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# *The Irish Counties Journal*

**AUTUMN ISSUE 1986**



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Assistant Secretary: Nancy Bonney. Tel. 01 521 4776  
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### Committee:

Christine Bonney, Billy Boswell, Jim Commene, Pat Costella, Tony Cullinan, Maura Davis, Mary Diggins, Tommy Egan, Susan Meaney, Michael McMahon.

It is because some of us are getting older that the years seems to go faster? At any rate here we are again fast approaching our 28th Annual Dinner. This great event again takes place at the Rainbow Suite in Kensington on 22nd November, 1986. I am particularly pleased to inform one and all that for the 3rd year running there is no increase in the price of tickets, again being £15. These can be had from any one of the above addresses or from any member of the committee. This year we hope to break all records — yes I know, this is a tall order, but having the best committee of any association, I know we can do it.

This year our Patron Most Revd. Dr. Michael Harty will once again be with us for the whole weekend. Ever since his appointment as Bishop of Killaloe in 1967 he has attended all our Annual Dinners. I am particularly pleased to welcome him this year because he is celebrating his 40th year as a Priest, many congratulations Your Lordship.

The Parish reunions take place on 20th November at the Irish Centre. This year its the turn of West Clare and we look forward to a bumper crowd. Even though I'm an East Clare man I must hand it to the West when it comes to attending reunions. Indeed all Clare people are most welcome to attend and I'm delighted to tell you that his Lordship Dr. Harty will attend together with many Clare Priests. The reunion night begins at 8 p.m. and ends at 12.30 a.m.

I want to thank my committee who have worked so hard during the year to make the various functions so enjoyable and also for making my life so pleasant at the meetings even though some of them are, shall I say 'quite lively'. Earlier this year we set ourselves the task of replacing the chairs in the McNamara Hall — I appeal to you all to help us to achieve this worthy task as soon as possible and any of you who would like to contribute please get in touch with any of the officers or committee members.

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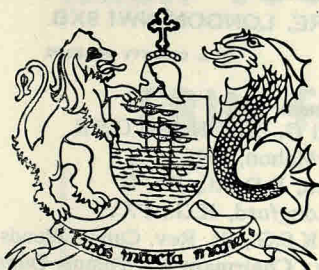
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## The Waterford Association, London



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Life President: Rt. Rev. Charles J. Henderson,  
Area Bishop of Southwark

Chairman: Mr. Billy Allen  
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Vice-Chairperson: M/s. Theresa McGuire  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore,  
Agar Grove, London NW1 9SL. Tel. 01 267 8100

Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry,  
2a Brabant Road, London N22 Tel. 889 6579

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Kitty Groves,  
33 Kings Crescent, Finsbury Park, London N4.  
Tel. 01 359 5994.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead  
46 Stoneleigh Terrace, Raydon St., London N19  
Tel. 359 5994.

A Chara,

May I be allowed to begin this report by thanking all my friends and relations for all their good wishes during my recent bout of sickness. I am very happy to report that I am now very nearly 100% again, but I am grateful for the genuine concern for my welfare from family and friends. Many, many thanks.

Since the last issue of the Journal, the London Irish Festival has once again taken place. We were once again blessed with a beautiful day and the crowds turned out in their thousands to enjoy a day full of Irish music and culture. May I as chief Steward for Waterford thank all of our stewards, young and old, men and women, who worked so hard throughout the day to ensure the smooth running of the festival. Thank you one and all and well done. A big thank you must also go to the members and their friends who worked on our stall through the long hot day, meeting people and making new friends and members of our Association. To all of you a million thanks. Congratulations and well done to the Festival committee and all concerned with any or every part of the Festival, you all did a great job.

The Waterford Association sends its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Cullen and family whose husband Tom died recently. Tom had always been a good friend of the Association and recently was elected Assistant Hon. Treasurer. We know how much his family miss him and we do also. Perhaps the following verse will help to ease the suffering and sad loss of a very kind and gentle man.

