

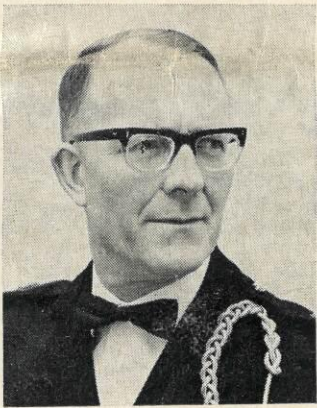
THE ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 22

Quarterly of the Cistercian College (Roscrea) Union

Spring 1972

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION



GERARD BATES

As my two year period of Office as President of the Union draws to its close—the next Annual General Meeting of the Union takes place on Sunday, May 28th, 1972—a review of Union activities during the past two years may not be out of place.

To a very great extent, Union activity was dominated during the period by the Swimming Pool Project. A decision was taken by the Members at the Annual General Meeting in May 1970 to collect funds from all Pastmen towards the erection of a Swimming Pool at the College. During the following twelve months the problem was investigated by a special Steering Committee who reported the results to the Lord Abbot and obtained his sanction for the Project. The compilation of an up-to-date roll of Pastmen was then undertaken by the Rev. General Secretary, assisted by the Branches of the Union. This onerous work was only about 70% successful due to the difficulty in tracing the correct addresses of many Pastmen and, let it be said, by some lack of determination in the Branches. However, before Union Day, 16th May, 1971, a reasonable working Roll was compiled, a preliminary Circular issued to all Pastmen on that Roll and an illustrated Brochure and Covenant Form prepared, printed and issued to all Union Members.

Immediately following Union Day 1971, Brochures were issued to the General body of Pastmen. This work was concluded in July 1971, and after the holiday period, the work of visitation of all Pastmen to elicit their support was commenced by the Branches of the Union. This work is still in progress and is, of course, the most onerous and important part of the work we have to do. It may well take another twelve months to complete. What are the results achieved to date? It is well to be able to record that a sum of £27,000 has been subscribed either by direct cash subscription or by Annual sums Covenanted for periods of (usually) five years. Our original goal of £30,000 is therefore well in sight. Great credit is due to all concerned for this very considerable achievement. In the loyalty that

prompted the project, in the energy that sustained it and in the good will and generosity that made this achievement possible a standard has been set for future generations of Union members and Pastmen generally.

The original estimate of £30,000 put forward two years ago, was, however, NO more than a working figure and was not based on any definite plan, much less a plan relating to a definite site. Building costs have also risen in the meantime. Further, when the "rock" was struck at preliminary diggings, unwanted water came forth much too rapidly and this will necessitate additional expenditure in the digging of a drain some 260 yards long. The correct figures now put forward jointly by our Architect and Quantity Surveyor, both past students, are £49,750 for a five lane Pool and £47,550 for a four lane Pool. By the making of certain serious reductions in design and the omission of site works both to a degree which many Pastmen would not relish, these figures could be reduced to £42,000 and £39,000 respectively. It is clear, therefore, that to erect the Pool we all originally envisaged, a sum of £22,750 still remains to be collected as an addition to the £27,000 already secured.

The work of collecting this money rests again on the Branches of the Union. By their efforts in their own areas, success will come and we hope will come quickly. Pastmen generally and Union Members in particular who have not already subscribed can lighten the burden of work on Branches by subscribing directly to the General Secretary at the College even before they have been visited. Can I offer one comment on subscribing? As with all other collections, the majority of potential subscribers will not subscribe at all. This is due to a variety of causes. It is therefore clear that those who do subscribe must bear this fact in mind if success is to be achieved. The best kind of subscription for Income Tax payers is generally an Annual payment of (say) £25 per annum will result in an Annual contribution of about £38.50p to the project. Next in importance is an Annual payment by Bankers Order or by any other means.

The man who decides to contribute £5, £10, or £20 etc. should consider giving this amount for a period of say five years. The individual £5 or £10 subscription, while showing good will and while gratefully received, makes little headway where thousands of pounds have to be collected in a relatively short space of time.

I now appeal to all Pastmen to close the remaining gap of £22,750 quickly. We should not like to have passed a resolution to collect funds which we believed would erect a Swimming Pool and then to have faltered when the task grew in magnitude. After all we circularised

4,400 Pastmen but the number who have contributed to date is only 300 and they have contributed £27,000. There are obvious lessons to be learned from the figures. Where the Union Branch was weak the response was equally weak. Where the Branch was strong the results are gratifying. Where the Branch Members were not prepared to break away even for a short while from the urgency (if not the tyranny) of their own affairs, little was achieved. Social work, work for others, demands sacrifice and entails frustration. In the time that may yet remain for us to bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion, let us apply ourselves to the task, taking note of the dictum of Cicero "Quid est eo decet uti, et quidquid agis agere pro viribus."

Turning to other Union activities it is well to recall that despite the busy, even hectic, rush of Swimming Pool work, we were afforded the opportunity to "turn aside" and attend two excellent weekend retreats at the Guest House — one in 1970 conducted by Fr. Cathal and one in 1971 by Fr. Peter. The all round standard of these retreats was of the highest and in thanking the Retreat Masters, I would like to remind Union Members and indeed all Pastmen of the great advantage which is theirs for the taking as potential annual retreatants. Normal Branch activity was continued by the Dublin, South Tipperary, Galway and London Branches. Well attended

and enjoyable functions were held by these Branches and other Union activity was pursued. The Midlands, North Tipperary, Limerick and Cork Branches, however, are suffering a certain regression at present as far as the holding of functions and general activity are concerned. This need not necessarily indicate a failure of spirit, but the holding of some annual function is a sign of activity and organic life within a Branch. A Union is certainly as good as its Branches and Branches are as good as Branch Committees make them. The pace of a Branch will not develop or be maintained without considerable effort by the Branch Officers, in particular the Chairman and Secretary. Personal contact, not just a reminder by letter is very often of considerable help here. More attention must be paid at Branch level to the reception and handling of new members. Each New entrant may be a potential worker of great value to the Union, but if not welcomed and fostered and given some satisfying type of Union work to do, may be lost for ever to the Union.

May I conclude by thanking all concerned — our Patron, the Lord Abbot, the President of the College Fr. Patrick, our incomparable General Secretary, Fr. Dermot, the Chairman and Officers of the Branches and all members of the Central Committee for their work and cooperation throughout a challenging period of Union history.

