

... all the way from Louisburgh !



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# An Goinneal



Louisburgh



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*A light in the dark* : Eileen Ferrins leaving for Bangladesh (cover-photo).

An Coinneal

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NUMBER NINE CHRISTMAS 1975

AN CHOINNEAL is a periodical of Kilgeever Parish; the oldest parish magazine in Ireland. It has appeared in alternate years since 1959.

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## Letters to the Editor

I have recently come upon your magazine and find it most interesting. How many back issues do you have? Would any in particular be especially rich in information about local place-names and history and folklore associated with sites in the parish? I find all of **An Choinneal** fascinating and agree with your well-considered editorial about the proposed Dutch development — it seems too much.

Philip Snyder (Lettergesh, Renvyle)

*Yes; place-names, folklore and history have been recurring frequently in all our past issues Philip, but (alas!) no copies now remain in stock, as you will read elsewhere in this issue. Complimentary remarks appreciated: we invite adverse constructive comment too!*

It arrived eventually on Good Friday and it helped to make our Easter happy and joyful. We are most anxious to receive it, as when Michael J. heard it was out he was disappointed when he hadn't got a copy. Thanks again for sending it on.

Gert McDermott (Hartford, Mass)

Last Saturday I received the last of my order of thirty-two copies: we enjoy reading stories, etc. our mother had told us about. The Kilgeever well, as I remember her telling of it, is where people went to do the stations(?). She left Ireland at the age of sixteen and yet she had so many tales and memories! Enclosing bank-draft for forty dollars: if this is not enough please let me know.

Enda C. Teillon (Williamstown, Mass.)

*Your moral and financial support are both practical, Mrs. Teillon. Could we perhaps hope for some of your mother's*

*memories which we have not hitherto published?*

I read it over and over again when I came in. Love to all in Louisburgh.

Brigid O'Malley (Huddersfield)

I enjoyed it very much and I would like to have the next issue when it comes out.

Myles Ruddy (Coventry)

Very pleased to see photographs of Anthony McDonnell and Mrs. Gallagher — and well they look! I've only glanced at it yet but I'm looking forward to a good read.  
Mary (Lyons) Taaffe (Drogheda)

I found the article on Seán T. Morahan very interesting: I knew him well and visited him often when he lived and taught in Glenmask. He was the life of the district: it's sad to pass through Glenmask now. The Louisburgh district will soon be famous according to the planning we read off (Father) P. F. Malone (Clonbur)  
*How disappointing Father — and we thought that already Louisburgh was — well . . .*

We all find it very interesting reading. I would like to become a foundation member.

J. Garside (Stalybridge, Cheshire)

We have received a copy of each issue since you gave us the first one in 1963 when you visited Tom and Mary Lyons in Chicago. They are fine and happy in their new home in Wisconsin.

Jerry and Kate Gibbons (Chicago)

*I hope our magazine gives you a feeling of friendship such as your note brings me. Regards to Tom and Mary!*

## Our Sponsors

*As a matter of economy we have dispensed with local advertising and have asked instead for sponsorship. Our sincere thanks to these generous supporters :*

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There are also some five anonymous sponsors.

## Letters . . .

Congratulations to all the writers; Louisburgh must be really proud off them. Certainly I am and so are my sisters and my Dad ( who will be ninety years old on 18 January 1974). When he saw the pictures of Tom Harney and Mr. Morahan, the tears rolled down h's cheeks . . . I can sell at least six copies. Enclosed a few dollars to cover expenses. (Yes it must be costly but I'm sure every Louisburgh person understands).

Ann Carr (Framingham)

*First things first, Ann — give our continued regards to your dear Dad. Tell him I hope he accompanies Pat McNally across the frontier of the century. For the other things — many thanks.*

I am sending you a cheque for twenty dollars as a subscription for the **Coinneal**. I really enjoyed the copy you sent me and I am looking forward to the next issue.

Jim and Della McNamara  
(Chicago)

*Jim, I wonder if you noticed a small item "Remembering Sion" on page 91 of our last issue? It recalled Saint Patrick's Day 1918 when the band from "the West" marched to Killeen and later to Louisburgh. The writer requested John Mack (your brother?) to give the story of that hand in a future Coinneal. Can you help?*

Many thanks for the latest and (I think) the best issue. I am particularly pleased with the fine contributions from so many people who never had a chance of post-primary education.

Pat Prendergast (Kilmaine)  
*God rest you, Father Pat.*

I enjoyed every page of it. My grateful wishes to all!

Gerry Moore (Dublin)

I am so pleased with **An Choinneal**.

I read my own letter to you and the answers to my questions, and I looked at the pictures of my grandparents and Uncle Pete several times, and read many other articles. I'll read more when I receive another copy — you see today, I sent this copy to my Uncle Paddy Walsh in Manchester, N.H. He is about seventy-nine and might know some of the people mentioned. My mother often spoke of Father Joyce and Lady Wilbraham, also a Rutledge family. Although she was only sixteen she remember long poems etc. as if she had been much older. She had one poem about Garvey of Murrisk. My father used to furnish music at dances in Ireland by whistling and playing a jew's harp. We have twelve grandchildren so my grandparents are their great-great grandparents. Not many out here can top that! It's wonderful for the children to see a picture of these ancestors in a magazine from their great-grandmother's parish in Ireland.

Enda Teillon (Williamstown Mass.)  
*Whisper Mrs. Teillon: surely Uncle Paddy Walsh has some of your mother's store of stories, poems and memories. Could you? . . . Would you? . . . Thank you!*

It is a lovely production: I read every little line with interest.

J. J. Moran (Knock)

Delighted to receive it: it says much for the enterprise and dedication of everyone involved. Having some knowledge of the printing trade I have a fair idea of the work and worry (not to mention cost). Your footnote to my letter which you published pleased me immensely: it raised a hope that

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## Letters . . .

some long-broken contacts might be repaired . . . Two friends of mine here are natives of Louisburgh — Mrs. Taaffe and Miss Eta McGreal.

Seosamh Ó Gallchoir

*The very interesting details you gave as to your grandfather are published elsewhere in a new feature "Kith and Kin" (page 30), Seosamh. I hope you get more information from this experiment.*

I am glad to see it is still burning brightly — brighter, I think, than ever. It is as welcome as Christmas. I congratulate all associated with the production of it and have pleasure in enclosing a small donation towards expenses.

James Fergus (Bishop of Achonry)

It is full of good things.

Michael Sammin (Monivea)

Congratulations to all you people in Louisburgh who are associated with the production. It took me on a beautiful trip down memory lane, back to my childhood in Kilgeever. It was lovely to read about my dear Dad, "Big Thomas", who was indeed a terrific character; and also many more familiar names of people and places which had long since (I'm afraid!) slipped my memory. I have had two copies (1971 and 1973) sent to me by my sister-in-law, Mary.

Keep up the good work. I am now becoming a Foundation Member and am already looking forward to the arrival of your next publication.

Mrs. Bridie (Jennings) Brush  
Tasmania

*Each "new" territory added to our mailing list brings us an extra thrill, Mrs. Brush. What a loyal sister-in-law you have in your old home in Kilgeever!*

Delighted to get your lovely magazine. We had a lengthy debate on Celine Lyons's poem.

Mrs. Maura Dervan (Loughrea)

I enclose cheque for Foundation Membership. It's wonderful to know what dear Louisburgh is doing. I've enjoyed this issue from cover to cover and look eagerly to the next.

Mrs. Betty (O'Grady) O'Shea  
(Boosterstown)

As I am a native of Louisburgh I love reading about the place.

Mrs. Josephine O'Grady  
(Manchester)

It's the best one yet by far. I had a look through and I can hardly wait until after dinner to see the remainder . . . They deserve great credit . . . The cover-picture and design are beautiful. Such talent. May this light gladden the hearts of many of our people throughout the world.

Una O'Malley

I am enclosing ten dollars towards the success of "An Choinneal" and looking forward to having another sent to me.

Joseph W. Fergus (Connecticut)

*God rest you Joe Fergus. Your loyal support for the idea of this magazine comes more poignantly to mind now that you are no longer an emigrant. May your Choinneal turn brightly on high!*

I appreciate the invitation to write "Tales of Grandma Philbin". I would love to, but I tremble at the thought of daring to sit at the writing-table of such gifted writers as those who contribute to this splendid little booklet. I will gather

## Our Contributors

*Mr. Micheal de Burca* (Roonkeel) is a local farmer; has become a political commentator through several numbers in the past.

*Mr. Austin Burns* (Pulgloss) has been working for many years in Coventry.

*Mr. Sean Cadden B.Agr.Sc.*, is the area agricultural adviser; has interested himself deeply in the economic survival of the parish. *Mrs. Maire Ni Dhufaigh* (nee O'Malley) was schoolteacher in Inisturk and Tallabawn. With her husband, Paddy, she now runs a business premises in Chapel Street.

*Miss Eileen Ferrins* (Furmoye) qualified as a Home Economics Teacher and volunteered to go to Bangladesh with "Concern".

*Mr. Jimmy Mannion* (Main Street), a long-time clerk of Louisburgh Church, has retired and writes occasional poems.

*Mr. Michael McKeown* (Main Street) is principal teacher at the new central school in Killeen.

*Mr. Daithi Mag Rael* is scholar, historian and now retired teacher. Has written prolific treatises on local folklore and history. His late wife, *Maighread*, (God rest her) wrote her article during her last illness.

*Mr. Basil Morahan* (Main Street) is a secondary-school teacher in Westport. He was an unsuccessful independent candidate in the recent by-election.

*Mr. Michael O'Brien* (Bunowen Road) has a vast knowledge of the area and people garnered during his days as agricultural adviser here. He is vice-chairman of the *Choinneal* committee.

*Mr. Donald O'Leary* (Bunowen Road) has returned from Dublin recently and teaches in Westport. He has an active interest in craftsmanship.

*Mr. Michael O'Malley* (Main Street) is a progressive young national school teacher at present teaching in Lankill near Westport.

*Mrs. Noreen O'Malley* (Roonith) was formerly Noreen Jordan of Carrowniskey.

*Miss Una O'Malley* (Kinnadoohey) is a committee member and frequent contributor to *An Choinneal*.

*Martin O'Reilly* (Coolmakeen, Claremorris) is a native of Chapel Street. Readers look forward to his recorded memories and distinctive style.

*Father Charles Scahill* (Bridge Street) is parish priest of Balla. He retains close contacts with the parish of his boyhood.

*Mr. Tommie Staunton* (Tallabawn) lives now at Knappagh but returns regularly to top up the batteries of his rich memory.

*Father Kieran Waldron* is a native of Ballyhaunis and teaches in Sancta Maria. He is a member of the editorial board.

## Letters . . .

her tales together, which so enchanted me, and send them to you. Refuse them if you think them not worth publishing. I love the Coinneal because:

Irish Collens, Irish tunes  
Irish whiskey and gossoons  
Irish wit and Irish eyes  
Scoff and curse, prayerful 'byes.  
Anything Irish I truly adore  
That why I love the Coinneal  
asthór!

Since it came I've been  
betwitched:

No work done, divil a bit!

Helen Ready (Grand Concourse)

*Tut-tut, Helen; you must not excuse yourself from household chores by reading a magazine unless you are in fact writing for it as well.*

Congratulations on a fine production. It is just the kind of annual that we would like to turn out here . . . I am worried if it is possible to sell enough copies in a community of 1,500 people . . . I

*Our sincere thanks to Mr. Liam Lyons and Mr. Frank Dolan who have courteously provided many photographs (as indicated) for this number free of charge.*

would love to know how you make it pay.

John Ryan C.C. (Bruff)

*If space permits, Father John, this issue will contain a page of the financial history of An Choinneal. Not alone have we remained solvent in ordinary conditions, but have just 'surfaced' from a freak flood which destroyed our stocks. In short the formula has been: belief in our worth, loyalty of our people and a liberal amount of dogged perseverance.*

I loved that write up a few issues back about poor Michael O'Grady. After reading it I penned these lines:

God rest you Michael Grady,

All peace be to your shade!

Canon Healy thought that on him

Some roguish tricks you played.

I do love the **Coinneal**; so much that I read it over and over again. May God bless all who helped to put it on the market.

Austin Burns (Coventry)

*Austin, your sincere and simple wish is typical of the great spirit which more than compensates our editorial committee. Sincere thanks for your appreciable contribution in money. Father Ryan will gather what I mean by the loyalty of our people.*

## WHAT NOW ?

So the Dutch project has failed. Just before the publication of our last issue the problem of a truly major decision faced the people of the parish: a complex of three thousand houses was to be built in the area from Killadoon to Bunndorragha and planning permission would soon be sought. This magazine sounded a warning because of the *size* of the project, because of its being *irreversible*, and because of the danger of *mammon* becoming the be-all, as it had become in other parts of our country. Our last issue recommended that a public debate be held before a final decision be made. Such a debate *was* held and it helped considerably to set out the conflicting views.

The two main lines of argument were easy to predict in our last issue, but there were some ramifications which appeared only as the debate wore on. It is probably fair to state that the main objectors to the scheme were the representatives of An Taisce, Bord Failte and local farmers close to the proposed site; and that those who were in favour of the scheme were generally the committees in the eastern (Louisburgh) area of the parish — notably the Louisburgh Tourist Association — and business and professional people in different areas and villages. A quasi-referendum conducted by Macra na Tuaithe Club showed in favour of the scheme. It is also fair to state that the level of discussion (formal debate and ensuing dialogue) was keen, intelligent and dignified, if occasionally heated or emotional. Some telling points were scored: "If," said the farmers, "the townspeople welcome this complex so warmly, why not bring it in beside the town? Why foist it on *us*?" A site, of course, was not available elsewhere. "If", said a parent, "there is a drug-scare involved, surely we prefer that our children face such a test *beside their own homes*, rather than in Birmingham or Boston?" Whether those were the only alternatives is the point of a recent question: "What are we to be given now that this project is killed?"

The case was given wide national publicity: "The Irish Times" in particular reported the developing events very fully. In an early article (May 1974) it forecast that this would be a national test-case. In March 1974 objections to the plans were heard in Castlebar. (By then the original 3,000 houses, later 1,000, had diminished to six-hundred-and-fifty, all in Dadreen). The objectors included: Mr. Niall Reddy and Mr. Niall Millar (Bord Failte), Dr. Arthur Martin (Irish Coastline Survey Team), Mr.



Thomas O'Malley (Kinnadoohey), Mr. Sean Rothery and Mr. L. B. Mayor-Jones (An Taisce), Dr. David Cabot (An Foras Forbartha) and Canon P. W. Davis (I.F.A.) Eventually the permission — granted by Mayo County Council, subject to fifteen demanding conditions — was revoked by the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Jim Tully, and the scheme fell through. So much for the history of the case.

Perhaps the happiest outcome is that the local people involved in the dispute have, to use the old word, "behaved" so well. We now suggest that time for action is still here. On the one hand the question can be well asked: "What *can* those objectors offer us in place of that project?": on the otherhand, those who feared such a huge take-over must not imagine that all is now safe. This is a mere breathing-space. Inevitably modern methods and ways will influence the most sheltered society: we have been spared a swamping, but we must now plan to absorb the sap required for growth. In this quest — the quest for industry, whether in factory, sea, bog, farm, or forest — both parties in the Dadreen case can find common cause: one, to win the employment that the Dutch scheme would probably have given; the other, to ensure that no such scheme would ever be *needed* again. A composite article in this issue (page 69) reveals the wishes and fears of our present youth at Leaving Certificate stage: more than half of them see no future for themselves at home as things now stand, although they would wish to remain here. Another, thoughtful, article by Mr. Sean Cadden charts the road, or at least some paths, to community recovery. If this community of ours can *divide* with zeal and with dignity about the weighty problem of the Dutch complex, what could the same community do, *united* in zeal, to restore our dignity and hand it on to a generation who just now must make another major decision? *Ni he la na gaoithe . . . !*

## By - Product

It is well over thirty years since we had a by-election in this part of Mayo. The recent (12 November 1975) one was caused by the death of Mr. Henry Kenny who was a parliamentary secretary. He is well remembered for his footballing prowess and was very highly regarded by all political sides. The candidates for the vacant seat were Mr. Kenny's son, Enda (who eventually was elected), Michael Joe McGreal of Balla, and Basil Morahan of Louisburgh. (Since the last-named is a brother of the editor, there is evident hazard in dealing with the trend of events, even apart from the supposed risk in treating of political matters at all. It is a calculated risk: in a basic sense any magazine which deals with people *must* deal with politics. But we feel that the parish was involved in this by-election in ways that should not be left unrecorded. Apprised of the possibility of any prejudice, the

reader will continue with appropriate caution!)

The campaign has been described as being "admirably free from personality-bashing and mud-slinging" (*— Mayo News*), "orderly and devoid of all bitterness" (*— Connaught Telegraph*), and "commendably clean" (*— Mayo Post*). One gathers that it was in this respect a big improvement on the campaigns witnessed in the past. It is a reason for general pleasure and congratulation. Louisburgh prided itself on having been chosen for some of the most important meetings in the constituency: the Taoiseach, Mr. Liam Cosgrave, made his most important speech here on Saturday, November 1st: the opposition leader, Mr. Jack Lynch, chose Louisburgh (perhaps as a counter) for his final rally on election-eve. Mr. Cosgrave's speech was more widely reported: it dealt with his policy statement on law-and-order; and, because it referred to the then-current Herrema kidnapping, it got a corresponding international publicity. The Irish dailies in the ensuing week kept referring to it as "the Louisburgh speech": Telefis Eireann had the usual difficulties of pronunciation!

Basil Morahan's candidature has caused considerable comment at local and national level. His line of policy has, at the editor's request, been set forth elsewhere (page 37) in this issue. His election strategy was simple; so simple as to cause wonder that this exact line had not been tried before. Because this was a by-election — with of course only *one* seat; because there were only two other, main-party, candidates; and because it was under the usual system of proportional representation, he could propose that party voters might reprimand *their own* party for its poor record by voting first for him and secondly for party. On his elimination, he said, such votes would revert to the party, "but with a caution". His use of radio and television, it is generally agreed, was very convincing; and his total poll of 1,481, a modest enough five per cent of the total, was still sizeable enough to raise political eyebrows in many quarters.

The whole exercise does underline the opportunities that people have in a democratic system if that system is used to its full potential. The entire cabinet and shadow-cabinet have been acquainted intimately now with things as they are here. Even the highest-ranking, most aloof politicians must have got the message that all is not right in West Mayo. They must not now be allowed to forget us until another by-election. It is the clear duty of responsible adults in the parish to keep up an increasing pressure — whether through their own political party or otherwise — until the economic and social ills of Kilgeever are healed. A door has been prized: it must never be let slam again. It can be pushed wide open if influential people among us are great enough to lend a shoulder. Together.

## Renovation and Renewal

"The thronging crowd of this congregation is the dedication of a house of prayer. The house then of our prayers is the one before our eyes, but we ourselves are the house of God. If we ourselves are the house of God, we are being built up in this age, that at the end of the age we may be dedicated".

— Saint Augustine (Sermon 336)

This extract from Saint Augustine formed part of the first reading on Ascension Day, 8 May 1975 when our parish church in Louisburgh was solemnly blessed and re-dedicated by Archbishop Cunnane following its recent renovation. The reading emphasized that the renovation of the church building and its dedication can be accomplished in a short time, but the building up and "dedication" of its people is the on-going task of a lifetime in each generation. The happy gathering on 8th May of young and old, of the Archbishop, Bishop Fergus, the native priests of Louisburgh, the parish clergy and the people, was truly a reflection of the Church on this pilgrimage.

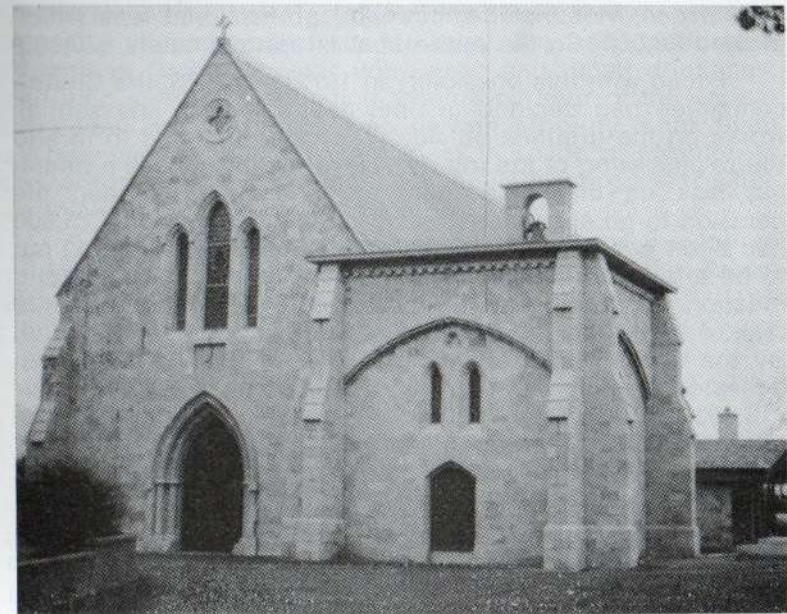
So now, thanks to the untiring and generous help of thousands of people both in Ireland and abroad, Louisburgh has a beautiful parish church — simple in its interior design, but telling in its insistence on the great essentials of our religion. Here is a quiet, prayerful house of God in a noisy world. Here is a holy place where Mass, and particularly the Sunday parish Mass can be celebrated in a way that easily calls attention to its eternal message — the call to community prayer and awareness and the need to praise and thank God through the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Already a willingness to participate more fully in community worship and community action is growing.

### **Work of craft**

Louisburgh people from overseas will be anxious to know how their parish church now appears. It is difficult to describe it or even to 'picture' it from photographs. Externally, the removal of a century's grime from the stone-

work has been a remarkable success. A repeated comment from the stone-cleaning specialists who worked on it concerned the intricacy and perfection of the masonry as it was again revealing itself. The names of those fine craftsmen are long forgotten, but their work lives on. The mason of 1974 has quite rightly ensured that "J.N.'s" beautiful craftsmanship in the stone-work facing the new porch and surrounding the new windows in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel has not been left unrecorded — in a secret corner near the roof.

The church was vacated after last Mass on Sunday, 4 February 1974 and the next Mass celebrated there was on November 25th. In the meantime our congregation had moved to the cramped conditions of the Parochial Hall and the contractors, Messrs Cox, Walkin and Cox under the supervision of the architect, Mr. Cyril Bowman, moved into the church. Their work was to be characterized by a thoroughness and loving care for detail that has reflected itself in all parts of the completed building. Parishioners and visitors alike who passed the closed church day after day were hardly aware of the amount of details (and problems) that had to be attended to. Work on the gallery and ceiling alone necessitated scaffolding for ten weeks to the very apex of the roof. One of the more bizarre memories I have



*Renovated and renewed*

of this part of the operation is a tractor and trailer moving up through the main aisle of the church loaded with scaffolding materials. No doubt, the contractor's staff will have their own favourite memories.

It is in the sanctuary, of course, that the most notable (and successful) alterations have been made. There is a simplicity without bareness, a warmth and considered arrangement of altar, ambo, tabernacle and font that lends itself perfectly to all that the new liturgy requires. New Stations of the Cross (in limestone), new tabernacle in repoussé bronze and vitreous enamel, and most outstandingly the very beautiful (old) stained glass windows in the chancel, revealed now as never before, all combine to make this church — as many visitors have remarked — one of the very beautiful old churches in modern Ireland.

### Expense

The cost of work, has of course, been considerable — much higher even than one's wildest fears. The complete account has recently been furnished, and allowing for the price variation due to inflation (£5,418.28) and £4,262.05 for extras that became necessary as the work proceeded, the total contract price was £63,957.17. This figure includes a substantial (and arguably unconstitutional\*) sum of £1,885.43 to be paid to the Government in Value Added Tax! It does not include, however, professional fees which exceed £6,000. So the entire cost is approximately £70,000.

Faced with this possibility in 1972 and 1973, the Church committee had decided to omit desirable, but unessential, works on the grounds outside. They also decided to forego the re-plastering of the interior. Nevertheless, it was a daunting task on that cold night in January 1974 when the decision to go ahead was reached. At that time only £15,000 had been collected. Worse still, that year of 1974 turned out to be a disastrous year for the farming community here and inflation was raging at twenty per cent per annum. So the task of "breaking the back" of the bill was not an easy one. By the end of 1974, however, a total of £34,514 had been collected and so far this year to November 1st a further £16,993.08 has been gathered — truly a magnificent response in spite of all the difficulties. Out of this sum ordinary running costs of the church are paid, so we are left now with approximately another £20,000 to raise in the next year

\*See Constitution of Ireland, Article 44, 2:3 "The State shall not impose any disabilities or make any discrimination on the ground of religious profession, belief or status". and 2:5 "Every religious denomination shall have the right to manage its own affairs, own, acquire and administer property, movable and immovable".

or so. We have been singularly fortunate in not having to pay interest at any time so far, due largely to an interest-free loan of £18,000 from diocesan central funds.

### Returning thanks

Where does one begin to record in this short article the gratitude that is due to the thousands of people who have helped? Only God knows where the greatest sacrifices have been made. Naturally, the burden of the cost is being borne by our parish householders through regular weekly and monthly contributions: these it may be possible to thank. Those who helped in fund-raising activities — sales of work, socials, concerts, collection of waste paper, dances, sponsored walks and raffles, can also, perhaps, be reached. One can thank the business firms outside Louisburgh who generously supported our sales of work. But how can one thank adequately those who sent donations from various corners of Ireland, from Britain, from Canada, Australia and the United States of America — those who may never come home to see the church they have contributed to. How can one thank the unnamed people who turned up in their hundreds to a social in Boston, one night last April, and sent on as a result the sum of £1,768.67? How can the people of Louisburgh adequately thank those in their midst who chose to remain anonymous and contributed over £2,000 in private individual donations. How can we adequately thank those people from far away who responded to a Christmas Card last year with large and small donations, and who still are responding when they hear of the appeal from their native parish? No one can properly thank them all because we will not meet them this side of eternity. In the words of the Irish poem. "I líontai Dé, go gcastar sinn" — may we meet in the kingdom of God.

One of the memorable moments in the ceremony of re-dedication on May 8th, the singing of the beautiful Psalm 22, comes to mind :

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

To revive my dropping spirit.

The priest who sang this psalm on that day, one of our very generous benefactors, Father Pat Prendergast from Accony, is already gone to his reward. There he awaits us all — Louisburgh's pilgrim people of God.

Louisburgh

Kieran Waldron

## Re-dedication Sermon

*Following is the text of the sermon preached by Father Charles Scahill (of Bridge Street), parish priest of Balla, on the occasion of the re-dedication of Saint Patrick's Church, Louisburgh, 8 May 1975 :*

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

—Isaiah 60, V.1.

The feast of the Ascension, 1975, will always be remembered in the history of Kilgeever. Our Archbishop, our most illustrious son, Bishop Fergus, a number of priests who are natives of the parish, priests who ministered here, sisters and lay people, men and women natives or friends of the parish have come to show our appreciation of what you have achieved. We have come to thank God with you for all that this church has done for us, and we join with you in giving this church to God renewed — a fitting home where he will always remain ready to receive you.

