the team lay in their inability to convert territorial domination into scores. This problem should be ironed out early next season, and, this undoubtedly will be, if Tim continues in his present job.

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

PRESIDENT: Billy Kilroy
COACH: Tim O'Driscoll
CAPTAIN: Noel Glynn

FIXTURES SECRETARY: Greg Landon

SECRETARY: Charles Foley

CONNACHT BRANCH

REPRESENTATIVE: Brian Jennings.

SOLOMON - FRIEND OF ORCHARD HOUSE.

By Sean Leahy

When first I chatted to Solomon Ori Orison about running from Galway to Gort, he was quite willing to do so, provided it was for a good cause, I mentioned Orchard House. They needed funds. The next step was to contact Mary Keeley of the Centre. Mary thought this a great idea as sixteen people from the Centre were saving hard to go to Lourdes on a pilgrimage. When next I went to Orchard House, it was to bring Solomon: introductions all around, a tour of their factory, a shakehands here and there, and a date was set for the run. From that date on it was hard training for Solomon. You could meet this man anywhere at anytime running, training and generally getting fitter by the day. Several other meetings were arranged at the centre where posters, cards, publicity and arranging took place. Everything was ready for the big day April the 7th. At half nine on that morning we gathered at the Centre, two minibuses, loads of helpers and set our sights on Galway. In the city Solomon changed, and without fuss started running for Gort. Like an arrow from a bow he sped on his way, and at times in Michael Cunninghams car it was work enough to keep up with him. I got the job of broadcasting over themike, "Solomon is coming please give to the bucket collectors, this is for a good cause." Imbedded in my mind forever will be that sentence as I must have repeated it two thousand times on the way to Gort. On Solomon raced taking

Out and About

nine or ten feet with every stride, Oranmore, Kilcolgan, Clarinbridge, Ardahan, Labane. In all towns and from passers by we were very well treated and the buckets started to get heavier with each town. Solomon at no time looked tired, in fact he spoke at regular intervals to us through the window of the car.



Solomon Ori Orison.

At Labane we slowed him down, otherwise he would have been in Gort before the appointed time of one thirty. When at last we hit Gort, we were met in the Square by Francis Fahey T.D. and a large number of friends and well wishers. After a shower for Soloman at Orchard Centre, everyone concerned were treated to a four course lunch. To mark the day for Solomon he was presented with a tankard made from Clarinbridge Crystal, with his name inscribed on it. I would like to thank Jane and Tony Wilde, Ballyturn and members of Ballyturn Youth Club for being present, also John and Joseph Gleeson of Gort. All were involved in the bucket collection. The run alone came to £240. The sponsored cards came to £326 and the churchgate collections the following Sunday came to £640. Solomon Ori Orison is the son in law of Terry and Enid McCarty of Crowe St., Gort. Solomon you can really count yourself a true member and a friend of Orchard Centre.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our Congratulations to Brigid Noone of George's St., who qualified as a solicitor recently. Brigid took her B.A. and L.L.B. degrees at U.C.G. and qualified in the Incorporated Law Society, Dublin. She has taken up an appointment with Messrs. Sweeney and Co. Solicitors, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal.

COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI

EIREANN GORT BRANCH

This branch is delighted to report on the healthy position its in command of. Our Irish nights as always are well attended and attractive to middle age section of the Community who don't partake in disco dancing. The music school arranged and subsidised by the branch is operating at Voc. School, Gort on Tuesday evenings.



Kieran, Declan and Fiona O'Dea and Michelle Cunningham, Connaught

Champions in half-set and four hand reel in Cpol an Gheimhridh.

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Out and About

GORT AND DISTRICT GUN CLUB

At the A.G.M. of the above which was held on 26th March 1984, the Chairman Fr. Liam Power reported on a very successful year for the Club. He was particularly pleased with the efforts members had made during the vermin-control campaign against foxes, greycrows, magpies and pigeons, which had been very successful. He stressed that that was one of the best ways the Club had of expressing its appreciation of the goodwill shown to it down the years by the farmers of the area.

Officers elected for 84/85 season:

PRESIDENT: T. McCarthy.

CHAIRMAN: V. Williams.

TREASURER: O. Roche.

SECRETARY: M. Clabby.

Members are at pains to stress, that should any farmers in the area have a grievance against the Club or its members, the matter should be reported to any member, who will be glad to have it dealt with at a Committee meeting.

YOUTH ROUND UP

INVENTURES.

1983 - '84 Youth Club Committee:

CHAIRPERSON - D. Kenny.

V. CHAIRPERSON - G. Mahon.

TREASURER - I. O'Driscoll.

SECRETARY - N. Clabby.

P. R. O. 's - C. McGann and M. Daly.

As a member of The Youth Club I will look back on the past year with a certain amount of pride and disappointment. Pride at the many things we were able to achieve and disappointment at the things we could have and should have achieved but didn't.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Quiz: Following on their victory in the National Federation of Youth Clubs (The Fed.) Quiz

Competitions the previous years a team from Gort Y.C. were invited to participate in a T.V. quiz competition "Top Club" in October. The team members were Fergal Hickey (Capt), Michael Cunningham, Caroling McGann, Austin McInerney and John Murphy. The team and twenty supporters along with Mr. Jim Hickey travelled to the R.T.E. studios in Donnybrook for the occasion and though the team were defeated a most enjoyable day was had by all.

Fed. Competitions: As always the Youth Club participated in the various competitions organised by the fed. and had a great deal of success at both local and county level. Two teams qualified for the Connacht Championships which were held in Sligo. The teams were U-16 Girls Basketball (A. M. Kelly, E. Kelly, R. Stanford, M. Cooke, J. Murphy) and the U-19 Chess Team (F. Hickey, G. Piggott, A. Devlin). Both teams were defeated by very narrow margins. The Sth. Galway Youth Clubs debating team had however much better luck and after winning the Regional Competition in Sligo went on to win the National Title at the All-Ireland Youth Club Finals which were held in Galway on the 28th - 29th of April 1984. The team was captained by Niall Clabby from Gort Y.C. and the other members were Fiona Corless (Kinvara) and Aileen Egan (Kiltartan). The team would like to extend a very sincere "thank you" to Mrs. Gretta Cafferky, Coole, for her rojan work on their behalf at all stages of the competition.

Gorta: Eight members of the Y. C. along with Fr. James Walshe C.C. raised over £750 for Gorta by organising a sponsored fast outside the Church on the 7th 8th of March. The money was presented to the Chief Executive

of Gorta by Y. C. Chairman Derek Kenny two weeks later.

St. Vincent de Paul: Over £400 was raised by members of the Youth Club on the 25th of March for the local and National branches of the society of St. Vincent De Paul, £200 was raised for the National branch by the Y. C. when it organised the National Milk Run event in the Gort area. On the same day the Club raised £220 for the local branch of the society by organising a "bed push" from Gort to Kinvara. A cheque for this amount was presented to Mr. J. Kelly, Treasurer of the Gort branch of the society, at a Youth Club function held in Our Lady's College on the 13th May. The Club would like to thank Mr. J. Regan, Mr. S. Waters, Mr. J. Hickey, Mr. M. Clabby and Mrs. M. Diviney for their help in organising both these events.

Drama Festival: The Youth Club play "Fat Chance" won first prize at the Youth Club Drama festival which was held in Our Lady's College in late March. The play was produced by Mr. Seamus Waters O. L. C.

DISAPPOINTMENTS:

Disco: Due to a prohibitive cost and a lack of facilities the Youth Club has been unable to hold any discos this year.

Friday Night Activities:

Because of lack of facilities and lack of adult supervision and assistance the Friday night activities have declined drastically. The only activities available are table tennis, video and badminton. The Youth Club would like to hear from any parents or adults in the community who would be willing to give a few hours of their time to young people on the odd Friday night.

Out and About

GORT BRIDGE CLUB has just concluded its bridge season and will reopen on September 10th 1984. New members are always welcome.

Presidents Prize (Mrs. J. Griffin)

1st J. Muldoon.

2nd Fr. E Glynn

3rd B. Burke.

4th M. Kelly

Non-Dual

1st A. Fennessy - M. Long.

2nd P. McConn - Mona Glynn.

3rd G. French - E. Kilroy.

Sullivan Cup.

1st Damien Coen & M.

Fennessy.

2nd J. Muldoon & C. Foley.

3rd S. Duffoy & B. Murray.

Best Gross:

P. Cunningham & G. Landon

Team of Four:

1st B. Burke, C. O'Shaughnessy, G. Kilroy, G. French.

2nd G. Landon P. Cunningham

, M. Byrnes, P. Moloney.

3rd Fr. Glynn, M. Kelly, P.

McConn, M. Glynn,

Clarinbridge Trophy.

1st T. McGovern, J. Moylan.

2nd Tie J. Farrelly, P. Craddock

G. Landon, D.

Cunningham

Cecily Coen, M.

Sadlies.

Best Gross: Fr. Glynn, M. Kelly.

A.I.B. Cup.

1st Fr. Glynn & M. Kelly.

2nd P. Craddock & J. Farrelly.

3rd J. Griffin & Moloney.

Best Gross: Greg Landon P.

Cunningham.

Bank of Ireland Cup.

1st J. Muldon, M. Cunningham.

2nd P. Craddock, J. Farrelly.

3rd Rita Landon, E. Burke.

Best Gross: T. McGorem & J.

Moylan.

Pairs Competition.

1st S. Duffy, B. Murray.

2nd A. Coen, D. Marlboro.

3rd M. Sadlier, P. Hennigan.

Best Gross: J. Muldoon, M.

Cunningham.

GORT APOSTOLIC WORK SOCIETY

held their Annual Display on Sunday 13th May. It was the sixteenth display and all members agreed it was the most rewarding work. President has appealed for new members for the coming year starting September 1984. Priests and nuns from the Mission fields of the world who may come to Ireland this year will be able to take back vestments, altar linens and various other items necessary for their work.

COUNTRY MARKETS LTD.

GORT hold their market every Friday in Courthouse from 10 o'clock to 11.30 a.m. Home made bread, cakes, pastries, jams, bottled fruit, honey, free range eggs, country butter, buttermilk and a large selection of houseplants and outdoor shrubs and cut flowers are available each day. Country Markets has been operating for five years and is proving a big success.

FAMILY PLANNING - THE NATURAL METHOD.

