### THE ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 25

Quarterly of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Spring 1974



MESSAGE FROM THE LORD ABBOT

Work on the Swimming Pool is now almost completed. The official opening is fixed for June 2nd. The time has come, therefore, for me to use the Review to express my deep gratitude to the very many who contributed so generously to the project; some gave money; some gave services and money; all gave with a heart. To each we are most grateful.

Please God, the pool will not only supply a necessary functional need for the students of today and the future, it will also be a reminder to them of the spirit of the past. They will be enriched by contact with that spirit. Our effort will be to make them proud of that spirit, and to encourage them to emulate it.

Colmaille D'Joole

### The planted area around the pool

the present students be offered some Daniel White, the contractor who opportunity to share in the building built the pool. swimming pool. So a plan was devised whereby they might help in beautifying the building site by contributing-at least in part-towards the cost of the trees and shrubs used in the "planting plan"

For 50p a present student can plant a shrub and have his name attached to it in the planting plan, and for the princely sum of a fiver, he can put his name on a tree. The number of trees is limited, and some of them are already booked, but there are over 200 shrubs in the plan.

The planting plan with the names of the trees and shrubs-and donorswill be eventually framed and set up in the viewing area of the pool. As reported elsewhere the first tree was planted by the President of Ireland. The two other cherry trees flanking this one, were planted by the Lord

It was suggested some time ago that Abbot, Dom Colmcille O'Toole, and

So far we have over half the planting plan completed. The trees and shrubs already used or to be used are Weeping Birch, Flowering Cherry, Mountain Ash, Maples—Sugar and Japanese, Hornbeam, Evergreen Oak,

Blue Cedar, Dwarf Juniper.

Some of the shrubs we are using are: Cotoneaster Salicfolia, Cotoneaster horozontalis, Potentilla fruiticosa, Hypericum patulum, Euonymus alata, Osmanthus delavayi, Chaenomeles.

All these are calculated to be at their best in the late Spring or early Summer and in the Autumn when the students are in school. Even in Winter some of them will furnish a certain amount of colour and foliage.

Many of the shrubs are good ground covers and need little maintenance which is an important consideration at the present day.

### The Collectors

out the letter informing past students of the Union's proposal to collect money to build a swimming pool for the College. Frankly, at that time it seemed an impossible dream but we did not bargain for men of the calibre of Gerard Bates, Fr. Tom Hogan, Noel Windle and many others who, in spite of disappointment, disillusionment and rebuffs, were never discouraged. The pool building today is very nearly finished and it is a worthy monument to the past pupils of Roscrea who by their generosity have helped to build it; but none of this would have been accomplished but for the men who knocked on your doors and asked you to help. Among these, one figure stands out, and that is Gerard Bates. Without his untiring devotion and loyalty and his tireless application to the task he had undertaken, very little of the work would have been accomplished. He put himself at the disposal not only of the members of his own branch in Dublin but of officers in Limerick and Cork where his help proved invaluable. It can be said without fear of contradiction that without Bates the pool would never have been built. It is not intended in any way to minimise the work done by others, and every branch has had its heroes when we single out this one man but it is only right that credit should be given where credit is due. In a way, it is dangerous to single out names. One particular combination who were successful in their quest for funds were Richard Liffey and Gerard Culliton in the North Tipperary branch where they were aided and abetted by Dr. Dwyer. Over in the West, Gerard Houlihan marshalled his forces and like the Master in the Gospel, with all due respect, sent out his disciples, two by two, into the four corners of Connacht. Eamonn Leahy and Hugh Berry, Joe Curley

to God alone and (Gerard Houlihan). Limerick saw a lone operator, Joe O'Connor, who was assisted from time to time by Gerard Bates and Noel Windle. In Cork, Conor O'Flynn did his best to rally a very scattered force over a vast area, and Fr. Hogan played a lone hand with great credit and much profit to the exchequer in South Tipperary. Things seem to have been difficult in the Midlands. It is a very big area with no acknowledged focal point, and Tom Haugh, Eamonn Ryan and Niall O'Rourke did their best to cope with their far-flung parish. The loyalty and the devotion of the Dublin branch speaks for itself with the number of subscriptions that have come from that area—nearly 200 in all. Many of those who helped were unknown to the Union at large but each and every one who helped in either visitation or follow-up has contributed immeasurably to the overall success.

One group of men who especially deserve our gratitude are those who furnished loans and enabled us to undertake the immediate building and financing of the pool. With the end of the building programme in view, we must soon start planning for the repayment of these loans so that it is essential that those who have entered into covenants or undertaken bankers orders should make sure that none of these fall into default and further, that the income tax rebate due on covenants should be annually available and that the necessary forms to make this so should be properly filled in and sent to the general secretary. We refer to the 185 form which enables us to claim rebate of tax. An individual may think that his amount of income tax may not matter a lot but the overall amounts to several thousand pounds and it is by the use of this that we have been enabled to meet our financial commitments.



# President Erskine Childers visits the Monastery and the College

On February 12th this year His Excellency, President Erskine Childers paid a private visit to the Monastery and the College. He arrived by train at Roscrea and was immediately driven to the Guest House, where he was met by the Lord Abbot and members of the community. The President was accompanied by his aide-de-camp Lt.-Col. Rory Henderson, brother of Fr. Eanna. The latter accompanied the President to a special prie-dieu in the monks' choir where he assisted at the Divine Office and read one of the Lessons from the altar. It was a passage from St. Paul, chosen by the President himself. It was from the thirteenth chapter of the first letter to the Corinthians. You know how it runs: "If I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal ... charity is patient,

At the conclusion of the Office the



Fr. Peter, Fr. Kevin and Fr. Emmanuel welcome the President, accompanied by the Lord Abbot, to the College.

Lord Abbot conducted the President to the community refectory where he dined with the monks. The fare was "a cut above the ordinary" in deference to the distinguished guest.

After the meal, President Childers addressed the community. He thanked the Lord Abbot and the monks for having him as their guest, and spoke of Ireland's long association with the Cistercian Order; he recalled St. Ber-

nard, the great exemplar of the Order and the influence he had on the Europe of his own day.

