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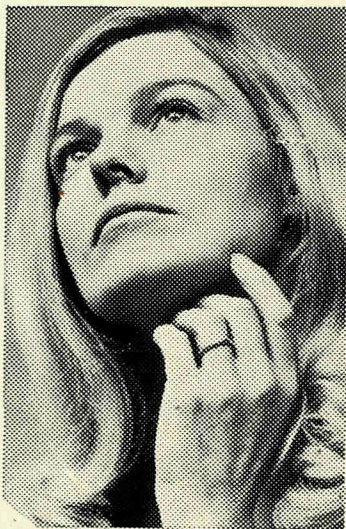
JANUARY, 1973

ISSUE No. 2

VOLUME 3



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Marriage photograph, taken some months ago, of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Keating.—Photo by Owen & Moroney.

May I begin by wishing you all health, happiness and good fortune for 1973

As the *Journals* will be on the tables for our annual dinner on 15th February at the Gresham Ballroom, Holloway Rd, London, N.19, I would like to welcome all of you to our dinner and assure you of a very good evening. We have invited the Most Reverend Dr. Michael Russell, D.D., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. I expect to see large numbers of Waterfordians coming to honour their Bishop and Patron. Of course, we lay claim to Dr. Russell as he is a native of Tipperary. A very fine man and a credit to our County.

Another Tipperary man we have invited and are very proud of is His Worship The Mayor of Camden, Councillor Brian Duggan and the Lady Mayoress.

Mr. Michael Smith, T.D., has also intimated that he will be with us. With such distinguished company and all our friends from the County Associations in the homely atmosphere of Tommy Gormans, we can't go wrong.

Children's Party

A party for deaf and dumb children was held at the UAN ZAYJ Centre, Camden Town, on Sunday afternoon, 17th December, 1972 — organised by the Legion of Mary and members of our Association. Sixty children attended and were accompanied by the Sisters of Charity and other helpers. It was very gratifying to see those children enjoying themselves. They were a shining example to all of us.

Holidays in Ireland 1973

In order to promote Irish Tourism in this country, our Association is organising a Charter Flight to Shannon late July/August. Would interested members please contact the Secretary at the above address?

J. F. KEATING,

Secretary

THE FERMANAGH ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Mulligan, Lord Bishop of Clogher

Chairman: Mr. H. McCormack

Treasurer: Mr. F. Corrigan

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. McCormack,

137 Walker House, Phoenix Road, London, N.W.1

At the recent A.G.M. all the outgoing Officers, with the exception of the Vice-Chairman, were re-elected. Replacing Pat Grey (who has returned to Ireland to live permanently) as Vice-Chairman is Mr. Dan McManus. Dan is well-known to Fermanagh people and many Irish circles here in London and the Home Counties. In the G.A.A. he played for Lisnaskea Emmets and for the County.

Yet another of our member families are returning to live in Ireland — John and Mary McAleer and Family. We will miss them but we are glad they are able to fulfil what is the dream of many Irish people here in London. They carry with them our best wishes.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jim Conway, who are also returning to Ireland, we wish every health and happiness. Mr. Conway was associated with many aspects of social and cultural life here in London and a great friend of our Association, although a Cavan man. Speaking of Cavan, I take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to the new Chairman of their Association, Mr. Matt Brunton.

Our Bacon and Cabbage Dinner was so successful and enjoyable that by request we are organising a New Year Dinner and Dance on 27th January, music by the "Wild Rovers". Tickets are available from me at 387 - 8604, or from any member of the Association, price £1 . 50p.

We thank the Irish Centre Management and staff for their co-operation at all times — meetings, functions, etc. Indeed, with such a capable and well-organised Administration, it is not surprising that they are able to cater for people in all walks of life. We should all try to assist the "Centre" in every way possible in the great work they are doing, especially for the Irish people here in London.

To all our members and friends and in all the County Associations, the C.I.C.A., the Irish Centre, and all who supported us during the past year, we wish them every health and happiness in the New Year, and last but not least we look forward to a speedy and just settlement in Northern Ireland.

Best wishes,

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Hon. Secretary

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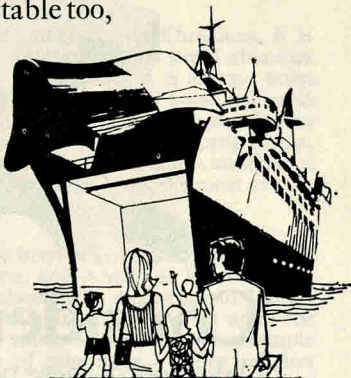
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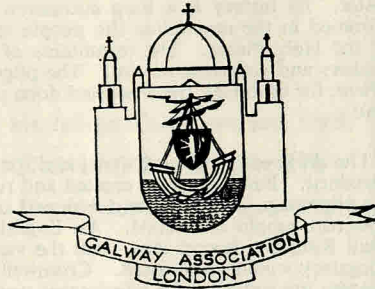
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LOUGH DERG IN DONEGAL

The age we live in is one of scepticism and unbelief. As Christians, it is refreshing now and then to turn away from the interests of the world about us to contemplate now and again the sanctuaries of religion. It is around them that there is encircled our most sacred associations and our most hallowed traditions. Among the countless places of religious worship none can lay as great a claim to our homage and veneration as places of religious pilgrimage. Places which have been purified by the prayers and penance of Saints and blessed by their labours. Among the hills of Donegal lies Lough Derg, the most important pilgrimage, and the most rigorous, in Christendom.

