





The Irish Counties Fournal

MAY 1972

ISSUE No. 6

VOLUME 2





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THE KERRY ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

Headquarters: St. Brendans, 4 Craven Park, London, N.W.10 Treasurer: Mr. E. Greaney, 9 Park Chase, Wembley, Middlesex. 01-903 2763 Chairman: Mr. M. O Connor, 121 Woodend Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex. 01-422 2286 Secretary: Mr. M. J. C Connor, 20 Clauson Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. 01-422 6688

At this time of the year we are counting the weeks until we find ourselves packing for the holidays. This year members of the Association, together with members of the Kerry Association in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, etc., are planning a Dinner and Dance to be held at The Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. We hope that all members and their friends who will be in Kerry on Saturday, 12th August, will attend. Present indication of interest seems to suggest that the numbers will be in excess of 100. Final details will be made on the weekend of our own annual dinner when the Chairmen and their ladies from the Cork and Dublin Associations will attend our function.

The affairs of the Association are going very well at the moment. The hostel is running very efficiently thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hessian, Mrs. Ferriter, the Committee and, of course, the residents themselves. Our Raffle which takes place on 29th July at St. Brendans looks like being well on target. Getting the full support of all the members in this is important and we hope that you have played your part. If you have not already sold two or three books of tickets you have two months left in which to sell them. Why not give the Treasurer a ring now, I'm sure he will be only too pleased to hear from you.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to the Council of Irish County Association's Dinner and Dance and, of course, the President's £1,000 competition. Since the first year of this competition, the Kerry Association has managed to win a prize. We are confident from the work done during the past year that we will make it four in a row. In anticipation I should like to thank each and every member who has made this possible. Especially people who are not from Kerry and for that matter people who are not Irish and wished they were. Our sincere thanks to Tom Gorman for his kindness to County Associations and other charitable causes during the past number of years.

TRAVEL TO IRELAND

At the time of writing we had seats available on a BAC 111 Jet Flight to Cork on Sunday, 23rd July, returning from Cork on Sunday, 6th August. The inclusive fare is £21.00p. You will agree that this fare is very reasonable and anyone who is interested ring 422 2286 and the Chairman will give you details if seats are still available.

Our congratulations to Bill Sullivan, a native of Sneem on his recent marriage to Miss Hilary Bateman of Wicklow. Bill is Chairman of the Dublin Association, and both he and Hilary were very kind to the members of our Association when they travelled to Dublin for the Annual Dinner last November. Our thanks also to other members of the Dublin Committee for all the assistance given. We are looking forward to the trip again in 1972.

WEMBLEY GAMES TOURNAMENT

G.A.A. enthusiasts will be looking forward to the Gaelic Games at Wembley on Saturday, 27th May, when the footballers of Offaly, Galway, Cork and Derry do battle for the Wembley Tournament trophy. Also the Hurling match see that great side from Limerick against Dick Butler's favourite County pperary.

PROPERTY OF

(Continued on page 4) THE IRISH IN BRITAIN (Continued on page 4)
HISTORY CENTRE Tipperary.

METHODIST WESLEY DAY

Prayers for Ireland Wesley Day is to be the occasion for a service of intercession for peace and reconciliation in Ireland. It will take place at the Westminster Central Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the 24th May & will be conducted by the Minister, The Rev. Dr. Morris Barnett.

Ireland will be represented in the persons of the Primate of All Ireland the Most Rev. George O'Simms, and by the Rev. Dr. Chahill Daly, Bishop of Armagh Clanmacnoise, representing The Cardinal Archbishop Conway; also taking part Bishop Kenneth Sansbury, Secretary of the British Council of Churches; also the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth G. Greet. The service of prayer will be opened by The Metropolitan Archbishop Anthony Bloom. The welcoming address will be given by the Commander-in-Chief of the Salvation Army. Lessons will be read by Right Hon. The Earl of Longford, a nurse from Northern Ireland and the President of the Irish County Associations.

The following message to Methodists comes from the President of the Conference, The Rev. Kenneth L. Waights. Quote: One of the most agonising features of the Irish tragedy is that nobody feels he can do anything. This, of course, is not true for the Christian there is the great power of prayer and it is because of this that I must draw the attention of the whole Methodist church to the meeting to take place at the Westminster Central Hall. This is an occasion of deep significance and I would ask all Methodists to support the meeting, and would also ask that throughout Methodism there should be meetings called for prayer for Ireland at the same time; to invite specifically the Catholics and members of other denominations to join the intercession. If meetings are held for Wesley Day and are already arranged I would ask that part of that service be set aside for this intercession.

All Irish Associations and Societies, as well as The Irish Club and the N.U.I. Club are invited to attend this service.

T. BEAUMONT,

Secretary, Interdenominational Committee of Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland

KERRY ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 3)

The Association is on the look-out at all times for good secondhand furniture and children's clothing. A 'phone call to any of the officers from anyone who can help would be appreciated. In the course of your travels you may hear of someone who may be ill or in need of some type of assistance. The committee would also receive your requests for help with consideration.

We extend our sympathy to Tony Heaphy and the Heaphy family on the death of his father in Ireland. May he rest in peace. Mass will be offered at St. Joseph's, Wembley, on 21st May, for John O'Connor's father, and on 28th May for John Riordan's father. Both Masses are at 12 noon.

Members and friends recently had a very pleasant Social Evening with the members of the St. Joseph's Junior Football Club, Wembley. Our thanks to Fr. Looney, and our treasurer Mr. Greaney for same.