The pace of life in the world of today has placed a very heavy strain on many people, and the necessity for having time and opportunity "to get away from it all" is felt on all sides. Monasteries like Roscrea with their Guest Houses offer this vital service. "Monks," said the President, "have long ago discovered the art of what I call 'relaxology'."

The Lord Abbot introduced each of the monks individually to the President and he had a warm shakehands and a word of greeting for each one. He was then brought on a short tour of the more interesting parts of the monastery. This included a visit to the Infirmary Chapel to see the stained glass windows by Harry Clarke. These beautiful gems of Irish craftsmanship are seldom seen by outsiders.

After this glimpse of the domestic side of the monastery, the President was brought over to the College where he met the teaching staff, was shown over the new classroom block and visited the swimming pool. Here he met the House Captains and members of the Students' Representative Council. He then planted the first tree of the new landscaping plan designed by Jim Fehily for the swimming pool site. The tree was a white Flowering Cherry.

In the Recreation Hall the President addressed the assembled staff and students. His speech was a development of the theme he had spoken to the community, and drawing on his experience as Minister for Health some years ago, he said many in our society today have come to depend on sedatives and tranquillisers to help the cope with the stresses and the

strains of modern life. "You young people," he said, "are going to decide what kind of Ireland we are going to have in the years to come; whether it is to be the place that the men of 1916 and those who fought and died for Ireland since, would be proud of; or a faceless democracy without character or identity." He urged the boys to read the daily and local newspapers, to take part in poli ics both at a local and national level and to be concerned for the welfare of our country and society.

He returned to a pet theme of his—the use of leisure. "When you take up jobs," he said, "you will have perhaps 160 days of leisure in the 365, unless you do a lot of overtime. The pub and the dance hall will not help much in spending all this time profitably or enjoyably. You must learn to plan your leisure. Cultivate a taste for good reading, music, arts and crafts—which some of you already have an opportunity to practice here—hobbies, like gardening, mountain climbing, forest walks, and games that you can pursue into your old age."

"We have," continued the President, "the loveliest little country under God's heaven. I have heard this said over and over again, by foreigners who have come to visit us and by English and Americans who have come to live here. You can keep it that way by using your spare time to take part in community services—helping the old, the disabled and the young. You will find it rewarding, because there is no greater satisfaction in the world than being of service to others."

At the conclusion of his speech the President asked for a free day for the boys. Needless to say, this was greeted with great enthusiasm.



The President reads a Lesson at the Divine Office in the Monks' Choir.

### **Opening and Blessing**

### Swimming Pool

Donated by the Past Pupils

to the

COLLEGE and COMMUNITY

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd, at 3.30 p.m.

Past Pupils and their families are invited to join us.

For those who have to come long journeys there will be a special Mass in the College Chapel at 3 p.m. sharp.

PROGRAMME

3.30 p.m. Blessing of the Pool by the Lord Abbot.

3.45 p.m. Address by the President of the Past Pupils Union

(Mr. Tom Haugh) and the handing over on behalf of the Union to the College and the Comunity.

3.55 p.m. Presenting the key and opening the pool.

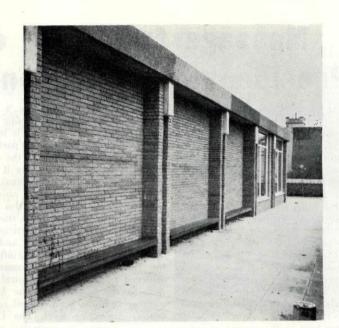
4.00 p.m. Address of acceptance by the Lord Abbot.

Reply by Gerard Bates, Chairman of Swimming 4.15 p.m. Pool Comimttee.

4.30 p.m. Dr. R. Holmes Ievers takes the plunge!

4.40 p.m. Races (see special notice).

Free for all Buffet opens after the plunge.



South wall of the Swimming Pool with teak seating.

## Extracts from 'An Fiolar, 1930,

While waiting for the completion we hear, beside the Pavilion, grime and the sweat of our labours flow with the River Brosna, which nature so considerately has caused to run nately for others, unable to compete. through our grounds.

Annual swimming competitions are held. Medals are given by the College each year to winners of the senior and junior competitions. Last year the senior 50 yards was won by M. Demp-

sey and W. McCann. In the junior, of this wonderful swimming bath, so T. O'B. Power and R. Dempsey gained the laurels. Harry Powell, who won the Leinster Schools Swimming Cup the previous year was, fortu--NEPTUNE

> (Editorial comment: Forty-four years is a long while to wait! I wonder who was Neptune, and whether he would approve of our present facilities?)

### CELEBRATION DINNER

Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union (Dublin Branch) 44th ANNUAL DINNER — SHELBOURNE HOTEL Saturday, 25th May 1974

e Dublin branch and is again committed to bringing pastmen together at various functions to be held in the coming months.

This year, for an excellent reason, we break with tradition to hold the Dinner on May 25th at the Shelbourne Hotel. We plan to make this year's event a Dublin branch Celebration Dinner to mark the occasion of the opening of the swimming pool which has been built, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of pastmen throughout the country and abroad, and which will be officially opened on Sunday, 2nd June 1974.

As we expect to have representatives from both the community and the organisers present for this function we would like to see a "full house" attendance. We promise a good meal, and good company, in the atmosphere which has marked recent successful events.

As space is strictly limited you are asked to contact the undersigned committee members immediately to obtain tickets: (1) Tom Ambrose, 61 South Hill, Dublin 6. Tel. 973826 (home).

(2) Conor Massey, Small Hall, 4 Redesdale Crescent, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Tel. 886597 (home). (3) Patrick McMahon, 40 Joyce Avenue, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Tel.

Sherry Reception: 8.00 p.m.

896285 (home).

Dinner: 8.30 p.m. (dress formal/stag)

Cost: £4 per ticket

### 2nd JUNE 1974

Past Pupils who wish to take part in ONE of the swimming races to be held at the opening of the new swimming pool must fill in and forward to the GENERAL SECRETARY the form below.