Specially trained lady teachers attend at the Social Services Centre, Gort, once a month (third Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m.) to give advice on the ovulation method (Billings). The group is a part of a National Organisation, and caters for the South Galway area. It has been in existence for about four months.

KILTARTAN YOUTH CLUB

As the Federation activities between various Youth Clubs have come to an end for yet another year Kiltartan Youth Club continues with booming activities. At present there are table tennis and volleyball tournaments within the club and an outdoor soccer tournament is

being organised for the summer months which we hope will get underway within the next few weeks.

For the second time within four years the youth of South-Galway have received an All-Ireland debating title. A team representing Kiltartan Youth Club secured the All-Ireland title in 1981. On the team at that time were Irene Gill (Captain), Margarite Flaherty and Seamus Cafferty. At the All-Ireland finals of the National Federation of Youth Clubs Under-19 debating competitions which were held on the 28th and 29th April in Leisureland, Salthill a team representing the Youth Clubs of South Galway came out on top. On the team were Niall Clabby, Captain (Gort Youth Club), Aileen Egan (Kiltartan Youth Club) and Fiona Corless (Kinvara Youth Club). In the semi-final with a motion that "The Catholic Church is the real government of Ireland," they met very high opposition from the Munster Champions, Limerick City. With the narrowest of margins the South Galway team won their way into the final where they met an excellent team from Roscommon with the motion "Ireland is now ready to become a police state." The South Galway team opposed both motions. The team expressed their sincere thanks to Mrs. Gretta Cafferty for all her help and encouragement throughout the whole competition.

Kiltartan Youth Club recently organised a Social Evening in McCarthy's Kilbeacanty to raise funds for the Club. The Youth Club would like to thank everybody who contributed in any way to make our activity a success. The Club would also like to thank all its adult leaders for all their help within the Club during the year.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The A.G.M. of above has been held recently and the Chairperson is Mary Larkin, an associate of John C. Murphy Solicitors. She is keenly interested in the Trade and Commerce of our town and will make herself always available to help to generate more trade and make Gort a more prosperous town.

The Chamber is well aware of the unemployment situation though it has been leaned from statistics that we are one of the lowest in this particular field, however, there is much need for more industry and Chamber is always striving in co-operation with the I.D.A. to attract more industrialists to the locality.

Chamber has been responsible for preparing and organising the Tidy Town Competition each year and it was very rewarding to capture the second prize of £750 in '83 sponsored by Galway Co. Council. This year an even greater campaign is being organised on our efforts to get top prize. All business people in Gort as well as those in private dwellings are asked to co-operate fully in having their own premises painted and decorated and indeed the Hardware Stores in Gort are helping out this year by giving a ten percent discount on paints and brushes for one month from 20th May - June 20th.

The Chamber is always open to receive any constructive

comments from anyone who may wish to do so. If you have a problem don't hesitate to make contact and if there is any help to be given it will be forthcoming.
THE SECRETARY: Teresa Moloney.

JOINT TREASURERS: Padraig Giblen and Mary Rochford.
PRESIDENT: John C. Murphy.

The Chamber was saddened on hearing of the death of Ned Roche, Honorary President of Chamber who had many a constructive contribution to make at our meetings, R.I.P.

**GORT & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL**

By Mary Henehan.

A "Community Youth Training Programme" is now coming to its close in Gort. This programme came about as a result of the efforts of "The Gort and District Community Development and Employment Council" who seeing the need for job creation in Gort approached AnCo. The result of this initial contact was a Survey of the Area" to collect data on the number of people unemployed/employed in the area to find out what services are required in the area and to do initial market research on identified projects.

The trainees appointed to carry out the survey are all young unemployed school leavers from the area. There are eight of these trainees involved in the survey and they have had enthusiastic

response from the public. The group will produce a report for the committee by mid-June.

The Gort and District Community Development and Employment Council hope that when the results of the survey are known that the assistance will be available from the appropriate Government Agencies to implement any suggestions for job creation recommended by the report.

TRAINEES:

Andrew Forde, Andrew Monaghan, Michael Linnane, Dermot Stankard, Bernadette Fennessy, John Keehan, Antoinette Fennessy, Paul Fennessy, Sean Moylan.

SUPERVISOR: Mary Henehan.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR: Rose Gardiner.

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GORT BOYS' N.S. THIS

IS YOUR LIFE. By Anthony Coppinger.

MY PROJECT.

Each year our teacher, Mr. Conroy asks each boy to do a project on the subject of his choice. Deciding on a subject is difficult and I considered a number of subjects ranging from Birds to Motor Cycles. Finally I thought of my present school coming to its final days and decided it would be interesting to look into its past. I consulted with Mr. Conroy and went ahead and this is the result of my work.

How I Collected my Information.

I wrote to the Department of Education for data on the reason for the building of the school and the date. Most of my information

on that aspect came from Fr. Connaughton, Diocesan Secretary. Fr. O'Halloran very kindly looked up the parish records for me. Next I placed a letter in the Connaught Tribune and Irish Independent requesting past-pupils to contact me and supply me with information on their school days. The school rolls of past years from 1911 - 1984 were a great help and I was given the use of same by Mr. Conroy. I contacted people and interviewed them and their memories are here recorded. Quite a number of people supplied me with photographs. If I were to mention each individual who gave assistance while compiling this project - the list



would be endless. I wish to extend a very sincere THANK YOU to each and every one who contributed in anyway. Some of my interviews were taped and Mrs. Linnane had the difficult task of transcribing and typing them for me. I would also like to thank Sr. Francis, Convent of Mercy for the use of the school photocopier.

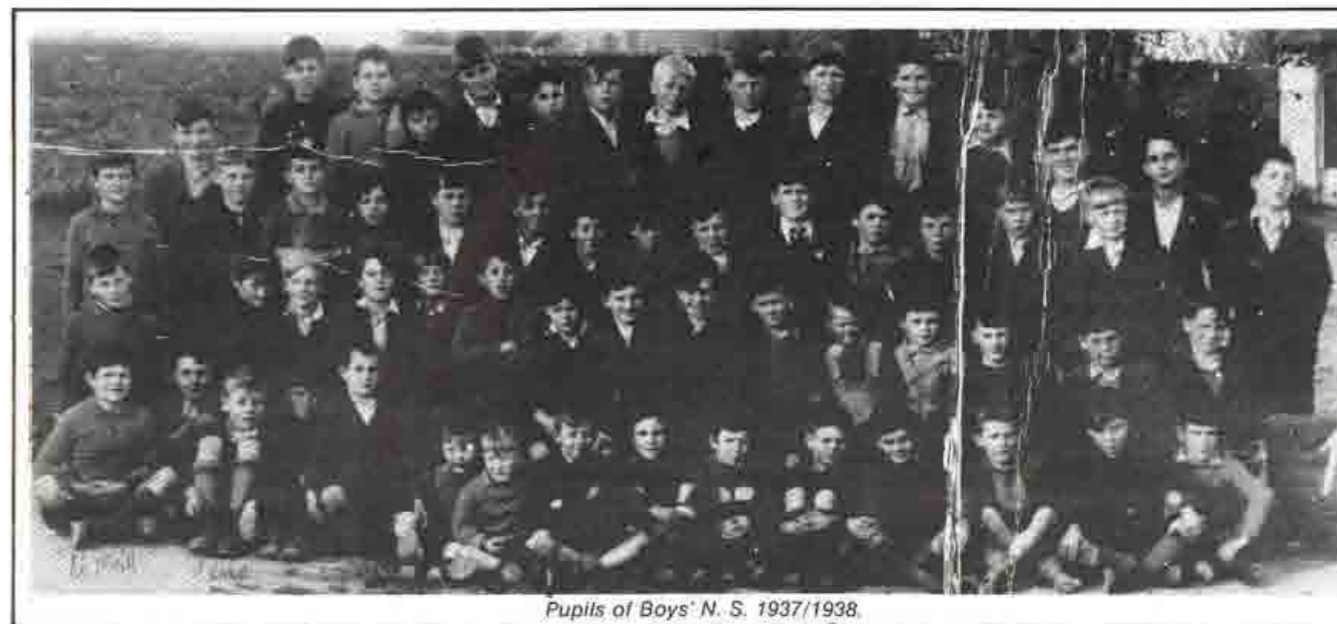
Scoil na mBuachaillí,
Gort Inse Guaire,
Co. na Gaillimhe.

INTRODUCTION.

Seo é do Bheatha.

You are now giving accommodation to me and the present students to enable us to acquire education but sadly this is your last year to do so. Early in 1984 you go into retirement and a new school will take your place and hopefully will have as much to its credit as you, after your service of seventy four years.

On the 24-10-1910 you took under your roof for the first time the students of Gort who until then for some years were receiving their education in St. Colman's Hall. I recall to you the roll of as many of the students of those seventy four years as I could find and also the memories of some. Your family is now much scattered and engaged in many different kinds of work in different parts of the world. Some are Missionaries or have been in far-away places. Some are priests in home dioceses. Their vocations for this work was fostered and encouraged in their homes and by the various teachers who worked within you. Others are in far foreign fields making a living and rearing their own children having been influenced no doubt by the instruction and guidance of your teachers. Many, too, have remained in the locality or in some part of Ireland and I am sure that they have happy memories of their young days in your custody. All are grateful for the preparation for life received in you. Some sadly, have passed away - Beannacht De ar a n-anamacha - Today there are the present pupils and their teachers, Mr. Peader Conroy (Principal) Mrs. Gretta Cafferky, Mrs. Mary Connolly.



Pupils of Boys' N. S. 1937/1938.

**MATTIE CARTHY AND
RICHARD TRESTON.**

Mattie Carthy and Richard Treston were both in the same class at school. They were taught chiefly by Mr. Brady and Mr. Sexton although Mr. McEvoy, Mr. Keating and Mr. Heenan figured at a later date.



Mattie Carthy.



Richard Treston.

The following information is taken from a joint taped interview.

Discipline was very strict. Corporal punishment was very much a part of school life. It was not unusual for Mr. Brady to break his stick in the process of punishing a pupil. He often took walks out by the railway line and always returned with a new stick to replace the broken one! Mr. Sexton seldom resorted to the stick, only if absolutely necessary. No boy would ever dream of complaining at home, as one was quite likely to receive more punishment for giving trouble!

