

The Irish Counties Journal

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VOLUME 10



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Rita Clarke.

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Tel. 76 53588.

Secretary:
Mrs. M. Clarke
32 Grove Hill Road
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Tel. 737 2791



A group taken at one of our dinners in former years. Fr. Hetherton in second row, also included in the picture Matt and Rose Brunton, Brian and Marie Mullen, Fr. Carolan, Brian O'Grady, County Development Officer, John Cassidy, County Manager, Peter McCauley, etc.

I do hope that by now all of you have purchased your tickets for our dinner dance which is to be held in the McNamara Hall at the Irish Centre, Murray Street, Camden Square, London, NW1 9XB, on 15th November next. As most of you know Father Hetherton is our special guest for the evening to mark the occasion of his 25 years as a priest.

Our dinner this year is a very special one consisting of five courses. The main course being roast Irish beef. I am looking forward to meeting you all then and wish everyone a very happy evening. Hereunder

(Continued on page 3)

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Note from the Editor

Congratulations to Mrs. Brigid Donohoe on being elected chair person of the Ladies Off Licence Guild. Any Cavan people and their friends who would like to support her for the Annual Banquet and Ball to be held at the London Rooms, Drury Lane, on 14th January, 1981. Please ring her on 01 560 7584. Brigid would be delighted to hear from you.

STOP PRESS — While on the press we learned of the sudden death of Pat Walsh of Walsh's Travel. R.I.P.

Cavan Association (continued from page 1)

is a tribute to our Life President, Fr. Hetherton, by our Chairman, Mr. Thomas O'Reilly.

May Clark, Secretary.



Fr. Seamus
Hetherton

Our Life President, Fr. Seamus Hetherton celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination this year. Now Parish Priest in Swanley, Kent, Father Hetherton was joined by over 400 people and 55 priests in marking the occasion. Among those present were His Lordship Bishop Dukes of Kent, the Mayor of Swanley, and members of the local Town Council. The Association was represented by the President and his wife, the Chairman and his wife, and our honorary Secretary, Mrs. May Clarke.

Parishioners made Fr. Seamus numerous presentations including a cheque for £1,150. A native of Virginia he has been in Swanley for the past nine years. During that time he extended the local church, built a social club and extended the school. Following his ordination in 1955, he spent a number of years at St. George's, Southwark, where he started a G.A.A. club for which he played, later he spent periods in Maidstone and Gravesend before being appointed Parish Priest in Swanley.

Fr. Seamus is a former Cavan All Ireland Footballer, he was one of the stars in 1952 when Cavan defeated Meath in Croke Park in the All Ireland final, he was also chairman of our association in 1957, and incidentally he was the first Cavan Priest I met in London, we arrived here around the same time. A few years ago I had the privilege of playing alongside him on a Cavan team against Monaghan in Hayes, and on Saturday, November 15th, it will be my privilege once again to make him a presentation on behalf of the association in honour of his Silver Jubilee. The Cavan people of London thank Fr. Seamus for his dedication to the Cavan Association and to his faith, and long may he live to serve both.

Thomas O'Reilly, Chairman.

The London Wexford Association

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Herlihy, Bishop of Ferns.

President: Fr. Herbert Haines, P.P., Cricklewood, London, N.W.2.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Mick Bowe and Mr. Tom Bailey.

Life Vice-Presidents: Mr. Dick Gaul and Mr. Martin Whitty, K.S.G.

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. Cullen, 6 Heathfield Pk, London NW2 (459 2596)

Registrar: Mr. P. White, No. 1 Heathfield Pk., London NW10 (459 1627)

Benefit Dance

A benefit dance will take place at the Spotted Dog, Willesden High Road, on Saturday, October 4th. Music by City Gents, dancing from 9 p.m. Generous bar extension. Proceeds to send two sick people to Lourdes. Admission £1.

Golf Outing

The Association Golf Team play the Wexford Birmingham Association Golf Team on Saturday, October 18th. Course yet to be decided. A valuable set of trophies will be presented to the winners.

Annual Dinner and Dance

The highlight of the year is the annual dinner and dance which will take place on Saturday, November 1st in the New McNamara Hall at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. Full details later. The chairman would like to see all members and their friends present at this function as it is an opportunity to renew old friendships.

A.G.M.

A reminder to all that the A.G.M. of the association will be held on the 23th November. Full details later.

Knockout Competition

A word of thanks to our team who took part with Waterford in the Federation of Irish Societies Knockout Competition. A special thanks to Secretary Kitty Cullen and Bill Aulsbery of Waterford who looked after the teams on the way.

Holiday

Association Registrar Pete White, Cousinstown, is having an extended holiday in Wexford. His friends in the association wish him a nice time as it's his first holiday in a number of years. Everyone is looking forward to seeing him at Christmas as he is missed on the London scene.

Congratulations

The chairman and committee congratulate Waterford Association on celebrating their Silver Jubilee and wish them many more years of continued success. Congratulations are also extended to members Harry and Celine Roberts on the birth of a son.