#### ENTRY FORM

I wish to take part in the swimming race.

40 meters for Past Pupils 1906-1920s

60 meters, i.e. three lengths of the pool, for Past Pupils 1930s to 1970s.

Name .....

Last year at school ..... Special Commemorative Medal for Winners

Cut out and post to: Rev. General Secretary, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

There will be a Past versus Present race—between the winners of the above and the schaal champions, over a course of

### Message from the President of the Union

A year has gone since we began the pool so it is an appropriate time for us to reflect on what the Past Pupils' Union is, what it is doing and what it hopes to do. In our reflection we must bear in mind the environment in which the Union now functions. 1973 the year in which Ireland became a member of the European Economic Community has widened our horizons and made us part of a much bigger community. The incomes of the agricultural section of the economy increased substantially in the first half of the year and side by side with this prices of all commodities have inflated at an alarming rate and the western world is faced with an energy crisis.

We are now in the process of integrating in a positive way with our fellow countrymen in the North. We are becoming more and more a welfare state in an ever increasing secular environment where our moral and Catholic standards are gradually losing the support of the civil code.

Our traditional approach to education involving the future of our Catholic schools is undergoing an agonising reappraisal in the light of modern requirements. These fundamental changes mean that our way of life as a predominantly Catholic community even as a Christian society is to say the least uncertain. This may not be such a bad thing if we emerge in the future as more sincere and active Christians. If ever there was a time the members of the Union were needed surely it is now. Their upbringing in the Mount St. Joseph's environment should fit them for any challenge to their faith and moral standards.

The objective of the Union over the past number of years has been oriented towards improving the environment for the students in the College today. Those in turn will form the backbone of the Past Pupils' Union in the years that lie ahead. The present objective of providing a fully enclosed and heated swimming pool free of cost to the College is indeed a daunting one but we as past students should be grateful for the challenge and for the opportunity it gives us to show by our individual and collective efforts that our objective can be achieved. What does this mean to you as an individual past student? It means wholehearted participation in the work of the Union and this includes understanding and influencing the challenge. This cannot be achieved by a casual or neutral attitude to the activities of the Union whether it be at branch level or the central committee level. The Union needs the active co-operation of all past men to ensure that its objectives are realised and targets met.

I would ask all past students to think about it. If you feel that for one reason or another your efforts could have been more wholehearted or that the present situation demands fuller commitment now is the time to get involved. An immediate and practical step is to get familiar with the work of the Union in providing the swimming pool and I have no doubt but that you will agree it is a big project costing big money and you can ensure that there will not be a big financial gap between the cost of the pool and the contributions from past students.

Those thoughts would not be complete without recognising and appreciating the generosity of the 600 members of the Union who have contributed to the fund. To those who did the spade work in organising, visiting, collecting, I am sincerely grateful and to those who as yet have for one reason or another not responded to our appeals perhaps the dawn of 1974 will serve as a gentle reminder to sign a covenant or forward a subscription. Do not delay further.

—TOM HAUGH

### Joining the Union

I favour a P.P.U. It provides links between the past and present, thus preserving a sense of continuity. It can keep some contact with those who opt out of society; and, of course, it can raise funds! Consequently, I favour the coaxing of sixth year students into the Union.

I am unhappy, however, about the usual enticements to membership. "You'll have good contacts ... Help you in business ... Good to know people at the top ... Never know when you'd need some ..."

All wrong! We are living in an era of intense materialism. Our generation is absorbed in money and power—and symbols of money and power. We are passing on to our children many values which are frankly pagan. "Work hard and you'll get a good job: you'll get nowhere without money."

Thus academic achievements are measured not by educational norms but by financial standards. A career is judged not by its inherent possibilities but by its financial potential.

The fine things in life like love, relaxation and culture are not necessarily being destroyed but they are being eroded; and that erosion is making our children's lives less satisfying and less fruitful.

To stress the possibilities for selfish gain from joining the Union is to encourage such materialism. We should be saying: "The Union needs you because you have a lot to give. The College needs you to return with the wisdom of your experiences. Joining the Union will not make you richer but it may make you happier. For we will make demands on you; and the cheerful giver is a happier person . . ."

That is the sort of motivation our students deserve, for we owe them the choice of the best there is as only the best is good enough for them. Life will press upon them and pressure tends to make people selfish. Let not the Union be an added force pushing them towards materialism.

—LIAM MAHER

### **BRANCH OFFICERS**

Dublin

Chairman, Tom Ambrose, 61 South

Hill, Dartry, Dublin 6.
Vice-chairman: Frank Lynch, 25 Kilteragh Road, Foxrock, Co. Dublin.
Hon. Secretary: Simon Coyle, 57
Eglinton Road, Donnybrook, Dub-

lin 4.

Hon. Treasurer: Paddy McMahon,
40 Joyce Avenue, Foxrock, Co.
Dublin.

Committee: Vivian Lavan, Conor Massey, Noel Kinirons, Patrick Collier, Matt Hyland, Eric King, Sean Hogan, Tim Murphy.

Cork

Chairman: Conor O'Flynn, "The Elms", Newmarket, Co. Cork. Hon. Secretary: Gerald McCarthy,

"Oldwood", Rochestown, Co. Cork. Hon. Treasurer: Gerard McCarthy, 23 Balinaspic Lawn, Bishopstown, Cork.

Committee: Br. Declan, O.F.M., Kevin Morrissey, Peter O'Regan. North Tipperary

Chairman: Richard Liffey (Jnr.), Birr Road, Shinrone, Co. Offaly. Vice-chairman: Gerard Culliton.

Hon. Secretary: Tim Maher, Annegrove House, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Hon. Treasurer: Michael Madden, M.P.S.I., Main Street, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Committee: Dr. R. Dwyer, Donal Hogan, Arthur Joyce, John O'Connor, Pat Hartnett, Dan O'Meara.

#### Midlands

Chairman: Eamonn Ryan, Lanesborough, Co. Longford.

Vice-chairman: Tom Maher, Firmount House, Clara Road, Tullamore.