Golf Championship for the Abbot Cup

This year, 1972, the competition for the Abbot's Cup will be played on the same day as the Past v. Present Rugby match, Sunday, 22nd October.

Once again we are indebted to

the Roscrea Golf Club for the use of their course on that day. The Cup will be presented to the winner at the dinner in the College the same evening. More immediate notice will be published in the Autumn Review.

SUNDAY, 28th MAY

1972

UNION DAY

at

CISTERCIAN COLLEGE, ROSCREA

Union Mass for Pastmen : Afternoon Tea

Annual General Meeting : Sherry Reception : Union Dinner

BRING THE FAMILY FOR THE AFTERNOON

Wives and Girl Friends welcome to Dinner

MIDLAND BRANCH MEMBERS

The Midland Branch of the Union covers the biggest land area of all the Branches. It embraces Offaly north from Banagher, counties Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan and Monaghan. And until the Galway Branch was established, it then included counties Galway and Mayo as well! It was intended to have two natural centres, Athlone and Tullamore.

We would welcome any correction in the addresses or names in the following list of members of the Midland Branch. Please send corrections to the General Secretary of the Union, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea.

Branch officers and Committee, 1971/72.

Chairman: Niall O'Rourke.

Vice-Chairman, Thomas O'Rourke.

Hon. Secretary: Shaun Wrafter.

Hon. Treasurer: Patrick Healy.

Ballantyne, G., Auburn Villas, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Ballantyne, Raymond F., 4, Auburn Villas, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Barry, K. J., Newcastle House, Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath.
Buckley, M. Patrick, Ballinbarna, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
Buckley, Joseph, Ballycommon, Ballingar, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Callaghan, Thomas, Lisdaly, Belmont, Offaly.
Canavan, Kevin, Rathmore House, Ballymahon, Co. Longford.
Carroll, Brendan, Patrick Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
Coffey, N. P., Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon.
Coffey, John J., Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon.
Coffey, John, Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon.
Comer, J., The Square, Dunmore, Co. Galway.
Comeford, Brian, 'Hillside', Park Road, Longford.
Connellan, P., Prague Ville, Church Street, Longford.
Corcoran, Timothy, Munster & Leinster Bank, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.
Coyle, George, Curragh House, Athleague, Co. Roscommon.
Cullen, Dr., Bart, Coole, Co. Westmeath.

Cullen, V., Post Office House, Sligo.
Cullen, M., Mount Pleasant Avenue, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Curley, Michael, Main Street, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.
Daly, Dr. Joseph P., Ballygar, Co. Galway.
Dolan, Tiernan, "St. Anne's", Keon Terrace, Longford.
Donlon, D. J., The Midland Warehouse Co., Longford.
Duignan, E. J., Main Street, Roscommon.
Duignan, Thomas, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.
Durkin, Hugh, Main Street, Granard, Co. Longford.
Egan, Dan, 16 Beech Park, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Egan, Peter, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
Farrell, Christopher, Ulster Bank Ltd., Westport, Co. Mayo.
Fennessey, Seamus, Croghan, Tullamore Co. Offaly.
Finch, Ivan, Ballindrimley, Castle-rea, Co. Roscommon.
Finch, Joseph, "Woodview" Ballindrimley Hill, Castlereah, Co. Roscommon.
Flynn, Joseph, Newtown, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
Flood, Gerard, Hyde Street, Mohill, Co. Leitrim.
Flynn, John, The Mart, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
Flynn, Richard, Tubber House, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
Galvin, Brendan, Harbour Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Galvin, Andrew, Ardvile, Arden, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Grehan, James, 6 Keon's Terrace, Longford.
Haugh, Thomas P., Beech Park, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Healy, Patrick, c/o National Bank, Athlone.
Heneghan, John, Providence Road, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
Hoey, Michael, Royal Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Houlihan, B., Aughine, Moydow, Co. Longford.
Hourican, Philip, Clonbullogue House, Clonbullogue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Hunt, Henry, 12, Casement Street, Cavan.
Keane, Thomas, Templepatrick, Moyvore, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

Kelly, Patrick, Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Keogh, William, The Bon Bon, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Keohane, Michael, Arran St., Ballina, Co. Mayo.
Kerin, Redmond, Cloughan, Co. Offaly.
Kiernan, Oliver, Ballyhardy, Dysart, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
Lawless, Hilary, Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway.
Loughnane, Patrick, Banefield, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Lynch, David, Main Street, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.
Mattimoe, Leo, Riverstown, Co. Sligo.
Mellotte, Michael, Dr., Mountbellew, Co. Galway.
Moran, Pdraig, "Tara," Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
Morgan, John, 19 Beech Park, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
McDevitt, H. S., Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.
McGarry, G. J., Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.
McGinnity, Oliver, Dublin Road, Longford.
McGowan, Eamonn, Knockroe, Castlereah, Co. Roscommon.
McGowan, Harry, Knockroe, Castlereah, Co. Roscommon.
McGowan, John, Rathedmond House, Salthill Road, Sligo.
McGuinness, John, Ardnaglen House, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath.
McGuinness, James, Ardnaglen House, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath.
McNamara, Dr. J. J. O'R., Mount View, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
McNamara, John, Mount View, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
McNamara, Michael, Mount View, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Naughton, Patrick, Mount Talbot, Co. Roscommon.
Naughton, John, Mount Talbot, Co. Roscommon.
Neary, Brendan, 'Ard Omra,' Strandhill Road, Sligo.
Moloney, Martin, Rineen, Church Street, Cavan.
Monahan, B., Coolnacurn, Eyre-Court, Co. Galway.
Morris, Jarlath, Bank of Ireland House, Arva, Co. Cavan.
Mulherin, Seamus, "Dun Mhuire," Mohill, Co. Leitrim.
Mulherin, Thomas, Dublin.