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Councillor P. J. Leonard, Mayor of Kettering, Northants, who left his native Lisnaskea thirty-eight years ago, was guest of honour at a reception and social organised by the Fermanagh Association of London at the Irish Centre, Camden Square. (Left to right): Mr. Hugh McCormack, chairman; Rev. Fr. Mee, Director, Irish Centre; Miss Patricia Leonard, Lady Mayoress; Councillor P. J. Leonard, Mayor of Kettering; Mrs. Rose Leonard; Mrs. H. McCormack, Hon. Secretary; Rev. Fr. Frank Gilbride, Vice-President.

(Photo. by P. J. Fahev)

FREEWAY MOTORING PLAN EXTENDED

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B. & I. LINE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS OF BRITAIN NEW G.A.A. PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE



Pictured at the B. & I. press reception at the Irish Club on 28th March to announce details of their sponsorship with the Provincial Council of the G.A.A. for Britain, are (left to right): Mr. R. P. Quinn, Advertising Manager, B. & I. Line; Mr. Jim Conway; Mr. Jim Mularkey; Mr. R. M. Delaney, Manager, B. & I. Motorway; Gerry Daly; Mr. Frank Nealis, P.R. Manager, B. & I. Line; Mr. Frank Sheehan and Mr. D. T. Mulvey, Promotions Executive, B. & I. Line.

Details of the first major sponsorship of G.A.A. games, since the Commission Report last December gave the green light to advertising and promotional activities, were announced at a function in The Irish Club in London on 28th March.

After weeks of discussion between B. & I. Line and the Provincial Council for Britain, the first stages of a "promotional package" were announced by Mr. Ron Delany, Manager B. & I. Motorway Division, along with officers of the Council.

Officials of the Association in Ireland have been kept in touch with the discussions and have welcomed the arrangement between

B. &. I. Line and the British arm of the G.A.A.

The main points of the package announced last night were:

1. B. &. I. Line to sponsor the senior club football and hurling championships of Britain. These championships to be now known as the B. &. I. Line Club Hurling Championship of Britain and the B. &. I. Line Club Football Championship of Britain.

2. B. &. I. Line to supply the County Boards in Britain (and Clubs where relevant) with "shell" programmes for overprinting, distribution and sale, at various games throughout Britain. These

programmes to carry B. &. I. Line publicity exclusively.

(The programmes are sold extensively at games by the G.A.A. in Britain, often instead of a "gate", which they are in some instances not allowed to collect when the matches are played on public playing fields).

3. B. & I. Line to supply clubs in Britain with fixture postcards for informing players of fixtures, etc. These postcards also carry

some B. &. I. Line publicity.

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OF LONDON

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The final heat of the Michael Molloy singing competition organised by the Galway Association in London was held last week in the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The winner was Tony Holland who received the Michael Molloy Trophy from Mrs. Molloy. (Left to right) Jerry O'Flynn, Chairman Galway Association; Pauline O'Donnell (Sligo) who was third; Tony Holland; Mrs. Molloy; Pat O'Brien (Waterford) second; and Michael Walsh, Secretary Galway Association who acted as M.C.

The Michael Molloy Singing Competition

This competition is to perpetuate the memory of a deceased member of our Association, one Michael Molloy, formerly of Wood Quay, Galway City, who during his lifetime was gifted with a rather wonderful voice. Citizens of Galway City will remember him best when, as a boy in the Nineteen-Thirties, his young voice held many a congregation spellbound in St. Augustine's Church, Middle Street. In later years he was an outstanding attraction with The London Irish at their Social Functions and no occasion was thought complete among The Connacht County Associations unless Michael Molloy was billed among the stars. Eliminating heats in this singing contest had been under way at The Irish Centre, Camden Square, London, for some considerable time and on Tuesday, 21st March, the final produced such remarkable talent the panel of judges must have been gifted with exceptional wisdom to decide on the winners. The adjudicators in this final were: Pat Coady (impressario), Grace O'Connor (soprano), Revd. Father Healey (Cork) Columban Fathers, and Chris Forde (Galway), proprietor

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CENTRAL WAY, FAGGS ROAD, FELTHAM, MIDDX. 01-890 1331 GALWAY ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 11)

of spacious halls which are well known to the Irish community in London for their entertainment value. Mr. Forde is a great friend of the Galway Association of which he is a Vice-President.

The following competitors took part in this final: Mr. J. Allman, Kerry; Mr. J. Coyle, Dublin; Miss A. Dennehy, Mayo; Mr. A. Holland, London; Mr. J. Mackey, Wexford; Mr. D. McMahon, Clare; Mr. P. O'Brien, Waterford, and Miss Patricia O'Donnell, London.

Mr. A. Holland, of Wallingham, Surrey, was declared winner. His final rendering of "Danny Boy" tipped the scales in his favour. He received the perpetual trophy, together with a miniature copy. Mr. P. O'Brien was awarded second prize, an ornate clock, and third prize was awarded to Miss Patricia O'Donnell — a silver plate. Miss O'Donnell is employed by Japanese Airlines, London.

The accompanist was Mr. P. J. Hynes (Galway) on the electric organ. The standard of singing was very high and some competitors were thought unlucky not to have qualified for a prize. The trophy was donated by the Galway Association. The second prize was donated by Mr. Chris Forde and third prize donated by our Chairman, Mr. Gerry O'Flynn. We in the Galway Association wish to thank all competitors who took part. We tender our sincere appreciation to the judging panels throughout the various heats, not forgetting that wizard of the keyboard, Mr. P. J. Hynes who has been so helpful throughout.

Our very special thanks to Father Sheridan of The Irish Centre and to our efficient Secretary, Mr. M. Walshe who organised the competition and performed the duties of M.C. on all occasions.

