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ON

Monday 16th March 1970

Souvenir Programme — — — — —

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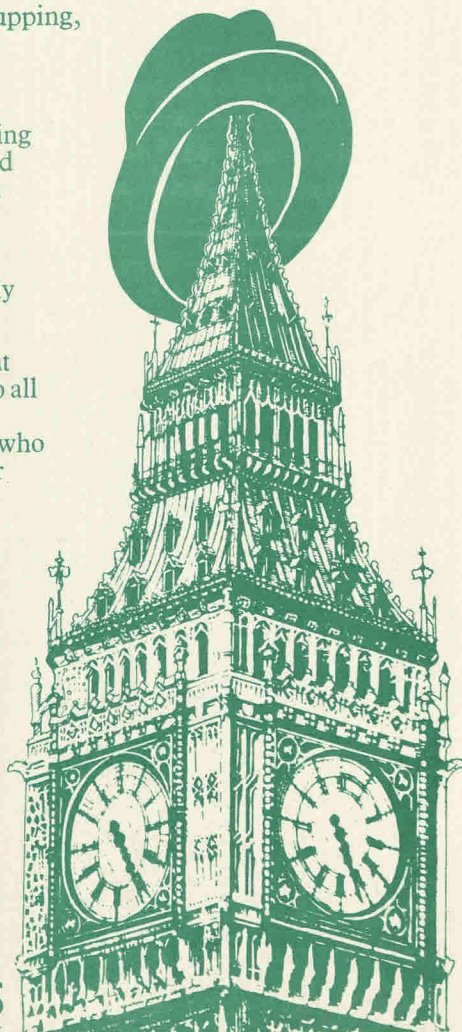
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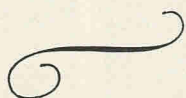
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Foreword



Tonight, The Irish Centre welcomes you, one and all, to the Annual St. Patrick's Festival Concert. This fiesta of song, music and wit, is something very dear to the hearts of all Irish men and women; one of the jewels of our Cultural Tradition.

The welfare work of the Irish Centre is aided in no small way by your commitment to this annual concert, and your constant, unstinted financial support to this Festival is certainly a practical expression of True Charity to our fellow and homeless exiles.

We must express our sincere thanks to His Eminence, Cardinal Heenan, His Lordship, Bishop Casey and His Excellency, Dr. Donal O'Sullivan for their patronage of this concert, and to all our distinguished guests for the honour of their presence.

Mr. T. Leslie Jackson of BBC-TV, who has produced this concert, has voluntarily undertaken this effort and he has planned tonight's programme with pin-point precision. We congratulate and thank him. Our thanks are due also to the talented artistes appearing here tonight, and the courteous Manager and Staff of the Royal Albert Hall, for their kindness and efficiency.

Last, but not least, our gratitude to all our good people — our audience — for their generous and unfailing support, and to our Administrative and Club Committees for their loyal work throughout the year.

To all these — a Cead Mile Failte and a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

Mise le meas,
Liam Fanning O.M.I.
Senior Chaplain
for the Organising Committee

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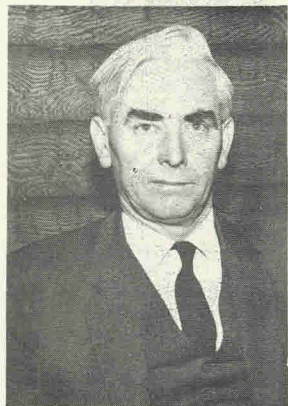
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O.M.I.

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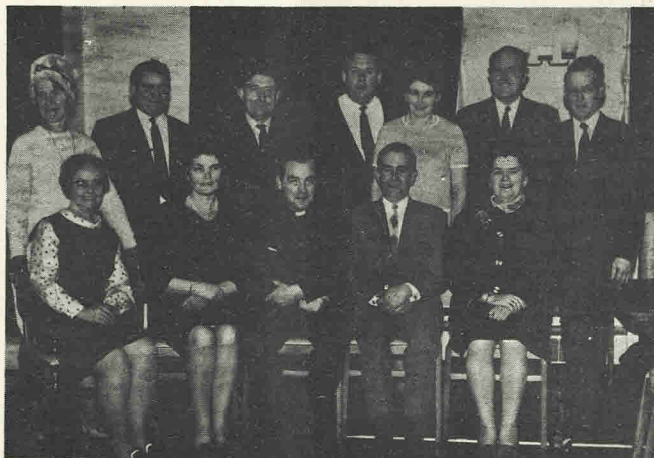
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Left to Right, Front Row:

Mrs. Mary Hopkins, Mr. Jim Dorrian, Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I., Miss Mary Kenny, Mrs. B. McGrath

Back Row:

Mr. John Ryan, Mr. Pat Hegarty, Mrs. Nancy Crowley, Mr. John Murphy, Mr. John Downey, Mr. Joe Kelly, Miss Tess Rudd

BALLAD SESSIONS

Douglas Hyde Lounge

When an average of two hundred people make it their business to come to the Ballad Session in the Douglas Hyde Lounge at The Irish Centre every Monday night, you must conclude there is something "in it". And since it opened on January 27th, 1969, it is a fact that thousands of Irish men, women and children have been entertained to the full at our Ballad Sessions in The Irish Centre.

What are the essential ingredients to make a successful Ballad Session? It seems we have the answer. The simple answer is a good mix of proper ballads combined with music that is good, and when you have heard Finbar Dwyer in our Concert tonight, you will hear for yourself that the quality of music is superb. He is backed by his cousin, Sean (holder of the Irish record in hop, skip and jump).

Audience participation is essential — but they too must be good! A good M.C. is vital, and we have all this and more. Come and visit us one Monday — it is guaranteed you will come again. Music is also in the Lounge on Friday and Saturday evenings.



*All photographs of the Irish Centre were taken by Owen & Moroney, Commercial Photographers
336 Uxbridge Rd. W.12. Phone:- SHE 1141.*



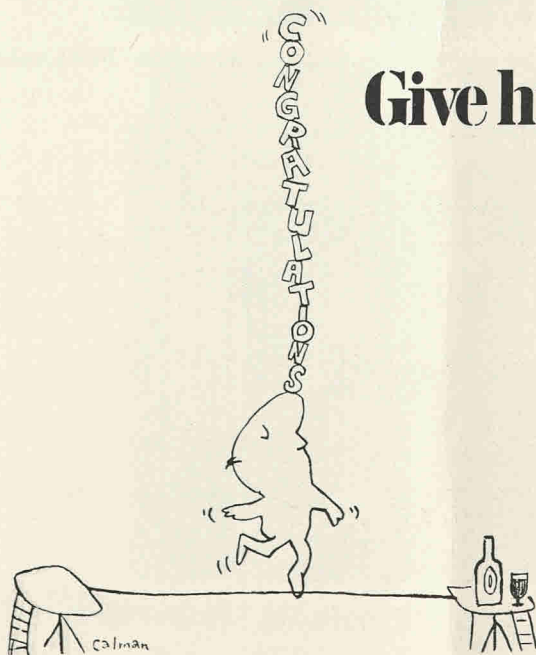
Other events in the John F. Kennedy Hall include Bacon and Cabbage Suppers, Reunions, Dinners, Bingo, Caelis and Dancing, etc.
For all this entertainment, join The Irish Centre Club — Application Form and details of membership on page

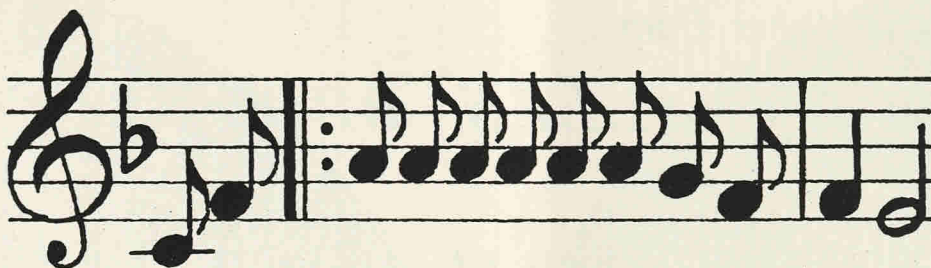
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and wishes
the occasion
every success*

