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Counties Journal*

Christmas Issue 1986





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28th Annual Dinner which took place on 22nd November, 1986.

Mr. President, My Lord Bishop, Very Rev. Fathers, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:— It gives me the greatest joy and pleasure to reply to the toast of our association so eloquently put by your Lordship. At the outset let me say that perhaps we are not deserving of the high praise which you have bestowed upon us. This, as most of you know is the 3rd Annual Dinner over which I have presided and I feel guilty that over the past three years we have not achieved more. However, we have achieved a good deal. With Emigration from Ireland, sadly, on the increase again, we will have lots more opportunities to be of assistance.

On Thursday night at the West Clare Re-unions it was heartening to see so many young people and I thank Fr. Sean Sexton most sincerely for all the hard work he did contacting them. He has promised to pass what information he has to our Executive committee so that we can be of assistance when needed. Without encroaching on them too much we would certainly contact them when we next have a social get-together.

Now I feel it my duty and pleasure to welcome our guests individually.

The Irish have been wandering across the globe for centuries and I am sure you will agree it is no wonder we honour so many in the travel and carrier business because without them very few of us would be here tonight. So I welcome Mr. & Mrs. Frank O'Meara who are attending a Clare Association dinner for the first time as representatives of Aer Lingus, and I also thank Aer Lingus for their generosity in printing the menus and donating a £100 travel voucher.

B & I are ably represented by our old and valued friends Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Feeny. I want tonight to thank Gerry for his kind and generous

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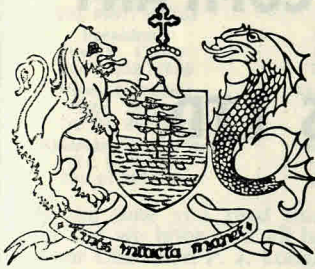
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Membership Secretary: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead  
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Tel. 359 5994.

The Annual Dinner Dance took place on Saturday, November 8th at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. Guests from home and country were headed by Dr. Michael Russell, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, who now looks in excellent health. We thank him for making the journey. The Mayor and Mayoress of Waterford, Councillor Brian and Mrs. Sheila Swift, together with Michael Dooley, City Manager. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hurley, County Manager. Mr. and Mrs. James Aidan Walsh County Council Chairman, also in the party for the first time were Senator Michael Quelly and his wife Carmel. Our old friend and Director of the Waterford News and Star Kevin Cadogan and his wife Franciene. Kevin is a faithful friend of the Association, his paper is always at our disposal for advertising (free of charge). A first time visitor also with the Mayor was the Chief Constable Mr. Paul Ryan and his wife Eileen.

Guests from London were Bishop Charles J. Henderson who is also President of the Association and on whom we rely very much for spiritual and moral guidance. Fr. Jim Kiely from the Hammersmith Welfare Bureau. Mr. Pat Carroll from Ryanair. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kirkby of Aer Lingus. Mrs. May Maguire with her son John.

Welcoming the guests Mr. Bill Allen said how pleased he was to see such a representative body present. He thanked the committee for the hard work in organising the function, as he was aware of the difficulty we face in the continuing economic climate. He complimented the Irish Centre on providing an excellent meal and for the attentive service.

In his reply Dr. Michael Russell said it gave him great pleasure to be with us and went on to thank the Association for our efforts over the years for the people of Waterford. His Lordship urged us to continue our work as he felt there is a need for us to keep contact with our fellow Waterfordians.

In his address the Mayor Cllr. Brian Swift thanked the Association for inviting him to London. He was very aware of the work the Irish community as a whole undertake in London. On behalf of the Corporation the Mayor presented a cheque for £250 to the Chairman and a personal presentation of a beautiful Waterford Crystal Salad Bowl.

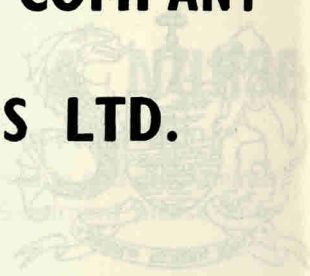
Waterford Person of the Year for 1986 was Mrs. C. Groves, who was presented with a splendid piece of Waterford Crystal, presented by Waterford Glass. We are most grateful to Waterford Glass for continuing their generosity year after year.