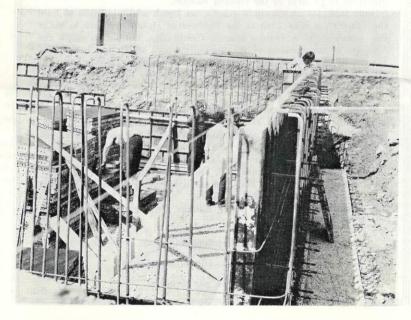
Hon. Secretary: Vincent Egan, c/o Duggan's Flats, Henry St., Tullamore.

Hon. Treasurer: Tom Maher.

#### MIDLAND BRANCH



Shaun Wrafter, Tom Haugh, Eamonn Ryan, Vincent Egan, Dr. Joe Daly, Tom Maher, Thomas O'Roarke.



### Contractor to the New Pool

### Daniel White

Building Contractor
Plant Hire

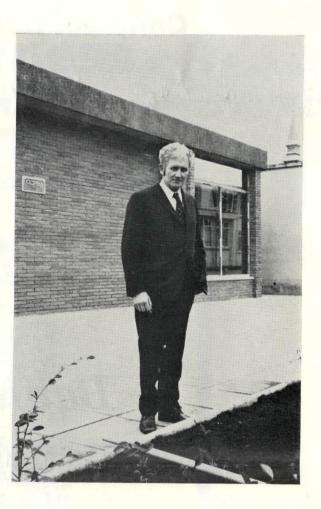
Grove Street, ROSCREA



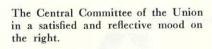


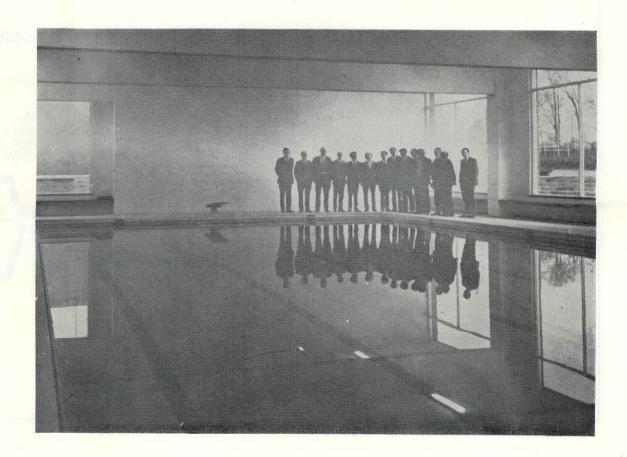
From a hole in the ground on the left, to a job well done a year later, below.





Above: President Childers digging another hole to plant a cherry tree.

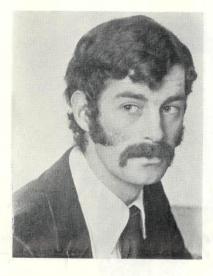




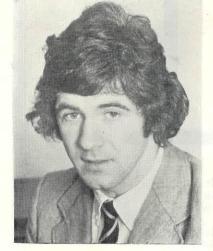


Conor O'Flynn (1944-47), "The Elms", Newmarket, Co. Cork. Chairman of the Cork Branch and President-Elect of Union.

On the right: Richard Spring, Captain of Trinity rugby team 1973-74 (Photo: Irish Times).



On the left: Michael Sherry, Captain of U.C.D. rugby team 1973-74 (Photo: Irish Times).



On right: Joe Spooner, Captain of U.C.G. hurling team 1973-74.



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### I ASKED ...

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given meekness, that I might feel the need of God.

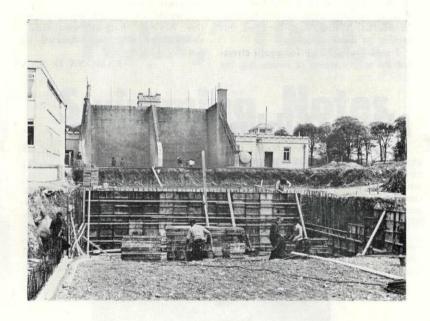
I asked for things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered; I, among all men, most richly blessed.

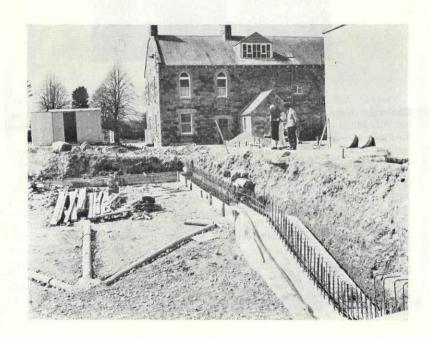
Divine Word Missionaries, Roscommon











### Dam(n?) the Brosna

The whistle shrilled. The rush began as the powerful voice of the President echoed through the pay. "Look here, my fine fellows, time to tog out." But this was not for the usual rugby or hurling workout. The river had been successfully dammed with a palisade of logs by the monks, and Fr. Ailbe insisted that all boys should avail of the swimming facilities provided. Having been born on the banks of the Shannon, I had always enjoyed the readymade boating and swimming facilities, but I pitied those who looked upon this damming in a different light, despite their grudging admittance that there was a great need for this exercise in this island country of ours.

The cry for facilities has now reached full proportion and the need to have a modern swimming pool has been fulfilled for the present generation of Roscrea students. The fact that 200 boys have not had even the elementary facilities of my own day first interested me in this project. It is an asset which enhances the value of the College itself to the students, and no doubt future generations of Mount St. Joseph's will look on this facility as quite normal.

I make no apology for again stressing the safety aspect of swimming, for it is imperative that not only should boys be taught to swim but they should also learn the safety drill. One never knows when the basic skills thus acquired will be brought into play in everyday life, and it also affords another competitive outlet, quite often for students not skilled in the traditiona! games already provided by the College. No doubt, all past pupils of Mount St. Joseph's will share my hope that one day, in the not too distant future, we will see a Roscrea boy standing on the winning rostrum receiving his medal in international swimming events.

