

The Irish Counties Journal

ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER, 1981

VOLUME 11





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Assist. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. John McCormack.
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Tel.: 01-677-3826

Annual Dinner Dance.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance is being held on Friday 2nd October at the Empire Rooms, Tottenham Court Road, London. Your hardworking committee are endeavouring to make this occasion surpass the many social successes we have staged to date. Again a leading Westmeath Band has been engaged for this function. "The Waterloo" under the leadership of John Rabitt from Castle Pollard, the band has won awards in Longford and Offaly as well as our and their native Westmeath. The Waterloo have assured us that the 2nd October will be their finest night ever. The assistant leader of the band is Seamus Roddy who has been associated with leading Irish show bands and has played most of the top ballrooms here.

The reception is at 7.30 p.m. for sit down at 8.00 p.m sharp. We can assure you of a good evenings entertainment with the usual novelties spot prizes, and carnival effects.

Guests expected are as follows: Dr. J. J. McCormack, Bishop of Meath; Mr. P. Flanagan Westmeath, G.A.A.; Mr. J. Keegan, Chairman of Westmeath County Council and Mr. J Bennet, Vice-chairman; Mr. C. Kiernan, Industrial Development Officer. The Westmeath press and other guests.

In spite of an inflation rate of 21% we are retaining last years cost of £10 per ticket but please help your committee by booking early as we have to stop selling tickets at a reasonable time beforehand in order to organize the seating arrangements.

Tickets can be had from any of the addresses at the heading. Make your cheques payable to Westmeath Association in London, come and join us a Cead Mile Failte awaits you all.

Westmeath Association in Coventry.

Mr. Eddie Darby a native of Killucan who now resides in Coventry was inspired to have found an association in that area through reading about us in the media, Eddie contacted Bill Stenson and so the new

(continued on page 2)

Westmeath Association (continued from page 1)
association was born. The first social was such an outstanding success on 26th July last that they were able to send two handicapped children to Lourdes.

We wish Eddie and the new association every success for the future. We look forward to meeting some of them at our Annual Dinner in London. Eddie can be contacted at 205, The Barley Lee, Stoke Alde-moor, Coventry, CV3 1DZ.

Congratulations.

Congratulations are extended to Professor Padraic Martin Joyce, M.Agr., Sc., Ph.D. on his recent appointment as Professor of Forestry at University College Dublin. Many years ago Professor Joyce had an office in Castle Pollard when he was manager of Irish Forest Products this is where he met his wife Mrs. Phyllis B. Joyce, A.L.C.M., (nee McCauley) niece of Sean McCauley your P.R.O. After this Professor Joyce joined the Dept. of Forestry where he conducted a census of the forests of Ireland, when this was finished he became a lecturer in forestry at U.C.D. and is still there following his recent promotion. Professor and Mrs. Joyce's only daughter was recently conferred with the title Bachelor of Civil Law (Honours), Barbara Mary also has many friends in the Castle Pollard area whom she visits quite frequently.

G.A.A.

The 1980 Senior Hurling Champions "Ringtown" are at present arranging a long-weekend in London for the end of October. We may have more information on this shortly. We want to assure them of a memorable weekend in the city of our adoption, so watch this space next month for further details or contact any of the committee.

The Late P. J. Caffrey Memorial Cup.

The competition for the above cup which we present in conjunction with the Round Towers Football Club is at present being arranged, more details later.

Deceased Members and Friends.

Most Rev. J. J. McCormack Bishop of Meath celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Cemetery Sunday at the Cemetery in Mullingar, the resting place of our founder P. J. McCaffrey for deceased members and friends of the Westmeath Association in London.

The Late James Fitzsimons.

A special meeting was convened to pass a vote of sympathy to our President Rev. Fr. P. Fitzsimons, P.P., St. Boniface, Tooting, on the recent death of his father. Having passed the vote of sympathy the meeting adjourned as a mark of respect.

The funeral to Clonmellon, Westmeath was the best attended in recent times and bore testimony of the esteem in which the deceased was held in Westmeath and the surrounding Counties.

Our Association was represented in Westmeath by William Stenson. Gerry Reilly, Billy Attwell and Sean McCauley.

Hope to meet many of you on the happier occasion of our Annual Dinner on 2nd October.

Sean McCauley, P.R.O

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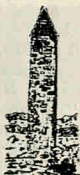
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Fermanagh Association, London

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Duffy, Bishop of Clogher.
Most Rev. Dr. Frances Kiernan Bishop of Kilmore

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. McManus. Tel. 01 965 - 5155.

