

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 61

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Autumn 1993.

"A TEACHER'S LOT

by John Shanahan, Staff member Cistercian College, 1956 - 1993

Having been asked to commit some thoughts to print on the subject of my time in Roscrea, I must confess to having had serious misgivings on the said matter. Firstly, I do not consider incipient retirement of itself, as sufficient justification for going into print on any such topic. Furthermore, I think such a work could be undertaken much more colourfully and concisely by another involved with a far more refined sense of occasion than I possess. With some reassurance, however, on both scores I have accepted - perhaps rather rashly - the formidable task of analysing my thoughts on a sojourn of thirty seven years in Cistercian College, while earnestly hoping it will not be categorised as another famous "diary of a nobody".

Before joining the teaching staff of Cistercian College any acquaintance with the said institution was of a very tenuous quality. My mother who had visited the monastery on a few occasions was in the habit of speaking lovingly of the Guest House and of the proverbial brown bread. Other than that, it was a place enshrined in mystery and the traditional misconceptions prevailed - for instance - the monks were very, very austere and had refined that austerity to the extent of digging their own graves - a shovelful per day! The monastery, of course, assumed an annual - a seasonal importance with the broadcast of Midnight Mass each Christmas Eve - the only one on the radio at the time.

It would be appropriate also to say that the monastery had acquired an additional interest with the death of Dom Justin McCarthy, 1944 when the daily papers penetrated beyond the barriers into the aura of sanctity and carried revealing snippets of the "strange" life of the monks, the funeral and the monastic protocol for the election of a new Abbot - a mini conclave, so to speak, which had fascinated many people including myself.

From a much more practical and perhaps compelling point of view for somebody in secondary teaching in these days, Cistercian College was also known as one of these schools which, though not very overtly perhaps, paid well above the

average basic portion of the salary - £300 or over - quite an attraction in those far off simple times.

All, or at least some of these considerations were in my mind as I arrived at the College on a glorious June day in 1956. The imposing if rather fussy neo-gothic facade was indeed what I had earlier seen from a photograph sent by a good friend Donal Johnson. In response to my ring, the inner door was opened by an elderly but patently dignified gentleman whose clearly photogenic features impressed me immediately. This was, I discovered later, none other than the legendary if self-effacing Bill Kelly, who in his earlier days had had the distinction of singing with John McCormack in the Athlone Church Choir. Both Bill and the much epauletted Dinny McNamara were two retainers and both indispensable to the equable functioning of the College for many years.

I now know it was probably inevitable that my next encounter should be with a very suave and articulate monk who by now had hastened from the vicinity of the front pitch wearing a broad panama hat and mopping his brow profusely with a rather lurid check handkerchief which to me, seemed rather iconoclastic. Obviously sensing some morsel of interest he introduced himself as Father Gerard. To me, his whole demeanour suggested something of a Church of England divine or an uppercrust Benedictine and his initial impression was further enhanced when to my astonishment, he embarked on a philosophical discourse on Aquinas' use of the syllogism. It was of course a monologue and I could not be unaware of the fact that, even at that early stage, he was clearly assessing my capacity to adapt to the exigencies of what was obviously, in his eyes, a highly elite establishment. I was soon to discover that Father Gerard was equally indispensable to the daily functioning of the College and was an excellent liaison between students past and present.

Subsequently, I had a most civilised discussion with Father Aidan (President) and Father Colmille (Dean of Studies) in the course of which classes and subjects



John Shanahan - May 29, 1987
Staff Presentation

were sorted out. Very sensibly not too much time was spent on the niceties of educational theory or its philosophy but all pertinent matters were analysed. We understood each other and a bond of trust and an effective rapport were quickly established - something very valuable which was to continue for a long time after. This trust, I soon came to recognise as an essential ingredient of the Cistercian "modus operandi". I was to learn later that the very existence of the college was an accident of history - one of two such schools in the whole Cistercian order worldwide, rendering it therefore, something of an anomaly which required judicious justification at general Chapters.

Unlike other religious orders with a full historical educational commitment and tradition, there has been no formalised philosophy or structuring of education in the Cistercian tradition - no Cistercian pedagogy - something, which I have heard reiterated, several times over by eminent Cistercians. Such circumstances rendered the college, since its inception, more dependent than usual, on a strong lay involvement (perhaps one of the first such schools in Ireland) and the authorities had the good sense not to interfere unduly with the professionalism of a very effective and

devoted staff. I think of men like Tom Cole, Jack Murphy, Bill Barry, Fred Joyce who were legendary figures before and after my time. Lest I be misunderstood, I hasten to say that the absence of a very formalised philosophy of education in no way diminished the success of the college; rather did it contribute with the close proximity of the monastery, to whatever distinctive success the college had.

Had a "ratio studiorum" existed down the years in Roscrea, it would, inevitably have had to regulate much more meticulously the general order of things with perhaps less scope for the spontaneous, the personal and - dare I say it! - the existential approach to problems. I doubt if a rigorous "ratio studiorum" would have had the wisdom to countenance the indulgence required for the great Shakespearean productions of the late 50's and early 60's.

My early days in Roscrea were given to teaching Latin and Irish in the old lofty classrooms of the main college building. An essential item of furniture was the rostrum from which exalted position one was expected to dispense some "pearls" of learning - should, indeed one have any - to what might or might not be a receptive student group. Inevitably one was - even then - concerned with exams and while the inculcation of a knowledge of grammar loomed large as a basis for clarity and precision in English, now with that facilitating gift of hindsight, I greatly regret that such things as the poetic wonders of Virgil Book VI did not merit more attention or elaboration. It was a chalk language lab, without cassette recorders or overhead projectors.

French came somewhat later and from the late 60's onwards that was my real interest. With the new technology, the potential of the tape recorder as an instrument of language teaching was fully recognised and the ultimate in methodology then was either "Ecouter et Parler" or the more popular "Voix et Images". While in no way minimising the effort involved, I recall many moments of pleasure - even of magic - exploring the vagaries of Monsieur Thibaud (10 Place

d'Italie) with some good groups over the years. The language teacher's task, however, is a particularly difficult one because in the interests of generating conversation towards oral facility, one is constantly devising questions and permutations in order to elicit answers - an activity quite demanding.