Surely we should not deprive the present generation of such a facility because we ourselves did not enjoy it when at school. We should approach the promotion of this ideal (which is now almost a reality) by asking what we can do by way of assistance in the time given, work done, services rendered or money donated whether great or small. Whatever is loaned to the present interest free scheme could be repaid in more than money terms in the years ahead.

I would ask through the medium of this Review, that all who read it should give their who!ehearted support to the venture.

—EAMONN D. RYAN

### **Dublin Recall**

They came in their hundreds, streaming in from the muted perils of the Ring to the graceful stands, past Milo Butler's extraordinary donkey, stuffed, a pearl of great price later captured by Vivian Lavan who, as usual, bought the right ticket. 'Tis said he was so moved that he immediately donated it to the King's Inns where it will doubtless provide inspiration for a rising generation of lawyers (stand up the boy from 3c who says the law is an ass).

Later there was food from the Inner Circle, gammon from Limerick (via Pomeroy?) which was greatly enjoyed by most. Some "hards" who felt that there should have been turkey were immediately despatched to the Ballymoss Bar to achieve the seasonal spirit they so obviously yearned for.

The Disco Show soon drew the under eightys who were seen gyrating weirdly and wonderfully in the wandering, witching lights. A rejuvenated Conor Massey was spotted twisting effortlessly displaying his talents and betraying his generation with a candour that made the Watergate revelations look like a communique from the Government Information Service.

The "Blue Danube" group was also on hands. Much tinkling of ivories, blast of trumpets and sweet harmony as the beautiful Roscrea girls were whirled round the floor by partners constantly searching for a gap in the maple floor.

That briefly flowering specimen of society, the Deb, was there in a plurality of forms, all sans na máthair. They were presented in court for the edification of the multitude, the male section of which responded by baying warlike Cel.ic cries which poor O Riada never put to music. They then were spirited away to the electronic purgatory where acid rock and "Fire an' Rain" were pleasing the punters.

Later still, crumpled paper hats along the corridors, stale smell of cigar but s, loneliness of empty Guinness bottles on denuded tables, clunk of car doors; voices . . . "great night" . . . "I'm not sitting in the back with that one " . . . "safe home" . . .

(The Annual Roscrea Ball jointly organised by Sacred Heart Convent, Roscrea, and the Dublin Branch of our Union took place on 11th May 1973, at the Leopardstown Club, Dublin. The event was highly successful and was enjoyed by a record crowd of 400.

The above article bear no relation to the events which took place on that night as we learn from reliable authoricy that the "reporter" was not in fact admitted to the proceedings. It was felt by the esteemed Committee that his stained white suit and wellington boots would have lent an undue air of dilapidation to the proceedings.)

-PADDY McMAHON

### **New Dublin Chairman**



Dr. Thomas Ambrose

Thomas Ambrose was elected the Chairman of the Dublin branch at the last A.G.M. of the branch held in the Shelbourne in February.

Tom is the son of another past student, the late John F. Ambrose (1906-1909) who lived in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick. He was born in 1933 and came to C.C.R. in 1948. He stayed with us until 1951. From Roscrea he went on to UCD where he took his B.Sc. in Mathematical Science in 1955.

In 1958 Tom married Miss Masie Cloonan, of Dunmore, Co. Galway. They have a family of two boys and two girls. In his subsequent academic career, he took a B.Sc. at London University. A year later in 1961 at UCD he took his M.Sc. Later, in 1967, he was awarded the Ph.D. from Trinity College.

Tom spent his early working years as Dynamics Engineer with De Havilland Propellers Ltd., Guided Missile Division. On returning to Ireland in 1957 he took up a post of lecturer in Mathematics, College of Technology, Kevin Street, Dublin. He is also at present part-time lecturer in the Department of Mathematical Physics, UCD, and in the Engineering Department of Triving College Dubling.

ment, Trinity College, Dublin.

We wish Tom a very successful term of office as Chairman of the largest branch of the Union.

### Social Functions of the Union

In the early 1960s it was a matter of pride for each branch to hold an annual social function and it was a matter of keen rivalry between the branches to show which achieved the greatest financial and social success. Some of these functions became part of the social season in their respective areas—to mention only two, South Tipperary and Cork. The Dublin annual dinner, which has always been a sag affair, is the oldest and most select Union function that we have and it has become a recognised feature of Union life in Dublin. The Dublin dance caters for a wider audience and seems to be geared for the younger generation and their partners. In recent years, the dance has extended its scope and operates in co-operation with the Past Students Union of the Sacred Heart Convent. This amalgamation has proved beneficial both to the dance and to the Unions involved. Looking back over the past year, the Dublin functions seem to be the only ones that have survived. What has become of South Tipperary's famous annual dance? It boasted the largest attendance of any of our social functions outside Dublin and was part and parcel of the social scene in South Tipperary for many years.

It is said that the day of the dinnerdance is over. Too many organisations have each their own function and even for those who live in rural areas the number of socials you are expected to attend has become embarrassing. So what can we do about it? Drop the whole thing, alternate with other branches or change the type of function? The only ones who can answer

these questions are the men selected and elected by the various branches to organise and further the interests of the Union—that is, the chairman and officers of local committees. While there is a dynamic and dedicated chairman or secretary the social life of the branch will thrive, but in the absence of at least one dedicated man, the whipping-up of occasional interest is very difficult. To try and organise a dinner-dance or social function at a few weeks' notice is generally waste of time. To ensure the best service, the best hotels, the best bands, you must plan ahead at least six months and even then you must be prepared for disappointments. The same applies to ticket bookings. Don't expect to peddle your tickets the week before the dance. If you are expecting members and want the function to nay you must book your clientele months in advance—and see that they pay up. The paying bit is always a crux.

Of course the ideal set-up for any branch hat wishes to run a successful social function annually is that the same time and place should be fixed year after year. Then it becomes a must not only for the organisers but also for the patrons. Every branch should have at least one permanent "function official" who in spite of changing officers, annual replacement of chairmen, the rise and fall of the pound, the absence of petrol, the crisis of power, goes on for ever. The branch that finds a man like this has found a treasure worth his weight in gold. They are few and far between. If you have him, hold him,

### **OBITUARIES**



Shortly after our last issue Father Finian (Paddy) Duggan was called to God. He is the fourth member of the Roscrea community to die in the past year.