In every age and among all nations there have been pilgrimages. The pagans had their shrines: Jupiter Capitolanus at Rome, and Apollo at Delphi. The Druids had their sacred groves. The Mahomedans make pilgrimage to Mecca. In the Bible we read of cities, mountains and retreats which God set apart for himself in Israel. The Jews journeyed at fixed times or periods to the Temple of Jerusalem which was their principal place of pilgrimage. When religion received its full perfection the practice of pilgrimage became an exercise of Christian piety. The journey to Jerusalem then, brought pilgrims to scenes ever sacred in connection with the life and passion of Christ. Then followed pilgrimages to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul and Rome, and ever and always to the great shrines of Our Lady all over Europe.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg held the foremost rank. The ages of faith were the golden ages of pilgrimage. In its zeal for the Holy Places, the early Celtic church spread the network of sanctity over the whole land. The children of Ireland not only made pilgrimages of devotion to the shrines in their own land but also to the famous shrines on the continent and the Holy Land. Lough Derg was founded by our National Apostle fifteen hundred years ago. Since it was part of The Celtic or Irish Church, it was subject to all the persecutions directed against it. Like the Church it emerged triumphantly from the prolonged night of sorrow and suffering. Generation after generation saw it put on new life and vigour. It clothed itself in glory when the storms had passed.

Thousands make pilgrimage to Lough Derg today because it is still there. This is testimony to the faith and God's grace. There were so many attempts and determined efforts to put an end to it. It should have been over forever three hundred years ago. In 1632 pick and crowbar levelled all that stood on

station island. Everything that could not be destroyed was thrown into the water. Its history is a long succession of tragic events. When the heather bloomed in the mountains the people came again to the blackened remnants of the Holy Places. The mountains of Donegal can be cold and bleak and soldiers and governments tire. The pilgrims always return to that little Island where, for centuries, the Irish had done penance and left refreshed in body and soul.

The darkness came and went, and for many centuries the hopeless darkness remained. Buildings were erected and ruthlessly destroyed. Those who made the pilgrimage were fined and whipped and sometimes imprisoned. Great and powerful people intervened. An English Queen pleaded for tolerance. Cardinal Rinuccini hoped that, with the victory of the Irish armies, St. Patrick's Purgatory would be restored. Cromwell's Roundheads saw that hope dashed. Despite the suffering the pilgrimages went on. Even in the worst oppression, they never ceased. They came poor, hungry and uneducated. That little piece of Ireland was too sacred to surrender. Today that romantic lake has been cherished for over one thousand, five hundred years for the traditions associated with its rocky island. The faithful still worship amid scenes hallowed by the pious devotion of the Apostle of Ireland and succeeding saints.

It is today more promising, more vigorous, more popularly known, than it was at any time in its history. It is a tribute to the people that the penitential exercises severe as they are have been handed down without any substantial change from the earliest times to the present day. The pilgrimage occupies three whole days. The pilgrims must fast and go barefooted from the minute they arrive on the island until their departure. In the spirit of the pilgrimage, all night vigil is kept. The Penitential Beds, six in number, are the remains of the stone cells or oratories of the early monks. It is a spot rich in antiquities; there is St. Patrick's Cross, St. Bridget's Cross and several inscribed stones. To make a pilgrimage we must have a motive. It enlivens faith and feelings of piety when we visit places where the Divine power is especially manifested. It may fulfil a vow. We may want some particular favour or blessings. It may be to fulfil some penitential obligation, that has been imposed upon us. Whatever the reason, it will leave us at peace with God and man.

Oilean Purgadora Naomh Padraig is half-a-mile from the mainland shore. Less than an acre in extent, the greater part of it is occupied by the buildings associated with the pilgrimage. When we step on the island, we step back in time. It is remarkable how the exterior world is completely shut out. The surrounding hills seem to enfold the lake as if to hide it from the world, as a place sacred and apart. There is complete historical evidence that St. Patrick preached there and the strength of tradition tells us that he himself originated the penance on station island. The Island itself tells us to do penance for the spirit of Patrick still permeates it. The hard rocks, the long wakeful hours, the unceasing prayers bring back the living memory of the herdsboy of Slemish who long ago spent night and day in prayer. A splendid modern Basilica towers in romanesque style above the island scene.

Ireland's only Basilica

When we set out barefoot from its door today we thank God that it was because of our native devotion to St. Patrick that it was raised to the dignity of a basilica. It is the only one in these Islands. We begin our stations at the crude iron cross of St. Patrick and tread a path of penance that goes back over a thousand years. Irish men and women will be coming here a thousand years from now. They will still insist on going to fast and pray to that island made

(continued on page 10)

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(continued from page 8)

holy by the prayers of our saint and those who for centuries have followed in his footsteps. The eternal fascination of his island will continue and we will be in good company as we invoke the great human spirits who here, down through the centuries adored the triune God.