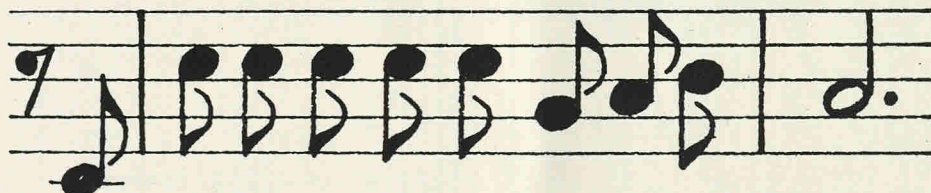
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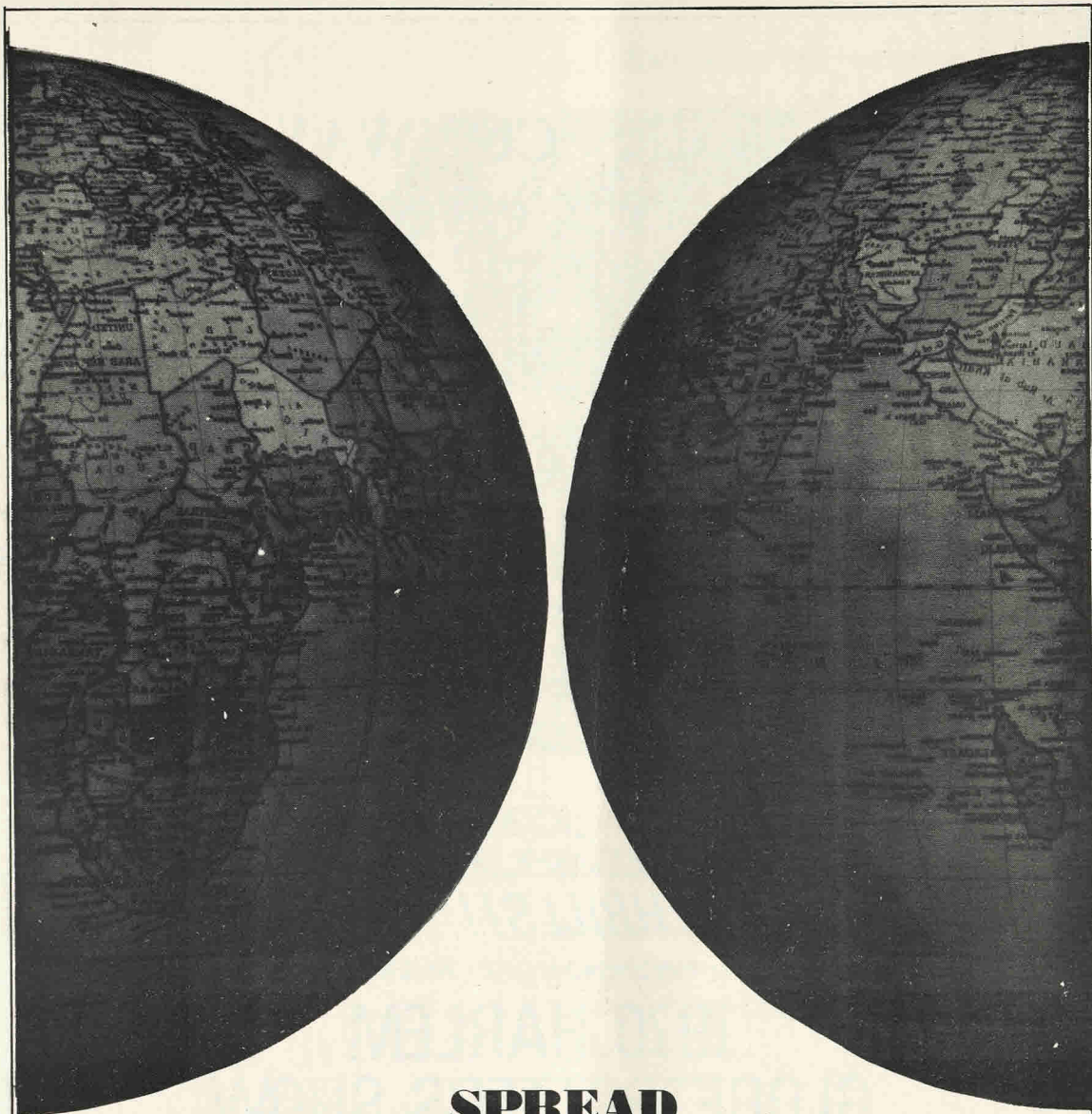
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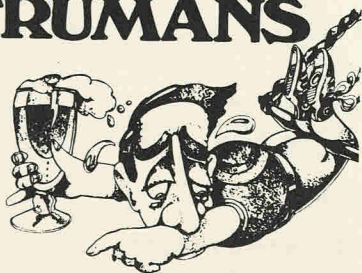
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5. THE CREAN IRISH DANCERS
6. JOHN McNALLY