Thank You

Thanks to all the county associations who contributed a substantial sum of money to send our treasurer's wife, Lilly Murphy, to Lourdes. A special thank you to Bridie Shaw who went to a lot of trouble to organise the collection. Lilly has not been well for a long time and we ask you to remember her in your prayers.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the following who have suffered bereavements recently. Judy and Watty Devereux. Pat and Bobby Naughton, and to all members who were bereaved recently.

Breda Sills (P.R.O.).

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Vice-Chairman: Tommy Brophy.

Secretary: Peter Dunne, 74 Holmstall Ave., Edgware.

Tel. 01 205 1335.

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. S. Dowling.

Treasurer: Mr. H. Milmore.

We welcome all our members back after their summer holiday. For some it was a wash-out, for our secretary Peter and his wife Phyllis who went to Laois it never stopped raining day or night. They travelled to Carlow for the wedding of their niece, a wonderful day was had by all, but no, the rain did not stop for the occasion.

While Peter was at home he arranged for a collection to be taken at all church gates in the county, the proceeds to go to the Irish Centre, Murray Street, London, NW1. The date to be arranged later.

We are having our reunion dance at the Cavendish Ballroom, Spotted Dog, Willesden High Road, NW10, on Friday, 26th September. It will be over by the time you read this, but music was by Tommy Brophy and his Band. Tommy is a County Laois man. We also have a social and dance at the Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, on 7th November, 1980. Tickets £1. Music by the Benn Brothers. Tickets can be had from our secretary Peter Dunne on 205 1335; Monty Barron on 205 5072 or any of our committee members. Looking forward to meeting all our friends there.

Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to Peter Dunne on the death of his sister-in-law early this year.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our president, Patrick Dowling and his wife on their 21st wedding anniversary in September. To Peter and Phyllis on their Silver Wedding anniversary on 25th October and also on the marriage of their daughter, Lorette to Mr. Dave Wren.

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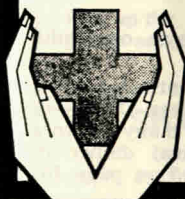
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Life President: Mr. M. Moroney.

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Tel. 01 349 2335

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Tel. 01 837 6098

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Mr. Martin Donlan
Tel. 941 0873

Assist. Secretary:
Mrs. Mary Dempsey

Press Officer:
Bridie Neeves



With the holiday season over and autumn of 1980 approaching the social season comes to life, we hope you all had a lovely holiday and feel better for the break and rest. The weather was not so good for some of us.

A supper dance held at the McNamara Ballroom, on September 6th was a very enjoyable evening and we all enjoyed the meal. Jim and his staff prepared for us in the kitchen. Everybody's feet were tapping away till it was time to go home. Music was by Mick Maloney and his Band.

Again I repeat the Parish Reunions for West Clare will be held in the new Hall, Irish Centre, Camden Town, in November.

November 13th—Cross, Carrigholt, Kilkee, Doonbeg, Kilrush and Cooraclare.

November 17th—Kilmihill, Lissycasey, Kildysart, Coolmeen, Kilmurphy, Mahon, Killimer.

Since the last issue of the journal, one slight alteration, the parish reunion of Cooraclare will be held on November 13th and not November 17th previously advertised.

Further information please contact either Teresa Doyle or Bridie Neeves, telephone numbers above.

The annual dinner will be held as always at Barkers Penthouse Suite, Kensington. Tickets are going fast. Please contact Teresa Doyle—in good time to avoid disappointment. We hope to have many visitors from over the sea for the parish reunions and annual dinner in November.

(continued on page 16)

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From Tommy Dunne

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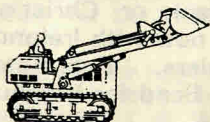
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Vice-Chairman: Mr. Steve Cunningham.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Bill Stenson,
4 Williamson Street, London N7 0SG.
Tel. 069 2909.

Assist. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Ann Towey.

Treasurer: Mr. John McCormack.

P.R.O.: Mr. Sean McCauley, 2 Bloomfield Road, Bromley, Kent.
Tel. 01 680 5400 (day), 01 460 2071 (evening).

When you come to read this our Annual Dinner will be over, I will tell you about it in my next jottings. In the meantime the following is an account of what happened when we were home in Westmeath.

Our Annual Reunion in conjunction with Castlepollard Social Service Committee was held at the Pollard Arms Hotel, Castlepollard, on August Bank Holiday and over 800 people attended this great Irish evening, including over 100 Westmeath Emigrants from London, U.S.A., Scotland, Australia and Canada.

Great credit is due to the very hard working Hon. Secretary of the Social Service, Mrs. Maureen Merriman and Mr. B. Donoghue and P. Morrissey, who organise this function every year, for such a worthy cause, making life easier for our Senior Citizens. The Westmeath Association was represented by Sean McCawley. Among those who attended were Mr. and Mrs. S. Troy, Chairman, Council of Irish County Association; Mr. and Mrs. Waters, Mr. James Bennett, Chairman, Westmeath County Council; Mr. Paddy Murphy, Development Officer of Industry in Westmeath; and our old friend Paddy Flannagan who represented the G.A.A.; also Matt Scally of the Dublin Association.