It must be said that school boys were a "tougher" lot in those days and in most cases needed the discipline dished out in school.

Spelman Prize — this was a fund set up by Miss Spelman and from

which local children benefitted. Prizes from the fund were awarded at Christmas and were as follows; 5/-, 2/6, and 2/-

Dick can remember winning one of the prizes for reciting a poem. He also recalls an occasion when he did not win! "I can remember doing a test on sums one Christmas for the Spelman Prize. Paddy Burke was sitting behind me and appealed for help. I gave him my copy and he copied all my sums. When the results were announced Paddy received 97 while I received 94! Paddy had neater figures!"

Confirmation was a terrible time! How we suffered! For 3 months in advance we would be kept back at least an hour after school at our Catechism. Perfection was the key word!

Mattie had a particular memory of the turf, "Heating was provided by open fires. Turf was carted down from Derrybrien for same. There was a weekly charge of 1/- for the turf. Boys who paid their 1/- were allowed up to the fire occasionally to warm their hands. Anyone who did not pay was not granted this privilege. I remember once Mr. Brady asking three brothers why they did not pay the 1/-. I can still hear the answer he received. One of the brothers stood up and declared stoutly "Me and me brothers don't ever be cold!"

Hurling was very popular and was played on the roads there being no problem with traffic in those times.

Dick Treston has a particular memory.

"I remember once playing hurling with Paddy Icklam. Mr. Brady was with Mr. Sexton inside the school window smoking his pipe. Paddy and I were racing towards the rubber ball.....I reached it first and hit it a resounding whack with my hurley and it went clean through the school window knocking the pipe out of Mr. Brady's mouth! Such uproar! Paddy and I were sent to get a pane of glass for the window. It must have taken two days before we had a pane to fit it correctly and we broke about four in the process. Finally we were told 'Get that window fixed or else.....' Anyway in the end we did."

One was seldom if ever late for school, as excuses were never accepted. One just had to be when the bell was rung. Mr.

Brady always went home for his lunch at 12.00 (He lived in Bridge Street), everyone vied for the privilege of being sent on the errand. It meant a half hour free of school as one had to wait while Mrs. Brady made up the lunch. A little green jug and a pack of sandwiches was always sent back. It was a lovely half hour to have free — Christian Doctrine.

George's Street was also known as Carnrow. It was so called because of the many butcher stalls there. There was a great rivalry between the different streets. The George's St. boys did not allow the others to go up past the bridge. Fighting was a great past-time among the boys. Mattie declares that even though Josie Burke and himself were great friends they had a scrap every day! Most of the fighting took place in Nestor's field. Smoking was also indulged in to a great extent. Woodbines could be bought singly at Ma Leech's (Roche's Garage is there today). It was common practice to buy one Woodbine and place it in an empty Oxo box and bring it into class. During the lesson one would ask permission to go to the toilet and bring the Oxo box with you in the pocket. At least half the cigarette would be smoked in the toilet and the remainder returned to the safety of the Oxo box where it could be enjoyed by another at a later date. One could always get the smell of Woodbine cigarettes from the boys — they had a particularly strong odour.

Boys had more local knowledge re. history, nature, etc... which is not the case with youngsters today. They also had more freedom in a way... e.g. they were trusted to look after themselves when swimming..... It was rare for a boy to be unable to swim.....they usually taught themselves.

The Black and Tans set up tents by the school. There was a great disruption in those times. A curfew was introduced in the town. Dick Treston can remember Pearse Piggott's father being beaten almost to death by the Tans. He saw the whole scene from his own house across the road. After the Ballyturn ambush the Tans were very bitter. Re-enforcements arrived out from Galway — eight to ten lorries with two gallon tins of petrol to burn the town.

**THE OLD GORT
SCHOOL** By Fr. Joe Glynn.

It is good to remember. Heaven is a happy memory, and I have happy memories of my years in Gort School. Everytime I pass the cross roads on my way to Roo I look with reverence and gratitude on that old yellow building that was so good to me. Strange, the words of an old song, that Mickey Hoarty used to sing so well around the fire on a winter's evening on his way home from herding on the hill, came into my mind, "It was there I learned readin' and writin' at Dick Croly's where I went to school. And 'twas there I learned howlin' and fightin' with my schoolmaster, Mister O'Toole."

Mister O'Toole was not my schoolmaster. The master was Gerald Heenan, no better man.

Mr. Heenan used to say that all the brains in the school came out of Clough. Up there it was a case of the survival of the fittest, so human evolution progressed at a more rapid rate. There was racial discrimination in the school in my time. We were branded as "country jackeens," while the more cultured lads from the metropolis of Gort were known as "town hawks." In any case, Cloughnaeava was a great place to grow up in, when I was young. It was full of young life. We could field a team with Halveys, Tuohays, Mulcaires, Hoarties, Walshes, Lallies and Faheys. Once you crossed the Big Hill and the fairy fort line that ran from O'Connor's land to the middle of Mulcaire's farm you entered a new world and a new culture. Stranger beware!

The townies never understood us. They were afraid of the strange breed of people that came from Clough. But in my time it was full of fun and devilment. The hills were alive with the sound of music and whistling. We learned more songs and poems there in a year than university students

nowadays learn in a lifetime. We hurled by day and played cards by night. And every Sunday after Mass we faithfully gathered for pitch 'n toss...Oh the fights we had! Language was choice. Lady Gregory talked* about Kiltartan English. Cloughnacava English was unprintable. But it was a great training for a young lad who had to face a hostile world. Once you graduated from Cloughnacava school of psychology, you never wilted again before the anger of bishop, priest, superior or peer. We learned to feel and heal our emotions and we expressed them at once. Very often the hurley was our scalpel. Cloughnacava was my first novitiate to the monastery life. Those people had deep faith. We did not have much in those terrible years of the thirties, while the economic war still waged, but what we had we shared, including the fun and the laughter.

I must have been about five when I went to the National School. As far as I remember, Jeardy and myself began together. I had started with the nuns, but then I was kidnapped from their gentle hands. It seems my parents were not happy with my academic progress in the convent, so I was whisked off to the more spartan regime of the National. I was blessed with parents who made me read and write before I could walk or talk. Mrs. Heenan kindly placed me beside Nacey Lally the first day at school. As I look back on it, with the wisdom of hindsight, that was a brilliant pedagogical move on the part of the teacher. It was like putting a frightened foal in a field with a quiet pony. I had already known Nacey, and we have remained good friends ever since. It was a joy meeting him and his lovely wife at McCarthy's the last time I was home. He can still skip on the light fantastic, just as good as Frankie Walsh. Music and dance are such an important part of education.

TOMAS ROSEINGRAVE

I well remember attending the National School when I lived in George's Street. The principal was Mr. Brady and the assistant was I thin, Mr. Sexton. We should never forget the debt we owe to those who taught us.

If I recall correctly there was a heap of small cut-stones at the corner opposite the school on the road to Kilmaduagh. A man sat on top of the pile of stones with a folded bag as a cushion. He wore glasses to try to prevent the white dust — from the stones which he broke with a hammer — from going into his eyes. There he sat for hours breaking the stones which were used for paving the tarmac roads. It was a matter of much interest when the first stone crusher and steam-roller came to Gort. I recall this affair now of the stone-breaker opposite the national school because it helps us in a small way to realise how low our economic standards and living conditions were in those days. I remember my mother when she wished to express how much she would dislike doing certain things or certain jobs would say: "You would be better off breaking stones," helps me now to appreciate too the great economic and social advances that the country has made in the past 60 years but also that we must be careful not to throw away the advantages by seeking more than a national economy can afford. Likewise we must keep the basic social and moral values which brought our country safely through all the hardships of the past.

I wish you every success in carrying out your project. If possible I would be very glad to see a copy of it when you have completed it.

Every good wish,
Yours sincerely,
Tomas Roseingrave.



Boys' N. S. Church St., Gort.



The new Boys' School at Tubber Road nearing completion.

Confirmation was a very special occasion and came around every three or four years. Intense rivalry existed between the Convent and the Boys' National School. The arrival of the Bishop was both feared and anticipated for weeks in advance. Fear that one would be unable to answer any question and joy at the thought of the half day that followed! Another occasion always looked forward to was the Plain Church Day. (Liturgical Festival).



Fights were a common feature in those days. They were the chief form of entertainment among all the students. They were always arranged after school and took place in the Power House Field.

GAMES.

Hurling of course was predominant, not that one had such a selection of pastimes to choose from unlike today! I remember that there was always strong rivalry between Crowe Street and George's Street.

Emigration.

I remember when the Hanrahan family emigrated to Kenya in Africa. I knew Maurice, Paddy, Ray and their sisters quite well. The family lived in Coole and the old man was a brother of the later Dan Hanrahan. The brothers came to the school to say their goodbyes. It was only then I began to realise how sad and final emigration can be.....and their departure left a lasting impression on me.



What are your happiest memories of school?

I find that difficult to answer and generally I was happy at school. There were bad days when I came to school without having my homework done and then I had to rely on somebody like Mossy Clabby or Sean Devlin to get it finished before class began.

When I went away to boarding school I soon realised how good an education I had received in Gort because with the exception of Latin, Algebra and Geometry, I had most of the secondary school work done for the first year or so.

What advice would like to give the boys today?

Lay a sound foundation of reading, writing and arithmetic in primary school; if you don't have it then you will not catch up in Secondary School. I never knew of a child in Mrs. Heenan's classroom who failed to be taught the basic skills in reading and writing. One bit of advice would give: use your memory now when it is easy to memorise. Lay up credit for the future when you won't be able to memorise. Was there emphasis on games? There probably was but I was never terribly interested in team games. I do remember Mr. Heenan taking boys who were good hurlers, Sean Devlin, my two brothers and others for hurling practice, but I did my best to avoid that. I didn't have the talent and didn't see much sense

in getting my fingers cut or my shins marked. There used to be fierce competition when the school played other schools, especially Kinvara.

What games were you interested in?

Well not hurling which was the only game around the school. I much preferred to spend the free time with the Hayes' of Church Street (Mick, Jack and Colm) down in their fields, bringing in the cows for milking and playing around on the haycocks; on wet days we used to play in the grain stores owned by John Spelman or Bernard Coen as Ray Spelman and David Coen were in my class.

The old military barracks was a favourite place for cowboys and indians and general warfare between different sides of the town. There seemed to have been a definite division of loyalty in the town, with the Gort river as the dividing line.