Paddy Duggan came to C.C.R. from Claregalway in 1924. His years in the College were distinguished by his prowess at sport and his academic ability. He was a member of the athletic team that brought the College of Science Cup to Roscrea for the first time. In his final year at school he was elected House Captain. That was in 1927-28.

He entered the Monastery in the summer of 1928. Soon after his Solemn Profession he was sent to teach in the College. His wide general knowledge and many interests were known to succeeding generations of students until he retired in 1969. He continued to live a very busy and useful life in the Monastery until his sudden death in November 1973, in the thirty-seventh year of his priesthood. May he rest in peace.

Thomas Alexis Ryan (1927-31) died in March of this year. Another noted athlete, he was Captain of the House in 1930-31. Originally from Gurtymadden, Alex qualified as an engineer and served with distinction in this profession in Co. Galway.

Another contemporary who passed away about the same time was Cronin Guilmartin, 1930-36. He was a teacher near Roscrea, his native town. Others whose death notices have been sent to us were: Thomas Doorley (1908), of Banagher, Co. Offaly; Joe Flynn (1945), of Moate, Co. Westmeath; Jim Campion (1934), of Conahy, Co. Kilkenny; Philip M. Ryan (1943), of Tullow, Newport, Co. Tipperary, in April 1973, and John Raymond McCann (1935), of Tullamore.

May the Lord in his mercy grant them all eternal rest.

Shortly after going to press the General Secretary was informed of the death of an old and loyal member of the Union, whose passing has been unnoticed and unrecorded.

Christopher B. Healy was one of the founder members of the Union and succeeded Bernard Sheppard as Honorary Secretary. He was in Roscrea from 1914 to 1918. Later he lived in Monkstown, Co. Dublin, where he was a garage manager.

Christy's latter years were shadowed by prolonged illness, and he passed away in the Hospice of the Dying. We tender to his widow, Mrs. Eunice Healy, our deepest sympathy, and our thanks to Francis S. Creed, his life-long friend to the end, for the above information. Michael Keohane, 1956-61, President of the Junior Chamber, Ballina, is leading a campaign to have Mayo treated as a single region for tourism, health and industry.

Conor Brady, 1962-66, former Irish Times journalist is the editor of the new Garda Review. Outlining his plans for the magazine, Conor hopes that it will improve communications between the gardai and the public they serve, improve communications within the force and within the whole system of justice, and ensure that the role of the gardai in Irish society is fully understood.

Cadet Padraig Cunniffe, 1964-69, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, featured in the Sunday Independent in Des Moore's article on the Army Equitation School,

Jeremy Hennessy, 1955-59, has been frequently appearing in print. His article on the Irish Fishing Industry on February 20th appeared on the same page as an article on Walter Cole, 1947-53, who has opened his own art gallery, The Emmet Gallery, in Exchange Street, Dublin.

Michael Haugh, 1963-68, qualified in architecture in June 1973. He has been working in London.

Michael Joseph Guidera, 1939-41, formerly of Roscrea, who is at present in British Columbia, Canada, is planning to emigrate to South Africa.

Pat McCabe, 1937-38, formerly of Monasterevan, has also settled in Canada, in London, Ontario.

Fr. Jack Ryan, 1944-49, of Garryavolis, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick, is serving with the Kiltegan Fathers in Kenya. He is managing a 1,000 acre farm in one of the most fertile areas of Kenya. There is a college attached to the farm for educating Africans in animal husbandry and agriculture. The courses last about one month for an average of thirty students at a time. He was previously working in Nigeria.

James Glennon, 1967-71, has switched from law to banking and is at present with the Royal Branch of the Allied Irish Banks. He is still a keen rugby player, and in a recent match with the Leinster Junior rugby team against Connacht, his opposite number was Cadet John McCann, 1963-68, captain of the team. John is in UCG as part of his Army training.

Willie Dooley, 1959-64, has his B.Ag. Sc., works for the Offaly County Council. He is married and lives in Tullamore.

Niall Wrafter, 1961-65, also of Tullamore, is now working for the Bank of Ireland. Dundalk, and he is married. His brother, Shaun, for many years hon. secretary of the Midland Branch, has taken his exams in the Auctioneering Institute and joined in the family auctioneering business.

Jamieson Stewart Houlihan, 1958-61, has his B.Comm. and A.C.C.A. He is an accountant with Colgate Palm Olive in London. He is married to Amanda Massy-Collier.

John Brendan Houlihan, 1959-63, is a B.A. (Mod.). He also is in England, and is married to Ann Kaye. He is with International Computers Ltd., Reading.

Thomas Lyndon, 1964-69, and Sean Loughnane, 1963-67, recently appeared with the Birr Stage Guild in "Oliver". Sean as Bill Sykes, a villian, and Tommy as Fagin, the pickpocket expert, were said to be very well cast. Sean Lyndon, 1968-73, and Kieran Pilkington, 1929-31, also helped in the production.

Jerry O'Leary, of Athlone, and Gerard O'Meara of Lorrha, have both got their B.Comm.

John Devitt of Roscrea has taken his M.Sc. in Trinity.

### NEWS OF PASTMEN

The Ryan brothers, formerly from Borris in Carlow, are now scattered far and wide.

Fintan, 1954-59, is a pilot with Aer Lingus and is stationed at Collinstown. He married Etna Shannon and they have a baby daughter.

Colman, 1956-61, is a doctor at present in California. He is married to Ann Mackey and they have two children. Their last child was born in California and was baptised by a past student priest, Fr. John Ryan.

Oliver, 1959-62, is an electrical contractor and while in Canada married a girl from Mayo. They now live in Chicago and have three children.

Brian, 1961-63, went into the hotel business. He was married this April in Stockholm to a Swedish girl.

