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Counties

Journal



DECEMBER, 1970



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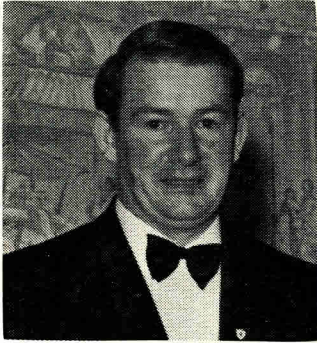
In London, there is a branch of The Provincial Bank at 8 Throgmorton Avenue E.C.2, and the manager there is Harold W. M. Clarke.



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FOREWORD



One of the objects of the Council of Irish County Associations at its inception was that a Journal should be published. I am indeed very pleased to see that such a Journal has come.

The year 1970 has been a significant one for the Irish people in Britain with the arrival of The Irish Post in February, Allied Irish Banks Group in the Summer and The Counties Journal in December.

I hope that this Journal will help to co-ordinate the activities of the County Associations even further. Very often the impression people form of the County Associations is that they are too socially minded a body who achieve very little. I feel sure that the growth of the County Associations have gone a long way in recreating a new image for the Irish People who are forced to come to this country. County Associations never make capital of the fact that they engage themselves in the welfare of the less fortunate of our brothers and sisters.

I should like to thank His Excellency the Irish Ambassador, Dr. Donal O'Sullivan, our Patron, for his good wishes to the Journal and to the County Associations. Our thanks to the staff of the Irish Embassy for the assistance given over the years.

To the Thomond Publishing Company, who have made the production of this Journal possible, we owe our sincere thanks and to our advertisers without whom a venture of this kind cannot succeed.

As Chairman of the Council of Irish County Association's I appeal to all Irish people in London to join their various County Associations and assist in improving the lot of the emigrants in this country and thus play an important part in the country of their adoption.

Mise Le Meas.,

MAURICE O'CONNOR



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I congratulate the Council of Irish County Associations on the launching of its monthly Journal.

The inauguration of this Journal will, I have no doubt, further increase cohesion among the County Associations and will enable them to work more effectively

both on their own and through their Council for the greater good of the Irish community in Britain.

Each of the County Associations is making a valuable contribution to improving the social life of its members in London, to enhancing their sense of identity with their place of origin and to raising the status and reputation of the Irish community generally in Britain. By banding themselves together in the larger entity of the Council of Irish County Associations, they have succeeded in making an even greater impact.

I take this opportunity to urge once again on every County Association the need to give constant and practical support to the Council so that it, in turn, may be better able to help other worthy Irish organisations and enterprises in Britain. The financial support recently pledged, on a continuing basis, by the Council to the Irish Centre is a striking instance of the good which can be achieved by united efforts.

Guidhim gach rath ar an iris nua seo.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donal O'Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donal O'Sullivan,
Ambassador.

3rd December, 1970.

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THE COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS (LONDON)

The Council of Irish County Associations takes this opportunity to wish The Thomond Publishing Company every success in its efforts to promote THE IRISH COUNTIES JOURNAL. We do this in the knowledge that all our County Associations will want to be associated with us in greeting the New Arrival of 1970.

* * *

What is The Council of Irish County Associations and what does it do? This is a question asked of me recently by Alderman P. Barry, T.D., The Lord Mayor of Cork. The short answer is that The Council consists of a Committee of Management and an Executive Committee which are democratically elected by The County Associations each year at The Council A.G.M. Under the guidance of these two bodies the various County Associations operate. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at The Irish Centre, Camden Square, N.W.1, at 8.30 p.m. At least two delegates from each County Association attend, and matters affecting the welfare of our people are discussed and policies adopted on a majority vote. The activities of Associations are co-ordinated and in the past publicity has been given to them in our Monthly Newsletter (this latter function will now be taken over by The Irish Counties Journal). The Council operates under the Patronage of His Excellency, Dr. Donal O'Sullivan, the Irish Ambassador in London. On many occasions in the past The Embassy has expressed a wish to see a full complement of thirty-two County Associations in existence. The Council are at all times eager to implement this request and many letters have been published in regard to this matter. At the moment we have twenty-six County Associations under our banner and we strongly appeal to people living in London or the Home Counties who hail from Antrim, Derry, Down, Tyrone, Leix or Luth to come forward so that we can help to form these Associations and to show others how smoothly London's United Ireland can work for the benefit of all.

Being a member of a County Association has its advantages in so far as one meets many old friends of former years, one makes new friends and one need never feel lonely in this great City when, for the asking, one can enjoy a pleasant conversation, a dance, a quiet drink, or a social evening among your own people and see them at their best. One becomes conversant with all aspects of Irish life in London, which opens up a new vista in the social sphere. Ladies are not alone welcome, but indeed encouraged to join their Associations and to play their part as members of various Committees. It has been said that the County Associations are one of the greatest organised bodies of Irish people in London and, being non-sectarian and non-political, we enforce no code in politics

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nor creed in religion, but we expect all our members to be national in outlook, promoting at all times the image of Ireland and things Irish so that our Homeland may benefit from our connections.

May I take this opportunity to remind our County Associations that we look forward to you entering the £1,000 competition as sponsored by our President, Mr. Tom Gorman, together with your participation in the Marathon Walk in aid of the Irish Centre, and your help with the Summer Fayre which is also organised to aid the Irish Centre. Your continued support of The Centre is not alone appreciated but is essential so that less fortunate of our fellow countrymen may find aid and sustenance, coupled with employment through the Marion Agency at a time when it is most needed.

From your Council, a Christmas wish:

May the Spiritual Beauty of Christmas,
Bring wonderful Blessings to You,
May Peace and the Joy of God's Guidance,
Make your New Year a Happy One, too.

BOB DALY,

Secretary.

Flat 3, No. 4 Carminia Road,
London, S.W.17.

December, 1970

ARMAGH

Chairman:
R. WALSHE
57 Lutyens House
Churchill Gardens
London, S.W.1

Hon. Secretary:
F. DOBBIN
62 Aldebrook Road
London, S.W.12
Tel.: 01-675 0361

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. B. McCOY, 153 Gassiot Road, Tooting, London, S.W.17
Tel.: Balham 2722

Glad to hear little Marie Dobbin is fit again after her recent operation and able to join her sister Kim at home. Marie is 4 and Kim 2.

You all know John McCann who was for years chairman. John resides at 3 Ranelagh Gardens, Wanstead, London, E.11. *Tel.* 01-989 2089.

John has four children, Paul aged 13, Brendan aged 12, Rosemarie aged 11, and Margaret aged 5½.

John is appealing with the other officers for Armagh people in London to come forward and help in the revival of the association.

Just before going to press we heard there was a priest stationed in Norbury who is a native of Armagh and willing to help.

Come along and show yourselves, all you Armagh people.

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34 Lemington Road Villas
Westbourne Park
London, W.11

Secretary:

Mr. P. G. SHAW

351 Amhurst Road
Stoke Newington
London, N.16

Application for Membership to the Carlow Association

Name.....

Address

Telephone..... *Please use Block Capitals*

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS

1 CONNOLLY ROW, DUNGARVAN, Co. WATERFORD

I was born at Island, Stradbally, Co. Waterford, in the year 1891. My people were farmers and I was educated at the local national school. My earliest connection with any national movement was when I joined the National Volunteers in Stradbally in, I think, the year 1913. We had about forty men in the local company at the time and did our drilling with wooden guns made for us by the local carpenter, Reg. Cunningham. When the split in the Volunteers came in 1915 the Stradbally Company may be said to have broken up and no attempt to get a Volunteer company going was made until about the latter end of 1917.

When the 1916 Insurrection started, it is safe to say that we had no organised Volunteer unit in Stradbally at all. We knew nothing of what was happening in Dublin until news of the Rising trickled through during Easter Week, 1916. No arrests were made in our district following the Rising.

On the organisation of an Irish Volunteer Company in Stradbally in late 1917, John Joe Cummins of Carrigahilla, Stradbally was appointed Captain. I was appointed Adjutant. We had

(Continued on page 39)

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**Wish The Journal every success and
Good Luck for 1971**

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Chairman:

Mr. SEAN IGEE
8 Elgin Avenue
Kenton, Harrow
Middx.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. CLIVE FOGARTY
2 Model Village
Great Waltham
Chelmsford, Essex
Tel.: 0245 26 674

No news from Clare on going to press. Perhaps they are modest!

This our own correspondent knows about them. The Moroney part of Owen and Moroney, the famous London photographers in the Uxbridge Road, London, W.12, is a long-standing member.

