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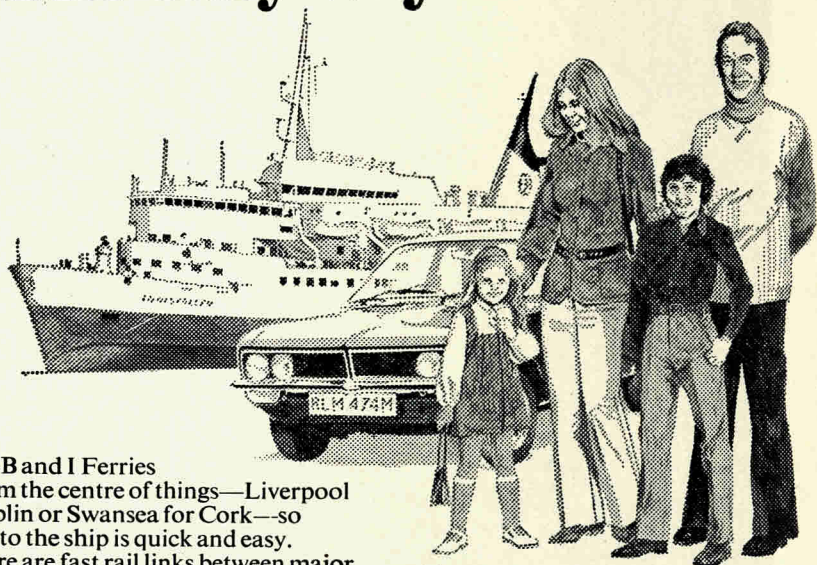
FEBRUARY, 1974

ISSUE No. 3

VOLUME 4



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At a recent meeting for the election of officers for 1974/75 our present Chairman, Mr. S. Igoe, declined to go forward for another term. He explained that owing to pressure of work he was unable to give the time necessary for doing the work that was required within the Association. It was then proposed that Mr. J. Canny be made Chairman and this was then accepted unanimously. There are no further changes at the present time.

I take this opportunity to thank Sean Igoe for the work he has done in the past four years. It was very easy to work with him and of course he will still be with us on the committee. Our new Chairman, John Canny, is very well known to all Clare people in London. He is a founder member and for many years was on the committee. We are very pleased that John, who hails from Corifin, has accepted the chair and we feel sure that he will do a first class job.

Our children's party which took place recently was a great success and we were delighted to have so many children, 120 in all. This of course included a party of children from the East End of London who by all appearances enjoyed themselves very well. Many thanks to our helpers and to all who brought eats and other goodies. Our grateful thanks to Mr. T. Gorman for the items he supplied for the children's party and for his valued support on many other occasions.

By the time you read this our Bacon and Cabbage Dinner which takes place on 2nd February will be over, and at the time of writing we are turning away several applications for tickets. We regret this, but unfortunately we can only cater for 240 and above this amount we have to say no to all comers.

Our present Bunratty flight which takes place on February 16th is well overbooked and we will have to ask some members to stand down unless some of the applicants withdraw. This is a source of worry to have so many requests for seats but we cannot manage to get a larger aircraft. We are considering having a flight to Shannon for St. Patrick's Day and I would be happy to hear from anyone who would wish to travel. On this occasion there would be no mediaeval dinner included as the Castle is fully booked for that weekend. It would mean that we would travel to Shannon and let people please themselves as to what they would wish to do. Bed and breakfast would of course be included at one of the hotels and we think that the flight with B. & B. would cost around £20.

We have a group travelling to Coventry for the Birmingham and Coventry Dinner Dance on 9th February. I will give you details of this and other happenings in the next issue.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade takes place on Sunday, March 17th. I expect to see you all there in great force. I do not have all details at the moment but there will be notices in the papers regarding times, etc.

We are playing against Armagh in the quarter finals of the quiz and I hope to be able to report success in the next issue.

(continued on page 30)

JOHN O'CONOR

Winner of the Fourth International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna, June, 1973

On Monday, 21st January, 1974, this young and very talented Irish pianist made his solo debut at the Wigmore Hall.

In the peaceful surroundings of the Wigmore Hall, John O'Conor, gave the listeners a wonderful night of music. I have not a great knowledge of music, but his recital gave me a most enjoyable evening, and I felt myself being carried along by the many changes of mood.

The music critic of "The Daily Telegraph" said that after hearing this astonishing young pianist's performance of Beethoven's "Diabelli" Variations, it was no surprise to learn that he was unanimously awarded the first prize in last year's International Beethoven Piano Competition.

Besides Beethoven's 33 Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli, the programme included Sonata in B minor by Haydn and Sonata No. 1 in F sharp minor by Schumann.

John O'Conor was born in Dublin in 1947. He studied piano at the College of Music with Dr. J. J. O'Reilly and subsequently obtained an honours degree in music at University College, Dublin. He also studied with Harry Isaacs, Carlo Zecchi, Nikita Magaloff and Guido Agosti, and since 1971 he has been studying at the Hochschule fur Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna with Dieter Weber. In June, 1973, he received the above award, earning particular praise for his magnificent performance.

He already has considerable experience in performing recitals and concertos and has played on radio and television for the B.B.C., as well as in Ireland and Austria. His future plans include engagement in Poland, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Ireland, England and the United States and Canada.