Gerard, 1967-72, is in air traffic control at Cork Airport.

Richard, 1967-72, is in the Cadet School at Curragh Military College.

Dr. John Carey, 1962-67, has completed his studies at the College of Surgeons.

Dr. Philip Murray, 1954-59, is returning from Australia to join Dr. Denis Fogarty, 1949-53, in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Philip married while he was in Australia.

Michael Ryan, 1966-68, of Moycullen, Co. Galway, was married recently in Galway to Judith Mary Cazabon.

John Sherry, 1960-65, son of Seamus Sherry, Foxford, married Anne Moran of Collooney in March.

James Molloy, 1957-62, formerly of Fethard, Co. Tipperary, but now living and practising as a solicitor in Dublin, was married last November to Miss Hilary Thompson of Limerick.

Noel McCormack, 1958-63, of Killenaule is now married. So also is Anthony Bardon, 1958-62, formerly of Abbeyleix.

Fergal O'Gara, 1962-67, of Ballisodare, Co. Sligo, has become engaged.

John Joe Coffey, 1927-30, of Lecarrow was again elected Chairman of the Athlone and Midland Agricultural Show Society at the annual general meeting in February.



Front row (left to right): David Hartnett, Brendan O'Rourke, John Shanahan, President Childers, Sean Burke, Fr. Emmanuel, Rody Ryan.

Back row: John Williams, John Flanagan, Hugh McDonnell, Pat Kilbane, Michael Coughlan, Norman Davey, Dan Smyth, Vincent Leahy, Liam Maher.

### Memories of a new boy in the forties

Thirty years ago in September—the dark clouds of world war two were rolling away—petrol rationing was with us then also, nevertheless Paddy Bourke was able to make it to Ballybrophy to pick us up off the train. The journey to Roscrea and then to Mount St. Joseph would today be described as a "traumatic experience".

The formalities over, I slowly made my way up the corridor feeling very "fed up". I heard voices and laughter (from what turned out to be the billiard room). Surely anybody could not raise a voice, not to mind laugh feeling like I did. I opened the door rather slowly. What a sight for my two moist eyes, though maybe not so good for my "frogged throat". It was not the boys nor the laughter that attracted my attention, but just a delightful "gush of smoke" from about thirty cigarettes.

I should explain that even at this tender age, the cigarette had taken a strong hold. For several days before I left home, however, it had been firmly resolved for me, by an older brother, that once I entered the gates of Mount St. Joseph there was just no hope of "a smoke". I had taken the

advice to heart and had "my last drag of my last fag" on the train and firmly believed that my next would be on my way home for Christmas holidays.

I made my way slowly into the billiard room hardly believing what I saw. To me it was a wonderful sight—until suddenly I remembered I had not provided for a situation such as this-I had no cigarettes. Slowly, I looked around hoping that by some freak I would see a familiar face, but no such luck. It was not long, however, before I recognised a 'Kerry accent". As everyone knows the next best thing to a Cork accent is a Kerry one. With further ado I approached "my prey" and told him of my dilemma. All my fears vanished when Sean produced a "large Player" and said take a few of these. Thanks, Sean, for that little gesture of kindness when it was badly needed.

Wouldn't we have a very nice world if we could all be like Sean—"a kind act"; "a friendly voice"—it cost us so little and it can mean so much. A thought for the 1970s.

—CORK



Joe Chambers

# The Chambers Clan

The first member of the above clan to come to Roscrea was the late Thomas Chambers, and he came from Kilrush and was with us for the school year 1928-29. He returned to Kilrush to take over his late father's business which he managed successfully until his lamented early death which occurred on 27 May 1971. His son Joe came to us in September 1970 and he is still with us. He is Captain of the House this year, and won a Leinster schools cap.

Leinster schools cap.
Tom's brother, Paddy, joined us from Kilrush in the year 1930 and was with us for the school years 1930-32. He qualified as a solicitor in 1937, and since then he is practising in Ennistymon and is for some years past State Solicitor for the County of Clare. His four sons, Donal, Denis, Pat and Joseph are also past pupils of Roscrea from 1955 to 1965. In his last year Donal was House Captain and he is now a partner in the Dublin stock-broking firm of Messrs Bloxham, Toole & Co., while Denis is assistant manager with Allied Irish Banks at Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. He is married to the former Mary O'Doherty, a niece of the late lamented Father Thomas. Pat is with the Bank of Ireland and is stationed at Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, while Joseph qualified as a solicitor in 1972, and is practising at Ennistymon.

### Notes on Past/Present Contacts 1973-74

One of the most noteworthy and most heartening aspects of the past year has been the return to the College of increasing numbers of pastmen. Apart from the official Union functions as such, the highlight of these contacts was on October 28, the date of the Past v Present matches. 140 Pastmen turned up on that day, and between the hurling and rugby matches, the Union golf competition, played for the first time on the College course, and the Central Committee meeting, there was plenty of activity for all. A notable feature of the day was the big number of Pastmen from the class of 1973 who turned up and renewed the links of the previous June.

In May 1973, Gus Martin and Tom Ambrose came to the College for a weekend to speak about their respective universities and faculties-UCD and Kevin Street-and gave the senior boys a glimpse of the inside workings of university life as well as guidance on priorities and pitfalls which was invaluable to them. On the same lines in March 1974, a panel of recent pastmen gave talks to this year's senior class on their experiences and observations at university. Fergal O'Gara (1962-67), at present completing his Ph.D. studies at UCG, spoke on Galway and Science; Pat Sheary, S.J. (1963-68), spoke on Arts at UCD; Willie O'Brien (1963-68), spoke on university life, and Shay Garvey (1967-72), spoke as a present student of Engineering at UCD.

In February 1974, Gerry Houlihan came with Joe Hegarty (1954-58), currently head of catering operations at Cathal Brugha Street College, and Tadhg Humphreys, B.Agr.Sc., who substituted for a pastman who was unable to come. The panel spoke on interviews, job applications, and on careers in the electronics, catering and agricultural spheres.