At a Farewell Party given by the Galway Association of London in The Casserley Court Hotel, Queens Gardens, London, W.2., more than fifty members attended to extend to Michael and Kathleen Walshe their good wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of this young couple who return to The Emerald Isle in a few weeks' time to take up permanent residence.

Michael, a Batchelor of Engineers and a product of University College, Galway, has been Secretary of the Association for some time. Under his capable direction the Association went from strength to strength and due to his ability in organising many and varied social and welfare activities the interest of members has been maintained whilst the past two months has seen an influx of twenty-five newcomers. Michael also served on the Executive Committee of The Council of Irish County Associations in London where his outstanding qualities and drive were much appreciated. His support of The Irish Counties Journal in every issue with a bilingual approach (being a fluent Irish speaker) was most refreshing, whilst The Children's Essay Competition, which he organised under the title "Tir Na N-og" was greatly esteemed by the young entrants who produced some brilliant work.

GALWAY ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 13)

As a "Going Away" present the Association has given Michael and Kathleen a Galway cut-glass decanter and glasses which await them in Galway City, to be collected at a time suitable to them. Three Vice-Presidents of the Association: Mr. Eddie O'Connell, Mr. Pat Smythe and Dr. Sean Fahey, together with their good Ladies, were among those in attendance whilst former Officers and the present Committee of Management came along to add their good wishes. Mr. and Mrs. John and Kathleen Lydon (Mayo), highly esteemed friends and valued patrons at our social functions, were with us also on this occasion.

Glowing tributes were paid to Michael and Kathleen by the Chairman, Mr. Gerry O'Flynn, by Very Revd. Fr. Brendan Burke, P.P., a former Chairman and by the Press Officer, to which Michael

suitably replied.

Dancing continued to the music of a newly formed group, The Ml. Rockett and Andy Boyle Violin-Accordian Orchestra, whilst the Association's Choral Symphonic Quintet rendered enchanting airs throughout the evening. A special Cabaret Act with a National flavour as its theme was brilliantly produced and executed with customary expertise by our Entertainments Manager, Mr. J. Quinn.

At midnight, final farewells were spoken and Galwegians, homeward bound, sped through the night, happy in the thought that another evening of friendship, gaiety and goodwill had been enjoyed by all, in saying "Go N-eirigh an bothair libh" to two dear friends.

BOB DALY,

Press and Enrolment Officer
Flat 3, No. 4 Carminia Road, London, S.W.17.

B. & I. — (Continued from page 9)

Discussions between the Provincial Council in Britain and B. & I. Line are continuing in a number of other areas of possible co-operation, particularly on the development of minor football and hurling.

On behalf of the Provincial Council, Mr. Frank Bellew, President; Mr. Pat McCabe, Vice-President; and Mr. Michael O'Reilly, Secretary, welcomed the arrangement. They thanked B. &. I. Line for their efforts in getting the details of the scheme worked out and

felt it would be to their mutual benefit.

Mr. Ron Delany, for B. &. I. Line, said that while the total promotion was in the main intended to encourage Irish people in Britain to use B. &. I. Line services — not only this year, but every year — the company also had a desire to get more involved with the affairs of the Irish in that country. Though they were already involved on many fronts, this was the first time they had been able to get together with the G.A.A. which was easily the biggest single organised group of Irish outside of Ireland. He was hopeful that further discussions would be equally fruitful.

DRAMA AT THE IRISH CLUB

The revival of the Drama Circle in the Irish Club, Eaton Square, was greeted enthusiastically by many members and, after its few toddling steps, its latest production — SIVE — gave all the indications of a rapidly developing maturity.

The choice of play, for any Drama Group, is of great importance and is always difficult. Apart from its artistic or entertainment merits, the producer has got to relate the play to his available cast,

which always presents a problem.

In selecting SIVE for their third production at the Club on 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of April, the Group showed great courage and confidence. This moving play, by the Kerry playwright John B. Keane, is set in a remote mountainy part of Kerry, in the recent past. It is a story of greed, self-righteousness, and the cunning exploitation of human weakness. It is told with vigour, colour, and a keen sense of character; the play is enriched with an abundance of pungent humour, which helps to highlight the pathos and the poignancy of the piece. The dialogue is rich in almost every line, and the invective devastating.

For a young, and comparatively inexperienced group to tackle this play constituted a challenge, but the final production completely justified their choice. Some of the parts in the play are so colourful that there could be a temptation to overplay them — this was avoided: the comedy could have been spoiled by "playing for laughs"; this did not happen and, as a result, the humour flowed naturally through the play as part and parcel of it. The freshness of the dialogue was a treat to listen to, especially when spoken so convincingly in a rich Kerry accent — real and unreal.

I hesitate to single out any individual performance because each attacked his or her part with gusto and verve. I must, however, make special mention of the excellent team work, and the sensitive direction of Derek Mahon-Smith. The production suffered, of course, from the usual defects of amateur performances: playing behind furniture, excessive movement, awkward hand movements, occasional backs to the audience; faulty grouping and occasional 'masking'. These, however, are minor defects which experience will, in due course eliminate.

A special tribute must be paid to Mr. Niall Nelson for his initiative and tenacity in getting the group off the ground, in more senses than one, for it was he who was also responsible for the design and construction of the portable stage which is now Club property,

and can be dismantled and re-erected at short notice.

The Drama Circle is open to all Irish Club members and those interested are invited to attend at the Club on Mondays at 8.0 p.m. For those wishing to enlarge their circle of friends, I know of no better way than through an amateur drama group — even if stage talent is limited to picking up the stage carpenter's hammer whenever he drops it.