His parents and his aunt, Agnes O'Conor, who is no mean pianist herself, travelled from Dublin to be present at this recital.

MARIE MULLEN, Cavan Association

Comment

The Irish Counties Journal commissioned Mrs. Mullen to do the above. Marie is too modest to say that the talented young man is her nephew. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Mullen for the secretarial services to this journal in recent months, free of charge.

EDITOR

Stop Press

Dublin Association are holding their A.G.M. on 10th March, 1974, at the Irish Centre, Murrey Street, Camden Town. Proceedings to start at 3 p.m. New members welcome.

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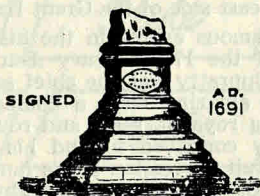
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Annual General Meeting, 1974

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, 17 February, at 4.00 p.m., at The Chippenham, Shirland Road, London, W.9., and we hope to see a very large crowd at this meeting. One important point to be noted — to be eligible to vote, you must have previously paid your 1974 membership fee and we would ask you to send this in as soon as possible to our Treasurer: Mr. J. McMahon, 57 Kestlake Road, Kensal Rise, London, N.W.6. Membership fees will also be collected on the 17th before opening the A.G.M. if you do not get the opportunity to post it beforehand.

Benefit Dance — Mr. M. Graham

In the November issue of this journal, I inadvertently stated that the benefit dance which our Association held for Mr. Graham was run in co-operation with the Newcastle West Association. This was not a fact, and I apologise for this error.

Old Age Pensioners' Dinner and Social

Our Old Age Pensioners' Dinner and Social was certainly a success. No fewer than 130 senior citizens attended a four course Christmas dinner at the Cavendish Rooms followed by a very enjoyable social. Without exception, everyone agreed it was a delightful evening. During the course of the social our Grand Christmas Draw was held and we were more than happy when at least three of our 18 wonderful prizes went to people present. A vote of thanks to all the ladies who gave their services voluntarily in serving the dinner.

Handicapped and Homeless Children's Party

On Sunday, 23rd December, we entertained approximately 100 children to a grand party at which Father Christmas was in attendance, and it was a pleasure to see such anticipation and delight on those children's faces as Father Christmas — none other than our own Vice-Chairman, Patsy Danagher, who made the day, and also to our Press Officer, Tom O'Connor. Both these gentlemen were responsible for the organisation of the party, buying and wrapping all the presents etc., no easy task.

We would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Kelly for giving us the use of the Cavendish Rooms on this occasion. We would also like to thank the musicians and helpers who gave their services so

(continued on page 11)

BUNRATTY CASTLE

(continued from January)

The internal plaster decoration also suggests that it was put up about this time, and the interesting carved stone which has been read in error at different times as 1397 or 1497, but which on examination appears clearly to be 1597, was part of some decoration carried out by the Great Earl. This stone has now been inserted into a window embrasure on the east side of the Great Hall.

Some of the most famous events in the history of the castle took place in the middle of the 17th century. During the great rebellion which began in 1661, Bunratty was the chief seat of Barnaby the sixth Earl. Barnaby was an amazing man, a champion sitter-on-the-fence. "He succeeded in being royalist, rebel and roundhead at one and the same time, and finally contrived to end his days in the odour of loyalty to the King in full possession of his honours and estates", says Westropp, and he is not exaggerating Barnaby's perfidy. In 1646 the parliamentary forces occupied Bunratty, which was still a most strategic position. The confederates had occupied Limerick and if the parliamentary forces could hold Bunratty they could prevent any ships arriving at or leaving the port of Limerick and sailing up the Shannon. The defence of the castle was in the hands of Admiral Penn, the father of the celebrated founder of Pennsylvania. William Penn himself, whose mother came from a place close by the castle, as a small child apparently stayed in the castle during the siege with his father. After a long and fierce siege by the confederates, Penn had to surrender and sailed with his ships to Kinsale. The later history of the castle is tame and placid. The O'Briens never again occupied Bunratty, and the lands passed by sale to the Studdert family. From their descendant, Captain Russell, it finally passed into the possession of Lord Gort.

Life in Bunratty Castle Four Hundred Years Ago

The outer wall of an Irish Castle during the late middle ages generally encompassed a town, the kernel of which was the stone structure, now so much a feature of the Irish countryside. The other buildings were mostly of timber and have, in all cases, vanished.

Even a petty chief or nobleman would have scores of attendants, stewards, retainers and followers, while in the castle of a great prince, these would be increased to hundreds, marshals, stewards, cooks, scullions, pages, footboys, grooms, herdsman and a score of other callings would be constantly entering and leaving Bunratty Castle on their multifarious businesses.

Food and drink would be always in demand. Travellers, many with a numerous retinue, would be always coming and going demanding the free and lavish hospitality which was the custom of the time and the mark of an Irish chieftain.

Many of the Earl's followers would have lived in the now vanished town outside the castle gates, but his lesser servants were housed in the clustering wooden huts and bothies within the castle bawn and immediately outside the door. The Earl and his family occupied the top-most and, therefore, safest rooms, and slept in beds, while his personal servants and officials would lie at night in the various small chambers, on truckle beds and straw palliasses, or huddled on the floors of the Great Hall and Main Guard.