Would you learn the power of Faith? Go see it a Lough Derg. Would you learn to smile at death? Go learn it at Lough Derg.

It is now our heritage because a man called Patrick once held up a three-leaved shamrock. It was characteristic of him to die in Lent.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all "A Happy St. Patrick's Day, 1973".

BOB DALY,
Secretary

Flat 3,
No. 4 Carmina Road,
London, S.W.17.

OUR QUIZ

Juniors

1. From what part of the world does the Calypso originate?
2. What did the Israelites call the food which God gave to them in the wilderness?
3. What word is applied to a long line of children walking two by two?
4. What is the set of five parallel lines on which music is written called?
5. Which instrument is used to find the specific gravity of a liquid?
6. What is the difference between hair and fur?

Veterans

1. Which musical instrument is the Sun God Apollo depicted holding?
2. Why, according to superstition, should women and girls not whistle?
3. Give another name for the Sand-Box Tree.
4. What is an adjutant?
5. Name three things you should never put in a fridge?
6. Who invented the first safety razor?

(Answers on page 23)

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Dear Member,

Looking back on 1972 we can say that we in the Clare Association had a very successful year and we can look forward to 1973 with confidence. Already we have made several bookings for functions throughout the year. The first being another Special Flight to Shannon for the weekend of 17th February. The price will be the same as the previous flight, £18.50, which will, of course, include bed and breakfast at a hotel on the Saturday night after the Mediaeval Banquet at one of the Castles.

At the time of writing, our Christmas Special Flight is fully booked, and we are grateful to the members who travel with us every year. We have on a few occasions travelled light and this meant that we showed a considerable loss. I feel sure, however, that with the growing confidence in the fact that we will always honour the bookings that we take. Our members can be assured that we will never let them down by making cancellations at the last minute.

You will barely have time to make a booking for the children's party which takes place on 28th January at the Irish Centre. This will start at 3.0 p.m., so be there a little while before this to ensure your children will not miss anything of the programme laid on. I must remind you again that we are only catering for members' children and you will have to apply for your tickets for the number of children you are bringing along. The practice of bringing outsiders only deprives members' children of sufficient space and of other things that have to be shared when the numbers are too big.

I would like to thank the members who were so kind as to give some of their time to the Convent at Crispin Street when they were singing Christmas Carols at Liverpool Street Station. Our members who were unable to sing carried the collection boxes and in two hours collected £240 which will be of great use to the Nuns in providing a little extra comfort at their night shelter for people who have fallen on bad times. The nuns I refer to are really wonderful people and we are not surprised as most of them come from County Clare. Any of you good people who have a £1 to spare after the Christmas would be doing a great service if you could see your way to sending it to the Rev. Mother so that she and the other nuns could provide the food and drinks for the people mentioned above.

In conclusion may I offer the sincere sympathy of all our members to Mr. Brendan Moroney on the death of his brother, R.I.P., also to the Devlin family on their recent sad bereavement, and to any other friends who suffered in a similar way during the past year.

May I wish you all everything that you would wish yourselves for 1973.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) N. T. MORONEY

Secretary

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Acting Secretary: Mrs. M. NEWPORT,
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Social

We are pleased to report that the Dinner - Dance arranged by our Kennedy Brothers Memorial Committee in aid of The St. John and Elizabeth Hospital was a great success. The many hundreds who sat down to a delightful meal sang the praises of the food and the convivial atmosphere we have come to expect at The Gresham. Mr. Gorman and his staff deserve great credit for their efficient service and the homely atmosphere they create.

Still on social occasions, our Bacon and Cabbage Supper held recently at The Irish Centre was one of the most enjoyable to date. Praise is due here to the Priests and Staff of the Centre, not forgetting the good Sisters who cook the Bacon and Cabbage like you cannot get it anywhere else in the world.

Children's Party

The Children's Christmas Party will be over when you read this. An account of which will be published in the next issue.

Kennedy Brothers Memorial

We would like to thank the good people who braved the weather to attend the Anniversary Mass and wreath laying. Thanks are also due to the supporters of our concert at the Royal Albert Hall. We wish you could have brought some extra friends along as there were plenty of vacant seats. We cannot expect a full house every year. Our producer Dermot Cadogan put on a splendid show for us. Thanks, Dermot.

Welfare

Our Welfare Committee is in existence to help should anyone need assistance through illness. Should you know of anyone needing such help please contact the committee chairman, Pat Newport, at 01-677 6053.

Membership

Your membership subscriptions are now overdue. The small amount of 25p should be forwarded to Mr. T. Russell, address below. Please do not ignore this if you have already paid, but pass it on to a friend and help to swell our ranks.