Replying to the Mayor, His Lordship Bishop Charles Henderson talked about the continuing emigration from Ireland and urged anyone leaving to come to England to try and have a job and place to stay

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By the time you read this Christmas will have come round once again and we hope you all have an enjoyable time. We were sorry to lose our Chairman P. J. Loughman who has returned to work in Ireland, and our best wishes go to P. J. and Sandra for success in this new venture. They will be resident in Tramore, Co. Waterford, and I am sure the close proximity to the sea, and the lovely surroundings will be a welcome change from the drab streets of London. We were also sorry that Fr. Malone was called back to Dublin. He was for many years connected with the Kildare Association and our best wishes go to him for the future.

Our A.G.M. was held on Tuesday, 11th November and our new Chairman is Mr. T. Loughman who we hope will keep the Association alive and flourishing. It is difficult just now to encourage new members, but in time we will no doubt succeed in our efforts to maintain a good working Association. We have booked the McNamara Hall, Irish Centre for the 1987 Annual Dinner. This will be held on Saturday, 30th May, 1987, so please support us for this function. Perhaps for the first time we could appeal to the large and wealthy Associations to help us out by buying a few tickets.

It is difficult to find interesting items to write about, but the following could bring back memories to some of the older members. Recently in the Leinster Leader a heading appeared, "Kick it Yourself Patsy". This referred to two well known footballers, the great Larry Stanley, and his colleague Patsy Campbell. Patsy is now 94 and Larry 90. They recently met at a reunion so naturally the topic most discussed was football. It was widely known that the two men had a great understanding of each others play. It is said that if Larry blinked one eyelid Patsy would know what he meant. The highlight on this occasion was the account of how they won the 1916 final against Rathangan. Time was nearly up and the score was even when Patsy was fouled about sixty yards from the Rathangan goal. Normally Larry would take the frees but seeing that it was a bit far out and that time was nearly up he turned and said to Patsy, "Kick it yourself Patsy". As Larry moved back about 20 yards he beckoned to Patsy who duly kicked the ball into his hands and enabled him to get in a good shot for the winning point. For many years afterwards the saying, 'Kick it Yourself Patsy' was heard wherever the two players went.

R. Davis, Hon. Sec.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FERMANAGH ASSOCIATION

Just a short note to wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Good New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all once the celebrations are over.

Congratulations to Tim and Liz Pugsley on the birth of their son Brody.

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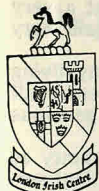
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## The Rising Tide continues . . .

The opening paragraph of our Annual Report for last year, 1983, noted that the significant increase in new arrivals to our Centre in the latter half of that year, may have signalled an about turn in emigration. Our report for this year confirms this about turn. In 1983, there were 1,012 new callers at the Irish Centre Community Services Department and this year this had increased to 1,809 new callers—an increase of almost 71%. Whether large scale emigration has begun again remains to be seen and merits more detailed study. However, from our experience over the past year it is certain that an increasing number of new arrivals, most young and single, are having problems of adjustment to life in London. This increase taxed our resources to their very limits, not surprising when you consider that it had to be catered for without any increase in staff.

Typical of the people who come to the Centre are Stevie, John and Marie.

Stevie and John, both 18, come from a south of Ireland city, badly hit by recent factory closures. They are not themselves the direct victims of such closures, as they have never "really" worked. However, Stevie's father has been made redundant and the two lads themselves can be seen as the victims of an increasing social malaise and apathy that so many young people coming from Ireland seem to bring with them.

"Sure there is not future there for us now . . ." says Stevie. "I cannot spend my life on Anco courses or my nights complaining to me ma about them. We had to get out" and they did.

When they arrived at our office they were looking for accommodation and work. They had approximately £15 between them and neither of them had any official identification. They did not see this as a real problem. After a number of phone calls, accommodation was found in a hostel where they could stay until they got their social security claim processed. It took over a week to get this sorted out. They then returned to our office for advice in relation to employment. We were unable to find them employment on that occasion and they had to come back twice before they were placed in employment. Stevie got a job in a West End hotel as a porter, with take home pay of £59 per week (£35 of which went on his accommodation and £10 on travel).



Clare Assn. — continued from page 3.  
help to a party of handicapped children who went and spent a very enjoyable week in Quilty last Easter. Tonight B&I have again very generously donated a £100 travel voucher.

Ryan-Air are a new and very important air line company flying into Ireland. I am delighted to welcome Mr. Pat Carroll, a Clareman, all the way from Miltown Malbay. A very big thank you for your generous travel voucher for £200.