### Life is Eternal

Life is eternal the good Lord said,

So do not think of your loved one as dead;

For death is only a stepping stone,

To a beautiful life we have never known;

A place where God promised man he would be

Eternally Happy, safe, and free.

A wonderful land where we live anew,

When our journey on earth is over and through,

So trust in God and doubt him never,

For all who love Him live for ever.

And while we cannot understand,

Just let the Saviour take your hand;

For when death's Angel comes along,

God is great and we are small;

And there is nothing you need fear,

For faith in God makes all things clear.

Bill Aulsberry — Acting P.R.O.

(Continued on Page 10)



# the irish centre

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## Thirtieth Annual Report

### FOREWORD

Statistics, of themselves, are cold. For us, in this report, each represents a real person.

Here at the Irish Centre our 1984 figures indicate what appears to be an about-turn in emigration to Britain. Consequently, the pressures on our social work services, including our Hostels, have increased greatly. I pay tribute to a dependable and generous staff. To our helpers, committees, sub-committees who given of themselves in so many ways I express my sincere thanks.

In the interest of a better service to the needy, it has been a year in which we have forged new links with a large number of other voluntary agencies. We have made new friends. We have said goodbye to many old friends. This is the 30th Annual Report. For almost one-third of these years Sister Joan Moriarty was an integral part of the life of our Centre. To Sister, I record a very sincere word of thanks.

This report cannot adequately communicate the human care and genuine concern which we value as an essential ingredient in the services we try to offer. To give a part of oneself is as close as we can come to the highest ideal of our Christian Faith. That is a special gift which seems to have been sprinkled generously on the people who are the Irish Centre.

To you all I say

"GO RAIBH MILE MAITH AGAIBH".

Father Claude Malone, O.M.I. — Director

## Irish Centre Community Services Welfare Advisory Committee

Rev. J. Gilmore, Chairman, Director, Irish Chaplaincy.

Ms. Kay Leddy, Secretary, Education and Voluntary Section.

Mr. S. Troy, Chairman of Irish Council of Counties.

Ms. P. Warren, Secretary, Voluntary Action, Camden.

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## **Aer Lingus News**

from Tommy Dunne

### **AER LINGUS REPORTS RECORD PROFITS IN JUBILEE YEAR.**

Aer Lingus reported record pre-tax profits of IR £18.2M for the financial year ended last March. This compared with IR £14.3M for the previous year. Net profit after tax at IR £16.6M which was an increase of 43% on the previous year's IR £11.6M. Return on capital employed was 12%. Group operating revenues at IR £537M were up by 8%.

Main reason for the increased profit levels was greatly improved results on the North Atlantic route where the first operating profit for 13 years was realised. Air transportation contributed only IR £5.2M to the group operating profit. Ancillary Activities operating profits continue to be the mainstay of the group's profitability.

Referring to fleet financing, the Chairman said that while the company recognised the constraints on the Exchequer, nevertheless the State's total investment in Aer Lingus over the past fifty years of IR £73.6M was small in relation to the group's current net asset value, conservatively estimated at over IR £300M and the profit of IR £41M in the past three years "allows us to back our recommendations to the Minister with a good prospectus."

The Chairman, Dr. Dargan, warned that the economics of providing regular air services to and from Ireland were so marginal that decisions which made profit generation on the Aer Lingus networks even more difficult would inevitably seed future major problems for the shareholder. He referred to the decision to award a licence to a recently founded Irish carrier to operate between Dublin and London as being critical. "Dublin to London is the only route on the Aer Lingus network with sufficient volume of business to allow a reasonable return on capital."

"On the Atlantic uniquely free access has been given to all carriers to come and go as they please. Last year two additional major US airlines were invited to compete against Aer Lingus. As a result Aer Lingus in 1986 faced a total increase in capacity on the Ireland/US routes of 30% while the tourist business available had contracted by at least 20%. The outcome is likely to wipe out our operating profit of IR £7.5M on the Atlantic last year," said Dr. Dargan.