It is difficult to realise to what extent ceremony and the dignity of estate formed the pattern of life among the noble born. When the Earl sat in his Great Hall, he was more than the Earl, he was O'Brien, chief of his name "Capitaneus Nationis Suae" as the ancient deeds say leader and also father of his sept or blood. No one sat in his

(continued on page 18)

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OUR QUIZ

Junior:

1. Which is the only European Country that does not border on a country which touches the sea?
2. What is a hobbledhoy?
3. What is the name for the supports of overhead electricity power cables?
4. Why does a fish die out of water?
5. With what type of dancing was Bill Haley associated?
6. In pantomime, if you were Harlequin, what would your partner's name be?

Veterans:

1. What is odd about this sentence: "This is Mrs. O'Neill; her husband suffers from gametophobia?"
2. Which was the first European Country to concede Women's suffrage?
3. Who was the first Irish Saint to be formally canonised by a Pope?
4. What is a pathetic fallacy?
5. What does the name "Lucifer" mean?
6. What are the main sources of electric power in Ireland?

Answers on page 14

The Limerick Association (continued from page 7)

Our next social will take place on Friday, 15th March, at the Cavenish Rooms, tickets 50p, music by The Smugglers.

On the 21st March we are holding a Benefit Dance at The Galtimore. This dance is in aid of Sean Byrnes and family. Sean hails from Kilkenny and his wife, Helen, is from Bruff. Sean has been ill with multiple sclerosis for the past seven years and is now rapidly losing his sight. He has two children aged five and six. This dance will be run in conjunction with the Kilkenny Association and we thank them for their co-operation. We would like also to express our thanks to the management of The Galtimore for allowing us the use of the hall on that night.

As it is now almost the end of our year I would say that we are all very pleased with the results achieved during 1973. In all, we have donated approximately £1,500 to various charitable causes and organisations, and this result was only achieved by the efforts and co-operation of our officers, and committee and of course the wonderful support we have received all through the year from our followers.

In conclusion, I would like to wish one and all a very happy and prosperous 1974.

SHEILA O'SULLIVAN (Mrs.)
Hon. Secretary

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Assistant Treasurer: Mr. P. STAFFORD. Tel 837 8770



Photograph taken at the Christmas Bacon and Cabbage Dinner at the Irish Centre. From left: Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Lott, Wicklow Association; Mr. and Mrs. Wally Smyth, Waterford Association and Mr. and Mrs. Noel Hickey, Limerick Association.

Photo by Jim Regan

Children's Party

Our Children's Christmas Party held in the Irish Centre was an outstanding success with 180 children attending. All of them enjoyed themselves immensely. Father Christmas was of course the centre of attraction. Tea was provided for the mums and dads, who came along with the children and thoroughly enjoyed the film show.

Bacon and Cabbage Supper

Our Christmas Bacon and Cabbage Supper which was also held in the Irish Centre was the best to date, over 240 people sat down to enjoy the excellent meal which was indeed a credit to the staff at the Centre. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Lahiffe, for the excellent service, which we were given at both the Bacon and Cabbage Supper and the Children's party.

Dates for Your Diary

1st March: A benefit dance at the Cricklewood Hotel, London, N.W.2., tickets are on sale now and can be had from any member of the social committee. You can also pay at the door.

(continued on Page 18)

MEATH ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

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Mr. P. ROTHWELL,
135 Grove Road,
Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Beds.

Secretary:
Mrs. K. COYLE,
18 Homestead Road,
Fulham,
London, S.W.6

On Saturday, 9th March, our Association are holding a Grand Dance at St. Augustines, Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London, W.6. Dancing and merrymaking from 8.30 through to 12 midnight. Music will be supplied by the "Boys of Bluehill". Admission only 50p and of course a licensed bar.

Our January dance in St. Augustines was a great success, but could have been better attended. So come along with your friends and enjoy yourselves. The date again: Saturday, 9th March.

We are holding a Bacon and Cabbage Dinner at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, London, N.W.1, on Saturday, 30th March. The reception is at 7.45 for dinner at 8.15. Music on this occasion by the "Smugglers". Tickets only £1.50 but please book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

All tickets can be had from the chairman or secretary.

The A.G.M. of the Council of Irish County Associations is to be held on Sunday, 24th February, at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, at 2.30 p.m. We will be there to make ourselves felt.

We are delighted to see that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is on again but in a much smaller way.

In conclusion I would like to wish our Chairman a speedy recovery from his illness.

PETER GOODMAN

Press Officer

ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

Juniors:

1. Liechtenstein.
2. A clumsy youth.
3. Pylons.
4. A fish breathes air filtered through water and is unable to breath pure air out of water.
5. Rock and Roll.
6. Columbine.

Veterans:

1. Gametophobia means fear of marriage.
2. Finland.
3. St. Malachy (1095-1148), canonised by Pope Clement.
4. A figure of speech when it is assumed that the things of nature have feelings like human beings.
5. "Bringer of Light."
6. Oil, Water and Turf.

From: M. WATERS, County Carlow Association



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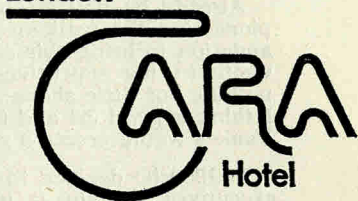
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In 1890, Frank Winfield Woolworth, who had opened the first American Woolworth Store just 21 years before, paid his first visit to Europe.