We wish to thank Matt Scally who provided the cabaret act which was traditional Irish music with the Skittles, played by Irish champion, Mr. P. McCann (Moate); the accordion by champion, Mr. W. Adamson (Moate), and Matt Scally on the mandolin. Those three exceptionally talented gentlemen have a brilliant future and we only hope they will come to next year's reunion and they can be assured that a Caed Mile Failte awaits them in Castlepollard. Sean McCawley, who thanked everyone present for making the reunion a success when thanking Mr. McCann on the Skittle (he had never seen this instrument before) stated he was infatuated with this instrument which he described as a cross between an ash plant and a piece of mahogany. He later saw Mr. McCann and they had a good laugh over this crude description. He also thanked the Cooke children from Birmingham who gave a magnificent display of Irish Dancing and their father, J. J. Cook, who comes from Togher Finea, who provided the music. He also thanked the Lynch Brothers Band who are playing for the eighth successive year at this function and who will be there again in 1981.

Good Wishes

To Mrs. Wolfe who is closely connected with our Association, and who was ill and is wished a speedy recovery.

Sympathy

Special notes of sympathy have been passed to the Reilly family on the recent death of their brother, the late Andrew Reilly, Mullingar, and also to the family of the late James Brilly. May God comfort their families in their great loss and may their souls rest in peace is the wish of our Association.

Sean McCawley, P.R.O.

For holidaymakers who thought The Little Bill was extinct.

Contrary to popular belief, it's possible to holiday in the Mediterranean and actually see a Little Bill.

Of course, Greater Bills are very common throughout European resorts, but in Yugoslavia the Little Bill is still alive and well.

A short study of these bills reveals that money goes further in Yugoslavia. It's one of the best value-for-money holiday countries in Europe. And compared with other European resorts, it's getting cheaper all the time. The pound buys 18% more Dinars now than it did last year!

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Yugoslavia—a country with a wealth of variety. Contrasts alternate in quick succession—changes in history and cultural monuments, striking differences in landscape and customs, from lush and fertile areas, snow-covered in winter, to the baking rocks towering over the clear blue-green of the Adriatic Sea.

Yugoslavia is both the Adriatic coast and the continental hinterland, with its world of mountains, plains, rivers, lakes, national parks, towns and picturesque villages. Its boundaries are the mountains along the Adriatic coast, in the north the Pannonian plains. To the north-west are the Alps from which chains of mountains stretch all the way to the Vardar plain. One landscape flows on from the other, each with its own story, its own history and beauty. Many nations live here, linked together from time immemorial but each with their own traditions.

This continental part of Yugoslavia is virtually undiscovered. Visitors are familiar with a few large towns and tourist centres, but the rest remains to be explored.

Since travelling is comfortable, the adventure is actually in the search for something new. Firstly whole regions of unspoilt nature reveal themselves, ecologically preserved areas, clean and tidy little towns, and then there are curiosities such as the Tara Canyon, the last remaining virgin forests in Europe, the forest of Perucica (Sutjeska National Park) and many rivers whose waters can always be drunk.

Nature is luxuriant and varied. The variety lies in the fact that from plains the land rises right up to mountains whose peaks are more than 2,000 metres above sea level. Most unspoilt of all are the dozens of national parks with their ancient forests, lakes and special world of flora and fauna. The mountains are laced with rivers and streams, gentle valleys and lakes of all sizes. Their beauty and stillness is alluring, as is the wealth of game and fish.

Nature is, of course, indivisible from man and the many monuments of history and the cultures which have succeeded each other throughout the centuries. The large towns are encountered first, like Belgrade (capital of Yugoslavia), Zagreb, Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tograd, Novi Sad and Pristina, the capitals of the republics and autonomous provinces of Yugoslavia, but the other smaller towns should be sought after too. They are often real treasure troves and so varied that no two are alike. Such little towns are to be found on hill tops in Istria (Motovun, Groznanj). Ptui in Slovenia is rather special with its Roman remains, its mediaeval centre, its carnival traditions (festivities of pagan origin) and surrounding vineyards. Amidst the gentle hills of Croatian Zagorje is the Baroque town of Varazdin. On the banks of the River Neretva lies Mostar with its stone bridge built in a single arch, as has been said, like the moon turned to stone.

Near Stolac in Hercegovina are the remains of the Illyrian town of Daorson built on the model of ancient Mycenae and necropolises with their mediaeval tombstones (stecci), the most famous of which is at Radimlja. Travnik in Bosnia was for centuries the town of the viziers and was the source of inspiration for Yugoslavia's Nobel prize-winner writer, Ivo Andric. Cetinje in Montenegro is a town of museums and nearby, built on the top of Mount Lovcen, is the monumental mausoleum of the writer, thinker and ruler, Peter Petrovic Njegos. In Vojvodina is the town of Novi Sad and the Petrovaradin fortress (the

(continued on next page)

Yugoslavia for an Autumn or Winter Break (continued from page 13)
Gibraltar of the Danube), and the town of Sombor with its old buildings. On the banks of the Danube is Smederevo (Serbia) with its massive mediaeval castle and vineyards.