Slattery's Coaches are now as well known across the county as the National Bus Company, and why not? They give an excellent service and now serve many towns and cities in Ireland. I extend a sincere welcome to Miss Christine Bonney. Thanks to them not only for their raffle prize tonight of 2 return tickets to Ireland, but also for the prizes they have donated to every raffle we have held this year.

It is my joy indeed to welcome Mr. Pat Cleary and his lovely daughter Helen, who are representing our own County's paper, The Clare Champion. We have so many 'firsts' this evening and Pat and his daughter are also attending for the first time. What can one say about the Champion? Quite a lot really — it is for many of us our only link with the Banner County as a whole. Who amongst us does not read the Ennis notes or Whitegate Notes or Kilkee notes, or the Parish Notes from wherever we come from. My own favourite part of the Champion, apart from the G.A.A. notes and reports is the Times past column and also the lovely snippets on past history of Clare and Clare people. I thank him most sincerely for the unusual Raffle prize of a year's subscription to his paper.

I want to offer a sincere welcome to Agnes O'Connell who has attended every Clare Dinner as an honoured guest of the Association. Agnes needs no introduction from me; anyone who has played for American Presidents and for the Pope himself needs no introduction from anyone. Agnes, you are most welcome.

Tom Mannion is a name synonymous with the Travel Business. Last year Tom celebrated 21 years in the business. How or why did Tom start? Well, I understand he once wanted to purchase a ticket to go on a journey and had to go to Limerick for it. He thought what a long way to go just for a ticket so he decided to supply tickets himself. Well done Tom, and also to Brenda and all your family and staff.

We have a very handsome gathering of priests in our midst tonight. Speaking to Fr. Pat Culligan on the phone recently about arrangements for Parish Re-Unions, he said he had just got back from a gathering in Doonaha which Dr. Harty and President Hillary attended, to honour Eugene O'Curry. He added, "of course we here in West Clare educated the rest of the County." Well, we may or may not agree with that but Fr. Pat you are most welcome.

Rumour had it throughout the summer that Fr. Brendan O'Donoghue would not be with us tonight — how wrong rumours can be yet again! I know that his stall holders in Petticoat Lane wouldn't put up with him not appearing there for two years. I am sure many of you know that he has a stall there selling Oxfam clothes — or so rumour has it. Fr. Brendan, as usual its lovely to have you again and thank you for all the hard work you do for this The Clare Annual Weekend. I am sorry not to name all our dear Priest friends but on behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank you all for attending the Re-Unions on Thursday night.

When it comes to re-union gatherings I have to hand it to West Clare, so Miltown and the rest make me eat my words next year!

I am sure by now you must be saying "He's forgotten the Bishop". The best wine for last.

Dr. Harty it is my honour and privilege to welcome you here this evening to this 28th Annual Dinner of the Association, and, I believe, your 18th Annual visit.

## The Missionary Priest — Rev. Fr. Padraig Sugrue

by Ted Ring

We recall him in our Visions,  
From the Philippines across the sea,  
Twenty-seven years in the missions,  
Now he is coming to see you and me.



When redemptorist Fr. Padraig Sugrue from Cahirciveen, County Kerry, started out in life doing God's work he was asked by his superiors to go, temporarily, to the foreign missions. It was clearly understood he would remain there, to experience missionary fieldwork, for a maximum of six months. But he has stayed in the Philippines for practically all his priestly life, twenty seven years, working amongst the poor and impoverished people. His philosophy in doing God's work is very simple. He maintains to really understand how the poor live and react to life generally, you must not try, initially, to bring them up to your level, whatever that may be, but rather do the very opposite. He believes you should start at their level, experience that they, the poor, go through daily, then you may find common ground and a basis whereby, with the grace of God, you can both work together and strive to achieve, step by step, a better and a more understanding way of life. With this view in mind he has gone amongst the poorest of his parishioners in the slum area of his parish in Iloilo city in the Philippines and got together some sixty young people. He has started a co-operative project in his parish. These young people are under the supervision and guidance of one nun. They make Xmas cards, ladies handbags, and other products for the wholesale trade. Unfortunately one of the drawbacks to this worthwhile and satisfying enterprise is the exporting middlemen to whom Fr. Padraig has to sell the finished products. They usually get most of the profit. But in his humble opinion the fact that these young poor people from the slums are becoming self sufficient and enjoying, for the first time in their lives, the virtue of human dignity far outweighs any financial loss he may incur. Any outlets for these hand made products he would greatly appreciate. The writer will have samples in his possession in the New Year.