The history of our parish gives ample proof of renewal. The old church in Kilgeever was built by Saint Iomhair and is still in a moderate state of preservation. "Kilgeever" is the anglicized version of "cill iomhair". Tradition has it that Saint Patrick came to Kilgeever after spending Lent on the Reek, and it is said that the church was built to commemorate that visit. (When we performed the station at the blessed well part of the station took us through the old church). O'Donovan visited the old church in 1838 and concluded that it was built in the thirteenth or fourteenth century. There is a doorway in the sidewall of the south side of the church six feet high, gothic in style and made of limestone; the rest is of crude slate. In the west side there is a very crude doorway in primitive style: this indicates that a more ancient church was remodelled and enlarged in the thirteenth or fourteenth century. Kilgeever Church was probably suppressed in the suppression of Henry VIII when many of the churches suffered the same fate. In a register

of popish priests in 1703 Father Augustine McNeill is listed in Feenone. The parish church was then in Aillemore. In 1801 Patrick Lynch, a music collector, asked in Louisburgh where he could get Mass, and he was told "one and a half miles out towards the south". This was probably the shed in Carr's Lodge, i.e. Ballinamona Lodge where Mr. Garvey allowed the Catholics to have Mass. There are Mass-rocks in Bunowen, Furmoyle and Dereen. My grandfather told me that before the church came to the town it was at Foy's in Tooreen, and he told me of the Mass-paths there. The next site for Saint Patrick's Church was on the site our generation knew as Tom Harney's garage near the Square. In that church on 4 January, 1849, the parish priest Father Tom McCaffrey was buried before the high altar. Father Michael Curley, P.P. was appointed in 1853. He decided to have a mission in 1854, and the Father of Charity gave it. The crowd was so large that the exercises of the mission had to be held out on the Square. This was when Father Curley decided that a new church was necessary. One Sunday after last Mass he assembled all the parishioners on the site of this church. The dimensions of the new church were to be one hundred and sixteen feet by thirty-six feet and considering the effects of the recent famine of 1847 on the people, their small holdings of poor land and very high rents, it was a remarkable achievement to build this church then. Father Curley went twice to America, where all the could afford and actually helped with voluntary people subscribed very generously. At home the people gave labour.

In August 1856 Archbishop McHale solemnly blessed and laid the foundation stone of this church. In the "Telegraph" we read: "When the Archbishop ascended the temporary platform, the Rev. M. Curley came forward and on behalf of the people of the parish presented his Grace with the silver trowel used in the laying of the foundation stone, which his Grace accepted but afterwards returned for the benefit of the building fund. At the conclusion of the religious ceremony, the vast assemblage cheered most enthusiastically for his Grace, the most noble the Marquis of Sligo, George H. Moore Esq., M.P., and for the several gentlemen present who had come very long distances to encourage by their presence and subscriptions the great work that day inaugurated". In 1862 Archbishop McHale dedicated this church. Present was Bishop McEvilly, Bishop of Galway and a native of Bunowen. The Bishop of Clonfert, Bishop John Derry, preached the sermon.

More recently, Canon James Heaney re-roofed the church, and other renovations were just completed by Father

John Burke before the centenary was held on 12 May, 1960, when Archbishop Walsh presided. And today comes the rededication of the church after one hundred and thirteen years.

The Constitution of the Liturgy lays down "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy". This full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else. In the reconstructed church it is obvious that maximum participation is possible. The baptistery is now on its correct place, near the altar of sacrifice. Each child is baptized in the name of the church: this faith is proclaimed for him by the parents and god-parents who represent the local church, and the whole society of saints and believers. The paschal candle represents Christ: the sponsor lights the child's candle, and the child must later be formed in the faith in which he has been baptized. This formation comes from the instruction and example of the parents in the home, and the teaching given in the school. During the actual baptism the community exercises its duty when it expressed its assent with the celebrant, after the profession of faith by the parents and godparents. It is desirable that the community would be represented at every baptism. When the child arrives at the use of reason, and is able to distinguish right from wrong he comes to the church to make his first confession, and then comes one of the biggest days in his life — the day of his first Holy Communion.

The central act of worship is the Mass; on Sundays and holydays each family in the parish converges on the church to worship God as one single family. You witness the sacrifice of the cross being perpetuated; the memorial of His death and resurrection, a "sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity". In the church you meet Christ, who is always in the blessed sacrament. You meet him in the readings from sacred Scripture: you "are nourished at the table of Our Lord's body": you look forward to the fulfilment of his promise: "Whoever eats the flesh of the son of man and drinks his blood has everlasting life and I will raise him up on the last day". The child is ready to take his place as a Christian in life when he gets the sacrament of confirmation: another group of our young parishioners have received the Holy Spirit this very day. They renewed their baptismal promises before Confirmation and are now, as it were, in Christ's army ready to be on his side as they go through life. Later the children will perhaps get a vocation from Christ either to the religious life, or to marriage.

What can a son of this parish say of vocations to the religious life? We are very proud of our parish: It has a splendid record. My earliest memories as a mass-server are of one or two newly-ordained priests coming home ordained every year. Others arrived each year from the mission field: I still remember sermons preached by Father John Heneghan, who afterwards became a Louisburgh martyr. Our hope is that you will continue to give vocations. Vocations will come if you continue to give the example we got in our homes. Our homes were humble homes, but our parents were made of the right stuff. They respected family life and were devoted to their church, and especially to Mass — daily Mass when possible. In recent years I have been back home only to a few weddings and a few funerals. I have seen and been proud of your participation in the liturgy. Vocations to the convent have always been numerous: let us hope that this will continue. Lay people, men and women from the parish have made their mark at home and abroad. Not alone should you not be satisfied with the physical renovation of your church, you should aim at a renewal of faith and religious worship. The Constitution of the Liturgy says: "For well-disposed members of the faithful the liturgy of the sacraments and sacramentals sanctifies almost every event in their lives".

Our thanks and congratulations are due to Canon Fitzgerald for shouldering the heavy burden of renewal. Collecting money is a very nasty job: sometimes we are criticized for spending so much money on churches, yet we spend £4,000,000 on drink in Ireland every week. That would build many cathedrals. But you have contributed handsomely, and we who were born or raised in this parish are proud of you, parishioners, for the sacrifices you have made. There is of course no draught in a church worse than an over-draft! So let us all try to free this beautiful church from debt. That can be our way of saying thanks.

The last visit you will make to the church will be on the day your funeral Mass is said. The paschal candle will again be lighting at the head of the coffin. It was there, too, in the baptistery on the day of your baptism: your sponsors held it for you: you were asked to keep the light of faith burning brightly. Now that you are ready to go into eternity, you will leave this beautiful church for your last resting-place in Kilgeever. You will join the multitude of our fellow-parishioners who have gone to their reward with "An Choinneal" burning brightly . . . where they await the call:

"Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen up on you".

## New Schools - for Old !

A new central school at Killeen — The Holy Family School — was opened by Mr. Pádraic Breathnach. It replaces Killadoon, Tallabawn and Carrowniskey National schools. On the day of the opening Mr. Michael McKeown (principal) said :

A athracha urramacha agus a dhaoine uaisle go léir; ar mo shon féin agus ar son múinteóirí uile na scoile seo fearaim fíor-chaoín fáilte roimh gach éinne agaibh, tuismitheóirí, sagart, oifigigh na nOibreacha Poiblí, muintir na Roinne agus gach duine a raibh baint aige le tógáil na scoile.

'Sé seo an chéad ócáid ar osclaíodh scoil go hoifigiúil san bparóiste seo, agus is mór an onóir dhúinn gur toghadh ár scoil.

Cuirimid fáilte faoi leith roimh an uasal Breathnach a tháinig ón Roinn chun an scoil a oscailt, agus gabhaimid fíor-bhuíochas dó.

Ní chuirfidh mé isteach oraibh níos fuide toisc go bhfuil an lá beagán bog, ach tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an gcuairt.

## The Old Schools :

### Killadoon

Prior to the establishment of the National School system in 1831 Gaelic culture was kept alive in the hedge-schools by the wandering teachers. A man named Paddy O'Grady settled in Aillemore, and as he was considered capable of instructing those who were interested, he set up a hedge-school in the village, teaching in his barn during the warmer months and moving to more comfortable quarters of his kitchen during the cold winter. This school continued for some time up to about 1854. Shortly after this it was decided by the authorities to build a National School in Killadoon, and for this purpose a small portion of land was purchased from the Lyons family at a cost of five pounds. It was indeed, a very small site, being about thirty yards by fifteen, with the result that there was no playground. I imagine, though, that there must have been some trespassing taking place during play-hour! Immediately outside the west wall of the yard were the ruins of an old circular fort, a fort which helped



*Killadoon National School 1855-1975*

*From L. to R. Padraic Needham, Mr. Michael McKeown N.T., Noel O'Malley  
PHOTO LIAM LYONS*

to give the village its name, and a few feet outside the north wall was An Staca Mór, under which, I suppose, some chieftain who lived in the fort is buried. A few hundred yards to the north-east are traces of the church in which the people worshipped before Gowlaun was built. The school was small; just one room thirty-three feet by sixteen, and that room was expected to accommodate all the children from Feenone back to Uggool. It must have taken the parents and pupils a considerable time to become accustomed to regular schooling, but when they got used to the idea we can imagine the over-crowding and the confusion. Of course, the Compulsory Attendance Act was still unheard of: many children did not attend regularly and many did not commence their schooling until they had reached the age of eight or even ten years. This was not surprising considering the long distances some had to travel.

In 1856 the school was opened and James Burke was appointed. I am told he came from Aughagower. He was an untrained teacher, and in 1864 he was sent to the Model School in Dublin for a period of training. That school was Protestant, and on Burke's return to Killadoon the Parish Priest, Father Curley, strongly opposed his retention and told the parents to keep the children at home so that they would get a different teacher. Wilbraham, the manager at the time, supported Burke and refused to remove him from the school, but the continued opposition by the priests brought on a

complete strike by the parents in 1869 and this strike lasted for thirteen weeks. After the thirteen weeks some of the pupils returned, but again the priests objected. Burke gave up the struggle and left about 1871. Some people have told me that the school then remained closed for six or eight years, but that is not correct. (By the way, it was Wilbraham, when manager, who gave permission for the school to be closed on the old fair days).

About this time, the road which was just east of the school was closed and a new road made west of it. Then the portion of road which had run beside the school and a small bit of land were added to the school-ground making it about thirty yards square.

Austin Maguire was appointed teacher in 1872. He lived in Falduff and for a year or so walked to and from Killadoon, and on several occasions took further exercise on his homeward journey by having a game of handball in the old alley in Louisburgh! Later he took lodgings near the school but soon afterwards a school residence was built and he remained there. Michael MacNamara of Bunlách was the first assistant appointed. He left after some time, obtained a principalship in Achill, and afterwards emigrated to U.S.A. where he rose to a high position in the American navy. David Gibbons, Roonith, was the next assistant and he moved to Sandyhill, Westport. Miss Gibbons from Cloonlara taught in the school for a time and in 1894 came Miss Rogers who later married David Gibbons. Mrs. Gibbons, as she then was, continued in the school until her retirement in 1912.

In 1899 an additional room was built on the south end, and the front of the school which faced east was now changed to the west side. Two porches were also added. It became a three-teacher school in 1907 when Patrick Maguire was appointed as another assistant. In 1915 Miss Fitzmaurice from Cloonfad was appointed and in 1918, on Austin Maguire's retirement, Patrick Maguire became principal. Miss Fitzmaurice married Patrick Maguire and continued in the school until she retired in 1943. Tom Maguire taught there from 1918 to 1926 and then left for U.S.A. His successor was Miss Bridie Burke, who afterwards became Mrs. Hannon; and she moved to Louisburgh Boys' N.S. in 1952. In 1937 a new roof and other repairs were needed and this work was done by Charles O'Malley, Westport.

When Patrick Maguire retired. I was appointed principal and other teachers who taught there include Miss Sal Durkan, who afterwards joined a religious order, Miss Joan Scanlon, Miss Mary Sweeney, Miss Yvonne McKeon and Mrs. Enda McHale.

## Carrowniskey

It could be called a local landmark standing like a lonely sentry on duty; a historic building, if we think back on the years in which it was built. Carrowniskey National School was built only seventeen years after the famine which ravaged our nation, and it replaced the local hedge-school which was carried on at the lower end of the village. Its walls echoed to the sound of children's voices for almost one-hundred-and-thirteen years and its teachers, taught over four generations of pupils from the surrounding villages of Carrowniskey, Doughmackeen, Roonith, Crickeen and Bunlehinch. Some pupils came from as far afield as Bunowen, Feenone and Accony.

The first person who taught there was a Rory O'Flynn, but where he was a native of I have been unable to find out. He was followed by a Mr. Sweeney, who was from Louisburgh (a relation of the present Sweeney family). He was joined by a Miss Carroll, who taught the junior pupils. They were followed by Mr. Gibbons's son, James, Richard King and in my own days there by the late Miss Maguire, Mrs. O'Reilly, the late Mrs. Love, Miss Nora Lyons and Mrs. Clementine Lyons. It is, I think, interesting to note that all the teachers, with the exception of one or two, were natives of Kilgeever parish.

As I write this, I think of my own days spent there; of my friends and colleagues; and it was so lovely on the day the school was closed to see two of them there, Mrs. Kathleen Cullen and Miss Mary Berry. It was so good, too,



Carrowniskey National School 1862-1975  
From L. to R. Back. Clementine Lyons, Noreen O'Malley, Agnes MacNamara  
Front row L. to R. Geraldine Cannon, John O'Malley, Patrick Lyons

PHOTO LIAM LYONS

that the parents who had once been pupils themselves were able to attend Mass for the last time there with their own children. To hear Mary O'Toole read the epistle and to see Geraldine Tiernan and Martin Naughton bring the offerings to the priest — all a very fitting end, on the last day of a school's life, one which had given such faithful service down through the years.

No more will the walls of this historic building echo and re-echo to the sound of teachers' voices and the musical lilt of children learning their lessons. It is with sadness and regret that I look at the closed doors and think of the hundreds of pupils who passed through them, now scattered to the four corners of the globe. Some have passed to their eternal reward, some of them have married in the parish and some families have completely faded away.

As I try to look into the future, I wonder if in another century, someone else will look back with the feelings of sadness and of pleasure on their days in our new school at Killeen.

Roonith

Noreen O'Malley

### Tallabawn

Among the many ruins left in the Thallabawn area in the wake of the eviction of 1848 or 1849 was that of the old school. It was a stone structure, across the road from, and a little to the west side of the present one: it is still marked on the Ordinance Survey map of this area. The foundations could be seen until the field in which the school had stood was cleared some years ago. It is at a time like this that one regrets all the valuable, historical information about such things that have been let pass unrecorded. Some people in the fifty-five to sixty-five age-group can remember friends — ancestors — who had gone to that school and they could have found out a lot about it from them — details like the names of the teachers, the kind of books they had and whether it was all Irish or both languages they spoke. But there does not seem to be one single piece of information left only that such a building did exist, was known down the years as such, and where it was located.

In the year 1921 when "the Farm" (as the evicted area was locally called) was populated again, the children had to go to the Killadoon school. It was a long distance from Uggool, Duvilra, Dadreen, Kinnakellew, Curragan and Thallabawn; and at "the Stations" in these villages the prospect of a new school to accommodate their children was the topic at breakfast. Our parish priest, the Sagart Arún of that time — was Canon Thomas Healy. Well - well!

Now it was a bit far for children to have to walk to school especially in winter time. He would see what could be done. And he did! Dáil deputies (T.D.'s) of that time were remote figures, and certainly as scarce as gold-dust around the area where the long-hoped-for-school was needed. (No comparison between then and the 1975 Ministerial "display" at Killeen!) But the Canon reached them, personally or by letter, and with good results.

The outcome was that in the early Spring of 1930 a site was purchased from Thomas Ruddy (Kinnakellew) across the road from, and to the east of, the ruins of the old school. The local people contributed the price of the site. Tim Heneghan who then lived in "The Tavern", Murrisk, took the contract of construction. His brother Edward was clerk of works. Stones were gathered from nearby fields and gravel was brought by horses and carts from the river, down near the lake in the village of Thallabawn. Two local stone-masons, James Needham and Tommie Ruddy, did the building, and a carpenter, Bertie McGirr, who had come home to Louisburgh from Glasgow did the wood-work.

In the harvest of 1930 the school building was finished and ready for occupation and at 9.30 one Monday morning the teacher (a Mr. Patrick Rattigan from County Galway) and the children met for the first time at the school door. Canon Healy was there, too, to bless the new school and hand over the key to the new teacher. It was a great day for "the West" and the long trek to Killadoon was over! After some years the average number of children attending went up and a second teacher was needed. Miss Dora O'Kane, also from Galway, came as assistant. Some time later Mr. Rattigan went to teach elsewhere and a young newly-trained teacher Mr. Michael McKeown from Accony, became principal. Later he became principal of Killadoon School. In time the average was not high enough in Thallabawn to merit a second teacher, so it was always a lady-teacher who taught there in the later years: Mrs. O'Flaherty (O'Toole) Louisburgh, Mrs. Clementine Lyons, Mrs. Duffy (O'Malley) Louisburgh, Miss Evelyn Durkan (later Mrs. Leamy, Bunowen) and finally Mrs. Mary O'Malley, The Bridge Louisburgh who taught there until it was closed at the same time as Killadoon and Carrowniskey and the children, brought by minibus to the new school in Killeen.

So the revolving wheel of time repeats the social pattern. Thallabawn is again without a school, but this time there is no trek. Soon enough perhaps, children will on a cold morning wipe the fog off a school-bus window and wonder what is that quaint building standing aloof on the slope of the hill.

Kinnadoohy

Una O'Malley



## TRATHNONA SCOILE

An lá deiridh de mhí Meitheamh, bhailigh tuismitheoirí na bpáiste scoile soir go dtí Scoil na mBuachaillí. Bhí Bean Uí hAinnín chun éirí as an múinteoireacht an lá sin agus theastaigh uainn ár mbuíochas poiblí a thabhairt di as ucht a rinne sí ar son ár bpáistí agus ar ár son fhéin. Is maith a bhí fhios againn go rabh a croí sáite ina cuid oibre agus go mbeadh brón uirthi ag eirí as. Do labhair an príomh-oide, Pádraic de Bhál ag moladh Bhean Uí hAinnín thar na beachtaí agus ag gabháil buíochais di as ucht an méid oibre a rinne sí do pháistí agus do mhúinteoirí na scoile. Bé Basil Ó Mórcháin a labhair ar son na dtuismitheoirí agus an tAthair Ciarán de Bhaldraithe thar cheann an chléir.

The other teachers, Mr. Patrick Ball and Mr. Tom McHale, had prepared a reception for the parents in the school grounds; and in the brilliant sunlight another school-year came to a close amid smiles and tears. The glowing



Mrs. B. A. Morahan and Mrs. Brigid Hamon

PHOTO LIAM LYONS

tributes paid to Mrs. Hannon as a kind and dedicated teacher underlined by long and distinguished service in the junior department of the school, her high reputation among the children's parents, her life-long service (only one year excepted) to her native parish, and her keen sense of justice which tolerated no favouritism and no social distinctions in her classes.

D'fhreagair Bean Uí hAinnín go cuí — nár thuill sí an t-ómós a tugadh di; go rabh sise buíoch faoin gcomhoibriú a mhothaigh sí ins an scoil i gcónaí, agus gur fhéach sí leis an gcaighdeán a choinneál a bhí ag a réamh-theachtaí san scoil sin. Bríd Bean Uí Mhórcháin a bhí i latháir inniu fehin.

Cuireadh deire gleoite leis na h-imeachtaí. Dobé an bhuille scoir gur chan a mac, Micheál — a bhí i lathair agus a bhuaigh an cháilíocht "Tenor of the Year" i mbliana — an t-amhrán "The Gentle Lady", a chuir focla leis na smaointí ghrámhara a bhí gcoirí gach duine don bhean uasal seo.

Guimíd séan agus sonas di fhxin, dá fear céile agus dá gclann uile ar feadh na mblianta atá rompu!

Sráid a' tSéipéil

Máire Ní Dhufaigh

Tallabawn National School  
1930—'75

Mrs. Mary O'Malley N.T.,  
(back) Catriona Jennings,  
Anne Marie O'Malley.



PHOTO LIAM LYONS

## KITH AND KIN

*In this new feature we invite readers who wish to trace their family-trees, or relationship with people in the parish, to present what knowledge they have. We shall enlist the aid of some local expert to try to fill in the picture where possible. — Editor*

**Mr. Seosamh Ó Gallachóir (Drogheda) writes :**

My grandfather, Thomas Gallagher was from Louisburgh. He died, while still a young man, in 1910; before my time. He was a member of the R.I.C. and I don't know what stations he served in before the family finally settled in Drogheda. He married a Louth woman, Catherine Tuite, in Kilsaran Church County Louth. Apparently he was subsequently stationed in Dunshaughlin, where my father was born; and in Clonard, where another of his six sons was born. Grandfather died in Drogheda and is buried in the old Chord cemetery here.

Perhaps his membership of the R.I.C. partly explains the break in communications between east and west. The "peelers" were not the most popular of people — especially with the poitin-makers! (Dimly remembered is the story of a "raid" when one of the surprised distillers was giving hurried instructions to his colleagues about the disposal of some of the evidence. To fool the police he spoke in rapid Irish — to the huge amusement of one constable, for Grandfather was a Gaelic speaker. We like to think that he didn't "sing" — and so the story goes).

I think that some Walsh's of Newport(?) dangle from a brance of our family tree. I seem to remember my father mention a probable relationship with the late Archbishop Walsh of Tuam. This leads me to speculate that my great-grandmother was Walsh before she became Gallagher. That would be going back pretty well into the last century and may have to remain in the realm of speculation.

**In reply to Mr. O'Gallchóir's first letter (1973) Mr. Michael Gallagher of Aitinaveen writes :**

Thomas Gallagher was born in Aitinaveen and was a brother of my own grandfather. Michael Gallagher who died in 1928 Thomas left Aitinaveen at an early age, and I often heard my own father (Michael, who died in January 1968) say that Thomas learned the trade of saddler and later settled in Drogheda. So, Seosamh, why not visit Louisburgh

to meet and trace all your distant and not-so-distant cousins: they include Father Charles Scahill (parish priest of Balla), Mrs. Katie Joyce (Carrowniskey), Mrs. Bridgie O'Malley (Kilmilkin), Paddy Gallagher (Streamstown, Westport), Tony Berry (Polgloss), Mrs. Bridgie Lyons (Furmoy), Doctor Bernard Gallagher (Cootehill) and many others in England or in U.S.A.

*After those disclosures, the editor feels like one holding an electric plug in one hand and a socket in the other — hoping that they will fit each other and perhaps throw light on the query! Or perhaps even boil the kettle for that typical invitation to the home in Aitinaveen! The following contribution will have interest for both parties.*

**Mr. Rayo Lyons (Chapel Street) submits the following list of commonest surnames in Ireland in 1890, which he culls from "The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames" (Basil Cottle). The derivation of each name is given, the bracketed letter giving a general indication as follows :**

F = derived from a first (Christian) name  
L = derived from a local name  
O = derived from an occupation  
N = coming from a nick-name

The twenty commonest surnames, in order, were

1. Murphy (F): descendant of sea-warrior
2. Kelly (F): descendant of war
3. Sullivan (N): black-, or one-, or hawk-eyed
4. Walsh(e) (L): foreign; Celtic, Welsh, British
5. Smith (O): metal-worker or blacksmith
6. O'Brien (F): descendant of Brian (which means 'hill')
7. (O') Bryne (F): descendant of bear or raven
8. Ryan : uncertain; perhaps pre-Christian sea- or river-deity
9. O'Connor (F): descendant of high will
10. O'Neill (F): descendant of Neal (which means champion)
11. Reilly (F): descendant of the valiant
12. Doyle (F): dark stranger or foreigner
13. McCarthy (F): son of Craddock (= anuable)
14. **Gallagher (F): descendant of foreign help**
15. Doherty (F): descendant of obstructive or stern
16. Kennedy (N): ugly head
17. Murray (L): seaboard settler
18. Quinn (F): descendant of counsel(?)
19. Moore (F): descendant of big one(?)

**Further contributions to "Kith and Kin" are invited for our next issue. — Editor**

## CAN WE SURVIVE ?

Emigration from Ireland became an important outlet for surplus labour during the depression which followed Napoleonic wars — after 1815. It became a flood during the famine and continued at a very high level up to the late 1960's early 1970's. Now, however, it almost balanced by the return of people who previously left the country. If we look at the parish of Kilgeever we find it is no exception: about ten per cent of our young people now emigrate to England or America. But only about twenty-five per cent of our school-leavers find work and continue to live in the parish. Instead of emigrating to England and America they now go to Dublin and other centres of population around the country. Many get home to Louisburgh only a few times a year. The parish will have solved its emigration problem only when many more of its young people are able to find work within driving distance of home and continue to live here. I do not expect that all our school-leavers will find work at home; but if the community is to remain active, local employment must be provided for many more of our young people. This problem is common to most rural parishes in Ireland and many of them have suffered more from emigration than Louisburgh.

### What Can the Parish Do?

There are a number of sources of employment at the moment. Farming is the most important. Yet it is from farming that most of the emigration has taken place and very likely the number of people involved in farming will fall even further. There are a number of businesses serving the farming population; one small industry and a number of people involved in tourism for the summer months. There has been until now no worthwhile sea fishing.

### Farming

There are about 42,000 acres in the parish of Kilgeever, of which 14,200 acres are in holdings and 27,800 acres are in commonage.

There are : 121 holdings with 1 — 10 acres  
93 holdings with 10 — 15 acres  
140 holdings with 15 — 30 acres  
103 holdings with 30 — 50 acres  
52 holdings with 50 — 100 acres and  
10 holdings with over 100 acres

In all there are 519 holdings.

In most places about twenty per cent of holdings are amalgamated with other farms, which indicates that there are about four hundred and fifteen farms in the parish. Farm size is so small that many farmers in the parish need off-farm employment if people are to maintain a reasonable standard of living. In this situation I expect that the number of people involved in farming will continue to fall. In 1970 there were two hundred and seventy dairy cows, one thousand three hundred and seventy suckling cows and three four hundred and twenty dry cattle in the parish. There were just over five thousand ewes and four thousand eight hundred other sheep, but only thirty-four sows and sixty-four fattening pigs. It is obvious that farmers in the parish make most of their money from sales of dry cattle and sheep. Stock numbers have increased since 1970, but there are still many farms that could, with better manuring, carry more cattle. Farmers are too dependent on autumn markets for their cattle: more winter feed must be made, so that extra cattle can be overwintered. There would then be fewer problems when the autumn markets are over-supplied; so naturally it would increase the income from the cattle industry.

### Sheep

The sheep trade has gone through a very difficult period, but with developing markets for sheep in North Africa and an E.E.C. common policy for sheep expected in 1976, the trade will improve in the years ahead. The biggest problem at the moment on many sheep farms is mortality. Where hoggets are overwintered on the mountain fifty per cent can die during the first winter, and fifteen per cent of ewes can also be lost each year. These losses can be greatly reduced without big expense. If hoggets are fed about a stone of meal costing about fifty pence most of them will survive the winter. If weak ewes are brought to the lowland at fortnightly intervals from mid-February until lambing-time and fed either grass or meal, very few will die. Commonages are now fully stocked with sheep, and sheep numbers can be increased further only if there is land improvement.

Dairy farming gives a return fifty per cent greater than dry cattle or suckling. Any townland farmer in the parish

who wants to make his living full-time farming must be in dairying, as the farms are not big enough to give a living from dry cattle or sucklings.

With thirty-four sows and sixty-four fattening pigs in the parish in 1970, the amount of money coming from this source was very small. This is surprising as a sow has always always been more profitable than a suckling cow, and four or five sows can give a useful addition to a farmer's income. Many farms in the parish could be very profitable if the present farming system was supplemented by the return from a twenty-five sow unit. At present one unit to accommodate fifty sows is being built in the parish. I expect, when it is proved locally that this type of enterprise is very profitable, many more units with accommodation for twenty-five to fifty sows, will be built.

### **Commonage**

Almost two-thirds the land of the parish is in commonage. Some of it has no great potential for farming but there must be over one thousand acres of sandybank commonage that could, if divided, make excellent grassland. Many mountain commonages could be greatly improved if they were divided; and I know there is a great interest in commonage division at the moment. To my knowledge three commonages have been divided in the last few years, two voluntarily by the farmers and one by the Land Commission during rearrangement. To divide a commonage it is necessary to have a Land Registry map showing the commonage outlined in red. If the shareholders can agree on their shares the Land Commission will mark the ground and put in the shares on the map. The Land Commission is very helpful in these cases, and I will personally give what help I can to solve any problems that may arise. One service needed in the parish is a reclamation contractor who will open drains, lay pipes, back-fill, level, and plough or rotavate the ground to leave it ready for seeding. If this service was available much more land would be reclaimed in the parish.