From the early straight forward grammar approach, I have seen the methodology change. First, to the "Direct Method" then to the "Audio Visual Method" and now to the "Methode Authentique". Four different approaches to the teaching of a language each one, supposedly, the most effective in its conception and application - each one based on the most enlightened scientific research - each one promising if not guaranteeing success. Language teaching, however, is not an exact science, only an approximate one and so the fumbling quest must continue. Progress there certainly has been and the present aural and oral content of courses gives reason for great satisfaction, but I look forward to the day when the mystery is explained and the secret of the process of acquisition of a language is finally revealed. How does a child so unobtrusively and so effortlessly acquire that facility in expression? When that enigma is finally solved, there will be one accepted methodology and I will no longer have to envy my colleagues in other disciplines who have the advantage of dealing in a vernacular or in the searing logic of science. If, despite all, I have contributed in some small way to a greater awareness of French life and culture, well then I am glad and I wish my colleagues endless success.

I consider myself very fortunate to have shared the friendship of so many fine colleagues - both monks and laymen - through the years and even though it may be the joke of the decade to say so, the loss of their camaraderie is something I am going to regret very much. I recall with nostalgia the early Shakespeare days and a later film society with Father Cathaldus and Fred Joyce in the course of which we almost found ourselves incarcerated - all in the interest of art, but that is another story.



Brendan O'Rourke making a presentation to John Shanahan on behalf of the College teaching staff.

Up to recently, school-mastering postulated a certain game of pretence and showmanship. One had to simulate occasional rage or outrage at the violation of certain rules considered basic to progress. If in the course of any such outbursts, undue offence was felt by anybody, then, even at this horribly late stage, I would like to assure him it was all simply in pursuit of that elusive entity called learning. Now as I respond to the ultimatum of time and prepare to savour the sheer bliss of not having to wear false faces or meet the exigencies of a week "C" timetable anymore, I must confess to a feeling of exhilaration - freedom - emancipation - call it what you will. It is probably just transient - part of the dream - and the reality, I suspect, will be much more prosaic. Not too much so, I hope, because with this new found freedom, that most rewarding of pursuits - the excitement of the mind - should prove to be more attainable. One slight reservation hovers in the mind with all the new and urgent research into that intriguing entity - artificial intelligence. This fascinates me! What a prospect! and I only hope that any vague fears of this staggering new product eventually replacing the real one may prove unfounded. To the College and to all my former colleagues, may I wish many years of enlightened endeavour. Thank you - Ave atque Vale.

ROSCREA "REVIEWED"

by Conor Massey

I left Roscrea in 1959 at a time when the horizons of science, entertainment, telecommunications, even standards of morality were about to be pushed back to an unbelievable extent. A moment's reflection to compare what obtained then with now will adduce the evidence of the enormous changes that have taken place. And, today, things are moving at an even faster pace.

But if in that moment's reflection we compare C.C.R. as it then was with now, we see no corresponding changes: the curriculum is more or less the same, the physical environment - swimming pool and new classroom block apart - is unaltered,

young Sean Burke is still teaching, and Fr. Eanna is as vibrant as ever. I don't regret that in our runaway world Roscrea is constant and, more importantly, its ethos has diminished not a whit. We may wish that certain physical elements would be improved or replaced, but no one argues against the philosophy of diligence, sportsmanship and moral fibre that still thrives there.

In his "Decline and Fall of a Birdwatcher", Evelyn Waugh wrote: "We class schools, you see, into four grades: Leading School, First rate School, Good School and School." I don't see many of us endorsing such a view. We would ascribe it purely to



The author in animated discussion with fellow pastman Fr. Peter Garvey.

the class-conscious English. But, it we are honest, there must have been some comparisons made by our parents and, in turn, by us in choosing Roscrea, and I believe the basis of our comparison has been good and wholesome. There are more socially-fashionable schools in Ireland, and parents who are attracted to these otherwise excellent schools for that puerile reason, have little in common with the Roscrea parent, for when they make their choice, it is invariably for the recognition of scholarship, discipline and trust of the Cistercians. Whether as a student or parent, we have not been let down. We may have had our differences with individuals, disagreed with a Presidential edict or two, or questioned a rule here and there, but, when all the smoke has cleared away, we know where we stand and, more importantly, we know where Roscrea stands.

I came to Roscrea from a Dublin boarding school. What made the greatest impact on me in my first weeks was, to use a rather old-fashioned word, the manliness of the boys. There is no other word for it. Their justice, on many occasions, was rough justice and one had to endure the cruel frustration of their unfair treatment of you, but you very quickly learned to stand on your own two feet. It's still the same. I have two sons who are recent past-students and only now, when we talk about our days in school, do I become aware of little ordeals through which they had to come that I as a parent knew nothing about. I have always recognised that I regard as the quintessential; "Roscrea Man" - Tom Ambrose and the late Noel Kinirons spring to mind immediately - and his character must have been forged, in large measure, in the furnace of C.C.R. which still has, clearly, its own stern code.

Last year a senior officer of the Department of Education requested that he would be allowed to visit the school. His purpose?. While reading through Departmental records he had noticed that of the hundreds of secondary schools across the country, Roscrea was never, over the years, out of the first eight in a table of examination results, and he wanted to see for himself just what kind of school can produce such results. Place alongside that the unparalleled athletic achievements in track and field and the consistent performances in both the Senior and Junior rugby competitions and you begin to see why the entrance exams (saving your presence, Mrs. Breathnach) attract in excess of double the numbers that can be admitted.

The Union continues the commitment that one encounters in the school. What other Union has nine branches capable, when they are asked, of bringing together groups of pastmen of up to a hundred in number? Fr. Dermot has been hugely influential in instilling the enthusiasm that abounds within it. You are as likely to see a first year leaver as Liam Byrne at a function. Gerry Bates still attends everything; Noel Windle - widely

acknowledged as being the most discerning of all - is our cornerstone; Matt Hyland, who left Roscrea in the twenties, is as constructively argumentative as ever.

I know I'll have to wait a few years before my sons become involved in Union affairs, but I have no doubt they will for in it they will find the same friends they had in 3B1 from all over the country, who because of their Cistercian education, still retain the traits of loyalty and fellowship we have all been so fortunate to have had instilled in us in Roscrea.

LORD ABBOT'S CUP, 1993

For all the golfers among you, please pencil in Saturday, October 2nd, if you wish to participate in the 1993 Lord Abbot's Cup. Once again we are indebted to Roscrea Golf Club, who are reserving the 1st tee for us between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Judging by last year's numbers we will need that amount of time to facilitate all those who wish to play. All tee times (including those for the 25 year and 30 year re-unions) must be confirmed with Gerry Hayes (Office 0505 21061; Home 0505 47165). Both the 25 and 30 year groups will be accommodated together, as far as possible. All others wishing to play must confirm their timesheet time in advance of the day. It will not be possible to cater for late bookings on the day of the competition.