Secretary: Mrs. Mary McCormack, 29 Platt Street, London NW1 1RP
Tel. 01-387 8604.

Treasurer: Mr. F. Corrigan.



Photo taken by Martin Moroney four years ago for our 21st Anniversary. Committee members with the challenge cup won by our member, Mrs. Mary Green in the Inter County Individual Quiz.

The Fermanagh Association are celebrating the Silver Jubilee on 19th September, 1981 by way of a Grand Dinner/Dance at the McNamara Hall, The Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB. Quite a number of people are travelling from Fermanagh for the occasion. The Fermanagh Association, Dublin are sending a party. We need all the support we can get as we are a small association though we are 25 years old, it has been hard work down the years but well worth the effort.

The committee members have to work very hard indeed with social, cultural and charity activities. Welfare gets priority and we help wherever or when ever we can.

One of the highlights of our year is the Fermanagh stand at the Irish Festival at Roundwood Park. We have had praise from many quarters for the stand at which we sell all the Irish goods possible with a choice for everybody with as many Fermanagh made goods as we can get our

Federation of Irish Societies

- President:** Mr. Brendan Duffy, "Mile Failte", 12 Firs Ave., Windsor, Berks.
Tel.: (B) Slough 31122 and (H) Windsor 66934
- Vice-President:** Mr. Bill Jefferies, Irish Centre, Portsmouth. Tel. (0705) 25152.
- Chairman:** Mr. Michael Hogan, 56 Hazlebury Avenue, Abbots Langley, Herts.
Tel.: (B) 01-965 4071 and (H) Kings Langley 65360
- Vice-Chairman:** Mr. Seamus McGarry, "Thomond," 150 Mildmay Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel. (H) 0438 52336.
- Secretary:** Mr. Bill Halley, 12 Heyward Road, Southsea, Hants. Tel. (H) 0705 829447
- P.R.O.:** Mr. Tommy Walsh, "Failte", 69 Milton Avenue, Liverpool L14 6TE
Tel.: (H) 051-489 5346
- Treasurer:** M/s. Sadie Redmond, 33 Score Lane, Liverpool L16 6AN
Tel.: (H) 051-722 6312
- Youth Affairs:** Mr. Jim McGrath, 25 Rookes Close, Letchworth, Herts.
Tel.: (B) St. Albans 34221 and (H) Letchworth 74406

(Continued from last month)

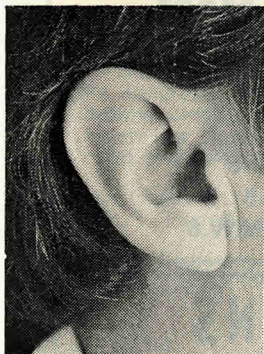
Let me try now to qualify what I am saying. I, like very many of you that listen to me here this afternoon, arrived in Britain with next to nothing, I personally had scarcely the fare to get me here. Britain has provided me with an opportunity to work and with the opportunity to educate my family and eventually to provide all of them with good secure employment. I am not bitter in any way that my own country was not able to provide me with such opportunities, but I make the point in order to illustrate that I appreciate the opportunities that we, as a community, have been able to avail of here in Britain, and I will never be afraid to record publicly our most sincere appreciation. But, we have not just taken, we have put something back as well, and I feel that because we have put something back that we are entitled to speak out freely.

Even with all the atrocities that are being perpetrated, we must not allow ourselves to be labelled a violent or a callous people. We should never hesitate to spell out our desire for peace. We should remind ourselves, and others too, that the National Emblem of Ireland is not the Lion which is a symbol of power, it is not the Cross which is the symbol of faith, it is not the Stars and Stripes a symbol of rising hope, no, the National Emblem of Ireland is a musical instrument, the proud Harp of Tara, a symbol of Peace and Love. Furthermore, let us remind ourselves and others too of the greatest public expression of peace and love ever witnessed by the world, it happened on the plains of Galway on that misty September morning in 1979 when the Youth of Ireland, North and South, said Welcome to Pope John Paul. The world has far too short a memory of events such as this, the same world yearns, cries out now for an end to the suffering in Ireland, but nobody wants to move one inch. My God! is it not better to lose Face rather than lose Lives? The only possible solution must be a political one, and though I expect many of you would disagree with me, I personally support the idea of a United Nations peacekeeping force taking over for the interim period during which constructive talks might take place. Drastic measures are required to be taken and taken quickly before there is Civil war. The Federation's recent letter to Societies warned of the involvement of organisations who have not got any real link with Ireland or the Irish people, but who want to get in on the act. There are far too many rebels without a cause and they are certainly not interested in peace in the province.

