

*The Irish
Counties Journal*

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER, 1984

VOLUME 14



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(Continued from last issue.)

St. Louise Hostel for Women.

The object of the hostel is to provide a warm, homely, supportive and friendly atmosphere. Happily this spirit has been maintained and it is encouraging to perceive how quickly this begins to reflect in the behaviour of the girls towards each other.

The hostel in its first complete year of functioning, has been very well used by girls from all social levels, normally in the age range of seventeen to twenty-five years. Since September it has been practically fully booked, with the exception of a couple of weeks at Christmas when many went home for the holiday, leaving approximately thirty girls who spent Christmas with us. The girls cook and cater for themselves, but over the Christmas period buffet meals with the usual Christmas fare were provided in the social area. This brought staff and girls together for some pleasant and homely evenings.

A regular feature during this year has been the celebration of Mass on Wednesday evenings. The three priests, Fr. Malone, Fr. Butler and Fr. Ryan alternate the weekly visits, and offer advice and spiritual guidance to girls who wish to avail of it.

Social workers from the Irish Centre Community Services pay weekly follow-up visits to the girls they have referred, or to others who may wish to see them. Counselling, advice, job or flat vacancies, availability of training courses and adult education are part of the service offered. These visits also provide an opportunity for staff and social workers to meet and assess the needs of some residents whose specific problems are a source of general concern.

This year the hostel has been used by girls coming from Ireland and various parts of Britain for specialised training courses. Several girls coming to work locally have been referred by their employers. Sometimes they are accompanied by their parents, who are usually very apprehensive and concerned about their daughter's coming to live and work in London for the first time. Fortunately, we are able on occasion to offer hospitality to parents for a few days, after which they always leave happy that their daughter is in a 'safe' place. A little incident which happened this year illustrates the point. A girl from the south of Ireland left a note for her

(Continued on page 2.)

The Kildare Association, London

Patron:

Most Rev. P. Lennon, D.D., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

President:

Mr. P. Mulpeter,
16 Rushbrook Park,
Wellington, Templeogue,
Dublin 12.
Tel. 0001. 553123

Secretary:

Mrs. R. Davies,
96 Glasgow House,
Maida Vale,
London W9
Tel. 01.624 7394

Chairman: Mr. P. Casey

After a lapse of some years the Kildare Association has been revived and hopefully will again be able to take part in the various activities of the Irish Community in London. Our aim principally is to be in a position to help our county men and women and it is heartening that the present committee and members are willing to work hard to achieve this aim. We were pleased to be able to man a stall at the Irish Festival at Roundwood Park. Our grateful thanks to all the people who helped on the day and especially to the donors of prizes for the raffle.

Personally I got great satisfaction in seeing our County Banner in the Parade at the Festival and I have no doubt that it will be there for many years to come.

Our next venture is a Buffet and Dance at the Irish Centre, Camden Square on Friday, 21st September next. Tickets for this function are £5 and we hope to see as many Kildare people as possible to support us on this our first function at the Irish Centre.

We implore other County Associations to assist us in telling any Kildare people they know about us and if possible let us have their names and addresses so that we can write to them.
G.A.A.

As this is the Centenary Year of the Gaelic Athletic Association it might perhaps be worth remembering that the Round Towers played a very prominent part in the early years of Gaelic Football in this country. In 1938 when London won the Junior All-Ireland Final there were 8 Kildare men on the team, among those were our Life President, Pat Mulpeter and our late Chairman, Bobby Baker. There is also a cup donated by the present Round Towers Club in memory of the late Jack Baker.
R. Davis, Secretary.