The Lord Abbot's Cup itself can only be won by a member of the Past Pupils' Union. However, the fourteen or so other prizes available may be won by pastmen of parents of boys attending the school. In addition, we introduced a Visitors' Prize last year, which proved very popular and very competitive! Any pastmen wishing to bring a guest for the day may do so, and

they will be accommodated for golf etc..

Last year's competition produced a popular winner in dual sporting star, Ned Byrne. Playing off a remarkably generous handicap, he showed that the years hadn't blunted his competitive instincts! His acceptance speech proved hugely popular, especially with Liam Spooner! Ned is returning to Roscrea in defence of the Cup, but tradition indicates that it would take a superhuman effort for him to mount a successful defence. The competition format remains 18 Hole Stableford and we will play in three balls only, at eight minute intervals. Special prizes will be available for outstanding scores at the par 5 10th hole, which is being sponsored by the Union over a three year period.

Once again the North Tipperary organising committee are grateful for the remarkably generous sponsorship enjoyed by the Abbot's Cup. Without local and past support it would be impossible to maintain the high standards that now characterise this great day (and night!). Liam Spooner has once again assumed responsibility for organising the Union dinner that follows the golf competition. Only 70 can be accommodated so it has to operate on the basis of confirmed bookings. Guest of Honour for the evening will be Union President, Michael Keohane. If you are definitely attending the dinner please contact Liam at (0505) 22074 (H) or (0505) 21063 (O).

Everything is in place for a great day's golf. The Executive of Roscrea Golf Club welcome all pastmen involved in the golf and in the various year re-unions. However, they would like to mention that from 8 p.m. onwards a Visitors' Book will operate and that the Clubhouse facilities are primarily intended for pastmen and wives involved in the golf and/or attending



Back Row L. - R.: L. Spooner (N. Tipp.), G. Hayes (N. Tipp.)
W. Hanly (Centenary President, Roscrea G.C.), G. Maher (N. Tipp.).
Front Row L. - R.: Ml. Keohane (Union President), N. Byrne (Winner Abbot's Cup),
F. O'Connor (Centenary Captain, Roscrea G.C.)

the Union dinner. See you on the day.

Competition Entry Fee: £5.00

Green Fees (where applicable): £10.00

Dinner £15.00

Late Special: A generous sponsor has offered a prize for any Hole-in-One achieved (and authenticated!) on the day.

Right: G. Hayes, J. Dolan, G. Maher,
J. O'Connor, P. Wrafter.



"A PARTING VIEW"

Brian Doran (Class of '93)

Roscrea, and more specifically C.C.R. is often hailed as the last place God created and yet despite its isolation and antagonising presence, it never fails to call back its own. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and still from within its grey limestone walls its beauty is something that is passed off as unnoticeable. But, from the outside (in the new-found guise of a pastman), safe in the knowledge that one is not obliged to return there, is felt an aura that was undetectable whilst restrained as a student.

Keys droning in the distance and bells blaring in the background present two of the most nauseating trappings of routine imposed by authority. During a real dark era of the soul it was always 7.30 in the morning day after day after day. Or so it seemed as a student.

Now as a graduate this article flows much differently than that expected of a schoolboy. No longer is there the call to regimental routine, the ignominy of taking

a cold shower or even the ungodly possibility of morning study. These were the greatest fears of every student member during my five years and rightly so!

Yet even all these traditionally hated moments were fleeting. The strange thing is that they were probably more numerous than the good times. After all, how many days were you subjected to a cold shower before relishing the novelty of a hot one? Even still in years to come the victorious cup match, the free day or the trip to Lansdowne Road will long be remembered before the cold shower. Or so we're told. But in the case of this graduate that claim is still to be tested.

Beyond the academics, the sport and even the religion, (it's still quite strong there), there is still one asset to C.C.R. that overreaches these: namely friendships. Long after the intricacies of exam results there will be reunions, reminiscences and the clannish spirit of C.C.R. Pastmen.

Pastmen that came into existence on Tuesday 15th June 1993 in our class' case.

The final dinner or "Last Supper" as it is subversively called, saw the culmination of my time as a student in Roscrea. No longer was there any waiting. The "old boys" school ties were passed around and the common "if you're ever up my way and need a bed for the night", last speeches were recited in almost domino fashion. It was nearly too regimental. A mundane climax to five years of education. The deep poignant recollections into moments of unhappiness that are expected of many, by many, did not take shape. No scores were settled and no emotions shown. C.C.R. had calmly lost 58 students and gained 58 pastmen.

However, above and beyond the formalities there was the realisation that this was it. We were out; products of the C.C.R. production line about to be tested. Some looked forward to careers in medicine, others simply dreamed of life in Las Vegas. Poles apart but both challenges. The future beckons; hopefully it will be fruitful.

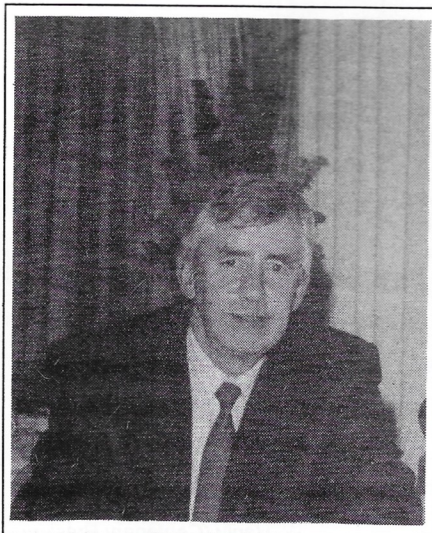
NOTICE

The Golf Championship for the "Abbot's Cup" will be held on Saturday 2nd October at the Roscrea Golf Club.

The class of 1963-'68 are holding their Silver Jubilee dinner on that day at the County Arms Hotel Birr, with a reception and Mass in the College beforehand.

Union Day '93 will be on Sunday 2nd October. The Union Mass will be in the Abbey Church at 11.00 a.m. Those pastmen who died during the year will be specially remembered. There will be a running buffet for Lunch in the College, beginning at 12.30 and going on until about 2.30. Get in early for your meal as there will be a "cut-off point" of 50 - 60. Lunch will cost £6.

The Past v Present matches start at 3.00 p.m. Pray for fine weather.



PRESIDENT ELECT

Gerald McCarthy, Cork.
Elected May 1993,
takes office, May 1994.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS – A PERSONAL VIEW

Fr. Peter Garvey O.Cist.