Clive Fogarty is a young, modest and tireless secretary. Clive organises a trip to America every year, one of which our correspondent and her husband had the pleasure to be on. Plenty of good food and wine and good company in the air all for £60 return. What more can you ask. A visit to America as well. Yes, that too!

Come on, Clive, forget your modesty and let's have more details of things we don't know for the next issue.

Application form for Membership to the Clare Association

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Secretary:

Miss E. HONOHAN
11a Myddleton Square
London, E.C.1

Application for Membership to the Cork Association

Name

Address

Telephone *Please use Block Capitals*

LONDON WEXFORDMEN TAKE OVER ROYAL ALBERT HALL FOR KENNEDY MEMORIAL

The Royal Albert Hall the scene for all the great occasions, was the happy mecca for the London Wexfordmen's Association concert this year. It was held on Sunday, 22nd November, the actual assassination date of the late President John F. Kennedy to which the concert will annually commemorate in conjunction with the late President's brother Bobbie who met his fate in similar circumstances. The proceeds of the concert will go to help the London Wexfordmen to provide the premises in London to commemorate the memory of John and Bobbie and a "Home" for Wexford emigrants in the Capital of Britain.

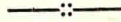
What of the Royal Albert Hall! Queen Victoria said it reminded her of the British Constitution - a monumental compromise. It has been affectionately called the Gasworks and the Kensington Mausoleum. Sir Thomas Beecham said it could be used for a hundred things, but music wasn't one of them. Richard Tauber was so overwhelmed by the size of the place that at the last moment he refused to sing — and the audience got their money back.

But the Royal Albert Hall has long since passed beyond criticism and become an institution. During nearly a century, a hundred
(continued on page 42)

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Results of the A.G.M. which was held at The Hop Poles, King Street, Hammersmith: *New President*: Mr. Jim Breslin; *Chairman*: Mr. Don Canning; *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. John Harold; *Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. Hegaghty (*Address*: 2 Morland Square, Holland Park Avenue, London, W.11. *Tel.* 727 0304); *Assistant Secretary*: Mr. John Byrne; *Treasurer*: Miss Sheila Macelroy; *Assistant Treasurer*: Mrs. Mulhern; *Committee*: C. O'Donnell, P. Hegerty, I. Ennis, J. Green, S. McGee, Mrs. Ennis, P. Haughey, J. Cunningham*.

Events for December: 5th Christmas Dinner at The Irish Centre. Dean Regan, the Wrestler, is hoping to be able to support this function.

The Tir Connell Games Committee are holding a card drive at The Hop Poles on 8th December, which our association are supporting.

* A vote of sympathy was passed at the A.G.M. to the relatives and friends of P. A. O'Donnell, T.D., Minister of Local Government and a native of Donegal.

Application form for Membership to the Donegal Association

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Secretary:

Mr. J. O'R SEALEY
44 Chestnut Rise
London, S.E.18
Tel. 855 4176

Our Association whilst it is not the biggest of the Irish Associations in London, is expanding and the committee would like to see as many Dubliners as possible rejoining in 1971. There is an application form printed below.

We are proud that we were asked in August last to sponsor a journey to Lourdes for a young Irishman, Mr. Brennan, of Camden Town. The Revd. Father Malone made all the necessary arrangements. No further information at going to press but our prayers will always be with them.

Now to a lighter note. We are pleased that the London Irish Rugby Team is having such a very good season and included in their first fifteen are some well-known international stars, Dr. B. Bresrichan, A. Moroney (captain), and Bill Doyle, both of whom are ex-U.D.C.

Reminder for 1971: Our annual outing to Portsmouth will take place in May, 1971, and all members wishing to book seats, etc., should get in touch with the Secretary as soon as possible. Members are asked to contribute news for insertion in each issue of this journal. (It is a monthly journal and all news must be received on the first of each month).

A happy Christmas and a bright New Year to all Association Members.

Application for Membership to the Dublin Association

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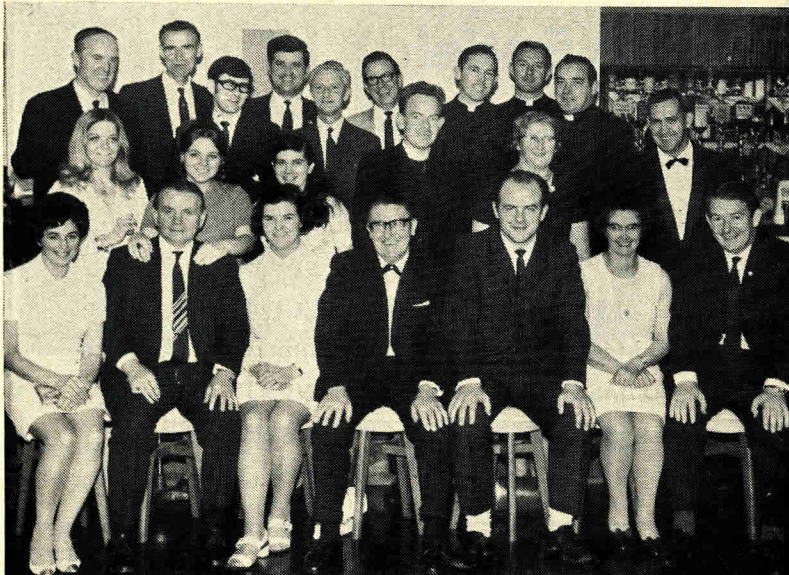
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FERMANAGH

PHOTO GROUP: A group of guests and committee members at the Fermanagh Association annual Dinner and Dance, held recently in the Irish Centre.



photograph by P. J. Fahey.

Left to right front row: Mrs. O. Connor, Mr. J. Gorman (Chairman), Mr. Frank McManus, M.P., Mrs. McCormack (Secretary), Mr. Maurice O'Connor (Chairman of Council of Irish County Associations), Mrs. B. Little, Miss L. Gough, Mrs. E. Sanderson, Fr. Patrick O'Rielly, Mrs. Green, Mr. Dan McCarrroll, Fr. Sheridan, Fr. Frank Gilbride, Fr. Sharman (Vice President), Mrs. F. Corrigan (Treasurer), I. Maguire, P. Grey, K. Sanderson, J. Green and H. Leonard.

The Fermanagh Association in London wish the Thomand Publishing Company every success with this Journal.

The Associations recent A.G.M. marks the beginning of another year. I have a feeling its going to be more interesting and promising than ever before. A number of new members were enrolled and with Mr. Frank McManus, M.P. for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, at Westminster as our President and Mr. Des Ward, our former Chairman, now returned to Enniskillen, as one of our Vice Presidents, we hope to keep in touch as we all have a keen interest in the life and welfare of the Fermanagh people both here and in our homeland.

We meet once a month usually at the Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London, N.1. Any Fermanagh people interested give the Secretary a ring at 387 8604 and details will be given of our next "meet in".

Our next dance in the Irish Centre will be January 23rd, 1971. Roll up and support Fermanagh !!!

Joke—Enoch goes to heaven and knocks at the pearly gates,
From inside—"who's dat dare boss?"

Enoch—"Forget it, man."

Irish Toast—May you be in heaven half an hour before
the devil knows your dead. Sent in by WINNIE.

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The Mayor of Galway



photograph by P. J. Fahey.

To the lilting air of "Galway Bay," the Galway Association Annual Dinner and Dance got under way at the Gresham Ballroom, Archway, M. 19. The Mayor of Galway, Councillor Martin Divilly and his charming wife lent their presence to grace the occasion. All the superlatives have been written before, but it was both simple and professional, with everyone responding to the festival environment.

The Association had self-imposed limitations, in so far as the capacity was limited to 450. The function was oversubscribed, parties came from the sister Associations in Coventry and Birmingham.

The Mayor with majestic aplomb of a first citizen manifested Galways progress. He entreated the gathering to return to their native shores and invest their wealth of experience, gained in their particular occupations, in a new Galway. He further presented the Chairman, Mr. Gerry O'Flynn, with an elegant Galway Crystal Vase — a symbol of Galway's contribution to the west's progress.

Other guests included Mr. K. Rushe, Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Maurice O'Connor, Chairman of the Council of Irish County Associations, and Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. J. Conway, President of the G.A.A. (Britain), Mr. J. Mullarkey, Life President of the G.A.A. (Britain) and founder member of the Galway Association.

It was a great night where the "Bárr A'Chaladhs" met the "Turloughmores," Gort mingled with Tuam and Fohenagh went to Connemara. "Alls well that ends well," and so it was. Roll on next year.

(continued on Page 33)

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Secretary: Mrs. K. O'SULLIVAN.

Treasurer: Mr. E. GUERIN.