Pec in Kosovo is famous for its old monuments and the patriarchate of Pec, its beautiful costumes and folklore. In Macedonia are the towns of Tikves with its grape harvest festivities, Krusevo, clustered together like a walnut kernel, and Ohrid with its lake and old monasteries and churches.

We return to man again, his way of life and old customs, this time in the villages. Every village is different and each has its own charm. In Slovenia they are mountain villages. In Croatia the contrasts are limitless, from the villages of Croatian Zagorje to those in Moslavina and Slavonija, and the very different ones in Kordun, Lika and the Dalmatian hinterland. In Bosnia and Hercegovina the villages are different again in their appearances and costumes. In the plains of Vojvodina they are spread out and straggling like the landscape itself. In Serbia the most beautiful villages are in the rich, cultivated region of Sumadija. In Kosovo they have retained their traditional appearances. In the Karst landscape of Montenegro the villages are often like eagles nests up in the mountains.

Every area, and often every village, has its own type of houses and style of building, its own costumes, embroidered designs, dances, old traditional instruments and songs—a veritable ethnological treasure trove. Visitors are made welcome and a village tourist industry exists (at Sanica in Bosnia around Vinkovci in Slavonija and Skofja Loka in Slovenia, the area of Golija in Serbia. A holiday in these quiet villages is a new experience. Life goes on at a leisurely pace, food is really home-cooked and only the best wines and brandies are drunk.

Yugoslavia's wealth of folklore has given rise to many festivals which bear the stamp of authenticity. Hundreds and even thousands of performers assemble for the trumpeters gathering at Guca near Cacak, the Slavonian autumn festival at Vinkovci, the Ljubicevo Equestrian Games in Pozarevac, the harvest festivals in Vojvodina, the Zagreb Folklore Review, the Galicnik Wedding in Macedonia, the bull-fighting at Grmec near Sanski Most, the hay-makers contests in Kupres, and the many grape harvest festivities in Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia.

There is much that is worth searching for, whatever your likes and interests. In Slovenia there is the beauty of the mountains and winter holiday centres. In the continental part of Croatia there is the hospitable scenery of Zagorje, the breadth of Slavonija and the rockiness of Lika and Kordun. In Bosnia and Hercegovina there is a world of interwoven influences, where five centuries of Turkish rule have left their imprint, and nature, too, is distinctive. Vojvodina has the riches of fertile soil. Serbia has monasteries, the beauties of Sumadija and the unusual Homolje. In Montenegro you have to venture into the mountains to discover Durmitor with its peaks and mountain lakes. In Kosovo there is the beauty of history and monuments, in Macedonia a world of mountains, lakes, icons, frescoes, and a gentle climate. The adventure is always worthwhile, and always enriches.

In Yugoslavia modern roads have reached the most far-flung corners, airports have surrounded the towns, and railways have long since linked up the main centre. Modern hotels, motels and camps are interspersed throughout the country, and there are whole complexes specially designed for tourist needs. You can choose a quiet holiday in the mountains in summer or skiing there in winter, a lakeside holiday, a holiday afloat on rafts of logs, shooting rapids in kayaks, mountain

(continued on page 16)

Federation of Irish Societies

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P.R.O.:

Mr. T. Walsh
(Liverpool)

Chairman's Speech to the Annual Congress

(continued from last issue)

Before I look at our Societies and Centres—let us look at the Irish scene in Britain today and one aspect of it in particular which must undoubtedly have a bearing on our future. Ask yourselves "Why is there only one Irish born M.P. in the House of Commons—Michael O'Halloran?"

Why are there not more Irish people actively involved in local politics or local government? Regardless of the person's politics—there is definitely a need for the Federation to provide some leadership in this particular field—we just must do it—and we must do it with every ounce of our strength and energy.

We must encourage active participation by the Irish in Britain in local politics, never mind this threat of taking away our voting rights, this will never happen. We should as a Federation consider holding a Seminar at which potential candidates could be advised as to how to plan their campaign. It is a fact of life that those Irish people who are in politics find that they can make a very valid contribution to Irish life in Britain, they can use their influence and their power to help many of the causes that need support. Many such people help us today, but sadly there are some Irish who once they get the power and the authority quickly forget from whence they came. Local politics is the stepping stone to national politics—we as a people must have faith in our ability to reach the heights, we are proving it day after day that we can compete with the best, let us in the future seek to prove it in the field of national government.