NOTE: *Father Peter was a student at the College (1950-'55), subsequently was President of the College (1972-'84), and currently is Novice Master in the Abbey and a member of the Board of Governors. He stresses that this article represents his own personal views. [Editor].*

One day in the summer of 1987, the Monks who work in the College sat down with the Abbot to talk about how the College should develop in view of the present Irish educational scene, the call of the Church for collaboration, and the present decline in numbers in the Community. It was a long and sometimes painful journey from that meeting to the setting up of the Board of Governors in October 1990 under a new constitution for the College. In it, the Abbot and Community called on the Board to administer the College on behalf of the Abbey. Now, three years later, it is opportune to reflect on the workings of the Board and make some projections on where it may be heading.

All of us, who have been students within these hallowed walls, know that it was the people who staffed the College and our pals who really left the indelible impression on us. The teachers who unveiled the beauty of Shakespearean sonnet, who guided our steps in a delicate scientific experiment, the staff who came to the rescue when we were sick or in trouble or had lost a friend; the President who enrolled us in the College and was the bond with our families; these were and always will be, the key people in the life of the school. The Board of Governors will not have such immediacy of impact.

LEARNING PROCESS: A large part of the learning process for the members of the Board was in getting to know one another, as we had come from very varied backgrounds. And while the past student and past parent members were familiar with the spirit and workings of the College, other members were quite unfamiliar with the College and had to reach towards an understanding of its rich tradition. This was also true of the educational experts on the Board, who had to come to terms with the Roscrea tradition of the separate roles of President and Dean of Studies, each within its own parameters.

APPOINTMENTS: The appointment of Mr. Smyth as Dean of Studies (Principal) in 1991 after Fr. Ciaran retired, and the appointment of Miss Harrington as Matron and Miss Quigley as Catering Supervisor/ Housekeeper in 1992 after Sr. Anthony and Sr. Rita left, are good examples of the role of the Board in the life of the College. In the appointment of the Dean, a full job description for both President and Dean had to be drawn up. Likewise, with the sad departure of the Nuns, a new definition of roles in the kitchen/housekeeping and infirmary areas had to be hammered out, expressing a clear vision of the

relationship of the appointees respectively with students and their parents. Having participated in the process of appointment of many teachers and house-masters during my years as President and in subsequent years, I have been impressed by the professionalism, efficiency and care which the Board brought to these appointments. My impression is that the Board is committed, not only to making efficient and wise appointments but also to establishing a system of supports and accountability between the appointees and the Board. That augurs well for the future. For example, the Dean submits a written annual report to the Board and attends for a full discussion; the President makes a verbal report at every Board meeting.

VISION: One of the tasks that the Board undertook was to develop a Mission Statement that would express what the College firstly aspires to **be**, and secondly aspires to **do** for its students. Having hammered out a draft Mission Statement, the Board invited, and recently obtained, the views of the teaching staff on the Board's draft. The Board will shortly be looking to the other members of the College staff, particularly the Housemasters, and to the Parents of the Students and representatives of the Union for their input. The Board wishes to have a clearly defined vision of what kind of school we are, a vision that we will own as a College, a vision that we consider true and realistic and that we will commit ourselves to put into action. The Board also wish to commit themselves to a participative style of leadership and consultation where, within the framework of the constitution, each member of the wider school community has a voice.

BUILDINGS: The proposed building linking the church corridor area and refectory area of the College, and housing locker accommodation, recreation areas and dormitory, will be the first major building development undertaken by the Board. It will be an important addition to the facilities of the College. The Board has already undertaken a complete evaluation of the state of the existing buildings with a view to a long term plan for repairs and re-allocation of space and new buildings. So we can expect to see gradual development in the physical environment of the College in the years ahead, subject to the raising of the necessary finances and careful husbandry of available financial resources.

KEY ROLE: For me, a significantly valuable aspect of the Board is that no member of the Board is involved in the day-to-day running of the College. Consequently, Board members do not get drawn into the intricacies and dynamics of College events and relationships. There is thus established a freedom, a focus, a non-involved commitment that is an ideal foundation at Board meetings for dispassionate analysis, long term planning



Fr. Peter Garvey, O.Cist.

and sound decision making. During my term as President of the College, I found that the daily demands of the College placed a severe limitation on the degree of energy and motivation required to dispassionately assess the ongoing dynamic and to work out plans and strategies for the future. And when at Board meetings you get eleven committed people focussing their personal and professional expertise on the present and future welfare of students, staff and College, the result is quite awesome and indeed inspiring.

The success of the Board in the future will greatly depend on the fidelity of the Board to the commission which the Abbot and Community have entrusted to it and on the maintenance of close ties between the Board and the staff and student body of the College.

HAS IT WORKED: To the question - "Has the Board fulfilled the hopes that the Abbey placed in it three years ago?", my answer would be "Yes, definitely". In fact, its level of commitment as a voluntary body without remuneration has astounded me and its speed in coming to understand the specific nature of the College and enter into its life has been quite amazing. Likewise, its expertise in the areas of education, finance, management, human spirituality and christian life has already profoundly influenced the College and will continue to do so in the years ahead.

THE FUTURE: As the Board gradually becomes more and more perceived as a group who can be trusted to seek out in everything they do the welfare of students and staff, its influence will wax ever stronger. The Board's administration will be different from the monastic administration we have known. It will combine the professionalism or good educational and business administration with a personal and compassionate approach. Already, I have seen the spirit and cohesiveness of the place having an influence on Board members. For the first

time in its history, the College will experience the direct involvement of women in the formulation of College policy. It will always be at a remove from the daily round of College life and that is both necessary and desirable.

KEY PEOPLE: I have not mentioned names in this assessment but, in closing, I single out three as being principally responsible for the introduction and favourable development of the Board. Firstly, the Abbot, Dom Colmcille. He has watched over every step of the Board's establishment and its activities since, attending at Board meetings but hardly every intervening, wisely allowing the Board to put down its roots and develop its own sense of identity.

Secondly, Larry Branigan. He was appointed first Chairman of the Board in 1990 and his handling of Board business and meetings has been masterly and sensitive. He has been a great animator of Board initiatives, the link person between the members of the Board, between the Board and the Abbot and probably most importantly, between the Board and the President.

Finally, Fr. Kevin Daly. He has had the onerous task as President to preside over the day-to-day management of the College, while at the same time facilitating

the emergence of the Board. Without his thoughtful guidance and active co-operation, the achievements of the Board to date could not have taken place.

The Members of the Board of Governors

Laurence F. Branigan (Chairman)

Student at College 1946-'51; Partner in Dublin solicitor firm. Married with three grown up children.