We are sorry that, owing to the high cost of postage, we will be unable to send news letters to any but paid-up members. So please rush off your form now. You could be missing out on something.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of our Chairman and Committee to wish you all good health and happiness in the coming year.

God Bless,

LONDON WEXFORDMEN'S ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. T. Russell, 49 Talgarth Road, London, W.14.

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London, E.8

Hon. Secretary:
Mr. B. F. Mullen
8 Dorville Cres.
Ravenscourt Park
London W6 0HJ
Tel.: 748 3480



Photo by Owen & Moroney.

Cootehill Mentally Handicapped Children's School

Cavan Association early in 1972 set themselves the target of raising £1,000 as a gift to help with the above project. WE MADE IT and in this photograph James Sankey, last year's Chairman, is seen presenting the cheque for £1,000 to Rev. James Nelson, one of the organisers of this great project, who had travelled from Bailieborough at the invitation of the Association to accept the cheque.

Also in the photograph: Matt Brunton, Nial Plunkett, James Conway, Rev. Seamus Hetherton, Brian Mullen.

We want to say a BIG THANK YOU to everybody who helped us to reach our target and make this presentation possible.

Rev. James Nelson, in his thank you addressed eloquently described the commitments, working and benefits of this great project and afterwards joined in what was one of the most relaxed and enjoyable socials the Association has ever held. The attendance was representative of all counties, creeds and classes.

Copies of the above photograph and other photographs taken that evening (at 50p. each) can be placed on order with the Secretary.

(continued on page 23)

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COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTY ASSOCIATION

INDIVIDUAL QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP, 1972



Luke Kennedy receiving the Cup from Fr. Sheridan. Also in the photograph, Mr. Pat Hegarty, Chairman C.I.C.A.

The above competition which is promoted annually was held in The Irish Centre on 16th December last. Sixteen competitors took part. After a most exciting contest John Byrne (Donegal) and Luke Kennedy (Sligo) emerged top scorers with the maximum 24 points each. They were closely followed by Aidan Brady (Carlow) with 20 points. John Byrne and Luke Kennedy were then asked a further question each. John Byrne failed to answer his, but Luke Kennedy was successful with his test and thus won the 1972 Cup. Besides the above, other scorers were Michael McElwaine, (Galway) and M. Waters (Carlow) with 18 points each. Sheila Morrison (Sligo), Bob O'Halloran (Galway) and Mrs. McGinley (Donegal), 14 each.

This competition is now 8 years in progress. So far no-one has won it twice. Sligo has been the most successful Association as members have won three cups. Armagh follows as two of its members have won cups.

Rev. Fr. Sheridan, O.F.M., Irish Centre, congratulated the winner and presented him with the cup. Luke Kennedy suitably replied.

Mr. P. J. Hegarty, Chairman of The Council, was Quiz Master and Mr. Bob Daly, Vice-Chairman, was scorekeeper and timekeeper.

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I'LL NEVER FORGET

by Thomas A Beckett

I'll never forget the night Matt Flanagan fought Titmus, the giant London Policeman, at Portebellow, now called Cahal Brugha Barracks, after the most intransigent of Fighters.

I stood on the bridge shivering, not so much from the cold or from any fear that Matt might be beaten, but from the really terrible "news" I had just read in the *Evening Herald* in the shelter of a nearby doorway.

I had bought a paper on my way across, in the hope of reading a sanguine forecast on Matt's fight, and while I had no doubt that Matt would win, I have always had great faith in my fellow countrymen as evinced by the fact that I won my first bet way back in 1922 when Mike McTigue beat battling Siki; a word of support from an expert is always very warming.

The bet I won was only a dee, but that was a lot of money to me in those days.

My shiver was the clammy shiver of sheer fear. I had never read anything so terrible — so awful. It made me a confirmed believer in newspaper censorship for at least twelve months, as when I opened the paper it stood out in great black print.

The prices of admission had been increased to 5s. Od., 3s. Od., and 2s. Od., against the more civilised 3s. Od., 2s. Od., and 1s. Od., which had pertained at the tournaments I had attended previously.

I had 2s. Od., in fact I had 2s. 5d. if my memory serves me right, but my pal was a lot worse off than I was. He was only a year older, but he was the main support (his father was dead) of his mother and two brothers, and I knew it was sheer hardship for him to even raise 1s. Od. for a night out.

He really was a great character and I am glad to say he won great success in life. If anybody found themselves in trouble he would help, and help liberally, but enough of personalities . . . my shivering was resolved when he appeared like a wraight on the other side of the bridge and his hoarse words were the grandest I ever heard in my life. "Do you know they have put the price up to 2s. Od.— I have got it — have you?"

I was nearly blubbering with relief as I caught him by the arm and held it up the lane to the Barrack Gate.

Soon we were installed in the hot, happy conglomeration of fight fans in the standing room only at the back of the hall and soon we, like tightrope walkers, were trying to curb our natural enthusiasm with the reputed good manners of the National Sporting Club stuffed shirts.

The conversation between the fights was not at all happy regarding Matt's chances and it was very disconcerting when an elderly gentleman of about 40 expressed his deep annoyance with the I.A.B.A. for allowing such a fight.