One favourite occupation was fighting. A dispute would be settled after school between the two boys in question by fighting.

A PAST PUPIL WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

Country boys brought their lunch to school with them while the town boys went home. One day the town boys came back from lunch with the news that Paddy Holloran had been shot in Baltinglass by Bank raiders. Mr. Holloran's body was being brought to town on the train accompanied by rifle men (Free State Soldiers) and a band. The George's Street boys told the school and everyone ran to see. Mr. Brady came out and rang the bell frantically....but nobody paid any heed. Everyone continued to Shanaglish in pursuit of the band and had a great time. All the boys dreaded having to face Mr. Brady the next morning but suprisingly nothing was said.

Irish

I never liked Irish, and in those days all subjects were taught through Irish, which was unfair as it caused students to lose out in relation to other subjects. I can remember Jack Forde - a fluent Irish speaker, who gave the first lessons in Irish to Lady Gregory and Douglas Hyde. Irish was spoken in the Kiltartan area. A chart and various drawings were used in the teaching of Irish in the school, and I can also recall a book entitled "Aids to Irish Composition." Whenever Mr. Brady spread his handkerchief on the slate it was a sign of a long session!

Incident — Irish Class.

Mr. Brady held a bit of grass in his hand — pointed at it and asked: "Ceard é sin?"

I decided to chance it and said "Is traighnin é."

Mr. Brady demanded to know who had answered. Silence.

Mattie Cahill and I were after having a row and out of a sense of revenge he said, "Tom said it!"

However Mr. Brady only said "Now Tom can go home and I'll

keep these blithering idiots here until tonight."

I remember that the teachers used to go to Irish Courses in Gaeltacht areas, one in Munster and one in Connemara.

William Bullfin's "Rambles in Erin" was a schoolbook at that time. Mr. Brady was fond of poetry and often got carried away with the story of a poem. A frequent visitor to the school was a blind man called Mr. Curly. He always wore a long overcoat and was a great storyteller. Mr. Brady had great time for Mr. Curly and always had a long discussion with him in the porch whenever he came to visit.

Mr. Brady had a Pearse bicycle and among the places he visited on his cycle was St. Colman's First Church in the Burren. He talked in great detail about the place. All the pupils regarded his account as very "far fetched." However, in later years when I visited the place for myself I realised Mr. Brady's account had been very realistic and not far-fetched at all. I saw the horse tracks that Mr. Brady had described to us.

I certainly enjoyed my school days and this can be appropriated entirely to Mr. Brady who was very kind and a tremendous headline to his students. Mr. Sexton and Mr. McEvoy were two other teachers who taught in the school. Mr. Brady came from Roscommon and died young.

Another feature of that time was the emigrant train passing through Gort on a particular day each week. It picked up passengers en route to Cork. I remember Eamon de Valera visiting Gort and all the excitement it caused. The "meeting" was held in a field in Glenbrack and a large platform was erected. He had some great supporters in Gort especially Jimmy Mulloy. The "meeting" was held on a Sunday and a big banner was strung across from Lally's (Sullivan's) to Miss Haye's (Roger Fahy's). I tried to pull down the banner but I stopped him. DeValera gave a great speech and told those listening of the break approaching. The townspeople were told to illuminate their windows.



The day the McCarthy Cup came Oct. 15, 1980.



Senior Classes 1972

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Taken on the occasion of President J.J. Noone presenting Thomas O'Quigley with his prize.



Daniel Burke, George's St. centre and two others at a Race Meeting in Gort, at the beginning of this century.



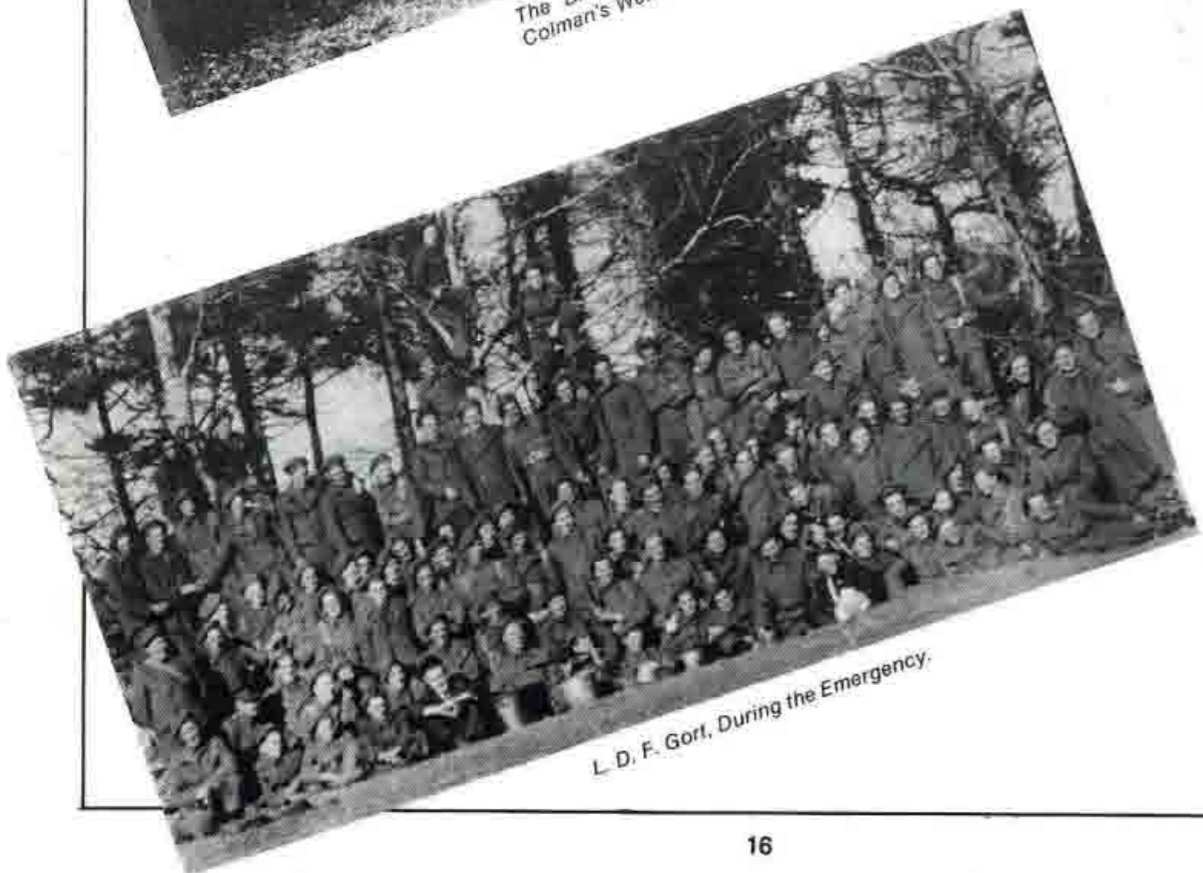
BRIDGE STREET GORT



The Blessing of the Cross at St. Colman's Well c. 1900.



Gort Hurling Team taken at Kilbeacanty about 1943



L. D. F. Gort, During the Emergency.



1939/40 Gort Golf Club.
 Front Row: Pauline Fahey, Lily Spelman, Kathleen Fahey, Bridie Treston, Kathleen Murphy, Lily Blake, Mrs. Daly Lynch, Mrs. Lally, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Sexton, Peggy Laffin, Nuala Fahey.
 Back Row: Paddy Fahey, Tom Burke, Jimmy Griffin, Micko Spelman, Jack Spelman, Paddy Greene, Joe Sexton, Rinagh Spelman, Kevin Treston Miss. Taylor, Margaret O'Halloran, Pakie Broderick, Joe Griffin, Pauline Murphy, Lily Broderick, Johnnie Geoghegan, Lena O'Sullivan, Georgie Daly, Robbie Lahiff, Charlie Foley, Micky Brady, Brid Slattery, Pat Fitzgerald, Ned Gilmarjin, Michael O'Flaherty, Willie Moran, Eddie Treston.
 Extreme Back: Martin Glynn, Henry Cloran, Cecil Sexton, P. Cunningham, Rita Lally (Dec), M. Hastings, M. Gilmartin, Lily Spelman, Ned Walsh, J. Cleary, Ann Coen, Rynal Coen, Patsy Loughnane, T. O'Shaughnessy, T. Lambert, G. Gilmartin.



Sheep Fair in Crowe St. about 25 years ago.

UP, UP AND AWAY!

By Tony Larkin.

Early in 1978 I replied to an advertisement in a national newspaper looking for people interested in a career in Civil Aviation with Aer Lingus. I completed an application form and was asked to attend an aptitude examination in Dublin.

On passing the aptitude tests I then attended a preliminary interview followed some weeks later by a more detailed final interview. After passing the interview we were examined by a psychologist to ensure we were partially sane at least. We then did a company medical. This was to make sure that Aer Lingus would get a few years service out of us before we developed any long term illnesses. Finally, we did a State Medical Examination in St. B Hospital in Dublin. We still have to do a State Medical every year to renew our pilot licence. If we fail any of the tests we have our licence "on the line" and will not regain our licence until we can pass. We are tested on: eyesight; hearing; heart; reflexes; fitness; weight; chest x-ray; blood and urine samples.

In September 1978 twenty of us went to Oxford Air Training School in England. This school is beside the village of Kidlington which is 6 miles north of Oxford city. We spent the next two months in ground school without ever going near an aircraft. We learned the basics of: theory of flight; Air Law; Navigation; Radio Procedure; Radio Theory (how they work); Principles of the engine; and map reading. We had to do an examination at the end of this period.

In late November/early December we were split up into groups of three and given a flight instructor per group. I was trained on a Subaru Fuji which is a single engine piston propeller with two seats. On average it takes 10-14 hours flying with an instructor before you can go solo. Each flight being from 45 minutes to one hour in duration. I went solo just before Christmas 1978 and thus received my wings on my first solo. Each lesson after that was a little bit harder than the one before. We were normally shown what to do by our instructor and then let out on our own to practise. We continued on singles until about July 1979 completing approximately 5 flight tests in that time. One of which was P.P.L. (Private

Pilots Licence) test.

In July we went into ground school again. This time to learn our subjects more thoroughly. After about one month we did Irish State exams. We then trained on Commanch, an American twin engined piston propeller or four seater.