Already he had established a chain of stores in the United States, pioneering the walk-around open display type of store. A hint of his ambition to bring this shopping concept to Britain was given when he wrote to his executives at home: "Those stores we have seen are nothing but little shops . . . not much like our fine 5 and 10 cent stores. I think a good 3d and 6d store, the nearest equivalent, run by a live Yankee would create a sensation here."

In 1909 he decided to risk the British venture even though his chief executives thought it would fail. Early that year Frederick Moore Woolworth, Byron Miller and Samuel Balfour accompanied Frank Woolworth to Britain. They prospected Northampton, Southampton, Portsmouth, Croydon, Brighton, Reading, Hammersmith and Kensington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Manchester and Liverpool.

Frank thought all these places were "good locations for our business" but described the existing stores as "to small and shallow". And he accurately pin-pointed another major difference between those little shops and the American stores of that time. "The moment you go in" he wrote, "you are expected to buy, and to have made your choice from the window. They give you an icy stare if you follow the American custom of just going to look around".

This difference was probably responsible both for the somewhat hesitant beginnings of the British venture and for its later triumphant success.

When on Friday, November 5th, 1909, Guy Fawkes Day, the first store opened in Church Street, Liverpool, people were shy at first of strolling among the well stocked counters but during the first two trading days 60,000 people visited the store, and following steady business improvement a second store in Preston and a further store in London Road, Liverpool, were opened.

On opening of the second Liverpool store there was a riot. The sales counters were mobbed by women who pushed the counters about the floor. Shop girls fainted and the customers helped themselves to the goods.

The riot made the management wary. When in the following year they opened a store in Hull, crowd barriers were put in place to stem the anticipated rush of customers.

Fred Woolworth and Byron Miller, Frank's American lieutenants in Britain, were clean-shaven when the first arrived here. But Frank Woolworth decided that they needed moustaches to give them the same look of authority as their hairier British counterparts. Some moustaches they had to grow. Each time Frank sailed for America off came his moustache only to be regrown on each return passage to England. This transformation continued for some years.

The same trading methods that had worked so well in the U.S.A. were adopted in Britain. In the shops the same efforts were made to display as accessibly as possible, the greatest possible variety of merchandise. Everything carried a plain price tag and the prices were

(to be continued)

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that's how we got ours.

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and good value. People count on us, too.
We're proud of that.

So keep up your good work. And
we'll do the same.



winfield



Bunratty Castle (continued from page 8)

presence, except at dinner. His was the only chair in his hall. In his "Chair of Estate" he meted out justice, decided quarrels and received rents and tithes from his tenants and followers.

In Bunratty Castle today the collection of furniture tapestries and works of art have been displayed to give the visitor some idea of the furnishings and arrangement of a castle of the late 16th or early 17th century. The great Irish noblemen in no way lagged behind the rest of Europe in their culture and appreciation of luxury and state as can be gathered from many documents of the time. Wine and furniture and iron from Spain and France, tapestries and bronze dishes from the Netherlands, leather and cloth from Germany and Italy, spices from the Levant, were all to be found in every nobleman's and city merchant's household.

Alas, Irish furniture and furnishings have vanished with the centuries. Indeed only three or four recorded Irish pieces of before 1600 still exist, two of which are in Bunratty Castle.

A Tour of the Castle

The Main Guard

On entering the castle over the draw-bridge, the visitor finds himself in a small lobby with, overhead a "murder hole", often found in such positions and forming a defence for the main door of the castle, through which boiling water or some other unpleasant liquid could be thrown upon the unwelcome intruder, who would be confronted by closed doors around him. The door immediately in front opens into the great vaulted hall, which was evidently the Main Guard of the castle. This was the main living room of the menial retainers of the Earl of Thomond and of the common soldiery. It was also the general dining room of the castle, but even here state and precedence were considered important since the line of demarcation on the floor defined the area occupied by the officers at the upper end of the chamber

Waterford Association (continued from page 13)

March 16th: A Bacon and Cabbage Supper at the Irish Centre, music will be supplied by the Wagon Wheels. Book your ticket now to avoid disappointment, as this function is already in demand.

April 26th: Dance at Brent Town Hall. Music by Johnny McCauley Trio, again tickets from the social committee.

July 27th: Our annual Re-union Dinner Dance in Waterford, to be held in The Ardree Hotel. This function is always an outstanding success, so any of our members who have not already booked their holidays, do try and get a booking which will coincide with this date. A very enjoyable night is assured (we hope by then the petrol crisis will be over).

A.G.M.

Our A.G.M. was held in the Irish Centre on Sunday 27th. New officers elected as above. An account of the A.G.M. will appear in next month's issue of the Irish Counties Journal.