Matt was barely 14 stone, Titmus was over 19 stone and he was as fast and clever as a top class Professional Lightweight. The gentleman was certainly right as Titmus confirmed when he glided out from his corner at the start of the first round, touched gloves with a friendly grin and commenced to jab Matt's head back with his left and elude his counters with the speed and grace of Jem Driscoll himself.

I found it hard to say anything during the interval and, anyway, no-one wanted to hear me. "I knew nothing, I was only a kid" and the second round was more heartbreaking than the first. Titmus was on top and Matt seemingly could not stand up to a man of his calibre, but my "dimming eyes" steeled me in the belief that Matt was riding a lot of punches and when they came out for the third (national amateur contests were 6 x 2 in those days), Titmus shot out his barge-pole straight left, Matt slipped it over his shoulder and countered with a left hook to the chin, corkscrewed it to the body, crashed his right across to the chin and in a whirlwind attack punched Titmus across the

(continued on page 24)

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ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

Juniors

1. West Indies.
2. Manna.
3. A Crocodile.
4. The Staff.
5. The Hydrometer.
6. Fur tends to be short and matted, hair long and in strands.

Veterans

1. The Lyre.
2. Witches were once believed to be able to call up the wind by whistling.
3. Monkey's Dinner Bell.
4. A title given to a regimental staff officer who assists with various details of duty. The word is also the name of an Indian bird.
5. Bananas (turn black), Cucumber and Potatoes (go dry), Strong Ripe Cheeses (smell taints other food).
6. King Camp Gillette (an American).

MICHAEL WATERS,
*Carlow Association, and
Treasurer C.I.C.A.*

CAVAN ASSOCIATION (continued from page 17)

On Sunday, 3rd December, we held our Annual General Meeting. These meetings are never popular, nevertheless we had a fairly representative attendance.

Our President, James Conway, took the Chair. The Treasurer presented a healthy balance sheet, and the respective officers reported a vigorous and satisfying year's activities.

The Chairman, James Sankey, thanked the Officers, Committee, members and supporters for the help he had received and paid special tribute to the great teamwork which had resulted in our reaching our target of £1,000 for the Cootehill new School for Mentally Handicapped Children. In conclusion the Chairman said that due to business commitments he would not be a candidate for the Chair.

Elections were then held which resulted in two changes: *Chairman*, Matthew J. Brunton; *Vice-Chairman*, Nial Plunkett; *Treasurer*, Rev. T. McCabe, B.A.; *Secretary*, Bernard F. Mullen; *P.R.O.*, Desmond Maguire.

James Conway, President, with Vice-Presidents: Rev. Seamus Hetherton, P.P., James Sankey, Gerry Gallen, John Sodden.



COURAGE

(continued from page 21)

He kept up the attack right to the end of the round. The packed hall went wild with delight. The joy of the interval between the third and fourth rounds was spoiled by the pessimism of some of my neighbours that Matt could not possibly keep up this pace for even another round.

But Matt did keep up the pace, and even the respectable Ring Side Seats forgot all about the National Sporting Club's inhibitions and roared encouragement to Matt right up to the end of the sixth round when he and Titmus, a great pair of sportsmen, shook hands with happy grins and Matt got a well-earned decision.

I often wonder if we ordinary Irishmen realise how much we are indebted to the great men who, when we were in infant state, proclaimed our nationality to the world.

Our Amateur Boxers, our Army Horse Jumping Team, our Rugby Team, our Athlets, three of whom raised four flags between them at the Olympics.

They played a great part in showing the world that our Infant State was worthy of our ancient nationhood.

Since this was originally written, quite some time ago, I have heard of Matt Flanagan's death.

He was a great fighter, sportsman and gentleman. May he rest in peace.

THE WATERFORD ASSOCIATION LONDON



Patron: The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.,
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore
President: Right Rev. Charles J. Henderson
Auxiliary Bishop Elect, Southwark

Chairman:

Mr. J. FRENCH, 64 Victoria Road, London, N.9. Tel. 807 2114
Vice-Chairman and Assistant Treasurer: Mr. P. MOLONEY,
70 Olive Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2. Tel. 450 7027

Treasurer:

Mr. P. STAFFORD, 53 Caithness House, Bemerton Street,
London, N.1. Tel. 837 8770

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. M. DONOVAN, 59 Park Rd., Hendon, N.W.4. Tel. 202 6357
Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. DAVIS



Photograph taken outside the Royal Festival Hall of some of our members with our Patron, the Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D., and the Mayor and Mayoress of Waterford, on the occasion of our President's consecration as Bishop.

So much has happened since last month that we would need the whole *Journal* to ourselves to tell you all the news.

The most important, of course, for us and for all Waterfordians was the consecration of our President as Auxiliary Bishop in Southwark. As well as being Auxiliary Bishop in Southwark, our president is titular Bishop of Tricala.