### **Industrial Employment**

Each year forty and fifty young people leave secondary school in the area, ninety per cent of them having taken their leaving certificate. Very few of these find suitable employment so most of our young people have to leave the area to find work. On the east side of Louisburgh many people travel to work in Westport; but to the west of Louisburgh, Westport is not seen as a convenient centre in which to find employment. This is a pity, as I feel many

people who now work in other parts of the country could have found work in Westport if they were interested.

In the parish there is only one centre which provides industrial employment for the area — a joinery, which as well as providing employment, has been a very useful service for local people, and has trained many apprentices. It is difficult to attract outside industrialists to places like ours; but new industries have been attracted to advance factories built by Gaeltarra Eireann in places like Achill and West Connemara which are even more remote than Louisburgh. I feel there are two ways in which industry can be brought to the area. I understand that Mayo County Council have acquired the site for an advance factory in the Louisburgh area. An industrialist must then be found to work the factory. There surely must be somebody, a native of the parish or some other person interested enough in the area, with the skill to manufacture and sell some product; someone who could set up a factory and provide employment in the area. Grants of up to sixty per cent of the cost of fixed assets are available to a man who wants to build and equip his own factory. Details of these grants can be got from Mr. Seán Smyth, Co. Development Officer, Courthouse, Castlebar, or direct from the Industrial Development Authority, Lansdowne House, Dublin 4.

### **Fishing**

Even before the collapse of the herring trade in the 1930's, there was to my knowledge no tradition of fishing in the area. There are only two salmon-netting licences in the parish, This provides seasonal employment for about four men. In the last year a local man has bought a thirty-four-foot trawler. This will be used for salmon and lobster fishing. There is no harbour in the parish in which fishing-boats are safe in all weathers so the boats must be wintered in Murrisk. This makes it very difficult for a Louisburgh boat to fish all year round. Fishing-boats could also be used for sea angling in summer and to provide day trips for tourists on Clew Bay. If Old Head was developed as an all-weather harbour it would encourage more local people to buy fishing-boats. It would also provide a safe landing place for boats from Clare Island and Inishturk when the sea is too rough at Roonagh. Other enterprises that could provide extra employment are forestry and tourism. In 1970 there were one thousand two hundred acres of forest in the parish. Since then a further substantial acreage has been planted and there are still large areas in the parish very suitable for planting. Louisburgh has many attractions for

tourists and the number of tourists coming to the parish could be greatly increased if there was more accommodation and the area got more publicity. The big problem with tourism is that it is seasonal and it provides only part-time employment for the people in the trade.

#### **Can the Parish Solve its Problem?**

Emigration has been a feature of parish life for so long, that it is now accepted as unavoidable. To reduce emigration the community must decide that it can no longer afford to lose so many of its young people and that more employment must be provided for them at home. More money must be invested in farming so that farms can give a worthwhile return. More industrial jobs must be attracted — and preferably backed by local money which makes any project more secure — and the other enterprises like tourism and fishing must be expanded, to provide more employment.

The Square

Seán Cadden

#### **Comment :**

Asked to comment on the decision to refuse planning permission Mr. Charles Gaffney Chairman of Louisburgh Development Association said :

“Now that the proposed Dadreen development is so much water under the mill, whether or not it would have been a large asset to the community remains debatable. One point occurs to me in the context, namely, that when such a recommendation is made concerning an area of high unemployment such as ours, prior discussion with local associations and elected representatives should have taken place before a decision is taken. To impose a decision which reflects just one point of view is not a very acceptable way of doing things.

Naturally, we are now looking for an alternative, and in our search for such we have received three volumes of a draft tourism development plan from Bord Fáilte. These volumes contain an immense collection of data, which it is almost impossible to condense — such as data on tourism targets, projections, and statistics on almost all conceivable aspects of tourism. As its introduction points out, the draft document set out to provide a framework on which to build a five-year plan for the most appropriate course that future development of tourism could take. It can only be hoped that the plan itself, when published, will have something more constructive to offer and will, as stated in draft document, represent the views of the people who live in the areas concerned”.

## WHY I DID . . .

Life is short: a little while and it will all be over here. Because every one of us is a unique individual there is bound to be an abundance of differing opinions as to how one can best make one's contribution to this life in preparation for the hereafter.

My reason for doing something to change the current course of things, by standing in the 1975 West-Mayo by-election, was that I wished to highlight some social ills which appeared to me to continue and recur under all our native governments. I knew I would not be elected: I felt I would lose my deposit: but the opportunity to speak out was one that I thought worth the effort and cost.

The social ills I wished to highlight were:

the defeatism displayed by all recent governments in substituting increased dole or increased social welfare benefits for the honest dignity of work;

the lack of concern for our younger generation who are being influenced by that defeatism; and

the real need for updating our drink legislation laws.

The set-up of the by-election presented me with an opportunity seldom available — I could ask supporters of either political persuasion to support my protest without voting against their own candidate. People at first thought that I was a fool — or worse. But I was convinced that I was affording the people of West Mayo an opportunity to tell their own favourite politicians that we are not satisfied with the showing of either government in our area; that we want our dignity restored.

For that reason I did it. For that reason I am glad that I did it. I was “defeated” of course; but I had not failed.

Main Street

Basil Morahan

## CONTINENTAL SHELF

The writer of this article was, as usual, spurred into action by the arrival of an issue of An Choinneal. Readers will keep in mind that this was written on 5 December, 1974.

— Editor

As we are now a member of the Common Market, with a few years to go for full credentials, I would like to ask: how much better are we off now in this parish, or in the country in general? We cannot throw all the blame on the leaders of either political party. We do know that they mesmerised the ordinary people to vote for their ideas of a better Ireland within the framework of a European Association. However, giving the devil his due, the politicians left it up to ourselves to choose and put it to a referendum. We opted to join and now we are reaping the results, namely, wholesale unemployment, a pound of one hundred pence and a slump in our cattle trade worse than we have witnessed for many years. We are still told that prosperity is just round the corner: the experts say it will come next spring.

### Are we better off?

In my opinion the big farmer and the big meat-marketing boards are having the best time of their lives at the expense of the poorer sections of the farming community. I think that no place can have been hit harder than our native parish of Kilgeever. Are we doing anything about it? If not, I'm sure we can get together and organise, as the Welsh farmers did, to make some form of protest and insist on being listened to. In days gone by West Mayo were leaders in land agitation and in demanding rights for down-trodden farmers. Those were the days of alien rule when our own countryman, Michael Davitt, rallied the people to his banner and won from that alien government concessions which the farmers of England could never get for themselves. Davitt never gave up until full concessions were granted for the people of Ireland. Surely never in all history did one man wrest so much from a powerful alien government.

### Leaders needed

There are plenty of young men and women in Kilgeever, parish, highly educated and far-seeing enough to see what the future holds for them. They have shown their talent in winning credit and honours in projects, debates and talent competitions, even at national level. As far as I can see, we will have in the very near future leaders second to none in the country. The very need to exist will call for this: as things grow worse somebody will have to take the lead and show our present leaders that "prosperity round the corner" is not enough — it has to be here and now. The days of false promises will have to pass away as did the false prophets of a by-gone age. We, the people of Kilgeever parish are paying the piper for too long and it is surely time that we began to call the tune. We are paying the highest rates in the whole country and we still have to pay out of our pockets to have a drain cleaned or a road made! It certainly does not make sense. More than ever before we need harbours now. We have tourists coming every summer and we have no harbour to fish from in safety. I was glad to hear recently that Old Head is being blue-printed as a harbour. Its natural location speaks for itself; and the old Murrisk fishermen always wanted a harbour there but their pleas fell on deaf ears. The result was inevitable: they had to sell their boats and all the young boys of that village went to England, so the Murrisk fleet went into oblivion. At Murrisk they had only a very poor breakwater, totally inadequate for a fishing fleet. High tides damaged their boats there and were it not for the Small Killery in Connemara they would several times have been wrecked.

### Not appreciated

Clew Bay is a natural fishing ground in itself: for lobster it has no equal; herring and mackerel are always in abundance; but the potential of the bay has never been fully explored. However, as I have said of other matters, a coming generation will, through necessity, see the light and explore the vast riches of this wonderful bay. I can see the islanders land their catches in the future in this haven, which I believe has no equal in Mayo or Galway because it is a natural shelter from the prevailing south-west or south winds as well as the winds from west and east. No other Mayo bay can claim such natural amenities from a safety point of view. I hope to see conditions materialize in my lifetime so that the islanders off our coast can land in safety as they never could in the past. People in authority should get to work to bring about such a proper landing place; especially our T.D.'s and councillors should feel the

urge to agitate for this because, among other things, they are the people who are publicly blamed when a drowning takes place for want of such facilities. I would hope, too, that these representatives would do something about the smaller harbours along our parish coast such as Roonagh, Bunlách and Port Leacach.

### Our future fuel

From land on the seashore let us turn to the "mountain" or bog. Will our legislators ever learn? Every day they are shouting about the increased price of oil while our own mineral wealth lies buried in the mountain bog. What a contradiction it is to see oil being used for domestic heat in Achill, in Connemara and here in our own parish — areas which are the centre of turf-production of old. When I was in the United States nearly all the power stations in Wisconsin were fueled by peat, which was considered better and cheaper than coal. And as I write these sentences I listen to a daily programme on our national radio station called "Today in the Dáil". The same old story is being repeated for the last fifty years. Nothing practical is being done by our politicians. There are of course new state cars for our ministers and parliamentary secretaries — and no worry as to petrol prices in such circles. Let Tom, Dick, and Harry pay the taxes while these politicians enjoy the benefits.

One other important event which took place in Ireland in the past two years was the removal of Article Forty-four of our Constitution. We can claim no more to be a Catholic state, for no matter how we try to disguise it the change has been made. It seems to me that we have given up everything that our forefathers held dear and even died for. Whether we like it or not we are now a state Church: our religious teachers are state-paid — which to me means that they are not religious teachers in the way they had been in the past. Still, in Northern Ireland, our Church leaders don't want Catholic and Protestant children to be educated together. To be educated in the same schools is the only way that they will grow up knowing and trusting each other and so bring peace to our country North and South.

Roonkeel

Micheál de Búrca

## MIGRATION STORY

"There is an hour, a pensive hour  
And oh, how dear its soothing power.  
It is when twilight spreads her veil  
And steals along the silent dale.  
'Tis when the fading blossoms close  
And all is silence and repose;  
Then memory loves to wake and mourn  
For days that never shall return".

Cregganbawn School sits like Noah's Ark on top of the hill. It is guarded by two of the most vigilant guards in Ireland — Croagh Patrick and Muilrea right and left, and is a great landmark for tourists on their way to Doolough. At the time I took up duty there, there were over a hundred pupils on the rolls, but since then they have dwindled to about thirty or so. The people in this locality were a stalwart, hardy, lovable and kindly people; their farms were spent and useless, there were no fences and no government grants for buildings. But the people were friendly and neighbourly and because there were no fences, neighbours could have been at law every day if they had been awkward; but no one ever heard of a trespass case there.

For over eighteen years, those people had been negotiating with successive governments for Midland farms. At last, in 1955, their hopes were realized: no more privations for sixty migrants — they were leaving the rugged scenes of the West for the rolling Midland plains. One would expect, after long, long years of trying, that there would be no tears or sighing; but love of homeland is a strong love, and now the urge to go seemed to have died within them. They were lonely at leaving. Every dyke, fence, rock and mountain held a meaning and a memory for them. They had learned to love the ruggedness, to walk by the rivers and lakes, to sit and talk on summer evenings outside their doors, and to climb a thousand times the nearby Delphi hills. However, being practical people, they buried sentiment and made the sacrifice.

On the Friday preceding the move, fifteen of our pupils bade us goodbye and went to their homes in the tiny villages of Shrahwee, Woodfield, Althore and Derryheigh. On the following Sunday morning they went with their

parents and grandparents to Mass in Killeen Church and afterwards prayed by the graves of their kindred in the nearby cemetery. On Wednesday, as the sun was breaking through the clouds over Doulough they turned the keys in their doors forever. They then took a long last look at the scenes that will live with them for the rest of their lives. It was farewell to the haunts of childhood and youth, farewell to Killeen Church where they were baptized and wed, and for some of them, farewell to the resting place of their parents. The convoy crept slowly up the road. Neighbours gathered round and all were weeping bitterly. The elderly people came to bid us a last farewell but were so grief-stricken that all they could say was: "O master, O missus" — and were gone. I swallowed the lump in my throat and asked of God to lift their faltering spirits and renew their courage. Thus ended a chapter which had opened years before, and they proceeded on the long trek to the heart of Westmeath.

It now looked as if the remaining villages would follow the others into oblivion. But no; the remaining people were determined to make their land fit for habitation. Their outlook was restored, and through distribution of lands and reclamation aids the place was transformed. New homes sprang up all around and every home is fully equipped with the amenities of our age.

Having been in close contact with these people for many years had left us with very pleasant and happy memories. They are kind, tender, cheerful and gracious. Their generosity is unsurpassable — we learned this lesson once more in the gifts we received from them to mark our retirement.

The picture shows Very Reverend John Canon Fitzgerald making the presentation in our home. Also in the picture are some of our past pupils — Mr. Patrick O'Grady (N.T. Islandeady), his sister Maria (N.T. Cregganbawn), Miss Mary B. Egan S.R.N., our daughter Etta, and Miss Maureen Duffy. Seated are Mr. Michael Duffy (Beannacht Dé leis) and ourselves, the recipients.

To those charming people we offer our sincere gratitude. May God's benediction fall upon them through the hours of life, as sunshine falls upon the summer's opening flowers.

*The above article, a historical note on a touching event in our social history, was written by Mrs. Margaret McGreal N.T., in fulfilment of a promise to the editor. She fulfilled her promise during her own last illness. May God rest her soul. A teacher-colleague of Mrs. McGreal, Mrs. Brigid A. Morahan, has written the following lines of appreciation :-*

The death of Mrs. Margaret McGreal has been universally regretted and mourned by young and old throughout the parish. To us who knew her more intimately her passing has created a void which can never be re-filled; and so the blow has fallen with deepest sorrow on her most intimate friends, among whom I am privileged to be numbered.

Margaret Gormley was a native of Granlahan, County Roscommon and came to Louisburgh in 1910. She and I soldiered together in the educational field and during those years of close relationship I never heard her utter a bitter word or knew her to do an unkind deed against any one. She always spoke truthfully; never condemned the erring; always found something good to offset any weakness which appeared in another. She was a good, virtuous wife, a loving, tender mother; a generous and charitable neighbour; a true, staunch, reliable friend in fair or foul weather. I pray that the good Lord who is never outdone in generosity will reward her bountifully. We, for our part, shall not cease to remember her where remembrance counts. The family to whom she has imparted an illustrious example continues to edify the people of this parish. May she, who in her life inculcated such virtues in the minds of those within her sphere of influence, continue as our advocate before the Most High so that peace and the love of God may be established again in our whole generation.

Go ndéanaidh Dia trócaire uirthi. Amen!

Main Street

Brigid A. Morahan



Holy Family School at Killeen

PHOTO McLOUGHLIN'S STUDIO



## THE BIG FLOOD

On Saturday night I was about to retire at half-eleven when I became aware of the sound of very heavy rain drumming on the roof. It had rained for some time but seemed nothing out of the ordinary. Just then it sounded much heavier than usual and I expected to hear an immediate clap of thunder. However, nothing like thunder broke the steady sound of falling rain, so I retired to bed. My son was at a party with friends in a nearby house so we left the key in the door and 'the rest was silence' . . . . Sometime about 4.30 a.m. my son woke me up and said he wanted a change of clothes and the loan of my Wellingtons. One can imagine my surprise, and my questions. I knew it was a bad night but hardly bad enough to require a pair of Wellingtons going to bed! Then he began to tell me: the river was flooded . . . some houses four feet under water . . . two local fire-brigades pumping water into the gully-trap at Morahan's and down by the Church of Ireland church on the Bunowen Road . . . local boys and men were helping — and hence the change of clothes and Wellingtons. I knew that because of its location it was most unlikely that the flood would reach our house, nevertheless I did not rest very much for the remainder of the night.

### **Tale of woe**

On Sunday morning I was up very early. Because of church renovation there were three Masses in the Parochial Hall to accommodate the congregation, and the earliest one was at eight o'clock. It was at the hall that I began to learn the magnitude of the flooding and the trail of damage it had left in its wake. I heard the main bridge at Carrowniskey was gone; that all the houses in the vicinity of the river in town had suffered severe damage; that the flood had risen to four feet in Mrs. Gaffney's new bungalow in Lyons's, Bradley's, Scott's, Philbin's, O'Malley's and Prendergast's (the Bridge) as well as various farmyards including Paddy O'Malley's, Thomas Prendergast and John J. Philbin's; and that hay, silage and a variety of farm-produce was destroyed. Electrical equipment belonging to Mr. P. J. Sammin of Cross was destroyed in his store near the Bunowen river in town: in fact the electrical equipment

in all the houses of the flooded area (including the Burgher Restaurant) was all either damaged or a total loss. Carpets and suites of furniture were all destroyed. The inconvenience and distress suffered by the victim can be guessed if not easily imagined; and the gratitude of all the townspeople to the fire-brigade units concerned as well as to the local volunteers, young and old, has been expressed on many occasions.

As news began to arrive from rural areas, people were amazed that so much could have happened without any loss of life. This was due to the presence of mind of a few young men in the parish who sensed the danger and, disregarding the risk of their own lives, took immediate action. Here is that part of the story as it was told to me:

Mr. P. J. Sammin of Cross was returning to his home just as the flood was rising in Louisburgh and, though he managed to get through, he had to take extra precaution at every hollow on the road. As he approached Carrowniskey Bridge he could hear the roaring of the river above the noise of the car. As he crossed the bridge he could feel the road swaying under him. It immediately occurred to him that there might be people from town out in Morrison Beach Hotel in Killadoon who would soon be returning home, so he drove directly there to warn them of the danger. When he arrived there people had already returned from Feenone Bridge where the flood had crossed the road making that route to their homes impassable until the flood abated. There was still the danger of others coming to Carrowniskey Bridge from the Louisburgh direction. P. J. Sammin felt that the bridge would not stand the strain much longer: as it happened, his was the last car that ever did — or ever will — cross the old Carrowniskey Bridge.

### **Exceptional bravery**

On hearing the story, Seán Morrison accompanied by a visiting boy — Danny O'Malley, whose father is a native of Cross — and a brother of P. J. Sammin, set out for Carrowniskey. As they carefully approached they saw in the headlights of the car the river flowing where the bridge had been a short while before. They considered the situation and decided that something had to be done immediately to protect people coming from the Louisburgh side. Seán Morrison decided to cross the bridge *via* the parapet, which was still standing, but with no knowledge of at what moment it too would go; for it was now supported only at both ends and a raging torrent was bearing down against it. Sufficient to say, he crossed somehow and alerted the families on the other side who erected danger signs and obstructions at the Louisburgh approach.

Danny O'Malley and young Sammin kept watch on the Killeen side in the meantime. When Seán Morrison had accomplished his mission he crawled back on the same parapet wall, which must by then have been even more hazardous; but he succeeded, and they all made their way back to the hotel. At this stage, P. J. Sammin decided to go further west and alert the County Council maintenance staff; so as expeditiously as possible the problem was handed over to the local authority, who completely sealed off all the danger areas. So, the lives of any who might have come that way during that night were saved.

It was indeed a night to remember: in the morning people saw floods or their results in places where floods were never seen or heard tell of before. The pressure of flood-water in the Killeen-Cloonlara area was so great that it forced Cross Lake into the sea, breaking the natural barrier by a gap at least twenty yards long and equal width thereby leaving acres of mud where a lake had placidly lain since nobody-knows-when.

#### **Damage assessed**

Efforts have been made to assess the damage. As well as Carrowniskey Bridge, the bridge at Killeen Church and the bridge at Pat Kilcoyne's on the Louisburgh-Leenane road, were washed away. Similar prompt action by the local people saved lives on that road. A new reinforced farm bridge — thirty feet long and nine feet wide — the property of George Gibbons of Cloonlara, was swept away. The bridge at O'Malley's and Gibbons's, at the meeting of the townlands of Aillemore and Curradavitt was partly demolished. Here the river changed its course and took away part of Philip O'Malley's land including his potato-crop. Hundreds of tons of stones were carried down here and at Tallabawn and scattered over the land. A concrete bridge the property of Peter Gibbons (Tallabawn), a new bridge belonging to Patrick Jennings (Kinnakellew), and the footbridge leading to the residence of Tom McNamara (Aillemore) were all wrecked. The ancient clapper bridge at Bunlehinch was considerably damaged. Two new reservoirs — one belonging to the same Patrick Jennings and one to Tommie Joe O'Malley (Six Noggins) were demolished and this left both farms in great difficulty when the drought set in this year. Who could foresee that excessive water in harvest was to cause drought hardship in the following summer! To sum up: one hundred and ten farmers among them lost 9,857 yards of fencing and 190 tons fifty-seven yards of fencing and one-hundred-and-ninety tons of hay; thirty-four acres of oats, five of barley and ourteen of potatoes; one cow, one bullock and ninety-one sheep (as

well as an unknown number washed out to sea); four gates, and three silage pits flooded. Apart from bridges, culverts, reservoirs and farm roadways the estimated damage was £20,000. Incidentally, since this account is being prepared for **An Choinneal** it is opportune to mention that Mrs. Austin Lyons, secretary of the **Coinneal** committee, had in her house in Chapel Street some 1,500 copies valued at £600 all of which were destroyed. This was an irreparable loss as amongst these were copies of every issue since the magazine first appeared.

#### **Drying out**

All that was more than a year ago. Meetings were called and by-passes at the main bridges were erected. A fine, substantial new bridge has been opened at Cregganbawn and by the time this **Coinneal** is 'lit' a new carriage-way will have replaced the old Carrowniskey Bridge. So, I suppose it is true to say that "out of evil comes good". An effort was made to tide the farmers over their grain and fodder loss by issuing cattle-feed vouchers. Men were employed in re-construction for twelve months earning a total wage of £30,000. The link-road between Corrowniskey and the Leenane road was improved and made ready for black-topping, and Boreen-na-Déirce (joining Roonith Hill and Feenone) has been re-constructed and black-topped to shorten the **pro-tem** journey to "the West" and of course to facilitate the new school there. The sea has returned Cross Lake to its original location (with salt to taste! — but nature will rectify that in time).

George Gibbons and Tom McNamara, however, remain without their bridges because in both cases to raise the original structure is too difficult. Peter Gibbons's bridge needs replacement and the reservoirs at Kinnakellew and Six Noggins are still a problem. Please God in due course these things will be put right and the remaining sears of the big flood of 31 August - 1 September will be just a memory.

In this resume of events of that eventful night I have had to rely on the names of people and accounts of happenings as relayed to me verbally. Many who deserve honourable mention may not find their names here, but that in no way lessens our people's appreciation of their effort and sacrifice for others in a time of need.

Bunowen Road

Micheál Ó Briain

(The writes wishes to thank Messrs. Seán Cadden and Michael Moran of Mayo County Agricultural Staff and Brendan Mannion of Land Project, who worked with him on an extensive survey of the damage, and to whom is attributable the accuracy of farm and crop loss statistics).

## LINES FROM BANGLADESH

Our cover picture shows Miss Eileen Ferrins (Furmoyle) who is at present working with Concern at Chittagong, Bangladesh. Here are some passages from a letter to Carrowniskey school-children for a project they did:

"I came here on 20 August 1974! the country was then two-thirds under water . . . the people just stand and stare at you . . . many beggars in tattered rags. There are two groups within the country, speaking different languages — Bengali and Bihari . . . You will not find the information I have given in "Concern" booklets; we must keep friendly with authorities if we are to stay on . . .

I am engaged in running six handcraft centres . . . have a monthly budget of 25,000 Taka (about £1,400) for four of them; the other two are funded by Concern, Ireland. I'm usually up at 7.30 a.m. and set out for the centres at 8.00 a.m. . . . could spend all my time at handcrafts alone. I also give hygiene and child-care lessons . . . We learn Bengali three evenings a week . . . I also have charge of the home . . . The climate is monsoon.

I came here simply to help less fortunate people . . . I feel very privileged . . . It is made possible by the donations of people in Ireland and elsewhere.

I am not a missionary strictly speaking, just a development worker".

*A thought occurs: how "strictly" does one have to speak to rule out Eileen's work from that of a missionary? We hope she is so dissatisfied with the above extracts that she will write for our next issue a full article on the experience of a mission—very well, a "development worker". — Editor*



From L. Breda Blanche (Naas), Eileen Ferrins (Furmoyle), P. J. Howell B. E. (Kellystown, Drogheda), Kathleen Carey N.T. (Ballina)

## THE SIX SISTERS

Séamus Pheadair O'Malley lived in Dadreen, below the road: the house — or rather its walls — can still be seen standing there. Old Mary Ann later lived above the road at the same place: she lived to the age of one-hundred-and-six and was always neat and tidy. She lived most of her life alone. Séamus Pheadair had six daughters and unlike the girls in the recent song, "O'Brien has nowhere to go", the six daughters didn't take over the house. Their father, Séamus, made all their matches and in doing so wouldn't take a big land-owner as a son-in-law.

The eldest daughter, "Kitty-above-all" was the finest-looking girl in the parish. In those times the good-looking girls of the parish used to parade on the day of the pattern. There was a pattern in Gowlan at the old church, as well as the pattern of Louisburgh. A man named O'Flaherty sent a matchmaker from Connemara to ask Séamus Pheadair's daughter Kitty-above-all's hand in marriage. Séamus asked the Connemara man what O'Flaherty had to offer for his daughter. He had I'm sure a bottle on the hip, as they say, when going looking for a wife. He told Séamus that O'Flaherty had a good giodán of land, two cows, a buck-ass and a share in a boat; and that he was a good man with a stick (meaning that he was a good fighter). O'Malley replied that he had a good fortune for Kitty and he wanted a good place for her; so he would not let his daughter to Connemara.

There were many more on the list for Séamus Pheadair's daughter, Kitty-above-all. Matchmaking started after Christmas in the time of the year called the "suraft". All fared well, as the old woman says, until one winter's eve when six big Connemara men landed from a boat on the strand near Séamus's house. They had sticks with them but Séamus welcomed them, for Mayo and Connemara men knew each other well. They were all fishing at the time and used to meet each other in the Killery. Séamus set them into supper of potatoes and goat's meat and at

the same time sent a messenger to his brother, Diarmuid, who lived in Cluanach Meánach. Diarmuid came with his sons and a few neighbours to Séamus's house where Séamus, meanwhile, when the Connemara men had eaten, set his girls to supper and said to them in Irish to use their knives to the best advantage. When Diarmuid and his men came the Connemara men said "Goodnight" to Séamus and left as they came. They had come to steal Kitty, for such was the order of day. Séamus later made a match for Kitty with a McHale man from Emlagh who had a good holding. The five other daughters were also married in the parish and the Connemara men never troubled Séamus again.

The second daughter's match was with an O'Malley man from Curramalley: the third daughter was married to a Gibbons man from Cloonlara: the fourth married a Gibbons man from Roonith: another was settled in Caher near Louisburgh: and a further daughter married a man named Lyons from Emlagh. This Lyons man was later drowned. He was fishing with his crew back at the Bills, which is west of Achill Island. A lot of boats from Achill, Clare Island and the mainland went fishing there at harvest time because they used to get larger fish which they salted for winter and spring use.

A storm came on while these boats were out but the other boats got away in time and landed safely in Achill. Lyons's boat stayed on too long and got caught in the storm. The boat's crew, including the Lyons man, were all lost: their bodies came ashore and were buried in Achill. The Lyons widow — that was Séamus Pheadair's daughter — went to Achill to inquire into the burial of the men. She went around the coast where they were washed up, looking for information, when she recognised a bawneen belonging to her husband being worn by a youngster there. She gave him a few bob and he showed her where the owner of the bawneen was buried. She marked the grave, went home, and organised another crew to go to Achill again. Landing in Achill again at night she had her husband lifted out of the grave, brought him home and had him buried in Killeen. She hadn't come far with the corpse from Achill when the Achill men got word and followed the Lyons widow and her crew. Luckily for them they got away, because had the island men caught up with them they would have taken back the corpse and drowned the boat and crew. It was always said that it was unlucky to lift a corpse.