Munnely, William, Main Street, Killala, Co. Mayo.
Murphy, G. J., Dr., Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
McAlister, Brian, Auburn Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
McCann, Jack, Daingean, Co. Offaly.
McCarthy, James J., "Manzanita," Co. Westmeath.
McDevitt, Liam, St. Brigid's Street, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.
Nerney, Brian, Culleen House, Roscommon.
Nicholl, Liam, Killmakenny, Corrigea P.O., via Cavan, Co. Leitrim.
Nugent, Michael, Churchtown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
O'Dea, George, Bank of Ireland, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.
O'Donoghue, David, Newtown Terrace, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
O'Grady, D., Ballinabowen, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
O'Keeffe, M. F., Greenfield, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway.
O'Leary, Gerard, 4 Mardyke Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
O'Rourke, Niall, Hill View, Moyvoughley, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
O'Rourke, Thomas, Ballydoogan, Moate, Co. Westmeath.
O'Sullivan, Brian, "Ardeen," Perry Street, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
O'Sullivan, Eugene, Col. Perry Street, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.
Ryan, John, 'Gleann Mhuire,' Fardrum, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Sherry, Kevin, St. John's, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
Sherry, Seamus, Moybrook House, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
Sherry, Michael, St. John's, Main Street, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
Sweeney, Patrick C., Solicitor, Roscommon.
Vaughan, Richard, Deanville, Charleville Rd., Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Wrafter, Niall, Earl St., Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Wrafter, Sean, O'Moore St., Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE REVIEW

Published by way of Receipt and Acknowledgment—

Since the last issue of the Review the following have sent subscriptions or Banker's Orders to help maintain the printing and publication of the paper. The number of subscribers to date since our first appeal is 140. Many of these, as you see from present and previous acknowledgments are from overseas.

James Glennon, Skerries, Co. Dublin.
John A. O'Shaughnessy, Dripsey, Co. Cork.

John Fitzpatrick, Charleville.
Andrew Galvin, Tullamore.

John M. Houlihan, Mitchelstown.

Tim Murphy, Blackrock,
H. C. F. Hall, Dublin.
Joseph V. O'Loughlin, Tick Nock, Co. Dublin.
John B. Lynch, Mallow.
Rt. Rev. Mons. C. Hurley, P.P., V.G., Dublin.
Dr. Bernard Sherry, Dublin.
Con Duane, Dublin.
Tom Hope, Dublin.
John O'Shea, Croydon, England.
Aidan Quigey, Dublin.
Joe O'Connor, Limerick.
Denis F. Hegarty, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
Gerard Moroney, Humbolt, Canada.

To all these we return grateful thanks.

We continue to enclose a Banker's

Order form for the benefit of those who may wish to help, but subscription in any other form—cash or cheque—is equally acceptable.

Many of these subscriptions are in the form of annual Banker's Orders. These form a small but steady annual income. Along with the fees for advertisements this makes the financial position of the Review more secure. Advertising costs are £30 per page, £15 half page or £8 per quarter page. The Review still costs an average of £60 per issue so we cannot relax our efforts. The more pictures an issue carries the costlier it will be. Blocks average about £7.

London Branch Officers and Committee

26th November, 1971

Chairman: Michael J. Ryan, 39 Estelle Rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

Vice-Chairman: Vincent McGuire, L.D.S., 59 London Rd., Chelmsford, Essex.

Treasurer: Michael McCormack, 78 Barnet Way, London, N.W.7.

Secretary: Tim O'Dwyer, 2 Astoria Walk, Brixton, London S.W.9. Phone: 769-2001—work. 733-0358—home.

Assistant Secretary: Pat Cunneen.
Officers of the Committee: Dr. Vincent Sherry, Dr. Cyril Cassidy, Jack Cassidy, Frank Owens, Jim Egan, John Yurkey, John O'Hare.

THE POOL

Since the last issue of the Review matters have moved steadily ahead regarding the Swimming Pool.

Firstly there is the question of money. To many of us this seemed an unsurmountable difficulty. But the zeal and organisation of a couple of the Branches has proved that all that is needed is good will on the part of a few, who are willing to approach the many and get them to part with a little of their surplus. One man expressed it: "For this follow up and personal contact job, you need, not only time and patience, but courage and humility as well!"

This personal contact was for many of us engaged on the work a revelation, separating the spurious from the sincere. These latter had sometimes little or nothing to give, but that was alright, we knew where we stood and were very thankful. But the others . . . they had neither the generosity to give, nor the courage to refuse, so they fobbed us off with false promises. We are very glad to record that C.C.R. has produced only a few of the type. The response of the majority approached has been magnificent.

Three hundred people have already subscribed or pledged £27,000! Are you one of them?

When it came to planning the Pool there was no problem; Jim Fehily ('43-'48), had offered to do the job when the project was first mooted. The plans Jim produced were very acceptable both to the Community at Roscrea and to the Union. Working within the limits of a very tight budget he has laid out a very fine pool and we hope nothing will compel us to modify it. Padraic Mulcahy, Quantity Surveyor, is doing the costing, and between them they have produced a satisfactory result. But the estimate is much greater than we expected.

Here our luck seemed to run out. The site chosen for the Pool was adjacent to some new showers and toilets, and rooms suitable for easy conversion to dressing-rooms, which

would make a saving of nearly £7,000. The engineers advised four trial holes to be dug on the site. The College people did this job, taking the holes down to a depth of 12 feet. Within in a short time each hole filled with water to a depth of 7-8 feet.

There were three alternatives: change the site, put in very heavy and costly foundations, or dig a drain. This involved digging a 12 foot deep ditch and some seven hundred feet long and piping away the water into an underground stream. In the long run this is the most satisfactory solution as it will facilitate building operations, keep the site permanently drained, and take the back-wash of the pool. But, literally, it is nearly £2,000 down the drain!

With such hazards as these, and steadily rising costs, it is no wonder that the President of the Union is urging the Branches to greater efforts in their fund raising activities, and to extend their target to — £50,000.

Do you think we can make it? Well it is up to you? Twelve months ago few of us dreamt that the present total could be possible in so short a time, and that the Pool would be starting soon.

The following figures will give you some idea how this has been achieved and the areas which helped most in our success.

	£
Dublin has contributed	14,731
Cork	527
Galway	2,173
Midlands	451
North Tipp.	1,376
South Tipp.	1,482
Clare/Limerick	4,251
London	792
Abroad	286

We must continue to press on, and your co-operation, however modest, will be greatly appreciated.

Union Day 1972

This year Union Day will be held at the College on **Sunday, 28th May**.