We started on Thursday afternoon, when officers and committee members headed by Mr. Tommy Dunne, Chairman of The Irish Club and co-ordinator Aer Lingus, formed a reception committee at Heathrow to receive 100 Waterfordians arriving to attend the consecration. Headed by The Worshipful Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Chief Constable and all the City Fathers, our patron Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell and Bishop Henderson's 82-year-old father, his sisters, their husbands, children, and friends and relatives.

On the big day, Friday, 8th December, 1972, we all gathered in the sunshine at the Cathedral to be hailed by a battery of photographers, newspaper reporters, and hundreds of police keeping the precinct of the Cathedral clear for the long procession entering.

The Pope's representative, Archbishop Domenico Enric was there, as were twenty Bishops and 460 Priests.

The ceremony was performed by Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy of Southwark, assisted by Archbishop John A. Murphy of Cardiff, our patron, Dr. Michael Russell and eighteen other Bishops from all over England.

After the ceremony, we proceeded by coach to The Royal Festival Hall where 1,000 people sat down to a splendid Banquet.

In his short address the new Bishop thanked the Diocese of Southwark for the wonderful feast laid on for him and the efficient and smooth-running of the

service of the consecration. The Bishop thanked the Waterford Corporation for their attendance, Bishop Russell and with emotion his father, sisters, nieces and nephews. He was very grateful for all the beautiful presents, the prayers and masses offered for him.

We congratulate him and pray that God may bless him abundantly and enrich his work as a Bishop.

Children's Party

Our annual children's Christmas Party held at The Irish Centre on 17th December, 1972, was a terrific success. With lots of goodies to eat and drink, an hour's colour film show, and Father Christmas with his sack of presents. The children certainly enjoyed themselves. There was only one drawback — we had 110 children instead of the 60 who returned their forms from the November issue of the *Journal*. There was plenty to eat and drink, with some left over for the adults, but although we only had 60 replies we had 104 presents. This, of course, left six children without presents. What a terrible disappointment to the children! The names and addresses of the six children were taken at the party but were lost in the confusion. Would the mothers or fathers of the six please forward the names and addresses again to the Secretary and presents will be forwarded.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Aerated Bread Company Ltd., for their kind gesture in providing cakes for children; to the Coca-Cola Company for providing all the drinks plus the paper cups; to all Committee members who provided presents, sandwiches and goodies.

Glad Tidings

Congratulations to Paddy and Jessie Stafford's daughter Siobain and her husband on the birth of their son.

Congratulations are also due to David White on obtaining his B.A. in Phrenology at Cork University. David is the cousin of our past chairman Wally Smyth

Sympathy

At a specially convened meeting of our association a vote of sympathy was passed to the following: Mr. Jim Roche on the sudden deaths of his father and brother, who died within a week of each other.

To Mr. Paddy Power on the death of his father, and Mrs. Joan Hickey on the death of her father. May they rest in peace.

In Hospital

We are sorry to learn that Mrs. W. Barron is in hospital and has had a major operation. We wish her a speedy recovery. Mrs. Barron is the wife of former chairman and hurler Willie.

Jim Conway

Once again, Ireland's gain is our loss. Jim and Kathleen Conway will have taken up residence in Ireland when you read this. We shall all miss their familiar faces and the unstinting help and advice they have given us over the years. We wish them health and happiness in their retirement. To mark the occasion our Association presented them with a Waterford Glass Decanter. We hope it will always be full of the very best.

A.I.B. NEWS

A lavish party to celebrate the opening of yet another two branches of A.I.B. was laid on at the Gresham Ballroom and to introduce the two new managers, namely Jim Gardner and Gerry Cahill, of the Wembley branch. Gerry Cahill was interviewed by the *Irish Counties Journal* last month. We now introduce, you to Jim Gardner who is manager of the latest branch at 633 Holloway Roads London, N.19. Jim has a lot in common with Gerry. Like Gerry, Jim was born in Clare and went to Dublin for a bride. The very charming Angela Gardner. The marriage is blessed with three children, 8-year-old Thomas, 6-year-old Adrienne, and the latest addition 4-months-old Yvonne.

Jim was educated at St. Flannans College, Ennis, Co. Clare. The family are well-known in the sporting world. Jim played in the minor football teams of Clare and Waterford. His great great grand uncle was a light heavy weight Boxing Champion of the World.

THERE MUST BE A MEANING

There must be a meaning
 To this journey
 Along life's road,
A road where we so often stumble
And with faltering footsteps tread.
Billions of beings
 Are not born merely
 To end up in the scrap-heap
Of the dead.
Is there not a just reward
 For a full life
 Justly led ?
Too much for you and me
To ever solve it here
We shall not find the answer
 Till we've crashed
Death's barrier.
A mind — a Master mind
 Creative — infinitive
 Must surely have designed
This universe
With its vast unlimitless
Regions of space
 Where planets and galaxies
We can't begin to comprehend
 fit into place.
For ever since time began
 Man has been restless in his quest
 To probe, explore, to solve
The mysteries of the universe.
Even with our limited intellect
We can come to see
 That not by mere chance
 Did this world of ours or we ourselves
Just happen to be.
Suffice to say — each soul
 Plays its part
In being a part of the whole.