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COMPERE: BRENDAN CAULDWELL

7. THE IRISH CENTRE BOYS' BAND
8. THE CREAN IRISH DANCERS
9. BRENDAN CAULDWELL
10. FINBAR DWYER
11. EILEEN DONAGHY
12. LARRY CUNNINGHAM & THE BLUE BOYS

ACCOMPANIST: KATHLEEN O'CONNOR

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Signature of Applicants

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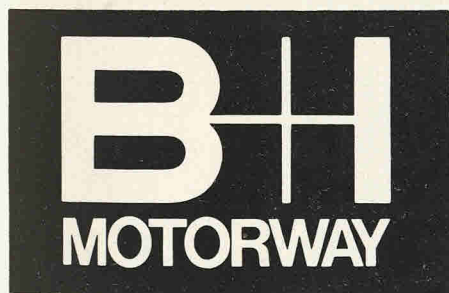
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Fashionwise, there's a blaze of colour: handwoven tweeds, by the yard or in packaged dress and skirt lengths, and what must surely be some of the gayest shirt-waisters in Town. Colour too is the big theme for ladies tweed suits. And for sporty types there are those great chunky Aran sweaters and other country-style casuals.

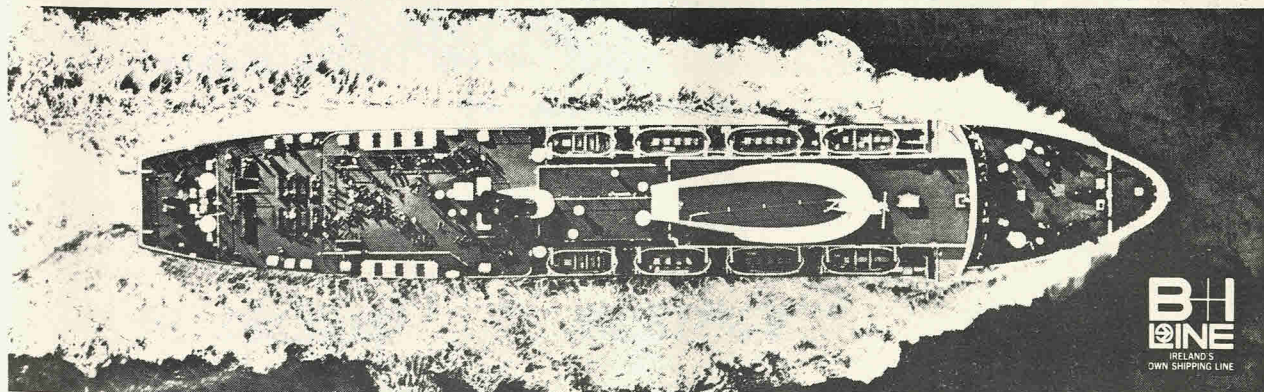
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FINBAR DWYER (Cailroe, Cork)

It can be truly said that Finbar could be nothing else but a musician considering that all belonging to him are authorities on the subject. Connoisseurs of traditional Irish music regard Finbar Dwyer as one of the best in either Ireland or England and indeed in 1969 he proved his ability by becoming the all-England Champion Accordion player. He plays the accordion, fiddle, guitar and piano.

Not only does he play, but he also composes music. And many of his compositions can be heard frequently on Radio Eireann.

We wish Finbar every success on his new record, just released. See and hear him at our Ballad Sessions every Monday night.



THE CREAN SCHOOL OF DANCING

The Crean School of Dancing takes its title from the name of the man in charge, Paddy Crean. Paddy is English-born, but in heart and mentality is as Irish as Irish can be. He started Irish step dancing at the age of 7 and in his career has won everything there is to be won. He has the unique honour of being the first male dancer born on this side of the Irish Sea, to win the Fr. Matthew Feis Junior and Senior Championships and also the Senior all-Ireland Championships.

His ability is demonstrated in the success of his pupils. The dancers here this evening have won numerous championships in their respective age groups, including the Junior all-Ireland Solo Championship and the Solo Championship of Great Britain and England. Space does not allow us to enumerate the complete list of achievements of the Crean School. Suffice it to say that they are all experts here tonight and worthy of this great occasion.