Apart from the Golf Championship which is discussed elsewhere, the arrangements for the day's programme will be the same as last year. The Union Mass for past-students living and dead will be offered in the College Chapel at 3 p.m. This will be followed by afternoon tea in the Recreation Hall for all past-students and their friends. At 5 p.m. sharp, the Annual General Meeting of the Union will commence in the Billiard Room. At this meeting, Mr. Tom Haugh, the new President of the Union for 1972/'73 will take office. While the men are thus engaged a Pitch and Putt competition will be organised for the ladies on the College Golf Course, with a trophy for the winner. After the A.G.M., there will be a sherry reception in the Billiard

Room.

The Union Dinner will be held as usual in the Pathe Hotel, Roscrea, and should begin at 7.30 p.m. The Union President will make his inaugural speech, there will be music and dancing afterwards if you wish.

OBITUARIES

Paddy McRedmond, 1954-'59 formerly of Kilcormac, died in London early in the New Year. He was married and had a baby daughter.

Charles Grant 1945-'48, Newry Co. Down died as the result of an explosion in a barge on Lough Neagh some months ago.

Right Rev. Msgr. Maurice Dee, 1915-'17 of Limerick Junction, died recently in Monrovia, California where he was Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Church.

Edmund J. Lynch, 1922-'26, Portumna died early April 1972, R.I.P. We extend to his wife and family our deepest sympathy.

GALWAY DANCE '71



SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Pat Scully, 1953-'58, of Stradbally was married last year.

Seamus Gohery, 1953-'58, of Mullagh, Loughrea also took the plunge last Christmas.

Frank Canavan 1958-'63 of Belclare, Gerard McGarry 1953-'58 of Ballyhaunis, Pat Quinn 1955-'56 of Sligo and Aidan Sheeran 1951-'56 of Mountrath are engaged.

Michael Littleton 1951-'56 of Tulla, Co. Clare, a well-known RTE personality will represent Ireland at the World Chess Olympics in September 1972.

Joseph Bergin 1932-'34 Nenagh received the 1971 Knocknagow Sports Award as the best handballer in recent times.

Dr. Gabriel Murphy, 1956-'60 has moved north and is now working in the Bogside, Derry.

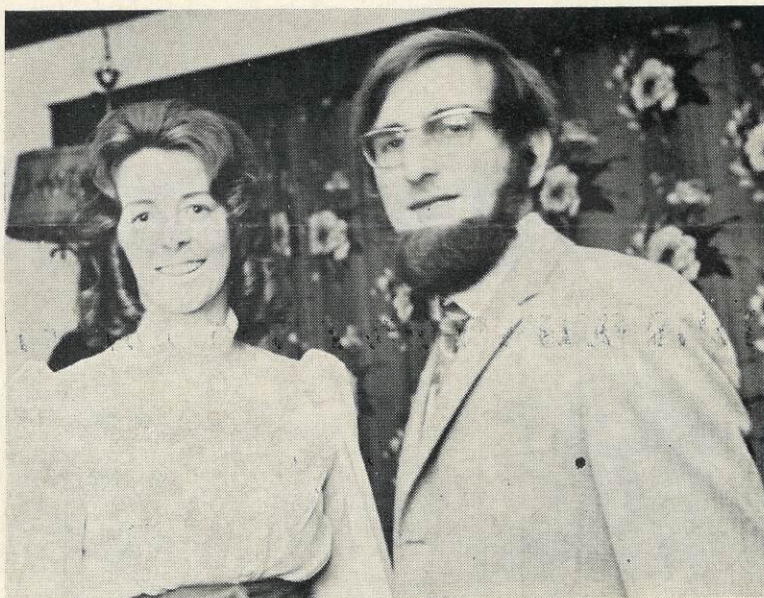
Tony McGuire 1950-'55 of Ballycomber has married and settled down in Limerick, where he is a factory manager.

The hotel business has attracted a growing number of our past-men in recent years. However, many like the following are already well established: Patrick J. Buckley 1944-'49, the Arbutus Hotel Killarney and his brother Daniel 1942-'43, Castle Hotel, Macroom, Co. Cork. Brian McCarthy 1949-'55 and his wife Aine own the very attractive Innishannon Hotel on the banks of the Bandon River, Co. Cork. And in Limerick City, Steve

Foley 1938-'41 has a céad míle fáilte at the Shannon Arms Hotel for all C.C.R. men: Moving up the mighty river you come to Banagher, Co. Offaly where Desmond F. P. Corcoran 1952-'56 has the Shannon Hotel, Away to the West, at Dugart, Achill, Co. Mayo, you will find Roger Gallagher 1942-'45 at the Valley House Hotel. If you prefer the east coast Ned Comerford 1956-'61 will welcome you at the Great Southern Inn at Rosslare, where he is manager.