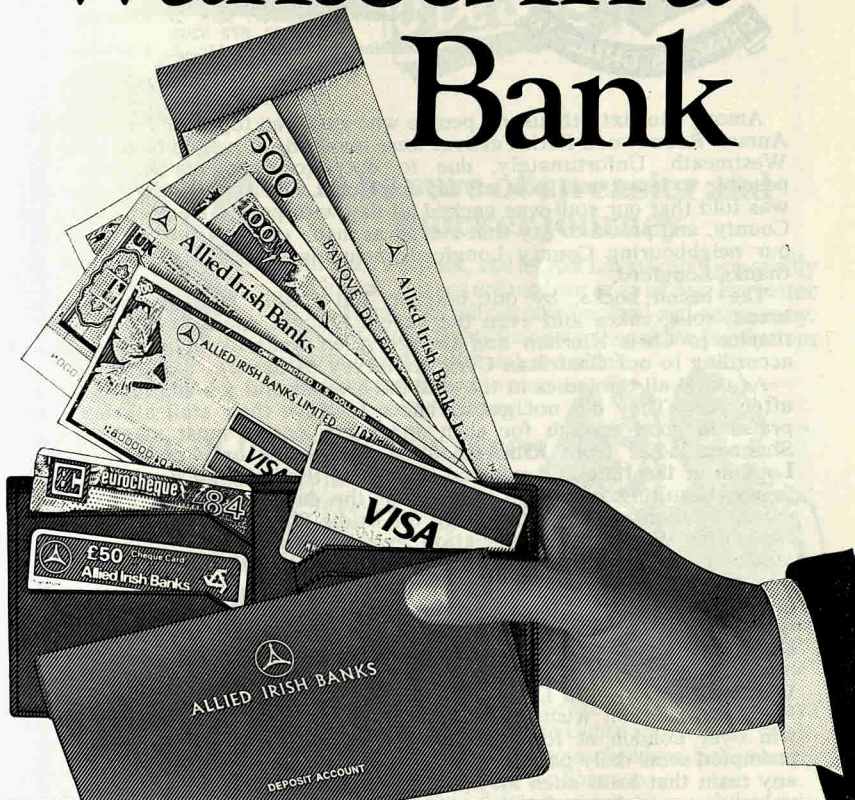
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Irish Centre (continued from page 1).

parents saying she was going over to London to find work. The distracted mother and aunt took a plane and arrived at the Irish Centre very late one evening. They were received by one of the priests who phoned asking if we could accommodate them for the night before starting their search. This was agreed and what was their joy and relief to hear, after their names were given that their daughter had been with us two days and was safely asleep upstairs. She went home with them but with parental consent returned shortly afterwards and quickly settled to work. Letters received, especially from Ireland, indicate how much it means to anxious parents to know that their teenage daughters are in good, pleasant accommodation during their stay in London.

Unemployment, of course, is one of the greatest problems for our residents, whatever part of the world they may come from. Often, though well educated, they are unable to obtain suitable employment. Many opt to come to London to take special courses, thus providing themselves with better qualifications for future employment. These girls frequently have to work hard to pay for a course and keep themselves. Often they have been referred by young friends who have been fortunate to find the hostel. It is gratifying and worthwhile to observe the relief by them when

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Westmeath Association in London



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Life Vice-President: Mr. W. Attwell.
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Among the sixty thousand people who gathered together for the 1984 Annual Roundwood Park Festival were hundreds of people from all over Westmeath. Unfortunately, due to duty commitments it was not possible to leave ones post all day for a chat with them. From reports I was told that our stall was packed all day with people from all over the County, and proud to say that almost as many came to support us from our neighbouring County Longford, including John Armstrong—many thanks Longford.

The bacon hocks, by our butcher, Bill Cashin (Ballynacargy), the bread, rolls, cakes and even the papers brought specially from home, thanks to Chris Kiernan and George Allen went like hot cross buns according to our Chairman Cyril McKervey (Athlone).

As usual all the ladies in the stall did a wonderful job as they do year after year. They did not get a chance to leave their stall all day. No praise is good enough for each and every one. I must mention the Shannon ladies from Kilmore Street, who were only on holiday in London at the time and manned the "Open the Box" all day without a break. Resulting in £84.00 takings for the day on the box alone. No words of thanks are good enough for Bridie Shannon and sister-in-law Nell. The Westmeath Association extends a warm welcome to you ladies any time you visit London.

Aer Lingus.

That man from Mullingar Adrian Towey, Sales Manager Aer Lingus, did his county proud on this occasion. He rounded up every Westmeath man and woman he could find and gave us all a wonderful evening at his stall. We are all as proud of you as the company you work for.

Westmeath Hurlers in London.