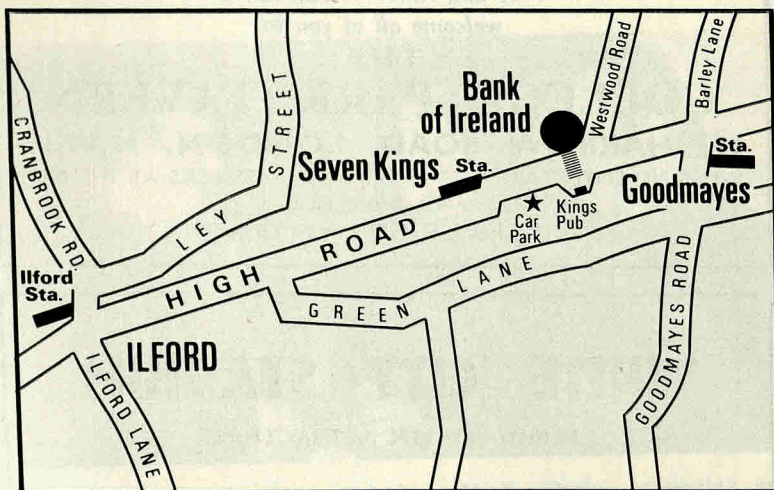
We apologise for the non-appearance of the Waterford article in last month's issue of this journal.

Congratulations are due to flat race jockey, Tony Murray. Tony hails from Tramore. Tony's second love in life is hunting and he has just created racing history. Weatherbys, the Jockey Club Secretaries, have approved his application to become a registered owner. This has never happened before, the rules of racing specifically ban licensed jockeys from owning or part owning any horse that is entered or runs under rules. Tony, aged 23, got round that by noticing that a subsection for rule 64 makes an exception for hunter "Chasers". His

(continued on page 23)

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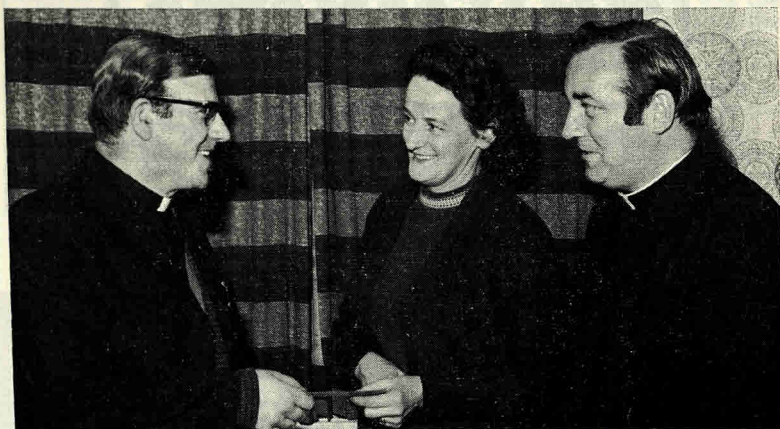


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8 Dorville Crescent,
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Tel. 748 3480

Hon. Treasurer:

Mrs. M. T. CLARKE
32 Grove Hill Road,
Camberwell, S.E.5



Introducing our new Treasurer, Mrs. M. T. Clarke, presenting our annual cheque for the Irish Centre Welfare Fund to Brother O'Regan, watched by Rev. P. Sheridan

photo by Martin Moroney

Hope House — The Irish Centre's New Welfare Hostel

As promised by our Chairman in his speech at our Dinner/Dance, the first steps in our plans to help financially with this project have been taken, by arranging with Fr. Sheridan to hold our February meeting at Hope House, and have a conducted tour of the premises. This will be followed by a discussion on ways and means of raising money. A full report will appear in the March issue of the Journal. Our sympathy to Jack Brady of The Cumberland Stores, W.1, on the death of his brother.

Irish Lakeland Association Weekend Flight to Ireland

As we go to press there is a long waiting list of people who would like to join this flight. Twenty members of our Association are among the 113 lucky people who will spend the weekend of 15/17th February among their own folk.

(continued on page 27)



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Vice-President:

V. O'SULLIVAN

Secretary:

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Chiswick, London, W.4

Treasurer:

Mrs. N. PARKER

47 Warwick Way,
Victoria, London, S.W.1
Tel. 01-834 5206

Committee:

Messrs. John Armstrong, Jim Cole, Jim Curran, Patrick Campbell,
Peter Masterson, James McDonald, Richard Hayden

We wish all our members and friends a Happy and Prosperous New Year. The past year has been one of the most successful for the association from a social point of view. We organised a number of successful buffet dances at various venues and our 20th Annual Dinner Dance at the Gresham Ballroom on Thursday, 15th November, was the best yet by all accounts. Many guests from home were among the attendance of over four hundred and fifty. We also travelled to Longford in September for a "Weekend at Home", organised by our association in Birmingham. The Rathcline football team who were in London in October, were wined and dined by Vincent O'Sullivan at the Railway Tavern in Tottenham and Michael McGann took them on a sight-seeing tour of the city. Our quiz team were defeated by Cavan after extra time and since Cavan are still in the running this was quite a good performance. The association lost two of its most loyal friends in 1973, General Sean MacEoin and Mrs. Norrie Nolan, may they rest in peace.

1974 is the twenty first anniversary of the founding of the Longford Association in London and it is hoped that some special events will be organised this year.

In conclusion we thank the various County Associations for their continued support, the press, especially Jerry Daly of the Cork Examiner and a special word of thanks to the officers and committee of the Council of County Associations.

Waterford Association (continued from page 18)

seven year old, Cafe Chantant, will be running when the hunter chase season starts late January. The horse is looked after by Mary Gordon-Watson. Congratulations again Tony and good luck.

Diaries

Waterford Diaries for 1974 are still available and excellent value at only 30p and can be purchased from Mr. Bill Dowling, telephone 202 6357.

Deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. George Green on the death of Mrs. Green's mother, Mrs. M. Gill, who died recently in Waterford, R.I.P.

Watch out for Chrissie Nolan of The Young Generation (Waterford), who will be appearing on "Opportunity Knocks" in the very near future. Chrissie is a 12 year old prodigy of Fr. Bill Meehan as is all The Young Generation (Waterford). Fr. Meehan hopes to take his folk band to America for St. Patrick's Day and to Lourdes and Paris at Easter.

See you all on the first of March.

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Chairman: M. O'Connor, 65 The Fairway, Nr. Wembley. 01-904 4535

Treasurer: E. Greaney, 9 The Chase, Wembley, Middlesex. 01-903 2763

Secretary: J. O'Connor, 20 Clauson Avenue, Northolt. 01-422 6680

The Kilkenny and Kerry men Associations are holding a joint Dance at the Irish Centre, Camden Square, on 9th March, proceeds will be donated to the Lineham Family. This very deserving cause will, I hope, be well supported by both associations.

Sympathy was tendered to the following on their recent bereavements, His Lordship Bishop Casey, on the death of his father; Fr. Looney, on the death of his father; Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Greaney, on the death of their sister.

Preparations will shortly be under way for our Annual Dinner Dance at John Barkers, Kensington, on 18th May. This great event is becoming more popular each year, with more and more people looking for tickets, the surest way of securing tickets is by becoming members and getting your friends to do likewise.

Congratulations to our popular Vice-Chairman, Michael O'Sullivan, Ballylongford, on becoming Chairman of the London Minor Board, congratulations too, to fellow officers Jerry Daly, Secretary; John O'Connor, Treasurer and M. O'Shea, Assistant Secretary.

This is indicative of the interest Kerry men have in our great association throughout the world, and augurs well for the future of our Minor Board, as all four have years of experience behind them as delegates and officers in the senior Board.

Johnny O'Connor has also been Secretary and Chairman respectively of the kingdom Senior Club, and is presently running the Minor Kingdom Club, this dedicated officer must be given more help, I am appealing to Kerry men who have children of minor age to contact him — telephone: 422 6688. Also urgently needed on occasional Sunday's either a car or van to take the minors to the matches.

The Minor Board are having a Dance and Draw at the Gresham Ballroom on Friday, 8th March, valuable prizes are donated and will be distributed that night.

A Grand Dance will be held on Tuesday, 26th February, at Brent Town Hall. Music supplied by Johnny McCauley. Tickets at 50p available from the Treasurer — telephone: 01-203 2763.

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STOP PRESS

The Dubliners 1974 tour of England starts on 10th March at the Theatre Royal, Norwich. The 13th March sees them at The Playhouse, Buxton, and the 14th, The Civic Theatre, Camberley. Look out for their advertisement in the March issue for all other dates, including The Royal Albert Hall

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THE IRISH CLUB

by

Patrick Molloy (Vice-Chairman and Editor of the Club Bulletin)

Comment

Arthur Griffith once said that Ireland and the Irish were surrounded by a paper wall, and that this wall would have to be breached before the truth about Ireland and the Irish could reach a discerning public. Substantial breach's have since been made in that paper wall, but it appears that here and there they have been filled up again with Irish bricks which are from time to time taken out and hurled at various Irish organisations here. The club seems to have been the target for attack by sundry Irish journals, which would lead one to the conclusion that George Bernard Shaw was right and that we should avoid each other like the plague. Oddly enough the club has never been attacked by the British press and even though we Irish cannot claim to be in the top ten of the popularity chart in this country at present, very little, if any antipathy has been experienced in the club.

No one can say that the past year has been a harmonious one anywhere in the world and this applies to our own little world in the Irish Club, which has been beset with many problems, both internal and external. With the increasing hotel accommodation in London, the demand for room accommodation in the club dropped considerably, with a consequent loss of revenue. Staff problems are ever present; maintenance costs keep soaring, and much of the furniture in the club needs replacing. Nevertheless, we managed to keep our chins above water and as we survived difficulties in the past, we shall do so again.

(continued on page 29)

Cavan Association (continued from page 21)

St. Patrick's College, Cavan, Centenary Committee—are holding a Buffet Supper and Dance on Tuesday, 26th February, at the Irish Centre, Camden Square, N.W.1. Music by Pat McNamee's Band, dancing to midnight. Subscription £1.50.

In a letter received from the President of the College, Very Rev. P. E. Mallon, he gives a brief outline of arrangements made for the celebration of the Centenary in Cavan. On Sunday, 10th March, there will be a Concelebrated Mass and function for the public, which will see a representative gathering of Church and State representatives, and also representatives from the various public bodies and teaching bodies.

Saturday, March 16th, will be a Re-union day for the 1960 and after past pupils, they will have a football match in the afternoon.

Sunday, March 17th, will be a Re-union day for the pre-1960 past pupils. There will be a presentation of "Carousel" by the College Musical Society at 8.30 p.m. Tickets and information available from: John G. Brady, "The Cumberland Stores," 15 Beak Street, W.1. Tel. 734 5870; James Brady, Tel. 609 0675; Michael J. Lynch, Tel. 567 7507; Nial Plunkett, Tel. 368 4433.

"Phil the Fluther" — Where Did He Come From?