I have already mentioned the men of vision—the founders, and I am only too well aware that those of them who thank God are still with us are content at the way we as a Federation have grown. They too must have done some looking to the future. I doubt whether even they could have foreseen in those early days the changing face of Ireland or more especially the change from a vast torrent of emigration to the mere trickle that is today. I would suggest that they foresaw that many of us would in fact make this country our permanent home, but the 70's and the 80's have seen this trend expand, very few of us today want to "go back" as we say. We are destined to remain in Britain—our homes, our families—our jobs—our future lies in Britain. Since I am endeavouring to look at the future, we must as a Federation acknowledge this fact of permanency of residence and employment and we must acknowledge it even more so than when the Federation was first formed. Because of this we must see the need to the expansion of our constitutional aims—the need to promote our culture—the need for active interest in the welfare of our people in Britain.

I am not convinced that sufficient is known about the Federation by the rank and file members. True, Societies and Centres send delegates

(continued on page 16)

Federation of Irish Societies (continued from page 15)

and affiliate, but we must—in looking to the future take steps to ensure that we are known—not by a section—but by all the Irish in Britain as their voice—as their spokesman. We need to be achieving things in order to create a picture of ourselves as an organisation that will be readily identifiable by all the Irish people. The necessity to preach the gospel of the Federation is an urgent and vital requirement of the future.

Leadership, dedication, encouragement, support, prompting, achievement, are all vital ingredients in our future.

And who is the Federation that I speak so much about? Not the Bill Halleys—the Tommy Walsh's, the John Griffins—the Sadie Redmonds or indeed the Michael Hogans of today or of yesterday—No—YOU my friends are the Federation—You are the people who have kept this fine organisation alive and prospering. You are the people who have stood up to be counted in days when many of the Irish in Britain were hanging their heads in shame—please remember that now and when you return to your respective homes and Societies—You are the Federation of Irish Societies in Britain—you are the people who in the past have provided the ingredients that I have already mentioned. In looking to the future—I look to you—the representatives of the Irish in Britain—to continue to supply the ingredients of Leadership, dedication, encouragement, support, prompting, achievement, I know you will not falter. I can see us grow in the future—I will not boast of what has been achieved in terms of growth in my years of office. I am now and always have been dedicated to the aims of the Federation. I am dedicated as indeed I know you all are to planning and working for the future of the finest people in the world—the Irish in Britain in 1980.

* * * * *

Clare Association (continued from page 8)

Once again our Patron, Dr. Michael Harty, will be gracing us with his presence. The Bishop will also be attending the parish reunions, and we hope the doors of the Irish Centre will be breaking down on the nights arranged.

We look forward to meeting old friends and new from the home parishes once again.

On behalf of our chairman and committee, we thank you for your patronage over the years. We shall all be at Barkers Penthouse Suite on 15th November to offer you a hearty Cead Mile Failte.

Condolences.

Our sincere sympathy to Maire O'Connor of Quilty and her family on the tragic death of her husband, Jerry. Jerry O'Connor was a cousin of our Chaplain Father Clancy. R.I.P.

Our heartiest congratulations to the Waterford Association, London, on reaching its Silver Jubilee.

* * * * * Bridie Neeves, Press Officer.

Yugoslavia for your Autumn and Winter Break (continuous from p. 14) climbing, fishing and hunting, or anything you please. Yugoslavia has everything to offer and it is up to you to choose whatever makes your holiday or journey a real experience. It could be trips to museums and art galleries, national parks, or the memorial parks on the battlefields of the Yugoslav people's fight for liberation in the Second World War. It could be old towns or feasts of local culinary specialities and famous brandies and wines.

There is no end to the variety . . . Yugoslavia is waiting to receive you with traditional hospitality, whether in summer sunshine or wintry apparel. It's not by chance that 25 million visitors from all over the world arrive each year. Yugoslavia is captivating and has many charms.

B + I News

From Keith Cronback

B + I Line Fare Reductions for Autumn

B + I Line are slashing fares on their car ferry and jetfoil routes to Ireland in a major tourism drive.

Fares are being cut by up to 50% for passengers opting for short breaks of up to four days. The new rates apply from August 31st.

A four day weekender return fare for a car and two passengers will be only £54 on the Liverpool/Dublin and Cork/Pembroke routes and £39 on the Pembroke/Rosslare service.

Two passengers travelling with a car on any sailing will be charged only £69 for a four day return on the Liverpool/Dublin and Pembroke/Cork car ferry routes and £49 return on the Pembroke/Rosslare routes. In all cases children under 14 travel free. From October the rates for four day excursions will be even cheaper.

Four-day weekend fares for foot passengers on the car ferry and jetfoil routes are also being cut, and through fares are also being offered at new bargain rates. Examples: London/Dublin (jetfoil and rail) £40 return and Birmingham/Dublin £31. Travel must be between Friday and Monday inclusive.

Announcing the new fares, Mr. Norman Newcombe, General Manager—Marketing, B + I Line, said: "They are geared to attract new tourist business. It is an imaginative and positive approach which the tourist will find tempting."

Details of the new rates are as follows:

Weekender—Valid for car and two passengers return. Outward and return journeys must be completed on any sailing between Friday morning and Monday night (inclusive) and Liverpool/Dublin and Pembroke/Rosslare services and Thursday night and Tuesday night on Pembroke/Cork route. Children under 14 free. Additional adults charged at current brochure rate. Liverpool/Dublin and Pembroke/Cork £54 saving 49%, Pembroke/Rosslare £39 saving 52%.