The Association wishes to congratulate our gallant hurlers on their win over London at Ruislip. The three point margin 4.10 to 1.16 has prompted some daily papers to say that London were unlucky. Of course any team that loses such an important game by so small a margin are unlucky, especially in hurling. Our gallant lads reserve their strength 'till the most important time in any game the last ten minutes. No doubt the late Jobber McGrath, R.I.P. great man that he was, was with our team that day in spirit, keep up the good work lads.

A combined mass for our late president Rev. Fr. Pat Fitzsimmons, and all deceased members of the Association in London will be held at St. Boniface R.C. Church, Mitcham Road, Tooting Broadway, on Friday, 14th September, 1984 at 8 p.m. The Celebrant will be Rev. P. Murtagh P.P. Tooting. Refreshments in the club room after mass. Please show your appreciation to our deceased members.

Remainder of 1984—Saturday, 6th October, a Grand Social and Get-together in the "Bulls Head," Clapham Common, Old Town S.W.4 from



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Tel. 348 4244

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Tel. 886 3967

Assistant Secretary:

Mrs. Una Pursey
Tel. 01 387 4740



As I 'Watch the sunrise lighting the sky' while sharing in a week-end retreat—'Faith in Action' incorporating an all night vigil for Justice and Peace, at Aylesford in Kent, my imagination runs riot in a few moments of reflection along the banks of the Medway.

The strains of a hymn in the background 'Bind us together,' in the stillness of a new dawn, reminds me of the contrast setting, the previous Sunday morning. Recalling the many thousands who travelled from near and far to lovely Roundwood Park for the Grand Annual Re-union of "Ireland Away"—the words of that hymn seemed very relevant to that situation also.

On behalf of Cavan committee, honorary officers and members, we express our gratitude to folk like Andy and Nancy Kane, whose unflinching loyalty and support each year in and around the Cavan stall is creditable and admirable. A special thank you to Brenda who adapted Blacklion as her native birthplace for Festival Day. We hope Cavan has gained a valuable supporter. Despite lots of attractions Thomas Carden and Colin Gaynor deserve special appreciation for their efforts and highly praiseworthy outcome.

It is perhaps a unique admission that our band of helpers worked tirelessly in unison, displaying a Christian ethos—through a long but beautiful and rewarding day, towards a deserving goal—efforts to raise funds for two deserving causes incidents of which have increased considerably in recent years. Multiple Sclerosis, and Renal Failure. We express our appreciation to the families and friends of our own committee.

The highlight of these grand occasions, has to be the colourful counties parade. For their participation in this event we say thank you to John and Mrs. McConnon, who with their lovely children took active part, each wearing Cavan's blue and white, proudly carrying our County Banner. Included in appreciation are Melanie and Desmond Denning, Alison Connell, Angela Caralon, Paul Sheridan and the Sheridan girls on holiday from Killinkere.

Our Stewards under the leadership of Terry Farrelly deserve special mention for their support and security around the stall. Their conscientious execution of tasks as allocated. A special thank you to you our friends and supporters—for donations of gifts, cakes, cookies, sandwiches etc. All your contributions material and financial are gratefully appreciated. It was good to meet many folk from home and elsewhere. It is regrettable—there seems no time to 'stop and chat,' but it

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The Mayor of Galway.

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18 Normandy Avenue,
Barnet, Herts.
Tel. 01 440 7138



Secretary:

Bob Daly, 5 Woodnook Road, Streatham, London SW16 6TZ.
Tel. 01 677 4555.

Tribute to the Late John Quinn.

A Cara,

There was widespread sorrow within the Irish Community in London on learning of the death of John Quinn which took place at his home in North London, early on Saturday, July 7th last. John was aged 63 and passed to his eternal reward after a year's illness, which he bore with patience and resignation. He was a founder member of the Galway Association of London, and being of a kindly and charitable disposition, was held in esteem by all sections of the community with whom he made contact.

A native of Claregalway, he was over the years employed as a Contracts Manager with various leading building firms. He and his charming Kerry born wife, May, were very much involved with the Galway Association. John had been our efficient Treasurer for just on ten years and in recent times had been ably assisted by his good lady who undertook the appointment of Assistant Treasurer.