Tony Larkin.

We finished in Oxford with about 250 flying hours. We were then issued with Irish Commercial Pilots Licences (CPL). Back in Dublin we went back into ground school to do a 6 week technical course on the Boeing 737. The Boeing 737 is made by the Boeing Corporation of Seattle in the U.S.A. In Aer Lingus finish, the total capacity is 119 passengers, 4 hostesses and 2 pilots.

Next, we did a State Examination and were issued with Irish Commercial Pilots Licences. The Boeing 737 was our next place of work. We did 10 sessions of 4 hours each, learning how to fly a 737 and to cope with any of the emergency situations which may occur. The next common problems we practised were engine failures, engine fires, hydrolic failures; electrical failures; emergency evacuation etc. The list is almost endless. At the end of the course we did a test to show we could handle flying a jet.

Then we did a number of hours with a training captain, a safety pilot (in case the captain became ill) and an empty 737. Again we did another test and then we were allowed "on the line" with passengers. However I still had a spare pilot with the captain and myself until after approximately two months I did what is known as a "line check." On passing that check the safety pilot was

dropped. That's about it on the training side.

Since then I have been flying 737's to any and all Aer Lingus destinations. After attaining 1,200 hours total flying time I was issued with a Senior Commercial Pilots Licence (SCLP). After attaining 2,000 hours total flying time I was issued with an Airline Transport Pilots Licence (ATPL).

My working week at the moment is very varied - as I have no fixed working times or routes. I know 2 weeks in advance how I am working and where I am going on any particular day. What normally happens on a days work is as follow; I report to the airport 45 minutes before take off. I make out a Flight Plan from which I can deduce Maximum Take-off weight, fuel required, etc. I check what's known as a Navigation Bay which we have to bring with us on every flight. I file on Air Traffic Control Flight plan, which tells each Air Traffic Control region which route we want to take and our destination. And of course I check the weather both actual and forecast.

It takes 2 pilots to operate a 737 - Captain and co-pilot. (I being the co-pilot). The captain and I then go out to the aircraft. The captain checks the inside of the cockpit i.e. the different systems and controls. I do a "walk-around" i.e. I walk around the aircraft and ensure that there is no external damage, the tyres are good, engines are undamaged and clean, no oil, fuel or hydrolic leaks, no ice accumulations on the wing surfaces, etc., etc. I then go into the cockpit. I check all my instrumentation and safety equipment. The four hostesses down the back check their safety equipment and report to the captain. The passengers are brought aboard and the doors are closed.

We then get permission over the radio from Ground Control to "push-back" and start up. Push-back is where a special tractor pushes the aircraft back from the boarding gate before we start engines. We then start both engines and check our instruments to ensure that everything is in order e.g. oil pressure and temperature, revs, exhaust, gas temperatures, etc.

We then taxi out to the holding point of the active runway. We are now on Tower

frequency (on the radio). Tower clears us to "line up" and then to "take off". This is where the fun starts. There are 2 levers in the centre of the cockpit where both of us can reach them. These are called throttle levers and they control the power from the engines. We move these full forward the engines accelerate and develop full power. We tear down the runway until we reach a speed known as Vr - anything from 120-160 m.p.h. depending on our weight. At that speed the flying pilot eases back on the control column and hopefully we leap into the air. We take up the undercarriage and turn on course. We climb out until we reach our cruising altitude. This varies with the distance our

destination is from Dublin, e.g. 18,000 feet for Liverpools, 28,000 feet for London, 33,000 feet for Amsterdam. We are passed from one air traffic controller to the next until eventually we start our descent. This can be up to 120 miles from our land airport if we are very high.

On the descent both engines are at idle power and the aircraft is glided down until we get on "finals" (lined up with the landing runway). We then land, hopefully gently, at a speed anything from 120 - 180 m.p.h. again dependant upon our weight. The lighter the weight the higher the speed. Having completed the hourney, as painlessly as possible for the passengers, we then taxi in to the

stand and disembark the passengers. We very rarely have more than 45 minutes at the destination before we are on our way again. During that time, I again walk around the aircraft to make sure we have not burst tyres or suffered any damage from birds or the like.

On a flight, normally what happens is that the captain will fly one way and I will do the radio work and file out a log we have to keep of the flight progress. In this log I have to record the take off and landing time, our route clearances, the time over the turning points etc. Then on the flight back our roles are reversed, I fly and the skipper does the paperwork.

ANCIENT COOKING PLACES.

By Tom Coffey, Ennis.

During the past few years I became interested in Ancient Cooking Places known to Irish Archaeologists as "Fulachta Fiadha," to date I have discovered some 210 of these field monuments, hitherto unknown in the area charted by Mr. Robinson in his excellent "Map of the Burren." Of course they can be found outside the Burren Area as well and I have recorded some 20 more in the Ennis, Quin Barefield areas.

Of particular interest to the South Galway reader however is the fact that I have noted six Fulachta Fiadhs close enough to the Gort region. One is sited on boggy ground on the left hand side of the road approx. half way between Tubber and Gort. It is probably well known to members of the Gort Archaeological Society.

The second Cooking place is situated to the East of Thor Ballylee Tower. This one is small however and would need an experienced eye to pick it out. The others are in the Shanagliah area.

Photograph shows a classic example of a Fulacht fiadh. They are generally comprised of a



horseshoe shaped mound of burned stone sited in a marshy place, by a spring, stream, Turlough, or lake. They are thought to date from 2,000 B.C. or so to as late as 400 A.D. and were used for the cooking of meat by early stone age and Bronze Age man before they acquired Metal Cooking utensils.

The method used in the construction of these Fulachta Fiadha was as follows:

Having chosen a favourable site, close to a supply of water, they dug a pit in the ground and lined it with wood or flagstones. Next the pit was filled with water and the meat to be cooked was prepared and wrapped in sugans and put into the water. A large fire was started behind the tank

on a hearth of stones, and more stones were put on the fire and heated until red hot. The hot stones were immersed in the water and were discarded when they got too brittle to be used again. This operation was repeated until the water was brought to the boil, and again until the meat was cooked.

It has been found by tests that cooking by this method requires much the same time as if a modern cooker was used.

From constant usage the mound of burned discarded stones became larger and this mound now marks the spot where these ancient activities took place and are known as Fulacht fiadhs.

MICHAEL ROUGHAN

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NORTH OF THE BORDER *By Justin Sadleir.*

"You mind this!", he said handing his wedding ring to his long-suffering wife and making a dash for the car. "Come back you ruffian!", she bellowed but too late.

First stop is Dublin to be joined by companion. The bicycles and panniers are a perfect fit in the back of the car. The journey is Northwards through Swords, Balbriggan, Drogheda and Dundalk. There is a little delay at the Boarder caused by Security Checks. Newry next and on past Banbridge and Lisburn. Skirting Belfast is no bother - it's all motor way.

The first night is spent at Dunadry where accommodation is provided by a friend. Hospitality is such that the start next morning is inevitably late. Spades are manufactured in Templepatrick close by which is also one of the oldest Presbyterian settlements in Ireland. It is said to have been the home of "Jemmy The Weaver" known for his part in the 1798 and 1803 (Robert Emmets) Rebellions. The car is abandoned at Dunadry and the bicycles are brought into action for the journey to Antrim Village on the North East corner of Lough Neagh. Thence it's by rail through Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and into Portrush where Pub Grub is the order of the day and not bad either.

The first stop of interest is Dunluce Castle some three miles East. The main part of the Castle is on a high rock joined by a foot-bridge to the mainland where the rest of the buildings are situated. A Tunnel has been cut through the rock by the action of the sea and it is possible to enter this tunnel on foot. Such famous

characters as Sorley Boy McDonnell and Sean the Proud O'Neill had possession of this valuable piece of real estate at different times. In 1928 the Seventy Earl of Antrim made over the castle, then in ruins, to the State.

By now a gale is blowing from the sea. It is extremely difficult to keep on course and to avoid being blown into the centre of the road. On the few occasions when the wind is from behind there is no need at all to pedal. Portballintrae, a seaside resort, is a little further East. Whatever about the South of England it's doubtful if topless bathing will ever catch on here. By keeping to the coast the temptations of Bushmills, which shares its name with that well-known rival of Paddy, Jameson and Power, are avoided.

The Giants Causeway must be one of the best-known and most often photographed places in Ireland. There is a National Trust Shop here and provision for some refreshments. The rock formation (something similar can be found on Staffa off the Scottish Coast) are magnificent. The books say that these resulted from the cooling of basalt. There are thousands of columns of varying height but generally tending to be lower near the water. These columns are dark in colour and are multi-sided, much the shape of the old English Threepenny Piece.

The coastal path is followed through the Causeway and Eastwards along the Cliff sides. There has been some subsidence and the path is at times a little difficult to manage. Eventually the cliff top is reached by a steep wooden stairs. At the top the wind is again a problem and it is decided to head inland across the fields in search of the road

which proves difficult to find. From time to time the bicycles have to be pushed through the rough terrain or lifted over fences. Apart from this the wind is of such force that it propels the bicycles and riders across fields at considerable speeds so much so that the brakes have to be applied to keep the bicycles under control. Once on the road good progress is made to Ballintoy with its rather attractive Parish Church.

It's decision time, to stay the night or go on to Ballycastle. The decision is to stay. Lodgings are in a Bed and Breakfast establishment with Pub attached. There's time for a couple of games of Darts and Pool before an unremarkable meal in a neighbouring Pub. Here there is general merry-making and dancing which seems set to continue without regard to any Closing Time, maybe there's none in Northern Ireland. Tiredness with perhaps a contribution from beer, overcomes the cyclists who take to their beds before competing for the Oldest Swinger Title.