The end of the story was that the widow married again, this time to an O'Malley man and lived happily afterwards. Knappagh Tommie (Andy) Staunton

## Letter from Sean

*Dear Mother,*

*I hope you'll forgive me for not writing since Christmas but the time does fly and here it's getting into summer again. I did mean to write during the Spring, because it so happened that I met a lot of people from home, and had some good nights since I wrote last. I was sitting in PAUL GRADY'S diner (restaurant) one day having a cup of tea and chatting with MARY JOSEPHINE COYNE who works there, she's a daughter of Tommy Coyne's of Aillemore; the diner is owned by her cousin Paul Grady who'd be a relation to the Grady's of Devlin (North). Anyhow who walks in but JOHN O'MALLEY, a son of Tony O'Malley of Doughmackeen, looking for a "Mayo News". He told me a few of them were going down to Boston that night about having a dance for the Church at home, and if I'd care to come there'd be room for me. Well, I went and that started what turned out to be some of the best social gatherings I've been to since you were here yourself twelve years ago. The meeting that night was in PADDY O'MALLEY'S house in one of the nice suburbs of the city, a town called Needham! (You'll excuse me mother: I know you always tell me to mention which family whenever I speak of a Gibbons or an O'Malley or of any of the many names from the parish and I sometimes forget how confusing it can be for you, so I'll try to do better in the future). You remember Paddy Tom that used to work in Tom Harney's Garage, he'd be a brother to Mary Duffy, well he got on real well; he's an executive with a firm that imports Volkswagen cars into this country and with the price of petrol what it is now, that's a real good company to be part of. Well, Paddy is married to PEGGY NAVIN from Doiremhor, Drummin — they have three kids — you might remember Peggy's sister Catherine died and left an infant baby a few years ago; Agnes went home to take care of the child and still lives there. I remember you saying at one time that Peggy and Agnes were the nicest little girls that ever came across "the Maum". I met people there that night I hadn't met in twenty-seven years. There was*

MARY GILL from Ballyhip — a sister of Charley Gill's that did the plumbing for ye when ye got in the hot water. She's a Mrs. Brown and I hadn't seen her for all that time. Then there was a son of Willie Maxwell's from Cailleachain, Kilgeever — TONY MAXWELL. I didn't know him because he was only a gasur when I left, but what a fine man he made. There were two branches of the O'MALLEY's from Doughmackeon; "Tony Shop's" and the "Thady Mike's", UNA PHIL from the Bridge was there was a nice boy from Bundorragha called JOE HENECHAN and then the gang from Worcester that I travelled with. There was "BILL" (WILLIAM) DURKAN from Main Street, JOHNNY MACK and JOHNNY and ANTHONY DURKAN from Bunowen and John O'Malley that I mentioned earlier. All the Durkan's had been home last Summer — Bill told me it was his first trip in over twenty years and he took the family home to meet their grand-parents, but Johnny had just passed away — he told me the twenty years hadn't knocked a feather out of the mother — Mary Ellen — a fine woman. He seemed to enjoy Dublin the best. Anthony Durkan spent some time in Sligo where his wife is from, and he told me they went to England for a week. Johnny Durkan said he had a week down in Waterford, where his wife comes from, but managed to make trips to Clare Island, and Boffin and just failed to make it to Innisturk. He told me he wouldn't give two pence for Dublin, Cork and Belfast put together if he could get to the Islands. He told me that CHRIS GRADY in Clare Island and his cousin MARY MARGARET DAY in Boffin had as fine and as comfortable a hotel as you'd find anywhere. I was curious on account of my missus being born in this country and I do intend to take her home again next year. Well he said I can't vouch for anywhere else but I can tell you that if you hit Clare Island or Boffin for a couple of days or a week — you won't be sorry, the transporation from Roonagh and Cleggan is frequent, comfortable and inexpensive, and when you have Margaret Day taking care of you in Boffin, you are probably in the hands of one of the most accomplished people along the western sea-board, whether you're in need of good cooking, medical attention or intelligent conversation. So I think I'll take his advice and try the Islands next year. On the way home that night John O'Malley was kind enough to say that I was welcome to come any night they would be going down, so three weeks later, I found myself in Una O'Malley's house in the town of Newtown, that's Una Phil — she's a Mrs. Nial Shea, and I will say she got a fine man, and a nice man. And I shouldn't say anything about houses because of the many meetings I attended, and one house was nicer than another, I wish you could see them — just lovely.

That night there was a lad there, whom I found out to be a son of MICHAEL CANNON's of Castlebar, I thought to myself why would he be bothered with the Louisburgh Church, and then it

came to me, wasn't he a nephew of THOMAS CANNON's of Doughmackeon, whose goodness I'll never forget. When I was a weak gasur of fourteen working on the west road many years ago with an old horse and bad cart and tackling, wasn't Thomas the one that kept me together. When the side-draft would break, he'd have a split link in his pocket. Or when the old straps on the harness broke he'd always have a piece of whang or wire or a horse-nail or something to fix me up. May God rest him and all the rest of them — the goodness was in them!

Well we had a few good nights in Dorchester, you'll remember the Thady Mike's I'm sure, MARY worked for a while in Paddy Mack's in the town and NORA and GRACE went to the Convent. The mother was Sara Corbett from Cornamona side. I often heard you refer to her as a fine thorough-going woman, well the whole family are like that indeed. And I think this will interest you because you were always interested in the games and football. Mary's husband is a long-distance runner and runs in the Marathon each year; that's a race from Hopkington to Boston Centre twenty-six and a half miles. His name is EDDIE NORTON. Nora's husband EDDIE O'BOYLE used to be a great soccer player, I'm sure you've met him because they go home practically every year for a couple of weeks, usually around Saint Patrick's Day. I believe it was in Mary Norton's house I met the Carr's from Ballyhip. You remember AUSTIN CARR well he's still in pretty good shape and well up in his nineties, ANNIE, JULIA and LUCINDA were at that meeting. They live in Framingham and Julia recited John T. Morahan's "Louisburgh in County Mayo" for us in fine style, Isn't it a coincidence that her married name is Donnelly, I remember you telling me that Mrs. Carr used to live in that little house on the Bunowen Road, next to the Protestant Church; and in my time going by there for the wrack Katie Donnelly and Bea lived there. Tell me does anyone ever haul wrack now from any of the shores? They tell me there's a good price for peri-winkles now. I remember back when you'd only get a shilling for a large bucket and you'd pick all day to fill that. Well they had the dance on a Saturday night at the end of April and I met a world of people that night. I bet there wasn't a parish from Buncrana in Donegal to the tip of Dingle peninsula that wasn't represented, I just couldn't mention even a small portion, but I'm sure you remember the MCGREAL's from the cottage on the line, well I met JESSIE and FRANK, and MARY and NORA GIBBONS from Askelane — The "James Tommies" — Nora used to work in Casey's many years ago, I met the RUDDY's from Collacoan — AUSTIE and the sister and JOHN AFFIE PAT and his beautiful wife MARY and her brother JIM who went to school in the town and stayed with his aunt Mrs. Fergus of Cahir.

AUSTIE BURKE from Worcester called me over to his table,

and who was there but TERESITA DURKAN from Bunowen over on a visit. He was very proud telling me she's President of Carysfort Training College, I remembered her well since way back when I used to be breaking sea rods down in that shore, and herself and MA GLYNN brought me a bottle of tea and a cut of bread and me "lifting with the hunger" where I forgot my lunch. I asked her did Ma become a nun too? "No" she said "she married a lad from Roscommon over in Coventry — called Johnny Durkan, a good working man she said not like some of the same name we used to know". I might mention that Austie Burke whom I told you last year was very slack with diabetes and euphysema — he woke up one morning about six months ago after completing three novenas, and didn't have a trace of either. If that happened in Knock or Lourdes it would get big publicity — but it did happen right here, not two miles away and I know you'll be happy to hear that news.

I went to the final meeting with the lads from Worcester, it was in Mary Gill's house, her man is JIM BROWNE from Farafore in Kerry, you'll be familiar with that name listening to Micheal O'Hehir all these years. As I looked around me I had mixed feelings of pride and sadness. I remembered of long ago discussions you and Dad used to have about whether the best people came from the side over or the side back and being old enough now to make an evaluation I can tell you, ye were both right. When the chips were down they were all first class and I wished "Paddy Master" or Mary O'Reilly-O'Toole, or John T. Morahan and his wife or Clem Lyons or Sister Dympna or Sister Evangelist or Sister Consilio or Sister Cecilia or Father Joe Moran could sit in my place for half-an-hour. What a sound feeling of fulfilment they could enjoy, not of university diplomas or doctorates awarded or won, but to know that they had provided the education of this group of people, each and every one a worthy ambassador of his parish and nation. I'd been to their houses, I'd seen their children, I had enjoyed their warm-hearted, open hospitality and generosity, I'd seen the pictures on their walls, I listened to their records and I knew their children sang in the Church choirs and served the Masses, and I knew that if our way of life was to continue that out of these houses would come our future priests and nuns and I remembered what an old Armenian had said to me five years ago. He said "the armies and tanks and the helicopter gunships will not stem Communism in South-east Asia or anywhere else either. If the Catholic Church deteriorates and crumbles, the last bulwark will be gone"; and he said "I am not a Catholic". Well, as I looked around me I had a feeling of confidence, I was three thousand miles away from what I call home, but I really wasn't away at all. We, all of us, had changed our citizenship, but not our loyalties; or our own basic

set of values. And I couldn't help but remember TOMMY RYDER (R.I.P.) of Gurteen, he used to say "We are the people and it will be the way we want it if we care enough". Excuse me mother, I ramble too much but there's so much change in the world, disrespect for law and order and breakdown of old established orders that it's grand to find good things to talk and write about. You'll be sure to give my regards to Mrs. O'Malley of Mooneen and Mrs. Morahan, whenever I begin to doubt about things and myself, I think of the three of ye and I feel ashamed for my doubting. All the friends whom I meet occasionally send their regards, MARY O'MALLEY of the Bridge, JIMMY CORRIGAN, KATHLEEN KILCOYNE and her brother MIKE and MARTIN GRADY from Cregganbaun. The MAC NAMARA ladies from Carramore, MARGARET HALLINAN and MARY O'MALLEY of Clinton. The DURKAN'S from Bunowen, JOSIE, SARA and CATHERINE. I could go on and on but I'd never name them all. I do see MARY MARGARET COYNE from Cross — she married a good man from Corndulla — Frank Kavanagh — he used to play hurling for Galway. You asked about that nice little girl that nursed you in Castlebar in 1955. Well I went to a Saint Patrick's Day parade in Lawrence and met a man from Ballyhaunis that knew her. That's CHRISSIE GRADY from Devlin he told me she lived in Methuen but I didn't have time to visit her. He told me she attended at the birth of his four children. You asked about PAT DAVITT: he's fine now, thank God; fully recovered after that bad explosion he was in. Thanks for the "Mayo News": it keeps me up-to-date on things and the missus enjoys WILFRED in "Off the Cuff" very much. She's all for the new changes but myself, I'm afraid I'm for the old ways.

Ah! the old Latin Mass and the Gregorian Chant and the dignity and reverence and solemnity of the Benediction and the High Mass, I used to imagine myself very close to God in these times before Vatican One (or was it Two?) came and wiped them away.

I see they are still picking on each other in the North. Isn't it strange to think that religion organised to bring people closer to God, should help to drive them so far apart from each other. We have the same bigoted type in the South of this country too.

Love,

Sean.

## COME BACK, NINEPENCE !

The Béarla paper of the Primary Certificate was a cinch for Dan that year. Forty marks out of a hundred for the composition and third on the list of choices his trembling finger found **A film I went to see**. Dan had only to tell it the way it was to get full marks and ensure safe passage for himself from the benches of the national school to the desks of Mother Joseph the Worker's Academy in search of his next instalment of knowledge. Basic plans, strategies and technical manoeuvres were hatched out in the sixth-class seat at the Sunday evening rosary. Prayers flew up but thoughts were firmly fixed on the off-white, off-square, dangling screen inside the doors of Andy's Picture Palace. Feet hardly touched ground as Dan made tracks for the home kitchen where the vital preliminary scene was to be set. Seating himself in a forward position he attempted to radiate certain pregnant vibrations which might help to loosen the grasp of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the purse strings. A look of boredom, orchestrated by exaggerated thumb-twiddling was easy to affect. The suicidal air was a little more difficult to propogate. The appropriate glands were their usual effective selves when the time for tears arrived. With a sigh and a mutter the purse came off the dresser and two silver-rabitted threepenny-bits and six large coppers soothed Dan's soggy palm. Herculean strides caused the Grotto to be attained in double-quick time. Marty and Joe, two dedicated hedonists when it came to watching bad films, had their bikes parked there as usual. The ever-watchful Pluto saw to it that nobody pinched the bicycle-clips. Slowing to a canter for a breather, Dan had time to muse that any man who would touch a machine strategically placed between the Grotto and the Garda Station would deserve the name scoundrel indeed.

### **Budget balancing**

The first major break in Dan's journey came at Maggie's corner sweet-shop. Here Dan rushed in like a pre-Kiltiernan Pat Quinn, having made use of his two coatpockets to

separate the necessary from the luxurious — ninepence for the pictures and threepence for Maggie. This delicate and involved mathematical manoeuvre meant that Dan could purchase six anaseed-balls, two 'cough-no-mores' and two 'gob-stoppers' (give or take an anaseed or two), and have a unique handmade newspaper cone especially made for him, in which to carry the goods. And he could continue on his way to the pleasure dome, in the certain knowledge that his basic economy was still sound. Fairhaired bespeckled Pádraic from Main Street, who always seemed to have a little extra in the way of spondulics was addressing Maggie as Dan steered his loaded cone out the narrow door. "He's wanted by his Mammy". "Who?" from Maggie. "Billy Boland" grinned the specks. Still **muin-na-muice** for Dan as he made his way to the next intermediate shop-stop. This was George's across the street where the longest and strongest commanded a favourable 'spotting' position from the second, otherwise redundant, counter of the shop. The legs of the country lads ended in strong boots which in turn ended in menacing tips or hobnails. Not wishing to incur the displeasure of the "hards" Dan waited in a less elevated position.

"Is it . . . ?"

Sounds of internal combustion laboured up Casey's hill. Thinking it might be "the picture", seventeen bright and excited faces darkened the half-open, half-shut doors. Ah! only Tommy D's auld Anglia in from Falduff, the one with the cockeyed steering! A lad from the Shraughs eased the disappointment by relating how the fore-mentioned Anglia had gone out of control at Old Head Cross, had jumped the fence into a field and had come out the bush-gap without changing gear. **Gaisce?** It's a true fact! In case the floor should lapse into dullness Joe from Cahir decided it was time to recall, in animated word and action, that day's encounter in McHale Park, Emlagh. Summoning up his best Micheál O'Hehir — commentary voice, and at the same time previewing the next week's account of the match in the "Mayo News" he went: "Bernie fields a high ball in the centre of the field. Magically he sidesteps one man, then another, hops from **tortóg** to **tortóg**, before deftly passing the ball to O'Toole, who, with a blistering shot found the net and notched another major for the islanders, bringing the visitors . . . ."

### **All aboard**

"There it is". "The picture's gone down lads!" Joe's performance couldn't compete with this important happening and the thunder of hobnails into the street startled the trickle of shoulder-hugging men coming from the Square. At the

door of the hall some had a choice: the one-and-threepenny's or the ninepenny's. Joe and Marty opted for the former, which entitled them to ascend to the 'baloncy' — a loose wooden structure which looked as if it had been left there when the last big river flood receded. But then there were the soft saucer-shaped, almost puddingless chairs to look forward to, once they had them under control and the hall had stopped swaying. As Dan was relieved of his ninepence the brain of the Kilgeever crew lined up behind to perform the weekly 'Sting'. The pooled resources of this group had been entrusted to this wonder boy who, having paid the higher price and gained entry to the royal enclosure, opened the back door to allow all of Kilgeever and half of Ballyhip into the hall free, gratis and for nothing.

Little black crombie and check cap scuttled around, winding leads and cables around nails; and when the first burnmarks appeared on the screen the lights were doused to roars of "Lights, Lights".

The 'little picture' was on and if only Dan could be sure that Michael Lackey, who used to come in the New Line, wasn't waiting for him on his white horse at the Fairgreen on the way home, he could have surrendered himself completely to Laurel and Hardy.

Bunowen Road

Donald O'Leary



Official opening of Holy Family School

From L. to R. Mrs. Enda McHale N.T., Mrs. Mary O'Malley N.T., Mrs. Clementine Lyons N.T., Mr. George Coleman (Architect), Padraic Breathnach, Assistant Secretary Department of Education, Mr. Bob Loftus Contractor, Mr. Sean Hunt National Schools' Inspector, Mr. Pat Crowley Clerk of Works, Canon John Fitzgerald, Mr. Michael McKeown N.T. and Denis Gallagher T.D.

PHOTO McLOUGHLIN'S STUDIO

## PARENTS' ROLE

*This talk was given by Mr. Michael O'Malley N.T., Main Street, during a Family Life series of lectures held in Westport under the auspices of the Adult Education Committee there. It is reproduced here by kind permission of the committee. — Editor*

Almost five years have passed since the Department of Education produced a new Primary School Curriculum. Much of the thinking behind the new curriculum came from the Plowden Report which concentrated on the vital triangle of primary education, i.e. parents, children and teachers. In fact one great message from this report is that it was not just for the professionals of education. It speaks directly to the parents who are recognised as partners in the educational process. The philosophy propounded by the Plowden Committee has been accepted and the new curriculum is now an accepted document in the primary schools of the republic.

The aims of the new curriculum may be summarized as follows: (1) to help the child to live a full life as a child and (2) to develop in the child the desire for knowledge or the capacity for further education. But to state that it is a child-centred programme will not do for a statement of aims. Experienced teachers, I think, would agree that the real aim of primary education is to prepare pupils for further education by ensuring that the pupil has assimilated to the best of his ability the yearly syllabus of the primary school curriculum. There are many traditionalists amongst our teaching profession who still rightly believe that the 'old-fashioned' or formal methods of teaching — planned repetition, explanations, spellings and tables and the influence of the teacher — will be the mainstay of the new curriculum.

### Instruction

Time was when primary education had to serve as the sole basis of our people's educational training. Success or failure in after-life was thought to depend to a large extent on whether the child had mastered such basic skills as



reading and writing. It was, however, realized from the earliest times of the National School system that literacy was not synonymous with education; and efforts were made from time to time to widen the programme of instruction and to define the methods of teaching each subject.

Nevertheless the imparting of knowledge by the teacher to his pupils continued to be accepted as one of the main functions of the school. In order to create an objective yardstick of assessment, the central authority took upon itself the duty of defining a syllabus of instruction in each subject for each class. This may have led to a certain uniformity of practice. Education was 'curriculum-centred' rather than child-centred and the teacher was simply the medium through which the knowledge was transferred to his pupils.

The Report of the Committee on the Primary School states: "The curriculum is to be thought of in terms of activity and experience rather than of knowledge to be acquired and facts to be stored". These words had a great effect on Irish education because they encouraged teachers to revise their traditional attitude to the teaching of children.

#### **Basic Skills**

In most schools now children play a much more active role in their own education and as a result show more self-reliance, confidence and flexibility of mind in tackling fresh challenges when these are presented to them. Basic skills are acquired not so much through class teaching as through individual and group activity. But even in the most progressive schools there were many obstacles—the traditional school building with cumbersome furniture and small classrooms was one; the large number of children per teacher was another; the lack of any reading material other than textbooks was yet another. Many of these obstacles are not now so formidable. Schools are better designed with more floor space, more lighting and heating etc. New furniture is lighter and more adaptable. In 1963 a library scheme was started so every school now has the nucleus of a reference library. With the abolition in 1968 of the Primary Certificate examination the way was clear for the Department to relax its rigid compulsory programme of instruction and to adopt its new curriculum, which affords much greater freedom both to the individual child and the individual teacher.

Because a child is one, however complex his nature, so also must his education be one however complex its nature. The new curriculum is, by its nature, very flexible

and each teacher will no doubt exercise his or her own discretion when selecting a programme. Accordingly parents will realize that both the programme content and methods of instruction can vary a great deal from school to school; indeed from teacher to teacher. There is a strong body of opinion among teachers that the best results are obtained by a proper blend of what was best in the traditional approach with a carefully selected programme from the new curriculum.

A teacher must rely to a great extent on his own experience of what is effective. There is no doubt that if children are to progress properly a daily systematic and formal approach to lessons must be made. There is no avoiding this; teaching is a hard grind and no attempt to transform it into happy informality can ever be successful. True learning demands ordered planning. It cannot be achieved haphazardly. It must be acquired step by step in ordered sequence. We would do well to note that the Department of Education does not regard the new curriculum as being in any way final. Research will continue and regular evaluation will be necessary if the programme is to keep pace with changing conditions.

#### **Language**

There are many specific areas of the new curriculum where children encounter problems both in school and at home. Here I will deal with two which I consider to be of great importance. They are language and mathematics. Language has an important bearing on the mental, emotional and social development of the child; it is the base on which successful learning in other areas must stand not only at primary but at all levels of education. Thus the development of the child's personality through language will be the first concern of both parents and teacher. Parents help or hinder according to how well they support the teacher — whether or not, for instance they ask to have the method by which their child is learning explained, so that they can avoid hurtful or discouraging observations and comparisons. The best introduction to language is the ordinary life of a good home. There the foundations are laid as a child listens to and imitates the vocabulary of his parents. There should also be access to suitable books and pictures, opportunities to engage in play and make-belief, and to hear nursery rhymes and stories so as to extend his experience of the world around him.

With this widening of experience will come a corresponding development in the scope and richness of his language so that by the age of four the child should have

a reasonably good command of the home language. When the child first starts school the role of the school is to supplement the language of home. The biggest contribution of parents is therefore in the family circle so that conversation is encouraged, books shared and enjoyed, stories told and invented, rhymes taken as a matter of course and a quiet confidence engendered that in due course their child will read and write freely. Comparisons between children, whether of the same family or class, should at all times be avoided: they do great damage to the child's self-confidence particularly among slow learners.

### Mathematics

In no other subject have changes been so considerable as in the realm of mathematics. There is much talk among experts of developing the right mathematical attitude. Many of us who were brought up on the traditional maths. may remember ourselves saying when confronted by a new problem 'we haven't done that yet'. Children brought up on the modern maths. will tend to "have a go", to deal with new problems or situations by applying mathematical concepts they have already understood. You cannot create this situation by rote memorization.

Broadly speaking there are three stages (1) A teacher will present the children with a situation which will lead to the discovery of a new concept; (2) then comes structural understanding of the concept; and finally (3) one follows up the discovery with practice. The traditional approach to mathematics was characterized by much drill, mechanical work and rote learning e.g. the learning of tables from a table book. Here again parents should endeavour to find out what blend of traditional and new ideas each teacher uses.

The early days attending school can be a traumatic experience: for a child who has spent four years in the sheltered life of the home it can be a very emotional experience. Accordingly parents should show great patience, and dialogue with the child's teacher is all-important at this stage. Because of the new approach to education the teacher must endeavour to know each individual child as well as possible. This can be done only if the parents themselves, either by attending at parent-teacher meetings or by privately meeting the teachers show that they, too, wish to play their part as one of the prime educators of our children.

Main Street

Michael O'Malley

## THOUGHTS OF YOUTH

"The thoughts of Youth are long long thoughts". They keep cropping up with nostalgic memories of the parish of Kilgeever and its distinctive people, forming a colourful thread through the fabric of life. Historical, humorous legendry moulded their being and character, which were rich in those qualities of plain unadorned nature that cannot be disguised by dignities. The atavistic tradition still so evident in the changing years, remains the sheet-anchor of the community living; and this, despite the fluorescent rectangles in their homes blaring out pop and jungle music, violence and death impinging on their daily lives. In the vast hinterland from Louisburgh to Killary, and again on the eastern side of Ballyhip, Culleen and Shraugh, there remained a wonderful content of culture, featuring the folklore of the past, its venerable usages, customs, wakes and merrymakings. The very conformation of that territory lent itself to the belief that they had a Mount Sinai in their midst — Croagh Patrick. There were vast white strands, sometimes lashed with oceanic fury, the cromlechs, tumuli dotted here and there, and the old abbeys crumbling to defray, their muniments and title-deeds enshrined only in the archives of the past. This is the setting for the Irish psychosis, which loves to dwell on mysteries. It was a profound experience to hear a man of ninety years declaiming the Confessions of Saint Patrick. The late Ernie O'Malley the renowned fighter, journalist, and author of "On Another Man's Wound", called on P. J. Kelly, Westport and myself with a desire of seeking old people in the West, for their retentive memories with a view to compiling a book of folklore and legend. We knew such a man, William O'Malley, who lived in the village of Aillemore (he had grown up in the village of Borris) who remembered the traumatic effects of the famine. One snowy night we entered his cabin, to find him sitting on the clúid or hob, smoking his chalk pipe in the firelight glow; a heroic figure, whose head and rugged face could have been cast in bronze. Ernie had his

wrist in splints, having sprained it playing with his son, Cormac (now an attorney in New York) on the lawn of Burrishoole House. I had to act as his amanuensis on the occasion. The kitchen lamp was not yet lit, giving the setting a remarkably weird interchange of light and shadow, as the old man began the Confession in Irish. As the recital proceeded, his voice strong and sonorous with high and low cadence reverberating through the cabin. You felt you could be among the monks of the Thebied, or in the Catacombs of Rome. The translation came later; the silken patriarchal beard was spread on his breast, tremulous with passion during the recital. Then he dwelt on the ordination of his ancient kinsman in Salamaca in Spain, who with the relaxation of the Penal Laws returned to take up his ministry in Connemara. After a light repast we came away that night, having gardened a sizeable slice of church history from a venerable and holy man. When Ernie died, his collected papers became the custody of his brother a Dublin doctor.

#### A Culleen Home

Memory reverts to the village of Culleen where a loveable nationalist family dwelt. This was a most hospitable region, as indeed were all the townlands adjoining, for "the boys on the run", during nightly raiding and searches of the English Crown forces. The two lovely girls of that home, often kept watch and ward in the lonely watches of the night on an eminence nearby, commanding an uninterrupted view of a network of roads leading into the village. In the afternoon the neighbouring girls would arrive, a melodeon was taken down, and reels and quadrilles on the kitchen floor provided a welcome anodyne to the tension of the time. As we left, their comely mother sprinkled us with holy water, with her hand raised with a valedictory blessing. Those occasions were reminiscent of the poet Thomas Davis, in one of his stanzas in the "Man of Tipperary". "You will meet him in his cottage rude Or dancing with his dark-eyed Mary. You would think there was no other mood But mirth and joy in Tipperary".

We spent a night with that doyen of the old school teachers at Cregganbawn, John Tiernan, who could recall with lucidity the old sagas, of King Guaire of Connaught, the time of the Tuatha De Dananns, the Firbolgs and kindred historical data. With a quick volte face he asked: "Did any of ye read Mitchell's 'Jail Journal'. It contains a wealth of philosophy. There are passages in that book that

rival Plato or any of the ancients. It has a preface by Arthur Griffith. It will while away the time on some sunny hill-side or riant valley when ye can relax". (It was no wonder that Harold Speakman could say of John in his "Here's Ireland" that to be taught by John Tieran was a real education and his regret was he was not taught by a such a man\*). There was a severe black frost overnight, and the following day, he brought us into the school to show us, among other things, nature's handiwork on a pane of glass. Here is a miracle wrought by the creation that surpasses all creative beauty. We studied the exquisite tracery, the symmetry and delicate interlacing of tendrils and floral formation, the convolutions of lines and curves the acme of artistic perfection that passeth all understanding, that a Michael Angelo or any human sculptor could never achieve.