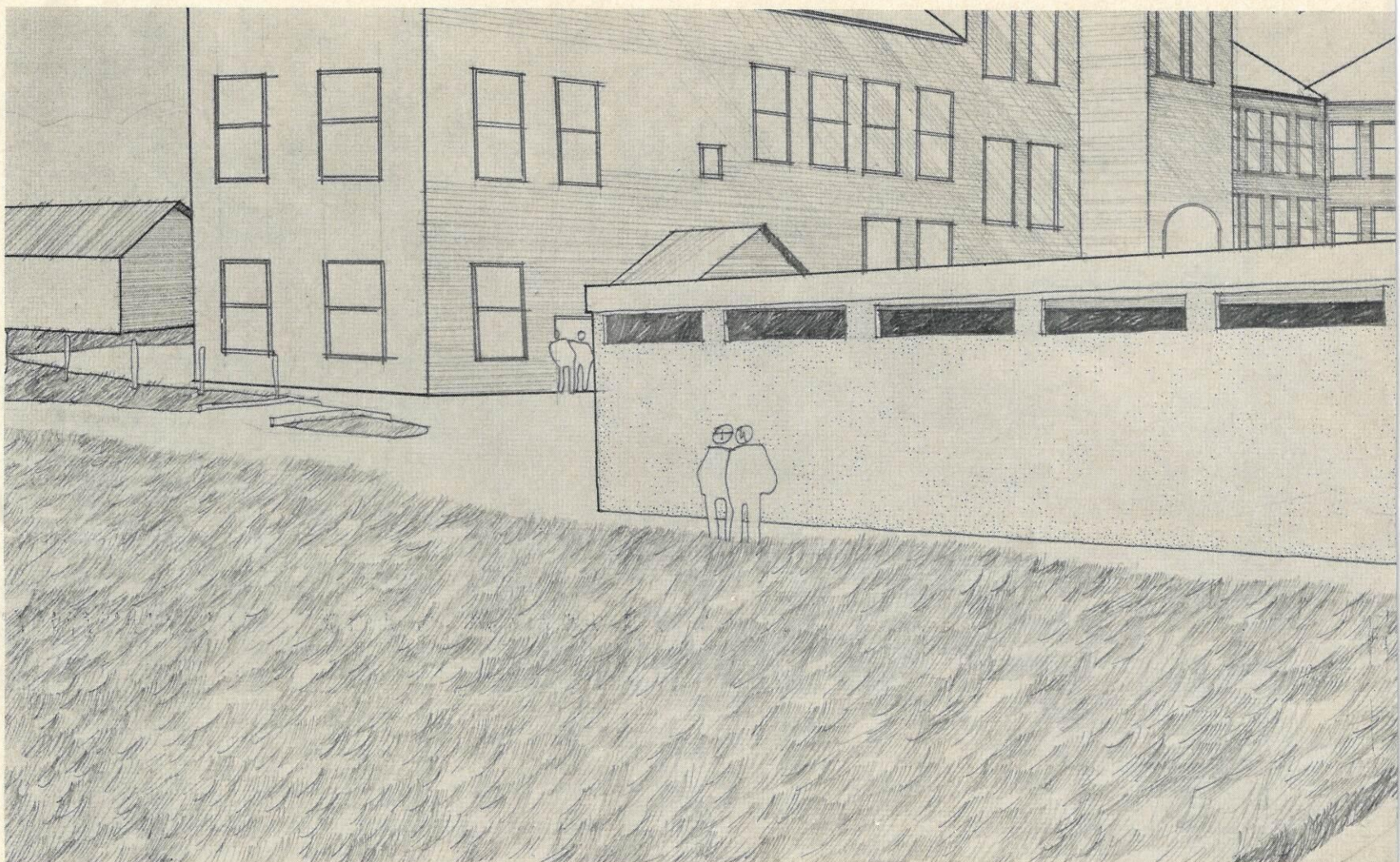
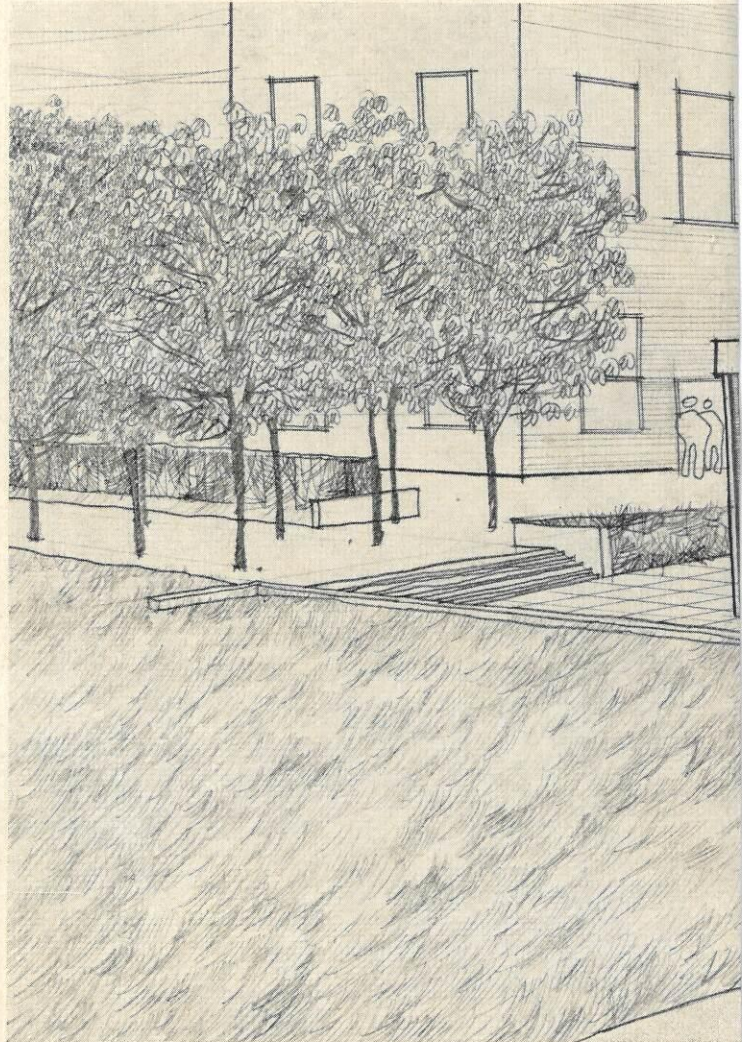
Michael Connellan was in Roscrea from 1949 to 1954 and has studied law in U.C.D., and qualified as a Solicitor in 1959. His father who was State Solicitor in Longford died suddenly and Michael having carried on the practise from 1959 to 1962 was appointed State Solicitor in 1963 to succeed his father. In 1965 he married Miss Patricia Flynn of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon whose father P. J. Flynn was County Registrar in Roscommon. The Connellans have two daughters.