Autumn Mini Tour

Valid for car and two passengers from August 31st to December 15th on outward journey on any sailing. Return journey may be started on any sailing up to the fourth day after departure. Return fare embraces a car and two adults. Children under 14 travel free. Additional passengers charged at current brochure rates. October/November/December, £54. Pembroke/Rosslare, £36 for October/November/December.

Through return fares by jetfoil and rail—Available between Fridays and Mondays inclusive. Children half price. London/Dublin £40. Newcastle/Dublin £36. Birmingham/Dublin £31. Leeds/Dublin £30 and Manchester/Dublin £27.

Day/Weekend Excursions for foot passengers—Jetfoil: The Liverpool/Dublin day and weekend excursion previously embracing Saturday and Sunday only, has been extended to cover Friday to Monday, inclusive. Excursion return £26.

Ferry

Day and Weekend fares available Fridays to Mondays, compared with Saturdays and Sundays only. Fares, day excursion Liverpool/Dublin and Pembroke/Cork £17 return. Pembroke/Rosslare £11.50. Weekend excursion Liverpool/Dublin and Pembroke/Cork £19. Pembroke/Rosslare £12.50.

Inclusive Weekend Breaks

B + I Line's tours department also offers an attractive range of weekend breaks incorporating the new fares structure. Example of these new bargain weekends are:

(continued on page 19)

Green Fields and Far Away Theatre Company

124 Choumert Road, London, SE15. Tel. 01 639 8205

Directors: R. Jaquarello (Artistic Director),

P. Jaquarello (Administration), M. Walsh.

Green Fields and Far Away was formed by Ronald Jaquarello in 1977 to present Irish and Irish related work in the U.K. Since then the company, under the auspices of the Touring Section of the Arts Council of Great Britain, has presented four new plays: "Hatchet," a play about violence in working class Dublin by Heno Magee; "The Honey Spike," Bryan MacMahon's play about tinkers journeying across Ireland; "The Scatterin"; James McKenna's play with music about Dublin Teddy Boys emigrating in the 1950's; and most recently, Ian McPherson's celebration of the life and time of the Irish boxer, Jack Doyle, which played to full houses at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith as part of "A Sense of Ireland" Festival.

The company has also presented four classics: O'Casey's "The Shadow of a Gunman" and a new version of Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" by John Halle.

Desmond Hogan is one of Ireland's leading young writers, his two one-act plays "A Short Walk to the Sea," and "Sanctified Distances" were produced by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and "Jimmy" was produced by B.B.C. Radio 3. His first novel "The Ikon Maker" has been published in Ireland, England and the U.S.A., and is due to be published in Sweden in 1981. Desmond also had his collection of short stories "The Diamonds at the Bottom of the Sea" published by Hamish Hamilton. Mr. Hogan's work has been highly praised by national critics. One of the English nationals described him as "One of the most talented writers to come out of Ireland or anywhere else," another national English newspaper said in a recent review: "He has a lot to say which he does with elegance and maturity."

"The Ikon Maker" tells of a middle-aged woman, Susan O'Hallrahan, a widow and dressmaker, when her 17 year old son Diarmaid decides to leave Ireland for good. It leads to a personal awakening, symbolised by her son's artistic efforts to piece together various materials into an Ikon figure. Her journey to London in pursuit of her son through various hippy and revolutionary haunts in London during the early 70's leads her to a greater realisation of both herself and her only child.

N.B. from the Editor—"The Ikon Maker" is a play as well as a novel, if it comes your way it's well worth seeing but don't bring the children as some of the language is foul.

Westminster Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults

Special Patrons:

His Excellency The Ambassador of Ireland.

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster
and the Lady Mayoress.

President: Lady Bliss.

Chairman: Mrs. Sheila Hamilton-Rebel.

Vice-Chairmen:

Miss C. X. Ahern, Mr. Rupert Mahaffy, Mrs. Shirley Rodwell,
Mrs. Stanley Wise.

Secretary: Miss Harriet Carruthers.

The City of Westminster—which stretches from St. John's Wood to the River and from the Law Courts to the Albert Hall—has its own voluntary society, affiliated to the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. Founded in 1962, the society plays a significant role in improving the quality of life for the mentally handicapped and their families in Westminster. The society provides for the mentally handicapped of all ages. It maintains a day nursery for the very young, a residential home for children aged 5-16, a hostel for young women over 16, and in conjunction with two other charities, a short-term care home where mentally and physically handicapped up to the age of 30 can stay to give their family a break. It also runs social clubs for teenagers and young adults.

Over the past years, when inflation has ravaged our economy, the society has been fortunate to remain solvent. Our reserves, however, are slim and we badly need funds if we are to continue to provide the support which the families of mentally handicapped children so desperately need and—looking to the future—to provide homes where handicapped adults can live in a family environment.