— MICHAEL HANNON

MOTORING NURSERY AT CRYSTAL PALACE

More than 400 school children in the South London had their first chance to drive a car on Sunday, 1st October. Youngsters, aged between 14 and 16, were invited along to the former racing circuit at Crystal Palace for a free ten-minute spin in the cause of road safety.

The mammoth motoring nursery was organised by the Crystal Palace Driver Education Centre which concentrates on reaching potential drivers — the younger the better — to instill the principles of good safe motoring away from the public roads.

Already several schools in the area include courses at the centre as part of the curricula. By offering other young people in South London a chance to take the wheel, it is hoped that more schools will subsequently be encouraged to take advantage of the facility.

Normally, the “off-road” course is based on a minimum of eight two-hour sessions and costs the pupil less than £1 an hour. Included in the course are a number of lectures covering routine maintenance, roadcraft documentation and the law, the effects of drugs and alcohol, general accident prevention and skid prevention.

The syllabus also embraces sessions on the nearby skid training centre, and there is instruction in “on-road” and motorway driving for students aged 17 or over.

Reflecting the serious contribution being made by the Crystal Palace Driver Education Centre to road safety is the venture’s part sponsorship by Ford, Pirelli and Shell.

Centre Director, John Burnell, said: “Without doubt, the best time to teach the rudiments of good driving is when the pupil is young and receptive.

“We have also found that some drivers who are old enough to be taught on public roads resent being restricted to an off-road centre and listening to lectures.

“Younger people, on the other hand, are happy to have the chance to learn on private land and, because of their school training, get the full benefit from lectures.

“We feel that every effort should be made now to ensure the proper training of the next generation of drivers”.

Here's an idea — a Family Committee for deciding everything from the colour of the new curtains to the names of future members! But sometimes the veto has to be used

DECIDED IN COMMITTEE

by Michael Brazil (Waterford Association)

All my adult life, I have been committee-prone. For as long as I can remember, I have been Hon. Secretary to this, Assistant Hon. Treasurer to that and, for one dizzy spell, achieved the supreme position of Chairman, intoxicated by the potency of the deferential phrase "Mr. Chairman" as addressed to me by even my closest friends who sometimes call me by other names when not in committee.

On one occasion, about three years ago, I had just returned home feeling tired after a meeting and sat down to relax and unwind. While in a state of near-nirvana, an idea flashed through my mind. Before the brightness of the idea faded like the sparkle of the early morning dew before the sun, I hastily assembled the family and laid my offering before them.

Why not form a family committee to consider formally any decision which had to be taken which would affect our family life? Motions would be put by a proposer, formally seconded and then fully discussed in committee and not acted upon unless the final vote was unanimous.

My wife looked dubious as she always does when I propound what I think is a bright suggestion, but my two boys Kieran (then aged 5½) and David (then 12½) were most enthusiastic although not before I explained all the big words to Keran, who promptly proposed, seconded and unanimously elected himself as Secretary.

Modesty, of course, prevented me from proposing myself as Chairman although as head of the family, I assumed that I would be a natural choice for this important post. Nobody proposed me, however, but as there were not other proposals, I took it for granted that my family shared my assumption.

While the iron was hot, I struck. We wanted new curtains for our living-room so I threw the matter open for discussion and after debating type of material, colour, etc., we arrived beautifully at an unanimous decision and my idea was off the ground and airborne.

Since then, we have met formally in committee at irregular intervals and although my assumed authority as Chairman was questioned now and again — especially by Keran when I vetoed his suggestion that we acquire a second television set to avoid disagreement over choice of channels — everything went smoothly.

Then last year, my wife summoned the committee to report that provision would have to be made for an extra committee member who would, of course, be of necessity a non-voting member for a while. This announcement was greeted with enthusiasm and the Secretary proposed a vote of congratulations to all concerned.

With that mysterious sense that mothers possess and in the light of her previous experience, my wife informed us that the new member was going to be a lady and suggested that an appropriate name should be chosen.

Alas, the serenity of our previous meetings was shattered. We all had differing ideas and my attempts to impose the choice of the Chair on successive meetings were in vain. Several times, we trembled on the brink of an unanimous choice — three of us would agree and the fourth would not be too unenthusiastic and then negotiations would break down and all compromises rejected out of hand.

To break the impasse, my wife and I met in secret conclave and worked out a possible solution to the problem. By taking the first four letters of my name and the first-three of my wife's we found ourselves with the name "Michele" which, we thought, was a most suitable and attractive name. By presenting a united front at the next meeting and by pointing out to our two boys how better to observe the Commandment "Honour thy father and thy mother" than to bestow a combination of their parents' two names on their new sister, we steered the motion through. We felt in retrospect that, perhaps, we had steam-rolled over the boys and made it impossible for them to reject our proposal but nevertheless the decision was unanimous and the uneasy twinges of parental consciences were, with some difficulty, ignored.

It means, of course, that, if at some future meeting, Kieran revives the question of a second television set, it will make me feel very small if I once again veto the idea in view of his graciousness in accepting our proposal. Never mind, that bridge can be crossed when it is constructed.