Following upon an article written by Desmond Rushe in "Parade" entitled "Rambling thro' Lovely Leitrim" in which he suggested that "Phil The Fluther" came from the Carrigallen-Killeshandra area, there has been several letters in the "Irish Independent" making counter-claims. E. Gilmore of Dublin states Phil came from Tierloughood Bog which lies between Bailieboro and Cavan towns. Billy Gilligan, P.R.O., "Leitrim Guardian", is certain that Phil was a Leitrim man, and P. Reilly of Longford states he was a native of Co. Longford and lived near the town of Drumlish, a few miles from the Leitrim border.

Cavan claimants where are you? Help us to prove that Phil the Fluther was a Cavan man.

B. F. MULLEN
Hon. Secretary



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An Eye-Witness Account of the Floods in Australia by Bill Smyth

Flat 4, 23a Sylvan Road, Toowong 4066, Brisbane, Queensland

25th January, 1974

Have you heard over there that we've had a rough time with cyclones, everything is covered in water, all rivers are flooded, and you can hardly go anywhere in a car or by any other means because of flooding

The worst flooded area is Brisbane, but all Queensland have had one hell of a lot of rain

26th January, 1974

It's still raining and looking out the window I can see one street completely under water. We are lucky the flats are on high ground. Looks like I'll have to swim over to Judy's (the fiancée) place, if it's still there

27th January, 1974

It's still raining: it won't stop and the water all around us keeps rising. It's *unbelievable*. I thought my car and Graham's (a friend) were high enough to stay dry, but not knowing floods, I was wrong, because our cars (while we were asleep) are under 2ft of water. Just how much more it will rise *no-one* knows. I reckon it's rising at least 6in in an hour

3 hours later about 9.0 a.m. — Well, now Graham's and my car are nearly floating away, the water is over the steering wheel of the cars. It is still raining and the water is still rising. I'm writing this as it happens. The majority of homes in this area have been evacuated

7 hours later, 4.0 p.m. — Now it is hard to believe the water has risen a few more feet, all but two houses have been evacuated. The flat below us is nearly under completely, and the residents have moved up to our flat. Our cars are right under 10ft of water, you just cannot see them

29th January, 1974

Well, the water came up to 4½ ft underneath our flat and the flats under us still have water in them

The only way out of our flat is by boat, now the cars are 15 or 16ft under water. It has stopped raining and the sun is shining brightly but I do not know how long it will take the water to go down

30th January, 1974

The water has gone down 2ft today, so it looks like we might be busy in the next few days with the mopping up operations. It is not only the water but the dirt that's with it that creates problems

Wish us luck !

The Irish Club (continued from page 27)

It was unfortunate that we had to discontinue the printed Club Bulletin, which to some little extent helped to counter the anti-Club malaise, but it was a much too costly exercise. A less elaborate Bulletin is now in circulation and represents a New Year's resolution to build up a medium of communication between the Council and members, which we hope will be informative and in time. So far as the anti-club publicity is concerned I should like to remind any members who are disturbed about it of a comment made by the late Brendan Behan — the only bad publicity is an obituary notice.

St. Patrick's Night Banquet

The St. Patrick's Night Banquet this year will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, on the 17th March. Full details will be given in the next bulletin. Members are advised to make their reservations as early as possible to ensure tickets.

Old Folk's St. Patrick's Party

Once again the Club is holding this party on Saturday, 2nd March, at 3 p.m., at the Club. A special appeal is made to members and friends who can provide transport on the day to collect the old folk and return them to their homes at approximately 6 p.m. Full details are available at the club. Please make a special note in your diary Saturday, March 2nd.

Chairman's Lunch

The next Chairman's lunch will be held at the Club on Tuesday, the 19th February, 12.30 for 1 p.m. If you are in town that day do come along and bring your guest.

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Clare Association (continued from page 3)

The A.G.M. of the Association will take place at the Irish Centre on Sunday, March 3rd. Will members please make every effort to attend this important meeting. We require your support for what we are already doing and your ideas for what we should be doing in the future. It is also time to renew your membership, 50p this year. This barely covers the circulars and postage and we shall have to think of an increase shortly.

We are all very pleased to see Mr. Jerry Kelly out and about again. At the same time we offer him our sincere sympathy on the recent death of his brother, R.I.P., and also our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Una Cooper on the death of her sister-in-law, R.I.P.

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The intimate Cocktail Bar, with its friendly staff, gives you a warm Irish welcome and whilst sipping an aperitif, you can peruse the menu. There you will find a wide selection to choose from. The nationalities of the dishes vary, but are centred mainly around English, French and Irish cuisine.

The prices are medium to high, but tremendous care is taken with each meal. There is even a special salad trolley from which you can choose just what you want with the dressing you want. Then there's the delicious Irish Beef from the Rolling Wagon, served with a lovely big baked potato and nice light Yorkshire pudding. Then at the other end of the scale there is Carre d'Agneau and Canard Roti Bigarade.

The Irish Counties Journal recommends the Irish Beef which is the most delicious tasted by us anywhere in the world. It is, in fact, a very-large steak which covers three-quarters of the dinner plate served up piping hot from a heated trolley, cooked to your individual taste try it with a bottle of Nuit St George and you will satisfy the most critical gourmet. Instead of rolls of french bread try the delicious brown bread baked in the Tara's own kitchen.