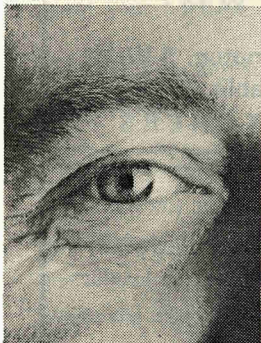
We hope and we pray for Peace, we hope and pray for the victory of justice and love over hatred and violence, and I repeat, surely it is better to lose Face rather than to lose Lives. I only hope that my voice, in

(continued on page 14)

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Tel. 77 53884.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. T. Farrelly

Assistant Secretary:

Mrs. M. Fitzsimons



Treasurer:

Miss K. Fitzsimons
"Corduff,"
41 Manston Way
Hornchurch RM12 5PB.
Tel. 76 53588.

Secretary:

Miss B. Reilly
30 Crayford Road
Holloway, London, N7.

Dear Friends.

Welcome back, I hope you all had a good summer and wherever you spent your holidays you had good weather and a truly enjoyable time.

Before I go any further I must say a few words about the London Irish festival.

A million thanks to everyone who helped out on the stall, those who donated home made produce and all the other gifts. In fact our thanks to everyone who gave of their time and energy to make the day such a marvellous success. A quick word of thanks to our stewards without whom the day would not have been possible.

Now a few words about some forthcoming Cavan functions. The first one is a Supper Dance on Saturday, 26th September at 9.00 p.m., in the Kennedy Hall at the Irish Centre, Camden Sq., London, NW1. The Riverside Five are our band for the evening, and as usual with all Cavan functions it promises to be a great night out for all. Tickets are available from all committee members.

Another night to mark in your diaries is Saturday, 14th November, the night of our Annual Dinner Dance. More details about this in the next issue.

Bye for now.

Bridie Reilly, Secretary.

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Federation Youth Report

(Continued from last month)

4. Areas of Investigation.

4:1 The Age Range.

The Committee after much deliberation decided that 'Youth' broadly encompassed the age range 14 to 25 years. The Committee were of the opinion that it was at about 14 years of age that most young people started making decisions about commitments. Under that age young people on the whole tend to accompany parents to their Society, but do not necessarily show a real personal commitment to the Society. This is of course a generalisation and there are exceptions.

It is within the age range 14 to 19 years that youth tend to drift away often never to return, and it is to this age range that most effort should be directed and most emphasis placed.

The Committee were unwilling to draw a line at eighteen years. Whilst it is recognised that many young people of that age and over are eligible for full membership of most Societies often they are not afforded a chance of participating in management, and their talents are not utilised.

Youth in the age range of 18 to 25 years have a great deal to offer younger members in terms of maturity, experience and leadership, and often a fresh and sometimes critical approach to Society affairs.

The Committee commended the contributions made to the Irish community and especially young people by the various dancing schools, the G.A.A., and Comhaltas particularly in the under 13 age range. The work done by these organisations in giving young people a grounding in Irish culture and heritage cannot be praised too highly. The Committee noted with disappointment however that many of these organisations had no, or tenuous, links with Irish Societies and as a result many young people involved in dancing, music and sport, did not seem to join an Irish Society. This seemed particularly so in the case of dancers. The Committee felt that closer links between Societies and the above organisations were essential and of mutual benefit to both.

4:2 A Question of Identity.

The Committee's investigations revealed that most of the Youth in Irish Societies had problems vis a vis identity. This was of course to be expected. The Committee were aware however that many second generation Youth with Irish names paid no attention to nor did they associate with Ireland or Irish organisations. This is equally true of many first generation Irish. Further a small proportion of Youth in organisations whilst having a commitment to Ireland felt a certain amount of conflict having been brought up in England and not having experience of the Irish way of life.

The answer of course lies mainly in the attitude of parents. Where a sense of Irishness is passed on to a child one often finds that no matter where born, the child will have an affinity to and appreciation of Ireland.