Trustees: Rev. J. P. CREMIN, Dr. M. BROSNAN,
Mr. T. CANTILLON, and Mr. P. WHITTY.

The Kerry Association in London takes its place with pride amongst the county associations and very rightly so. Founded in the early fifties to act as a reception committee for the Kerry Teams travelling to London to entertain the Gaels of Britain, it quickly became one of the leaders in London Irish circles, a position it holds to the present time.

To cater for the Kerry Teams coming from Ireland didn't seem enough for the London Kerry men as one of the problems encountered by the Association in common with other county associations is the lack of contact with the migrant worker, the average Irishman and woman who may be on the move and whose roots are at home in Ireland. A very large proportion of the Irish community in London find themselves in a category where they are described as birds of passage with little interest in the community in which they are settled.

The Kerry Association, in common with other county associations, is largely composed of men and women who are working to a more developed personal plan. They have come to terms with the situation and are aware that they will be in Britain for a number of years and are working and saving for the day when they will return to Ireland or they are involved in businesses which are suited to their personal ambitions. Others have made a conscious decision to stay in Britain, a decision often influenced by the second generation.

The Kerry Association in London can claim to have successfully breached the gap with the general mass of Irish emigrants. This they have done in a very practical manner through the provision of a Headquarters, St. Brendans, to cater for the newly arrived Irish worker in London.

The decision to set up St. Brendans was a very courageous step when it was taken by the Kerry Association in 1960, and we are pleased to hear that in 1970 many other county associations are looking in this direction. The decision to acquire a property for £4,500 in 1960 must have been a big one or others would surely have followed before now. Two years ago the mortgage was redeemed and the decision to sell the existing St. Brendans was taken, this set the Association a job of finding a new and better property and this was achieved with the acquisition of 4 Craven Park, N.W.10.

The aim of St. Brendans is to help the boys arriving from Ireland with a suitable place to stay at a reasonable rent, to encourage the new arrivals to take up studies at the Polytechnics and in the professions.

It is the hope of the Kerry Association that the promises made to electorate of Kerry will be fulfilled when the Government will see its way clear in addition to its information, consular and business machinery will add a section to assist the young people who have to emigrate. The commission on emigration set up by the government whilst have some of the more sincere and intelligent men attached to it have a very difficult task by virtue of the terms of reference from which they have to work. We wish the commission well and trust

(continued on Page 27)

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Tel. 542 5678

Secretary

Mrs. R. Davis
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Lanark Road
London, W.9
Tel. 624 7394

Application for Membership to the Kildare Association

Name.....

Address

.....

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Telephone *Please use Block Capitals*

Kerry Association in London (continued from Page 25)

that will create the situation that we all dream about when the emigrants will not be coming from Ireland.

Can we in Kerry ever hope for such a day.

One would hope that our dreams could be fulfilled, but the latest brainchild introduced into the Irish scene seems to think otherwise, I refer of course to Bucannan and here I appeal to all Kerry people to think seriously about the implication of such a report for Kerry if the report is adopted and God only knows why it should we will have need for our airport and ports to get our emigrants out. The seriousness of the adoption of such a report means the death knell of Kerry as we know it today — a Kerry that should always be near to the hearts of all Kerry people — a Kerry that means a lot to an Ireland of which we hear a lot. We hope to keep all interested informed of the developments regarding such a report even though it is difficult to get from the corridors of power any real information on where the government goes next with Bucannan or goes next.

On a more pleasant note we would like to thank the Kerry County Board G.A. and the Central Council of the G.A.A. and London Co. Board for permission to have at our function recently the SAM MAGUIRE CUP. With us also on that occasion were the Captain of the Kerry Team, Donie O'Sullivan, D. J. Crowley and Selector Johnny Walsh. To all of the 1700 people who supported us on this occasion we say a sincere thank you and look forward to their support in the future. Our thanks to John Byrne (Kerry), Proprietor of the Galtymore for his generous donation to Association Funds.

The success enjoyed by the Kerry Association in London has been hard won, a tradition for which Kerry have become famous. It is from a background like this the rewards must surely come.

MAURICE O'CONNOR,
P.R.O. Kerry Association.

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Secretary : Mr. Tommy Dack, 4 Streatly Flats, Streatly Place,
Hampstead, N.W.3. Phone 435 2504.

We could write pages about the Historic City of Kilkenny, of its famous Castle, its Cathedrals, its Historic Houses, narrow lanes, of its great hurlers and its Black marble too. While all these things make one proud of being from Kilkenny their existence may not be of great interest to the exile in modern times. Therefore, we prefer to look at present day Kilkenny.

In recent years the County has made wonderful strides with quite a number of factories being set up to turn out a varied range of products. The Dolomite Factory at Bennettsbridge, the production of Kerrygold Butter at Ballyraggett to mention just a couple can be seen as a welcome solution to some of the unemployment problems in the County. A project that has in recent years put Kilkenny on the world market was the establishment of the Design Centre, its high quality products are now in great demand all over the world, it has also brought many famous figures to the City from every corner of the earth. Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon have visited the Centre in recent weeks. Brian Forbes, well-known film star and director and his wife, have purchased some goods from there.

Probably one of the greatest advances made to date in Kilkenny was the introduction of the Social Services under the leadership of His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Birch, the committee have made wonderful progress in providing facilities for the mentally handicapped, meals on wheels and free laundry services for the elderly, the housing of itinerants, the care of unmarried mothers and adoption, all aspects of youth activities, also the care of the sick.

An outstanding feature of all this is that staff have been specially trained to cope with all the problems that can arise from day to day in these particular fields.

The Kilkenny Association here in London are endeavouring at the moment to extend these services to London by setting up a Hostel for boys coming to London for the first time. His Lordship tells us that one of the committees greatest concerns is the finding of accommodation for young people coming to England. We believe that with the help and support of all our members and friends we can achieve our aims. We appeal to all who can, to come forward and help in any way they can, they would, to quote Dr. Birch "be doing one of the greatest works of charity" by helping to provide this Hostel.

For anyone who would be interested in joining the Association itself, please contact Mr. T. Dack, the Secretary.

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THE LEITRIM ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

The Leitrim Association in London is seventeen years in existence. The first meeting was presided over by the late Rev. Father Patrick Rynn, S.M., a native of Dowra. Also our present Chairman, Mr. James Fox, and Honorary Member, Mr. Patrick McMorro.

The first patrons were most Rev. Dr. Quinn, Bishop of Kilmore, and the late most Rev. Dr. McNamee, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, both of whom gave valuable assistance to the Association.

Michael Daly, a native of Arigna, and a former President of the Association, was the first Irishman to become Mayor of Worthing, an office held in 1958. Mr. Daly was President of the Council of Irish Counties in 1957 in which position he was succeeded by another prominent Leitrim man, James Fox, of Fenagh.

The chief aims of the Association were to bring Leitrim people together and to promote social, cultural and welfare activities. Its emblem is the Breffni coat of arms and its colours are green and gold.

At the present moment the Association are busy organising a Festival of Irish Dancing under Irish Commission Rules. Anson Hall in N.W.2 has been booked for the five day event in March, 1971, to be known as "Feis Breffni."

Close on one hundred competitions including approximately nine championships have been arranged for the syllabus. Trophies have been presented by Aer Lingus, Council of Irish Counties, Mr. Jim Conway, Vice-Chairman of G.A.A., 32 Club, Harlesden, Glan Connaught and the Leitrim Association.

The adjudicator is Breandan de Glin from Derry.

Leitrim is the first County Association in London to undertake this big event. Our Secretary, a native of Carrickon-Shannon, is no stranger to Feis life. She competed in the Sligo Feiseanna with her sisters and brother for many years.

Our President is Fr. Tom Colreavy. Officers for the current year are : Chairman, Mr. James Fox; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Sonnie Mahon; Secretary, Mrs. Michael Tierney; Assistant Secretary, Mr. M. Keegan; Treasurer, Mrs. G. Pears.

Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at the Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, N.W.1.

Persons wishing to join the Association should contact the Secretary : Mrs. Michael Tierney, 2 Riffel Road, N.W.2. Telephone 452 9157.

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866 3372

Secretary:

Mrs. K. Flynn,
27 Weldon Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Application for Membership to The Limerick Association

Name

Address

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

GALWAY (Continued from page 23)

DIARY

Our Annual Dinner obviously had no detrimental effects on our members. They turned up in force to the Association's October meeting at the Irish Centre. The dinner was replayed like any All-Ireland — and congratulations to the Galway Minor Footballers — points were scored and bouquets given all round. The referee, Chairman Jerry, played the advantage rule — no one was penalised.