"In any more liberal licensing, capacity and pricing regime in Europe, what we ask is that care be taken by the Irish Government to ensure that Aer Lingus receives opportunities to compete in the markets of other carriers which could be comparable to any increased opportunities created for foreign interests to compete in ours."

Commenting on last year's results, Mr. David Kennedy, Chief Executive said that the net profit before tax of IR £18.2M and the return on capital employed of 12%, compared very favourably with the airline industry results in 1985.

However, further substantial profit increases were necessary in the years ahead to enable the airline to attract the capital needed for fleet replacement. He added that this principal priority was to ensure that our costs structure was competitive. "To achieve this we are accelerating the pace of our internal cost reduction programme." He said "Other immediate priorities included continued aggressive marketing of our product, further improvements in our service through our "Quality Quest" programme, reappraisal of route structure related to return on capital and explorations of new sources of ancillary activities profits."

### **AIR TRANSPORTATION**

Improved results in air transportation in 1985/86 were due to excellent traffic figures, particularly on the North Atlantic, a drop of 5% in fuel prices and the weakening of the U.S. dollar towards the end of the year.

(Continued on Page 11)



(Waterford Ass. cont. from Page 5)

Our Annual at Home Re-Union took place at the beautiful Clonea Strand Hotel on Friday, August 22nd. The principal guests included Dr. Michael Russell, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. It was great to see His Lordship in robust health again.

The Mayor, Cllr. Brian Swift and his lady Mayoress Sile Swift, together with City and County Managers and both Chairmen from Waterford County Council and Dungarvan Urban District Council attended as well as Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Cadogan of the Waterford News and Star.

The Mayor was most interested to hear all about the work of the Association in London and is looking forward to his visit to us in November.

In his address, the Chairman, Mr. Billy Allen welcomed everyone present and said how pleased he was to have the re-union in the West Waterford area. Billy continued by saying how important he thought it is for us to have such close links with home. He congratulated the Corporation on the splendid new bridge the County Development were doing wonderful work promoting the County both at home and abroad. He said he realised the effort that everyone was making and it is not an easy job in the present economic climate. The Chairman concluded by asking for greater effort on the part of the G.A.A., he said we need another all Ireland Win.

We extend sympathy to Mrs. Nellie Butler, on the death of her brother Timothy Cahil in Australia. Also to the family of the late Johanna Galvin, former Mayoress of Waterford, who died recently, R.I.P.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Annual London Dinner will be held at the McNamara Hall Irish Centre, Saturday, November 8th, dancing to Caroline and Spectrum. Guests for the evening will include The Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. The Mayor and Mayoress of Waterford and a host of other Dignitaries. Tickets cost £12 each and are available from any committee member.

Our Annual Bacon and Cabbage will take place on Saturday, December 13th in the McNamara Hall, this is always a very good evening.

We hope all our friends and colleagues had a good summer and hopefully we will now be able to put away the umbrellas and wellington boots for a few weeks at least.

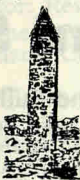
Mary Allen — Hon. Secretary

## Fermanagh Association, London

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Most Rev. Dr. Francis McKiernan, Bishop of Kilmore.

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**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. John Connolly.

**Treasurer:** Mr. F. Corrigan.

**Secretary:** Mrs. Mary McCormack, 29 Platt Street, London NW1 1RP  
Tel. 01 387 8604

Our Summer programme was mainly committed to helping organise the Irish Festival at Roundwood Park, which took place on Sunday July 6th. Most of our committee were involved. It was a blessing the weather was fine on the day and the event was a great success as usual. Our Fermanagh stall was as usual, well stocked with Belleek China, County souvenirs, Linen, homebaking etc. and was sold out fairly quickly. Our member/helpers were congratulated on their hospitality and help throughout the day.