The two Johns — John Tiernan and John O'Toole (who was principal of the Louisburgh town School) combined in their personalities the essence of true patriotic merit and worth. John O'Toole of loving memory held nightly Irish classes in his school, giving his time and energy (after his scholastic duties ended) to foster the language in the simple phrases and proverbs for adults and elderly people. There you would find shop-keepers and farmers studying the elements of grammar etc. After drilling and council meetings, the volunteers would slip into the desks, avid to get an elementary knowledge for giving commands in Irish. Those men were an integral part of the resurgence, which led to the dawn of a new era — after seven hundred and fifty years of alien conquest.

In later years the light of memory shines so through the reeling film of a happy past!

Coolmakeen, Claremorris

Martin J. O'Reilly

## SOLICITED LETTER

Lynn, Massachusetts  
October 25, 1975.

Dear Mrs. —

I can hardly believe that it is now over two months since that pleasant Friday afternoon in August when three strangers from the U.S.A. invaded the peace and privacy of your lovely home in Louisburgh. That day will live long in the memory of each of us and has been mentioned time and again to relatives and friends alike since our return to the States. You had never met any of us before but as soon as we introduced ourselves and told you that my aunt, Mrs. Gibbons, of Clinton, Mass. had asked us to visit you, we were as old friends and the smile that lit up your lovely face we shall always remember. This is a much belated "Thank you" for your hospitality and also that of your son, whom we had the pleasure of meeting while there. We shall never forget his kindness in searching for a copy of **An Choinneal** when my cousin, Kathleen Kilcoyne from Worcester mentioned that she would love to have a copy to take home. He not only found a copy for her but also one for the other two "Yanks" with her — myself and my husband — we have read it over and over since coming home — it's like visiting Louisburgh, Westport and the wonderful people in County Mayo all over again. What a great little parish magazine; many thanks to the producers for those hours of nostalgic reading.

You asked us to write and tell you how we enjoyed our visit to Ireland and I hope you will pardon the delay in doing so but it seems as though we are only now beginning to get the lure of Ireland out of our minds and getting down to the everyday routine of living in the States once more. Kathleen, of course, was born in Ireland and it was the second visit for my husband and myself but we still loved every minute of it from the time we arrived in Shannon Airport on the 1st of August until our departure for Boston

and home again on the 23rd; three wonderful weeks of visiting relatives and travelling the Irish countryside which we shall long remember. Kathleen was home on a visit to her brothers, Pat and James Grady — James has the Post Office in Cregganbawn — and her sisters, Mary Ryder of Falduff and Bridgie Grady of Tully — we had many happy hours with them serving as guides in touring Louisburgh, Westport, Old Head, Killary Harbor, Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, and other points of interest and beauty in good old County Mayo.

On our previous visit in 1972, we had seen much of Ireland but had travelled with tourists like ourselves and felt that we had missed talking with the Irish people. We had stayed at hotels, all of which compared favourably with ours in the States; some with even more conveniences for the Yankees with cold feet, such as the warm towels in the bathrooms and the hot-water bottles in the beds — what more could one ask for in Irish hospitality? The Jaunting Car rides around the Lakes of Killarney which are a must for any tourist, the Blarney Stone in Cork, the thrill of shopping in Dublin, and Sunday Mass in that little Church at Castlebar were all part of that first trip in '72 and not easily forgotten but with only two weeks to see so much, we were longing to return again for a more leisurely visit. This year we decided to go the "**Bed & Breakfast**" route so that we would have the opportunity to meet and talk with more of the Irish people and we shall always be happy we did so. To give you all of my reasons for saying this would fill several pages of Louisburgh's little magazine but let me share with you a few of my memories:

After viewing again the Lakes of Killarney, we toured through Tipperary, Tralee, Galway Bay, and then on to Westport for a short stay at the Altamont House which is close to the centre of town and where we were treated royally by all the staff — dinner that evening and the big Irish breakfast in the morning were excellent. We are looking forward to our next stay at the Altamont, God willing we should again return to Ireland. Off for Louisburgh the following day to spend some time with our many relatives in that area. What a thrill to attend Mass in your beautiful church in Louisburgh where both my mother and father had worshipped as children before emigrating to the States. Also visited the sites of the schools they attended in Tully and Cregganban. How we wished that they had been able to make such a trip during their lifetime! While in Derreen, we visited with cousins Timmie and Pat Hastings and Mary McNally.

Then over to Mooneen another day to visit the home of a dear aunt (who is now with God) and the opportunity to spend some time with her son, John Ruane, his wife and six beautiful children. (But aren't **all** children in Ireland beautiful!). Planned to spend some time at Old Head with the children but car trouble interfered with our plans that day. We were disappointed but it did give us one more chance to observe the thoughtfulness and the kindness of the Irish people in going to the aid of a Yank in distress. The battery in our rented car went dead on a Saturday night when all garages in the area were closed — we were stranded in Tully almost directly in front of Lady Harmon's gate. This kind woman stopped her car and told us to use her phone to call for help to Harney's Garage in Louisburgh. Where else could we have found a phone to call anyone after we had all the help we needed from the boys in Tully. They even took a battery out of one of their own cars and made it possible for us to get to the garage on Sunday morning where we were able to purchase a new battery and continue on our trip with peace of mind. Such consideration and just one more instance of Irish goodwill!

How we hated to leave Louisburgh and all those who had been so kind to us but time marches on as we continued our travels through the other Counties of Ireland, we both agreed that nowhere did we find beauty to compare with that in County Mayo. God willing, it may some day be as much of a tourist attraction as the Lakes of Killarney.

Once again, let me say that we are all delighted with **An Choinneal** and would love to be on your mailing list. I am enclosing a donation towards its cost which I know you will pass on. Will look forward to receiving the 1975 issue.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs.) Mildred Tracy

*That (genuine) letter was sent for publication by the Louisburgh lady who requested Mrs. Tracy to record her impressions. Many thanks to both: Mrs. Tracy's name is added to our list of Foundation Members. Because of a growing volume of written submissions (for which, thank God!) we advise our loyal talent-scour to write only shorter letters to the Editor, as in pages 4 to 10. Longer contributions should be checked with the Editor before they are firmly engaged. — Editor*

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## Young Coinneal

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A survey on the question "how do I see the future of Louisburgh and my part in it" was conducted among the senior students in Sancta Maria Secondary School. The following edited report on the findings was compiled by three of the students: Pádraic Walsh, Francis Sammin and Joseph Prendergast.

**"I wish I could live the rest of my life in Louisburgh, but there seems to be no future here"**. This seems to be the consensus of over half the class interviewed — unless some type of development takes place in the future. This initial statement seems very pessimistic but, unfortunately, it is true that if the present trend continues, there seems to be no future for Louisburgh. Most people in the class felt that the provision of an industry is an immediate priority. It was felt that this industry should preferably be based on one of our local natural resources e.g. the sea or our bogs. Over fifty per cent of the class agreed that there is a lack of community sense in Louisburgh, and not until attitudes change will Louisburgh's future brighten in any way. As one of the students said: **Louisburgh as a community** should back, encourage, and support any industry envisaged". It is felt that this attitude of community sense is totally lacking.

There seems to be a potential for development in tourism, fishing, agriculture and afforestation; but, so far, little progress has been made. The class felt that we should take steps to improve local facilities (beaches, scenic routes, mountain treks etc.) and in general, advertise the area to a greater extent than has been done so far. Over half the class felt that local organizations at all levels should show a vast improvement. This, coupled with a local co-operative spirit, would be a major breakthrough towards development. "I feel that the youth of the parish have a lot to offer but are not being given the chance", was the comment made by one student in relation to the future planning for the area. "I would like to see the youth in the future having more facilities for recreation; more youth-clubs being formed, and the youth themselves taking an active part in working towards the betterment of Louisburgh".

Many of the students agreed with this point of view and expressed the hope for a community centre to be built in the future.

On the question of emigration, twenty-five per cent of the class interviewed admitted that they would continue the present trend of pursuing their careers outside the parish. On a more optimistic note, however, seventy-five per cent of the class could visualize themselves remaining in the area — if a satisfactory form of employment were available.

It is clear from the survey that a strong sense of community spirit is vital to foster the development of local enterprise, and that it would provide a basis for a prosperous livelihood for future generations.

## Macra na Tuaithe Reports :

### 1—Louisburgh Club

Officers for the year 1973-1974 were :  
 Officers for the year 1974-1975 were :

Chairman : Seán Morahan  
 Secretary : Rosarie O'Toole  
 Treasurer : Tommy O'Brien  
 P.R.O. : Concepta Ball  
 Adult Leader : Rev. Kieran Waldron  
 Advisory Leader : Sr. M. Assumpta

Chairman : Myles Mitchell  
 Secretary : Breda Morahan  
 Treasurer : Mary O'Malley  
 P.R.O. : Ann Cox



Mr. John Joe Philbin pictured with Macra na Tuaithe Club Officers: Sean Morahan, Concepta Ball, Myles Mitchell, and Rosarie O'Toole after he had spoken to the Club on "Louisburgh in the old days" in May 1975.

During the past two year our club has embarked on some new activities throughout our parish. Chief of these were our research in connection with the proposed Dutch holiday village at Thallabawn, and a research by individual club members into proper health and various details concerning it — these research details were fed back to all members at our club meetings, and were presented on chart and in written form.

Throughout the year we had various question-times, "soap-box", debates (junior and senior) and plenty of entertainment. At Christmas a Santa Clause party was held for the children and was enjoyed very much by all. During the year we had an inter-club social with the newly-formed Killeen club and also a social with the Lecanvey club. These were highly enjoyable and successful.

In 1973-1974 the club did a group project on "Louisburgh and the Dutch". This was a very suitable project as the title was the topic of conversation in the area for a full year. In 1974-1975 we did another group project on "Health" to investigate the effects of drugs, cigarettes and alcohol on the individual, and it also took in life-saving, first aid, pollution, civil defence, orienteering, road safety, old age, and principal diseases.

Individual projects were another undertaking of our club. These varied from candle making, nail pictures, canework and crochet items, to woollen pictures, tea-pot crochet base, jewellery boxes, shell lamp-



Padraic Scott son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Scott, Shraugh, Louisburgh, received B.Sc. at University College, Galway in June 1874.



Sister Anne Fergus, Cahir, Louisburgh, entered Convent of Mercy, Tuam, in September 1970. Had her first profession in July 1973, now studying at Sion Hill, Blackrock.

shade, locker and sheep skin rug. The members enjoyed carrying out this project and benefited from it.

At the end of the year we had a social and meeting, with Mr. McGee and a senior citizen Mr. Philbin present. Mr. McGee from headquarters praised our club highly and hoped we keep up our good work and involvement. Mr. Philbin entertained us that same night by telling us of the life in the parish during his youth. At this meeting the "member of the year" trophy with the inscription "Archbishop Cunnane" was presented to Myles Mitchell (now Chairman).

The club has provided our young people with an outlet to express their ideas and talents, and hope that its work will continue to be popular and attractive to our present members and newcomers.

Breda Morahan

## 2—Killeen Club

1974

Chairman : Séamus McNally  
 Secretary : Sal O'Malley  
 Treasurer : Martin Jordan  
 P.R.O. : Charles Morrison

1975

Chairman : Patrick Morrison  
 Secretary : Julia McNally  
 Treasurer : John O'Malley  
 P.R.O. : Michael Lacey

The Killeen Club was formed in 1974 under the leadership of Miss Marie O'Grady and Mr. James Egan. Among the activities for the first term were: the development of a new football pitch at Killeen, fund-raising cycle to Leenane, a sale of work for the curate's residence, a fund-raising fast in aid of Gorta. At Easter parents had an enjoyable night to finish off the first year.

The club are now planning for the future. We have decided to enter for the National Citizenship Award, and are also planning sports and games for next summer in our field. Our young and active leader George Gibbons is playing an important part in this.

In the past we have got help from parents and the people in general to make our club even a better success and we take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in the slightest way. We urge them very strongly to keep this good work up.

Patrick Morrison

These pages are the beginning of what we hope will be an aspending section in future issues — the views, activities, ideas and achievements of our parish youth.

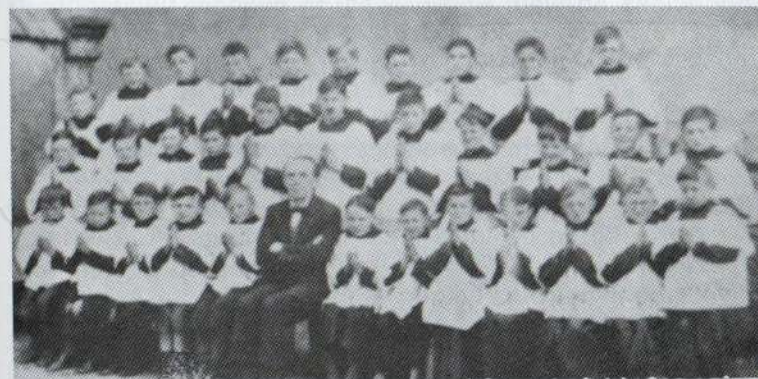
The editor thanks those who, at rather short notice, have contributed; and especially Father Kieran Waldron, who directed their work. We now ask that the youth of the parish set to work for a more extended "Young Coinneal" in our next issue.

## Museum Pages . . .



Group B. Louisburgh Boys' School 1927(?)

Back row L. to R. Tommie Duggan, Joe Prendergast, Paddy McNamara, Paddy Fergus, Tommie Durkan, Andy McDermott, Pa Duf'y, Robert Nicholson  
 Middle row: Donald Garvey, Eamonn O'Malley, Eddie O'Malley, William (Bill) MacNamara, Maurice Durkan, Paddy Sheridan  
 Sitting front: Tony McNamara, Paddy Scanlon, John McEvilly, Jack Morahan, Evor Morahan, Alexius Morahan, Frank Garvey, Anthony Philbin, George O'Malley



Louisburgh Mass Servers 1939

Back from Left. Frank Philbin, Martin J. O'Toole, James Prendergast, James MacDonnell, Leo Morahan, Mickey Fallon, Tommy Love, John Joe Love, Paddy O'Malley, William Durkan  
 Middle row from L. Johnny Durkan, Jarlath Morahan, James Morrison R.I.P., John Heneghan, Frank O'Malley, Michael J. Durkan, Michael Kenny, Paddy Mulvey, Tommie Mulvey, Patrick Ball, Johnnie Casey  
 Front row from L. Tommie McMyler, Michael Ball, Austie O'Malley, Johnnie Sweeney, Matt Scanlon, John T. Morahan R.I.P., Eugene O'Toole, Antony O'Toole, Buddy O'Donnell, Charles O'Malley, Paddy Kenny, Walter Burke, Michael Sweeney

## JOHN TIERNAN

*This is a chapter from a book entitled "Here's Ireland" by Harold Speakman, published in New York in 1925 after the author had travelled Ireland in a cart drawn by his donked, whom he named Grania — Editor*

### 1.

In came another tall old man, very round and dusty and merry, with a pair of small spectacles on his brow, curly hair on his cheeks, and frayed derby hat on the back of his head. Before he had been in the room a minute he began to talk about one, Sa-fä-cleeze. Sa-fä-cleeze this and Sa-fä-cleeze that . . .

I didn't understand him at first, but when I did, I burst out quite unintentionally, "Oh, Sophocles!" and could have bitten off my tongue. However, he smiled gayly and said, "Sophocles? Ah well, I never went to college. I was only in college once, when I took a young lad to the house of a professor. He invited me to stay all night and made me a gentleman and I was eating with him. But that's all I can boast of — one night in college".

There was such a sweetness and humility and dignity about the old fellow that I was entranced. We exchanged names. His was John Tiernan.

"You seem to be interested in education, Mr. Tiernan".

"Yes, I am the teacher of the school up on the hill, and I have taught there forty-four years. You are an American? I had an uncle who was four years with Lee in your Civil War, and he came out of it without losing a pin-feather. He got a great piece of land, but like every Irishman, it was too small for him, so he drank it. His people . . . well . . . They'd all be millionaires now".

We left the cottage together. From the crossroad of the village, miles of the surrounding tableland were visible, framed for the most part in distant blue hills. This was the heart of the County Mayo. Here, if anywhere, should be the legends, for this was the native habitat of banshees and

fairies and leprecauns who are the shoemakers of the fairies. I inquired of John Tiernan.

"Observe", he said, "that peak over there. Just at its base between the two points and the next hill is Lough Conneilla which means, 'where the dog is tied up'. Anyone who wants a dog fight let him come and bring his dog at twelve the night, and a queer dog will rise up and fight his dog. That was verified three generations ago. A man came and the queer dog tore the living dog. And the man died soon after.

"Over there on that sandy hill is Dough Ma Keon where I was bred and born. Long ago, during a great storm, there was a large stone exposed of the sand there, and it measured twelve feet long by three feet broad with a circle cut in it. Two bodies were cast up by the storm from the island of Boffin, and the priest used that stone for them, six feet above the ground and six feet below. There was no stone of the same composition this side of the north of Egypt. I was brought up a child playing about it. Men cut the circle in the stone — but who?" He stopped and looked over his spectacles at the small group which had gathered about the cart.

"To my way of thinking, there is no solution but one. Dr. Keating in his Theology states that the Lady Caesar came to Ireland before the flood, and when her uncle, Noah, would not give her a place in the Ark, she brought her gods away with her, and **this is one of them**".

He looked to see whether we were impressed.

We were.

"And over there on the hill of Formila, which is just two miles from Creganbane School (that is, two miles if a man has an aëroplane) there are two graves, one twelve feet long, and one, ten. A battle was given there one hundred and fifty years of the Christian era. It seems that when Finn MacCool and Goll and the other heroes were on the hill at dinner, there came a great gentleman from Scotland — a red-bearded stranger with red hair and skin as fair as a lily.

"Now the hero, Goll, had a royalty over the other heroes, and the royalty was that he should get all the marrow from the marrowbones. But the stranger spoke up and said it was high time to change all that. The company had been drinking, and like all Irishmen, were inflammable material when drunk. So the fight began, some on one side, some on the other; and out of it two heroes fell — Eochy and Aengus — whose graves lie yonder.



Again we were impressed.

"For the verification of this legend", continued John Tiernan, "this authority is to be consulted: Volume II, Ossianic Society, Duanavera Finn (sic), edited by Eoin McNeill. Until this investigation, all knowledge about the graves was — **hermetically sealed in an impenetrable oblivion**".

Now I was wearing a pair of shell-rimmed spectacles at the time, and when John Tiernan made that final pronouncement, I suppose that I smiled, raising my cheeks a little. At any rate, one of the side-pieces, which was loose, fell off and dropped into the road at our feet while the rest of the spectacles remained on my nose.

"Begorra, John", said a sudden little man who stood beside him, "don't say another word like that or you'll smash them up entirely!"

So we stood about the cart, John Tiernan and all, roaring like a bevy of Irish hills, even until tears came into our eyes, and Grania looked around with an expression which was not far from rage.

## 2.

" . . . and over there", continued the school teacher, "is the village of Altoir which means altar, with another stone in it eight feet by ten feet, supported on all sides by smaller stones and most appropriate for the Roman Catholic service of Holy Mass. But how the stone came there, no one in the world can tell. And that great mountain is Croagh (crow) Patrick shining out in all its majesty".

"I'm shining out fer me dinner", said the little man; and he left, and the others left too, so that Mr. Tiernan and I were alone.

"The school is just a minute down the road — if you care to see it. Of course, we are having our summer holiday now".

Holiday or no holiday, when he opened the door of the little national school — there were six or seven small lads and girls at their desks busily reading! This was such a strange circumstance during vacation that I inquired into it further.

"Ah", he said "it's all in the teaching. First you must have the enthusiasm yourself. Enthusiasm . . . That comes from a Greek word which means, 'putting the god into them'. First start the fire, then make the young minds your equals, and drive the fire in . . . Here is a book I am spinning into Irish for them".

"Do your school regulations insist on certain books being used?"

"No, this is of my own choosing".

I looked casually at the title of the small volume which the old fellow was translating — and received such a thrill as I had hardly had before in Ireland.

Robert Louis Stephenson's **Kidnapped!**

"John Tiernan", I said from my heart, "I wish that when I was a lad I had been in your classes, for I would be a better man for it today".

His eyes filled with tears. "That's very good of you, now; very good . . . When I was young I used to get up in the green of the dawn to study. I wanted to be the greatest scholar in the world. I used to think of what my uncle heard General Lee say: 'I'll water my horse in Tennessee or in hell . . .' But **he** lost — and here I am".

"It's a great work — teaching the young as you do it".

"Ah — we must do what we can. This is where I belong. When I go outside these horizons, I am like a bear travelling over hot places until I get back. Good-by now, and the best luck of the world to you", he said grasping my hand. Then I went down the highway towards Louisburg and Westport, and left him wiping his spectacles, which had become dimmed in the gentle, eager emotion of his pleasure and pride.

I have come across his name in my notebook, written in his small scholarly hand. Here it is:

*John Tiernan*

I like to think it comes from Tirnan-og which, in Irish, means the Country of Eternal Youth.

— from "Here's Ireland" (Harold Speakman)

# Salvage !

## 1

First, hearty congratulations to Mrs. Gallagher on her fine telling of the River Dee Saga. Fad saoil — Long may she be spared to tell us many others.

May I add a couple of shavings to all the fine timber she salvaged from the wreck of the century.

As has been told Father Ryan's 'induction' to Gowlawn threatened to be less than gracious. Instead, the incident had quite a ludicrous ending. As Father Ryan approached the church, the defence 'took evasive action' till by the time he reached the door, only one lone 'defender' remained. And he was so confused by the swift change of tactics that he just stood up there in a daze.

It says much for Father Ryan's quick perception and good humour that he said only — "Gabh 'mach a' seo, a chlaigeann chuasáin"! (Get out of this, you empty head). Cuasán, locally, was the cavity sometimes found in the middle of a large potato. This phrase became a popular local saying against blundering interference and lived down to my day with the tag — "As Father Ryan said to N."

Indeed Father Ryan became something of a folklore figure here.

Not everyone knows that he was the author of our local 'Rory of the Hill' with its rousing refrain — 'From Talamh Bán we'll rout them all', says Rory of the Hill.

I have only stray lines of it and some of them are palpable interpolations or corruptions. I wonder has anyone a fuller version! Could the parishioners at home and abroad put together a passable version!

Here is all I can recall —

The mountains of Kilgeever I've wandered to and fro,  
The Claiscéim I know right well and the hill of Carramore;  
I know I will be welcome to Uggool and Dadreen  
The Blackheads and the Kyloes do all the valleys fill;  
If Robison and Houston are persevering still  
We'll give them both what Hunter got, says Rory of the Hill.

Blackheads were, of course, blackfaced sheep and Kyloes, a breed of Highland cattle imported here from Scotland.

If Robison and Houston are persevering still  
We'll meet them at their own hall door, says Rory of the Hill.

What Hunter got was lead. He was James Hunter former agent to Captain Houston at Glanummera who had later gone to live in the Newport district where he had leased a couple of thousand acres. He was assassinated near Newport in 1869 as told in Pádraig Ó Moráin's "History of Burrishoole Parish".

These lines are certainly not Father Ryan's. Though a courageous champion of his people he was not a physical force man. They are a local addition in the time-honoured tradition of "Cuir fad leis an amhrán"! (Extend the song).

And here is a variant of the same —

And gallant sons of Iarumhaill who sighing went away  
With sword and gun those gallant sons will come another day.  
It grieves my heart to see the lands of Legan and Seancheann  
Given up to grazing bullocks that usurp the place of man.

That's all I can muster, unfortunately. Sagart dílis agus Gael cróga — He deserves to be remembered.

Beannacht dílis Dé leis.

Cluain Cearbán

Dáithi Mac Réill

## 2

I read with great interest in your last issue Mrs. Brigid Gallagher's story of the wreck of the sailing vessel, "River Dee". I had often heard of this vessel and had as often meant to try and find out as much about her and her crew as possible. On a recent visit to Liverpool, in which port I had been connected with shipping for many years, I visited the offices of the "Journal of Commerce" where all information regarding wrecks is kept.

Within five minutes the book of wrecks was presented to me, opened at the page marked "River Dee". I copied the details, which were as follows :

Built at Quebec by Dubord for Hargrove, Ferguson and Jackson of Liverpool in 1864. Dimensions: length — 161 feet; breadth — 33 feet; depth — 21 ft 8 inches. Built of wood. Registered tonnage — 885. Abandoned by crew on 31 October 1871 in mid-Atlantic when waterlogged, on voyage from Quebec to Liverpool. Cargo — timber.

It would appear that her crew were either picked up or arrived safely ashore.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Mrs. Gallagher's account of the disposal of the cargo. It was quite a romance, and galvanised me into taking the action I had meant to take for several years.

Belclare, Westport

Joseph Meade

## IN IOTHLAINN DE . . . .

Three priests, natives of the parish, have died since Christmas 1973, Father Joe Scott of Shraugh, Father James Prendergast of Accony and Father Pat Prendergast of Accony. In sympathizing with their families and friends we mark also, in their passing, the loss of three loyal friends of their native parish. We are grateful to their colleagues and friends who have directed or helped the compilation of the following tributes. We pray that our priest-brothers have an eternal reward.

### Father Joseph Scott



Born ..... 21 December 1914  
 Ordained ..... 29 June 1941  
 Nigeria ..... October 1941 -  
 October 1944  
 Errew, Castlebar ... October 1944 -  
 July 1945  
 In'shsere ..... July 1945 -  
 February 1948  
 Bunacurry, Achill ..... September  
 1948 - September 1956  
 Huddersfield, England ... September  
 1956 - July 1960  
 Lecanvey, Westport ... August 1960 -  
 July 1969  
 Coolarne ..... July 1969 - 27 June  
 1974  
 Died ..... 27 June 1974

Sleep in peace, your journey ended  
 And your requiem softly sung.  
 Sleep in peace — your service rendered  
 To the friends you have lived among.  
 You have sorrowed in our sorrows  
 You have joined us in our cheer.  
 When we stumb'ed in life's highway,  
 We were glad to have you near.  
 In the homeland of your kinsmen,  
 Resting free from pain or strife,  
 Sleep in peace among your people,  
 All so close to you in life.

Dell Allen

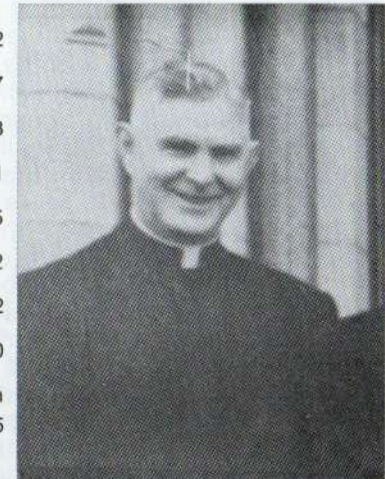
Father Joe Scott has died. Those who knew and loved him will tell you that Father Joe believed in "calling a spade a spade". There was no put on about this man, in other words he was one genuine character.

Yes, he was genuine, and many who read this will agree that Father Joe was indeed a "character". One could write a book about this man. He was the finest preacher that I have ever heard: he always stuck me by his conviction. He was one of the finest priests that I have known in my lifetime — because he was a genuine man of God and his people.