In the Guinness Cup Inter County Quiz Competition, Kilkenny beat us after we had taken a good lead. The better team won and we wish them every success in future proceedings. Bod Daly, our team captain, agreed that we had the "cat" in the bag — there's always next year. Galway being the hosts, entertained the teams to some liquid refreshments. Team members Bob O'Halloran, Jerry Burns, Pat Faherty and Michael Walsh said it was a hilarious night. One wonders where they found so much valuable drinking time to laugh at! It was decidedly noticeable that the only time they restrained this frivolity was when a reverend gentleman was seen to enter — enough said!

A vote of sympathy was extended to Eddie and Lucy O'Connell and family, on the tragic death of Eddie's brother, John, who was killed whilst cycling to Mass. Prayers were offered for the eternal repose of his soul. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

(Continued on page 35)

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GALWAY (Continued from page 33)

Ta an Geimhreadh orainn anois agus cuile dhvine a'feitheamh leis an Nodlaig. Ni nach ionadh go bhfuil na paisti go h-athasaih faoi. Cuireann Santa glionndar chroi ortha go leir agus dar ndoigh ar na siopadoiri freisin. Ta na milte bregain le feiceal ins na siopai geala. Go bhforida dia ar an bpunint, ni mor acu ata le fail ar an luach ceanna. An t-am seo den bhliain deineann gach aoinne a seacht ndicheall brontannas a thabhairt do na paisti, don a dtuismitheoiri, don a gcairde. Ni he an luach ata i gceist ach an deagh-mheoin. Is deas an gno e ar fad.

Mar buille sguir iad sivid a bhfuil preab san ol ortha seachain an tiomaint. Sin brontannas don saol mor.

May and Johnny Quinn have promised us a report on their September tour of the States. We look forward to hearing of the exploits.

Here's some of the latest craich from Galway—

Is mise Seanin amaireach	I'm jackin' tomorrow
Uachtar as a mheabhair	Cream Crackers
Ul bean dana	Apple Tart
Siucra fear an phinsir	Castor Sugar
An Cherry Blossom	Paddy's Boot

Sin an meid anois.

As this column is to be a regular feature, all news items, literary works, etc., in fact all contributions are welcome.

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MAYO ASSOCIATION LONDON

The Mayo Association in London is one of the most active of all the County Associations in the capital. Founded in 1960, it is one of the youngest of the many Irish County Associations.

Through the years it has been the good fortune of the Association to have the services of some enthusiastic officers.

This fact, plus the efforts of various committee members has ensured the success of the many functions organised by the Association during the years since its formation.

Membership is open to all Mayo born exiles in London and the Home Counties plus, of course, the London born children of Mayo parents. One cause for concern among committee members over the years is the reluctance of exiles to join the ranks of the Association, this is something to which the present committee is giving much thought. We hope to double our membership in 1970/71.

To be a successful Association it is vital to have a premises where a permanent headquarters can be set up. Only in this way can a focal point be formed, a base where members can gather in Club comfort — in effect from home to home in a strange city.

With this object in view the committee have set up a fund to accomplish this goal. This is a major project at the present time, with property prices soaring, especially in the areas where it would be most suitable to open a Mayo Club.

However, hopes are high just now, it is agreed by all that a premises must be found and everyone hopes for progress in the near future.

Social Functions

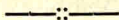
One of the Association's most enjoyable and satisfactory events is the Annual Children's Christmas Party. This party is open to the children of members. A special invitation goes out to all paid-up members and a lavish Christmas spread with presents, entertainment etc., is put on for all children nominated by their parents. All enquiries about the Mayo Association should be sent to the Hon. Sec., Mr. H. Lyons, 78 Chanctonbury Way, Woodside Park, London N.12. Telephone 445 4062.

The officers and committee of the Mayo Association are deeply grateful to the proprietors of the Irish Counties Journal for their generosity and wish it every success.

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Battersea,
London, S.W.8.

Application for Membership to The Meath Association

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 9)

from twenty to twenty-five men on the company roll, but only two or three had any guns. These few had shotguns.

The year 1918 was taken up with the usual drilling and occasional parades. We had a marked increase in numbers when conscription was threatened by the British Government in 1918 but, when the threat was over, our numbers decreased again to about the thirty mark.

The arms' position was still bad. I'm sure there were no more than half-a-dozen shotguns amongst the lot of us at that time, and a .22 rifle or two. Ammunition, also, was very scarce.

In common with other companies of Volunteers in West Waterford, I took part in canvassing and stewarding on behalf of Sinn Fein candidates in the parliamentary elections of 1918. There is nothing much else of interest to relate in connection with that year.

Early in 1919 I obtained employment in the Co-operative Society in Durrow, where I met Pat Keating of Comeragh who was Captain and afterwards Commandant of the Kilrossanty Battalion, West Waterford Brigade. Pat was later killed in action at the Burgery ambush, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, on 19th March, 1921. He was a very fine soldier and an able leader.

Nothing much occurred around the Stradbally area during 1919-1920. We tried to ease the arms' position by raiding houses

(Continued on page 41)

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Application for Membership to The Monaghan Association

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Address

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.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 39)

of the gentry in the district. A few guns were picked up as a result of these raids, which were carried out at night by a few of us. We never met with any opposition on these raids. To help out our intelligence service we carried out repeated raids on mails. Postmen were held up and the post bag taken. Any letters which were addressed to people known to be, or suspected of being, hostile to us, were passed on to Brigade H.Q. for examination. The Brigade O.C. was Pax Whelan, Dungarvan. Whether any useful information was ever found in the captured correspondence I cannot say, as I was not on the Battalion or Brigade Staff at the time.

My first recollection of being called to action was sometime early in 1920; I do not remember the month of the year, but I do remember being mobilised for armed guard on one of the roads leading to Stradbally when an attack on the barracks was planned. Others of the company were also on duty that same night, but nothing happened. The attack did not materialise. I remember hearing afterwards that a strong military force was out near our area that same night and, as a result of that, the proposed attack was abandoned.

As a result of our constant night raids on houses for arms we got together about a dozen or more shotguns and a few rifles. Dumps were constructed to safeguard the guns. These dumps were two in number; one was situated in the cliffs on the sea coast

(Continued on page 44)

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL (Continued from page 15)

million people have filed into the vast egg-shaped auditorium to hear music and watch boxing, to dance and to pray, to heckle politicians and pass resolutions. It has become London's glorified village hall, the scene of unending excitement, gaiety and sheer farce, and so the London Wexfordmen's Association are very proud to have the courage and the recognised honour of staging their seventh annual concert on 22nd November of this year.

In 1911, two days before King George V's Coronation, it was the scene of a ball for which the nobility of Europe — including thirty princes and half-a-dozen Grand Dukes — arrived in force.

A 26-mile marathon was once run there on a track of coconut matting, the athletes circling the arena 520 times to complete the course. In 1908, during the votes for women campaign, a suffragette shouted down Lloyd George from the balcony, while keeping furious stewards at bay with a dog whip. In the ensuing uproar, the organisers tried to calm the meeting by thundering out "Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be".

Everything about it is larger than life. The balcony alone seats more than the total capacity of most theatres. In 1906 a record

(Continued on page 43)

OFFALY ASSOCIATION

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Secretary:

Lewisham, London, S.E.13.
Mr. Donal Egan,
16 Dermody Road,

Application for Membership to The Offaly Association

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL (Continued from page 42)

audience of 9,000, including the Duke of Wellington, heard the first gramophone concert, marvelling at magical recordings of Patti, Melba, and Caruso. With today's stricter safety regulations, a full house means some 7,000 people.

Yet for the size and distinguished associations, there is something homely and familiar about the Royal Albert Hall. A wartime newspaper cartoon showed a woman talking to an attendant outside, "When do you think the invasion will start?" she asks. "Friday afternoon," he says "and if it rains they'll have it at the Albert Hall."

The Hall's full title, the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences, reflects the buoyant hopes of Victorian sponsors — the Prince Consort among them — who conceived the idea of building what was to be a cultural wonder of the world. But they had an uphill fight to get it built at all.

After the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Royal Commissioners who ran it used the handsome profits to buy a block of land on what was then the western edge of urban London. For years, grandiose building schemes were put forward, one of which envisaged a hall three times the size of the present structure. But money was needed and, in the end, it was left to an energetic public figure, Henry Cole, to awaken the public's interest.

(Continued on page 49)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 41)

near Island, Stradbally, and the other in a ditch. The latter was made from boxes covered with felt to keep out dampness. When inserted into the ditch and covered with brambles, they were impossible to discover except by those few of us who knew exactly where the dump was. These dumps were regularly visited by us and the guns oiled and kept in good condition.