Our forthcoming 30th Anniversary dinner dance will be held on 11th October at the Grosvenor Rooms, Walm Lane, N.W.2, and promises to be a very enjoyable night and a special occasion. Bishop Joseph Duffy, Clogher Diocese, and a party of our friends from Fermanagh hope to be present at this function. Tickets are available from the Secretary at 01-387 8604, Vice-Chairman John Connolly at 01-452 3124 or Dan McManus Vice-President, at 965 5155 or any member of our committee.

We trust everyone had an enjoyable holiday and we look forward to seeing our Readers and friends on SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER.

Wish best wishes,

Mary McCormack — Hon. Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Aer Lingus cont. from Page 9)

"Passenger traffic for 1985/86 was just over 2.25 million passengers, an increase of 3% on the previous year. Scheduled services accounted for close to 90% of traffic and here we achieved a very satisfactory growth of 8%, or an additional 147,000 passengers," Mr. Kennedy said. The only sector to show a decline last year was the sun charter market out of Ireland where reduced discretionary income resulted in a fall in demand. Growth was achieved in each of the scheduled markets, Cross Channel, Continental and Transatlantic, and in each case Aer Lingus increased its share of the air market. In addition the air share of traffic between Britain and Ireland increased last year with air traffic growing by 8% while sea traffic remained at the previous year's level.

Cargo business experienced a disappointing year. There was a decline of 13% in carryings on European services. On the Atlantic primarily because of the depressing effect of the strong dollar on eastbound freight movements, the airline experienced a 12% decline in carryings.



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Director: Rev. Fr. Kiely.

Social Workers: Sr. Carmel McGowan. Sr. Nancy O'Sullivan,  
Kay Mazur, Chris Willison.

### **Case-work**

While so far in this report we seem to have concentrated on the problems of the young, and of the single homeless, another large section of our work is family casework. This year it involved 520 home visits, 95 hospital visits and 30 prison visits. All of this demands a great deal of time spent in travelling to many parts of London, contacting other social work agencies here and in Ireland, form-filling, letter-writing and phone calls. There is an Irish dimension in many of these cases. The following case history illustrates the kind of work that we do. . .

#### **CASE 3**

Joan is a 28 year old woman who was brought up in care in Ireland until the age of 15. On leaving care she worked as a housekeeper, and eventually married a soldier when she was 15 years 11 months. As a result of this marriage she had 5 children. The husband was eventually imprisoned and she had great difficulty caring for the children. They were received into care. Joan has been in this country since 1978. At first she lived in various squats — had a drink problem and spent some time in Holloway Prison. In 1980 she gave birth to a baby boy. The baby's father, with whom she has since been living, had a stabilizing effect on her and she is now a changed person.

Over the years, Joan had expressed a wish to be reunited with her children in Ireland particularly with the two older boys, as their foster placement had broken down. At a Case Conference in '83 I was asked to contact Social Services in Ireland re the possibility of the children coming over here initially for a holiday to develop their relationship with their mother. After a year of negotiations, letter-writing, attending case conferences, court cases and a trip to Ireland to see the children and discuss the matter with the social workers involved, the two older boys were reunited with their mother in July; with the help of the U.C.M. we were able to provide the whole family with a holiday in the South of England. We continue to support Joan and the children as they adjust to their new environment.

A number of grants were given in answer to appeals for financial help towards holidays, rent, gas and electricity arrears. The Bureau also arranged and paid for a holiday (with the help of the Dublin Association) for a young family with three children. Both parents are deaf and dumb and the father has a low-paid job. He was brought up in care in Dublin — he ran away to this country when he was 14 years old. He has not been back since.

We have occasionally been involved with families wanting to return to Ireland for very personal reasons: for example, a young mother with two children, whose husband died of cancer and who had no friends here to support her. In spite of having made contact with the Statutory and Church bodies in her home county, we found no one willing to offer help. While we appreciate the difficulties, we feel strongly that such cases should be given sympathetic treatment. We are saddened by an apparent lack of interest and compassion.