The Committee felt therefore that one of the duties incumbent on Societies was to run an education programme for Youth where they may also learn about Ireland, its heritage and culture and gain an understanding of and an affinity to the country, and what it has to offer. If a young person does not have this sense of Ireland then it is doubtful that he or she will wish to participate in an Irish Society. The hope is to reconcile one's place of birth and education with a love of both countries.

There was generally no such problem experienced by Youth of Irish birth except where all their formative years had been passed in this country.

(continued on page 20)



the irish centre

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REG. CHARITY NO. 221172

Director: Fr. William Cagney.

Chairman: Mr. Martin Moroney

(Continued from last issue)

Other difficulties followed. Mrs. X had an Irish widows pension, but due to the break with sterling the post office would not accept it. The alternative, payment direct from Ireland was impossible. The local Department of Health and Social Security agreed, *protem.*, to pay supplementary benefit.

After one year of great hardship the family was rehoused. Around this time direct payment of her pension from Ireland recommenced and it was possible to make an arrangement with an Irish bank to cash these (Irish Punts) on the day of receipt.

At this stage the gap was bridged, but the road is still rocky. The family is building its links in the local community, the statutory social services are involved and all parties are invited to refer back to the Irish Centre if necessary.

Conclusion.

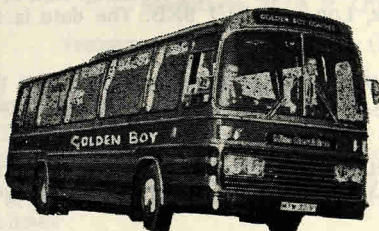
We are happy to welcome Maureen O'Brien, Social Worker, and thank the most Rev. Peter Birch D. D. of Ossory for his generous gesture in seconding her.

We would also like to thank the following for their co-operation and support during 1979? The Administrative Committee, Chaplains and Staff of the Irish Centre, the County Associations, the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme, the Irish Embassy, the voluntary typists, and receptionists who gave of their time and skill unstintingly, the voluntary and statutory services especially those in Camden Borough, and the men and women of the Irish community who have offered employment and accommodation to so many young people who might otherwise have run aground.

Buiochas agus bennacht dla oraibh go leir.
From the Editor.

This concludes the 25th report of the welfare work of the Irish Centre the 26th is already to hand and will be serialized in this journal as soon as space permits.

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Offaly Association

Offaly's Special Music Evening.

Offaly's Special Music Evening to celebrate our County's win in the All Ireland Hurling Championship the place is the Kennedy Hall at the Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB. The date is 17th October.

A wonderful group called Bungle Rye has been engaged for their first appearance in London the music will delight you with mainly traditional and folk.

With the music goes a buffet and all for only £5. Please help us celebrate, contact B. Byrne our Vice-Chairman on 01-363-3053 or yours truly on 01-737-2791.

Hope to meet you all on 17th October, time from 8.00 p.m. to 12 midnight.

May Clarke, (Mrs).

* * * * *

Federation of Irish Societies (continued from page 6)

this wilderness of despair, may be heard by some member of the British government.

And so my friends, after the homecoming, comes the departure, we make the promises of what we will do in the year or years ahead before we come home again. Because of the growing popularity of the Federation, most of us must accept that we may never again visit Portsmouth for an Annual Congress. But before we leave, we owe some promises to the Federation, to the founders, to the parents.

Let us try to take away from Portsmouth with us when we leave something of the history of the Federation born here. Let us ask ourselves what were the founders trying to achieve, and have we lived up to their dreams and their ideals. Let nothing deter us from publicly displaying our love of Ireland and all things Irish. Let us speak out with authority and with dignity. I again call on you all as I did a few years ago to try to resurrect the public expression of our love for our National Apostle, St. Patrick, by arranging parades in your town or borough. Get your Society to sponsor in your town or borough a "multi-community sports day", bringing people from every community together, but let the bringing together be seen to be done by you, the Irish community, I see this as a means of restoring the excellent goodwill that we have always been able to command.

Let each Society and Centre resolve to support wholeheartedly what we as a Federation are trying to achieve, support and encouragement are the very life-blood of an organisation such as ours. Go away from here and preach the gospel of the Federation, continue to be rightly proud to be Irish. Please God there are brighter times ahead and maybe we shall see our four green fields bloom once again some day.

Michael Hogan.
Chairman.