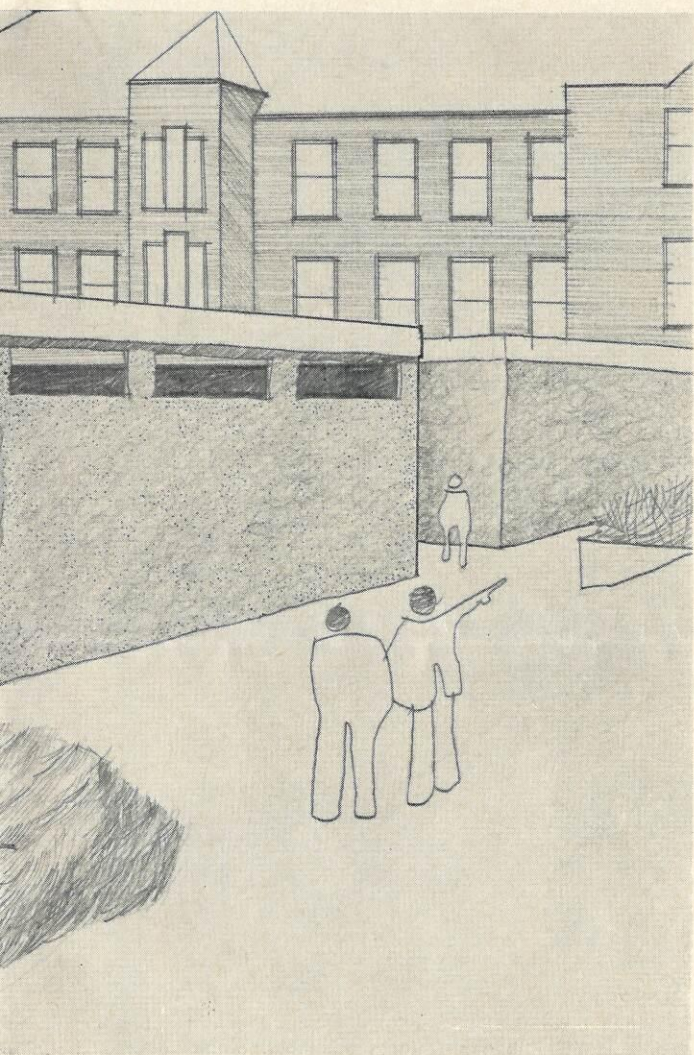
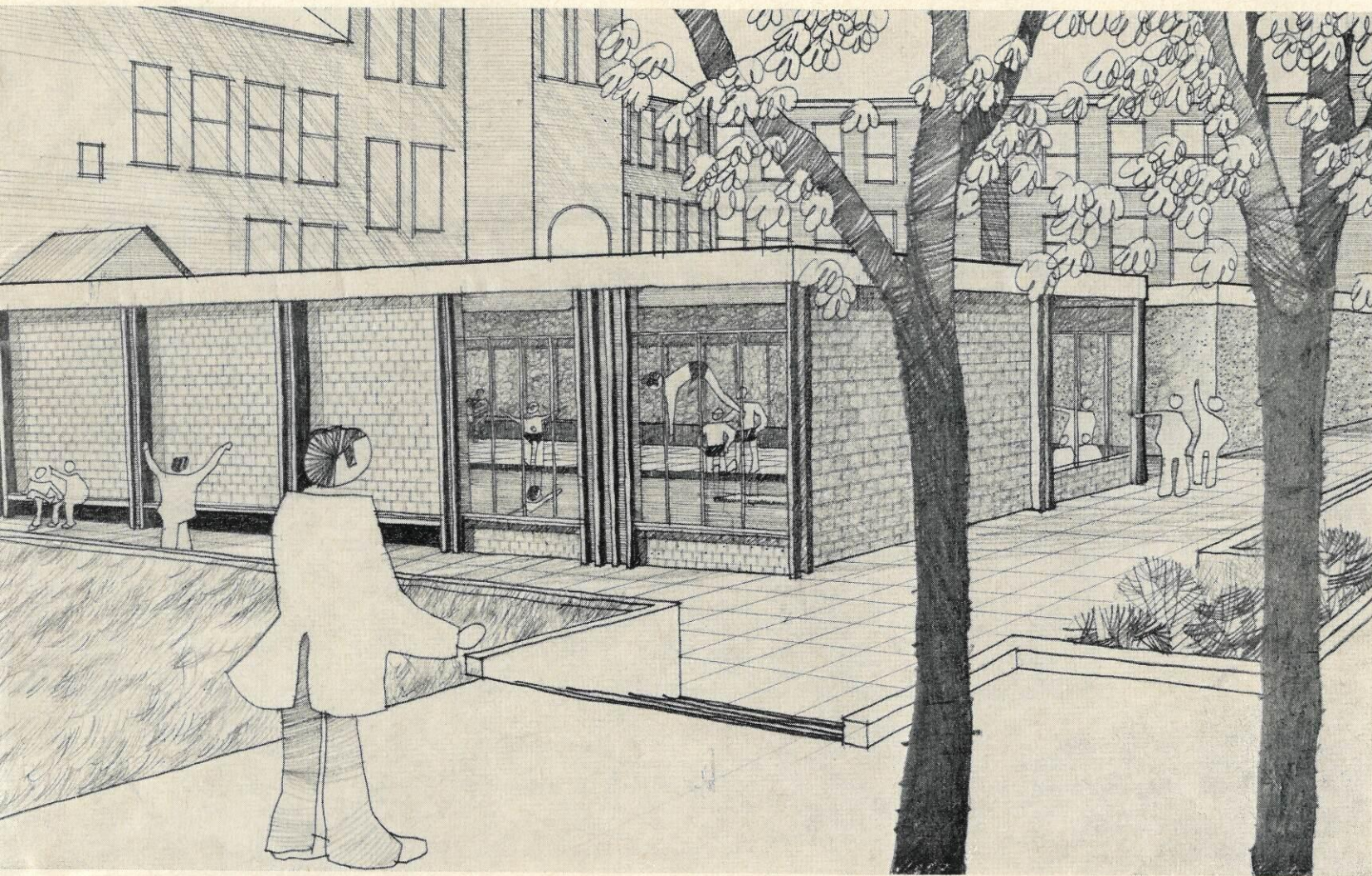
Patrick Connellan who was in Roscrea from 1951 to 1956 qualified as a solicitor in 1962 and joined the family practise in Longford until November 1971 when he was appointed Co. Registrar for Westmeath. In 1964 Patrick married Miss Foley, daughter of Tom Foley, the County Registrar in Longford and they have two children, a boy and a girl.



JOE CURLEY and MRS. CURLEY

**THIS IS JIM
FEHILY'S DESIGN
WHICH WE WOULD
LIKE TO BUILD—
BUT IT WOULD
COST £49,000**





OR THE POOL
ON THE LEFT—
WITH NO SITE WORK
WOULD COST £39,000
WHICH DO YOU WANT?