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The year 1986 started off late for the association. It really started on Sunday, March 2nd when the Annual General Meeting was held at the Bull's Head, Clapham Common, Old Town, to a record crowd.

Our Twenty First Annual Dinner Dance 1985-86 was held in the Empire Rooms, Tottenham Court Road, London, in May, and what a birthday celebration that was. People came from all over Ireland and England to join us on this unique occasion. The whole of the Westmeath County Council from Mullingar and Athlone came over, as well as Kevin Cadogan, Manager of the Waterford News and Star, who has never missed an occasion since our foundation in 1965. The event will be long remembered. We had a top band specially from Ireland, T. R. Dallas; beautiful Irish Dancers under the guidance of Seamus Troy, Chairman Irish Counties Association, and comedian Brendan Blake who made us laugh until we cried. A coach load came from Manchester made up of the newly-formed 'Westmeath Association' there whom I am glad to say are doing very well. Also a coach from St. Boniface Club, Tooting Broadway, SW17. Out Tooting supporters never let us down.

It took us a while to get over our Twenty-first. Our next event was the Annual July Festival at Roundwood Park which was again a great success and where we always meet thousands of Westmeath people as we did this year. Our Chief Steward Joe Garry (Ballynacarrgy) had his team of stewards looking after all the 'stars' and guarding their entrance, and they in turn showed their appreciation with an abundance of refreshments, soft drinks, etc.

Unfortunately we had very little time between July and the Annual Stewards' Dinner in October due to holidays, etc. We had planned to hold our Annual Christmas Supper on Friday, 5th December. However this had to be postponed because of an annual club dinner on the same night. St. Boniface Social Club. Our main supporters for any function.

The Annual Christmas Supper will however, be held with the same Christmas spirit on a far better night, Saturday, February 7th (Seventh February) 1987 at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, commencing at 8 p.m. sharp. As usual a coach will leave St. Boniface Club at 7 p.m. for your convenience and will bring you back to complete your enjoyment. Keep this date vacant in your diary also note the band this year, one of Ireland's leading show bands, 'The Vince Showband', you certainly will enjoy them all for £8. For those travelling on the coach from Tooting, Balham, Stockwell, etc. add £2 return for the coach — not a bad night from door-to-door for a total of £10!

It is hoped to have the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 8th February, day after the Supper, while it is still fresh in our minds. Please note this may have to be changed as the date has not yet been fully

## The Irish Welfare Bureau

55 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8AU.

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Director: Rev. Fr. Kiely.

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

### INTRODUCTION

Little did I think in October 1970 that it would be my responsibility to write an introduction to the Bureau's 15th Annual Report; in fact, in those days Reports were the last thing on my mind. However, as the Bureau began to develop, the need to document its yearly work became evident, and the following Report gives stories, facts and figures of what happened during 1985.

At the outset, let me say that it was a year when Welfare was even more in demand than ever before. This sums up all the gloom that we have had to listen to and read about on our T.V.'s and in newspapers for the past twelve months. It was a year of more cut-backs in Social Services, and extra rules at the D.H.S.S. — all making life more difficult for many individuals. I accept that some of the provisions were introduced to combat fraud. However, I cannot accept the attitude that was adopted by certain D.H.S.S. officers towards some of our clients.

Since the 3rd of January, 1986, my position as Director ceased; consequently, as this is my last Introduction to the Report, I would like to look back over the years and highlight a few factors that have made it possible for the Bureau to achieve its present status.

Without going into all its history, it is sufficient to say that the Bureau was set up to meet the needs of new arrivals and also of those who were already within the settled community but still needing help. With a slowing down of emigration in the late 1970's and early 1980's much of our work was with the "unsettled" within the settled community, especially those growing old. However, in these past years we are back to the old story of large numbers of young and not-so-young people presenting themselves to Centres such as the Bureau.