Engagement at Durrow, March, 1921

My first major engagement with the enemy took place on the 3rd March, 1921, at Durrow, about four miles west of Stradbally, Co. Waterford. Along with about fifteen men of the West Waterford Active Service unit under the command of George Lennon of Dungarvan, I lay in ambush at Ballyvoile, which is about a mile south-west of Durrow on the coast road, at approximately eight o'clock in the morning. I was armed with a rifle on the occasion. The ambush position overlooked the railway line running from Cork via Dungarvan - Ballyvoile - Durrow - Kilmacthomas and on eastwards to Waterford City. At the time, the British authorities were having great difficulty in getting jurors to attend the law courts and the train we were about to hold up was one specially chartered to convey jurors to Waterford City for court duty there. It was anticipated that, when the news of the non-arrival of the jurors' train reached the British authorities, military would be sent out from Dungarvan (six miles to the west of Ballyvoile) along the coast road and we would be ready to ambush them at Ballyvoile. The position was ideal from our point of view. We were on high ground on the railway line overlooking the road, with good cover and an excellent field of fire. The British, on the other hand, would be forced by our fire off the road down towards the sea cliffs, where they could be picked off quite easily by us, who knew the locality well.

The train with the jurors came along from Dungarvan at the time appointed (about 8.0 a.m.). It was stopped by one of our lads waving a red flag on the railway line. The jurors were taken off and the train allowed to proceed to Durrow-Kilmacthomas, where it was hoped word of what happened would be sent back to Dungarvan. Not very long after the jurors' train had gone on and while we lay along the railway line waiting for the coming of the military along the coast road from Dungarvan, another train came in sight from the direction of Dungarvan and we had to get back quickly off the railway line and under what cover we could. As this second train passed we saw it contained military and we had a crack at them. They replied to our fire from the windows of the carriages and continued on out of our view going towards Durrow

(Continued on page 45)

ROSCOMMON ASSOCIATION

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6a Rutland Park Gardens,
London, N.W.2.
459 1751

Secretaries:

Miss Maureen Nolan,
Miss Angela Browne,
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London, W.2.

Application for Membership to The Roscommon Association

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 44)

station a mile to the north-west of our position. I cannot say, definitely, whether we inflicted any casualties on the British in the hurried exchange of shots, but none of our men were hit.

George Lennon then held a conference as to what was best to do in the circumstances, whether we would hold on and wait for the military we expected to come out along the coast road from Dunganvaran or whether we would follow up the train we had just attacked and hope it would pull up at Durrow, when we might come into contact with the military who would, possibly, detrain, at Durrow. The latter course was decided on. Our party split up into two groups and went cross country toward Durrow station, one group along the ground west of the railway station and the other east of the line. The latter group consisted of seven or eight men, comprising George Lennon, the O.C., Mick Mansfield, Vice O.C., Paddy Joe Power of Glen, Stradbally (another member of the Active Service Unit), myself, and four others whose names I cannot recall. Our party were within a quarter-of-a-mile or so of Durrow railway station when we spotted about twenty to thirty soldiers near Walshe's public house, which is about a hundred yards or so from the station. We moved a bit closer and opened fire on the enemy at about two hundred yards range. All of us were armed with rifles but our supply of ammunition was not what one could call plentiful. I

(Continued on page 47)

OUR QUIZ

Hereunder we publish a quiz for the amusement of the members and interested followers of the Inter-County quiz teams. It is divided into sections. The first for the Juniors, those who have just qualified and those who hope to qualify for the honour of representing their association in the near future. The second section is for the hard bitten veterans who have years of experience with their teams.

Juniors—

- (1) What is another name for the ring-dove?
- (2) What is Maundy money?
- (3) If a gardener told you to bring him a spud, what would you fetch?
- (4) What is the Fabian Society?
- (5) Name the famous mountain at Capetown?
- (6) What was the nationality of Mark Twain?

Veterans—

- (1) What is tundrar?
- (2) What novelist became Governor General of Canada?
- (3) What is Pleiades?
- (4) What is meant by the anomalous behaviour of water?
- (5) What is an ephod?
- (6) What is anoxaemia?

(answers on Page 48)

PRINTER'S ERROR.—The Printers apologise for an error in an advert on page 8. "KINGS HEAD ARMS" should read "KINGS ARMS".

SLIGO ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Mr. Tom Forde,
26 Kingsley Road,
Pinner, Middlesex.
868 5314

Secretary:

Mrs. B. Colon,
16 Westleigh Gardens,
Edgware, Middlesex.
952 2565

Application to The Sligo Association for Membership

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 45)

don't think I had more than about forty rounds if I had that. The British, of course, dived for cover and proceeded to reply vigorously to our fire.

Meanwhile, our second party had come into action on the west side of the station where further enemy troops were located. It transpired subsequently that the military who had detrained at Durrow were reinforced by a large party who had come out the coast road from Dungarvan and who were the very fellows we had hoped to ambush at Ballyvoile earlier in the day. When they did arrive at Ballyvoile we were gone in pursuit of the military on the train, which was decidedly bad luck for us.

Firing between us and the British went on, intermittently until well into the afternoon, when another train pulled in to Durrow from Waterford City and over a hundred soldiers got out and joined in the attack. These latter brought a machine-gun into action out in the open but the machine-gunner was soon knocked out by our fire and further attempts to man the gun were equally unsuccessful. Notwithstanding the terrific odds in their favour — at least ten to one — and their superior equipment, the soldiers were gradually forced by the fire of our two small parties to take up a position in the Co-operative store, which adjoins Durrow railway station. From here they “flaked” away at us without doing any damage.

(Continued on page 50)

Answers to Our Quiz

Juniors—

- (1) Wood Pigeon.
- (2) Specially minted coins distributed at Westminster Abbey on Thursday in Holy Week to the poor people up to the Sovereign's age. They are the only silver coins now minted in England.
- (3) An implement with a small spade-like blade, usually having a long handle for removing thistles and other deep rooting weeds.
- (4) A society of Intellectual Socialists.
- (5) Table Mountain.
- (6) American.

Veterans—

- (1) Name given to the cold desert area in the extreme north of Siberia and Russia.
- (2) John Buchan (Lord Tweedsmuir).
- (3) A famous cluster of stars.
- (4) The fact that it expands on freezing.
- (5) The vestment of a Jewish priest, particularly a high priest elaborately ornamented with emblematic designs of rich gems.
- (6) Air sickness.

The Individual Quiz Championship

In addition to the Inter-County Quiz Championship, which is a team event, the Council promotes an annual Individual Championship. This competition is open to all Association members. It is only four years ago that it was inaugurated. The winners to date were : 1966, J. A. Beckett, Sligo; 1967, M. Waters, Sligo; 1968, V. Quinn, Armagh; 1969, O. Hume, Kerry. The 1970 competition starts next January. There are usually three eliminating contests and the best four in each go to the final. The winner each year receives a cup which is presented by the Council.

TIPPERARY ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Mr. R. Butler,
30 St. Edmund's Court,
St. Edmund's Terrace,
London, N.W.8. 722 3730

Secretary:

Mr. James Keating,
33 Hemstal Road,
London, N.W.6.
624 3371

Application for Membership to The Tipperary Association

Name

Address

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

ROYAL ALBERT HALL (Continued from page 43)

Engaging a military architect, Captain Francis Fowke of the Royal Engineers, Cole acted as a one-man pressure group until sufficient funds were gathered for building to proceed. Fowke died before completing his plans for the Hall, and they were taken over by Colonel Scott, Secretary of the Provisional Committee.

Queen Victoria herself laid the foundation stone just over 100 years ago; the small slab of polished granite can still be seen behind two seats in block "K" at the back of the stalls. Only at the ceremony did she let it be known that, in memory of her husband, who had died in 1861, she wanted "Royal Albert" adding to the existing title, "The Hall of Arts and Sciences".

Albert's hall is an enormous oval beehive of red brick and terracotta which has just received a new face clean up. It is topped by a dome of glass and iron, 135 feet above the floor of the arena. Seats are arranged in a circle, sweeping up through three tiers of boxes to a balcony and an arched gallery under the roof. Only the 150-ton organ, with its 10,000 pipes totalling nine miles in length, interrupts the ring of seats.

It was a sensational building for its period, with 11,000 gas burners that could be ignited within seconds by electric sparks, a mile and a quarter of corridors, five miles of pipes for heating, a steam engine to work the organ bellows. No detail was spared, encircling the outside of the building, a hundred feet up, is a six ft. six-inch high frieze, composed of millions of small marble squares, showing groups of figures representing the "Progress of the arts".