Thames Valley Irish Society

Chairman: J. J. Condon, (Monaghan)

Vice-Chairman: J. Gallahue, (Tipperary) Tel.: 01-894-3036

Secretary: M/S P. Gilroy, (London)

Treasurer: M/S T. Sheehan (London Tel.: 69-58263)

By way of introducing ourselves to readers of the Irish Counties Journal I would like to take this opportunity to ask anybody living in the Thames Valley area to contact any of the telephone numbers above for information as to our activities etc. We would welcome any new members they would find us most convivial and within the scope of our activities find something of interest. Our forthcoming events are as follows:

13th September next at Mogden Lane, Isleworth the Persendene Cup Final starting at 1.30 p.m. Senior Hurling between Sean Traceys (holders) versus Fr. Murphys.

Senior Football same day, same place at 3.15 p.m., between Aer Lingus (holders) and Garry Owen.

17th October there is a Presentation Supper Dance at the Winning Post, Chertsey Road, Whitton, starting 8.30 p.m. With music to the Four Provenance, cost only £6, with bar extension.

14th November we are holding another Supper Dance at the Winning Post, same cost.

Hope to meet some new friends at some of these functions.

Please telephone any of the above numbers for tickets or myself J. Condon, 01-894-9964.

* * * * *

Fermanagh Association (continued from page 5)

hands on. Our main attraction for the festival is of course our own Belleek China. All work for months beforehand to make the festival a success, it is rewarding that between seventy and eighty thousand attend and gives us joy to see our girls marching with heads held high in their county colours to some fine Irish music.

Every county association can feel justifiably proud to show their wares, their culture and heritage on this big day, it must be the biggest exhibition of goods and heritage to be staged in all of England.

The Fermanagh Association Annual General Meeting is held each year during the month of October, we need more members so why not join us? Please write to me at the address in the heading of this report I will be delighted to welcome you or give you any information you require.

Mary McCormack (Mrs.), Secretary.

Aer Lingus News from Tommy Dunne



The Good and the Bad News

"Bad news travels fast" is an Irish saying and you've all heard of our vast losses during 1980 and up to the end of March 1981. Considering the plight of most airlines and businesses in the present recession Aer Lingus has done its best to keep abreast of the times and with the current financial year's performance we are marginally ahead of budget and this gives us hope that we are succeeding in at least halting the serious decline of 1980.

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The new '£55 SPECIAL' fare applies to return travel from London Gatwick, commencing in the period November 1981 to March 1982, to Dublin.

Bookings must be made at least 14 days in advance and seats at £55 are limited in number on daily flights (except Saturday) and two flights daily on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A 50% refund is available if bookings are changed prior to travel. Travel insurance is available.

'£55 SPECIAL' allows for a stay in Ireland of between one night and three months, which must include a Saturday night. Children over 2 and under 12 on the date of travel pay 50%. Under 2, the infant is charged 10%. The offer is not available between 18th-24th December but the SuperApex fare of £66 return is available.

Return travel from London Heathrow to Cork or Shannon—commencing in the months of November or February—is available under conditions similar to the special offer from £69 return.

Aer Lingus November and February Sale.

For travel which starts in the months of November 1981 and February 1982 from six British provincial airports to Ireland, Aer Lingus is offering similar savings to that of its London Gateway and under the same terms and conditions.

From Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Bristol and Edinburgh, flights to Dublin cost from £49 return. Flights to Cork and Shannon from the same British airports cost from £63 return.

Full details of these and other special offers are available in the Aer Lingus Bargain Fares brochure available at the airline's offices and travel agents.

Key Results of 1980/81.

Operating Revenue	(£'000)	210,853	plus 14%
Operating Profit/(Loss)	"	(1,780)	
Interest Payments	"	7,717	plus 42%
Net Profit/(Loss) before tax	"	(8,900)	
Net Profit/(Loss) after tax and extraordinary items	"	(13,120)	
Passengers carried	('000s)	2,126,007	minus 14%
Cargo and Mail	(tons)	56,056	minus 15%
Passenger load factor		70%	2 points down
Overall load factor		64%	1 point down

The Waterford Association, London



Patron: The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D.,
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Membership Secretary: Mrs. Kitty Groves, 33 Kings Crescent,
Finsbury Park, N.4. Tel. 359 5994.

Our members are back from the Annual At Home Dinner in Waterford. From what I have heard it was a disappointment only 120 people sat down to dinner at the Tower Hotel. It is very sad that we can only muster 120 people for an annual event such as this. With all the people we have helped down the years and all who have gone back to Waterford to settle down this is a very sad reflection on our Association.

