

The Irish Counties Journal

Summer 1989





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Chairman: Mr. H. McCormack. Tel. 01 387 8604
Vice-Chairman: Mr. John Connolly.
Treasurer: Mr. F. Corrigan.

Secretary: Mrs. Mary McCormack, 1

Since you last heard from us, the Fermanagh Association has suffered two great losses.

In September 1988, Macreha MaGuire, a daughter of Joan and Jo's left home for a six month tour of the Far East. She had intended going via Bangkok, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and ending up in New York for St. Patrick's Day. On the 4th January, she died in Singapore. The full report has not yet reached her parents. Macreha had a very short but full life, she had such a vivacious personality that she packed more into her short life than most of us do in the full span of life.

The other great loss is that of Dan Manus. Dan has left a void not only in the heart of his family, but also in a good many organisations. Dan was synonymous with Roundwood Park. He knew every inch of it and every trader that was supposed to be there. This, he proved last year when he spotted an intruder, who he soon had ousted. The trader who had paid his franchise was very grateful to Dan for this, as the intruder had exactly the same stall.

For the St. Patrick's Day Parade the hours Dan spent on the Ulster Float and the parade itself were innumerable. He made the Round Tower and the Celtic Cross for the float. He was chief steward for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He held office on the Welfare Committee, the Council of Irish Counties and was associated with the G.A.A.

Dan was a stickler for details. Everything had to be just right, I remember on one occasion overhearing a conversation (as follows):—

Dan: "Is it right now?"
Other person: "It's near enough".
Dan: "Near enough is not good enough!"
Other person: "Is it right?"
Dan: "That's near enough".

In his youth, he played Football for Lisnaskea and his country. He had the honour of taking part in the G.A.A. celebration of 1984.

Dan lived life as he played the game of Football, he gave his best. Dan gave credit to every one who deserved it, and accepted snub from no one, irrespective of who they were. We in the association are proud to have known him. Kathleen, we know how much you are going to miss him. His was a life well spent. He has earned his place in heaven.

(Continued on Page 15)



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Clare Association in London

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe. Life President: Mr. Martin Moroney (Tel. 952 3186)

Chaplain: Father P. J. Doodey

Chairman:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Miss Nancy Ronney

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tommy Egan. Tel. 01 739 3865 Press Officer: Maura Davies 01 748 7910



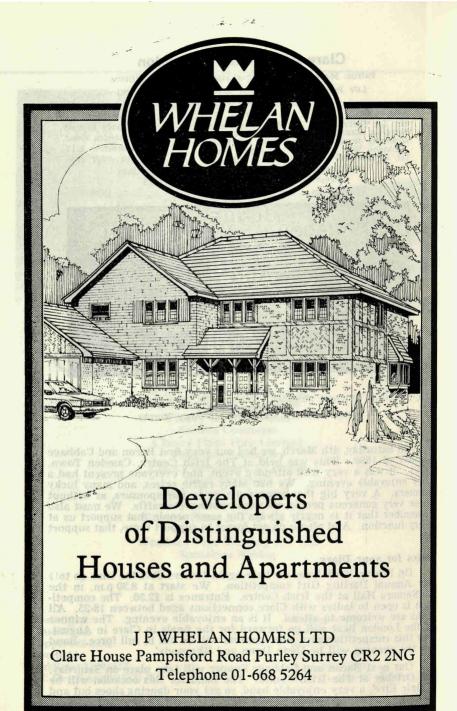
Committee: Michael McMahon, Pat Costello, Bill Boswe Philomena Egan, Hon. Auditors: John Corry and Andy Murphy. Bill Boswell, Jim Commane,

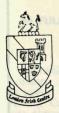
On Saturday, 4th March, we had our very first Bacon and Cabbage Supper of 1989. This was held at The Irish Centre, Camden Town, NW1. It was a very well attended event, and everyone present had a very enjoyable evening. We had many raffle prizes, and many lucky winners. A very big thank you must go to our sponsors, as without these very generous people, we would not have a raffle. We must also remember that it is nearly always the same people that support us at every function. And please do not forget to support those, that support us.

Dates for your Diary.