Fr. John Cuddy

Dean of the Diocese of Killaloe; formerly President of St. Flannan's College, Ennis and Pastor Emeritus of Roscrea Parish.

Margot Cunningham

A native of Galway; her sons David and Barry are past students of the College; Also has two daughters.

Dr. Peter Fahy

Clinical Psychiatrist in Dublin; Consultant psychiatrist to students of U.C.D. for many years; Married with grown up children.

Fr. Ambrose Farrington

Member of the Cistercian Community in Moone, Co. Kildare. Farm Manager Student at College 1944-'47; formerly Dean of Discipline and gamesmaster at College.

Fr. Peter Garvey

Member of the Roscrea Cistercian

Community; Student at College 1950-'55; Formerly spiritual director and President at College.

Sr. Patricia Greene

Sister of Mercy of Killaloe Diocese; formerly Principal of St. Mary's Convent, Nenagh, and Mother General of the Killaloe Mercy Order. Currently, chairperson of Birr Community School Board of Management.

Br. Jerome Kelly

Superior General of Presentation Brothers. Principal of Presentation Brothers College, Cork for many years. Member of School Boards of Management.

Nuala Kernan

Limerick Architect; lectures at Limerick school of architecture; formerly member of Episcopal Laity Commission; Married with five grown up children.

Tomas O'Cofaigh

Former Secretary of the Department of Finance and Governor of the Central Bank. Married with four grown up children.

Dr. Barney Sherry

Youngest member of Foxford family; student in College 1935-'40; family Doctor in Palmerstown; Sons Eoin and Brian are past students of the College; two daughters.

C.C.R.U. – SOUTH EAST BRANCH – REVIEW

The branch was founded in 1969 when Central Council asked Fr. T.J. Hogan to meet with people in Kilkenny. The attendance included Pat O'Shea, John Comerford & John Keoghoe, who became the committee.

Various formats were suggested to bring past students together and an aborted stag dinner was followed by a very successful dinner dance in Kytlers Inn - then owned by past student Ned Comerford.

The dinner dance became a major event on the social calendar in Kilkenny when moved to Newpark Hotel, so much so that many people with no Roscrea connection came simply because it was the best dinner and dance of the season. It has been attended by many stalwarts through the years - from Carlow - the Keenans and Duffys; from Wexford - the Hastings, McCarthys, Kellys and McVoys; from Kilkenny - the Byrnes, Dwans, O'Briens, Greens, Gibsons. North and South Tipp and Dublin have also been loyal and regular supporters.

The committee has changed with John

Comerford now being joined by Pat Crotty and Billy Murphy. The venue also moved, first to the Old Rectory in New Ross when owned by the O'Brien's (Donal, Tim, Brian, Donal Jnr.), where two great dinners were enjoyed by all and most recently to Mount Juliet where, in the last two years, we have enjoyed golf on the fabulous Irish Open Course as well as the usual high standard of entertainment.

Being such a small committee covering such a large area, the main difficulty has been that of communication. We have very poor records of where people are and no way of improving them. So, if you would like to be informed of our next function, send your address to John Comerford, Bunnells Park, Thomastown. Bigger attendances at these functions would help us to make a more tangible contribution to the work of the Union.

Next year's function has not yet been decided but, rest assured, the standard for which the South East has become famous will be maintained and bettered - if possible.

Compiled by Pat Crotty, who holds the post of President, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce.



Pat Crotty

ENGAGEMENTS:

The engagement was announced on 27/3/93 between John, son of Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Coman of Rathgar, Dublin and Gail, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wheeler of Sunningdale and Dublin.

Also the engagement was announced recently of Donal, son of Fergus and Letita Taaffe, Ballsbridge and Rathfarnham to Cara, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Niall Brophy, Foxrock.

MARRIAGES:

The marriage took place on May 8th of Charlie Monaghan and Anne Ryan (sister of Michael Ryan).

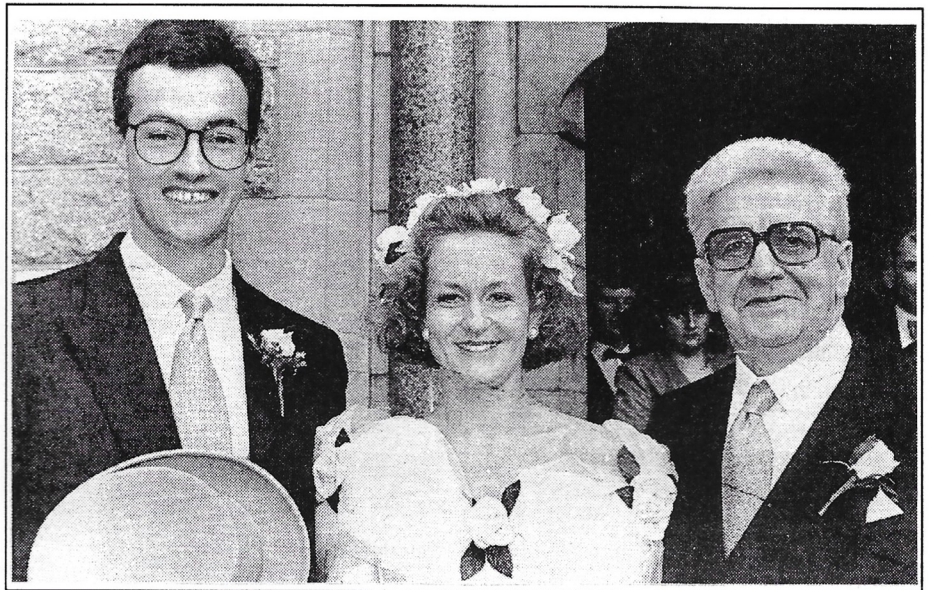
On June 12th, the marriage took place of Mike O'Leary and Eithne Kirby.

The marriage took place on July 21st of John and Joan Finlay.

On July 23rd, the marriage took place of John & Nansuen Hernan, 56 Boulevard de l'Hopital, 75013 Paris, France.

Also recently married were Timothy Meagher, Cloonan and Shauna Walsh, Dublin Road, Roscrea.

Right: Married recently were Michael Dwane to Ruth, daughter of Mr. Justice Liam Hamilton at Donnybrook church.



NEWS OF PASTMEN

Mr. Hugh Cahill, 329 John St., Kincardine, Ontario, Canada left C.C.R. in 1972, recently called to the college with his daughter.

Peter Hogan made history recently when he became the first Irishman to sail solo around Cape Horn. He left Dublin in October 1991 in "Molly B" a 30ft. gaff rigged ketch which he built himself. His journey will take him to the Canaries, Brazil, Cape Town, round treacherous Cape of Good Hope to reach Perth; then to New Zealand and Cape Horn for the final leg of his journey which is 12,000 miles long. He hopes to reach Ireland by mid June '93.