(Continued next month)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 47)

The question now arose as to whether the Co-operative store could be rushed and taken by assault. The enemy was securely entrenched there and it would seem difficult to dislodge them, or force a surrender, when we hadn't as much as one grenade to throw at them. In addition, the terrain over which we would have to advance for a close-quarter attack was altogether unsuitable. It was flat ground offering little cover.

The main reason why a direct assault was decided against, was the old, old story, too little ammunition. Indeed, some of us had scarcely a few rounds left, which can be readily understood as we had been in action off and on for over four hours. At any rate, George Lennon decided to pull out and break off the engagement. It was a sore blow to us, as we knew the soldiers hadn't much stomach for continuing the fight, but we also knew that our lack of ammunition would undoubtedly tell heavily against us in the final assault.

On the orders of our O.C. we, therefore, retired westwards towards the Comeragh Mountains where we obtained some badly needed food and rest.

I regret I am not in a position to give any details of the casualties suffered by the British. We had one of our lads wounded in the leg, but not too seriously. His name was Andy Kirwan of Nonahon, Co. Waterford.

Attack on military at Ballyvoile and Ballylinch

My next serious engagement with British troops occurred on 29th April, 1921. I happened to be at home at the time, sick in bed, when George Lennon sent a message to me to come quickly to Ballyvoile Cross, which is about five miles west of my home at Island, Stradbally. I got ready and, bringing my rifle and a revolver, met Lennon and another member of the Active Service Unit — Mickey Morrissey of Dungarvan — at the appointed venue. The time was about 11.0 a.m.

Lennon told me that he had got word that a train carrying military would be passing soon from Waterford to Dungarvan and that he proposed to have a crack at them at Ballyvoile. We got into position on high ground at Ballyvoile overlooking the railway line, and when the train came along we noticed military in some of the carriages and had a few shots at them. The train did not stop. We then made our way across the fields eastwards for about three miles until we reached a railway crossing at Ballylinch. By now our party had increased to nine. There was George Lennon,

(Continued on page 51)

WESTMEATH ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Mr. P. J. Caffrey,
16 Oakden Street,
London, S.E.11.

Secretary:

Mrs. R. E. Roper,
"The Greencoat Boy",
2 Greencoat Place,
Victoria, London, S.W.1.
834 7894

Application for Membership to The Westmeath Association

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 50)

Mickey Morrissey, Paddy Joe Power of Glen, Stradbally, Billy Gough, Ned Power of Durrow, Jack Harris of Stradbally, the two Walsh brothers of Kilminion, Stradbally, and myself. Ned Power of Durrow was an ex-British soldier. Most of the men had rifles, the remainder had shotguns. On second thoughts, I am now pretty certain that all of our party were armed with rifles. On reaching Ballylinch level crossing, George Lennon split the party in two on the east and west sides of the railway line. He placed myself and Billy Gough about 150 yards from the level crossing on the north side of the railway. We closed the gates at the level crossing and tied on a red flag to stop any train coming along and lay concealed in ambush.

It would be early in the afternoon when a train approached from the west going towards Waterford City. Although we didn't know it at the time, it appears that the military came out from Dungarvan, having had word of the attack we made earlier in the day at Ballyvoile. This party of soldiers crossed the country towards Durrow and boarded a train at Durrow which was proceeding to Waterford and was the train now pulling to a stop at Ballylinch. Before the train had actually reached the level crossing gates some of our lads fired on soldiers who were on the coal box at the engine. One of the Tommies was wounded, his rifle dropping from his grasp. The train came to a halt at the gates and fire was opened by our lads on the far side of the train to where I was. Most

(Continued on page 57)



The Mayor
Councillor GORDON FIELD
The Mayor's Parlour
Town Hall, Hammersmith, W.6
Tel. 01-748 3020

16th November, 1970

J. Griffin, Esq.
The Waterford Association London,
156 Blythe Road,
LONDON W. 14.

Dear Mr. Griffin,

The Mayoress and I thoroughly enjoyed our evening with the Waterford Association members and their guests last Saturday evening. Everything possible was done to make our evening a memorable one and the Mayoress and I were delighted with the personal gifts you made to us.

May I also thank you on behalf of my Council for the beautiful vase you have passed to me to present to them at the next Council meeting.

Yours sincerely,

GORDON FIELD,
Mayor.

P.S. My regards and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Smyth.

THE WATERFORD ASSOCIATION, LONDON

Patron: The Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.
Chairman : W. J. Smyth Esq., 143 Cleverly Estate, W. 12, 01 749 0909.
Hon. Sec. : J. Griffin Esq., 156 Blythe Road, W. 14, 01 602 1301.

Our annual dinner was as usual a huge success. Following is a list of guests: Our dear Bishop and Patron, the Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, D.D., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore; The Mayor of Waterford, Councillor Maurice Downey and his wife, the Lady Mayoress; The Mayor of Hammersmith, Councillor Gordon Field and The Lady Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. Irene York; Mr. Tadgh Feehan, representing the Irish Ambassador; Tommy Gorman, President of the Council; Right Rev. Mons. C. J. Henderson, V.G.P.P., President of our Association; Mr. Maurice O'Connor, Chairman of Irish County Association; Rev. Fathers Meehan and Power, and Rev. Father M. Farrell of Ballybricken; Pat Fanning, of Waterford, who is Chairman of the G.A.A., Ireland; Mr. and Mrs. James Conway, Chairman St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee; Rev. Father L. Fanning, O.M.I., Chaplain Irish Centre; Mr. J. Healey, Waterford Glass; Mr. N. Walsh, *Munster Express*; Mr. John Power, Chairman, Waterford Association, Birmingham, and his good lady; Mr. and Mrs. W. Jones, past Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Waterford; Mr. James Power, a former Mayor of Waterford. We apologise to the people who were unable to sit down to dinner, due to shortage of accommodation. So please book early for next year. A marvellous time was enjoyed by all.



We are sorry to report five recent bereavements to members of the Association. A special Requiem Mass will be celebrated by our President in the near future for all concerned. Messages of sympathy were sent to all on behalf of the Association.

Home from America at the moment is Brendon Cahill, the son of Tom Cahill R.I.P., one of the original members of the Association. Brendon is a script writer for The Monkees. Welcome home Brendon, sorry its not a happier occasion.

Earlier this year the Chairman, Mr. Wally Smyth and his good lady celebrated their Silver Wedding. A jolly evening was had by all their friends. The association presented them with an electric alarm clock. Congratulations, Jane and Wally

We are delighted to know that Mrs. Downes, Mother of our Chairman's wife, is now fit and well after twelve months of operations both in Waterford and London.

Dates to remember for December: Children's Party, 13th December; Christmas Dinner 19th December at the Irish Centre.

Stop Press—From Hon. Sec.: The A. G. M. will be held on Sunday, 10th January, 1971. **A Merry Christmas to you All.**

CLAN CONNACHT

President : Mr. J. P. GLEESON, K.C.S.G., K.C.H.S.

Chairman : Mr. L. KENNEDY Treasurer : Mr. T. GILLERAN

Tel. ACO 7397 Tel. WIL 1751

Vice-Chairman :

Vice-Chairman :

Mrs. D. O'CALLAGHAN

Mr. C. SHARKEY

Tel. ARC 2339

Tel. HIL 0678

Secretary : Mr. R. J. DALY, Flat 3, No. 4, Carminia Road,
London, S.W.17. 01-675 0556

The Thomond Publishing Co.,
C/o Mrs. J. Smyth.

24th November, 1970.

A Cara,

The Connacht Counties extend greetings and good wishes to the Thomond Publishing Co. and tender them our hopes of great success in their first issue of The Irish Counties Journal.

Clan Connacht consists of the five County Associations of Connacht. As an Association, it came into being in 1964, as a result of a decision of The Council of Irish County Associations at their A.G.M. to raise £1,000 towards the John F. Kennedy Hall, then under construction at The Irish Centre.

The Connacht Counties decided to make a joint effort to raise a substantial sum of money in respect of this worthy cause. As a result of a Connacht Ball held at the Gresham, Holloway Road, N.19, a sum of £400 was raised and donated in the name of The Council to the Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Fund.

In later years Clan Connacht has served a useful purpose in organising the Connacht Float for the St. Patrick's Parade. This Float, in immaculate condition, is placed at the disposal of the Clan each year by our President, Mr. J. P. Gleeson, K.C.S.G., K.C.H.S., who carries on an extensive business in construction engineering in South London. Mr. Gleeson takes a keen interest in all our affairs and we take this opportunity to extend to him and his good lady our grateful appreciation for the kindness, courtesy and generosity we have experienced over the years.