We have had a lot of sad news from Waterford with the Managing Director of our glass company meeting a tragic death in the prime of his life. Our old friend Tom Kyne has gone to his eternal rest. My two dear friends Bernard and Stasia Roche who went to Waterford for their annual holiday and only Stasia came back, my heartfelt sympathy goes out to dear Stasia in the loss of her life partner.

Our sympathy to Theresa and Johnny Franklin on the tragic death of Theresa's young nephew Michael O'Connor aged 20 who was killed in a fall in Co. Clare, masses have been offered and the relatives are in our prayers.

Congratulations.

Our congratulations to two Tramore surfers on their success in the Irish Surfing Championship held at Sligo recently. Hugh O'Brien-Morgan who got 2nd place in the mens event and Henry Moore who got 3rd place in the juniors.

My personal thanks to Waterford Crystal Director, Mr. Tom Healy for presenting a set of Waterford glasses to Mr. Gerry O'Mahony recently on behalf of the Irish Counties Journal to mark his return to Ireland, Mr. O'Mahony was a very good friend to the Journal and to the Waterford Association while he was in London.

Festival Time.

Festival time is here for Waterfordians and in this the 23rd year of this world renowned festival it is a success before it starts. I believe all theatre tickets are sold out and there is a demand for tickets for anything that is going on around the festival time.

Dates for Your Diary.

24th September—Presentation Farewell to Taigh Feehan Cultural Attache at the Embassy on his retirement and return to Ireland.

26th September—Dance at the Holyrood Social Club, Tolpits Lane, Watford.

10th October—Bacon and Cabbage Supper at the Irish Centre.

23rd October—The Golf Outing to Trent Park.

24th October—Annual Dinner at the Grosvenor Rooms, Willesden, NW10.

More next month.

Jane Smyth, (Mrs.), Press Officer.

Irish Welfare Bureau

SOCIAL WORKERS REPORT

by Sister Jane Frances

The year ending 31st December 1981 was a period of Economic Recession and steadily rising unemployment in Britain. It is considered that unemployment has not yet reached its peak. An increasingly large number of people are chasing a rapidly decreasing number of jobs. The facts and figures of this situation have received a lot of attention from the National Press. There is no need to enlarge upon them in this Report.

Accommodation in Britain, especially in the London Area, has always been a problem for home-seekers and those working for and with them. The problem has now been aggravated by a present Government Policy of drastic cuts in public spending on housing. This Policy will increase the number on already very long waiting lists for Council Houses and flats. It will lead to further unemployment in the Building Trade—a traditional field of employment for many Irishmen.

The situation is likely to deteriorate further if the Housing Act (Homeless Persons) 1977, which is at present under review has its priority groups curtailed. This Act came in to operation in November 1977. It placed the responsibility for homeless on the Housing Departments of Local Authorities for people who fell into one of the following four priority groups:

1. All families with children including one parent families with one child but **not** families deemed to have rendered themselves homeless.
2. All pregnant women.
3. Those who are at risk due to fire, flood, etc.
4. Those who are at risk through mental or physical handicap.

The Act provided very little help for the growing number of homeless people as they are in general outside the priority groups. It did, however, lead to more effective help being given to Senior Citizens mentally and physically handicapped people, pregnant women and battered wives. These groups of people would have received little or no assistance before the Act was passed.

The Act is at present under review and pressure is being brought to bear by many Local Authorities to have the priority groups curtailed especially those for pregnant women and battered wives.

We in Hammersmith Irish Welfare Bureau in conjunction with our colleagues in Irish Welfare Centres in Britain feel very strongly about the possible curtailment of this Act. In our capacity as members of the Welfare Sub-Committee of the Federation of Irish Societies in Britain we made a public appeal to the delegates of all the member Societies of the Federation at our November 1980 meetings. They were asked to give the facts of the case to their Societies and encouraged to enlist the support of their members in objecting to any curtailment of the Housing Act 1977. It was suggested that M.P.'s, Local Authority Councillors and others in Public Office be contacted and asked to work for the Widening of the Powers of the Act to meet the great problems of homeless in Britain.

(continued on page 19)

Irish Welfare Bureau (continued from page 18)

I (as the representatives for Hammersmith Irish Welfare Bureau) worked on a special sub-committee briefed to study the incidence of unemployment and homelessness in Britain. I discussed the homeless situation with members of organisations involved with this problem. Their assessment of the future was quite alarming. In 1984 (if present trends continue, this problem will have reached tremendous proportions.