(to be continued)

\* \* \* \*

### Missionary Priests — continued from page 11.

Before taking up Parish priest duties to fifteen thousand parishioners Fr. Padraig was responsible for the efficient running of a retreat house and looking after the postulants. These are young vocational men who had finished their University courses. Before their novitiate they had to spend one year with him on an exposure programme, part of their training involved living with poor people in remote villages in order to experience, in many ways, the life of the poor. This way of life also tested their commitment. Ah present Fr. Padraig is enjoying a well earned rest and is holidaying in his beloved hometown of Cahirciveen. Whilst in Ireland he is also doing retreat work with his Redemptorist order in Athenry in the County of Galway. He is scheduled to return to the mission field on 1st February, 1987 and our thoughts surely will go with him. In the meantime a fund raising dance for his missionary fieldwork will be held at the Carmel Hall, The Church of the Five Precious Wounds, Brenfield Road, Stonebridge Park, N.W.10 on Friday, 23rd January, 1987, from 8.30 p.m. to 12 midnight.

Music will be provided by the ever popular 'Glensiders'. Licensed Bars. Admission £1. For dance tickets, private donations, or further information please phone Ted Ring on 01-790 2244 office hours or 01-422 0163 evenings. Your support and your presence at this worthy function would be very much appreciated by the organisers. Fr. Padraig will be making a special journey from Ireland to attend the dance D.V. In his view the most important aspect to life is communication and to this end he looks forwards to meeting, on a personal basis, everybody at the dance. As a matter of interest Fr. Padraig is, usually, allowed a holiday at home once every five years.

Season's greetings and a happy and a Holy New Year to one and all.



In spite of your very busy life running the 59 parishes of the Killaloe Diocese, you always find time to come and visit us — not only that but you are generous in supplying the Westminster Diocese with a fair quota of priests on a loan basis.

I feel a few facts about your life will be helpful tonight. I've always known you were born in Toomevara on the 6th February, 1922, but on reading in Ireland's Who's Who I discovered they think you come from a place called Toomevary. Also the Clare Champion edition of July 4th 1986, have a strange idea of what you look like, quote: "with the President in the front row are Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe," etc. so striking in fact that you do not appear at all. I have the paper here to prove it. Still any paper can have a printer's error. To be more serious I note you were ordained priest on 23rd June, 1946, and that on 29th September, 1967 you were appointed to succeed the late Dr. Rodgers as Bishop of Killaloe, and your consecration as Bishop was on 19th November, 1967, which was 19 years ago last Wednesday. Also it is a great honour to have one of your teachers in our midst, whom you referred to in your speech, Very Revd. Cannon John Colerom.

There is much for us to be grateful to you. A feature of your visit has always been your attendance at the Re-Unions and the active part you play in chatting to as many people as you can. On behalf of the Executive Committee and on my own behalf I thank you for being the chief con-celebrant at the funeral Mass for our lately deceased and much loved chaplain, Fr. Andrew Clancy, and also for conducting the burial service in Miltown Malbay last March at which I had the honour of representing the London Clare Association.

Ever since I became Chairman I've had the honour of meeting you each year in County Clare and what I have seen of your work load and the great amount of mileage you cover, I certainly would not fancy being a Bishop.

Once again I thank you for the kind words you said and I wish you continued good health for many, many years so that we may have the benefit of your company at many more Clare gatherings.

Friends be upstanding and toast our guests. Thank you.

Our Vice-Chairperson Mrs. Una Stevenson presented on behalf of the committee, Tom Mannion with a plaque to commemorate 21 years in the Travel and Car Hire business. The Chairman, Mr. Joe Collins, presented Dr. Harty with a silver salver to commemorate his 40 years as a Priest. Dr. Harty thanked the chairman and committee for their kind gesture and pointed out no one back home remembered any of his anniversaries.

A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mr. & Mrs. Corry who were celebrating their Silver Wedding.

I wish my committee and their families and all the Clare people a very happy and holy Christmas. Joe Collins — Chairman.

A big thank you to all who sponsored our raffles throughout the year and thanks too to Elizabeth and her husband for putting us on the map through the Irish Counties Journal and congratulations to them both on their new arrival, Brody. Also thanks to The Clare Champion for their kindness and publicity to us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Westmeath — continued from Page 13.

agreed by the Committee. We will however, let you know in time should there be such a change. Still on the A.G.M.—we want new faces on the association. There are many of you young and old Westmeath people all over London who could spend an hour with us every month, or whenever you could come, and by doing so your ideas can help to keep the wheels of the association revolving. Don't let your county down. The monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Bull's Head, Clapham Common, Old Town.

Sympathy is extended to all Westmeath people in London and at home whom lost relatives and friends throughout 1986.

Congratulations to Elizabeth of our 'Irish Counties Journal' on the birth of her son.