Father Joe has left us — "when comes such another?"  
 — by "Wilfred" in *The Mayo News*

### Father James Prendergast

Born ..... March 30th, 1902  
 Ordained ..... June 19th, 1927  
 C.C., Carraroe ..... 1927-1928  
 Adm., Clare Island ..... 1928-1931  
 C.C., Carna ..... 1931-1935  
 C.C., Aughamore ..... 1935-1942  
 C.C., Islandeady ..... 1942-1952  
 C.C., Achill Sound ..... 1952-1960  
 P.P., Aughagower ..... 1960-March  
 28th, 1975



It would be hard to imagine a more natural man than Father James Prendergast. His talk, his walk, his humour, his interests, his friendship, his faithfulness to his people — even his car and his pipe — all spoke of a man of the people, who never had lost the common touch. Aughagower was the only parish in which he was parish priest; and, as he was there for fifteen years, its people knew him almost as well as we did. He never seemed to change; never seemed over-anxious or demanding or even ruffled; and as a result he leaves behind him kind and natural memories. At his funeral in Aughagower Archbishop Cunnane said :  
 My dear Priests and People,

First of all I would like to offer my sympathy to you the people of Aughagower parish whose Easter joy has been marred by the sad death of your parish priest. We will

all of us miss him with his kind and gentle ways, but none so much as you his parishioners who have known him and loved him since he came among you fifteen years ago. We offer our sympathy also to his relatives, both priests and laity. By a strange coincidence today is Father Prendergast's birthday. He celebrates the happiest of his birthdays today we hope in the company of the angels and saints, with Mary our Mother and Christ the Master whom he served faithfully as a priest for almost fifty years.

He died on Good Friday as the Church was preparing all over the world to celebrate the death of Christ: we commit his body to the grave on the day that the Church rejoices at the empty tomb of Christ and celebrates his victory over death for himself and for all his followers. No death and burial could be more fitting for any Christian, no more worthy climax to a priest's life.

In the Easter ceremonies, last night and today, we all of us, priests and people, celebrated our calling as Christians through baptism. This was the meaning of the prayers of blessing of baptismal water and the renewing of our baptismal promises in which we all took part last night. It was our baptism that made us Christians, children of God, brothers and sisters of Christ; it was our baptism that made us members of Christ's Church, entitled to share in all the other sacraments of the Church.

But above all it is our baptism that makes us heirs to the kingdom of heaven; it is the life of grace, the sharing in God's own life in this world that prepares us for the life to come, the life that we call eternal life or the life of glory. That glory can come to us only through death. Just as Christ died and rose from the tomb on Easter day, so every baptized person fulfils his baptismal vows fully only by dying a Christian death and will finally complete them when he rises from the dead. That is why in praying for a dead person in the Mass we say: "In baptism he died with Christ, may he also share his resurrection"; that is why the inscription on the headstones of graves in the early Church spoke of the dead person as having "completed his baptism". That is why the prayer of the Church yesterday was: "Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realm of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people, who were buried with him in baptism, may by his resurrection obtain eternal life". That is why also the prayer in the Mass of Easter Sunday, which you will hear in a few moments, asks God to accept the prayers and offerings of the people "so that what has begun with the Easter rites may become for us a remedy unto life everlasting".

And as we offer this Mass for our fellow-priest, your pastor Father James Prendergast, let us join in praying God to grant him that eternal life that Christ has won for all of us by his Death and Resurrection.

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord!

### Father Pat Prendergast

Born ..... December 23rd, 1913  
 Ordained ..... June 18th, 1939  
 Dunboyne House ... 1939-1941 (D.D.)  
 Professor, St. Jarlath's ... 1941-1949  
 Organist, Castlebar ..... 1949-1950  
 Kylemore Abbey ..... 1953-1971  
 (Chaplain and Teacher)  
 Curate, Kilmaine ..... 1971-1974  
 Parish Priest, Leenane ... July 12th,  
 1974-July 13th, 1975



His death was unexpected in three senses: in terms of years — he was only sixty-two years of age, a parish priest for only one year; in terms of health — he was so well and active that he had just had his usual swim; and in terms of Father Pat — he had survived such severe illness and operations in his earlier years. He was indeed "full of life". At his funeral Mass many people experienced in a real way the continuing presence of the man as the ceremony progressed, and this was more poignantly pointed at two specific moments. One was during the responsorial psalm sung by Father Peter Waldron whose clarity of tone and range of pitch were strikingly akin to those of Father Pat himself. The second was in the panegyric by Archbishop Cunnane which was exceptionally accurate in underlining the man's salient qualities for those who thought they knew him well. The text of the panegyric is as follows:

*My dear Priests and People,*

*My most vivid recent memory of my lifelong friend and classmate Father Pat Prendergast is of his singing of the responsorial psalm here at the Confirmation a few short weeks ago, with its climax into which he put all the force as well as the sweetness of that unforgettable voice of his.*

'Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever'.

I think we might take it as a subject for our reflection on this occasion as we mourn Father Pat's sudden and unexpected death. It is a summary, too, of his life and death. It belongs, as you all know, to that psalm of trust and gratitude in which the psalmist speaks of God as the Shepherd of his flock. It is a figure often used in the Old Testament to describe God's love and his care for his people. It was taken up with a new force and deeper meaning when Christ in the New Testament spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd who would give his life for his sheep. The God who is spoken of as the Shepherd is a God of love and kindness. The Christian life from baptism to death is a life lived under the watchful care of God, surrounded by God's gifts of grace and a nature, protected and comforted in time of trouble, guided through "the valley of darkness", fed and strengthened with the banquet of Christ's sacraments, and finally led into the shelter of God's fold, to be with God in the happiness of heaven for all eternity. This same theme is found again in one of the prayers of the burial service "May Christ the Good Shepherd lead him safely home to be at peace with God our Father". If we have faith and trust in God strong enough to make us see life and death in the light of God's love and care for us, then we will be able in spite of all the natural grief that death must always bring — we will be able to see God's loving and guiding hand in all of life and in death. And that is how I think we should look at today's ceremony.

No man I have ever known received life's gifts more fully and used them more generously for others' happiness than Father Pat Prendergast. God gave him bounteously of his gifts both of nature and of grace. Surely "goodness and kindness followed him all the days of his life". And surely he spread those gifts of goodness and kindness among all with whom he came in contact. A man of very high intellectual gifts, it was the freshness and simplicity of his approach to life and the people he met on his way through life that gave him the special charm that made the name of Father Pat a household word throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, and indeed beyond. The greatest of his many talents was his capacity for friendship, for giving and receiving the best gifts of friendship. He could never refuse to oblige those who asked a favour. Equally he could never see why anybody else should refuse him!

Eternal rest grant to him O Lord!

## Baptism completed . . .

The following parishioners have died at home since 1973 :

1973	21 November	John Gibbons, Corrigaun.
	6 December	Kate Kitterick, Tully.
	11 December	Pat Gallagher, Thallabawn.
	31 December	Austin O'Malley, Cross.
1974	2 January	John McHale, in Belfast.
	4 January	James Gibbons, Cloonlara.
	8 January	Thomas Durkan, Bridge Street.
	25 January	Peter Berans, Louisburgh.
	24 January	Thomas O'Malley, Falduff.
	January	Patrick Morrison, Killadoon.
	17 February	Joseph McNamara, Carramore.
	18 February	Martin Grady.
	19 February	Austin Frazer, Kinnadoohey.
	17 March	Martina Anne Gallagher.
	29 March	Michael Fadden, Louisburgh.
	3 May	Thomas Joseph O'Malley.
	8 May	Michael Hyland.
	26 June	Brigid Harney, The Square.
	1 July	Mrs. Ann Needham, Bunowen.
	24 July	Thomas Guckian, Ballinrobe.
	14 August	Mrs. Mary Duggan, Chapel Street.
	19 August	Mrs. Mary Margaret Love, Main Street.
	22 August	Peter Gill, Ballyhip.
	24 August	William Heanue, Bunowen.
	11 September	P. J. Kilcoyne, Killadoon.
	18 October	Myles Gibbons, Cregganroe.
	20 October	Mrs. Annie Collins, Main Street.
	29 October	Mrs. Alice Sammon, Carramore.
	21 November	Martin Joyce, Shraugh.
	3 December	Mrs. Elizabeth Prendergast, Chapel Street.
1975	2 January	Patrick Grealish, Falduff.
	26 January	William Hester, Doughmackeon.
	15 February	Mrs. Honoria O'Toole, Falduff.
	6 March	Anthony O'Malley, Polglass.
	11 March	James McDonnell, Carrowniskey.
	26 March	Michael Duffy, Woodfield.
	29 March	Patrick Boyle.
	22 April	John Gill, Askillane.
	May	John O'Malley, Inisturk.
	16 June	Mrs. Margaret McGreal, Louisburgh.
	26 June	Miss Brigid Needham, Killadoon.
	31 July	Mrs. Mary McGreal, Derrygarve.
	27 August	Mrs. Sara Meade, Westport.
	5 September	Dan O'Grady, Kilgeever.
	September	William Burke, Askillau.

	<b>October</b>	Anne Gibbons, Laughta.
	<b>15 November</b>	James Morrison, Killadoon.
	<b>9 December</b>	Mrs. McDermott, Louisburgh Mrs. McGreal, Doughmackeown
	<b>These parishioners have died away from home :</b>	
		Mrs. Marguerite Mannion (nee Hannon, Bunowen).
	<b>October</b>	Mrs. Joseph Farrell.
<b>1973</b>	<b>November</b>	Mrs. Joseph Burke (nee McNally) Ballyhip.
	<b>December</b>	John O'Toole (Falduff) in Chicago. Mrs. Nora McDonnell (nee Joyce, Carrowniskey) in Claremorris. Mrs. Brigid Moran (nee Scanlon, Furmoyle). Thomas O'Reilly (Collacoön) in U.S.A.
<b>1974</b>	<b>January</b>	Margaret Durkan (Louisburgh). John Boyle (Louisburgh) in Bristol.
	<b>February</b>	Mrs. Delia Patton (nee McNamara, Carrowniskey). William Durkan (Pulgloss) in Chicago.
	<b>March</b>	Mrs. Nellie Grady (nee Hasting, Dereen) in Clinton.
	<b>April</b>	John O'Malley in Chicago. Julia Hastings (Laughta) in Framingham Mass.
	<b>June</b>	Gerard Philbin, Bridge Street, in England. Charles O'Malley (Cahir) in Philadelphia.
	<b>July</b>	John Kerby (Askelane) in England.
	<b>August</b>	Thomas Guckian. Mrs. Margaret Gibbons (Emlagh) in Chicago. Mrs. Kathleen O'Grady (Durlless) in Leeds.
	<b>November</b>	Mrs. Mary McHale (Emlagh) in Chicago.
	<b>December</b>	Mrs. Anna Sandberg (nee Nicholson) Carrow- cleggan.
<b>1975</b>	<b>January</b>	Patrick J. O'Toole (The Square) in Chicago.
	<b>February</b>	Austin O'Reilly (Chapel Street) in England. Michael Thomas Carr (Ballyhip). Mrs. Brigid Smythe (nee Jennings, Furmoyle).
	<b>March</b>	Austin Ki'coyne (Falduff) in Springfield, U.S.A. Tony Berry (Pulgloss) in Chicago. Eddie Hastings (Laughta) in Coventry.
	<b>May</b>	Mary O'Malley (Bridge Street) in Chicago. Mrs. Rita Chorney (nee Love) in Coventry.
	<b>July</b>	Joseph Fergus (Cahir) in Hartford, U.S.A.
	<b>September</b>	Mother Evangelist O'Reilly (Shraugh) in Ennis. Mrs. Owen McCormack (nee Sammon, Carramore) in U.S.A. Moira McGarry (Bunowen) in Australia.
	<b>October</b>	Mrs. Brigid Bourke (nee McHale, Polgloss) in England. John O'Malley (Shranacloya) in Blackburn. Anthony Joyce (Carrowniskey) in Connecticut. Fire-Marshall James Gibbons (Clonlaura) Mrs. Brigid Prosper (nee McDonnell, Main Street).

## Congratulations! . . .

- to *Michael Hannon (Bunowen Road)* who after winning the "Tenor of the Year" award in 1974 released a long-playing record this year, much to the delight of his many fans;
- to *Johnny Mulvey (Collacoön)* long-serving secretary of Mayo G.A.A. who after a marathon election was elected Connacht Council secretary;
- to *Eileen Ferrins (Furmoyle)* who has done such extraordinary work as a development worker in Bangladesh and was recently awarded a £1,000 prize by the Association of Teachers of Home Economics as being best qualified to use this money for community benefit;
- to *Mr. Richard Lyons (Main Street)* recently appointed as Peace Commissioner by the Minister for Justice;
- to *Padraic Scott (Shraugh)*, recently qualified at University College, Galway;
- to *Ann Fergus (Cahir)* recently professed sister in
- to *Helen Murphy (Cahir)*, winner of a gold medal when she qualified in midwifery in Galway this year;
- to *Mrs. Anne (McNamara) Strauss (Collacoön)*, judged the 1974 outstanding person — in caring for sick people in Benoni, Johannesburg;
- to *Private Padraic McHugh*, judged best of his class in a Potential N.C.O.'s course at Dun Ui Mhailiosa, Galway;
- to *Mary Kerrigan (Main Street)*, who has just qualified as a Regional General Nurse in Saint Vincent's Hospital, Dublin.

Because of the energies and flair of a young Louisburghman in California, Mr. Seán J. Dunne of Bunowen, a complete set of **Coinneal** copies is now lodged in the United Irish Cultural Centre, San Francisco. Seán, who is a very devoted supporter of this magazine and a foundation member, having heard of the setting up of this library — the first of its kind in America — thought of making this unique gift to represent his native parish. Our secretary eventually, and with the kind help of Radio Eireann's Gay Byrne, unearthed a copy of each number and Seán had his gift complete.

Well done, Seán: we share your sense of achievement!

## Oro, Se do Bheatha Abhaile !

The trend of immigration back into the parish continues and "An Choinneal" again extends welcome and congratulations to the following who have returned to settle at home :

Michael and Mrs. Aileen O'Malley, Main Street

Thady and Mrs. Nuala Kitterick, Aillemore

Thomas and Mrs. O'Malley, Dadreen

Paddy and Mrs. Keane, Feenone

Michael and Mrs. O'Malley, Emlagh

Louis and Dr. Pat Heneghan, Collacocon

Donald O'Leary, Bunowen Road

Peter O'Malley, Main Street

Jimmy Egah, Derrygarve

All our parishioners will join in a céad míle fáilte to these recent arrivals. Many happy returns more!



Anthony and Bridie McHale as Captain Boyle and his wife Juno in "Juno and the Paycock" by Sean O'Casey presented by Louisburgh Drama Group in March 1974.

## Parish Weddings



Dr. Joseph Quinn, Ballinamore, Leitrim and Mary Foye, Cahir and Joan Philbin, Louisburgh in Ballin-  
tubber Abbey. PHOTO LIAM LYONS



John Philbin and Mary McNamara both of Louisburgh in Killeen. PHOTO LIAM LYONS

John Conneely, Swords and Phyllis Fergus, Cahir in Louisburgh. PHOTO LIAM LYONS

## Letter from Home

*Dear Austie*

This might be shorter than usual but I sent in a long letter from Seán to Mrs. Lyons to have it put in the "Coinneal" and that will give you a good bit of news that I won't have to write out again. I just came back from the Senior Citizens party in the town tonight and Aunt Mary was there, of course. She asked me if I wrote to you and that put a spurt under me. I hope you'll have this for Christmas anyway. The signs of the Christmas are here already — the weather and the shops and the little stir of excitement you'd notice. And I hope we have midnight Mass again this time, like last year: somehow it's very nice and very suitable and huge crowds of people go.

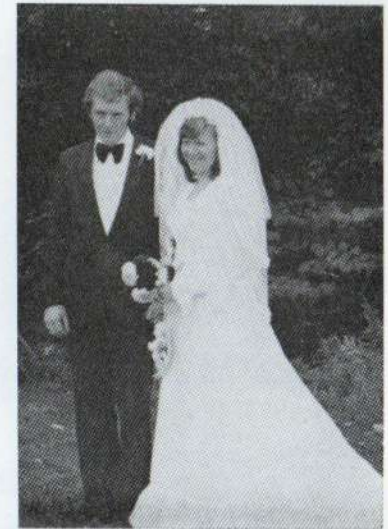
Where did I leave off the last time? Did I tell you that Father Fitzgerald is **Canon Fitzgerald** for a while now? I don't know what good that is to him indeed and Dadda said people will hardly up the dues for it! Poor **Father Pat** wasn't long in Leenane when he joined **Father Joe Scott** and **Father James Peter**. They all died within a year almost, God rest them. **Father Charles O'Malley** and **Father Al Morahan** were home from Perth to visit their mothers and have now returned. **Father Patrick Kitterick** (Sharughnacloy) and **Father Pat O'Malley** (Doughmackeon) were also home from Africa. There's a few other things going through my head, too, but I'm trying not to go back on the things that are mentioned in this **Coinneal** — like the Dutch, and the big flood, and opening of the Louisburgh Church.

There was Confirmation in Killeen the morning that the Louisburgh Church was re-dedicated. We had one, of course, for confirmation, Mary. "Teresa" she took. We went too early to the town that day then, and while we were waiting for the church ceremony Tommy Joe drove us down to the sea at Bunowen. I didn't think that village was as nice. Dadda spent a few days wracking there in the old



*Leo Dyar, Westport and Lucy Morahan, Louisburgh in Killeen.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



*Joseph O'Malley, Bunowen and Maura O'Toole, Roonagh in Louisburgh.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



*Joseph Lyons, Accony and Martha Gaffney, Blarney in Blarney with Father Redmond Lyons (uncle of groom)*



*Rayo Lyons, Louisburgh and Gina Horwood, London in Saint Raphael's, Hayes.*





Mr. Paddy Leamy with Sean Duffy and Paul Farren viewing a whale stranded at Bunowen

times. **Tony Durkan's** house and land are now bought by a German couple (I believe) who went to live there straight away. Tommy Joe showed us where the whale was washed up in Bunowen a good while before. As we were passing Durkan's someone said that **Sister Regina Mundi** (that's Teresita) is now in charge at Carysfort Training College, Dublin. We hadn't time to go to Old Head — but I believe the hotel there is doing very well. It has been enlarged and renovated by the **Lydon** family of Tourmakeady who have now bought it. Talking of Bunowen though, you never told me if you got **Michael Hannon's** record which I sent. I heard that one Louisburghman in Newfoundland (I think I know who) said that it was thoroughly delightful, and that the two artistes complement each other perfectly; and that it was good to hear the old songs again amid so many frantic noises of today. When we were coming up from Bunowen we saw **Johnny Casey** from us; he has now been appointed assistant county engineer for Mayo.

Well we had Mass in the parochial hall while the church was being renovated. 'Twas alright but we were glad to get back to the church. There were different opinions about the renovation; some saying the place was too cold-looking now, and that the lovely altar should not be shifted, or the statues, and all to this; others saying there was too much stuff crowded in about the altar before and that now nothing



Pat Joe Needham, Ailemore and Breege Ferrins, Fermoyle in Louisburgh.

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



Liam Scanlon, Fermoyle and Sadie McNally, Feenone in Saint Treasa's, Birmingham.



Sean Sheridan and Breege Carty, Falduff in Lecanvey.

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



Peter Moran, Falduff and Mary Kenny, Westport in Westport.

PHOTO McLOUGHLIN'S STUDIO

takes your eye only what's going on the altar. To tell the truth, I was disappointed myself the first day we went back, and Dadda kept saying: "The one man I miss is Saint Patrick. Where did they put him at all? Isn't it Saint Patrick's Church?" But honest to goodness now I'm getting used to it — altar and stations and tabernacle and all — and I think it was a good job even if it was a bit costly. There was fair smoke at some of the meetings I believe, but that might be the best thing in the world when people speak out their minds at those meetings instead of criticizing again when all is over.

Isn't **Eileen Ferrins** a great girl — a credit to her parents and her parish? **Michael O'Malley** of Main Street is now principal of Lankill School near Westport and I see he was lucky too — he won a car in a G.A.A. draw, grand and handy for his journey. His brother **Dr. Martin O'Malley** with his wife and baby daughter were home from Toronto recently. **Donald O'Leary** has come back to teach in Westport C.B.S. and **Lorcán Geoghegan** has returned from Canada to teach in Clifden where he lives now with his wife and two children. Soon ye'll have no-one outside that hasn't come home, of course there will always be some emigrants. I noticed lately that **Father Gerard Harney** in Yorkshire has a new parish priest — **Father Tony Burke** whose mother was Bridgie McHale, Pulgloss. I can imagine the topics for conversation in that presbytery!

The young people here are still pushing ahead, God bless them: **Patrick McHugh** and **John O'Malley** and **Liam Lyons** of Main Street, **Michael McConnell** of Shraugh, **Tom Staunton** of Kilsallagh and **Emer Gaffney** and **Ann Duffy** of Chapel Street have gone to university this year; **Anne Rosaleen Love** of Main Street and **Mary M. Gibbons** of Carrowniskey were called to teacher-training. And poor **Sister Cecilia** died a short while ago, she taught for a long time in the girls school. That reminds me, too, that **Mary Rita Ruddy** of Collacocon is teaching in Dundalk and won some special distinction for teaching recently. Carlisle-and-Blake Premium it was called long ago: I don't know if the name is changed since.

You know them souvenirs you wanted when you were home? — well the very things you spoke of are being made here in the parish now. **Donald O'Leary** has a great gift of craft-making and is producing ceramics and hand-carvings and other craft for a shop he has opened during the tourist season. Tell me what kind of things you want. It's great to see someone with initiative. You'd be proud of the parish if you were here for the celebrity concert. **Michael Hannon**



*Edward Brennan, Kilkenny and Mary Gerald O'Malley, Doughmackeown and MacNamara, Carrowniskey in Dublin. Margaret O'Grady, Coire in Killeen.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



*John Tiernan, Doughmackeown and Sheila Kelly, Caraholly in Kilmenna. Andy Minnock, Ballycumber, Offaly and Margaret Tiernan, Doughmackeown in Louisburgh.*

PHOTO FRANK DOLAN



*Holy Family School Band performing on the day of the official opening of the School*  
 PHOTO McLOUGHLIN'S STUDIO

was the main attraction and the Ballinrobe choral society came to perform, accompanied by **Sister Francis McMyler** and conducted by her brother **Father Francis**. A lot of people commented on it. That concert was to raise funds for the church; and there were many others too; and sponsored walks, and a sale of work, Saint Patrick's Day twelvemonths, that made £2,000.

I didn't mention the football yet — but you know I was never lost to it. To wash the togs and darn the socks was the only goal I ever scored. But Tommy Joe said to tell you there was a great contest with Burrishoole: three times they met and drew every single time. There was extra-time he said in the third game and Louisburgh came out winners in the end. You'll see all about the teams in the **Coinneal**.

The television programmes are improved a bit lately. I had to laugh when you mentioned "Kojak" Indeed we know him as well as if he was here digging the potatoes. Thomas doesn't like him: "that ould goose-egg" he called him one night. And the very next night hadn't Kojak a hat on him, covering the goose-egg; and he has it on since. We had a few people from the parish on television too: **James Morrison**, God rest him, and **Tom O'Malley** discussed the Dadreen project, and the opening of Killeen School was shown this June past; and on a late-late-show from Castlebar **Basil Morahan** spoke from the audience. Of course



*James Murphy, Mullingar and Deirdre Keane, Louisburgh in Louisburgh.*

PHOTO FRANK DOLAN



*Frank Bradley, Downing, Donegal and Marie O'Dowd, Louisburgh in Lecanvey.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



*Sean Hegarty, Killala and Mary T. Sammin, Carramore in Louisburgh.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



*Oliver O'Malley, Cahir and Gay McGreal, Westport in Westport.*

PHOTO LIAM LYONS

we have often seen **Commissioner Edward P. Garvey** (that's **Breta Kenny's** husband) on television during the Herrema affair. Weren't they great and the patience they showed that time? Thank God nobody was injured badly. Did all that come on yere television too?

Yon know what I said about the McBride Home in Westport? It is a very well-kept and well-run place. I went in to see it one day — as though going to Westport shopping; and I met **Mrs. Hestor** and **Mrs. Walshe** who are both very happy there. However I have no intention of anything while Dadda is living and he could well bury the lot of us.

Now I've nearly all said. **Liam O'Dowd** of Mooneen is on the staff of Queen's University Belfast; **Father Needham** of Culleen is recently ordained and is curate in Clare Island; and of all the houses in the parish that had visitors this year **Mrs. K. O'Malley's** must be the busiest. Besides those I mentioned already, she had her own five sisters visiting — from Dublin, South Africa, U.S.A., and England. There was a big piece about **Mrs. Strauss** (Annie) in the papers. The first wedding in the church after renovation was of **Phyllis Fergus** to Garda Connolly. The **Bishop** and **Father Austie** were there.

Now haven't I put a lot through me again. I better stop soon: the stamps are going up again after Christmas — ninepence if you please, now for a letter. Nine new pence. The winter is moving along nicely with very good weather; and thank God all in fairly good health. Thanks for the electric blanket!

God bless and keep you, Austie.

Your loving

*Mother.*

Dear Editor:

May I through Louisburgh Parish magazine express my sincere gratitude to the pupils and parents who made me a farewell presentation on my departure from Bouris National School. I am grateful to have this medium in which to thank sincerely the people of that area, of which I shall always retain the happiest memories.

Bertha Kelly (N.T.)



John Bonner, Donegal and Mary Hastings, Cregganroe in Lecanvey.

PHOTO LIAM LYONS



Martin Keane, Feenone and Mary Morrison, Killadoon in Killeen.

PHOTO FRANK DOLAN



William Keane and Eileen, Cannon, Johnnie Burke, Askelaun and Bernadette Shraugh, Louisburgh in New York.

The picture of William Keane - Eileen Cannon and Martin Keane - Mary Morrison have been interchanged in a printers error. Apologies to those concerned — Editor

## REVIEW :

*An Choinneal, Number Eight*

*Readers will be happy to share with us this review of our last issue. It was published in "The Irish Catholic", 14 March 1974. Perhaps the suggestions made by the reviewer will spur some volunteers into action for Number Ten! — Editor*

It is rare, that a community has the talent, energy and interest, not to speak of money, to produce a parish magazine. Yet it can be done, as Louisburgh, County Mayo, has proved again. Every second year since 1959 the parish has addressed itself to the world through a splendid magazine, **An Choinneal**.

This present edition, beautifully produced, has one-hundred and forty-four pages and includes many photographs admirably reproduced. Since it is of such compelling interest to the outsider, what indeed must be the pleasure it gives to natives at home and abroad?

It has something for everybody: serious discussions about the future development of the parish, homely gossip from "mother", a chronicle of parish news, a record of the activities, of parochial organizations.

Local words, placenames and phrases are listed. With the passing of the years, back numbers of this magazine will certainly be much sought after by natives. It is good to know that a full set has been deposited in the National Library in Dublin.

Of particular interest is the section dealing with the past. An interview with Anthony McDonnell, aged eighty, was fascinating. It reads so well, it must have been edited! Why not tape some of the old people and publish their mode of speech exactly as it is now? It would be a most valuable record in an evolving language situation. Also, perhaps not enough use was made of old newspapers. Both the British Museum and the National Library contain newspapers which must have many items of interest waiting for some son of the parish to transcribe. Or is there in Dublin someone who would have the time to glean information from the easily available records in Dublin Castle? Police records about the famine, for example, would almost certainly include Louisburgh.

Most valuable is the information contained in "Improving the place", "Making a will" and "Death duties". But the magazine is not introspective only; it looks over the hill to other problems — as does the parish. This practical ecumenical aid to Derry children is admirable. It is good to see one's high opinion of the previous issues confirmed

by the distinguished writer Eric Cross. This issue is thorough — good paper, beautifully printed and most accurately proofed. It must have cost a fortune in these days of inflated costs which normally daunt would-be editors. How about a financial statement in the next issue?

Finally, one cannot escape noticing — perhaps too much at times? — the hand of the able editor Father Leo Morahan. It is a credit to him. *Nár lagaigh Dia é!*

M.C.