In view of the findings in these areas the Welfare Sub-Committee of the Federation of Irish Societies decided to issue a Press Release in the spring of 1981, in the hope of discouraging families, young people and not so young people who may be affected by rising unemployment in Ireland, from coming to Britain. This is a concerted effort by all the Irish Centres in Britain to reiterate what we have been saying individually every year for many years. The situation is worse now than ever. It would be wiser to weather the unemployment storm at home in Ireland with the help of whatever Social Welfare assistance is available than to face the grim economic and housing situation in Britain.

It is against this background of chronic economic and housing problems that I present this year's Report on the work done by Hammersmith Irish Welfare Bureau. The picture is reflected in our statistics. The figures given at the back of this Report show that new applications for assistance increased by 30 per cent to total 758 cases. There was only a marginal increase of 2.2 per cent. in the number of cases previously dealt with which were brought forward into 1980. This figure was 414 cases. The grand total of 1,172 cases dealt with shows an overall increase of 18.9 per cent. on the total for 1979.

There was a very considerable increase in the volume of work done as many of our clients kept in constant touch with us during the year. They needed our support to help their survival in the very harsh economic climate. There was a 42.2 per cent. increase in the number of
(To be continued next month)

Aer Lingus (continued from page 16) Fleet at 31st March 1981.

Boeing 747 (Jumbo)	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Boeing 707	...	...	...	...	...	4	(1 leased out)
Boeing 737	...	...	...	...	...	13	(2 leased out)
BAC One-Eleven	...	...	...	...	...	4	

Note: Since the end of March last, three of the Boeing 707 aircraft have been sold, leaving one in the Aer Lingus fleet. This aircraft is on long lease with Libyan Arab Airlines (Tripoli).

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Federation Youth Report (continued from page 11)

When one looks at the vast number of English people with Irish names, many in public life, it is apparent that complete assimilation with total loss of Irish identity is all too easy. One question therefore that ought to exercise the Federation as a whole, and upon which its future existence may depend, is that Societies as a priority should ensure that young members are given a sense of Ireland without prejudice to their place in Society.

The Committee felt that this matter was important and deserving of further investigation.

4:3 The Promotion of Youth Groups.

The Committee see as a first priority the promotion of the formation of organised Youth Groups in Societies giving Youth a platform and a sense of belonging. Such Groups however should be an integral part of the Society and should be encouraged to participate fully in Society affairs to give their views and opinions upon the management policy etc. of the Society. It seems to be common ground that the future of Societies are their young people. Their contributions therefore must be important to the future policy and direction of the Society.

Most Societies feel a need to form and encourage such Groups and the Committee feel that the Federation should give as much help and assistance as possible to them. The Groups should be properly constituted within the framework of the individual Society. Opportunities should be given for the Officers of Youth Groups to attend meetings of the main Society Committee as observers and where possible full participating members. Where appropriate youth in the latter part of the age range should be encouraged to stand for office in the Society, and all youth afforded a chance to participate fully in Society affairs—for example, by serving on Sub-Committees.

4:4 The Organisation of Youth within the Federation.

The Committee is very enthusiastic about the idea of a National Youth Movement under the umbrella of the Federation.

The Committee sees the establishment of this movement as a natural development of the formation of flourishing Youth Groups among the Member Societies. It should be directly responsible to a Youth Officer appointed by the Officers of the Federation, and liaise with a standing Sub-Committee on Youth. Such a movement would be useful for the following reasons:

- 4:4:1 To provide a platform for young people to voice their representative opinions.
- 4:4:2 To provide a link with and support for the Federation in achieving its aims and objectives.
- 4:4:3 To assist Youth towards meeting the need for social, cultural and personal needs.
- 4:4:4 To expand opportunities for associating with other Groups regionally, nationally and internationally.
- 4:4:5 To provide realistic opportunities for education through involvement in organisational affairs.

The Sub-Committee discussed the structure and composition of such a movement. It should ideally be a part of, and an individual member of the Federation. It should comprise of Youth Groups of Member Societies organised on at first a regional and latterly a national basis. Finance and funding may be obtained through sponsorship and grants from Member Societies or the Federation itself. The movements constitution should closely follow that of the Federation and should subscribe to the aims and objects of the Federation.

As a precursor to the formation of such a movement however the recommendations outlined in paragraph 4:3 above should be carried out.