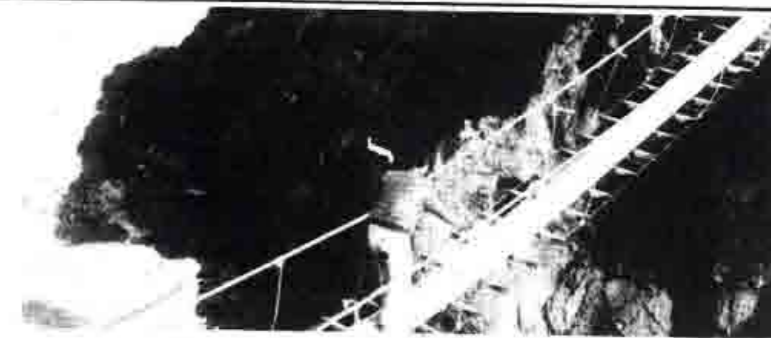
Next morning starts with a visit to Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge fame. A salmon fishery has existed here at least since 1624. The rope bridge connects a small island to the mainland and is used by the fishermen. There is a hut and some equipment to be seen on the island. The bridge is about sixty feet in length and is swaying with the wind at a height of over 80 ft. above sea but the journey across it has to be made. Rathlin Island and the Scottish Coast are clearly visible from the road. It is a short cycle into Ballycastle, (the Ould Lammas Fair). From here a boat can be taken to Rathlin which is the only inhabited island off Northern Ireland. The island is well worth a visit. The boat trip from Ballycastle to Church Bay on Rathlin is about 8 miles, although the distance from the island to Fairhead is only about 2 miles. Rathlin is about 15 miles from the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland. To the West of the island are the waters of Moyle where the children of Lir, turned into swans by their nasty step-mother, had to spend 300 years in exile.

There too in 1306 Robert Bruce, that great Scottish hero, is reputed to have got inspiration to renew his struggle against the

English by watching the efforts of a spider. There are the ruins of a castle and a cave on the island called after Bruce. Rathlin has a population of about 100 and manages to maintain two churches, one Roman Catholic built in 1865 and the other Church of Ireland first built in 1722 and united with Ballintoy Parish since the loss of its own resident Minister in 1960. The population of the island was over 1,000 in 1841. In 1898 Marconi established a Pioneering Radio Link from the mainland to Rathlin which was shut down due to Post Office objection to breach its monopoly. Apparently the Post Office unsuccessfully attempted a rival system but by 1905 had to bring back Marconi. The first car arrived on Rathlin in 1955 and like a lot of other islands there seems to be some problem here in disposing of wrecks.

The island is L shaped with Church Bay in the angle. Nearby is the Manor House for centuries the home of the Gage Family, formerly Lords of the island. Tony McCuaigs is the only Pub on the island. Could he be a relative of Tom McCuaig formerly Radio Eireann Broadcaster? The seas about Rathlin are subject to powerful and dangerous currents and ship-wrecks were common. The Name Boards of a number of lost vessels are displayed on the walls of the Pub and there are no less than three Lighthouses on the island. A visit to Rathlin was intended but on arrival at Ballycastle the worst fears were confirmed. No boats were crossing because the sea was too hazardous. What then, journey on past Fairhead, Murlough Bay and southwards to Torr Head the nearest point to Scotland. There are splendid views of the Mull of Kintyre. The fact that a visit to Rathlin is out causes a problem, time on hand. The remedy is found by stopping for the night at Cushendun - a beautiful village with a nice stream and beach. Much of the area is considered so well worth preserving that it is in the care of The National Trust. The night will be spent in a Hotel close to the sea. A tunnel through nearby sea cliffs leads into a rather posh residence. There is time for a stroll along the beach, a chat with some luckless rod and line fishermen, and a look about the village before returning to the Hotel for a pleasant evening meal.

This is the much loved Antrim



Carrick a Rede rope bridge. Will I risk

Coast Road on to which most of the nine Glens of Antrim lead. The Glens are said to correspond to the ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada which in the fifth century also took in some of South West Scotland. A dialect of Irish was spoken in the Glens within living memory. About five miles south is Cushendall and then Glenariff. The glen bearing this name is said by some to be the loveliest of the nine. A detour is taken to Ossian's Grave a few miles inland. The road inland is adorned by a considerable number of Rowan Trees whose beautiful red berries are a reminder of failed attempts at wine making. The grave is marked by some standing stones.

Next is Carnlough and a stop for lunch at the Londonderry Arms. The brown bread is memorable. There are rather nice waterfalls on a nearby stream. A few miles south is Glenarm with its Castle, seat of the MacDonalds Earls of Antrim for over 300 years. This is also the birth place of Owen McNeill, Commander-in-Chief of The Irish Volunteers. It's getting cold and late and Glenarm for some undefinable reason fails to please so its back to Carnlough and the Londonderry Arms. This is a good decision. The food in the pleasant diningroom is excellent. A number of paintings are displayed on the walls, mostly by Irish Artists including Percy French and Maurice Wilks.

In the bar there are photographs of Arkle. It transpires that the Proprietor had established an "Arkle Club," whatever that might be, here at the height of Arkle's success. Conversation develops rather late in the night with the Proprietor's son. He has been to a Dublin school shared by one of the cyclist's and this compels him to produce his best vintage port which is consumed with relish. A stroll along the beach before retiring will provide no escape in the morning for the consequences of the night's cavorting. A late start, would you believe after lunch, is unavoidable. The wind is now gone and the rain has arrived. The journey inland is a misery but a trip to Slemish where St. Patrick as a boy is reputed to have tended Miliuc's swine, is mandatory. On the way graffiti, Unionist variety, can be seen for the first and indeed only time. Not much can be said about Slemish; public toilets where the walking begins and at the top a bench mark, ugly to begin with but more so by a daubing with several colours of paint. The cycling continues to Ballymena, Ian Paisley and Willie John McBride country. There is time for a look about the shops here and to make a few purchases at prices one can afford before taking the train to Antrim. The circle is completed when the bicycles are packed into the car at Dunadry.



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CURES AT ST. COLMAN'S WELL. By Bob Noone.

There are many cures recorded at St. Colman's Well, mostly for lameness and poor eye-sight. In years gone by people came from far and near seeking cures. Indeed only last year I met a man who had come from Dublin looking for a cure. Back at the beginning of the century the custom was for people to sleep overnight at the well. The last time a person did was in 1932. The oratory at the well was built by the Nestor's of Church Street. There was a big ash tree beside the well for years.

The first cure at the well happened many years ago. There was this man who used to come to Kiltartan Fair. He was sick, so he sent his son, who was lame, to buy cattle at the fair. He gave him two hundred sovereigns. The unfortunate man lost the purse however, so he had to avoid the Custom Gap at Cloughmore (near where Eamon Fahy's house now stands). While taking the short cut he came on two men who asked him about the fair. They started talking about the well, so he paid a visit to it. He was returning home through Carrobane when he felt that he could walk without his stick, so he threw it away.

On arriving home his father asked him what he bought. When he told him he lost the purse his father banished him. He kept coming back to Kiltartan Fair as a drover, however, and always stayed in the one house.

On one of his visits he stayed in lodgings. The people of the house asked him if he knew a certain man, who turned out to be his father. He told them he had been banished on account of losing a purse. The man of the house brought out a purse from the room and asked him if he recognised it. It was the purse he lost. He took the purse reluctantly and went his way. Sometime later there was a match made between his nephew and the daughter of the house he had lodged in. He came back some years later and presented the purse containing the 200 sovereigns to the child of the marriage. He slept in the barn that night and was found dead there in the morning. He was buried by candlelight in Kiltartan cemetery on November 13th, 1815.

Other Cures.

I heard another story about a man who hadn't good clothes to wear, so he came to the well on the evening of St. Colman's Day to avoid the crowds. He was extremely surprised to find devotions on. He made enquiries afterwards and found that no devotions took place! They were obviously divine devotions he had witnessed.

I heard of a four year old blind boy who was brought to the well by his mother. He amazed his mother by picking up a stone and commenting on the colour of it. He was cured. He kept the stone for the rest of his life and indeed it



A new Cross was erected near the well last Autumn.

was wrapped in a handkerchief under his pillow on the day he died at the age of eighty.

There was another man whose eye was damaged in a gun accident. He was passing through Corker and he thought he could see the elm trees perfectly with both eyes. He covered his good eye and found he had perfect sight. About thirty five years ago a little girl who had been hit by a lorry and had spent a long time in hospital was brought to the well by her parents. She looked into the well and pointed out a little fish to her parents. They couldn't see it. She made a complete recovery from her injuries immediately.

It's great to see a new cross erected near the well recently and the annual devotions revived. It's part of our heritage and we should be proud of it.



The old Cross at the Well lies in smithereens.

THE COMPUTER MADE EASY. By Eamonn Fahy.

It was back in the late 1960's and early 1970's that computers first began to impact us in Ireland. In those days only large companies and organisations could afford to invest in computerisation as the costs involved both in terms of the initial outlay and operating expenses were very high.

Today all has changed. It is now possible to buy a computer for a few thousand pounds with similar powers to those that would have cost hundreds of thousands twenty years ago. We can thank or blame if you prefer the development of the micro chip for bringing this change about.

The computers available in today's market range in size from the large mainframe through minicomputers to the micro-computers and it is the micro or personal computer as it is often referred to, that has aroused the most interest of late.

The market for personal computers has increased dramatically over the last two years. In 1983 an estimated 500,000 units were sold in Europe and sales figures are increasing all the time. Britain has the largest home computer sales per capita in the world: it's estimated that 1 in 6 British homes have personal computers.

In Ireland we have seen with increasing frequency over the last eighteen months advertisements of personal computers on television, in newspapers and magazines and it is noticeable how similar the products of the various manufacturers are in both design and appearance. They all consist of
VISUAL DISPLAY UNIT: A screen on which the system displays results and instructions.
CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT (CPU): A box shaped unit which contains an arrangement of micro-chips to read instructions and process information accordingly. The work space

where the computer holds information that it's currently working with is called Random Access Memory (RAM).

DISK DRIVE: This is the computer's filing cabinet, but instead of searching through paperwork, the computer scans rapidly across the magnetic disks.

DISKS: Information is stored and transported on magnetic surfaces, like music on a tape. The information can be numbers or alphabetical characters: it's all called data.

SOFTWARE: This is the instructions or "programme" for the computer to follow, stored on the disks.

computer is its ability to store vast amounts of information, to retrieve that same information so that it is available within seconds of it been required, and the speed with which it can carry out numerous and complex calculations.

The use of the computer in business leads to better management through the more effective use of resources, better decision-making based upon the availability of more information and an ability to manipulate it rapidly; increased productivity of clerical and managerial time; greater job satisfaction in that it reduces significantly the routine boring tasks which were part of



Little Deirdre Fahy works the Computer!