There are really dishes to suit every taste imaginable and a most varied wine list.

The Restaurant is open from 12.0 noon to 15.00 hours (last orders 14.15) for lunch, and 18.00 to 23.00 (last orders 22.15) for dinner. Every day — even Sundays.

One thing, though, it's as well to book in advance as they're kept really busy.

CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES OF THOSE COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS IN LONDON NOT MENTIONED IN THE EDITORIAL

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Chairman: Mr. G. Loughran, 32 Grosvenor Crescent, Hillingdon, Middlesex, Tel. 89 39868; Secretary: Deidre Fitzpatrick, Flat 1, 25 Verekers Road, W.14, Tel. 381 2089.

Carlton—

Chairman: Mr. A. Brady, 21 Cranbrook Road, Tottenham, N.17, Tel. 829 3734; Secretary: Mr. P. J. Shaw, 351 Amhurst Road, London, N.16.

Cork—

Chairman: Mr. R. Allen, 3 Stanley Road, off East End Road, London, N.2, Tel. 444 0329 and 1515; Secretary: Miss S. Dean, Tel. 723 1547.

Donegal—

Chairman: Mr. J. Byrne, 14 Rosaline Road, Fulham, S.W.6, Tel. 385 2584; Secretary: Mrs. J. Cunningham, 34 Wormholt Road, London, W.12, Tel. 743 7214.

Dublin—

Chairman: Mr. J. Dillion, Flat 7, Fire Station, Old Court Road, Kensington, W.8, Tel. 937 0977; Secretary: Mr. W. Cooper, 54 Castle Road, London, N.W.1, Tel. 485 2256.

Fermanagh—

Chairman: Mr. H. McCormack, 137 Walker House, Phoenix Road, London, N.W.1, Tel. 387 8604; Secretary: Mrs. M. McCormack, 137 Walker House, Phoenix Road, London, N.W.1, Tel. 387 8604.

(continued on page 32)

Galway—

Chairman: Mr. G. Flynn, 18 Normandy Avenue, Barnet, Herts., Tel. 440 7138; Secretary: Mr. R. J. Daly, Flat 3, Carminia Road, No. 4, London, S.W.17, Tel. 675 0556.

Kildare—

Chairman: Mr. R. J. Baker, 49 Fellowes Road, London, N.W.3, Tel. 722 4472; Secretary: Mrs. R. Davies, 96 Glasgow House, Lanerk Road, London, W.9, Tel. 624 7394.

Kilkenny—

Chairman: Mr. T. Dack, 4 Streatley Flats, Streatley Place, Hampstead, N.W.3, Tel. 722 4472; Secretary: Mrs. E. Stellitano, 61 Holmbury Grove, Forestdale, Addington, Surrey, Tel. 651 14522.

Laois—

Chairman: Mr. Jack Dunne, 57 Craven Close, Hayes, Middlesex, Tel. 848 7661; Secretary: Mr. Peter Dunne, 74 Holmstall Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, Tel. 205 1335.

Leitrim—

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Mayo—

Chairman: Mr. Luke O'Hara, 10 Elthorne Road, London, N.19; Secretary: Mr. H. Lyons, London, N.W.12, Tel. 883 9247 and 446 1896.

Meath—

Chairman: Mr. P. J. Rothwell, 135 Grove Road, Haughton Regis, Dunstable, Beds., Tel. 0582 66943; Secretary: Mrs. K. Coyle, 18 Hemestead Road, Fulham, London, S.W. 6, Tel. 385 4061.

Monaghan—

Chairman: Mr. Dan Marron, 114 Iffle Road, London, W.6, Tel. 748 5334; Secretary: Mrs. M. Rafferty, 93 Dale Road, Eastham, E.16.

Offaly—

Chairman: Mr. K. Devery, 17 Dowanhill Road, Catford, S.E.6, Tel. 697 1147; Secretary: Mr. Donal Egan, c/o Mr. K. Devery, 17 Dowanhill Road, Catford, S.E.6.

Roscommon—

Chairman: Mr. C. Lynch, 1 Malven Road, Kentish Town, London, N.W.5; Secretary: Miss A. Brown, 37 Norland Square, Holland Park, London, W.11.

Sligo—

Chairman: Mr. Owen Branley, 8 Edgar House, Black Hall Road, London, E.11, Tel. 989 1686; Secretary: Mrs. A. T. Bennett, 57 Park Road, Hendon, London, N.W.4, Tel. 202 6750.

Tipperary—

Mr. R. Butler, 30 St. Edmunds Court, St. Edmunds Terrace, Tel. 722 3730; Secretary: Mr. J. F. Keating, 48 Priory Park Road, Kilburn, N.W.6, Tel. 624 6332.

Wexford—

Chairman: Mr. Roy Bailey, 211 Norwood Road, London, S.E.24; Secretary: Miss Stella Roche, 59 Hereford Road.

Wicklow—

Chairman: Mr. Pat McAssy, 9 Liddell Gardens, Willesden, London, N.W.10; Secretary: Mr. T. J. Lott, 24 Englefield Road, Hackney, N.1, Tel. 249 1387.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee—

Chairman: Mr. Jim Conway, 38 Church Road, Barnes, London, S.W.13, Tel. 748 7808; Secretary: Mr. Jim Griffin, 156 Blythe Road, London, W.14, Tel. 602 1301.

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