CLERYYS 



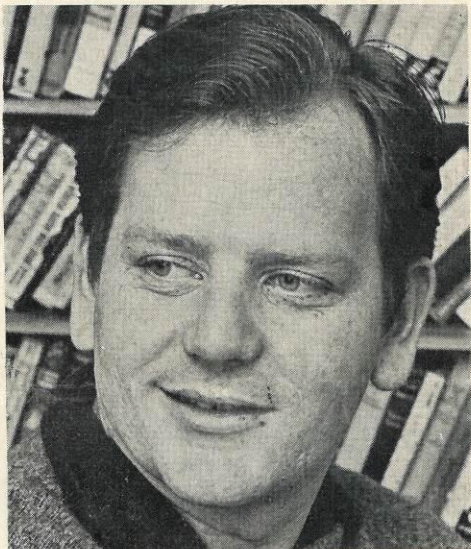
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GUS MARTIN

(1948-1953)

It's not that he's complex, or, schizophrenic — he just seems to have enough interests and enthusiasms to keep half a dozen men going. He's Augustine Martin, distinguished scholar of Irish literature and television personality. He's also Gus Martin, with a wife and three children, who'll sit down with you and discuss any topic under the sun intelligently and articulately. And then of course he's Gusto, the youngest of seven kids, whose father kept a store in Ballinamore Co. Leitrim.

If you didn't know him, you might have trouble guessing what his occupation was. He doesn't have the pale, bookish air you might expect of a University lecturer (he teaches English at U.C.D.). In fact, he is above average height and strongly built, once played Gaelic football for Leitrim, but now keeps in trim by donning a track suit and running in the Dublin mountains for a few hours a week.

When I met him he was relaxing at his home in Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. The family was not long back from a holiday in the country and they all looked bright and healthy, the children scampering in with their dog Stella and being shoo-ed back out by their father.

I asked him about his childhood and he smiled, remembering.

"I feel sorry for children who are not brought up in a shop, as I was. My father dealt in shoes, he sold agricultural machinery, furniture, pots and pans, Wellington boots, big bales of wire, watches, bundles of leather — everything. It was a sort of Aladdin's Cave. I used to ask what everything was and what it was used for and in that way I learnt all kinds of interesting facts.

"My mother and father both came from farms. Even although my father became a shopkeeper, he still had the feeling that he ought to have a bit of land somewhere. So he bought the most miserable piece of land for miles around and we boys used to reclaim it during the summer.

"Anyway, I have inherited his instincts because I've just bought a piece of land myself, in the Gaeltacht."

Gus is sorry that he has not seen more of the world and plans to travel abroad whenever he has the chance. He has already been to France and to Germany on lecture tours; which he enjoyed enormously. Now he's hoping to go to America and lecture in a university there for a while.

"Basically, though," he says, "I'm

an insular man, I live a very settled life, I've been married for about ten years and in that time I've not been away from my wife for more than ten days together."

Mrs. Claire Martin is from Limerick, where her people had a farm. She is openfaced, charming, with brown hair drawn back tightly from her face. It is a warm evening and she looks cool in white trousers and a patterned Indian caftan. Gus insists she is the practical one, the family handyman, who knows how to mend electrical faults and looks after the garden.

The Martins have three children, and are expecting a fourth. Breffni is the oldest and then there is Grainne, eight, and Niamh, five. They have round, bright faces, a little suntanned from their holidays, brown hair and great self-possession. They are polite, alert and unself-conscious.

Gus Martin's own education began at Ballinamore and continued at the Cistercian College, Roscrea, which he remembers with great affection and respect.

"The Cistercians are an agricultural order and I don't know whether it was their contact with the land or what, but they kept in close touch with life. The monks had a very sensible and benign and relaxed form of Roman Catholicism. They had a very sane outlook on life in general. I was bloody lucky going to school there. In fact, I liked it so much that after graduating from U.C.D. I went back there and taught for seven or eight years."

Gus enjoyed teaching. He has a keen appetite for knowledge and a gift for self-expression, which combine to fit him well for the job.

"I like teaching, I'd still be happy teaching secondary students. It's a fulfilling job with plenty of human contact."

Gus moved from his teaching job in Roscrea to the English Department at U.C.D. The course he teaches begins with Chaucer and works right through to the present day, but his special interest is in Anglo-Irish literature.

"I'm working on a book about the Irish short story at the moment. It's a writing form that interests me greatly and I think the Irish are very good at it. The short story has a special shape and form—it's very close to the lyric poem."

"The Irish speak and write very lyrical, descriptive English. I personally think that it is because of the tension caused by the meeting of the two languages, Irish and English.

Synge created a dramatic language unequalled in blank verse since Shakespeare. He started off with a perfectly normal, dull-as-dishwater education and then by going west he struck an extraordinary colourful and energetic idiom which he shaped to his own use."

Gus Martin became very animated when talking about literature, making it seem intensely alive and exciting and it is easy to see how he transmits his enthusiasm to his pupils. In addition to his university work, he is deeply involved with educational television in Ireland and does practically all of the teaching on RTE. Your children probably know his face well if their school tunes into the classes he conducts. He has been so successful that he won a Jacobs Award for educational television in his first year on the screen.

Gus used to appear on general television quite a lot a few years ago, first on a show called "Teen Talk" with Bunny Carr and then with John Skehan in "On Your Mind."

"We travelled round the country and gave our opinions on various topics suggested by the audience—we probably knew as little about it all as they did."

"And then, You know, it's a terrible thing, being what they call a 'television personality'. A strange thing happens. It's a real human problem that people working in television have to face."

"How can I explain it? You know when you go to a party, normally you enter the room and you look around to see who's there and you say to yourself, 'I wonder who is interesting, who has interesting things to say, what new people I shall meet? but this television business reverses all that. I found that when I went out I was beginning to think of myself, 'I wonder who recognises me. I wonder who has seen me on television'. I was using people as a mirror for my own ego instead of looking at them for themselves."

"I solved it by turning to educational television and dropping the rest. I enjoy it, it's terribly hard work, but very rewarding. Television is a marvellous instrument for teaching, though we haven't really realised its potential in this country yet. You can get really close to your audience and yet you can reach more people. You can make enormous preparations beforehand and have all kinds of teaching aids in the studio. I mean, we've just produced "Hamlet" with a company of real actors and afterwards the actors all sat around and discussed their parts and the play in general. You could never do anything like that in a classroom."

How does this busy man relax—if he ever does? I caught him in a rare moment of inactivity, but was all too aware of the book he is writing waiting in his study upstairs. Yet between his teaching, his lecturing his writing and bringing up a family, he does find time to go to the theatre.

"I feel cheated somehow if I don't see a theatre production at least once or twice a month. I think the Abbey and the Peacock are doing some great things. I know that it's the fashion to decry them, but I have great admiration for what they are doing. In fact, I was the drama critic for the Irish Press for a few years."