Patrick G. Kennedy of Granard, Co. Longford (C.C.R. '71-'76) received B.Sc degree in U.C.D. in 1978 and H.D.E. in Maynooth 1990. Spent two years in Zimbabwe as secondary teacher and married Anne Strydom in Bulawayo and returned to his former position in the Department of Finance. Still there and resident in Malahide.

Donal T. Kennedy (Patrick's brother) (C.C.R. '73 - '78) graduated from U.C.G. with B.Comm. in 1981 and LL.B in 1984. Later took up studies in Blackhall Place and was enrolled as a Solicitor. He is now in practice with a Dublin firm and resident in Rathgar. Still on the single side of the matrimonial state.

Vincent Booth, Booth's Delicatessen, Main Street, Portlaoise. Last year the delicatessen was the Leinster runner-up in the specialist deli section. The competition is based on knowledge of cheese, products on display, and interview with the owners and appearance of the premises. He also provides a catering facility for special occasions. They have established an excellent reputation for their salads and confectionery.

Desmond O'Connor (1977-'82) from Knockelly, Fethard, Co. Tipperary took a B.Agr. SC. in U.C.D. and joined the "Brain Drain" to the U.S.A. He spent three years with Smithkline Beecham Consumer Brands in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. He is now in marketing with Weight Watchers Co., a division of Tony O'Reilly's Heinz. He hopes to do his MBA at Carnegie Mellon University in the Autumn. Last May he married Frances Magovern. They live at

117W, Hutchinson Ave., Pittsburgh. Des still plays rugby for the local team.

Eamon Stack was ordained a priest on Sat. Aug. 28, 1993. He was a student at the College from 1973 to 1978 and then took a degree in Engineering in T.C.D. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1983. Since then he has studied and ministered in Dublin, Limerick, Belfast, and for the past two years has been studying and working in Caracas in Venezuela. Two years of his Dublin ministry were spent in Ballymun, and it was to that community and to the Church of the Virgin Mary in Ballymun that he returned to be ordained a priest. Bishop Jim Moriarty, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin was the ordaining prelate, and Eamon was surrounded for the happy occasion by his mother and four sisters (his father Austin died in 1986), by his Jesuit confreres, the people of Ballymun and Michael Grace, a classmate from his CCR days.

Eamon's first mission as a priest will be in Portadown.

Dr. Seán G. Ó Riain (1967-'72). CCR man is Énarque



An énarque is what the French call a graduate or student of the most prestigious educational institution in France--the ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration, or Postgraduate National School of Administration).

The ENA has no equivalent outside France. More than half the present French Government are past pupils, including Prime Minister Balladur, Foreign Minister Juppé and European Affairs Minister Lamassoure. Former President Giscard d'Estaing and former Prime Minister and possible future President Chirac are also énarques. Some 140 students are selected each year through a rigorous process of written examinations and interviews and all are guaranteed a privileged position in French public life, whether in the public service or politics.

In recent years ENA has opened to a small number of non-French students, provided their French is excellent. Included in this year's intake is Dr. Seán Ó Riain, of Cullen, Tipperary, who is currently a First Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Educated at CCR, UCG and TCD Dr Ó Riain joined the diplomatic service following graduation and has served at the Irish Embassies in Vienna and Canberra and is the author of *Pleanáil Teanga in Éirinn* and *Irish is fun-tastic*. He began to learn French in the classes of Mr John Shanahan at CCR. Seán's wife, Suzanne, hails from near Lausanne in Switzerland. They have a baby daughter, Aisling, to whom Suzanne speaks French and Seán Irish.

OBITUARY 1993

Fr. Emmanuel, C.C.R. Staff
Fr. Matthew / 1939
Fr. Andrew, C.C.R. Staff of Nunraw
Dr. Jackie McNamara / 1935
Dr. Anthony O'Neill / 1945
Thomas Egan / 1933
Gregory McEaney d. 1993
Noel McCormack / 1963
Paul Kelly / 1982
Major Charles Rogers / '49-'54
Fr. Brian Fitzgerald P.P. / 1939
Fr. John Sweeney P.P. / 1932
James G. Coleman / 1928
Brian Shaw d. 1993

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Anon, Celbridge.

Joe Doyle, Dublin.

Dr. George Egan, Liverpool.

John Cleary, Clonakilty, Scariff, Co. Clare.

John O'Shea, Croydon, England.

Dr. Michael Fallon, C/O Ballinasloe.

Bryan Egan, Galway.

Seamus Bergin, Clonmel.

Des. O'Connor, Pittsburg, U.S.A.



HAS SIN BEEN UPDATED?

Fr. Nivard Kinsella OCSO

The answer is Yes, it has. Where in the gospel will you find anything about drunken driving or doing 90 in a 40 mph zone or e.g. "Ownership creating a moral obligation to facilitate job creation". You won't - at least not directly. That last is a quote from the recent Pastoral On Work, issued by the Irish Bishops some months ago. We have over 300,000 jobless people in the Republic, and another 105,000 in the North. In face of this, most people feel helpless. Seeing "this most serious social problem of our time", and admitting that they cannot provide answers to economic problems, the bishops suggest that "the responsibility for ensuring satisfactory levels of employment in a society is widely shared . . . and many individuals, groups and associations can, by their behaviour, influence the employment content of economic growth and there are myriad ways in which people other than the employer can make it easy or difficult to employ an extra person".

WHAT CAN WE DO?

So out of a conversation came the idea that perhaps the Union could do something about the situation. No one knew exactly what, so let's get together and talk about it. We did - about fifty Union members all ready to contribute what they could, the Chairman and some members of the Board of Governors, Fr. Kevin, Fr Nivard and the Abbot. The tone of the discussions was realistic, the suggestions hard-headed and serious. For instance, it was stated clearly that no matter what any group does, the job situation is now so changed that we will still have three hundred thousand unemployed in 2000 AD.

SOMEONE SHOULD DO SOMETHING

But that does not justify our doing nothing about the situation and leaving it all to the government. That is the endemic problem

- to say that "someone should do something about it" and leave it at that. "The responsibility for creating more jobs lies primarily in Irish hands. It is a fatalistic outlook and serves to distance Irish people from responsibility to blame 'Brussels' or the world economy for our situation" (the Pastoral). We were convinced that perhaps we might do something by responding to this challenge.