On Friday, 23rd June, we have again (where does the time go to!) our Annual Darling Girl competition. We start at 8.30 p.m. in the McNamara Hall at the Irish Centre. Entrance is £2.50. The competition is open to ladies with Clare connections aged between 18-25. All folks are welcome to attend. It is an enjoyable evening. The winner of the London heat will go forward for the finals in Clare in August. For this competition also, our sponsors will be out in full force. Band for the evening will be 'Jean Dunn and Rhapsody'.

Our next Bacon and Cabbage Supper will take place on Saturday, 7th October at The Irish Centre. The band for this occasion will be 'Triple Eire', a very enjoyable band, so get your dancing shoes out and





the inish centre

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Frustees: Rt. Hon. Lord Longford, K.G., P.C.; Dr. L. Morton, M.D. Mr. F. C. Caulfield; Mr. T. Dunne

Our thanks to Manpower, the Department of Labour, the Irish Hierarchy who during the year established Information Bureaux in Dublin and many other parts of the country to help prepare potential emigrants. It is a very good service which will be even more important after April in advising young emigrants on new legislation, the problem and cost of suitable accommodation, the cessation of urgent needs payments, the difficulties in proving identity and age; and the possible bias against Irish 16 and 17 year olds claiming benefits. They may be ineligible for benefits after the introduction of new legislation which states that under 18 year olds must belong to a Youth Employment Scheme in order to claim benefits.

During the year the Ground Floor has received a very necessary We thank Camden Council for their substantial grant, the Irish Government for AnCO workers, the AIB and the Council of Irish Counties for financial assistance. We hope to be able to help the elderly of the area — many lonely, Irish men and women who settled in London in the 40's. It is unfortunate that completion of the new Day Care Centre coincided with a 10% Grant cutback from Camden Council. This will make it impossible for the Centre to engage full time staff. However thanks to the great efforts of our volunteers we hope to open it shortly and provide a comfortable, relaxed and friendly atmosphere for about 35 elderly per day who will be provided with lunch at a statutory fee of 60p. ILEA have also agreed to provide tutors for Arts and Crafts. We are also aiming to provide better facilities for the Irish Centre Youth Club. We look forward to providing more hostel space in the next year for young Irish boys and girls and a hostel for elderly men.

Thanks to our Irish people in London who continue to support and raise funds; to the Irish Government, Council of Counties and the Festival Committee who provide finance to pay wages and assist our

callers.

Thanks to all our workers at the Centre, Conway House and St. Louise Hostel. Thanks also to the organisers of cultural, social and Siobhan O'Neill reports that some of the educational activities. children from her Saturday morning Irish language classes have been accepted by Irish boarding schools.

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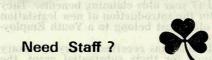
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IRISH ADVICE CENTRE

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Newly Arrived

Frank never imagined he'd find himself temporarily homeless in London. But following a row with friends, he ended up with nowhere to spend the night. With little money, he headed towards the Irish Advice Centre in Hammersmith. Being a Sunday night, the Centre

was closed. So, he wandered into the church nearby.

It was his first time in a church since arriving in London, three months earlier. His thoughts centered on the difficulties of survival with little money and no lodgings. Where could he go? What could he do? Feeling extremely depressed, alone and worried, he contemplated an immediate return to Dublin. It was then that a local priest referred him to Fr. Jim Kiely, the Director of the Centre. Frank was lucky. That night, there was a small room vacant in the Hostel.

Reminiscing on his past, one evening, he told us of how he had come on a holiday, and decided to stay!

Like most people he is anxious to settle down into a place of his own. Having spent most of his life in a Dublin middle-class suburban family home, he found the moving and the searching for accommodation very disconcerting and unsettling.

Yet, Frank remains exceptionally optimistic about life in London. Though 'you can easily find yourself living alone and cut off from people... overall, it's the place for opportunities,' he says.

Frank is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. Like so many of our highly skilled young people, he had little difficulty finding work. He has made a number of close friends, many of them English. 'If you get to know English people, you realise that they aren't trying to put us down at all. I find them very courteous and friendly. But, it may be different and difficult if you hold certain political views.' And he adds, 'I've no hang-ups. I'm not Republican. And the way I see it, there's no big difference between Ireland and Britain. It's not a big step to leave Dublin for here.'

Frank has to be admired for his optimism. He claims, 'That to some extent, we may be victims of history.

We can't change the past, but we can learn to cope with it, and turn it into a positive potential.' He feels very strong about this issue. He continues, 'The wave of emigrants from Ireland today, are educated and confident, and they do have a desire not to be held back, either by past bitterness or prejudice.'

To some extent, Frank is a pragmatist, whilst also retaining an admirable world-view (weltanshaung). He stresses that Ireland of the eighties and Irish history, must be contextualized with, a World-View. He comments, "The World is gradually becoming a unit ... despite the war-zones of today. We can see this common venture in the arts, science and to some extent the economy. Years ago, our view of the world was very limited, due to the lack of communication networks. But nowadays, with the computer and the aeroplane we are constantly challenged to see beyond our own National boundaries, and keep our vision as broad as possible. We Irish have so much to offer to other Communities — and so much to gain.'

Westmeath Association in London



Patron: Most Rev. J. McCormack, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Meath. Life President: Lady Pritchard Jones. Life Vice-President: Mr. W. Attwell. President: Mr. Dan Fox. Chairman: Cyrl McKervey. Vice-Chairman: Bill Cashin. Secretary: Mrs. Betty Gavigan-Walshe.
Assistant Secretary: Mr. W. Stenson.
Tel. 01 609 2909
Treasurer: Mrs. T. Curran.
Tel. 01 672 7809 Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. D. Kennedy. Tel. 01 672 5263 P.R.O.: Mr. Pat Looney Tel. 01 672 0888

081 Cyrl McKervey back as Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting of the Westmeath Association in London was held on Sunday, February 26th, at the Bull's Head, Clapham Common, Old Town SW4. Cyrl McKervey (Athlone) a previous chairman for eight years, was elected Chairman for 1989. The outgoing Chairman, Steve Cunningham (Castlepollard) did not put his name forward.

President Dan Fox, Rosemount, held on to his seat by only one vote, narrowly beating the other candidate Tom Reagan (Castlepollard). Tom was elected Vice-President. Bill Cashin, Ballyncarrgy, taking the Vice-Chairman's position. We have Mrs. Betty Cavigan-Walshe back once again as Secretary, a position she well deserves, after only one year's absence. The backbone of the Association, Bill Stenson (Mullingar) is there as usual to help Betty as Assistant Secre-

tary. We could not do without you Bill!

One of the most important jobs in any association is entertainment officers, and Stan Goddard together with wife Marcia, Mullingar Road, Tyrrellspass, have been doing an excellent job since taking over the vacancy a year ago. They are experts in the field of music and selecting bands, being judges themselves in many a competition. They are equally outstanding in booking suitable function rooms and coaches, to facilitate our supporters. Glad to say they have volunteered to help us for another year at least. 'Chancellor of the Exchequer', Treasurer Teresa Curran (Delvin) has pledged to look after our finances for 1989. Our chief Steward Joe Garry (Ballynacarryy) is once again going to head his 'troops' at the Annual Roundwood Park Festival on the first Sunday in July.

There was no change, once again, in the PRO position (Pat Looney). Also present at the meeting was Lady Prichard Jones, Life President; Seamus Troy, Chairman Irish Counties Association in London; Billy Attwell and Adrian Ennis. Adrian is the Manager of the Elephant and Castle licensed premises in London South East One. He has also purchased the Four Provinces Hotel in Kinnegad, and all people going home on holiday are assured of a warm welcome in Kinnegad — as well as in the London premises.

The Annual General Meeting of 1989 started around 3.30 nm and

The Annual General Meeting of 1989 started around 3.30 p.m. and finished at 7 p.m. with lots of tea and refreshments, as well as a drink for the road from the Association.

Mrs. Gertie Reilly.

It is with sadness I have to report the passing of Mrs. Gertie Reilly, nee Stenson, in Surrey recently. So shortly after her husband Jerry the founder of 'The Westmeath Men's Association in London'. Like her late husband, and brother Bill Stenson, Gertie was a dedicated lady to her County in London. We must remember that only

for the Reilly and Stensons there probably would not be such an Association in London today. Therefore, we that are left behind must never forget them and make every effort to keep the Association alive in their memory.

May she rest in peace with her husband among the green hills of

the Surrey countryside.

St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We had two St. Patrick's days in London this year (1989) as we have every year: — At home in Ireland you have just the one on March 17th. Our first was on Sunday, March 12th when the thirty two counties assembled at Horse Guards Parade. Each county proudly displaying its banner. There were also a number of floats beautifully decorated, many more than on previous years. As Westmeath was almost the last county to leave the assembly point, I had a full view of the Parade from the start. Right down the Mall to Westminster Abbey, and what a wonderful array of county colours; green, white and gold colours, and the many colours of the floats in between. The Parade was certainly much larger this year than on previous years. Let's hope we keep it up.

Westmeath too did us proud with almost somebody from every town and village marching behind and helping to carry the banner. The weather too was kind. It certainly looked like rain as we reached the assembly point. However someone remarked that St. Patrick might banish the rain as he did the snakes in Ireland, and he must have heard their prayer. The Cathedral was packed and many of us didn't get in, including myself, to hear Rt. Rev. Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, deliver his address to the huge gathering. After the Mass we were entertained in the forecourt by the wonderful music of Agnus O'Connor and her famous musicians. We also had exhibitions from a band brought over specially from Tipperary, as well as the beautiful Aer Lingus Band.

In many parts of the British Isles St. Patrick's Day started on Sunday, 12th March and ended on Friday night/Saturday morning, March 17th/18th.

Looking Ahead 1965-1990.

Next year will be our 25th Anniversary, the Association was formed in 1965. Already plans are in hand for the biggest annual dinner dance ever when we hope to take over one of the biggest hotels in London. A famous band, stars of stage and screen, will be brought from Ireland for the occasion. More about that later.

Our neighbouring counties at home please note this one. We would be grateful for any ideas and assistance you may be able to give us.

Annual Mass.

The Annual Mass for deceased members was held in St. Boniface Church, Mitcham Road, Tooting, SW17 on Friday, April 7th. Glad to see so many Westmeath people attend, as well as most of the committee members. After Mass a get-together was held in the club-room and lots of refreshments were served by courtesy of the club. Many thanks to the steward, Mr. P. Rooney (Sligo) for his kindness on the occasion.

The Westmeath Association in Dublin.

We extend grateful thanks to our sister association in Dublin for their kind invitations to their annual dinner dance recently. Hoping it was a great success. The London Association was represented by Vice-Chairman Bill Cashin and Mrs. Cashin who flew from London for the occasion.

A piece of Park Lane in North West London



Wine and food in the Grand Manner.



AIR CONDITIONED. FULLY LICENSED. PRIVATE CAR PARK. OPPOSITE WILLESDEN GREEN TUBE

WESTMEATH ASSOCIATION (cont. from Page 9) Local Community Radio.

I have now full details of the local community Radio which is hoped to be set up in Westmeath. Thanks to the co-operation of the organising committee who sent me details from home. Would the PRO's from the following counties, Longford, Roscommon, South Leitrim and Offaly, please get in touch with me when we will arrange a special meeting on the subject. It should be of great advantage to our home Counties in London, by way of greetings and advertising our functions in London.

Greetings.

In future reports from London, we will send greetings home through local papers to relatives and friends in Westmeath. Our County people in London please contact me with any request you may have. It's only with your permission that greetings will be sent. I hope that all our relatives and friends in Westmeath will co-operate by sending a copy of the local papers to us weekly. Many thanks.

See you all at the Annual Dinner Dance on May 20th (Saturday).

- PAT LOONEY (PRO)

IRISH ADVICE CENTRE (cont. from Page 7)

Was it Hemingway who said: 'Very few people go through life without experiencing brokeness — but some people grow very strong in the broken places!' Talking with Frank, one was certainly given the impression that evening, that he had survived some brokenness in his coming to London ... and also, that he would grow very strong through the broken places of its multicultural uniqueness.

The Waterford Association, London



Patron:

The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.
Life President: Rt. Rev. Charles J. Henderson,
Area Bishop of Southwark
Chairman: Mr. Billy Allen
Tel. 267 8100

Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Kitty Groves Tel. 01 359 5994. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, 1

Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry,

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead,

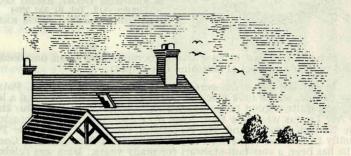
Membership Secretary: Kieran Kiely

Friends it's nice to have winter behind us, we can now look forward to long evenings of sunshine (we hope!)

In our last issue we were preparing for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which took place on Sunday, March 12th. We had a lovely day and quite a good turn out with extra bands this year. Our thanks to Aer Lingus who flew their band over especially for the occasion, to the Nenagh Brass Band, the Newcastle West Boys Band, the Power family from West Waterford and not forgetting Mrs. Agnes O'Connell, who has been a constant stalwart for many years. Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood, and several of our Oblate Fathers. The altar at Westminster Cathedral was most colourful as a deputation from each band was allowed to be seated there. Afterwards each one gave a performance outside on the piazza. The Jim McGann Trophy for the best turned out county went to the Limerick Association.

On the home front we have been busy, we have had a very successful Bacon and Cabbage Supper. We were entertained by a group from our Parish in Portlaw who were here for a weekend of hurling and partying, a most enjoyable time was had by all. We have also had a most successful visit with the Mayor and Mayoress of Camden, Cllr. Bill Budd and Iris. We were flown to Waterford by courtesy of Aer Lingus and accompanied by District Sales Manager Jim Kirby and his colleague Paul Nangle. Met on arrival by members of the Press and Waterford County Council. We spent a lovely afternoon being shown around the Gaeltatch, this and visiting a museum, was followed by a reception at Lawlors where after a most sumptuous dinner, gifts and speeches were exchanged. Next morning we had a 10 a.m. meeting with Councillor Brendan Kenneally, Mayor of Waterford. This was followed by an extensive tour of Waterford Glass factory. Mayor Budd was very interested in the manufacture of the crystal, a complex and complicated business. Having watched the production we no longer wonder why it is such an expensive commodity. From start to finish at least eight people work on each piece. Any piece that is flawed is smashed. Waterford does not sell seconds. In spite of this demand is greater than supply. After this tour we returned to City Hall to sign the visitors' book and again exchange gifts. Then lunch at the Tower Hotel followed by a visit to Reginald's Tower which is now a museum and houses artefacts recently found in the city during excavation work. Our third morning was spent being shown around the city viewing the

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We had a wonderful St. Patrick's Night in a large Spanish establishment with our own Irish music and the expert attention of Victor, who saw to our every need. Most of our guests were English and Welsh of Irish decent. A special mention from Tom and Joan Clarkson from Leeds to Bill and Joyce Mann from Cheshire and all their Welsh friends, to Bill and Joyce's sons Bill and Tony who often come to see us.

Holy Week.

Over a million visitors came to this area for Holy Week. There were processions through the streets with our Lord on the cross and the Virgin Mary on highlighted floats which take between 60 and 100 men to carry - not coloured costumes in this parade but everybody in black and white. At the edge of the town's the Campo as they call the country here the way of the cross and crucifixion, the resurrection or as it commonly called the Passion Play is acted out by local people and animals with the natural background of green fields.

Deaths.

Condolences to Lilly, on the death of her sister in Wales. To Jim and family, on the death of our dear friend Kathleen Walsh. Kathleen hailed from Cork. They both spent half the year here on the Costa and half in Leicester. She is sadly missed by all in our knitting corner.

To Tim, on the death of his mother Joan Pugsley of Reading, and to his brothers David, Greg and Stephen.

To my better half, Wally, on the death of his uncle Fred in Australia. Uncle Fred travelled the world as a ship's Purser and decided to settle in New South Wales. He hailed from Lancashire where there is still his brother Robert. He leaves also a daughter, two grandchildren, a niece, three nephews and all of us. Uncle Fred died very peacefully at the ripe old age of 97 years, 2 weeks and 2 days. Masses offered for the Repose of their Souls. May they rest in Peace.

Spanish Lesson.

Informacion (Eeen-for-mah-see-ohn) — Information. Autol (Ow-toh-boos); Baile (By-leh) — Dance. Gato (Gah-toh) — Cat. Autobus

That's all for now folks, — JANE T. SMYTH (Mrs.)

IRISH CENTRE (cont. from Page 5)

The following report gives numbers but each represents an Irish person in need. No mention is made of the thousands who received advice and telephone assistance — 1987 was the year when thousands of Irish in Britain were worried about the British Nationality Act day after day these anxious people phoned for advice.

The Centre has tried to assist "Irish in Need" since the early 50's. We hope we will not be found wanting during this recent avalanche of immigrants.

"Beirim buiochas dibh go leir do bhur gcuid oibre anseo."

- REV. TOM SCULLY, OMI. (to be continued)

CLARE ASSOCIATION (cont. from Page 3)

July 2nd see us once again at Roundwood Park for the Irish Festival. It is a good day out for all the family, with something to interest everyone. The Clare stall will have a tombola, along with the usual hats/scarves/badges and copies of The Clare Champion. There will be entertainment all day, so come along and bring granny and the children.

16th November - Parish Reunions at the Irish Centre.

18th November - Our Annual Dinner Dance at the Regent Crest Hotel. Tickets £17. Book now to avoid disappointment. Telephone any of the committee for tickets and further information.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. McManus and family, on the death of Dan - R.I.P. He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the Clare Association executive committee, I wish you all a lovely summer and Happy Holidays. God Bless.

- MAURA DAVIES (PRO)

* * * *

WATERFORD ASSOCIATION (cont. from Page 11)

improvements being done by the corporation. At this stage I was wishing I could have had a rejuvination pill, but we pressed on. I feel both Waterford County Council and Corporation are to be congratulated on the sterling work being done to improve the city and county. All too soon it was time to leave with promises from everyone to come again soon. We are most grateful to Aer Lingus for the facilities provided for us, to Jim and Paul who stayed with us for part of the time. I hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

We are now in the midst of organising the Festival which takes place at Roundwood Park on July 2nd. Visit the Waterford stall for badges, hats and scarves in county colours.

May we offer congratulations to May and Aiden Flynn who celebrated 40 years of marriage on June 12th. Well done folks. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jerry O'Flynn of the Galway Association. Sincere sympathy to Mrs. Kathleen McManus and family on the death of Dan, a true Irishman and a gentleman who is greatly missed by us all. May he Rest in Peace.

Dates for your diary — Festival (as above). Annual Dinner - November 4th. Bacon and Cabbage - December 8th.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy summer.

— MARY ALLEN (Hon. Secretary)

The Kildare Association London

Patron: Most Rev. P. Lennon, D.D., Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.

President: Secretary: Chairman:
Mr. P. Casey Mrs. R. Davis. Mr. P. Phelan

Most of you will be thinking 'Holiday Time' is almost here, and after a rather dull and unsettled few months it will be a welcome break, so we wish all our members a very pleasant and enjoyable time wherever you decide to go. We had a Ceilidhe and Old Time Waltz on 24th February, at the Irish Centre and although not well patronised it was reasonably enjoyable. Our Annual Dinner is booked for Saturday, 13th May, but will be over by the time you read this. As we go to press we hope that we will have Mr. Emmett Stagg Kildare T.D. present, and Radio Telefis Eireann to cover the dinner. More details about this in the next issue.

We would remind all Kildare people that a special meeting on 20th June at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, will concentrate on bringing young people into the Association, in the hope that they will use their talents to create and work to bring the Association more into the limelight, by organising various types of entertainment. During the past few years we have slowed down, so now is a golden opportunity for the young people to show us what they can do, especially give support to the Irish Festival in July, at Roundwood Park, and let's hope the weather will be kinder this year. Perhaps we can resume the saga of Mullaghmast in the next issue.

currie sult and an extended to him the sulf - R. DAVIS.

FERMANAGH ASSOCIATION (cont. from Page 1)

The Irish Festival will soon be here, well, there is one thing, the weather cannot be worse than last year.

ally leavester * * * * I must out al

Hughie is still very ill, and as a result, Mary has not been able to attend as many functions as she would like to.

There will be a Parish or Parishes Reunion in the Irish Centre on the 26th May. The 3 K's Kinawley, Killesher and Knockninney, we are looking forward to seeing some of the folks from home.

This is all for now. See you all at Roundwood Park.

— WINNIE CORRIGAN (Mrs.)

ECHOES — by Michael Hannon



I remember the mowing machine's whirr
In the July meadows of yesterday,
The Corn-crake's call through summer nights,
The scent of the new-mown hay.
The Creak of Swingles taking the strain
In the open furrow after a shower of rain.
The Night-Owl's hoot from the woods beyond,
The Mallard's call from the darkling pond;
— and "The Minnaun Airigh's" lonesome cry
High above the bog in the summer sky
Musings; Memories; fill my mind
— echoes in the passing wind.

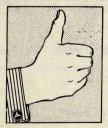
'The Minnaun Airigh" (The Airy Kid) or The Clocking Snipe who's lonesome bleat like that of a kid goat can be heard on a summer's evening as it wheels in flight over bogs and marshland.

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