PATRICK MULLOY

15



The re-opening of the luxurious Spurs picture shows (Left) Mr. A. H. Frazer, Director, Watneys, and Mr. J. McCabe, Mine Host at the Spurs.

(Photo. by Gerry Harrington)

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QUIZ COMPETITION, 1971

Both the Inter-County and Individual Quiz Championships for 1971 have now been completed. The "Guinness Cup" for the team event was won by Donegal when they defeated Offaly in the final by 82 points to 70. It was Donegal's first time to secure this coveted trophy. They were worthy winners. On two previous occasions they emerged with the runner-up honours, but in this last contest their perseverance brought about its just reward. The greatest of credit must also go to Offaly. At the half-way stage only two points separated the contestants. In Round 4, Offaly suffered a severe lapse from which they found it impossible to recover in the two succeeding rounds. Mrs. Rita McGinley and Mr. P. J. Hegarty with 20 points each out of a possible 24 were best for Donegal. Owen Brannigan and Len Cann with 16 each were best for Offaly. M. Waters, Carlow Association, was Quiz Master, and Mrs. M. Waters was scorekeeper and timekeeper. Rev. Fr. Sheridan, O.M.I., Irish Centre, presented the "Guinness Cup" to P. J. Hegarty, Captain Donegal team. He congratulated the winners and also paid a glowing tribute to Offaly on their magnificent display.

Mr. Tom Dack, Kilkenny Association, won the Individual title from eleven finalists. He scored the maximum 24 points. Early in the contest it developed into a neck-and-neck race with M. Waters, Carlow Association. They had both scored the maximum 18 points at the end of 5th Round. Their nearest rivals then were J. O'Reilly, Cavan, and A. Brady, Carlow, with 14 each. In the final round M. Waters failed to answer his question. T. Dack answered his and thus secured the cup and title.

QUIZ COMPETITION 1972

The following eight Associations drew Byes to the 2nd Round of the competition:

Kilkenny, Galway, Sligo, Wexford, Offaly, Kerry, Waterford and Carlow. They will meet the winners of the 1st Round in the order in which they were drawn (e.g. Kilkenny will meet winner of Meath v. Cavan contest, and so on). The competitors in the 1st Round will be: Meath v. Cavan; Longford v. Limerick; Leitrim v. Westmeath; Donegal v. Tipperary; Roscommon v. Clare; Kildare v. Cork; Monaghan v. Fermanagh; Laois v. Mayo.

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Jim and Ann Sankey

Photo by Gerry Harrington

Jim and Ann Sankey
(Cavan Association)

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Hon. Secretary: Mr. B. F. Mullen, 8 Dorville Crescent, Ravenscourt Park, London, W6 0HJ. Telephone 748 3480



Picture shows Mr. J. J. Crossan presenting a cheque to Mr. Brian Mullen (Cavan Association Secretary) in aid of the New School for Mentally Handicapped Children being erected at Cootehill, Co. Cavan. Committee members included in the picture are Mrs. J. O'Brien, Rev. T. McCabe and Mr. John Carolan.

The Dance held in the Gresham Ballroom recently in aid of the new school for mentally handicapped being built at Cootehill, was a good success. Our sincere thanks to all who supported it. This Fund is progressing favourably, but there is still a long way to go to achieve our target of £1,000. The forthcoming fund-raising attractions include: a Dance on Sunday, 30th April, at the Aranmore (Court) Ballroom, 19 Balham High Road, S.W.12. Music is supplied by The Kingdom. Dancing is from 9.0 p.m. to 1.0 a.m.

The Hall is licensed and tickets are 40p.

The Committee have arranged a charity walk in the Richmond area for Sunday, 4th June. For this we will require as many walkers as possible and, of course, sponsors for those who are walking. So if you would like to sponsor someone on this walk, give the Secretary a ring and he will do the rest. If you feel like walking, you get as many people as possible to sponsor you. The distance is ten miles so if you are sponsored at 5p per mile and you complete the course, your sponsor owes the Association 50p. It sounds a long distance at first but when you realise what it is for it is worth the effort.

After the long winter it is an ideal opportunity to shed some of those unwanted pounds. So contact the Secretary if you're inter-

ested and I am sure you won't regret it.

28th MAY - 4th JUNE

In association with Kilkenny Association, London, the following holidays, all of which include a special Dinner on 30th May at Kyteler's Inn, Kilkenny, and afterwards free admission to the Beer Tent in the Festival Park have been arranged by Bord Failte/Pall Mall Travel:

HOLIDAY ONE

Second class rail, standard class steamer, departing London (Euston) Saturday, 27th May, at 18.30 hrs., via Liverpool to Dublin and by rail to Kilkenny. Return, arriving Euston at 11.16 hrs. on Tuesday, 6th June. Price £14.70p per person

HOLIDAY TWO

First class rail and steamer from London (Euston) departing Sunday. 28th May, at 6.10 via Holyhead to Dun Loaghaire, Dublin. Transfer by rail to Kilkenny. Return. Price £16.20p per person.

HOLIDAY THREE

Day tourist class air from London to Dublin, scheduled flight departing Sunday, 28th May, returning Sunday, 4th June. Rail transfer Dublin/Kilkenny. Seven nights accommodation Newpark Hotel (subject to availability) based on twin bedded rooms on a bed/breakfast rate. Price £29.50p per person.

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Chairman: Mr. T. DACK, 4 Streatley Flats, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 Tel. 01-435 2504

Secretary:

Mrs. E. STELLITANO, 61 Holmbury Grove, Forest Dale, Addington, Surrey Tel.: 01-651 1452

The troubles in Northern Ireland may have one good aspect about them. They have, I believe, stirred the Irishness within us. They may have made a lot of people realise that, even though they often thought of the homeland, that's as far as it went. The idea of buying Irish goods or, in fact, spending their holidays in Ireland now and again was far from the minds of many Irish men and women.