The presence of these pastmen has meant that the boys obtain a competent introduction to the requirements and advantages of the different professions and faculties. More important. it has meant that the senior boys have met with sympathetic treatment of their questions and uncertainties. These are men who have likewise been senior boys in C.C.R. and who can identify with them and facilitate their transition to third-level education or the work situation—a transition which is usually difficult and which the pastmen themselves have successfully negotiated.

The Past v Present Debate has been revived and on February 9th, Gerry Maher (1967-72), Dermot Duncan (1967-72), Con O'Doherty (1971-73)

and Fred Rogerson (1971-73) arrived to do battle with the present team: Oliver O'Shea, Stephen O'Mullane, David O'Grady and Michael Breen. The motion was, "Irish political life has reached maturity" and after an entertaining and hotly contested disputation the Past were declared the winners. The College debating teams maintained the high standards set in previous years. The A team was pipped in the Leinster final of the Muintir na Tire competition, by the eventual all-Ireland winners. However, though not represented in the finals this year, Mr. Maher, as chairman, and Joe Hayes (1962-67) as adjudicator, of the finals upheld our reputation.

In the sporting area, Gerry Culliton (1948-54) drew from his vast experience and generosity in coaching the senior rugby pack. It is surely not a coincidence that it was considered one of the finest packs to represent the school. The enthusiastic support given to the rugby teams by pastmen at their cup matches in Dublin was again a notable feature, even if they were both defeated on their first outing.

Apart from these organised Past/Present contacts there has been a notable increase in the numbers of pastmen—especially young pastmen—coming back for a day or a weekend. the facilities of the College, the Guest House and the Abbey are always open to past students and it is hoped that they will continue to avail of them to their spiritual benefit and to the benefit of the monks and presen; C.C.R. students whom they will meet.



Tom Kavanagh, Leinster schoolboy interprovincial.

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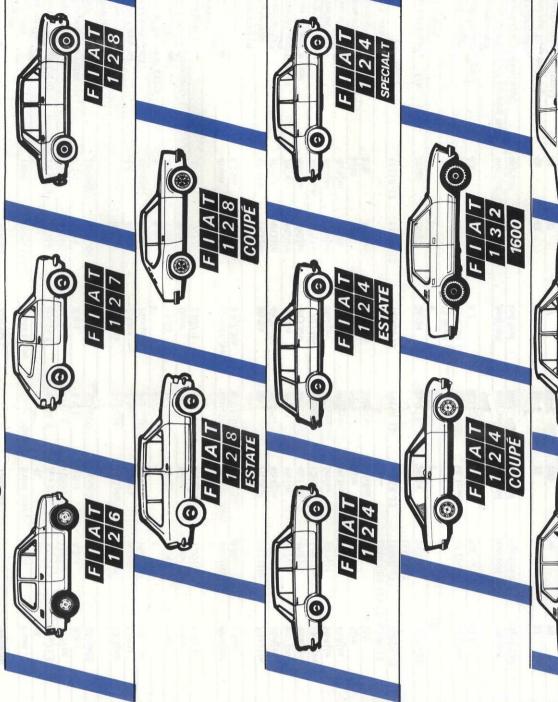
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Turning circle (diam.)	27ft	31ft6in	$33ft9\frac{1}{2}in$	$33ft9\frac{1}{2}in$	31ft8in	35ft	- 1	35ft	35ft	36ft	36ft	36ft	36ft	36ft
Tyre Size (cross ply)	1	I	1	Į.	1	1555-13/6.155-13	٠, ١	1	1		1	1	Er. 70.VR14	1
(radial)	135SR-12	1355R-13	1455R-13	1455R-13	1455R-13	1505R-13	1605R-13	1505K-13	1505R-13	1655R-13	1705R-13	1705R-13	or 205 70VR14	205 70VR14
				00.70	10170	1555K-13	70 1010	1555K-13	1555K-13	000	1/55K-13	1/55K-13		
Tyre Pressure F/R Psi.	20/28	24/27	26/24	87/97	47/97	74/20	21/31–35	07/47	97/47	28 <u>2</u> /28 <u>2</u>	87/97	87/97	28/31	31/31
Ply rating	4	4	4	+	+	-	0	-	-		-	-	†	4
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	11 Sourt	13 Brwt	15.6cwt (4D)	16.2cwt	16 lowt.	17.7cwt	18.3cwt	18.2cwt	18.9cwt	19.5cwt	2 lcwt	2lcwt	31.9cwt	28cwt
Tank Consolity (als.)	4.6	6.6	8.3	8.3	=	8.6	10.3	8.6	8.6	10gals	12.4gals	12.4gals	17.6gals	17.6gals
Suspension													0	2.00
Front (ind/leaf/coil torsion bar)	ind/leaf	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil .	ind/torsion bar	ind/torsion bar
Rear (rigid/ind/leaf/coil)	ind/coil	ind/leaf	ind/leaf	ind/leaf	ind/leaf	rigid/coil	rigid/coil	rigid/coil	rigid/coil 🌂	rigid/coil	rigid/coil	rigid/coil	ind/coil	ind/coil
Performance		Control Designed		the state of the s										
Average Touring mpg	48	43	35	35	33	32	32	30	30	28	28	28	18	18
Maximum speed (mph)	65	87	87	87	001	90	06	96	105	111 - 1115	103	901	115	118
7	00	100,45 6 (1	130.16	19/40cm ft	11 3cm ft	12 Scult	21 4/42 3cm ft	12 Seu 6	12 5c11 ft	8 7cm fr	14 4cm fr	14 Acu ft	IS Sout 6	7 7
Boot Capacity cu.ft.	7.0	35.3cu.ft.(3D)		17/1000.10	11.3cu.it.	12.300.11.	41.7/72.3cu.ilc.	14.3cd.it.	14.3cu.ile.	Time of	ודידכתיוני	ודידכתיוני	13.300.10.	13.3cu.rt.
Pood Tax	£22.00	£22.00	£25.50	£25.50	£33.00	£29.00	£29.00	£37.50	£45.00	£42.00 £46.50	£42.00	£46.50	£55.00	£55.00
Noad iso														

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