### **Conclusion**

Current decreases in public spending inevitably effect both the statutory and voluntary welfare agencies. Many of the latter are threatened with closure because of cut-backs in grants and high salary and ad-

## Treasured Things

by MICHAEL HANNON

---

Oh, what memories spring to mind—  
Of days, of friends, we left behind,  
When summers seemed centuries long  
And friendship's links were steel like, strong.  
Lithe of limb we climbed each hill;  
We played beside the water-mill—  
And watched the crows wing noisily  
To nest in the darkened rookery.

In the field beyond the Fairy glen  
We searched for Shamrocks in the Spring—  
And once I heard Joe Mackey say  
The Wee Folk played there on St. Patrick's Day,  
Old Joe, alas, has long since gone  
But the tales he told still linger on—  
Of Banshees, Leprechauns, and the Fairy Queen  
That once danced a jig on the village green.

Tales and legends—Fairy Lore—  
I heard in plenty around Dunmore.  
And often did my heart take fright  
When I walked the village late at night.  
For in the Fairy fort below  
Came eerie whispering, soft and low—  
But never did a soul I tell  
Of the fear I had of the Fairy dell.

Today, another generation roam  
Around the Fairy forts and fields of home  
Searching for that trefoil spray  
To send to dear ones far away.  
But the things I treasure  
More so than gold,  
Are old friendships—the Shamrock—  
And tales Joe Mackey told.



## The Kildare Association London

**Life-President:**  
Mr. P. Mulpeter,  
16 Rushbrook Park,  
Wellington, Templeogue,  
Dublin 12  
Tel. 0001. 553123

**President:**  
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**Vice-President:**  
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**Secretary:**  
Mrs. R. Davis,  
96 Glasgow House,  
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Tel. 01. 624 7394

**Chairman:**  
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Tel. 01. 888 2958

**Treasurer:**  
Mr. M. Baker  
Tel. 01. 722 4472

**Public Relations Officer:**  
Mr. Brazier  
Tel. 01. 979 7638

The Annual Dinner held on Saturday 28th June brought us together for a happy but very warm evening. Our thanks to the Kildare Association Luton for the large contingent, and also to the number of people who supported this function. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience due to the small area of space, but we can assure you that 1987 will be much better as we have booked the McNamara Hall for Saturday 30th May, so there will be plenty of room for manoeuvre.

We had a stall at Roundwood Park on Sunday 6th July, and our thanks to all the members who worked hard and to those kind people who provided food and raffle prizes. We are holding 5 unclaimed items. The ticket numbers will be on the Kilburn Times and the Quex Road Newsletter. Unfortunately the Irish Post are unable to print, unless we pay for the Advertisement. In case someone reading the Journal, might hold one or more of the tickets the numbers are as follows:—

Yellow ticket No. 337

Yellow ticket No. 379

Yellow ticket No. 367

Pale Blue Ticket No. 394

Pale Blue ticket No. 414

It will be necessary to quote the security number on top of ticket before the prizes can be released. Please ring 624/7394 if you hold any of the above numbers.

We are pleased to congratulate the Kildare Camogie Team for winning the first ver All-Ireland Final. They beat Dublin 2.3 to 1.4 after a very exciting game.

During the recent spate of world football and listening to all the countries' National Anthems it got me thinking how our own "A Soldier's Song" originated. After a little reasearch the answer is: it was adopted Ireland's National Anthem in 1931. It appears the Poet Peadar Kearney, a Dubliner wrote it in 1907. It first appeared in print in 1912 in "Irish Freedom." Again a Dubliner, Patrick Heeney, an accomplished melodeon player, composed the melody. It was first published as a complete song in 1917 by Messrs. Whelan Printers, Ormond Quay. Eventually in 1931 the Irish Government agreed to adopt it as the official National Anthem of Ireland, and paid £1,000.00 in lieu of all rights connected with it, thus making it state property. Its rousing martial strains are now well known and admired throughout the world.

We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday, and look forward to our next get together.