In the St. Patrick's Parade of 1970 we displayed a tableau emblematic of Ireland's ancient flag, namely, a Round Tower, a Celtic Cross, a Harp and an Irish Wolfhound. In addition, we also displayed a thatched cottage with spinning wheel and we had the services of six very young ladies, suitably attired in National Costume, who proved an added attraction to a lovely setting.

Due to a great effort by Mr. Tom Gorman who had raised a substantial sum of money in respect of a better parade, prizes were offered for the best turned out floats. We in Connacht were lucky to share first prize with our friends from the Wexford Association and so found our depleted finances solvent to the tune of sixty pounds sterling extra. Next year we shall display . . . but then that would be telling. Wait and see, or better still, come along to the Parade and judge for yourself from the profusion of ideas conjured up by an imaginative people.

I have been associated with Clan Connacht since it was founded in 1964 and the thing which has struck me most or which stands out over the years is the grand co-operation which exists between the Connacht Counties. New ideas are encouraged, added to, and then worked upon with a will, so that the end product becomes the ultimate in perfection. It has been a great pleasure working with the County representatives of Connacht and an even greater pleasure to see ideas materialise from what was once a brain-child of an individual, now becoming a thing of beauty, moulded by capable hands and a joy to behold.

I would like to pay tribute to the following members of Clan Connacht who were mainly responsible for a grand display, since floats became part of the St. Patrick's Parade : Mr. Luke Kennedy, Sligo Association, Mr. Tom Gilleran and Mr. Seumas Lynch, Roscommon Association, Mr. Michael Tierney, the Leitrim Association. These have taken time off work to ensure that Connacht had a worthy turn-out on the day. To Luke O'Hara, of the Mayo Association, a special thanks for his efforts in purchasing various commodities used on the float.

That leaves the Galway Association. Well, I represent Galway, I cannot very well pay tribute to my little effort which dealt mainly with correspondence whilst leaving construction in the capable hands of tradesmen who brought into play the arts of their particular craftsmanship in united effort.

We in Connacht, wish all our friends in the provinces of Munster, Ulster and Leinster a Holy, Happy and Peaceful Christmas coupled with prosperity in 1971.

BOD DALY.

WEXFORD ASSOCIATION

A £55,000 headquarters in London for people mainly from the Irish County of Wexford is being planned as a memorial to the late President Kennedy and his brother Bobby.

President Kennedy and his brother, who were both assassinated, were members of a family originating in New Ross, Wexford.

The plan to build a memorial hall in London is being pushed ahead by members of the London Wexfordmen's Association and already nearly £1,000 has been subscribed.

The association's chairman, Mr. Tom Murphy, a building contractor's office manager of Elgin Avenue, Paddington, says: "All Wexford, whatever politics has a high regard for the Kennedy family and we are all confident that there will be a good response to this worthwhile project for keeping alive the memory of two great Irishmen.

It is estimated that there are 20,000 people from Wexford in London, so a hall of this nature will be put to good use as a headquarters for social and welfare purposes.

We hope to include hostel accommodation so that it can also be used as a reception centre for young people coming from all parts of Ireland. Now the problem is to find a site and every one of our members has been asked to be on the look out for a likely place. "Another factor is that if we do not reach the £50,000 target quickly enough we may try to find in the meantime an old building such as a disused chapel that we can adapt.

The London Wexfordmen have been running competitions and social events including the traditional Irish bacon and cabbage suppers to raise money for the hall. In Ireland, too, the fund raising is proceeding.

The G.A.A. Board of County Wexford have an application from Wexford Town footballer Liam Martin for reinstatement, having contravened the "ban" rule.

The Chairman said Martin was one of a number of players who had been reported six months ago for playing soccer. He understood that the player had not played soccer since.

On the proposal of Mr. Rackard V.S. recorded, by Mr. Dixon, it was agreed to recommend Martin's re-instatement to the Leinster Council.

WICKLOW ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Mr. Pat McAssey,
9 Liddell Gardens,
Willesden, N.W.10.

Secretary:

Mr. T. J. Lott,
24 Englefield Road,
Hackney, N.1.
249 1387

Application for Membership to The Wicklow Association

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone (Please use Block Capitals)

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 51)

of the soldiers got out of the carriages and took cover under them on the side of the train nearest to me. I started sniping at these soldiers. The next thing I noticed was a door of a carriage opening and what appeared to be a soldier with a tin helmet and khaki coat at the open door. I fired at him but he didn't move. I chanced a second shot, but still no move. I ducked low and went about thirty yards nearer my target, when suddenly a burst of machine-gun fire splayed the corner I had just left. I saw the smoke of the machine-gun coming from a carriage window, took dead aim at it and fired. No more machine-gun fire came from that window.

Next thing I heard was the bursting of grenades near where I lay. These were probably rifle grenades being fired by the military. I kept looking for about ten minutes or so for a sight of a soldier and then spotted the heads of two soldiers between the fence and the railway. I gave them rapid fire and the heads disappeared. I remained alone in my position for another five minutes or more (it seems I had not heard the whistle blast given by George Lennon as the signal to retreat) and then saw a British officer walking up by the carriages using binoculars. I fired at him. He gave a kind of jump and then fell back.

By this time I had a feeling that our lads had pulled out, as the shooting had stopped. In fact, they had done so some time previously but I didn't know it.

(Continued on page 60)

LOOKING



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THE GUINNESS CUP

The Inter-County quiz Championship for the "Guinness Cup", which is promoted by the Council of Irish County Associations is held annually. It was first held in 1956 and Messrs. A. Guinness and Son and Co. Ltd. (Park Royal) donated the cup as a perpetual trophy for annual competition.

Armagh Association has the honour of being the first Association to have its name inscribed on the plinth. It is also the only Association to have won the trophy 3 times.

Luke Kennedy and Bridget of The Sligo team are the only husband and wife to each have won medals in the final.

Each year the company sends a representative to the final competition to present the trophy to the winning team.

The list of winners since the inception of the competition is as follows: 1956 Armagh, 1957 Dublin, 1958 Kerry, 1959 Limerick, 1960 Armagh, 1961 Armagh, 1962 not recorded on plinth, 1963 Clare, 1964 Limerick, 1965 Galway, 1966 Sligo, 1967 Sligo, 1968 Cavan and 1969 Cavan.

This year's competition which has now reached the quarter final stage is a very open affair as the winners since 1964 have all been eliminated and it is likely that a new name will appear on the cup after the final. The teams left in the quarter final are Kerry v. Affaly, Carlow v. Kilkenny, Waterford v. Clare and Dublin has already reached the semi-final.

FINIS.

Any further information on the Guinness Cup please contact:

Mr. N. Waters (Council Treasurer),
43 Spencer Road,
Wealdstone, Harrow,
Middlesex.

OXFAM

Means helping the needy, the deprived, the suffering. You could play your part in our work, by getting up a dance or promoting a raffle on our behalf . . . or perhaps you could think up some fund raising ideas of your own?

We will gladly supply posters, etc. or give advice. Just drop us a line at:

OXFAM

274 Banbury Road,

Oxford

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 57)

As I had only five rounds of ammunition left and, seeing no sign of, or hearing no sound, from our fellows, I decided to retreat. I made across country to a friendly house of people by the name of O'Donnell of Leamybrien, where I had something to eat. I did not make contact with any of our boys until later that evening when I met up with them near Kilrossanty at the foot of the Comeragh Mountains and about seven miles west of Ballylinch.

As a result of the "scrap" at Ballylinch we had one man — Paddy Joe Power — wounded in the neck but not too seriously. I am certain that the British suffered heavily in killed and wounded but I cannot now say to what extent.

Military cycling column ambushed at Ballyvoile

On the 6th June, 1921, we heard that a cycling column of soldiers had come in to Stradbally and it was decided to ambush the column at a place called Kilminion, about three miles west of Stradbally on the main Dungarvan road. Thomas Keating of Comeragh, a brother of Pat Keating previously mentioned by me, was in charge of the ambushing party, which numbered about thirty men. The British column was about the same in number. Before the ambush came off I protested against it being held as our men were very

(Continued on page 62)

OXFAM

Oxfam's Role

Oxfam was certainly not formed around a protest against authority — but the small groups of local citizens who started the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief in 1942 did begin their work in a style which supporters and staff of today's £3 million-a-year charity are still proud of.

They found ways of avoiding red tape to help meet the most urgent human needs they could discover, in this case by sending food, money and clothing, for hungry families in German-occupied Europe, within the framework of the Allies' blockade.