He laughs and shifts easily in his seat. He is wearing an open-necked blue shirt with the sleeves rolled up, jeans and sandals. As he talks and is carried away with his subject he gestures expansively and changes position, sitting on one foot or leaning forward as he searches for the words he wants. At other times he is self-conscious, almost nervous and always amazingly humble about himself.

Although he says he will never leave Dublin now, he thinks of Leitrim with affection.

"Leitrim is very beautiful. It has lots of little lakes, at every turn in the road. And it has mountains, quite modest little mountains. It's unassuming sort of scenery, but it can be quite spectacular in summer when the furze bushes are in bloom."

"The weather is very wet. In bad weather it's one of the most depressing counties in Ireland and for many years morale was low. It had the largest emigration rate of any county in Ireland and we became very cynical and rather apathetic. But that's all changed now, all due to a group of very idealistic and energetic men. They simply declared that they weren't going to let Leitrim die. I think what shook everybody up and made them realise that unless they acted Leitrim would die was when the railway station was closed at Ballinamore."

"One of the first things they did was to build some very fine chalets for old people. That's one of the most impressive things I know, because it was an unproductive thing to do, it showed that they were putting people before anything else. Then they went ahead and encouraged industry, developed the course fishing and then that led to a minor industry of boat building. They turned the old railway station into a new modern school for boys. The Leitrim Guardian too is part of this new activity."

"Now Ballinamore is a swinging town—it really is. It looks better every time I go back."

An intellectual whose mind takes wing at the drop of a phrase. Gus Martin nevertheless keeps his feet very firmly on the soil. Perhaps his father with his 'bit of land' was right after all.

—From the Leitrim Guardian Magazine, 1972, by Shirley Synnott.

Roscrea Pastmen in U.C.G.

- John Morgan, Athlone,
1st Engineering.
- Paul O'Brien, Carrick-on-Suir,
1st Medical.
- Derry Bergin, Nenagh,
2nd Medical.
- Fergal O'Gara, Ballisodare, M.Sc.
- Gerard O'Leary, Athlone,
2nd Commerce.
- John Dunne, 2nd Arts.
- Cadet Sean McCann, Holy Cross,
1st Commerce.
- Cadet Joe Dowling, Athlone,
1st Arts.
- Brian Grogan, Ballinasloe,
Final Engineering.
- Con Foley, Sligo, Final Medical.
- Joe Spooner, Roscrea, 1st Commerce.
- George O'Connell, Westport,
Pre-medical.
- George Coyle, Athleague, Co.
Roscommon, 1st Commerce.

Portrait of a Past man

DR. TOM CALLAGHAN

The 1972 Cork Branch A.G.M. saw Dr. Callaghan elected as Chairman to succeed Gerard McCarthy. Tom left Roscrea in 1945 and went to U.C.C. to study medicine. Qualifying in the early 50's he took the usual house medical officer posts in Cork, Dublin and Nottingham.

Returning to Ireland in 1955 he started in private general practice at Mitchelstown. He has been there since. When it came to marrying, Tom picked the daughter of a Roscrea man—Tim Rafferty 1921/25 (who's son Pat is Chairman of South Tipperary Branch)—and he has now three children, all boys.

Tom's own father, Patrick O'Callaghan of Knocklong, Co. Limerick was a student in Roscrea in the opening years of the College from 1905 to 1907. His brother Pat who was also in the College from 1944 to 1947, is now assistant manager in the Munster & Leinster Bank, O'Connell St., Limerick. Pat takes a keen interest in Rugby. He is President of the Bohemians R.F.C. Limerick, deputy Irish Five Selector and goes onto the Irish Five next season.

But to return to Tom; in his home town he is medical officer to the Mitchelstown Creameries and the Galtee Food Processing industries where there are 1290 employees. Then he is Secretary to the Medical section of the Cloyne Diocesan Catholic Marriage Advisory Council. He is also Treasurer of the local Red Cross Branch, having been area Medical Director for Cork City and County for some years. Is it any wonder then, that the Irish Medical Union, with its 2,000 strong membership all over the Irish Republic should have elected Dr. T. G. O'Callaghan President of that august body in October 1971.

Congratulations Tom.



DAN KENNEFICK



JOE and BERTIE McGOWAN

In the last issue of the Review it was reported that Joe and Bertie McGowan had passed on to a better world. We wish to apologise for this gross exaggeration.

The accompanying photograph of Joe was taken at the Annual Dance of the Galway Branch, December 1971. Bertie lives in Waterford.

An Fiolar 1971

It is a slim elegant volume this year, gloss white cover with bold black title and the College Arms in colour. It is volume 16 in the series.

The frontispiece of the magazine is a picture of the Back Avenue dominated by the Abbey spire. The picture is in colour, it is a pleasant opening to what follows.

Professor Denis Crowley has a very interesting and readable article on Photography which is illustrated with photographs by the author—all "monastic" subjects—some of which have appeared before in previous editions of An Fiolar. None is better versed in this subject than Professor Crowley. He has the title 'Honoraire Excellence' conferred on him in 1959 by the Federation Internationale de l'Arts Photographique for services to photography. He has been Honorary Secretary and President of the Photographic Society of Ireland. The next article is by another expert in his own field, Eric Hall, Chairman of the National Savings Committee, outlines the best way to secure financial stability in the Ireland of the future.

Various aspects of professional journalism are discussed by past

men engaged in a variety of news media. This is a good series. There is the usual sprinkling of monastic lore and history; a scholarly article on the "Beginnings of the Cistercian Order in Ireland" by Fr. Flannan Hogan; an up to date review on life in Tarrawarra—Rocrea's daughter house in Australia—by Fr. Stephen List; and a thoughtful analysis of the "Real Value of Monastic Life," by an anonymous writer.

The poetry throughout the magazine is written by students still at school. It is readable, and there is a fair share of it. The prose articles by students are varied and representative. One popular feature is missing—the College Diary. This used to be a regular article in the Fiolar. Why was it dropped? Internal news of school life generally is rather scant, but the fine selection of photographs makes up for this. There is an interesting sequence of pictures showing the progress of the New Class Room Block from foundation to completion. The magazine as a whole is very well a liberally illustrated, which must have made it a costly production.

It sells at £1, plus postage, 7½p.

AN FIOLAR 1971

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