On the other hand, Bord Failte and the Tourist trade in general were happy to plod along, seemingly safe in the knowledge that people would come to Ireland in their thousands every year, regardless. No-one seemed worried about rising costs in the trade. While the rest of the tourist world were busy planning package holidays and cutting costs to encourage people to their countries, the Irish were sitting back in their chairs in Dublin looking on. Now and again they sent some advertisements to glossy magazines (which the average man in the street never read anyway). Of course the emigrant would always come home for his holiday. Not on y that, but he would encourage some of his English pals to come too, so why should Bord Failte bother? That was 60% of the trade accounted for without any fuss. All that was left was 40% so a few conferences here and there would make up for that. money was needed to bring home. The emigrant, after all like his English pal, he would make his own arrangements and pay top prices all along the line, which prompts the question "was all the posh offices, boards of staff and millions of pounds, really necessary for 40% of the market?

Then came the crunch, 1972. Ireland was out on a limb with many a red face and tight collar, the boys in Dublin realised that the time had come (perish the thought) to get off their backsides and do something. Of course, they could not approach the emigrants as such so, after some great soul-searching, they found a suitable word to fit the situation. Hence we are now part of the "Ethnic market" and under that heading we have become very

important.

The question now is: will the emigrant be prepared to play his part; will he be prepared to change his outlook on holidays at home? I believe that until he is prepared to stay in hotels while at home, he will always have to pay top prices. Far too many people in the past have been classed as snobs for staying in hotels rather than with their folks at home. Bord Failte, have, in my mind, been far too slow in telling the Irish people that it's just good sound common sense rather than snobbery to stay in hotels.

(Continued on page 25)



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THE BRENT IRISH SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Federation of Irish Societies (Southern Region)
President: M. BROWNE (Tel. 01-485 9414)
Chairman: E. WAGSTAFF, 117 Fleetwood Road, London, N.W.10. (Tel. 01-452 6851)

Secretary: Mrs. M. O'SULLIVAN, 1014A Harrow Road, Wembley (Tel. 904-3668)

Treasurer: Mr. CON GALLIGAN, 3 Riffle Road, London, N.W.10



Our Miss Ireland, Miss Caroline Banks, accompanied by Michael Brown, President Irish Societies, and Mrs. E. Wagstaff, Chairman Brent Irish
Society — Photo by P. J. Fahey

Dear Member.

The sun is kind to us at the moment. I hope we'll be as kind to Ireland and spend our holiday money there, instead of in other foreign lands. Our own land needs us more than ever this year. One gets awfully tired of hearing "I'm going to Spain . . etc.", when Ireland needs our support more than ever this year to keep the tourist industry alive.

Our children were determined to hold their own St. Patrick's Day March this year, so they did just that to the delight of all, Jew and Gentile. They marched to church to great ovation from the residents of Brent. We would like to thank all who attended and followed our little band. A word to the children, as usual — you were great! God bless you all.

We would like to thank the editor of this Journal for allowing us the space for our publicity.

Julie Sullivan to open Fete

Tickets are now available for our Annual Dinner which is to be held at The Irish Club, Eaton Square, on 9th June. Do book early as tickets are limited.

(Mrs.) A. O'SULLIVAN Asst. Secretary

The AIB Airlift

New Savings Scheme helps you holiday in Ireland more often

Allied Irish Banks and Aer Lingus have got together to give you a lift! With a Savings Scheme that helps you ease the cost of one or more holidays each year in Ireland. (You don't even have to be Irish to avail of the scheme!)

Here's how the AIB Airlift operates. You save so much every week (or month) regularly. Lodge it at any bank — it isn't necessary to be a customer of AIB. Whatever the amount you save, AIB will give you an interest rate of 4½% on the money and if, when holiday time comes round, you need a loan to help out — come and talk to us. We'll lend a friendly ear! So that, whether you save, long or short term, you gain an extra holiday bonus!

It's simple — and it makes your holidays that much easier to budget for. Gives you more of an incentive to plan visits to Ireland more often!

Want to know more? Get the brochure "The AIB Airlift" from any AIB branch, your nearest Aer Lingus office or travel agent. It gives you full details of how to plan a carefree holiday in Ireland more often!

Your AIB Airlift is as near as your local bank



KILKENNY ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 21)

To give an example, a week in Kilkenny for the Beer Festival—26th May - 4th June return Air London - Dublin, return rail Dublin - Kilkenny, seven nights at a top hotel, Reunion Dinner and a free night in the Beer Tent, price £29 . 50 at normal air and rail prices—it would cost over £30 to travel to Kilkenny alone and another £20 for the hotel, if booked privately. Another aspect we should remember, is that by being well organised and planning our holidays ahead, we could get much better terms by group travel. Here again I give an example. Again, to the Beer Festival by return Boat and Rail London - Kilkenny, and the Reunion Dinner and free to Beer Tent, total cost £14 . 70p. Both of these trips are subject to a minimum of 10 persons travelling together. I think you'll agree, the figures speak for themselves. Many other trips such as these have been alranged to the various parts of Ireland this year.

The Kilkenny Association is doing everything possible to help in encouraging people to return home this year and everything possible also to get the best possible terms. We feel that if people got together in groups they could save quite a bit of money on the fares. We also believe that people going to Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford should get together, as the more people

travel together, the better the terms.

We would welcome any ideas that the public may have on the subject.