FIRST MEETING

From that first meeting a number of facts emerged - that a small number of jobs could be created right away, not only in the service areas of gardening, house/car valeting, and the like which would not solve much but could provide a decent wage for a family which would not otherwise have it, but also in computer software and technical research. Some of these would be temporary, some for a minimum of five years but some would be permanent. However, we were aiming for something more than that - and it soon became clear that some considerable disbursement of EC funds would be possible for us; that if a plan were produced which could be fitted in with various schemes already operative in the country, it could be funded; that a great deal is already going on in this area of job creation throughout the country and that we need to acquaint ourselves with that; that the place to look for ideas is the West where long experience has given birth to realistic schemes for employment; and that we have a great lot of expertise as well as commitment and enthusiasm in the ranks of pastmen.

NOT JUST THE UNION

It was decided that we were not aiming solely to employ members of the Union, but to help the situation in the country generally. If Past Students could benefit, so much the better. And the suggestions

Some of the CCRU delegates arriving for the Conference: Pat Crotty, Kilkenny, John Sherry, Galway, Frank Crumeen, Dublin, Dick Brannigan, Louth. John O'Hare, Greystones, Frank Lynch, Joe O'Loughlin, Dublin.

for action should be centred on the members of the Union, the College, the Monastery and the community at large. One of the problems of course is that there is nothing easier than to talk about Unemployment. One can discuss it all night - its causes, its economic and social consequences, its effects on people and inevitably in any such discussion that inescapable fact that there are people "out there" who do not want to work. (There are - not a doubt about it!). But all that does not get us anywhere and the Chairpersons of the small groups kept bringing us back to the matter in hand - that we must talk about providing work - not about the effects of unemployment.

SOME POSSIBILITIES

Some of the ideas that surfaced were a Roscrea Enterprise Fund; a Roscrea business consultancy group, using the facilities of the monastery/college; providing funding on a 50/50 basis for entrepreneurs from the PPU; Self-development courses for 16-19 year olds; organic farming. And much else. As you can see, there is no dearth of ideas.

Eventually, it was decided to narrow down the objectives and to tighten the parameters, and to have another meeting. This sounds like the usual formula for doing nothing - establish a commission and have another meeting. But it was not so. The next meeting was held in the Guesthouse and around the table sat a much smaller group - with Noel Windle in the Chair.

STEERING COMMITTEE

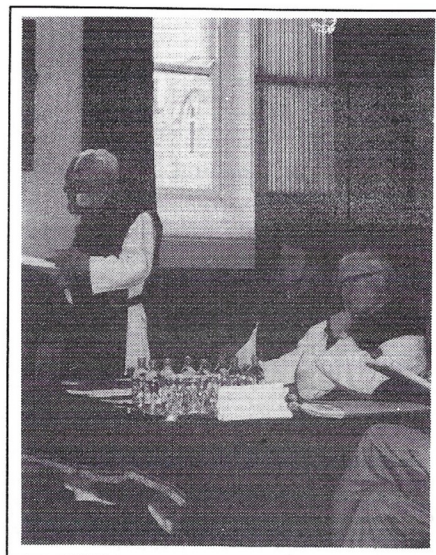
At the end of this we had set up a Committee to further the work. Noel Windle chairing the group which consists of Michael Keohane, Richard Liffey and Fr. Kevin. Each of these will produce a plan or practical suggestions about what can be done. In the background, waiting for these

are others with access to funds and further expertise. If anyone reading this is interested or willing to help, then do get in touch with one of the above names. He will send you details of what is done and being done and if you have anything from ideas to capital, it will be welcomed and used. There is much to be done and a great many people are waiting for "something to be done". We believe that we can do it.

THE NAY SAYERS

Inevitably there are some who see no point or anyhow very little in what is being done. Not that there are not good reasons for saying that - the task is a big one and we will not solve it. But we CAN do more than enrich the problem - we can do something about it. In their pastoral the bishops lists the sins against society that beset our society - exporting agricultural materials which could be processed here, slowness on the part of Irish management to foster dynamic relationships with employees, importing goods which are

already being produced here, leaving money sitting while small enterprises lack capital, people with business skills following paths to gain which lead to no job creation, urban property sites left unused so that their capital value can increase . . ." They see everyone's right to work as placing a moral imperative on the rest of us - if we are to be Christians in Ireland today, we must do something about the unemployment that surrounds us. Otherwise church-going and ritual become empty and talk about charity for the neighbour is meaningless. Something can be done - we cannot solve the problem, but we can do something towards reducing it. It is "morally imperative" that we do it. There is your updating of sin!



Fr. Nivard Kinsella - opening address at the "Employment Conference" conducted by CCRU and the Board of Governors.

ATHLETICS 1992/'93

This year's Athletics season got off to a slow start due to inclement weather and soft ground conditions which made training difficult. The Triangular sports were fixed for May 1st and with an improvement in the track conditions, the sports were able to go ahead. On Friday night Rockwell withdrew from the sports which took from the occasion. Nevertheless, there was good competition on the day with Roscrea coming out on top by 153 points to Clongowes' 120 points.

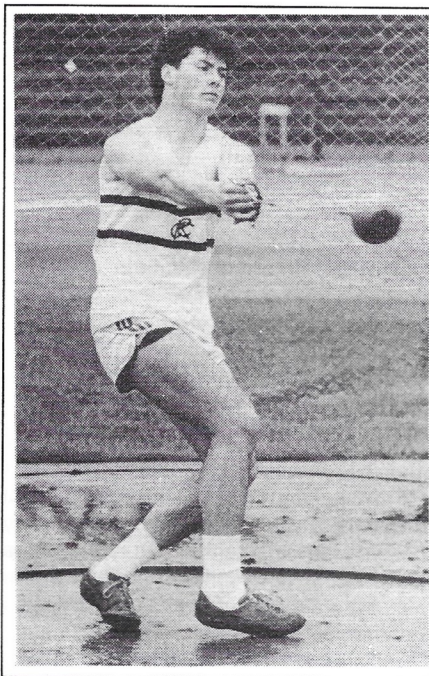
The South Leinsters passed with our usual quota of victories, the Inter and Senior teams doing best and winning the All-round trophies. With athletic standards improving all the time, Leinster titles are becoming more difficult to win without total dedication to a particular event. Our All-Ireland qualifiers were:-

Hammer: Senior - M. McGinn
Inter - J. Thompson
A. Spring
Junior - S. Thompson

Shot H. Sheils

RESULTS:-

Michael McGinn 1st Senior Hammer
John Thompson 2nd Inter Hammer



Michael McGinn on his way to a Senior Hammer All-Ireland title.