John was one of the most obliging and dedicated members, not alone playing his part on the Committee of Management as an officer of the Association but, was always on hand to boost and promote any function undertaken or envisaged. His favourite party piece was to dance a jig or hornpipe which he performed with elan and expertise. As an outstanding member of our Association he will be sorely missed in years to come. His passing has left a void in our lives. We pray God will grant May the courage to face up to the even greater void in her life in the years to come. John was a sincere friend whom we all loved.

The remains were brought to St. Edmunds Church, Hertford Road, London N9 which is in Edmonton, at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, July 16th where the Rosary was recited prior to a Concelebrated Mass for the repose of deceased souls at 8 p.m. The Chief Celebrant was the Association Chaplain, the Rev. Fr. Bobby Gilmore of the Columban Fathers assisted by two Priests of St. Edmunds Parish. Father Gilmore in his homily drew our attention to John's dedicated qualities in serving the community and the Association.

A further Mass was concelebrated on Tuesday at 12 noon, the Chief Celebrant being the local Parish Priest assisted by Father B. Gilmore. At both Masses the lessons were read by nephews and a niece of the Quinns. The 'Hail Mary' in the bidding prayers was recited in Gaelic as a mark of respect to the deceased, who, in bygone days learned it in the native tongue at his mother's knee. After Mass, burial took place at the local cemetery with the final blessing being given by Fr. Gilmore.

There was an exceptionally large attendance at both Masses which

Clare Association, London

Patron: Most Rev. Dr. Michael Harty, Bishop of Killaloe.

Life President: Mr. Martin Moroney (Tel. 952 3186)

Chaplain: Fr. Andrew Clancy.

Chairman:

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91 Wymering Mansions,
Wymering Road,
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Ponders End,
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Committee:

Nancy Bonney, Bridie Shaw, Jim Commane, Tommy Egan, Noel Egan, Pat Costello,
Michael McMahon, John Moone, Bill Beswell, Tony Cullinan, Maura Davies.

Hon. Auditors: John Corry and Andy Murphy.

Littlehampton Trip.

On 15th July the Clare Association held a youth day out to the seaside town of Littlehampton. The weather was good to us and some of the braver members of our group went for a swim and some for a ride on the paddleboats. As an extra treat we had some refreshments for the children on the coach—what with that and all the rides at the fun fair it added up to a great day out for everyone but especially the children.

We hope to hold more such days out and other functions for our young people who have been sadly left out of the many activities in the past. I feel and I know that many people will agree with me, now more than ever we need young people to re-vitalize Irish Associations. His Lordship Bishop Harty (who will by the way be attending our Annual Dinner again this year) stressed at last year's Dinner how much he wished the young people would get involved in these activities. I personally think many would do so if they had the incentive and the chance to join with the older members of the family. I know through being a youth member myself that many of us born in Ireland or second generation Irish are very interested in our Irish Heritage but many do not know or have not been told how much fun it can be to mix with people from the same county and background as oneself or more importantly what a valuable role they can play in the running of these organisations. I urge anyone with children to encourage them and bring them along to the Irish Centre, etc. Soon they will realise what a great way it is to relax and enjoy oneself and who knows how far their involvement will extend.

We are now approaching the busiest time of the year for County Association functions, I would be very interested to hear from any young people whose mother or father or grandmother or grandfather

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Clare Association (continued from page 10).

comes from Ireland and are interested in their Irish Heritage, the more young people interested the more activities will eventually be formed for the youth. For instance the Youth Quiz is coming up soon, if more support is given to it by the young people it could become bigger and better and be an important date on the calendar. I hope to see many more young faces at the Irish Centre in the next couple of months especially at the Bacon and Cabbage Supper and Dancing on 29th September; Shopping Day to France on 13th October; Tramps Ball on 2nd November—A great fun night is in store so come along and 'let your hair down.'

Our big event is our Annual Dinner and Dance on 17th November with reunions during the same week.

Festival.

Again this year God graced us with beautiful weather for the Annual Irish Festival at Roundwood Park. We had a record crowd and everyone seemed to be having a great time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported us or just came along to say hello at the Clare Stall.