The VDU, CPU, and DISK DRIVES are collectively known as **HARDWARE** but it is the availability of appropriate software packages that really determines the uses to which the computer can be put.

Software packages are programs which use a standard list of instructions to carry out procedures which are common to many businesses such as payroll, stock control, accounting ledgers etc. The packages range in price from £200 upwards, but there is not much point in having a computer and no software. It is like having a car but no petrol.

The real power of the

office work in the past.

The microcomputer has only become a "live" issue in the last eighteen months in this country. The resistance that it faces is in the form of a mental block that people get when it comes to computers. They regard them as incomprehensible, fearful, threatening and/or highly complicated.

In order to drive a car you do not need to have an understanding of how an internal combustion engine works, the parallel is similar with regard to computers; you don't have to know the difference between a bit and byte to operate a computer.

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Shrubs are the more permanent feature of any garden. Many shrubs are grown for the beauty of their flowers, others for their foliage and others for their colourful fruits and berries. Shrubs can vary in height from 12" to 12'. There are two different types of shrubs namely evergreen and deciduous, i.e. those that lose their leaves in the winter.

Shrubs can be planted as single specimens or in groups which is more practical for today's gardener.

Tall shrubs such as flowering currant, Forsythia etc. should not be planted too near the house as they can rob rooms of light and actually have a dwarfing effect on the building itself.

Low growing plants such as heathers etc. can be used for ground cover to eliminate weeds and hard work. Climbing subjects such as Iries, cotoneasters and firethorn can be used to hide bare walls, garden sheds etc.

Preparation of Soil.

As shrubs can last a lifetime the soil should be properly prepared by deep digging and the addition of organic matter i.e. well rotted F.Y.M. or peat moss. Soil should be free of perennial weeds such as scutch grass, docks and so on. All stones and roots should be removed.

Drainage can be a problem on low lying sites especially where the soil is heavy clay. If you possess such soil you will either have to put in some drainage system or settle for shrubs that can tolerate damp conditions.

Containerised shrubs can be planted throughout the year but October to April is the natural planting season. The soil should be fine and the planting hole large enough to contain the entire rootball. Always remove polythene container and cover all the roots to allow for settling. If planting in dry weather water liberally at nightfall. Never plant



during hard frosty weather. Shrubs can be planted 3 to 5 feet apart depending on their eventual height. Large shrubs should be staked in windy exposed areas and tied securely with a rubber band.

Choice of Shrubs.

The wise gardener always plants shrubs that are best suited to his particular site rather than pampering shrubs trying to make them flourish in an unsuitable environment. The majority of shrubs prefer an open sunny sheltered site, away from the drip of overhanging trees. If your garden is very shaded the Oregon grape MAHONIA AQUIFOLIUM with its bright yellow clusters of flowers in winter. Butchers broom also thrives in shade. Others that do quite well include ivy, aucuba (spotted laurel) privet and box. If the soil is acid i.e. opposite to limestone Rhododendrons, evergreen azaleas and camellias can tolerate shade.

If the soil is wet the mock oranges or philadelphus with their orange blossom fragrance are ideal. The weigellias with their variety of foliage and flowers are ideal. The red stemmed doyardwoods and sea buckthorn will bear very wet conditions. If you live near the seaside choosing suitable shrubs is vital. Given protection from salt laden winds a number

of shrubs will thrive that cannot be grown inland on account of hard frosts which are absent near coasts. They include lavender, rosemary, olearii, sene cio, tomatrix, escallonia, griselinia green and variegated.

People with acid soils can opt for the beautiful Rhododendrons, azaleas, skimmia, Kalmia, Camellia etc and Piens (flame of the forest) on account of its striking red leaves in spring.

Limestone soils which dominate around Clare and South Galway enable shrubs such as Viburnums HYPERICUS, HOLLY, ELLAEAGNUS, FUCHSIA, FIRETHORN, FORSYTHIA, BARBERRY, SPIRAEA, PITTOSPORUM, LILAC, BROM and a host of others will thrive.

After Care of Shrubs.

Give them an annual mulch of organic matter and mineral fertilizer such as 8:8:16 or 10:10:20, use sparingly to avoid scorching of plants. Some shrubs such as lilacs or rhododendrons require very little pruning. As a general rule plants that flower late summer and autumn are usually cut back in winter. Shrubs that flower in spring e.g. FORSYTHIA, and flowering CURRANT should be trimmed back after flowering. Always use a sharp secateurs making a slanted cut above an outward facing bud.



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J.C. MURPHY LOOKS BACK
(In this interview with Peadar O Conaire)

P. O'C. : What tempted you to do law?

J.C. M.: My people were very friendly with Paddy Hogan who was both a good politician and solicitor. Paddy's advice was that I should steer clear of politics and take up law. I took his advice. Mind you, I don't think I'd have made a good politician anyhow as I never had a flair for politics.

P. O'C. : Tell me something about your youth.

J.C. M.: I was born at Lisheen almost seventy years ago. There were ten of us in the family (eight are still alive). I went to Lurga N.S. first, but changed to Tiernevan school later. The school was quite a distance from us, and to make matters worse, we had to cross a bog to get to it. Mr. Michael Tuohy was Principal at the time, and Mrs. Heenan was the assistant. I have very happy memories of my years in the Primary School. When I finished my Primary School education my parents sent me to the Cistercians in Roscrea. They tried to give us a liberal education. There were two hundred and forty boys in the College. I remember doing 'Iosagan' in third year and the amazement shown by the teacher, Professor Bill Barry, at my knowledge of the story. I had the book done in National School. I would describe the authorities in the College as being firm but fair.

P. O'C. : Where did you do your law studies?

J.C. M.: First of all I served my apprenticeship with Paddy Hogan, and subsequently with

Brendan Glynn. I took my Intermediate Exams with the Incorporated Law Society in Dublin, came back to the office and served six months before returning to lectures at U.C.D. and taking my final Exams. I qualified in four years. As an apprentice solicitor I had a lot of dealings with Arthur Cox and



J. C. Murphy.

Co., who were Paddy Hogan's town agents in Dublin. As a matter of interest Arthur Cox married the widow of Kevin O'Higgins. She died and Arthur became a priest and was later killed in a car accident in Nairobi.

P. O'C. : Tell me about your early years as a Solicitor

J.C. M.: Well I started off as a

newly qualified Solicitor in Ballygar. I felt there was an opening for another Solicitor in Gort as my family knew quite a few people there and had relations there as it was my home town. I got an office beside the premises of Mrs. L. Geoghegan now owned by Mrs. Marie O'Donnell. On the other side my brother-in-law Ned Gilmartin had a chemists shop. He incidentally was a member of the 1923 Galway All-Ireland champion hurling team.

In later years I moved down to my present premises which incidentally was at one stage the Bank of Ireland office. I got married to Nuala Fahy daughter of Bartley Fahy who was a prominent business man in the town. He was one of the founders of the Gort Monument Company which did a lot for the town.

The World War was on of course at the time and everything was scarce. I had no car, so I had to cycle a great deal. I remember cycling to Kinvara with my bag on the handlebars, hoping the important documents did not get wet.

I enjoyed my young family when they came along, especially bringing them to hurling matches. We had three sons and three daughters. Two of the family followed my footsteps into law—they practise in Galway.

I had four Secretaries in all during my time as a solicitor, Mrs. Hannon, Mrs. Burnell (Tubber), Teresa Tannian and Mary Carey. The latter two are still working in the office.

P. O'C. : Tell me about some of

the colleagues and characters you encountered in your time in Gort.

J.C. M.: Within the profession first of all, Charlie Foley was my colleague and good friend down the years. We always co-operated with each other to the mutual advantage of our clients. I have very happy memories of him as I have of Fonsie O'Flynn as well. I knew District Justice Gordon Hurley very well. He was a brilliant man and a great lawyer. Judge Durkan and Wyse Power stand out in my mind. Sean Flanagan, Euro M.E.P., who was an assistant to Fonsie O'Flynn here in Gort, is a grand fellow and very clever.

Outside of the profession the characters that stand out in my mind are Canon Quinn R.I.P. who had the foresight to help on and secure the purchase of St. Colmans Park when in Gort as a curate. Another was Canon Christy Burke R.I.P. who was first President of Our Ladys College and did so much to establish the school and set so many boys on the road to success. Of course there were many others but to name a few there were J.J. Coen, Ned Roche R.I.P., Ned Walshe, R.I.P., Mattie Brennan who gave his services as secretary to so many organizations and Tim Concidine, Pat O'Connor not forgetting John Kelly first

secretary of the Show Committee. There was of course Dean Hynes P.P. who was responsible for the formation of the Chamber of Commerce in the town. Above all I can't forget Mollie and Denis O'Brien of Glynn's Hotel who did so much to put Gort on the map.

P.O.C.: Did you find your work as a solicitor stimulating and interesting?

J.C. M.: Very much so. It was very varied. I found the 'Writings' as Clare people called it, very interesting. This was a situation where two people had agreed to get married and they approached me to tie up the legal end, which was done for a few pounds. From Christmas to Shrove was the busiest time for 'Writings.' It should be said of course that there was some stress attached to my work. I always abided by the old adage that one should give the opposition credit for knowing more than oneself, and that, I believe, helped me a great deal in my career.

The role of the Solicitor has changed a good deal of course. All the different taxes that have been introduced in recent times seem to mesmerise people and many of them come to seek advice. The traditional friendliness that existed between members of the Profession

seems to be on the wane too, and this is a real pity.

If I may mention a few things that I have found irritating they would be the lack of uniformity in fines and the Right to Remain Silent. I think there is definite need for reform in these areas.

P. O.C.: What changes have you noticed in Gort in the past number of years?

J.C. M.: Well, for one thing many of the names that were over doors when I started my practice in Gort are no longer there. On another level the change in young people, their attitude and approach to life generally, has changed dramatically. Young people are more free now and it must be said they know more than we did. That's a good thing. If there is a shortcoming it is in the area of Courtesy, which was taken for granted in my era.

P. O.C.: Plans for the future?

J.C. M.: I plan to enjoy myself! I will spend more time in Lahinch, where I have a house and play more golf. Mary Larkin a native of Oughterard and daughter of Professor Larkin of U.C.G. has taken over the practice. I will give her any help I can and that she desires, and I wish her every success in the future.