IRELAND CALLING

I have just heard the call of the cuckoo Maytime — merry Maytime has come Once again in my heart is a yearning It's Ireland calling me home.

Come back to the quiet dreamy valleys To the beauty of hillside and brae In the spell of a soft Irish twilight Your troubles will soon fade away.

Come back when June-time is smiling From the glory of gay sunny skies Come back where the thrush and the blackbird Bid you welcome with sweet "lullabys".

Come back to the meadows and woodlands Where the bluebells and sweet primrose grow And the little brown streams filled with sunshine Making music wherever they flow.

Come back to the home of your dreaming To the loved ones who wait for you there Come back to Old Ireland — your homeland There is no place on earth half so fair.

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THE MEATH ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

Chairman: Mr. P. GOODMAN 102 Kenton Lane Kenton Tel. 01-904 7404

Secretary: Mrs. M. SWAN 15 Algernon Road Hendon, N.W. 4

It was lovely to see you all enjoying yourselves at our Bacon and Cabbage Dinner and Dance at The Irish Centre on 1st April. What a lovely way to end April Fools' Day; the ladies in all their finery and the gentlemen having a whale of a time. I thank you all for your help in making the evening such a success. A word of praise to the staff of the Centre for a very good meal and good service.

Our Dance at the Gresham on 7th April and our social at The Chippenham were both a high success. Thanks once again for your support, as without it we can achieve nothing.

Future

A date for your diary: 29th May (Bank Holiday Weekend). Our Annual Trip to Margate. Dip your toes in the sea and live it up on the way home at the Roman Gallery with high tea and a social. All-in price £1. 75p. per person. Tickets from the Chairman or Secretary at the addresses above, or any member of the Committee. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

JOE SWAN

CAVAN ASSOCIATION — (continued from page 19)

Our Bacon and Cabbage Supper is arranged for Saturday, 20th May, at the Irish Centre. Tickets are £1.25p each and are available from any Committee member. This function was a great success last year and we are looking forward to even better things this year.

Bacon and Cabbage Supper

on Saturda	y, 20th	May,	1972, a	t the I	rish C	entre,	at 7.45	p.m.
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Hon. Secretary:
Mr. M. DONOVAN, 59 Park Road, Hendon, N.W.4. Tel.: 202 6357
Assistant Treasurer: Mr. P. MOLONEY. Tel.: 450 7027
Assistant Secretary: Mr. H. DAVIS

As the Summer draws near, the Association finds itself rather busy preparing for its Summer Programme of social events.

On 9th June we have a dance at the Cricklewood Hotel. This Dance has been organised for the benefit of two of our members who have been out of work through illness for a long time. We have engaged the services of the Johnny McCauley Trio for this occasion and we look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible on that night. Tickets for this Dance are available at 40p. each.

On Friday, 16th June, we have a real Summer event for our members, in the form of a Boat Dance and Buffet on the River Thames. The Boat leaves Westminster Pier at 8.0 p.m. sharp on that night. There will be a licensed bar on the bottom deck, and music and dancing on the upper deck. To secure a place on board contact one of the social committee as soon as possible, as tickets are limited to 140. Once again for those who are attending, the Boat will leave at 8.0 p.m. sharp. It travels down river and returns to Westminster Pier at midnight. We cannot refund money to anyone who misses the boat as this is not a profit making venture. Tickets for this event cost £1.30p.

In July we shall have a dance at Brent Town Hall. Music will once again be by Johnny McCauley. Details of this shall be announced later.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner at home takes place at the Tower Hotel, Waterford City, on 5th August. We are organising a flight by Aer Lingus, leaving London on Friday evening, 4th August, and returning Sunday night, 6th August. The cost, including bed and breakfast and coach from Dublin to Waterford, £28.50p. per person. If any of you wish to stay an extra 5 days, bed and breakfast is only £8 per person extra. This price is based on thirty persons or over travelling. So do hurry so that we can make a definite booking. Phone 01-202 6357.

Any weekend by rail from Euston via Liverpool to Dublin and coach to Waterford bed and breakfast, two nights £18 per person. The extra five nights' bed and breakfast £8. This again is based

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A Holiday at Home in Leitrim

For the thousands of Irish people scattered throughout the world every holiday period recalls vivid memories of happy holidays they had at home and, while for many, an annual holiday in the homeland is a reality, for many more it is just another unfulfilled ambition.

The anticipated decline in the number of British visitors to Ireland this year as a result of "the Troubles in the Six Counties" could have far-reaching effects not only for the Irish Tourist industry but on the whole country. Responsible organisations with vested interest in the Irish Tourist industry are this year, and rightly so, concentrating on attracting the Irish people to return home for their holidays. Many attractive incentives are offered in this year's "holiday packages" by Aer Lingus, B. & I. and many other bodies, including numerous hoteliers in an effort to make this a "record return" for the Irish in Britain to holiday in Ireland. No doubt very many will welcome the incentives to return home and gladly avail of them.

Leitrim is by no means among the counties that have benefitted most from the Tourist industry but there is evidence of very considerable growth and development of the trade within the County in recent years. Any great decline in the numbers of holiday-makers this year could have serious effects on the future of the industry and could result in grave financial hardships for the people in County Leitrim who are not blessed with any major industry.

Leitrim people residing outside the County should ensure that this will not happen by returning home for at least part of their holidays. Leitrim people living in Britain should avail themselves of the attractive incentives offered by Aer Lingus, B. & I., and various other organisations to County Leitrim. With all the information so necessary for holidaying they should arrange their holidays as early as possible to coincide with the festivities in the area of their choice.