A concert has been organised for Sunday, 16th November, 1980, at the Adelphi Theatre, Strand, London, WC2, with Mary O'Hara, Robert White, and Graham Johnson at the piano, with artistes of the Royal Ballet in the presence of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester in aid of the above society.

This information has been sent in by Miss Ahern who says there are very many Irish handicapped children in the City of Westminster who stand to benefit from the proceeds of this gala evening. Miss Ahern is ready to answer your queries and tell you about tickets for the concert, etc. If you write to her at Room 19, Westminster Council House, Marylebone Road, London, NW1. Tel. 01 828 8070 ext. 4136 and 4137.

* * * * *

B + I News (continued from page 17)

From Britain to Ireland: Weekend breaks to Dublin: car and two adults return on car ferry with two nights bed and breakfast at top class Dublin hotel £56 per person, at guest house £46.

Return travel by Jetfoil and two nights bed and breakfast in top class Dublin hotel £53, in guest house £43. From London (including rail) £69 and £59).

Return travel by Jetfoil and two days car hire from Avis £33 each (based on four travelling). Via car ferry £25 per person. A comprehensive range of the inclusive breaks and holidays are also available from B + I Line offices or travel agents.



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Fr. William Cagney, O.M.I., Director and Treasurer.
Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Welfare Department
(continued from last month)

The Anonymous Irish

It would seem that there are two distinct groups of Irish people, those with stability of residence and employment and those who never settle, rarely or spasmodically work and who were probably inadequate, immature or disturbed prior to emigrating. The lines of Thomas Davis (in last month's issue) are also applicable to the unsettled Irish, this anonymous group who must find it hard to remember who they really are in between their aliases. They have deliberately lost contact with relatives, their lives seem to have little purpose, their self concept is negative and they are reduced, some to the extremities, socially and economically.

As one moves about London, this fourth world is on our doorsteps. They can be seen (somehow there is no mistaking them), in the railway stations, in the churches, soup kitchens, or park benches or in the food queues at convent doors. One becomes depressingly aware of the increasing numbers of Irish men and a much smaller number of Irish women, who belong to this anonymous army in the inner city.

Among this group there are degrees of deprivation and homelessness, from vagrancy to derelict buildings and squats, night shelters, lodging houses and grossly sub-standard bed-sits. Once caught in the drifting vagrancy-wino scene, with its specific cult, they seem incapable of extricating themselves. They are trapped in a downward spiral of deterioration in independent but destructive relationships so essential to their need for belonging and companionship, so detrimental to their ascent to rehabilitation and normal living. Those who control their aberrant behaviour sufficiently to maintain a bed number in a lodging house can, at least draw the "dole." Unfortunately many Irish men move into lodging houses, because there is no suitable alternative. Irish people in owner occupied property are no longer willing to let rooms, because of the restrictions of the 1975 Rent Act.

There is no refined statistical evidence available, but it is commonly held that the Irish in Britain are over represented in the vagrancy and lodging house population. Four reception centres, offering free overnight accommodation were contacted and they estimated an average Irish intake of 44% (although there are seasonal variations) while four lodging houses where accommodation is relatively cheap, estimated on an average of 33% Irish intake.

Confronted with the growing extent of the problem and a possible solution one becomes daunted and helpless. But it is not enough any longer to be concerned, we must begin, somehow, somewhere, working towards a solution. Basic to rehabilitation is the need to restore their human dignity, to instil a sense of self worth, an ingredient frequently lacking in the Irish character and so often at the core of their self-depreciation and eventual downfall. On contact, these people despise their unkempt and sometimes rough exterior, are very ordinary, very human.

(continued on page 24)

The Waterford Association, London



Patron: The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.,
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

Life President: Right Rev. Charles J. Henderson,
Bishop Tricala and Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark.

Chairman: Mr. John O'Keeffe, 120 Ivy Road, N.W.2.
Tel. 01 452 7940.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Jim Keane, 62 Woodmere Ave., Watford,
Herts. WD2 4LW. Tel. Watford 30999.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, 10 Ashmore, Agar Grove,
London NW1 9SL. Tel. 267 8100.

Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry, 50 George Lansbury House,
Wood Green, London, N22. Tel. 01 889 6579.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. C. Dee, 14 The Crossways, Wembley Park,
Middlesex. Tel. 01 904 3463.

Hon. Assist. Treasurer: Mr. Paddy Stafford, 53 Caithness House,
Bermerton Street, N.1. Tel. 837 8770.

Membership Secretary: Mrs. Kitty Groves, 33 Kings Crescent,
Finsbury Park, N.4. Tel. 359 5994.

Now it's time for our Silver Jubilee Dinner in London and I know that with Mr. Lumsden and his very competent staff you will have a wonderful evening.

Michael Brazil and Bill Aulsberry have helped me out this month so read on.

Jane T. Smyth (Mrs.), Press Officer.

When Jane Smyth rings up and says can you do 500 words on the formative years of the Waterford Association, the thought of saying no never enters one's head. This I suppose is the secret of being a successful editor.