Christine Bonney, P.R.O.

The Irish Welfare Bureau

55 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6 8AU.
Telephone 01 741 0466.

Director: Rev. Fr. Brian Lawlor.

Social Workers: Sr. Jane Francis and Sr. Carmel McGowan,
Sr. Nancy O'Sullivan, Kay Mazur, Chris Willison.

13th Annual Report (continued from June issue).

These people are the most vulnerable group in our Society today especially when they meet with illness, which is inevitable given their life-style and advancing years. In London alone there are still 1,900 cases of TB diagnosed each year. Significant numbers of these are single homeless people. TB is by no means their only ailment: many suffer from diabetes, lung cancer, arthritis, as well as alcoholism and mental illness.

Accommodation at our expense was provided for 533 clients. They were either newly arrived to the City or those who wished to reorganise themselves on Social Security Benefit. The cost of this service for 1983: £2,614. Take-away meals were provided for 3,156 clients. Cost: £2,364.

All these people need access to permanent accommodation. For many, creating such access is all that is needed. Single homeless people can now register their homelessness with the Housing Authority. We encourage all our clients to register. A proportion need the help of the Domiciliary services to enable them to maintain themselves along with low-key support as they learn to budget—pay bills and cope with the transition of living alone and isolated in a flat away from their friends. Those with alcoholic and mental problems need schemes with more intensive support.

Even what looks like a 'miracle' solution can cause problems. A flat of one's own, a dream for some, is a nightmare for a man who has never been on his own. We have had clients coming in on the edge of nervous breakdowns. Living as they are on a financial knife edge one giro lost in the system, one payment not made starts a relentless slide into personal bankruptcy. It is difficult for those of us lucky enough to have any capital to appreciate the terrible pressure of this existence. (Do you know how much D.H.S.S. gives as a living allowance?) One sometimes wonders if the present tendency to provide flats without support to single homeless people is only creating more problems for the future. However, much is being learned about the kind of support that is necessary to offer through the unfamiliar and sometimes disturbing transition from Hostel to Home.

Our statistics have a category labelled "new arrivals." In our terminology this means those who have just arrived from Ireland. However many others arrive after they have been in London for say six months and they find themselves unable to cope. In a sense, they too are new arrivals.

There has been a significant increase in the number of new arrivals: an increase of nearly 130%. Of the new referrals to the Bureau this year, the biggest increase has been among the young 15-24 age group and the old (60+). The very young, say 16, were nearly certainly straight from Ireland.

It is natural that young people should want to leave home and become independent; that has happened for generations. Young people should have a choice and a right to leave home. But parents, and young people in their own interest, should be aware of the terrible shortage of accommodation and the kind of dangerous places they may find themselves in. The reality of the situation is that more and more people are coming to London and there are less places to go to. Even if they come prepared with savings, it only covers them for a few days in Bed and Breakfast, and eventually they find themselves on the street. On low wages there is no way that they can easily afford B & B costs, or even sometimes the rent of a room if they are lucky enough to find one.

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Cavan Association (continued from page 7).

was good to see you. May we be forgiven for perhaps just a brief "Hello" in the rushed heat of the day.

Now as examination results date draws near, we wish our hard working students a well earned rest, and a refuelling of new hope and enthusiasm for another college year ahead..

We renew our plea for new members of Cavan Association and continuing support of current and past members in an effort to reach out to Breffne exiles—around the Capital.

Our monthly committee meetings resume at The Irish Centre, Camden Square on 3rd September, 1984 subsequent—first Mondays—monthly—onwards. We look ahead to a full attendance, in the light of a busy Autumn and Winter programme ahead.

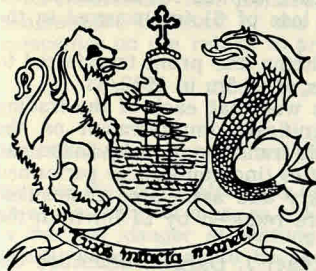
Our next function, 'Boston Tea Party,' 30th September, 1984, in the McNamara Hall, Irish Centre, is a new venue for our association. May we enlist the help of "Hostesses" who can take charge of a table or perhaps to provide Irish or American cookies, convince 9 guests for each table, it will be a memorable evening for a minimal charge. Dancing from 9-12 will be provided by the popular Springtimers. We hope friends from all counties will support us in this challenging effort.