Leitrim, so often overlooked, has much to offer to the holidaymaker: scenic beauty, amenities for angling, fishing and cruising, 33 (Continued on page 35)

Announcing a very attractive offer from Bank of Ireland.

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MAYTIME MEMORIES

My memory of Maytime A sleepy country lane A cottage crowned in golden thatch A tiny window-pane A woodlands filled with bluebells A violet-studded nook A brown trout darting onwards In a lazy flowing brook. A brown cow quietly grazing At the foot of a boreen In the little water meadow By a patchwork field of green The corn — the crops — the hillside Between the lilac trees The blossoms in the garden Now filled with birds and bees An orchard filled with sunshine Festooned with garlands gay That's what my heart remembers This happy Maytime day.

- Mai O'Higgins

LEITRIM ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 33) and a wealth of historic buildings all of which must surely have a very special appeal to Leitrim people who are carving out their destiny in British industrial areas of London, Birmingham, Manchester; but, perhaps the most lasting memory of any holiday in County Leitrim is the friendliness, hospitality and generosity of Leitrim people.

It is our earnest hope that all Leitrim people and their friends in Britain will make a special effort to holiday in Leitrim this year. We wish them a very enjoyable holiday, and to all our people at

home, our best wishes for a most successful season.

"I hear you calling me Lough Allen, O'er the silent Leitrim hills. As your waves transmit the message of my boyhood's happy thrills,"

Forthcoming Events

FEIS BREFNI at the Anson Hall, Chicele Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2., opening on Tuesday, 16th May, at 6.0 p.m. and closing on Sunday, 21st May. Arrangements are now almost finalised for the second annual Feis Brefni for which three additional trophies have been donated this year, bringing the total number of cups up to twelve. The number of entries for the various competitions is well in excess of 3,000. To cater for the increase in the entries, the Feis will commence each evening from Tuesday, 16th, to Friday, 19th May inclusive, at 6.0 p.m. and on Saturday 20th, and Sunday, 21st May, at 10.0 a.m.

FRIDAY, 9th JUNE. Association dance at the General Smutts

Hotel, White City, 8.0 p.m. to midnight.

MONDAY, 26th JUNE. Wild Rose Festival Queen Dance at the New Mazenod Hall, Quex Road, Kilburn, from 8.0 p.m. to midnight. Music by the Dublin Castle Trio. The Queen selected at the Dance will go forward for the Final of the Event which will be held at Manorhamilton in August. JAMES FOX, Chairman.

35

SAINT PATRICK'S FESTIVITIES IN DUBLIN

As part of a three day package deal with Aer Lingus. Our flight, due to leave london at 20.25 hours on 16th March, was delayed for thirteen hours due to fog at Dublin. We eventually took off for The Homeland at 09.30 hours on the morning of St. Patrick's Day, having been accommodated overnight by members of our party who reside convenient to London Airport. There was a certain amount of speculation among our party concerning our eligibility to join The Parade at this late hour as we were due to take up position around nine oclock for March Off at eleven prompt.

Arriving at Dublin Airport in brilliant sunshine, C.I.E. with great courtesy and even greater speed whisked us towards the Big Parade. At Angiers Street we decided to join The Parade whilst our coach took our belongings to Jury's Hotel. Members of The Gardai Siochana held up movement whilst we joined in, right behind a Pipe Band. We must here pay tribute to the efficiency and cheerfulness of The Gardai who were so alive to our situation and who so courteously aided our assembly. We would also like to apologise to Dubliners lining the route whom we may have disturbed through our entry.

So, to the skirl of pipes and beat of drums we raised our County Banners in tribute to our national Apostle and in honour of our Homeland as we marched towards O'Connell Street. We were exceptionally well received by the onlookers, were the recipients of many salutes from high-ranking Officers and applauded along the entire route. To us, who had just left London a little over an hour ago, words alone are hardly adequate to express our joy at being in such a friendly environment.

This year, to a theme of martial airs, the floats, the flowers, the girls and the bands moved through the streets and for more than an hour the air outside the G.P.O. echoed to Irish music and the onward march of a nation whilst The Bishop Kearney High School Band from New York supplied as a grand finale "The Battle Hymn of The Republic". There was a pronounced American flavour throughout the Parade, with contingents ranging from The Winnipeg American Club in which both men and women wore green straw banners, The Archbishop Carroll Band from Washington, The Friendly Sons of The Shillelagh, Whooping Red Indians doing a war dance, marching Connecticut Revels sporting War of Independence uniforms, stepping it out briskly behind a posse of formidable looking Davy Crocketts, Wild West Frontiersmen, high-stepping Drum Majorettes in scintillating costumes dancing to the music of fifty bands with hundreds of Irish Americans demonstrating how to celebrate Texas style. Returning to Jury's Hotel, our President, Mr. Tom Gorman, entertained the entire party to dinner. This

was an excellent meal, something which one would associate with Tom Gorman, when he entertains. Many thanks, Tom, not alone for a wonderful meal with rather pleasant company amid cheerful surroundings but for the atmosphere of goodwill and Irish welcome which pervaded the whole scene.

The remainder of St. Patrick's Day and well into the following morning was given over to entertainment. We were exceptionally well treated by the staff of Jury's, who put at our disposal a large room and music to go with it. We would like to put on record a tribute to the staff of this hotel who left no stone unturned to make our stay with them so pleasant and memorable. We were treated with kindness, courtesy, consideration and, above all, with cheerfulness in attending to our wants. To make up for one night missed through flight cancellation, the hotel laid on a super meal for our benefit as part of the package deal with Aer Lingus. During this meal, we learned with some surprise that a respected member of one of our Premier County Associations and a man who bears one of the most honoured names in Irish history, had suddenly decided to turn vegetarian, positively refusing a huge T-bone steak in favour of vast quantities of green vegetable. This gave rise to the thought that, perhaps with a more liquid approach to our feeding problems, whilst inhaling Irelands champagne air, we might get a deeper understanding of the beneficience of the vegetarian diet.