Arthur Spring 4th Inter Hammer
Stephen Thompson 1st Junior Hammer

Our congratulations to Mr. Pat Creagh for once again producing the above All-Ireland medals. As his athletes train all year round with tremendous dedication, they get just results in the summer term. For others to

achieve similar results, the same all year round dedication to training is necessary.

RUGBY 1992/'93

Our senior team had a very modest season losing more matches than winning - going out in the 1st round of the Cup to a very good St. Michael's team. Again, size proved a problem in the forwards and producing good and regular ball was not possible.

Our juniors had a 50/50 season in friendlies and improved steadily after Christmas to produce a good Cup run before going out 5 - 0 in the quarter final to a bigger St. Michael's. After three hard matches Michael's lost to St. Mary's in the semi-final.

Cup 1st Round
14 - 8 beat Kilkenny College

2nd Round
12 - 3 beat St. Paul's

The team was led from the front by Captain D. Phelan and vice-captain J. Thompson and some "spirited" coaching by Mr. Gerry Dunne.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Assessments and Interviews for prospective students for the school-year 1994/'95 will take place in the College on March 4th and 5th, 1994. All interested parents are asked to make **immediate contact** with Fr. Kevin Daly, President. (Phone 0505 - 21061).

AUSTRALIA : Looking Back and Looking Forward

by Fergal O'Dubhghaill (1977-'80)

Having left C.C.R. in 1980, Fergal studied Law at U.C.C. and King's Inn. He then received an L.L.M. from the University of Tübingen, worked in Australia for two years and now practices as a barrister in Cork.

For the Irish lawyer who wishes to work abroad, Australia remains a less obvious destination than Britain, Europe or America. Due to what one commentator has described as "the tyranny of distance" there was in less mobile times, a certain finality about going to Australia. In today's shrunken world, however, a temporary stay in Australia is also a realistic option. Indeed, due to the recession and to the current restrictions on immigration in Australia, it may at present be the best option. Be that as it may, and having had the good fortune to work for two years with a Melbourne law firm, I know that Australia is an excellent place in which to live and work. It is a long way away but that is one of the reasons I chose to go there. We are familiar, of course, with the history which has decreed that their rugged country with its un-Irish blend of red vastness, unusual land-farms and unique wild-life should be home to a set of social, political, and cultural traditions just like ours. Australia is worth a visit for that alone.

The closeness of background is perhaps most prevalent in the legal field. Some of Australia's most prominent jurists, particularly in the former colonies (now states) of Victoria and New South Wales have been Irish, or of Irish extraction. Indeed, the Supreme Court of Victoria building in Melbourne is modelled directly on the Four Courts in Dublin! Although the Irish and Australian legal systems still have much in common, the Australian has moved further away from the British model than has the Irish, and the main distinguishing feature of Australian jurisprudence today is its federal constitution.

Despite the similarities between our legal system and the consequent ease with which Irish-qualified lawyers can adapt to the Australian legal scene, gaining professional admission in Australia is no formality. I had to sit quite an arduous set of exams in order to qualify as a lawyer in the state of Victoria. Suffice it to say that it is not necessary to be professionally admitted in order to work as an employee lawyer in Australia.

Melbourne was my home throughout my stay. Although Sydney, with its Harbour Bridge and Opera House has a more immediate appeal to the first-time visitor to Australia - many Irish people might prefer Melbourne in the longer term because of its more temperate (but still sunny) climate, European atmosphere, broad streets and numerous parks. This city retains its Irish links, particularly with the

Gaelic-inspired Australian Rules Football. This sport has quite a fanatical following in Melbourne and outside of Victoria it is also played in the states of Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. It is unknown in New South Wales and Queensland and in these states rugby league and rugby union (in that order) are the most popular sports. Those states which follow Australian Rules Football remain indifferent to rugby and this will explain the relative apathy with which Melbourne greeted Australia's triumph in the rugby World Cup of 1991!

Since my days at C.C.R., I have also been aware of the Cistercian link with Australia and while in Melbourne I took the opportunity to visit the monastery in nearby Tarrawarra, where I met up with C.C.R. pastmen Fr. Maxime Palmer and Andrew Fennessy, both of whom were contemporaries of my father at Roscrea. I also met former Abbot Dom Kevin O'Farrell; our paths had previously crossed in Roscrea just two days before I had left Ireland in the autumn of 1989! During my time in Melbourne I called out to Tarrawarra a couple of times and I remember in particular a most informative tour of the adjoining Domain Chandon vineyard in the company of Father Maxime and Michael, and Brother Kevin Burke. They are fortunate to live in such a beautiful serene place as the Yorr's Valley!

The attraction of Australia to an Irish person may be in how it so effortlessly combines the exotic with the familiar. It is not to overlook the sad injustices brought about by white settlement, particularly those of the nineteenth century when the native Australians suffered more than the Irish did. Australia does retain an empathy with Ireland, though not to the same extent as does the east coast of the United States, as the British influence in Australia was far more complete.

But Australia is changing. The Australian republic envisaged by Prime Minister Paul Keating - himself of Irish Catholic extraction - is not unrealistic. It is a truism that Australia is a "young country" but the current debate on the relevance of the monarch to Australia marks a certain coming of age. Perceptions and preconceptions moulded by Australia's colonial past can best be remedied by visits to cosmopolitan cities like Sydney and Melbourne where there are now thriving communities of varied backgrounds, particularly Chinese, southern European, Middle Eastern and Polynesian. The cultural diversity of today, and the corresponding decline in the proportion of Australians of British and Irish origin, are legacies of Australia's post-war encouragement of immigration from Europe and Asia. The result is that the quintessential Australian is now as likely to



Photographed with Fr. Maxime Palmer (C.C.R. 1952) at Tarrawarra in February, 1991.

be Arab or Chinese as to be a bronzed Caucasian on a surfboard!

It is therefore, no surprise that in this highly successful multi-culture on the Pacific Rim, the constitutionally-provoked role of the Queen of England as Head of State is increasingly seen by many as an anachronism. The replacement by Britain of its allegiances to Australia (with some suspicion by Australia) further diminishes Britain's relevance to the Australia of today and has led to an awareness on the part of Australians that their economic interests may in the long-term best be served by increased co-operation with Japan (Australia's largest trading partner) and South-East Asia.

The best things about Australia remain untouched, however. I have found it a friendly, relaxed place with plenty of opportunity for leisure pursuits. It enjoys an attractive climate and its vast wildernesses are well protected. The Great Barrier Reef, Kakadu National Park, Ayers Rock and Tasmania in themselves all justify a visit to this far-flung land of sunshine and harmony.