PAT LOONEY, P.R.O.





Christmas morning is a lovely time,  
The children's socks all in a line;  
Stuffed to the top with exciting things,  
Like nuts and fruit and a toy on springs.  
Crayons and cards, balloons and sweets,  
Silver money for children's treats;  
Now — off to church some hymns to raise,  
To tell of love and joy and praise.



Christmas is about all of these things,  
The love and joy the Christchild brings;  
He showed us how to love one another,  
All our friends and sister and brother.  
To spread around that grace he brought,  
As the child the three wise men sought;  
Every year on the 25th December —  
It is love we really must remember.



**Waterford Assn. — continued from page 5.**

before setting out. He was especially glad to have Dr. Michael Russell with us and thanked His Lordship for his help and guidance.

Prior to the Dinner the Mayor of Camden, Cllr. Mary Caine and Mayoress Jan Gould hosted a Civic Reception at the Mayor's Parlour at Camden Town Hall. After the speeches of welcome gifts were exchanged. Waterford Crystal to Camden and beautiful silver gallery trays to Waterford. The formalities over, the guests settled down to enjoy an hour in the parlour. After which both Mayors led the way to the Irish Centre. The reception at Camden has been taking place for about four years and resulted last year in an invitation to the Mayor of Camden to pay a return visit to Waterford which proved very successful. We are all of the opinion that these links between our two communities can generate nothing but goodwill all round.

**Congratulations . . .**

- . . . to Sharon and Dave Whitehead on the birth of a son.
- . . . to Elizabeth and Tim Pugsley on the birth of a son.
- . . . to Christina and Les Staples on the birth of a daughter. Our best wishes to you all.
- . . . to Anna Groves who recently celebrated her eighteenth birthday.
- . . . to Bill and Kitty Groves, who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on 24th October. A surprise party was held for 150 friends and relatives, by their four children, Sharon, Patrick, James and Anna. We all look forward to your 50th !!

**Sympathy.**

We offer sincere sympathy and prayers to Nellie Butler on the recent death of her nephew.

**Dates for Your Diary.**

December 13th—Bacon and Cabbage Supper at the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, Camden Town.

January 25th—Annual General Meeting 3 p.m. at the Irish Centre, Camden Town.

I would like to thank Elizabeth Pugsley who has managed to keep the Journal on the road since the retirement to sunny Spain of her mother Jane Smyth. Well done Liz, we will try to co-operate more in the New Year.

Since this is the last issue before Christmas, may I take this opportunity to wish you one and all a 'Happy, Holy and Peaceful Season.'

Mary Allen, Hon. Secretary.

**P.S.—From Sunny Spain.**

Wally and Jane send their regards to one and all and Best Wishes for Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

They are very busy going to and from the Beach and relaxing by the pool !

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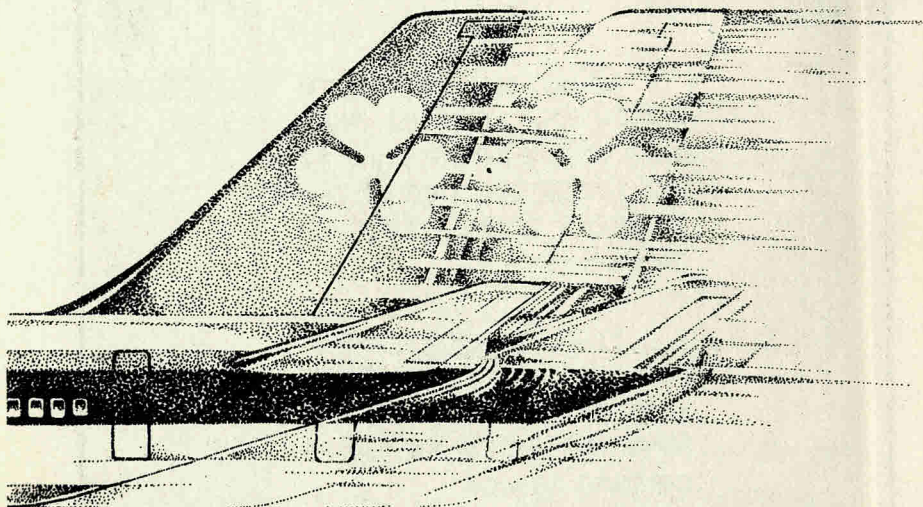
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