(continued on page 24)

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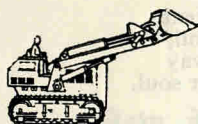
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Mrs. Bridie Neeves - 71 32487

"Old Granny"

By Michael Hannon

Old Granny had no riches
Nor wealth of worldly store;
But there was a welcome always waiting
When you crossed the threshold of her door.
"Come in, sit down, and rest your feet,"
She'd say with coaxing smile.
"Sure, 'twill only take a minute
To get the kettle on the boil."

She'd tell me tales of heroes,
Old legends of the Gael.
There was humour and some sadness too
Interlaced in every tale.
And sometimes, too, to tell the truth
A tear down my cheek would roll,
For Old Granny had a kind o' way
To jerk the teardrops from your soul.

But there was heaven in her laughter
Which resounded off each wall
Of her "oldie-worldie" cottage
Where hung pictures big and small.
Pictures of those loved ones
Scattered far-and-wide;
Leaving cold and vacant places
By Grandma's fireside.

The dresser by the window
Was a world unto itself,
With plates and pots and pitchers
Decorating every shelf.
And, standing in the hallway,
Like a prisoner in the dock,
Striking out the quarters—
Stood Grandma's—Grandfather Clock.

Now tumbleweed and wild flowers grow
Where Grandma's cottage stood;
And the night winds croon a lullaby
Like old Granny often would.
But something deep within me tells—
She has reached that Heavenly goal;
For from out those ruins I often hear—
The laughter of her soul.

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Federation Youth Report (continued from page 20)

4:5 The Federation's Role Regarding Youth.

The Federation should be aware of the importance of Youth not only to ensure its continued existence but as a means of keeping alive a sense of Irishness among its young people. The Irish in this country have never in the past been as successful as their fellows in, for example, the United States or Australia in keeping alive Irish traditions and a sense of Irishness. One reason for this is probably the close proximity of Ireland and the fact that the Irish community has never felt itself completely cut off from the mother land as have those in more distant countries. The Irish in Britain have always had in the back of their minds and in their hearts the idea of returning to Ireland and have regarded their stay as a temporary one. Noble as this may be it has been shown as historically unrealistic as the proportion of emigrants who return to Ireland has never been high. It has resulted however in the failure of the Irish community to set up powerful, political and social institutions to represent the Irish community in this country as the Irish Americans have done. There are of course many other factors which have also contributed to this, not the least being the historical ties with Great Britain and representation in the British Parliament. However such Irish M.P.s have never represented the Irish settled here. It is really a question of motivation and need which perhaps has been lacking in the past. Since the War however the growth of Irish Societies and the formation of the Federation have gone some of the way to redress the balance but there is still a long way to go.

In view of the falling off of immigration from Ireland and the death of many of the native born Irish as time goes on, it will be largely up to the second generation to represent the interests of the Irish community here and in order to do so they must feel part of that community. It is the task of the Federation to encourage this by keeping alive amongst its children a sense of Ireland, a desire to contribute to the Irish community in Britain, to take an interest in and further Irish culture, heritage and sport, and to train youth to become leaders of the Irish community. Adoption of the recommendation of the Sub-Committee will certainly go some way to achieving this. What is required however is a positive commitment to the idea.

4:6 The Role of Youth in Affiliated Societies.

It has been said that the second generation are the future of the Irish Society. Here however there is an inbuilt conflict. Most Societies were founded as a meeting place for Irish people where the culture and traditions of Ireland could be kept alive among a community in an alien culture. There is no guarantee that the second and subsequent generations will have the same aims of mind. The role of Youth therefore should not be seen merely as one of keeping things going as they are. Youth are bound to want change and inevitably if and when the second generation take over there will be change as cultural references and outlook are different to those of the first generation.

Given that change will be inevitable the Committee found it refreshing that the signs at present are that it will be more of a change of direction rather than emphasis. The Youth in Irish Societies at present want to preserve culture and heritage and often seem more enthusiastic about it than their parents. Encouragement of such attitudes will see the survival of existing Societies with original aims and objects to the forefront, rather than their dilution into mere social clubs.

However Youth Groups sponsored by affiliated Societies do not exist for the sole purpose of ensuring their continued existence. Youth Groups should be developed primarily for the benefit of their members and secondly to pursue the aims and objects of the Parent Society. This in no way implies total control by the parent body but a role rather of support. We would like Youth Groups in so far as possible to be self-organising, self-supporting, self-financing and to meet the needs of their members.

(to be continued)

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