


**the
IRISH
centre**



**CEAD MILE
FAILTE**

Newsletter

52 Camden Square · London N.W. 1

TELEPHONE: 485 0051/2

October... Diary....

- October 2. Clare Association Bacon and Cabbage Dinner Dance.
October 7. Dance for the Northern Ireland Fund.
October 9. Offaly Dinner and Dance.
October 12. Leitrim Parish Reunion.
Sean McDermot Card Drive.
October 14. Leitrim Parish Reunion.
Crean School of Dancing Bacon and Cabbage Dinner
October 16. Kerry Association Dinner and Dance.
October 19. Offaly Association Dance.
October 21. Crean School of Dancing Card Drive.
October 23. Leitrim Association Dinner and Dance.
26. Oct. Percy Road Dinner.
28th Oct. Fermanagh Association Dinner and Dance.
30. Oct. Wexford Association Dinner.

CEAD MILE
FAILLTE

rettelawel

1. N. H. ...
...

SEPTEMBER 1971

By now you will almost all have had your holidays. Most of you will have been back to Ireland. It would seem that Ireland is booming. I have never met so many people who want to go back there to live. Is it because the rat race here is becoming more hectic or is it because prospects are so good in Ireland? Whatever the answer, more and more people want to go back for good.

From what I have seen in my travels back home, I believe prospects are excellent in Ireland. I believe too that farming is becoming more and more of a professional way of life. Even the small farmer has the means of working much more efficiently than of old. The young people are approaching their farm work in a very intelligent manner. But above all, they are happy, relaxed and have plenty of time. They really live.

The one black spot in the life in Ireland is the awful state of affairs in the North. I was in Belfast and the physical state of that city is desperate - soldiers, tanks, guns, barbed wire, boarded and burned shops and houses, even many of the footpaths are torn up, but above all, the fear and suspicion in the people. All these things add up to create a foul atmosphere. This is especially true of Belfast, but true too of many other towns in the province. It is a sad situation. There is only one solution for it. Ireland is one country and will have to be ruled as such. There is hardly any doubt but that is how it will be; but in the meantime how many lives will be lost. When they speak of extremists they have associated that to mean the I.R.A., but the extremists who are causing most of the trouble are those within the Unionist Party who do not want to let go of their Power. We have all been asked to storm Heaven during the month of October. It will take God Himself to solve the problem of Northern Ireland. Ask and you shall receive!

Right now there is a lot of comings and goings at the Irish Centre. As most of you know Brendan and Bernie have decided to go back to Ireland. They came to the Centre almost at the same time as myself. I can still remember the day I interviewed them for the job here. They impressed me as a very decent respectable couple. Not only has that impression lasted but has grown into the greatest respect. I know only too well how highly esteemed they were by all who used the Irish Centre. We will all miss them. On your behalf may we say thank you Brendan and Bernie for your wonderful service, your kindness and for all you did for the Centre. While we are saying a sincere thank you, may we couple that with a sincere good wish for the future back in Ireland. Goodbye, good luck and God Bless.

Since Brendan vacated the position of Bar Manager, Michael Coughlin has been doing the job, ably assisted by Jim Quinn. I think you will agree they are doing a wonderful job. Michael will be only too willing to answer your requests and oblige you with excellent service.

Another newcomer to our staff is Sr. Thecla of the St. Joseph of Peace Order. Sister Thecla is one of the more popular people here and just does everything she sees needs to be done. Her popularity lies in the simple fact that she just gets on with the job and one would hardly know she was about the place.

Believe it or not, but there is another Cavan man in the Irish Centre, - Fr. Tom McCabe, who is now one of the chaplains. He comes from Crosserlough Co. Cavan. Fr. Tom was here as a deacon. He is mad for work. I'm certain he won't run short of something to do around here. We wish him every success and happiness. One thing Fr. Tom's coming should do is to prove that not all Cavan priests are the same. If you can't stand me, then ask for Fr. McCabe.

Cont/d. ...

Fr. McCabe's coming was made necessary by Fr. Kennedy's going. Fr. Kennedy is going to London University and will now be stationed at Tower Hill. His stay here was short. We thank him for his services and wish him every success and blessing.

P.S. Men may come and men may go, but it seems you are stuck with me!

Over the next few years there is a lot of very hard work to be done here. New hostel accommodation and a new kitchen are to be built, and I hope the air conditioning completed. There is so much hard work before us that I even hate to think of it. We will be getting money from The National Collection. But that will not be enough. We have to simply think of ways and means of raising more and that is about the roughest job of all. I believe we will have to draw up some system which will appeal to all Irishmen and women. The Irish of this town have to support every charity there is. Were it not for the Irish too many good works would just fold up. I believe the Irish would be only too willing to support their own, if they were asked. So this year with the help of God we will make some move towards real fund raising.

I always write this news-letter as I think. Very often I forget to mention something or other. One point I nearly forgot, is that Miss Fiona Hanly has left our welfare office to attend Cardiff University for higher studies. Miss Hanly has played a very important part in the work of the Centre. We thank her for all she has done for the Centre; we thank her on your behalf; we thank her on behalf of the many thousands of people she has put on the right road; we thank her on behalf of the many fathers and mothers of Ireland to whom she has brought so much consolation. Working in the Irish Centre is not a place for bouquets, but very seldom does one hear the words 'thank you' in our Welfare Office. We wish Miss Hanly every success.

Miss Maura Dorgan takes Fiona's place. She is doing a wonderful job. We wish her every success. Also in the office for the summer period has been Esther Buckley. One would think she was here for years, the efficient way she did her job. Now she goes back to Dublin to finish her studies at U.C.D. We wish her the very best of luck.

Cardinal Heenan will be paying us a visit on the 23rd November. He wants to meet all the members. That should be a great night here.

I am taking the liberty of putting in a book of raffle tickets with the news-letter. I want to raise £1,000 on this draw and that will be the band established. We have it well on the way now. We just want to get a few more instruments and about thirty uniforms. If you can see fit to buy a book of tickets or sell them among your friends then I will be forever grateful.

God Bless.

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