R. Davis.



(Irish Welfare Bureau — cont. from Page 13)

ministration costs. We are fortunate that only 58.7% of our total income is used for salaries and administration and that we are able to raise 64.7% of our income by our own efforts and the support of our friends. This means that a high proportion of our funds — 41.3% — can be used directly for welfare.

#### **Our Thanks**

We would like to express our thanks to the following for their support, help and co-operation: the Irish Embassy, the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme, the Federation of Irish Societies Welfare Sub-Committee, the staff of our local D.H.S.S. office, Charles House, for their ever ready help; the Social Workers in the Local Authority Agencies and Irish Welfare Agencies, the Salvation Army, S.V.P., U.C.M. and the County Associations who give us support. My special thanks is due to Fr. Lawlor and my colleagues at the Bureau, without whose dedication and co-operation it would have been impossible to cope with the volume of work.

Sr. Carmel McGowan I.S.C. — Social Worker

THE END

\* \* \* \* \*

(Aer Lingus — cont. from Page 11)

#### **AIRLINE RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Operating revenues of airline related activities were up 4% to IR £115M. The operating profit at IR £9.8M was down on last year principally due to a drop in the contribution from Maintenance and Overhaul activities. Revenues from Maintenance and Overhaul work at Dublin Airport declined by 10% due mainly to changes in the value of the U.S. Dollar. Dublin now services seventy five customer airlines from fifty countries.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Irish Centre — cont. from Page 6)

#### **FULL-TIME STAFF**

Breda O'Reilly, Social Work Co-ordinator.

Nicky Murray, Social Worker.

Seamus Taylor, Social Worker.

Bridie Rooney, Social Work Secretary.

Anne Feighan, Social Work Assistant (1 year placement).

MARRIAGE COUNSELLING:- Mrs. Kay Bourke.

LITERACY AND LINK STUDIES:- Ms. Kay Leddy.

IRISH LANGUAGE STUDIES:- Ms. Siobhan O'Neill.

MISSING PERSONS SERVICE & CHAPLAIN:- Rev. O. Barry.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Clare Ass. — cont. from Page 3)

As I may not have a chance to address you in the Christmas edition, I would like to extend to all our members and friends who have suffered bereavements during the year my deepest and heartfelt sympathy.

I wish especially to mention the relatives of our dear Chaplain, Very Revd. Fr. Andrew Clancy, R.I.P., who died last February.

Lastly I wish to welcome Fr. P. J. Doody, our new Chaplain, and I pray we will have the benefit of his spiritual and temporal guidance for many years to come.

May God Bless you all,

Joe Collins — Chairman.

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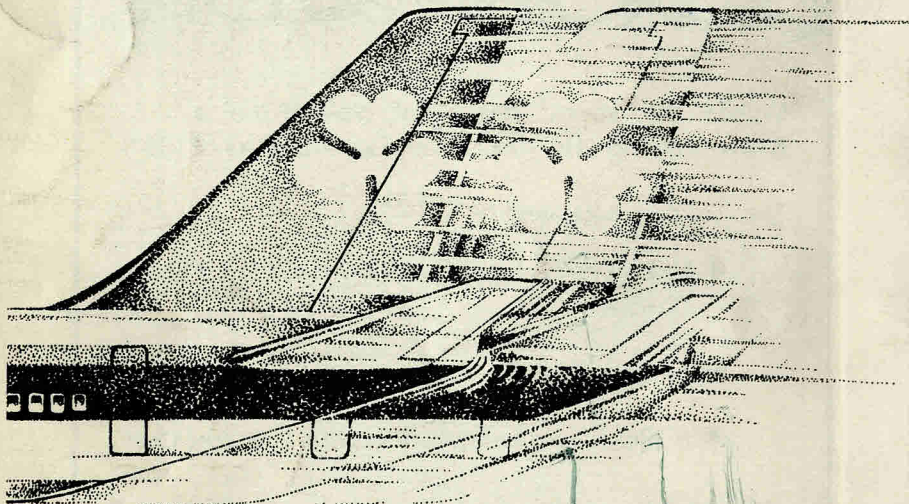
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