"CINDERELLA"

In February of this year Gort and District Musical Society presented the pantomime "Cinderella" by Dick Heaney. This was their third production, the others being Sinbad the Sailor (1982) and Little Red Riding Hood (1983). It was generally felt that the experience gained during the previous two years would make for a more professional entertaining show. This proved to be so. The Committee made a wise decision in choosing "Cinderella." The story is well known to all and the production was well endowed with plenty of Music, Drama, Song and Dance, Comedy and of course Romance.

The Society was fortunate in again having the talents of Colman Sherry as Producer and Mary Kealy as Musical Director. Lily Slevin as Choreographer in her first year with the Society, truly was the "find of the year."

In the cast and chorus we saw the welcome return of familiar faces. These people have been the back bone of the Society since it was founded in 1981. However, it was gratifying to see some new talent unfold. On the performance this year the Society can look forward to a bright future.

During the Annual General Meeting the financial statement showed what we all feared that the cost of staging a show of this nature has risen considerably. The Society made some wise purchases and their stock of costumes and props will stand to the Society's benefit for many years to come. However, this has resulted in a drain on their finances. In order to raise funds for next year's show the Society are taking a gamble in having Gerry Macken's Big Band to play at the Annual Fund raising dance in Sullivan's Hotel on Friday 19th October. So take the dust off the shoes and the cobwebs off the legs and come out and support us on 19th October.

The Following Committee was elected for 1984/85:-
CHAIRPERSON: Marian Diviney.

VICE CHAIRPERSONS: Pat O'Donnell & Bernie Costello.
SECRETARY: Annette Cooke.
ASS. SECRETARY: Celine Mullins.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Kathleen Moloney.
P.R.O.: Jim Hannigan.



"Now my Prince Charming...."

COMMITTEE: Dan Casey, Bridget O'Regan, Seamus Robinson, Kitty Gillane, Damien McGrath, Ann Marie Coen, Tommy Minogue, Aine O'Doherty, Tom McNevin, Mary Moloney, Paddy Cooke, Annette Lally, Eileen Brennan.

Following the success of "Cinderella", at a function arranged by the Society the following poem by Bernie Geoghegan was recited by Colman Keane.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GORT MUSICAL SOCIETY

We had in our town just two weeks ago
The gayest and liveliest most colourful show;
The Musical Society at its very best
Tickled us pink with their song, dance and jest.

From beginning to end of one night to another
That team worked like magic - as sister and brother
And what a finale after all that exertion
Not "one" deserves "thanks" but all - no exception.

The name of the Panto, no need to relate,
For you all know that "Cinders"

was rescued from fate;
And Kidney and steak, of course got their due
When two pairs of male feet couldn't fashion that shoe.

The Baron and Baroness made one more comic pair
While the Rule of the household they quarrelled to share
We all thought the Baron for her was not able
But sure all that champagne put an end to the fable.

Dandini and Buttons made a versatile couple
Did you see how - throughout they made everyone chuckle?
And hilarity bubbled at the end of it all
Did you see them blackguarding his Majesty's ball?

I couldn't be trusted to name the whole team
If I did - at the length of my Ditty you'd scream
We had fairies and magic, tap-dancers and chorus
In that superbly conducted performance before us.

It's over till next year when they rally again
To present yet another triumphant refrain;
And tonight we're together in - not a Royal Hall
But we'll have just as much crack as his Majesty's ball.



Words of advice from Colman Sherry at the interval.



Frank & Niall Finnegan with Apprentice Martin O'Donnell hold the award they received from the Irish Master Butcher's Federation for achieving 2nd place in the overall Irish Sausage of the Year Competition.

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ST. COLMAN'S CEMETERY RESTORATION

By M. C. Breathnach and T. Minogue.

St Colman's Cathedral Church of Ireland was presented by the Right Rev. Edwin Owen, Church of Ireland Bishop of Killaloe and Clonfert to Most Rev. Dr Michael Browne, Bishop of Galway and Kilmacduagh in April 1972. In accepting it Dr. Browne said that the church could be used as a museum or library.

After years' of negotiation Canon Quinn convinced the Board of Works to convert the church into a Library. They did a magnificent job on the restoration; they replaced the roof restored the ceilings, the walls and the floors to their original state. They installed central heating giving Gort the finest library in the country.

The cemetery which adjoins the Library was overgrown and in need of attention. Several approaches were made to the County Council re- the tidying up and laying out of pathways etc. all attempts failed.

The Youth Employment Agency was established in 1982; the aim of this Agency is to provide employment for young people in their own parishes.

The Chamber of Commerce decided that the restoration of this cemetery would be a good project to provide some employment locally. They applied for a scheme and it was granted. Some finance had to be



One of the many interesting headstones cleaned up.

who had graves there gave generously thus making it possible for the scheme to go ahead. Sanction was granted for the employment of five young men and a foreman. The scheme started on the 8th August 1983 and finished on the 25/11/83.

Special mention here for the foreman Mr. Tony Connors of Crowe St. who worked tirelessly during the sixteen weeks restoring the cemetery to its present state. The young men working with him were Gerard Cusack of Cloone, Gort, Gerry Regan Kilbeacanty, Laurence

Nolan, Ballyanneen, Kieran Reddy, Ballylugh, Gort, Francis Walsh, Claghnaakeva, Gort. The following were taken on when three of the above workers received permanent work elsewhere. Gerry O'Donnell, Kilbeacanty, James Fahy, Crowe St. and Vincent Collins, Peterswell. The restoration work done by those young people during the sixteen weeks deserves the highest praise.

In the tidy towns competition the restoration of the cemetery played a major part in securing second place in the County and thus qualifying for a £750 award. It is arranged that £500 of this award will be spent on further development in the cemetery.

A very interesting survey could be carried out in the cemetery on the families buried there; one of the oldest stones unearthed during the restoration was 250 years old. Another stone unearthed was commemorating a soldier who was drowned in Lough Cutra. This stone was in a perfect state of preservation despite the fact that it was erected over 100 years ago.

The cemetery is being prepared for re-seeding and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the local people it will be maintained to its present standard.

POET'S CORNER.

REBEL.

By Michael O'Dwyer.

Heavy chip upon each shoulder,
Society's in a mess,
Born with nothing, more or less.
Head bursting with ideas,
Sound wind and limb,
Mention blessings, at you he'll grin.
Startin from the bottom does not apeat to him.
The counrty owes him a living, he's been born poor,
The rich he loathes, he'd have them shot,
Cause he was born in a cot.
He will rob; often in the clink,
He'll not work for a capitalist pig.
Born rebel, over-ripe, lit to pluck,
Too intelligent, in a rut, he'll not get stuck.
Join the revolution, we'll set things right,
He'll stop a bullet when the time is right.

POPSTARS.

By Michael O'Dwyer.

Half mile queue of faded jeans,
Patiently wait the idols of their dreams,
Hysterical female screeches, intoxicated youths,
They're all freaked out, "With it man."
That's the truth.
Pincer tight jeans exaggerate the hips,
A pair of lovers stop the traffic
Glued together at the lips,
Inside puppet drummer beats it loud,
Idols in a trance,
Gods throw titbits to the crowd,
No room to dance.
Watch hypnotic lights,
Absorb the heavy beat,
Watch the strength of youth,
Feel the heat.

DEPRESSION

By Sean Leahy.

Heavy weights are forever pressing on my brain,
While the outer wall of my skull, cannot stand the strain,
The crack, that sooner or later will shatter my head,
Will come as sure, as sure as death

Then, and only then will I begin to live again,
Free of torture, stress and pain.
In a land of freedom, where walk the pure of heart,
And no goodbyes are said, or views to part.

FOREVER SILENCED.

By "Nature Lover"

Silent and still on the grassy verge
Death in the hour of springtime's surge
Came to thee, wee one, while all around
Is heard a loud reawakening sound.
Your feathered kin sing loudly but they
Have not the time for mournful lay,
Lost in the joys, an Ecstatic life
That gives not a thought to sorrow or strife.
Spring is a time of opening eyes
Of hope, anticipation's sigh:

Tulips erect, now nod, now swaying
Little lambs on soft slopes leaping and playing.
But like the defiant daffodil
Dancer on winter's windowsill,
You'll not lend to summer's symphony,
The colour and strands of your melody.
No more at twilight I'll hear you sing
Never again that joyous ring,
Nor from leafy brances will you thrill,
Forever, forever, silent and still.

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A LOT OF LONELY PEOPLE PASSING BY.

By Sean Leahy.

Standing at the station, the curse of emigration,
Waiting for the train to come along,
Mothers eyes have tears, in her arms I feel her fears,
As she kisses me and says, "goodbye son."
The train moves up the track, no point now looking back
as scens of your childhood pass you by,
Forget about that sorrow, look forward to tomorrow,
There is a lot of lonely people passing by.

CHORUS

There's a lot of lonely people passing by,
you see the tears of sorrow in their eyes,
Yes there's a lot of lonely people passing by.
I see the old man trembling, at the bench he is unravelling
newspapers to keep his body warm
his hands out in appeal, some pennies for a meal,
he will pray for you to keep you from all harm
"Be kind to me dear youth, I was once as young as you
misfortune brought me down to where I lie,
I stepped o'er the brink, with the gambling and the drink."
Yes there's a lot of lonely people passing by.

CHORUS

Editor's Note: This latest song from the pen of Seán Leahy, and sung by Colie Moran is rapidly gaining popularity in the Gort area. Good luck with it boys.

CHORUS

O son you did not care, when you went away to war,
adventure is all you thought of then,
But the bullet and the gun, did away with all the fun,
It took away the youth, and left a man,
It's no use crying there, though the cries are everywhere
you wish to God somehow that you would die,
That adventure is all gone, but the sorrow lingers on,
Yes there's a lot of lonely people passing by.

CHORUS

Standing by the grave, where the yew trees softly wave,
goodbye dear mother, wish I loved you more,
But misfortune made me roam, from my parents and my home,
I wish that I could capture youth once ore,
That sorrow in my past, I hope to God won't last,
But God how quickly those years seem to fly,
So please hold back tomorrow, to some it brings but sorrow
There's a lot of lonely people passing by.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

COLOUR THIS PICTURE



If you want to work this out think backwards!
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GSRH BLF ZIV EVIB HNZIG
MLD HVMW Z NVHHZTV GL Z
UIRVMW FHRMT BLFI
MVD XLWV.

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