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T. LESLIE JACKSON

This famous BBC-TV Producer, renowned for such successes as "What's My Line" and "This is Your Life", was trained at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. He went on to play in Repertory and London Theatres, until 1940 when he joined the Navy serving for six years, and starting as an Able-Seaman he finished as a Lieutenant. He has been in Television since 1946, first as a Studio Manager, and then as a Producer since 1951. He has been associated with many Drama and Light Entertainment Productions and is currently Executive Producer with Quiz and Panel Games, including "Call My Bluff". He is chairman of the Catholic Stage Guild in what spare time he has left.

THE IRISH CENTRE BOYS' BAND

The Boys' Band here tonight is the Irish Centre's very own. Founded in 1967 by Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I. it has matured under the experienced guidance of Mr. Tom O'Connell and Mr. Paddy Donnelly.

Both these men served in the famous Irish Army No.1 Band under the Baton of the great Fritz Brase. They were also members of the Dublin Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Lacrchet, (Professor of Music U.C.D.), and in addition to all this they played with the Dublin Opera Society and were members of the *first* Radio Eireann Orchestra.

So as you see the boys are in very capable hands and if it is true to say that the pupil can only be as good as his teacher then the Irish Centre Boys' Band should be the best in the Country in a short time.

We at the Centre are proud of our boys and teachers. Let's hope they do us proud tonight.

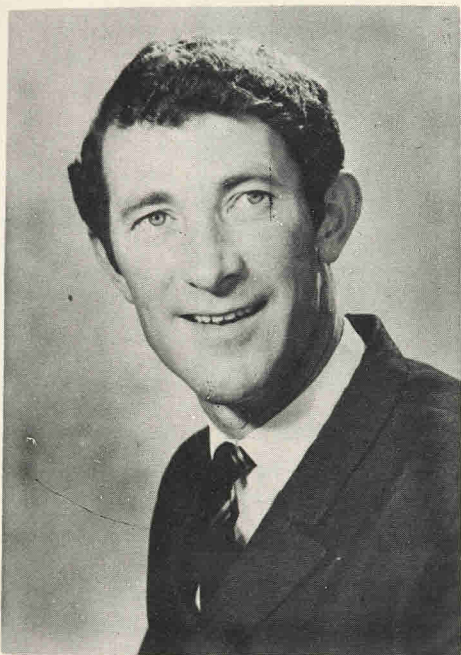


MISS KATHLEEN O'CONNOR

Miss Kathleen O'Connor was the Musical Director of "The Hostage"; London, Paris and Broadway. Musical Director and Accompanist for "Brecht on Brecht" and "The Fire Raisers" at the Royal Court Theatre, also for the original production of "Fings aint wot they used t'be", "The Scatterin" etc. etc.

She was the Musical Adviser to the film "The Quare Fella" and arranged and directed music for various I.T.V. and B.B.C. productions; also on sound radio and for various LP records.

She was the Accompanist at numerous social functions, operatic and variety Concerts.



LARRY CUNNINGHAM

The drawing power of Larry Cunningham to Box Offices in Ireland, England and U.S.A. has been record breaking. To do this for one or two years can be considered in itself a success, but Larry's popularity has been maintained for the past five or six years. Perhaps more extraordinary still is the fact that he has as many fans among the old as with the young. Practically every house in Ireland and every Irish home outside the Emerald Isle has at least four of his records. He also has "The Larry Cunningham Country and Western Show" on Telefis Eireann.

With the Blue Boys Larry has made a highly successful break-through to that Country and Western style which suits him so well and has such a great appeal to an ever widening audience.

You will all know his 'Lovely Leitrim', 'Wicklow Hills', 'Pretty Little Girl from Omagh', 'Don't Let Me Cross Over', to mention but a few of his records.

You will hear them all tonight so sit back, relax and enjoy the professional performance of LARRY AND THE BLUE BOYS.



EILEEN DONAGHY

A total of ten long playing records, three American and Canadian tours, a trip 'down under' to New Zealand, numerous cross-channel appearances and seven delightful children - these are the major achievements of ballad singer Eileen Donaghy at the conclusion of ten years in show business.

The Coalisland-born singer who rocketed to the top during the ballad boom in the early 60's has successfully combined her career with her duties as a wife and mother. Husband Pat is a former Tyrone county football star and the couple's six sons and one daughter are as proud of Dad's record on the playing field as they are of Mum's disc and international reputation.