Another date for your diary—Annual Dinner Dance—10th November, 1984.

We extend our deepest sympathy to May Quinn, relatives and friends of Johnny who died recently, R.I.P. Included in these sentiments are Galway Association who have lost a valued officer who worked tirelessly for many years to lighten the burden of less fortunate members of society. May he now reap his well deserved rewards and enjoy eternal peace.

(Continued on page 17.)

The Waterford Association, London



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John Treacy.

Our sincere congratulations to John Treacy on his Silver Medal in the 23rd Olympic Games. He not only makes Waterfordians proud but everyone in Ireland.

What more can John do for us? He won among lots of other trophies the World Cross-Country Championship in 1978 and 1979.

John is of particular interest to us in the Waterford Association as most of us know him personally, and his first introduction to athletics was by our dear friend and past Vice-President, Fr. Michael Enright who was with us here in London for some years.

John Treacy's time was 2 hours, 9 minutes, 56 seconds. When being hailed by the media for his success the great but modest man said, "Don't forget to mention the fantastic race run by Jerry Kiernan (Kerry) in the same event which he did in 2 hours, 12 minutes and 20 seconds, that was a superb run easily his best ever." What a truly great young man, when he thinks of others in his own success.

Patricia Walsh.

Patricia Walsh who was amazed at being chosen to go to the Olympics should certainly also be congratulated on being 9th in the finals of the Women's Discus Throwing. Another Waterfordian to be proud of. Patricia comes from Ferrybank and attended the Sacred Heart Convent there. No mean feat for that lovely young lady. Who said all the youth of today were bad?

Our Life President.

The Right Reverend Charles J. Henderson was seen to lay the Foundation Stone for the Sacred Heart Convent, Lewisham recently.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart took over the site of an 18th century house in 1923 and in 1954. St. Theresa's Girls School was built on part of the site.

In 1963 the School and home for children called Our Lady of Lourdes developed and expanded. Through changing policies and cut backs the childrens home was phased out and the last child left in 1983.

Aer Lingus News from Tommy Dunne

Aer Lingus Reports £4.5m Profit.

Aer Lingus reported a net profit of £6.9m for the year ended March 31st last. While small in relation to future capital requirements, this compares very favourably with the net loss of £1.4m incurred in the previous year.

After charging tax and extraordinary items, the profit transferred to reserves was £4.5m compared with a loss of £3.5m in 1982/83.

The main feature of the year's results was that each of the trading activities of Aer Lingus showed a significant improvement on the previous year. The operating results of air transportation by £3.3m and the operating profits from ancillary activities (including those performed within the airline as well as in subsidiary and associated companies) increased by £3.8m. Interest charges were reduced by £1.7m from the 1982/83 level.

The Chairman of the Boards, Dr. Michael J. Dargan, described the result as "a magnificent fight back by management and staff," but cautioned that much higher profits sustained over a period of years would be required when viewed against the high capital expenditure needed to replace the fleet by the end of this decade.

These successful results were achieved in spite of a drop of 6% in passenger numbers, which reflected the continued recession in all markets. Passengers carried systemwide totalled 2.2 million.

Cargo and mail carried systemwide totalled 58,287 tons, an increase of 8% over the previous year.

The Chief Executive, Mr. David Kennedy, said that the results were particularly welcome against a background of high inflation in Ireland and a world airline industry which continued to experience difficult trading conditions though somewhat improved from the previous year. It was estimated that the international scheduled airlines lost \$250m during the year.

As a result of a successful experiment in 1983/84 with a Shorts 330 aircraft on the Dublin/Liverpool and Dublin/Leeds-Bradford routes, the airline had now set up a subsidiary to develop the commuter concept using more fuel efficient Shorts 360 aircraft on Dublin/Cork, Dublin/Bristol, Dublin/Edinburgh and a new route Dublin/East Midlands.

The North Atlantic route continued to impose a heavy claim on the airline's resources. In 1983/84 the route had an operating loss of £1.6m and in addition incurred interest charges of £5.7m. Passenger traffic failed to live up to the high growth figures of the previous year and dropped by 10%. Aer Lingus passenger traffic was 13% down despite carrying almost 70% of total traffic on the route.

In the current year Mr. Kennedy said that prospects for traffic growth from the US looked better because of the increased value of the US dollar, but high prices due to inflation and taxes at home, plus the limited investment in tourist facilities here in recent years continued to hamper growth. Traffic for the first quarter of this year was on target.

While passenger numbers on cross-Channel and European routes should show modest growth, there were no prospects of any significant growth in passenger numbers over the next few years.

Profits from the major US subsidiary, the Dunfey Hotels Corporation, grew satisfactorily despite difficult trading conditions. The London Tara Hotel had a record year and had recently been given a major international award for the "best value for money hotel in the world."

Financial and commercial services for other airlines increased profits from £2m to £3.6m.

Guinness Peat Aviation had another outstanding year. A major event was the sizeable investment made by the General Electric Credit Cor-

Aer Lingus News (continued from page 16).

poration, a major US financial institution. This greatly strengthened the capital base and future prospects of this company.

In conclusion, Mr. Kennedy said he wished to pay tribute to and congratulate the staff of the airline and its subsidiary and associated companies on the return to profit.

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Irish Centre (continued from page 2).

they see the hostel, after they have experienced insecurity and exploitation. Unemployment for many is a distressing experience, while for others there is the real danger of settling for a quiet and idle life, accepting the regular payments made by Social Security. In all cases much help and encouragement is needed. Normally the girl who has been trained can compete with others and soon finds a suitable job, while for the unskilled the outlook can be gloomy unless they are prepared to accept any type of work.

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Cavan Association (continued from page 14).

Our good wishes go out to our many friends during this holiday season. May you each and all enjoy a happy care-free rest.

As we enlist your continuing support and goodwill, renewed thanks for your exceptional generosity.

We look forward to seeing you and yours on 30th September, 1984.
Until then Shain agus Beannact. LiB Zo leir.

Maura, Secretary.

* * * * *

Galway Association (continued from page 9).

included folk from all walks of life and with strong representations from the Irish County Associations in London together with a multitude of friends and relatives from Ireland and Britain. The cavalcade of cars following the hearse extended for a mile.

The Galway Association provided a Guard of Honour which took up position either side of the remains whilst the Casket rested before the High Altar, and paid a final tribute by lining up on either side as the procession emerged from Church to Hearse.

The Association tenders deep sympathy to May on the passing of an outstanding husband whom we all loved as a sincere friend, whilst offering our condolences to all bereaved relatives.

The Galway Association extends sincere thanks to our Chairperson, Mr. Gerry O'Flynn, under whose supervision the funeral arrangements were so efficiently organised.

Bob Daly, Secretary.

Waterford Association (continued from page 15).

At present the sisters offer a service to the whole community and a building had to be designed to cater for the community as a whole also allowing for possible expansion.

The Foundation Stone reads: "To God, Glory, Love, Thanksgiving, this stone was laid by Rt. Rev. C. J. Henderson, 12th June, 1984." Thank you My Lord for your great work especially amongst the handicapped children, you are an example to us all, a fine ambassador for your native Waterford and indeed for your country.

Congratulations.

Many congratulations to my nephew 21 year old Peter Thomas Downes on being awarded a B.A. in Economic and Social Studies at the University of East Anglia. The Degree was conferred by the Chancellor of the University, the Lord Franks of Headington.

Peter is the son of Waterfordian Mr. Thomas Downes of Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Peter's mother June is a Welsh lady.

Mrs. Rena Smyth.

Congratulations to my daughter-in-law Rena, who took 2nd place at the University of Amsterdam when obtaining her Masters Degree in Economics. Rena is now studying for her Doctorate. Rena is the daughter of General and Mrs. Panagiotopulu, of Athens, Greece.

Steve Pugsley.

Many congratulations to Steve Pugsley on obtaining a post as History Teacher at Merton to start in September.

Steve is the son of the late Squadron Leader and Mrs. Pugsley of Reading.

Retirement.

Our Best Wishes for a happy retirement to Mr. and Mrs. George Sauvage who returned recently to Waterford from Westminster. George and Josie were committee members many years ago when we had our meetings at Paddy Whitty's pub, the Lord High Admiral in Vauxhall Bridge Road, Westminster. They are both very well known in Waterford, Josie was a Mezzo-Soprano with the Dominican Church Choir and George was the greatest sprinter in Munster in the Forties. They have very many friends still residing in Waterford, one of whom came over to help with the moving namely Mrs. Stasia Roach (nee Comerford).

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Sauvage many happy years among their friends in their native county.

Jane T. Smyth (Mrs.), Press Officer

Mamie by Michael Brazil

Her name was Mamie. At 16, she was femininity personified. She was the dream girl of all Waterford's young men, myself included. In those far-off days, protocol in developing a boy/girl relationship was very strict and only in rare circumstances to be departed from.

The rules of the game were that a third party, normally a girl friend would approach the selected boy and say, "So-an-So was asking for you." That was the magic phrase—"was asking for you." Having been informed that the gates of Paradise were ajar, the next move was up to the boy. For instance, he would inform the intermediary that he would meet her friend after school.

The romance would then proceed along traditional lines. He would carry her school books, she thumped him, usually painfully to test his masculinity and ran away but not so fast that he could catch her up. On catching her, he would thump her painfully to prove his masculinity. A period of mutual thumping led to the next sequence when he would hold her hand after making sure that none of his school friends were in sight to pour scorn on him for being so sappy—this of course would be pure jealousy.

The semi-final stage would be the first snatched kiss which usually did not land on its intended target. The kiss would then proceed to grow in intensity—and accuracy—until the final stage which then departed from stereotype and became an entirely individual matter—but that is another story.

The great day came—a girl accosted me on emerging from school and uttered the magic formula, "Mamie was asking for you." Me—out of all the lads who had been casting longing glances at her, she had issued the royal command to me. It was incredible! I hastened to make my first assignation with my thumping testing and the rest is history.

Shortly afterwards, I left for the big city of Dublin to embark on my career but at the cost of two broken hearts. Eventually of course there were other Mamies and I presume other Michaels and the delicate memories faded.

I wonder along what paths did destiny lead Mamie and was she happy. I hope so.

A Few Extra Seeds

by Michael Hannon.

Giant airliners with wings outspread
Around the world a vigil keep,
Lest another power with a nuclear war-head
Should annihilate mankind while still asleep.
The cost, not counted,—in rupees, dollars, pounds,
When putting those death carriers on flight,
While half the world's bellies ache with hunger's pain—
Better a few extra seeds of grain
To soothe a starving child's appetite,
One 'plane less in the sky, one less nuclear submarine,
Less hate; for love; more trust,—and
A loaf of bread where none had been.

* * * * *

Westmeath Association (continued from page 4).

8.30 p.m. Come and meet all your relatives and friends from home for a dance and a chat.

Ask them to meet you again on Saturday, 1st December, at the "Bulls Head," for the Annual Christmas Supper. 'The Big One'—when you can be assured of a great meal. With spot prizes, raffles, and all the fun of the fare. Tell them that the Bulls Head is noted for its excellent food. Tell them too, to read the appeal below:—

Westmeath people everywhere, when you read this, will you think of our Annual Appeal. NOT for money, but survival. By spending an hour or two at our monthly meetings—or whenever you can come—you will help to keep alive the Westmeath Association. Don't you be the cause of letting your county Association die in London. The stronger the Association the greater the activities. The little inconvenience caused is very minor indeed. Look at the dividends it pays—join us now and help us survive.

Re-union.

Thanks to Danny and Peggy McCauley, the Shannons from Kilmore Street, for the wonderful family reunion at their home in Purley, Surrey. Approximately two hundred people were invited, including eighty of the family from all over Ireland. I also met Mossy Sullivan, Kilmore who came specially for the occasion. Many thanks Peggy, Danny and family.

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Published by Thomond Publishing Co.

Tel. 01 - 427 - 9721