*Father Martin Coen's verdict on Anthony McDonnell's interview — "it reads so well it must have been edited" — is a latent tribute to the editor but a very real tribute indeed to Mr. McDonnell. The published replies (1973 issue) were his own very words: editing was of a normal, minimal nature.*

*Yes there is talent in this parish. We are happy to have given some of that talent an opportunity to express and display itself!*

— Editor

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## Synopsis of Finance

The cost of the different numbers of this magazine in the past will be of interest to readers. Due to the financial support of Foundation Members, Advertising firms, and sponsors there is just now a fund of approximately £500 to meet the cost of the present issue. The costings heretofore were :

1959	— 1,000 copies	— £150
1961	— 1,000 copies	— £175
1963	— 2,000 copies	— £268
1965	— 1,200 copies	— £240
1967	— 1,300 copies	— £378
1969	— 1,500 copies	— £350
1971	— 1,200 copies	— £368
1973	— 1,500 copies	— £578

# Bits and Scraps

Last year, for instance, when my caravan rested in a fold a few yards from the sea and the salmon of the famous Bunowen, there was Paddy Philbin from the nearby farm who could supply milk and freshly laid eggs, and great conversation . . . Love of animals and patience was what he had, he told me in his soft voice. That was why he had spent a great part of his life with some of the most famous circuses in Britain and Europe, taming lions and the big cats in the raw . . . He was afraid a circus might touch on Louisburgh for, maybe he might resume the Golden Road to Samarkand. Ah me!

— **P. J. Donaghy**  
in "Irish Independent"  
(6 March 1975)

People in Louisburgh, County Mayo, were last night counting the cost of a freak flood . . . Mayo County Council chairman, Mr. Martin J. O'Toole, who lives just outside the town, said: "I will seek an emergency grant from Mayo County Council to alleviate hardship . . . Medical dispensary areas will have to be re-organized in order to give service to people who are now isolated".

— **The Irish Press**  
(2 September 1974)

With an E.S.B. strike behind us and an oil crisis ahead . . . "An Choinneal" emerges as a light in the darkness; and reading it, the message of the old dictum comes through loud and clear — that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness . . . Many

people would regard Kilgeever as an area ravaged by emigration with an economically unsound future. Others would say it is a place where people still have enough to get by and retain a distinctive Irish culture of their own. Read "An Choinneal" and decide for yourself.

— **Western People**  
(29 December 1973)

It was inevitable that singer Michael Hannon and pianist Tom Cullivan would come together to produce a record which just now has come on the market . . . Hannon won the Tenor of the Year contest in Swinford last year along with some lavish praise from adjudicator Colman Pearce . . . From Louisburgh, County Mayo, he is now headmaster of Bushy Park National School in Galway and has been a leading actor-singer at the Taibhdhearc for many years. Dublin audiences will remember his "Lucky" in Alan Simpson's production of "Waiting for Godot" which the Taibhdhearc company produced in the Peacock in 1972. More recently he was Macheath in "The Threepenny Opera" at the Taibhdhearc.

— **Michael Finlan** in **Irish Times**  
(14 May 1975)

Mrs. Ann Strauss, senior matron of Glynwood and Kleinfontein hospitals, has been judged Benoni's most outstanding person. She was presented with her trophy by the deputy-mayor, Mrs. Pauline Davis, at a function in the town . . . Mrs. Strauss was nominated as being

## Committee Reports :

### Senior Citizens

Chairman : Father Fitzgerald      Treasurer : P. J. O'Malley  
Assistant Secretary : Mick Gallagher      Organiser : Basil Morahan  
Secretary : Thomas O'Donnell

The areas surrounding Louisburgh and Killeen have for their overall population a high proportion of senior citizens; some active, some invalided at home and some in hospital. They are a people who worked hard during their more active life to provide the necessities of life for themselves and in many cases for large families. Indeed their was a remarkable achievement in both industry and education. It is our duty, then, to show even in a small way our gratitude for the great gifts and qualities they have passed on to us; and to pause occasionally to pay them tribute. With that end in view a parish meeting was convened and the idea of a party was conceived. It has now become an annual reality.

A committee was chosen to organize the event and each member had a share in the ultimate success; as indeed each had in the sacrifices that were involved in the preparations. The object of the party for senior citizens was, first of all, to show our gratitude. It also provided them with an opportunity of conversing and reminiscing on former days; and of course it afforded an opportunity, which they eagerly accepted, to display their talent in singing, recitation and even in dancing — much to the admiration of some of the younger generation who were present. Age was forgotten: the magnetic attraction of Basil Morahan's music seemed to put all our guests in a dancing mood.

They passed on to us the great gift of faith; and their party appropriately began with the holy sacrifice of the Mass for themselves and their less fortunate absent colleagues whom they remembered in prayer. There were special prayers for their friends who had died. Those who were absent through illness were remembered in another practical way by the loyal committee members: a sum of money was allocated for a visit to each one at home or in hospital. The pleasant smile, the words of greeting, the knowledge of being thought of, the news from the parish, and the presence of someone to confide in appeared to work like a tonic for these patients.

The good work will continue if people are prepared to make sacrifices in the interests of our less fortunate brethren. For the committee I wish to thank our priests, nuns, Mr. Basil Morahan for his wonderful entertainment, Mr. and Mrs. Andy McDermott and all the other good people from Louisburgh and Killeen who brought presents

## Bits and Scraps

the person living or working in Benoni who had done most for the town or its community in the past year. She has been caring for sick people in Benoni for nearly forty years. She emigrated to South Africa from Ireland in 1936 as a theatre sister. Mrs. Strauss, who has a son and daughter, lives on a farm a Put-fotein.

### — from a local Johannesburg newspaper

(Mrs. Strauss was Annie Mc Namara of Collacoön).

Dear Mary,

Just recently I picked-up The Far East for January-February 1975 and in it I read your article on Father John Heneghan, which was very good and I am keeping it. I am always thirsting for information about Father Heneghan. You see, he baptized me when he was a curate in Tuam.

It was only when I came back from the Missions in South America (Argentina) that I heard of his death at the hands of the Japs. You mention the "characters" of Tuam in those days, but the only one I personally knew as a child was "Long Ann" a muscular lady I can assure you! Local tradition has it that "Long Ann" was in America during some period of her life and she is reputed to have beaten up a New York policeman (Probably an Irishman, as most of the cops in New York in those days were Irish).

The above I thought might interest you, so I'll say God bless,  
Yours sincerely,

**Father P. J. Gormley, S.C.A.,  
Thurles**

— a letter to Mary B. Durkan re

her prize essay in Number eight. Among the many publications to reach me over the holiday period were the best parish periodical and the best county magazine produced anywhere. "An Choinneal" is based at Louisburgh, County Mayo, and is making its eighth appearance. It runs to more than 140 pages, and is crammed with information, old and new. Records of current activities take their place here most interestingly with history and folk lore and the journal as a whole has an appeal which extends far beyond the limits of Louisburgh and Kilgeever parish.

**Tatler's Parade**  
in "Irish Independent"  
(3 January 1974)

Anyone who stands on Roonagh Quay and looks across the sound to Clare Island, on a fine sunny day will be impressed by the scenery, the sounds of screaming gulls, the rip of the tide and the entire romantic setting — providing the viewer does not have to live there! That is unhappily the problem of the young people of Louisburgh — they must live there or emigrate . . .

Two years ago the Louisburgh Macra na Tuaithe team wrote a project that spoke of the tourist potential in the area . . . that if the whole area were turned into a holiday park there might be jobs for many more. But here is the snag: the traditional life-style of places like Louisburgh will disappear under tourist pressure. Hotels will have their dance halls and swimming-pools. Motors will destroy the peace that one finds

to ensure that our senior citizens would be well provided for. I thank all who contributed in any way to make the party a success.

As we wish to keep in mind the great role that these senior citizens have played in our lives, I earnestly request that a number of our young people would offer themselves as committee members, to express their own gratitude and to assist in promoting a cause that we are convinced is good.

Main Street

Thomas O'Donnell

## Committee for Mentally Handicapped

Chairman : Mrs. Clementine Lyons Delegates to Council : Mrs. Eleanor  
Secretary : Miss Nora Lyons Lyons, Mr. Sean Henaghan  
Treasurer : Charles Gaffney

The Louisburgh branch of the Mayo Association of Parents and Friends of Mentally Handicapped Children was formed on 13 November 1973 at a special meeting held in McDermott's Hall. Mr. Joe Mulrooney, President of the Association and Mr. Tom Fallon attended. The above officers were elected.

The house-to-house collection for Mayo Mentally Handicapped Children is held each year: thirty-one collectors visit every home in the parish. In 1974 a total of £685 was collected and in 1975 a total of £720.78. A word of sincere thanks is due to all the collectors who do this collection voluntarily and also to all subscribers who give so generously and show such kindness and courtesy to the collectors.

The Association has since been renamed Western Care Association.  
Bunlehinch

Nora Lyons

## Parish Parents' Association

Education has been defined as the systematic instruction, schooling or training given to the young (and, by extension, to adults) in preparation for the work of life. With the advent of the recent system of "Free Education" in Ireland much emphasis is now placed on the role of education. The resultant infection of modern youth and adults is quite significant, and people's minds have been jerked into a state of serious concern for the future of the younger generation in that context. That this concern should reflect in the form of the organizing of Career Guidance courses for the young is a logical sequence; so in May 1974 a Parish Parents' Association was founded in Louisburgh with objectives aimed at, inter alia, the cultural and educational development of the youth of the parish. The published aims of the Association were, in summary: (a) The provision, organization and supervision of indoor and outdoor recreation for the children of the parish during school holiday periods; (b) The organization of a course of lectures for parents and children concerning primary, technical and secondary education, career guidance, industrial training and youth leadership.

The Louisburgh Parents' Association was formed at a meeting in

## Bits and Scraps

today from Louisburgh through the Dhulough Pass to Leenane.

Who is prepared to pay the price, and what exactly will the price look like?

— **George Burrows** in *Irish Times*  
(12 November 1973)

The episode . . . occurred on the Carrowniskey river at Louisburgh. The Carrowniskey, as well as holding good salmon and sea-trout is something of a personality in itself.

— **P. J. Donaghy**  
in *Irish Independent*  
(23 August 1974)

Tháinig "An Choinneal" tamall ó shin. Iris mo pharóisde sa mbaile — paróisde Chluain Chearbáin. Tá caint ann ar scéim mhór atá beartaithe ag dream éigin chun 'tourist village' a thógáil sa pharóisde agus níl an tEagarthóir, an tAthair León Ó Morcháin, iontach sásta leis.

Ach ní lot an cheantair atá ag cur as do Ath. Ó Morcháin in a eagarfhocal sa "Coinneal" ach lot an phobail. Cé'n chaoi a rachaidh an fiontar nua seo i bhfeidhm ar shaol an phobail? Ceist thábhachtach, a caithfear a chur anseo i Malawi chomh maith. Ní hiad nósanna agus béasa lucht **apartheid** is fearr a fheillfeas don tír seo. Agus ní hiad nósanna nó béasa lucht rachmais an domhain-thiar atá de dhíth ar cos óg na tíre. Is i ngeall ar sin atá rialacha ann do chuairteóirí: tá cosg an mhionsciortaí agus ar bhrístí dona mná; ar ghuag fhada do na fir. Ach mar is eol dúinne, Gaeil, tá rudaí ann is tábhachtaí, rudaí a bhaineas

leis an anam; rudaí a bhaineas le cúra iomlán an phobail. Iad sin is mó atá faoi ionsaí i gCluain Chearbáin agus i Malawi. Iad sin a caithfear a chosaint. Tá a ch'ion féin déanta ag an Athair Ó Morcháin, ach ní bhuaifidh sé gan taca an phobail. Ceann de na súailci a bhaineann len ar saol is ar saothar i bpoblachtaí nua na hAfraice, gur féidir linn brath ar an bpobal ins na cúrsaí seo, agus sin ar dhá leibhéal: ar rialtas, agus na gnáth dhaoine. An féidir an méid sin a rá sa mbaile in Eirinn?

— **An tAthair Pádraic Ó Máille**  
in "Africa" (Samhain 1974)

### Bouquet at Killeen



*Bernadette McNally, Feenone presenting a bouquet to an t-Uasal Pádraic Breathnach on his arrival at School.*

PHOTO McLOUGHLIN'S STUDIO

The Parochial Hall on 24 May 1974 and at a second meeting at Killeen on May 28th the election of officers and formation of a committee were completed. One of the first items of discussion was the possibility and desirability of arranging a lecture on industrial training, and such a lecture was eventually set up and at the Vocational Hall on 3 July — Mr. Pat Ryan lectured on all aspects of National Manpower Services. A second lecture on all aspects of industrial training was given by Mr. Pat Bergin of Anco. These lectures were well attended and proved very interesting and informative: directly as a result of their success the Association set about and successfully established an Industrial Training Course in Louisburgh for the young boys of the parish. The course was conducted at the Vocational School during the school holidays and continued for a period of four weeks. Fourteen boys availed themselves of the course and, as well as the benefit of the training, each of the boys collected pay-packets varying from ten to nineteen pounds (according to their ages) at the end of the course.

As in the case of most philanthropic organizations the Parents' Association was confronted with the dilemma of endeavouring to operate on a shoe-string budget; and while committee discussions were alert, articulate, ambitious and adventurous, lack of finance was a restraining reality in achieving worthwhile goals. The elation permeating the Association can then be understood when, out of the blue, they were informed that another association had come forward with an offer to make available a number of prominent persons to deliver a course of lectures on career guidance. This was a welcome and unexpected development which gave an added fillip to the Association and they were now in a position to select the desired courses in the knowledge that the incidental expertise and finance was available from the benefactor association. For that maganimous offer the Parents Association is deeply grateful and this opportunity is gladly availed of to publicly record an appreciative expression of thanks to the Galway branch of the Mayomens' Association. On 29 November Father Thomas Kyne, Dean of Residence at U.C.G. spoke to an interested audience of parents on "What it means to start your child at University" and on the same night a lecture on "Draughtmanship and Engineering" was given by Mr. Donal Downes B.E., Galway. Other lectures conducted were "Nursing as a Career" (Miss Josephine Hession Tutor Nurse and Miss Mary O'Malley of Roonith who is House Matron at Merlin Park Hospital, Galway); "Regional Technical Education" (Mr. Bernie O'Hara, Regional Technical College, Galway); "Career in the Garda Síochána" (Mr. Jim Cuddy) and "Youth Leadership" (Father Michael Goaley C.C., Killwalla and Mrs. Mary Keane, Claremorris).

Apart from the Career Guidance course the Parents' Association engaged in other matters of concern to children and parents. An effort to establish woodwork and leatherwork classes had to be deferred because of the strike then obtaining between the Teachers' Union and the Department of Education. The question of the non-availability of free school transport for some sections of pupils was investigated with the



appropriate Department. It was ascertained that the free transport could be availed of only by pupils residing more than three miles from post-primary schools but that pupils residing within the three-mile limit could avail themselves of the transport as fare-paying passengers only if seats were available after those entitled to the free transport were accommodated. The Parents' Association also investigated the entitlement of pupils to avail themselves of the scheme for free school-books and the position in this regard was lucidly explained by the Principal of the local secondary school.

The work of the Parents' Association in the overall was, it was felt, quite satisfactory and indeed commendable especially in the light of the fact that several well-meaning parents in the parish withheld their support and did not attend meetings or lectures. The motivation for this state of affairs was said to be the belief of many of the parents that the clergy in the parish were not well disposed towards the Association. This was, understandably, a matter which the Association noted with some dismay and determined to investigate in order to clear the air. With this end in view the Parish Priest was invited to a meeting which he very graciously attended on the 7th October. Having learned of the composition of the Association and its aims the Parish Priest expressed himself totally in favour and did concede that he had had some reservations earlier as he understood the organisation to comprise a teacher/parent association — not an association of parent only. He assured the association of his full support and assistance in the future.

The Association of the Louisburgh Parish Parents' looks forward optimistically to the resumption of its philanthropic role in 1976.

#### MEMBERS OF LOUISBURGH PARISH PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

John J. McDonnell, Paddy O'Malley (Mooneen), Michael Dufffy (Furmoy), Basil Morahan, Michael J. Prendergast (Bridge St.), John O'Toole (Doughmakeon), Sean Heneghan (P.R.O.), Paddy O'Malley (The Bridge), Oliver P. Morahan (Chairman), Mrs. Wm. Boilson, Mrs. Catherine Morahan, Mrs. Clementine Lyons, Mrs. Etta Farren (Secretary), Mrs. Patricia Morahan, Mrs. Marie Heneghan, Mrs. Anne Ruddy (Treasurer), Mrs. Annie O'Malley (Cross), Mrs. Noreen O'Malley (Assistant Secretary), Mrs. Beth Prendergast (R.I.P.), Mrs. Eileen Ferrins, Mrs. Kathleen Duffy, Mrs. Mary O'Malley, Mrs. Tilly Cannon, Mrs. Eileen Needham, Mrs. Bridie Scanlon, Mrs. Mary O'Toole.

#### Killeen Group Water Scheme

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Secretary : Mrs. Sal O'Malley,  
Chairman : James Mac Nally,      Feenone  
Roonith Hill

The group are organising the scheme to supply water to householders in practically all villages from Curradavitt to Askelane with a

border line east of Furmoyle. The scheme will service over one hundred houses in the area.

The supply will be from Lough Coinneal, high up on the hill between Doogan Hill and Gleann Coilean. The scheme is just in its initial stages as yet and tenders have been invited and are being submitted.

Fenone

Mrs. Sal O'Malley

#### Gaelic Athletic Association

President : Fr. Leo Morahan      Vice Chairman : Basil Morahan  
Vice-Presidents : Joe Staunton,      Secretary : Maurice Lynch  
Very Rev. Canon John Fitzgerald      Asst. Secretary : Austin Lacey  
Rev. Mr. McGinley      Treasurer : Seán Fergus  
Chairman : Michael O'Malley      Asst. Treasurer : Christy Gibbons  
1974—1975

A successful festival was held by the Club from August 1st to 10th 1975, a feature of the festival was the appearance in the opening parade of the Claremorris School Band who are All-Ireland champions in the marching-band section. A thirteén-a-side tournament was played in the Park for Corn Chluan Cearbháin and a set of trophies. Islandeady won this competition. Falduff took the O'Toole Cup. Seán Morahan's team won the Caonon Heaney Cup. Louisburgh Past took the field against Louisburgh Present and they played — and won! The final score read Louisburgh Past 3-10 — Louisburgh Present 1-4.

Seven successful dances were held during the period, one being a céilí held in conjunction with a childrens fancy dress. Many other side attractions took place notably the return of the "Street Singer" providing nostalgic interludes for the old and not so old.

Our third year in the Intermediate proved to be the least successful as we lost the first round to Balla. Both the Senior and Intermediate Championships were run on a knock-out basis this year. With the Intermediate team out of the Championship we had more time to devote to the underage teams. Again we were unable to field an under-fourteen team this year.

Our under-sixteen won the West B Championship from Ballintubber. Seven teams participated in the competition which was run on a League basis. That team was : John O'Toole (goal), Eugene O'Malley, Michael John Keane, Thomas Kilcoyne, James Scott, Gabriel Gibbons, Eugene Duffy, Tommy O'Brien (Captain), Kieran O'Malley, Michael Hastings, Patrick Morrisson, Tony Lyons, Michael Mac Nally, Martin Jordan, Pádraig Leamy. Substitute Paddy Gibbons.

Our minor team qualified for the west final but lost to Achill in a closely contested game at Newport. In four grades we had twenty-five games during the year.

Maurice Lynch

1974

Having lost a preliminary round to Ballinrobe by the smallest possible margins we were relegated into a losers' group from which

only one team could reach the County semi-finals. To qualify for a place we had to win every game. We first accounted for Kiltimagh and Ardnaree failed to field a team. A semi-final place then depended on the game against Burrishoole, on two occasions the teams finished level and after three hours of football the result was still the same — stalemate. But in extra-time our team eventually won out and so we were into the semifinal against Kilmaine on July 11th at Castlebar

Kilmaine led 1-3 to 0-5 at half time. Soon after the resumption, our team got a goal, but we were three points behind with ten minutes left for play. The team however kept battling away and reduced the arrears to a point with five minutes to go. The equaliser was slow in coming and the winning point was scored in the final minute of the game.

But we then faced last year's Junior champions, Belmullet, in the final on 1st September in Crossmolina. On Saturday night and Sunday morning freak floods savaged the Louisburgh area, with the result that a few of the players did not get sleep for the previous thirty hours, also it greatly reduced our sideline support. A postponement, if it was possible, might have been helpful.

Belmullet had the edge over us for most of the sixty minutes and, playing with a slight breeze in the first half, had the first score — a point. Our team led by a point after twelve minutes, but this lead — the only one — was short lived. At the interval the score was 1-9 to 0-4 in favour of Belmullet. An improved performance by our team in the second half yielded several promising attacks but we didn't appear to have the flair or power of the winners. The final score was 1-12 to 0-8.

**The Team :** Austin Lacey (goal), Michael Joe Gibbons, Rayo Lyons, Paddy Gibbons, Séamus Healy, Ray Lyons, Tommie Joe Gallagher, Michael O'Grady (Captain), John Gibbons, Austin Moran, Séamus Lyons, John O'Malley, Pádraic Walsh, John Lyons, John Fraicis O'Toole.

**Substitutes :** John Morahan for John O'Malley. John O'Malley for John Morahan.

Our under-sixteen, minor and under-twenty-one teams failed to register a win. We did not field an underfourteen team this year. In all the four grades together our club played seventeen games during the year.

### Louisburgh Milk Suppliers Association

Chairman : Anthony J. McHale      Treasurer : Brendan Lyons  
Secretary : Austin V. O'Malley      Carrier : John Tiernan

The milk output from the parish has been on the increase over the past few years. This is a result of the co-operation between the dairymen of the parish and their agricultural advisers. During the summer of 1975 the output reached the handsome figure of eight thousand gallons weekly; and this left the proud suppliers some £10,000 richer each month. Quality tests show that this milk is the cleanest taken in by N.C.F.

Austin V. O'Malley

### Political Organizations

#### FIANNA FAIL

Chairman : John Joe Philbin      Secretary : Séamus Durkan

#### FINE GAEL

Chairman : Oliver P. Morahan      Treasurer : John Lyons  
Secretary : Joseph McNamara

### Horse Show Committee

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Secretary : Anthony McHale,  
Vice-Presidents : Father Waldron,      Polgloss  
Father Quinn      Treasurers : Patrick O'Reilly and  
Chairman : M. J. O'Toole M.C.C.      Mrs. Bridie McHale

A very successful horse-show is held in Louisburgh each year and this year £700 prize-money was paid out. The show is held in the end of June and horses are brought from all parts of the country including the North of Ireland counties.

Polgloss

Anthony McHale

### Killeen Central School

Michael McKeown, N.T., Principal,  
David O'Malley, Cloonty  
Mrs. Bernie Kilcoyne, Killadoon.

Bishops' nominees: Tommie Joe O'Malley, Thallabawn; Mrs. Bridgie Lyons, Furmoyle; Mrs. Noreen O'Malley, Roonith; Canon Fitzgerald.

### Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

Chairman : Séamus Durkan      Vice-Chairman : Charles Gaffney  
Secretary : Miss Nora Lyons      Treasurer : Joe O'Toole

The branch was first formed in 1970. The Mayo County Fleadh was held in Louisburgh on 7th June 1970 and again on 18th June 1972. The Mayo County Board of C.C.E. with the co-operation of the branches held an Oiche Cheoil at different venues around the county to raise funds for the Irish Cultural Institute in Dublin, which will be used by the C.C.E. as offices, workshops and museum to foster and promote our Irish music and culture. One of these Oiche Cheoil was held in Old Head Hotel on 6 November 1975 and because of the tremendous interest shown, the local branch hope to have some more during the coming months.

Bunlehinch

Nora Lyons

## Tidy Towns Competition 1975

Centre : LOUISBURGH County : MAYO Population Section : C

	Marks	
	**	*
<b>Effort</b> Although there are a number of good individual efforts, it is clear that the Committee are not getting the support of all the community — support which is essential in a Competition such as this.	35	21
<b>Tidiness — appropriate placing of litter bins — absence of litter, derelict sites, buildings and indiscriminate dumping.</b> It was good to see an improvement in litter control and obviously the adjudicator's suggestion of last year about more regular sweeping has been taken to heart. Some flyposting was noted.	20	10
<b>Presentation of buildings — including shops, business premises, factories, historic and public buildings.</b> On the Westport side of town the church and convent and their grounds have been well maintained and presented, as has the garda station. The grotto and adjoining school also looked well. The Church of Ireland grounds could have had more attention and the gates need repainting. Commercial properties were generally well maintained, but there are a few which are not up to the same standard.	20	13
<b>Presentation of natural amenities — open spaces, village green, river banks, foreshore, parks, trees, flowerbeds, etc.</b> The area around the river is still not getting the attention it deserves and more effort here would pay handsome dividends.	25	15
<b>Appearance of approach roads and verges, streets, back lanes and footpaths.</b> While the Westport approach road has been fairly well presented, the Leenane approach road could have received more attention, as could the minor approach road.	20	9

	Marks	
	**	*
<b>Presentation and appearance of residential areas, including their open spaces.</b> The standard of maintenance and presentation of private properties was good and there were a number of attractive gardens. There is however still room for the use of more colour.	15	11
<b>Presentation of street furniture on roads, car parks, open spaces, etc. — including road signs, telephone kiosks, post boxes, litter bins, village pumps, statues and monuments, seats, advertising hoardings.</b> Road and traffic signs have been repainted.	15	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	150	89

**"Best Traditional Shopfront".**  
R. LYONS

\*\* Maximum      \* Marks awarded

## Church Renovations Committee

Chairman : Mr. Michael O'Brien Secretary : Mr. John Lyons

The first meeting took place on 10 January, 1974 and it was decided that all the parishioners present would form a working committee. A Finance Committee to accept and record Monthly subscriptions was founded and consists of Mr. Richard Lyons, Mr. Séamus Durkan, Mr. Patrick Ball, Mr. Charles Gaffney, Mr. Michael O'Brien, Mr. J. J. Philbin, Mr. Patrick O'Malley (Mooneen), Mr. Patrick O'Malley (Louisburgh) and Mr. Richard O'Toole. To date the Renovation Committee has raised money through dances, sales of work, selling of waste paper, buffets, a confined weekly draw, private donations and of course the parish monthly collection which has been, and is, the cornerstone of success in this venture.

The committee appreciates the help and co-operation of individuals who have given of their time and talents in the organizing of various events. All private donations are gratefully accepted by Canon Fitzgerald P.P. Our overseas friends have been most kind and generous. The committee recognizes the deep generosity so evident in Kilgeever parish and look forward to bringing this project to a quick and successful end.

Main Street

John Lyons

## The Harbour Mother

The little boats from the ocean glide,  
hurrying home with the eventide  
for shelter and rest  
to the peaceful breast  
of the harbour-mother whose arms stretch wide.  
As she quiets each quivering weary wing,  
this is the song that I hear her sing,  
while the stars hang low,  
and the night-winds blow,  
and strong and silent the slow tides swing:  
Rest little boats, through the deepening night  
rest till the smile of the sun is bright;  
then away and away  
through the long fair day;  
nothing shall hinder your eager flight  
sleep now and rest  
for that is best  
and calm and safe is the harbour-breast.

Louisburgh

Jimmy Mannion

## Shades of Home

A few verses — his first efforts — by Austin Burns (Coventry) deal with his thoughts in leaving his native Pulgloss. The following lines sum up his mood and memories :

On a summer morning as the day was dawning  
To my native Pulgloss I bid adieu;  
I left behind some fond companions  
And happy scenes that my childhood knew.  
I journeyed lone to Westport station  
Where other comrades awaited me  
And began my journey to this fair city  
Where many emigrants I was to see . . .  
Thank God I'm happy in this land of roses  
I'm free from trouble, woe and care;  
But some fine day I'll return to Louisburgh  
In Pulgloss green valley to breathe fresh air  
The friends of old will there await me  
We'll then re-live those grand times of old  
When the school of Accony was our childhood centre  
An the groves of Askelane were wrapped in gold.

## LOCAL PLACENAMES

Down the ages our people have shown an extraordinary interest in names of persons and places. It has been almost an obsession with them. Even to-day they haven't changed as much as might be thought. They still have a lively curiosity about the place-names of their own locality as anyone who inquires soon finds out.

