

THE ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 31

Quarterly of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Autumn 1976

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Give a Little Time"

The most "valuable, "precious and hard to give" asset we have is time.

It is valuable because there are only sixty minutes in every hour, twenty-four hours in every day, and seven days in every week. We can put two values on time, the monetary and the intrinsic. The monetary value is easy enough to assess as it is a matter of pounds and pence. The intrinsic value is another matter. It is in this area that we can all contribute to the Roscrea Past Students Union: not alone the "Whiz-Kid A" past students but also the not so good academic "B and C" past students like myself. We can all contribute by passing on our experiences, either of successes or failures, to not alone the present-day students but also the recent past men. Experience cannot be bought but it can be passed on. We try our best to do this in our own family circles, why not widen the base a little and pass on to the present-day students of our *alma mater*.

One simple way of doing this is to co-operate in filling the questionnaire which has been distributed. These questionnaires are laid out so as to get a fund of information from a wide section of past men in all walks of life. These question-

naires will then be collated and given a permanent position in the College Library, being updated on an on-going basis. When young men set out to choose a career it is a relatively simple matter to get information on such things as particular subjects required for particular professions, points required in their Leaving Certificate, etc. There are many other areas equally important but more difficult to get information on. The only way to get this information is to get it from the people who have had experience in the particular field: hence the value of the questionnaire.

Our time is "precious and difficult to give" because we do not know how much we have got. It is easy to give a little if you can measure the proportion. For us past students of Roscrea the monastery tradition should stand to us. They have given all without reservation and surely we are the better for their giving, let us now give back a little, by being better members of our Union. Pass on the traditions and values that we have had passed on to us by previous generations. This is not optional it is an obligation. It may seem a contradiction but if we have the will we can always make the time.

Conor O'Flynn



The O'Flynn family at the wedding of Con and Ann. A very happy occasion for our President and his wife, Mary.

REUNION 1976

This year the annual general meeting will be held at 4.30 p.m., Saturday, October 30th. It will be followed by a sherry reception and the Union Dinner is fixed for 7.30 p.m. The Past v.

Present match will *not* be held this year on Union Day. The Games Master has made alternative arrangements for this and will inform those concerned. The main event of this year's A.G.M. will be the installation of the new President, Mr. Ignatius Houlihan. Those of you who were present at last year's Union Dinner will be glad to hear that we hope to keep the same standard which we achieved last year thanks to the good offices of Sr. Anthony and her staff.

We promise you an entertaining evening for we have made arrangements for both music and song. The golf and swimming championships will be held, as usual, on Sunday, 31st. Accommodation will be available as last year in the College and a limited number of private rooms in both guesthouses will be available for senior members who book in time. It will be necessary to book ahead both for the dinner and for ac-

commodation. We, therefore, enclose a reservation form which we would be obliged if you would fill in and forward to the general secretary as soon as possible. In spite of the rise in the cost of living the Central Committee has decided to keep the fees the same as last year: £8.00 for the weekend, £4.00 for dinner. Genuine students will be entitled to half fare!

From time to time we have made an effort to organise the Union Day with special reference to a particular year, for example, 1964, but this has never proved completely satisfactory. However, we would make the suggestion that the students of 1965-66 now a decade older than when they left Roscrea would return *en masse* for this year's reunion and meet their colleagues and see how things have gone over the past ten years.

It is a pity that we were unable to make provisions for wives but we hope that in the not too distant future our reunions will be not only occasions for the past students of Roscrea getting together but also an occasion when they can bring their better halves along.

TIMETABLE

Saturday, October 30th

Annual General Meeting: 4.30 p.m. Inauguration of new President, Mr. Ignatius M. Houlihan. Sherry reception after A.G.M.
Union Dinner: 7.30 for 8.00. Dress informal. Entertainment and bar after dinner.

Sunday, October 31st

Breakfast for all in College: 9.00 to 9.30 a.m.
Union Mass: 10.30 a.m.
Golf (Abbot's Cup); Swimming (Union Championship); Tennis (hardcourt); Table-tennis, etc.
Lunch: 2 p.m. in College.

A.G.M. 1976

and

UNION DINNER

on

SATURDAY, 30 OCTOBER

at

4.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

TRANSPORT: Contact—

South West: Conor O'Flynn, Phone Newmarket 4.
Dublin: Tom Ambrose, Phone 973826; Simon Coyle, Phone 691584;
Gerard Bates, Phone 981068.
Galway: Gerard Houlihan, Phone 64401; Hugh Berry, Phone 64512.



SONS OF PASTMEN 1975-76

- Row 1 (front, left to right): Brian Kinirons, Martin Daly, Kevin Garvey, Michael Condon, Richard Ryan, Declan O'Dea, John Walsh, Larry Curtin, Barry Walsh, Declan Naughton, Terence Cosgrave.
- Row 2 Mark Kinirons, Eddie Byrne, Brian Rafferty, Michael Fitzgerald, Donal McEvoy, Michael Quigley, Alex Browne, George Melotte, John Flynn, Liam Fleming, Pat Lanigan Ryan, Conor Irwin.
- Row 3 Pierce Bergin, Michael Grace, Breffini Martin, John Irwin, Neil Johnson, James O'Connor, John Malone, Kieran Dwyer, Risteárd Mulcahy, Ciaran McMahon, