

IRISH CENTRE D I A R Y February, 1970.

- Sun. I. Tipperary C.B.S. - A.G.M.
 Kilkenny Assoc. - A.G.M.
 Geraldine Football Club -A.G.M.
- Thurs5. Eden Grove - Parish Dance.
- Sat. 7. Offaly Assoc. - Dinner & Dance.
- Tues10. Benefit Dance.
- Wed.11. Comhaltas.
- Thur12. 'Crean School of Dancing' - Dinner & Dance (B.&C.)
- Sat.14. Kilkenny Assoc. - Dinner & Dance.
- Thur19. Desmond's Football & Hurling Club - B.&C. Dinner Dance.
- Sat.21. Sligo Assoc. - Dinner & Dance.
- Sun 22. Council of Irish Counties Assoc. - A.G.M.
- Tues24. Invitation Dinner - Irish County Associations.
- Wed.25. Comhaltas.
- Thur26. St. Mary's Hurling Club - Dinner & Dance.
- Sat.28. Galway Assoc. - B.&C. Dinner Dance.

Ist. Week March.

- 3rd. Catholic Mother's Union - Dance.
5th. Tullamore & Rahan - Re-Union.
7th. Waterford Association. (Probably, Dinner & Dance).

NEWSLETTER

The religious life has been described by someone as an entanglement of beginnings. Those of us who have taken this type of life as our vocation know only too well that we are human. The more we strive towards perfection the better we see our limitations. We are enthusiastic to do noble deeds but therein we find our weakness.

What goes for the religious life applies equally to the layman's life. You want to do all that is good; you want to get away from that bad habit; you want to be a good child of God; you want to be the ideal citizen; in a word to want to be what God intended you to be - just normal. The reason why I say all this is simply to encourage you. You may have broken your New Year's resolutions already. If so, start again. Remember life is an entanglement of beginnings.

At the outset, may we wish you a very happy New Year. We were very pleased to have you as a member of this club in 1969. We hope you will continue to be a member for many years to come. If perchance you have not renewed your membership please do so now. As usual it costs 30/- or 20/- depending on whether you are married or single. Very often the most difficult part of paying is to remember to pay it.

New Year's Eve in the Douglas Hyde lounge was a great success. The music was good; the talent was excellent and the atmosphere perfect. We hope this is indicative of things to come in 1970.

One of the big events of the year here at the Irish Centre is the Old Age Pensioners' Party. This year it was of a very high standard and, for the records, let us express our thanks to the Club Committee and other helpers who made it such a memorable occasion for those good people. Fr. Malone was "out on his own" on that day. Well done everyone, and our grateful thanks to you all.

While the old were being looked after, the young were not neglected. Many County Associations had parties for the children. Each party was as enjoyable as the other. The children were delighted with what they got and the adults were happy in giving. It all added up to satisfaction.

During the past month there have been a couple of important announcements made with regard to the departure of two very close friends of the Irish Centre. Mr. Molloy who has been our Ambassador to Britain for the past five years is returning to Ireland. There are very few Irish people in this great city who have not met Mr. Molloy in that time. He was a very warmhearted man. On every occasion, when it was opportune, he expressed his interest in the work of the Centre and his personal desire to see the machinery perfected, so that this work could be made easier and more effective. Maybe one day very soon someone may drop us enough to buy the property next door and help us update our present welfare facilities. Anyway, that is another story. For now, let us express our grateful thanks to Mr. Molloy for all his kindness to us and we wish him well in his new post back home.

Another great friend to leave us is Bishop Casey of Westminster, who has been appointed to Brentwood. Bishop Casey was always at the ready when it came to our consulting him on the various problems that cropped up. As Bishop of Brentwood he is still one of the patrons of the Centre but, with full responsibilities for his new Diocese he will not always have as much time to devote as of old. We wish him every Blessing in Brentwood.

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While lamenting the departure of these men, we congratulate Mr. O'Sullivan as Ambassador to Britain. To him also we extend the hand of friendship and convey our very best wishes.

It would seem there is always something either happening in this place or in connection with it. We want to remind you now that the St. Patrick's Festival concert takes place this year on the 16th March at the Royal Albert Hall. The Bill is excellent, and that excellence comes from both its balance and variety but, above all, from its status. All the artists are stars in their own right but when together they blend into a stupendous galaxy. On this side of the Water they may not be all that well known, but are tops at home and in greater demand. They are as follows:

Brendan Caldwell (Compere)
Irish Centre Boys Band.
Crean School of Dancing.
Finbar Dwyer.
Birmingham Ceili Band.
Emerald Folk Group.
Eileen Donnaghy.
John McNally (Tenor)
Larry Cunningham.

Book now, if you don't want to be disappointed. Even already, there are no 15/- tickets left. Ring 485-0051. Ask for Maureen. She will tell you the position and will go to any length to see that you get what you want.

Next month we will be letting you know about our charity walk. We hope for the same support this year as last.

As most of you are aware, there is a new Irish weekly paper (The Irish Post) coming out on the 14th February. So many people have said it was long overdue. We welcome this weekly paper. No doubt you will all be jumping the queue at the paper shops to get the first edition and, having read the first, you will be making it a must for evermore.

God bless you all,

See you at the Albert Hall,

Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I.