During the evening, a young Dublin lady visiting the hotel asked the embarrassing question: "Are youse The English Crowd?" She was firmly but politely informed: "No, we are The Irish Crowd from London".

On 18th and 19th March, our party was free to do as it pleased. Some went on a shopping expedition in Dublin, others went to see their folks throughout the country, whilst members of the Galway Association fulfilled a long-standing invitation to visit Maynooth College as guests of Rev. Father John O'Flynn, Professor of Sacred Scripture, and an elder brother of our respected Chairman, Mr. Gerry O'Flynn, B.Comm. The Galway Association was represented at this venue by Mr. and Mrs. Gerry O'Flynn and Mrs. Christina Daly, whilst other members visited relatives throughout the country. In the peace and tranquility of Maynooth, the Galwegians were received with the utmost courtesy and kindness by Father John who, not alone proved a wonderful host, but who expressed so much delight in meeting fellow Galwegians.

In these columns we would like to extend to Father John our sincere appreciation of a great western gentleman who daily treads in the footsteps of countless thousands of distinguished men which this seat of learning has produced for the benefit of all nations.

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CLARE ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe Chairman: Mr. S. Igoe, 8 Elgin Avenue, Kenton, Middx. Tel. 01-907 2177

Treasurer: Mr. J. Long, 18 Grafton Crescent, London, N.W.1 Tel. 01-485 9553

Secretary: Mrs. M. Moroney 100 Sandymount Ave., Stanmore, Middx. Tel. 01-954 3400



Who enjoyed the Children's Party the most?

Dear Members.

The recent parish reunion, Miltown and Mullageh, which took place at the Gresham Ballroom was a great success. We are especially thankful to Rev. Father Walsh and Rev. Father Meehan who travelled over to be with their past parishioners for a few short hours. They certainly did their homework and, without consideration for themselves, they contacted everyone from the parishes, hence the large gathering at the Gresham. It is only right that I should also thank the helpers on this side who were tireless in their efforts to make this and similar functions successful.

We are continuing to operate the Tea Bar at the Irish Centre and we are now looking for other helpers to do one night in every six weeks. This is an opportunity to help the Centre and, indeed, to help ourselves, as there were many times in the past when I heard people say they would like to have a tea or coffee instead of a beer or some other drink.

Will you please note the following details and make your bookings as soon as possible:

Whitsun Holiday

Weekend London to Shannon. The Whitsun holiday weekend, from Friday evening to Monday evening with bed and breakfast for the three nights. All in price, £26.55p.

Summer Outing to Littlehampton

The Summer Outing to Littlehampton by coach on Sunday, 18th June, with the usual stops for eats and a dance on the way back from the coast. This has been arranged already and you are advised to book if you want to be included. Price £1.25p.

Summer Charter Flight

We are now taking bookings for the Summer Charter flight which takes place on 29th July from London to Shannon, returning two weeks later. Price will be £24. This is subject to a slight alteration up or down when we finally know the number that will be travelling. (Continued on page 40) 39

LONDON WEXFORDMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. DONAL HERLIHY, D.D., Bishop of Ferns
President: Rev. Fr. N. LAMBERT, O.S.C.
Vice-Presidents: Rev. Fr. DERMOT McGRATH, O.S.C.,; Mr. D. J. O LEARY
Treasurer: Mr. D. CADOGAN
Chairman: Mr. P. McCABE Secretary: Mrs. BRIDGET MERNAGH

Dear Members.

On Saturday, 13th May, 1972, there is to be a dance, cabaret and short film on County Wexford, narrated by Val Doonican, at The Spotted Dog, Cavendish Rooms, 38 High Road, N.W.10. This promises to be a very enjoyable night and there is dancing and licensed bar to a.m. Tickets are only 40p, and an added attraction is a special door prize of two tickets to Dublin or Cork for all the people who come before 10 p.m.

On Sunday, 4th June,

we hold a benefit dance at the Aranmore Ballroom, Balham, for one of our members who has gone blind. This is a very deserving cause and all members are asked to support this function either by attending the

dance or buying a ticket. On Sunday, 7th May, the St. Fintan's of Mayglass are coming to London to play Father Murphy's in hurling and football matches at Hayes, Middlesex, at 2.15 p.m. On the Satur-day night, 6th May, there will be a social at the Cricklewood Hotel, Cricklewood Broadway, N.W.2, at which the St. Fintan's team and sup-porters will attend. There will also be a dinner and social at the Cricklewood Hotel after the games on Sunday evening at 6.30.

Looking forward to seeing you all on those dates.

> Mrs. B. MERNAGH. Secretary.



Photograph shows (from left): Pat McCabe, Martin Whitty, His Eminence Cardinal Heenan and Danny O'Leary, on the occasion of the Association's presentation of a wheelchair to Cardinal Heenan for The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes.—Photo by Gerry Harrington.

CLARE ASSOCIATION — (Continued from page 39)

Buffet Supper. 8th July

The Buffet Supper will take place at the Irish Centre on 8th July. This is already filling up, so if you wish to be included, please make

your booking now. Price £1.25p.

Looking ahead we have plans for another visit to Shannon in October and the full details of this will be given to you in a later issue. In the meantime I shall be pleased to hear from anyone who wishes to join us for the other flights.

With kindest regards to all, (Mrs.) N. T. MORONEY

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