Over the years, detail becomes blurred. I cannot recall a lot of names of Waterfordians who were associated with me in those years when the infant association was learning to walk. I took over as chairman when the association was about 1½ years off the drawing board. The meeting incidentally at which I was elected chairman was great fun. I was asked to stand by a number of friends and after a lot of skirmishing and behind the scenes activity, I was duly elected. A number of members decided that the significance of the elections was that it was Waterford City v. Waterford County, with me leading the City faction, despite the fact that I was Dungarvan born. A section broke away and formed the Waterford County Association headed by the redoubtable Michael Morrissey. A battle of words ensued through the columns of the Waterford and Dungarvan papers and a lot of harsh things were said until a meeting was summoned by the Council of Irish County Association under the chairmanship of Father Cremin, arising out of which the County Association were urged to rejoin the parent body and let bygones be bygones. The County Association gradually faded away and mercifully the City v. County connotation no longer exists.

At the risk of being declared immodest, I must take credit for a number of firsts. I was the first to bring the association into the West End for an Annual Dinner. Some of the old members should remember the occasion at the prestigious Irish Club, Eaton Square, when the then Irish Ambassador, Dr. Cremin was the guest of honour.

I got the Inter-County Quiz off the ground, backed by the association and got it on Radio Eireann for the first two years of its life.

I was the first—or at least among the first—to arrange association meetings at the Irish Centre, where the late Fr. McNamara used to apologise for the brick-dust on the floors and the noise of walls being demolished around our ears.

Finally, the constitution of the association which I drafted back in those early days and which still holds sway was amongst the first of such county constitutions.

(continued on page 24)

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The Waterford Association (continued from page 21)

Oh dear, what an ego trip! But of course this climb up from humble beginnings was not a one-man affair. Far from it. I had behind me an enthusiastic and very hard-working committee who were as keen as myself to establish the Waterford Association as a going concern. Some of those names now spring to mind. Tommy Corcoran, Tom Cahill, John Madigan, Councillor Ted Flynn, Tom Hickey, our first President; Dick Doherty, Hon. Treasurer; Christy Butler, Bill Flynn, Paddy Fahey who did a tremendous amount of work for the association, dear old Brendan Drea, Larry Cunningham and of course the wives of these illustrious names who helped in many ways. Many of them are alas no longer with us and I would be surprised if there was not already a thriving Celestial Waterford Association!

I recall opening a bank account for the association. The first lodgement was in the region of £5.00 a figure which has grown somewhat since! I also recall asking our Hon. Secretary, Jack Nolan, to inscribe my opening address in the minutes at the first meeting of the committee over which I presided. This was to the effect that Waterford had the potential to become one of the foremost Irish Associations in London. So it has become in this its Jubilee year.

I wish the Waterford Association continued success on the road to its Golden Jubilee.

Michael Brazil, Life Vice-President.

Knockout Competition

On a beautiful bright and sunny Sunday morning the Warriors from the Decies set forth together with their stalwart companions from Slaney Valley to do battle against the combined might of teams from Leicester, Newnham, South London, Monaghan and Thames Valley. Yes you have guessed it already, I am talking about the Thames Valley Irish Society's Knockout day of entertainment on 7th September, 1980, at Orleans Park School, East Twickenham. The unusual alliance of Waterford and Wexford or Wexford and Waterford, had combined to produce twelve brave participants to take part. They did, with every bit of grit and determination they could muster. Making a brilliant start and I think even to their own surprise they won the first event. But harder things were to come and lack of practice was soon to take its toll. Nevertheless they fought on and brought great credit to both counties. After about three hours of fierce competition between all teams concerned we were, as they say, down the field. No credit can be taken from the eventual winners, Leicester and the gallant runners up, Monaghan. Best of luck to both in the final, but being a county association our loyalties must be with Monaghan. Sorry Leicester.

Our sincere thanks to Thames Valley Irish Society for a wonderful days entertainment, and a well organised and expertly run knockout. On behalf of Wexford, their secretary, Kitty Cullen, say's a million thanks boys and girls and that they would be more than willing to compete next year. My sentiments entirely on behalf of the Waterford Team, but with the added rider that next year we will be prepared. Last but by no means least, these are the names of the very sporting competitors. From Wexford—Paul Cullen, Nuala Cullen, John Dempsey, Anne Marie Kirwan and Brian Devereux. Whilst from Waterford—Jackie Allen, Alan Ibhraim (good old Irish name), Sharon Groves, David Whitehead, Shirley Gibson, Jackie Gibson and Patrick Groves. It's nice to see the younger generation to the fore. Keep it up boys and girls. Thank you.

Bill Aulsberry, Assistant Hon. Secretary.

* * * * *

The Irish Centre (continued from page 20).

The cynic will smile wryly, the fatalist will say, "It can't be done," but scripture has a thing or two to say to those who treat the rich or well dressed in one way and the poor in another way—"Can't you see you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into unjust judges . . . (James 2:1-4).

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