This spirit of determination to get help through to people whose need was greatest, regardless of their origins and despite the political difficulties involved, has been part of Oxfam's style of operation ever since (its help for suffering civilians on both sides in the civil war in Nigeria was a very recent case).

Making sure the aid reached the right people, and then campaigning for more funds with the help of stories brought home from the field — became a formula for Oxfam's growth as a charity.

In the past decade it has sent £17 million worth of aid to more than 80 countries, concentrating more and more on longer-term development aid, to get at the causes of suffering rather than merely relieving the symptoms.

But there can be no cosy satisfaction about the work Oxfam is doing. At best, a voluntary agency can only set an example — in the speed and flexibility of its programme — to governments and large international bodies which are not doing nearly enough to tackle the problem of the growing gap between rich and poor worlds.

Oxfam is often seen by its nationwide constituency as a channel for the expression of their views on the broader questions of world poverty. It is, ironically, recognised among many lawmakers themselves as a section of the conscience of the British public. More than one interested Minister has strongly encouraged supporters of Oxfam and other agencies to put pressure on the government for more overseas aid.

Finally, Oxfam with its unique system of field directors in key posts around the developing world, has more than a quarter century of first-hand experience in the problems, and causes, of poverty abroad. This knowledge and experience should be allowed to play a part in the policy making which must be carried out by Governments and inter-governmental bodies.

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL CUMMINS (Continued from page 60)

badly armed, having only a few rusty old rifles and some shotguns with very little ammunition. I myself had a shotgun and five rounds of buckshot.

We lay in ambush for a few hours on either side of the main Dungarvan road at Kilminion, when word reached us from Scouts that the British were taking the coast road, via Ballyvoile, back to Dungarvan. We hurriedly made across country and had just reached Ballyvoile when I heard shots and saw some of our lads running to take up their positions. I then saw two soldiers going quickly up the road towards where our men were (They had seen one of our chaps crossing the road and that's how they knew we were there). The two soldiers I have referred to, fired on Jack Cummins of Ballyvoile as he was climbing over a wire fence on the railway embankment. I saw Cummins fall. He was shot dead, through the back. I fired on these soldiers, forcing them to take cover.

While this was going on, the main body of military had left the road and had taken to the high ground overlooking the railway line from where they fired on our men, who were clearly visible from the height.

The engagement lasted about half-an-hour. I retreated towards the cliff edge of the sea as my ammunition was all gone. In this ill-advised engagement we lost one killed and one wounded. I do not know whether the British suffered any casualties.

Immediately after the fight I returned home to Island, saddled a horse and rode through the nearby village of Stradbally where I was seen by the local R.I.C. Sergeant. That same evening I went to devotions in the chapel at Stradbally. As we left the chapel we were surrounded by Black and Tans. One of them identified me as having been in the ambush earlier that day, and I was being arrested until the R.I.C. Sergeant said he had seen me on horseback in the village at the time of the ambush. I was thereupon released. A lucky escape!

Later in the month of June, 1921, we had a minor clash with enemy forces at Carroll's Cross, about three miles east of Kil-macthomas, Co. Waterford. About fifteen of us lay in ambush and "had a go" at a convoy of military in three or four lorries travelling from Dungarvan to Waterford. I had a carbine rifle on the occasion.

The night was dark when the military came along. We gave them a burst of fire as they drove by our position. They replied to our fire with rifles and machine-gun, but the lorries accelerated and proceeded on their way to Waterford.

(Continued next month)

THE COUNCIL OF IRISH COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER, 1970



Saturday nights have been allocated by the Executive Committee as under. Where more than one Association requested the same date a decision was arrived at through tossing a coin:

January	2nd	—	Cork
„	9th	—	Irish Centre
„	16th	—	The Council
„	23rd	—	Fermanagh
„	30th	—	Kildare
February	6th	—	Offaly
„	13th	—	Kerry
„	20th	—	Clare
„	27th	—	Galway
March	6th	—	Sligo
„	13th	—	Waterford
„	20th	—	Donegal
„	27th	—	Wexford
April	3rd	—	Mayo
„	10th	—	Tipperary
„	17th	—	Roscommon
„	24th	—	Kilkenny
May	1st	—	Cavan
„	8th	—	Monaghan
„	15th	—	Leitrim
„	22nd	—	Westmeath
„	29th	—	Irish Centre

The Draw for the remainder of 1971 will be made at a future Council Meeting. Requests for the close season — JUNE, JULY, AUGUST are once again non-existent.

BOB DALY,
Secretary.

Flat 3, No. 4 Carminia Road,
London, S.W.17.

NEW POST FOR TOMMY DUNNE

The appointment of Mr. Tommy Dunne to the newly-created post of Irish Travel Co-ordinator was announced by Aer Lingus-Irish.

"My main task will be to strengthen the link between Aer Lingus and the Irish in Britain — to make certain they know what we have to offer," says Mr. Dunne.

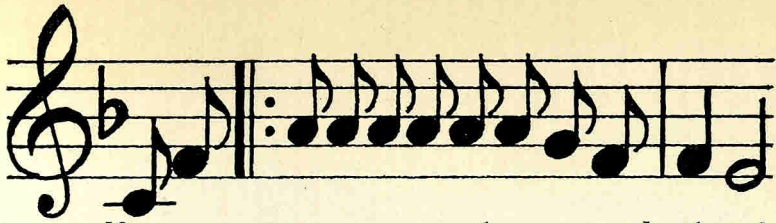
This new appointment reflects the airline's increased interest in the large Irish community in Britain. Apart from the obvious business potential, Tommy Dunne's new position will mean that Irish people in Britain now have a liaison man in Aer Lingus exclusively concerned with their affairs.

"I'm delighted to have this chance of devoting all my time to the Irish over here. A large part of my new job will be to co-ordinate their interests with ours — to advise and arrange Aer Lingus facilities and services which suit them best," he says.

Already well-known in Irish circles, Mr. Dunne is a Council member of the London Irish Club; a member of the Irish Centre in London; a Director of the Marian Staff Agency; and a member of the Catenian Association.

Born in Dublin, he joined Aer Lingus in 1949. Since then he has been the airline's District Manager in London and was one of the originators of the highly-successful Ireland Week some years ago.

In 1966 he transferred to Bristol to be the Aer Lingus Manager in the West Country. He is a past Chairman of the Bristol Irish Club. After 18 months he returned to London as Personnel Manager — a post he held up to his new appointment.



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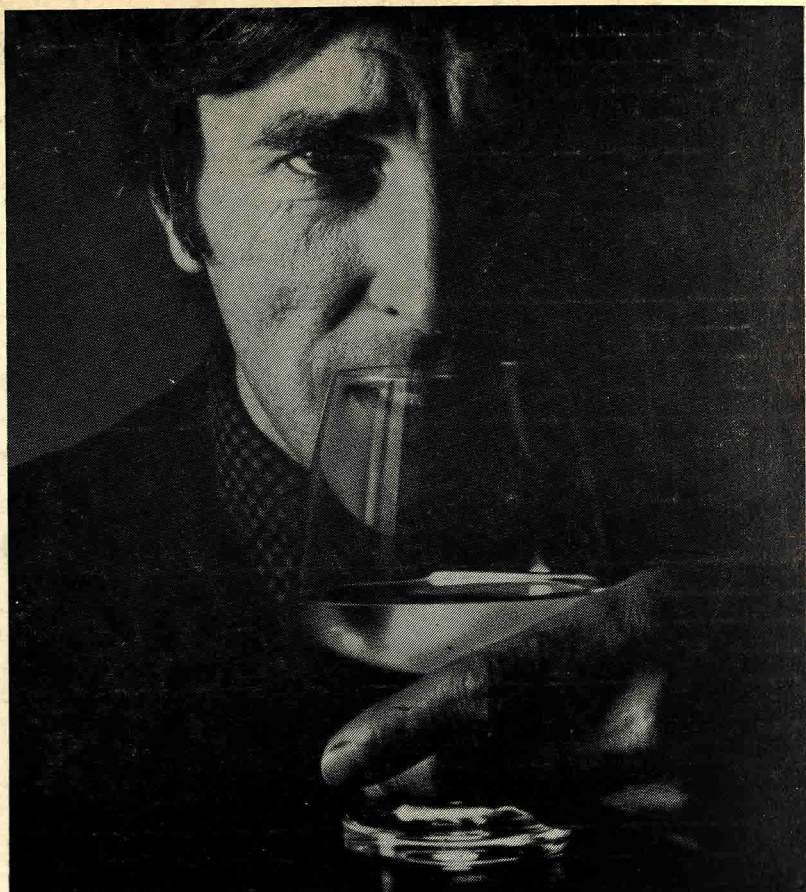


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