Eileen was awarded the silver disc for combined records sales back in 1959. Her records sell in such far flung corners of the globe as Africa and Australia and she has appeared on television in Belgium. She has appeared on stage in London's Albert Hall and the world famous Philharmonic Opera House in Philadelphia.

Now living in Mayo for six years, she is currently appearing in cabaret in Belfast and the provinces. Eileen has two shows lined up with Tommy James for screening on UTV early in 1970. She has also been signed up for a Canadian tour with comedian Birdie Sweeney.

From all this it would appear that Eileen Donaghy is starred for further success in the decade ahead.



BIRMINGHAM COMHALTAS CEILI BAND

The Birmingham Comhaltas Ceili Band are All Britain Champions four times. Only formed seven years ago, they have made appearances on Radio and Telefis Eireann and in 1965 were invited to play at U.S.A. World's Fair. Some of the Band went over and were presented with a gold shield by the Mayor of New York. They have also played for Ceilis at the Mansion House in Dublin, and they won the Oireactas Ceili Band competition two years in succession. It is fitting that a Comhaltas Band should be in our programme tonight, as The Irish Centre is becoming one of the best known rendezvous for Irish Traditional music, singing and dancing, and it is also the headquarters of the North London Branch of Comhaltas. An Irish Concert without a Ceili Band would be a flop, but with the Birmingham Champion Band it must be a hit.



THE EMERALDS

The Emeralds, a name which in the past two years has risen to dynamic proportions on the Irish ballad scene. This group of three young men who comprise the Emeralds, all come from New Ross, Co.Wexford, and the group is now in existence over three and a half years.

They have toured and played to Irish audiences in Boston, Chicago and San Francisco, and while on a recent tour of the States they filled two television programmes on 'Country Meets Folk' on a nation-wide T.V. network.

The group are now rated as No. 1 semi-professional folk group in Ireland, and they have the unique record of being the first ever and only semi-professional group to put a record into the Irish charts. This record is still selling and is the old Irish number, 'Golden Jubilee'. However, it still appears that the 'B' side of their first record is still proving tremendously popular and this is 'The West Awake'.

It is hoped that their next record will be released in Ireland on or before March 16th, and by all accounts it is again destined for the Irish Charts.

The boys, Paddy Ryan, John Aspel and Michael Murray, better known as the Emeralds, look forward to meeting you all.

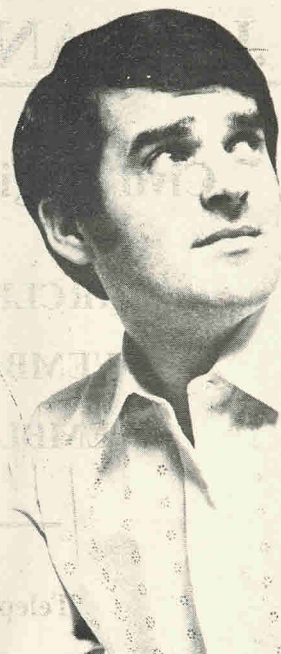
JOHN McNALLY

JOHN McNALLY is a singer of tomorrow — a man of vast range and experience; he has sung for Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, travelled the world making an impact on the international scene.

He has appeared with Bing Crosby on television; captured the audience in the fine concert auditorium of the Carnegie Hall in New York; set the Japanese by the ears — and become a major force in Australia.

There at the Chevron Hilton he followed in Matt Monro for a record breaking three week season. And, he starred on television with outstanding success.

Here then is a young man for tomorrow — and his new February 1970 disc release on CBS RECORDS, entitled "JEAN", is further evidence of the magic in his voice, the great personality he can project.



BRENDAN CAULDWELL (Dublin)

One of the top entertainers in Ireland today, Brendan Cauldwell is without doubt, a comedian whose name is known throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

His appearances in England are few for the simple reason that his many commitments in Ireland keep him constantly busy but his appearance here tonight will, we feel sure, only increase the pressure on his already heavily loaded schedule.

Brendan is a great character on or off the stage. He is actor, comedian, TV and film star, who colours his act with his natural native Dublin wit.

In his 20 years in "Showbiz", his films have included: "The Quare Fellow," "Playboy of the Western World", "Sinful Davey", "Rocket to the Moon". On TV he appeared in "Orpheus and his Loot", "Thirst", and "When Do You Die Friend". He was in the cast that won the Italia Prize for "Weavers Grave" and Pianno in "The River".

As compere he could be termed a character actor and his appearances in this field are legion.

You will love him!

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