One great work in Irish, the Dinnsheanchas was given over to explaining the high and famous Place-names of our country. But what about the little places of our own Parish and district! The happenings and memories associated with them! Let's look back a little and call it Mionsheanchas.

Before the era of good roads and fast motor traffic, Connemara was much closer to us in social life and business contact than it is to-day; a good example of the sea bringing people together rather than dividing them. There was constant movement of boats, back and forth, from Dooneen (Dúinín, little fort), Purteen (Poirtín, little harbour) and Rusheen (Roisín, little point) to the Connemara coast. Sixty years ago, or even less, quite a number from our parish attended Connemara fairs pretty regularly. Sometimes, if the sea was calm, they swam strong cattle, bought in Connemara, across the jord, on halters behind a curach. Sheep and bonhams were often brought there too. Attending a fair there meant two days from home for the Mayo people because they had to take lodgings close by in order to catch the fair in the morning. Not that this ever caused any additional grey hairs round their temples. They made it a social occasion and were always overcome by the warm hospitality and unlimited generosity of Connemara. Names like Cathán Mór (Big Kéan), the Gabha (the Smith), Tom Flaherty, (Butcher) and many other notables, were in constant currency on every hearth in our district.

Every summer saw the Connemara men down on our

## Louisburgh Tourist Association

Chairman : Charlie Gaffney  
Secretary : Mary O'Malley

Asst. Secretary : Father Waldron  
Treasurer : Paddy Duffy

The association held its A.G.M. on the 12th December, 1974. Starting the year we were faced with a bank overdraft of over three hundred pounds. Our earlier meetings involved much discussion as to how we would clear the debt. Finally it was decided to run a limited draw and a series of dances. Both of these ventures proved highly successful financially and socially. The treasurer at the weekly meeting of the 7th November, 1975 was able to present a very favourable report: we have cleared the debt and have one hundred and forty-four pounds to our credit in the bank. We thank our committee members and their friends, as well as their teenage sons and daughters who flocked to our support.

Resuming after the summer recess we wrote to C.I.E. about the alteration in the time of arrival of the mid-day bus to Louisburgh. They replied reassuring us that they will consider our demands when the summer time-table for 1976 is being prepared.

Our plans envisaged at present are :

- (1) To concentrate on the reclamation and development of the Town Park.
- (2) To renew our efforts to obtain a thatched-cottage scheme for the area.

Louisburgh has a bright future for tourism and our aim is to make it a more desirable place for the tourist.

And finally if it is in order, the association express their congratulations to the **Coinneal** committee for having set themselves to produce this edition despite their serious losses in the floods of 1974.

Shraugh

Mary O'Malley

## Parochial Hall

President : Rev. Kieran Waldron    Secretary : Mr. John Lyons B.A.  
Chairman : Mr. Donald O'Leary N.T.    Treasurer : Mr. Peter O'Malley B.A.

**Committee Members** : M. Michael O'Malley N.T., Mr. Basil Morahan B.A., Mr. John Morahan, Master Pádraic Walsh, Mrs. Clementine Lyons, Mrs. Joe Keane (Feenone).

This new committee which came into being on 14th November, 1975 hopes that facilities available will be used by all interested clubs and associations of the parish. Groups wishing to hold meetings, lectures, dances, socials, drama, concerts etc. are more than welcome to consult with the committee, and it is hoped that full use be made of the hall during the coming year. Special attention is being given to the introduction of indoor games, which will be properly supervised.

John Lyons

coasts to fish lobsters and to pick up a supply of rods — scarce in their own area — for their home-made, wicker lobster-pots.

Once a fortnight, every second Friday they were paid for their catch in Louisburgh and then went home for the week-end. But not without a token celebration, of course. About 'scholar time' — 'dismissal' they call it now — their cars passed us by. Not motor-cars; no one here in town or country owned a motor-car then. They were the Louisburgh hackney side-cars. These brought them as far as the Owenadornawn River, which was as far as the king's highway ran in those days. There were still a few miles to the ferry on the Killery and these they walked — a beneficial therapy after the stresses of the day.

Isn't that a fine high-sounding name — Owenadornawn! What does it mean? There is no doubt about the first part, 'Owen'. It is simply the Irish name (Abhainn) for a river or stream. Opinions differ about the second. Some take it as 'torann', noise; so that the name would mean something like the growling or rumbling river, referring to the stream in flood. Others think it more likely to be from 'dornóg', a stone, referring to the smooth somewhat oval-shaped stones so characteristic of the stream. 'Dornóg' was used here (just like 'paltóg') of "words of learned length and thundering sound" but what kind of stone it referred to I'm not too sure. However, Dineen's Dictionary gives 'dornóg', a handstone, a small casting stone.

Perhaps you would like something more colourful. There was indeed an old Celtic deity known as 'Taranis' — Tarain, Torannán — the Thunderer; and quite a number of our rivers are named from such. Whatever it means it sounds impressive!

### Pilgrimage

But the great hosting from Connemara came in mid-August for the pilgrimage to Kilgeever blessed well on Great Lady-Day. Across the Killery they came in thronged curachs on the fourteenth, the Eve of the Feast Day. Some of them had a song about it — "We'll all prepare for Lady Day" was the refrain.

And now we had some small opportunity to show our welcome for and appreciation of our visitors. Side-cars were placed at their disposal and of course they needed food. They were very quick and insistent with their money but payment was never accepted for food and only very rarely for side-car hire.

We talked and played outside with the children who had come on pilgrimage while our elders 'spoke at length'

## Adult Education Committee

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Secretary : Mrs. Mary Duffy,  
Vice-Presidents : Father Waldron,      Chapel Street  
Father Coneely  
Chairman : Séamus Durkan      Treasurer : Mick Gallagher,  
Aitinaveen

This is Louisburgh's newest committee and it is arranging adult education lectures on "Family Life" during the winter months at the request of the Archbishop and the diocesan committee. Those lectures have become very popular in the diocese in the last few years.

Other committee members are: Michael Corrigan (Shrawee), Pat and Maureen Kilcoyne (Cregganbán), Tommie Joe O'Malley (Thallabawn), Richard and Mrs. Mannion (Killadoon), Mrs. Noreen O'Malley (Roonith), Anthony and Bridie McHale (Polgloss), Mrs. Vera Durkan (Askelane), Mrs. Eleanor Lyons (Bunowen), Mrs. William McNamara (Bunowen), John McConnell (Shraugh), Mrs. Delia Coen (Tooreen Road), Joe and Breege Staunton (The Square), John and Sheila Tiernan, Gerard and Margaret O'Malley (Doughmackeon), Mrs. Kathleen Duffy and Mrs. Eileen Ferrins (Furmoye), Mrs. Bridgie Lyons (Furmoye), Mrs. Needham, Mrs. Scanlon and Owen McNally (Feenone).

Chapel Street

Mary Duffy

## Drama Group

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Secretary : Donald Wallace  
Vice-Presidents : Father Quinn,      Chairman : Michael Gallagher,  
Father Coneely      Aitinaveen  
Producers : Father Waldron,  
Donald Wallace

This is one of the most active groups in the parish and produces a three-act play every year. Since the last Coinneal two highly enjoyable productions were held — "My Wife's Family" and "Dry Rot".

The entire funds raised by the group went to the church renovation fund. Members of the cast include: Mrs. Bridie McHale, Mrs. Vera Durkan (Askelane), Rose Donnellan (P.O. Louisburgh), Marie O'Grady, N.T. (Cregganbán), Nuala Craddock (Sancta Maria School staff), Maureen Duffy (Cregganbán), Mrs. Lucy Dyar (Mooneen), Anthony McHale (Polgloss), Paddy O'Malley (The Bridge), Paddy Leamy (Bunowen), Pádraic McNamara (Carrowniskey), John and Oliver Morahan (Mooneen), Oliver P. Morahan (Mooneen), John McConnell (Shraugh), Michael O'Malley, N.T. (Main Street), Peter O'Malley, B.A., H.Dip. (Main Street), John and Sheila Tiernan (Doughmakeown), Thomas O'Donnell (Main Street) and Michael Tiernan (Doughmackeon).

Old Head

Donald Wallace

inside. Meeting them was our first direct introduction to differences in customs and attitudes, in speech and accent. How stimulating to find some had christian names never heard in our parish, Festy, Gregory, Darby.

Some of their vowels seemed a little longer than ours but their consonants were generally sharper. We pronounced 'myself', 'yourself', etc. without any trace of the final consonant (outside school, of course) but they had it correctly. When excited, they said 'A washard!' where we used the standard English form. They had novel turns of phrase that we found curious. Where we would have said 'the noise of the sea' one of them had been heard to say 'the sound of the wave'. Even a few minutes conversation with them rarely failed to yield a 'satisfactory surprise'.

On pilgrimage they wore no long faces. It was a joy to meet them and all who did have very happy memories of them.

## Ships and goats

If you are anywhere near the mouth of the Killery by land or sea there is one feature you cannot miss — the islet with the 'Tower' on its summit. This 'Tower' was a Marker for the British navy coming here for exercises before the first World War. Young people to-day may be surprised to hear that there are still some among them who saw 'The Fleet' steam in and out the Killery.

The tiny island is called Inis Bearna, meaning the Island of the Gap because the entrance to the Killery is narrowest at that point. Perhaps the original form was Inis Boirne meaning Rocky Island and that is surely no misnomer.

However small and bare the islet, it 'maintained' a family before the Famine. The house and field can still be traced there. It was really a fishing station but any potatoes that could be raised were a valuable addition to their food. Production standards would not have impressed the farming experts of the E.E.C.: during Seán Mac Conmara's tenancy the total animal husbandry amounted to one goat with kid at foot!

Seán — or Seán Mháire as he was known here — made about this goat one of his many songs. (Tomás Ó Máille has published half a dozen of them). He had to deport the goat to Mayo territory lest she be seized for tax and levied on all farm animals. Once the goat was set free on the side of Binn Leice (Rocky Peak) the collector could "Whistle away and leave it so"!

I fear there is small poetry in poor Seán's verse. But, composed while local Irish was still rich and vigorous it is

## Muintir Na Tire

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Vice-Chairman : John J. Philbin  
Chairman : To be elected      Secretary : Mick Gallagher

Not very active over the past two years but being newly organized now by the new County Federation and National Executive.

Aitínaveen      Mick Gallagher

## Killeen N.F.A.

Chairman : Michael Cannon,      Treasurer : John P. Frazer,  
Carrowniskey      Barnabawn  
Secretary : Joe Murphy, Devlin

Catering for the needs of the farmers, the association purchases feeding stuffs for farmers in bulk at reduced prices. We also hold two social functions each year.

Devlin      Joe Murphy

## Grainne Uaile Handcrafts

Chairman : Joseph Broderick      Secretary : Mrs. Mollie McConville  
Vice Chairman : Miss Nora Lyons      Treasurer : Charles Gaffney  
N.T.

During the tourist season many Louisburgh-made sweaters and cardigans are sold; and orders taken for particular styles, which are subsequently mailed. Americans remain our most consistent buyers; but garments have been bought by visitors from Africa and Australia as well as England and Northern Ireland. Warm, polo-neck sweaters for ski-ing enthusiasts were sent recently to Switzerland and Canada. An official of the I.D.A. (Industrial Development Authority) called earlier this year and examined some garments in stock. He commented most favourably on their finish and on the variety of styles and patterns.

Main Street      Mollie McConville

## Killeen Pioneer Association

President : Michael Corrigan,      Treasurer : Mrs. Sammon, Cross  
Shrawee      Spiritual Director : Father Quinn  
Secretary : Patrick O'Grady N.T.,  
Cregganbán

There is a membership of approximately one hundred, and meetings are held once a month.

This branch is just a year old and is affiliated to the National Pioneer T.A.A. Council.

Cregganbán      Patrick O'Grady

valuable for language study and contains quite a bit of social history and folklore of that area of our parish. But its greatest value was that it cheered and diverted his own generation and those following as long as Irish lived on here. "Abair Seán Mháire"! they said; that is "Sing Seán's (Lament)" — for his drowned son. In those days when there were no books or papers here, nor anyone who could read such, the making of verse in Irish, sad or merry, was a constant employment and pastime. Like virtue it was its own reward. It was a great pastime and provided endless mirth and enjoyment.

Inis Bearna is often known locally as 'Joe's Island', referring to its last tenant Joe Connor. This was after the Famine. Once when asked in the Law Court to identify himself he is said to have answered: "Joe Connor, your Honour, the Lobsterman from Inis Bearna". (He probably had little English and had been drilled in this form of reply by some of the 'wide' boys).

Production seems still to have lagged during Joe's time on the island. But it had improved. He had succeeded in raising a pig. Like Seán and his goat, Joe is remembered for his pig though without any commemorative verse and in a different context. The pig, ready for market, had to be transported to the mainland. To carry a goat or sheep in a curach is a simple matter. Not so a pig. She is most difficult to handle, to load and unload. She is dangerous and unpredictable. All this Joe well knew. But being a powerful man and a strong swimmer he thought up a simple fool-proof solution without fuss or risk. The weather was very fine and the distance very small. Why not swim the pig on a halter to the mainland!

When the project was put to the pig it was only too clear that she lacked all enthusiasm for the exercise. She would have no part of it and expressed her dissent in a volley of panic-stricken grunts. But Joe hadn't come so far to be frustrated now. He used the strong arm to overcome her reservations and eventually got her afloat. Then he struck out for the mainland holding the halter in his hand. In local folklore pigs are credited with two gifts — they can see the wind and they are great swimmers. Whatever about the first, this pig soon proved she was no mean performer in the water and quickly overhauled Joe. By her determined efforts to mount his broad shoulders she seemed to claim a Piggy-back ride for the rest of the trip. He escaped only by diving but ever afterwards bore on his shoulderblades crúibín scars which told more eloquently

## Parish Gun Club

Chairman : Josie Lyons,  
The Colony  
Secretary : Geoffrey Gibbons,  
Accony  
Vice-Chairman : John Joe Philbin

The club is just newly formed with a membership of over fifty who are looking forward to stocking the district with grouse, pheasant and partridge. At present the game rights are owned by outside interests and the club have no private shooting grounds.

Accony

Geoffrey Gibbons

## Louisburgh Pioneer T.A.A.

President : Redmond Lyons,  
Furmoyle  
Secretary : Mick Gallagher,  
Aitínaveen  
Vice-President : M. J. O'Grady,  
Kilgeever  
Spiritual Director : Father Waldron

There is a membership of approximately one hundred. Meetings are held every two months. We belong to the West Mayo P.T.A.A. region and will be organizing social competitions between all branches in winter-time.

The Association is affiliated to the National Pioneer T.A.A. Council.  
Aitínaveen  
Mick Gallagher

## Louisburgh Angling Club (Deep Sea)

Chairman : Séamus Durkan  
Secretary : John J. Philbin

The club had two deep-sea angling competitions each year as well as two off-shore competitions. Three social functions are held each year.

Bridge Street

John J. Philbin

## Louisburgh Angling Club (River)

Chairman : John J. Philbin  
Bridge Street  
Secretary : Séamus Durkan,  
Bridge Street

The club has fishing-rights on both the Bunowen and Carrowniskey rivers and licences for daily or weekly fishing periods can be had from the Secretary, Séamus Durkan, for a nominal charge.

Bridge Street

Séamus Durkan

## Killeen G.A.A. Club

Chairman : Joe Keane, Devlin  
Secretary : George Gibbons,  
Cloonlara  
Treasurer : Tommie O'Malley,  
Feenone

The club has a membership of approximately sixty including juveniles and holds three social functions annually for raising its funds. There are eight members on the Louisburgh representative team.

Cloonlara

George Gibbons

than Seán Mac Conamara's verses could, of his Homeric Hassle with the Hog.

## Port in Storm

About a mile seaward of Inis Bearna is Inis Téagail, meaning Calm Island. 'Calm' refers not so much to the island as to its exceptionally sheltered little harbour. It was an old saying here that you could land in Inis Téagail when you couldn't think of that between Achill Head and Slyne Head. Mo chuan téigle is dtaoibh tráchtá — (My haven of calm beside the strand) is a line from an old poem; but it does not refer to Inis Téagail.

The value of this harbour was well high-lighted in an incident long remembered here. The good man of Inis Téagail — only one house there then — had been rather miserably used by someone living many miles away. It was quite undeserved and unprovoked, a peevish freak.

Sometime later this very man was sailing in these parts when a great gale suddenly blew up. An expert boatman, cool, skilful and courageous, he tried Connemara but dared not attempt a landing there. Then he tried to double back home but failed in that too. Now he ran for shelter of the Killery. Three times he tried to enter and each time he was forced back. He needed no one to tell him that only one choice remained — Inis Téagail or drown!

He chose Inis Téagail but was so seething with fury towards the boat which had failed him that he gave her 'rith cladaigh' — the Beach-rush —; that is, he sent her straight forward till she buried her nose in the shingle of the harbour. As he struck, "Bíuf sin aici 'nois'!" said he. ("Let her have that now").

To their undying credit the woman of the houses and the family rushed out to welcome the visitors with all courtesy and generosity. They sheltered and fed them till the storm abated the following day and their guests were able to go home. If the man of the house was more reticent and less effusive who can blame him.

But the phrase "Bíuf sin aici 'nois'!" became a local saying when anyone vented his spleen or disappointment on an innocent person or thing. "Bíuf sin aici 'nois'!" as so-and-so said to the boat.

## Smaller Outposts

Beside Inis Téagail Mór is Inis Téagail Beag, a much smaller island and not inhabited in our time, useful grazing of a few acres. In my youth it was owned by Tom Tierney of Doolough, (Dubhloch, Dark Lake) a genial kindly soul if ever there was one. His songs, stories and jokes were of infinite variety. He had a riddle which he occasionally



## Cregganbán Group Water Scheme

President : Canon Fitzgerald      Secretary : James O'Grady,  
Chairman : Michael Corrigan,      Cregganbán  
Shrawee

This scheme is completed and is a great success. The water supply is taken from four springs which feed the Carrowniskey river at a point over Gleann Chaoin. It services twenty-one houses including Cregganbán School.

The people of Cregganbán area must be congratulated on this scheme as the work was done by voluntary labour and was an example of what co-operation can do. An installation grant was given to each householder for the purpose of defraying costs of piping etc.

Cregganbán      James O'Grady

## Cregganbán School

Mrs. Evelyn Leamy, N.T., Principal,  
Michael Corrigan, Shrawee,  
Mrs. Maureen Kilcoyne, Cregganbán.

Bishop's nominees: Michael O'Brien, Louisburgh; David McGreal, ex-N.T., Louisburgh, Canon Fitzgerald.

## Louisburgh Boys School

Patrick Ball, N.T., Principal,  
Mrs. Delia Coen,  
Mr. Martin J. O'Toole.

Bishop's nominees: Mrs. Brigid Hannon ex-N.T., Mr. Joe Staunton, Mr. Patrick Prendergast, Canon Fitzgerald.

## Louisburgh Girls School

Sister Eugene, N.T., Principal,  
Mrs. Mary Duffy,  
Mr. Oliver P. Morahan.

Bishop's nominees: Doctor Columb McHugh, Mr. John Lyons, Mrs. Evelyn Philbin, Canon Fitzgerald.

## Apostolic Workers

President : Mrs. Evelyn Leamy,      Treasurer : Miss Marie O'Grady,  
Bunowen      N.T., Cregganbán  
Secretary : Mrs. Evelyn Philbin,  
Bridge Street

The committee meets once a week for a working session and make valuable articles for the missions including priest's vestments, altar cloths and articles of knitwear etc.

Bridge Street      Evelyn Philbin

proposed, something like this — 'I know a man living in this parish who has a farm of land in the parish and yet none of his family ever saw it or set foot on it. How can that be so'? They never guessed that he himself was the owner and that as all his family had been born and reared in Doolough they had never seen or visited their father's farm, the island of Inis Téagail Beag.

Close by is Carraig na gClamh so called because it was used as a quarantine for scab-infected sheep. 'Clamh' once meant a leper and so we can see how it was used for skin infections. There is a small patch of grass on the rock, enough to keep a sheep or two alive for a short time till the owner could arrange to deal with them by treatment or slaughter.

How many of our young people know that till a little over fifty years ago — nineteen twenty-one to be precise — our parish included within its limits an island? Yes, Inis Téagail. In that year the two O'Toole families transferred to the mainland and the island has remained uninhabited since. How often we had seen them on Sunday and Holy Day morning walking down the dooghs and strands on their way to mass in Killeen long, long before we thought of preparing. They would have launched their curach about 8 a.m. Arrived at Port Leacach (Rocky Harbour) they had to carry the boat beyond reach of the high tide. Then they began the six mile trek to Killeen for 11 a.m. Mass. And fasting since midnight if they intended approaching the altar. So that it would be about 1 p.m. before they got a meal. Such faith and faithfulness would be incredible if we had not witnessed it so constantly over the years.

## Fial Flaithúil

There was an aspect of their life on the island which few mainlanders know or appreciate. Because of the position of Inis Téagail with regard to Mayo and Connemara and the islands of both they had a constant stream of callers: fishermen in to mend or borrow equipment: others driven in by bad weather (these had to be kept overnight as long as conditions remained dangerous): buyers, crossing to or from fairs and so forth.

If you wanted to cross over quickly and easily all you need do was — Go to the 'MARK' that is, the spot specially designated on the mainland in view of the island houses and opposite to them. Stand there for a few minutes till the Islanders noticed you. Soon you saw their curach putting off from the island and they carried you over.

Perhaps it has occurred to you that they must have made quite a bit on all the comings and goings? Not one

## Killeen Sheepbreeders Association

Chairman : T. J. O'Malley,  
Thallabawn  
Secretary : James McDonnell,  
Thallabawn  
Treasurer : Patrick Jordan,  
Feenone  
County Organizing Secretary :  
Tadhg Hastings, Drummin  
Advisor : Seán Cadden, B.Agr.Sc.,  
Louisburgh

This association was formed approximately ten years ago, as a branch of the Mayo and Connemara Sheepbreeders Association. It covers the area west of Louisburgh town, and now has a membership of over sixty. Our main effort is to obtain feeding-stuff for animals at cost price through a co-operative method, and sell to the farmers at these low prices. Last year we were able to do this, and supplied members and other farmers in the area with over £2,000 worth of feeding including oats, barley, pulp, seed, oats and potatoes. We also arranged a sale of twenty-five tons of wool from the area, for shipment direct to England.

Our members helped in organizing secretary Mr. Tadhg Hastings, to arrange the County Mayo Sheep-shearing championship. This was held in Louisburgh Town Park, and attracted a large number of entries and spectators. Our annual dinner dance is a great success each year, and all members and friends enjoy a social night out.

Thallabawn

James McDonnell

## Committee For Blind

Chairman : Oliver P. Morahan,  
Mooneen  
Secretary : James Bradley,  
Chapel Street  
Vice-Chairman : Séamus Durkan,  
Bridge Street  
Treasurer : Annie B. Casey,  
The Square

The committee holds its fund-raising function in December each year and proceeds are sent to the County Mayo fund for the blind.

Committee members are : Miss Nora Lyons, N.T. (The Colony), Mrs. C. Lyons, N.T., Mrs. McDermott, B.A., H.Dip. (Chapel Street), Miss Rose Donnellan (The Post Office), Michael O'Brien, Paddy Duffy, Richard O'Toole, Anthony O'Donnell, Joe Broderick and John J. Philbin.

Chapel Street

Jim Bradley

penny piece they ever charged unless perhaps Government officials and these were rare birds in those parts then. Only the Recording Angel can tell of all the trouble and expense they had to bear. He can also tell that no one ever saw them frown or falter however hard the test. With matchless skill, faultless judgement and unflinching courage day or night as occasion required they challenged the sea and never lost. The proof of this, under God, is that in all the years on the island they never had a serious accident to man or boat, as far as I know.

I have known them do the double trip, to and from the island to the mainland twice the same evening in a rasping gale and frightening seas; and not on their own business but to assist mainland neighbours. It was a fabulous achievement worthy of the old gaisce (valour) tales.

Asked was it the worst day they had ever been on sea one said he had seen as bad and another said he had seen worse. But they were quite casual about it and certainly expected no compliments.

Sad to tell the elder people did not long survive to enjoy their new homes on the mainland. Sad, we say but what do we know! One thing only — that those who were once homeless, benighted travellers in Bethlehem long ago were waiting to receive into their everlasting dwellings the good people who had themselves welcomed and cherished so many, so often, in their name.

Beannacht dílis Dé le hanam na marbh uile. (May the sweet mercy of God be with all the dead).

Cluain Cearbán

Dáithi Mac Réill

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Due to general economy and pressure of space, features such as *Keep Your Word*, *Saying it with Starch* and *Home-made Recipes* have been dispensed with. — Editor

# Editor's Page

The production of this number despite our financial set-back in the 1974 flood, gives us a rare sense of survival. Our sincere thanks is due to those who made brave, if unavailing efforts to get some of our past numbers into presentable shape after the damage of that night. We regret that now we have *no* back issues of the magazine; we would indeed appreciate any that can be sent to us to be kept for reference. We wish again to thank our local Louisburgh shopkeepers, who have continued to sell this magazine free of charge as a contribution to the community. In this issue we have decided to dispense with local advertising and are particularly grateful to business people who have instead sponsored a page of this issue and contributed thereto the equivalent of the old advertising charge. It was on our part a practical step; on theirs a practical help which we appreciate.

We thank, in particular, those who sent us subscriptions to keep us "afloat"; and the proprietors of McDermott's Hotel, who have accommodated our meetings free of charge.

We are of course pleased with the many plaundits that our readers send, but we consider ourselves old enough in our tenth (next) issue to withstand the pruning-knife of friendly criticism. Do feel free to send us some adverse constructive criticism from which we may learn; if there are features you dislike, or some you wish we had, or items or theories of ours which annoy you, do write to let us know. What an example it could set if both you and we could discuss unsavoury truths in the columns of our parish magazine.

Finally, if you are going to contribute to our next issue, we make the following appeals:

- 1) write on *one* side of the leaf only and leave a generous margin. Better still if you can have it typed;
- 2) if you want a photograph published please send us a good *black-and-white* print. Actual size is best. If it is of a marriage etc., please arrange with your photographer to send us an actual-size print straightaway;
- 3) do send in material in good time: we are invariably trying to beat the Christmas rush.

"Go mbeirimid beo an t-am seo aris!"

McMenamin — Michael and Mrs., Warrington  
McQuillan — Mrs. Mary, Ayer, Mass.  
McNamara — Jim and Mrs., Chicago  
Mitchell — Mrs. Ella, Framingham, Mass.  
Morahan — Father Al, Perth, Australia  
Morahan — Basil, Louisburgh  
Morahan — Mrs. Brigid A., Louisburgh  
Morahan — Justin, Dublin  
Moran — Father J. Joseph, Coolarne  
Munnely — Mr. D. A., San Francisco  
Murphy — Miss Teresa, Brighton, Mass.  
Nilson — Mrs. Mary (nee Dunne), New Jersey  
O'Leary — Mr. Desmond, Dublin  
O'Malley — Mrs. Anne (nee Joyce), Dorchester, Mass.  
O'Malley — Mr. Michael (Ned), England  
O'Malley — Miss Brigid, Huddersfield  
O'Malley — Father Thomas, California  
Philbin — Congressman Philip, Clinton, Mass.  
Prendergast — Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey, Dublin  
Reidy — Miss Helen, New York  
Reilly — Thomas J. Reilly, New Jersey  
Ryan — Mr. C. A. Brainerd, Minnesota  
Sammin — Father P. J., Essex  
Sammin — Father Michael, Monivea  
Seahill — Father Charles, Balla  
Scott — Monsignor Thomas, Shraugh\*  
Smiddy — Doctors T. and E., Kerry  
Taaffe — Jack and Mary, Drogheda  
Teillon — Mrs. Vincent, Williamstown, Mass.  
Wallace — Father Anthony, Hontrose, New York  
Woodham-Smith — Mrs. Cecil, London  
Ryan — Mrs. Betty (nee O'Grady), Dublin  
\*Deceased Member

Sincere thanks to those practical friends — including one anonymous member.

"There's room for one more!"