Postscript

The new addition duly arrived this year and, of course, it was a boy. After solemnly inspecting him, the three active members of the committee decided to keep Christopher, to the quiet satisfaction of the fourth and temporarily incapacitated member.

THE OPENING DATE FOR THE LONDON TARA HOTEL



Unfortunately over the last month, there has been some uncertainty about the opening date of the London Tara Hotel. This was due to the protracted building dispute which has affected major building projects, including hotels, in the U.K.

We are now pleased to announce that 1st February, 1973, has been set as the new opening date and we shall be fully operational from that time.

We are very much aware of the great disappointment that this has caused to the many Tour Operators and Travel Agents who have given us such wonderful support in their Winter programme. However, we now look forward to co-operating fully with our many friends in the travel industry, and taking bookings from the opening date.

Group Facilities

The London Tara Hotel will be one of the best equipped in London for handling group traffic, and will be amongst the very few which can efficiently handle large groups.

Hospitality Lounge

New to the London hotel scene is the 2,000 sq. ft. Group Hospitality Lounge. This will be an arrival and departure lounge for groups which can also be used for waiting periods.

It will also be the terminal point for the direct Aer Lingus coach to and from London Airport.

Kensington High Street Underground Station adjoins the London Tara Hotel and links it directly with the major London Railway Stations, and all the business areas including the City.

Banqueting and Conference

The Shannon (4,500 sq. ft.) and Liffey (3,700 sq. ft.) Suites are the prime banqueting and conference areas. Both of the suites sub-divide if required. There is also an additional area available for cocktail receptions, plus a small number of syndicate rooms. Both suites have direct outside access as well as access through the hotel.

Further enquiries to the Marketing Manager, London Tara Hotel, Wrights Lane, London, W.8 5SR.

THE SLIGO ASSOCIATION LONDON

President: T. A. Beckett, Esq., 10 Summerhill Road, Tottenham, London, N.15. 01-000 1765
Chairman: O. Branley, Esq., 8 Edgar House, Blake Hall Road, E.11. 01-989 1686
Vice-Chairman: T. Rolston, Esq., 13 Southdown Crescent, S. Harrow. 01-864 2952
Vice-President: J. Conlon, Esq., 16 Westleigh Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex. 01-952 2565
Treasurer: B. Brett, Esq., 5 The Spinney, Barnes, S.W.13. 01-748 8407
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. T. Bennett, 57 Park Road, Hendon, N.W.4. 01-202 6750
Asst. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. O. Branley, 8 Edgar House, Blake Hall Road, E.11. 01-989 1686

Greetings and best wishes to all our members and friends and fellow Associations on this festive season, and I am certain we all in common would like to see increased interest in our activities, and the full support of all our fellow exiles in the great Metropolis in 1973 when, as a united body, we could achieve so much to better the lot of those less fortunate.

Sligo, like all the other Associations, has tried to meet the responsibility they feel towards the worthy causes brought to their notice during the past year but, for want of sufficient support, it has not been possible to do but a fraction of what it felt was needed but with the dawn of a new year is hopeful of a much better knit and supported Association.

Dances organised by the Association during the past year were very well supported and most enjoyable occasions. The annual Dinner Dance at the Gresham Ballroom in October though not reaching expectations numberwise, was socially a tremendous success and to our Bishops and Mayor and his Deputy we are indebted for their presence as our guests and also to the other London based guests whom it was our pleasure to entertain on that occasion.

Our Christmas Dinner and Social held this year at the Red Lion, Levtonstone, was lacking in numbers attributable to some extent to the 'flu epidemic and the fact that we were breaking new ground as this event was for many years held at The Irish Centre, but a date was not available this year owing to the heavy demand for bookings there and some Associations are of necessity having to find alternative accommodation and it was our turn this year.

Not to disappoint those who normally support our functions at The Irish Centre, we have secured a booking for Saturday, 13th January, for a dinner and social there and we would very much appreciate the full support of all our patrons. An Association always depends on publicity to bring its activities to the notice of those not in touch and in this context we are fortunate in having the full co-operation of our own *Sligo Champion*, *The Irish Post*, *The Cork Examiner* and, most of all, the *Counties Journal*.

The Association's ambition now is to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Dinner and Dance in Jury's Hotel, Sligo. What an opportunity to spend our Patron Saint's Day and night at home, in most cases many years in exile, and amongst our own kith and kin. The journey will be by coach and boat from London to Sligo at a cost of approximately £15 per head, inclusive of travel and function. Arrangements for accommodation there can be met with by the Hotel Management but anybody travelling will be free to make their own arrangements in this respect. Those interested should contact our Hon. Secretary Mrs. Bennett, phone number 202 6750, as soon as possible who will give full details on request. Better still, why not come along to our first meeting of 1973 at The Goldhawk, Goldhawk Road, W.12., on the second Wednesday in January where a welcome awaits all comers.

Happy New Year to all readers and continued success to the *Counties Journal*

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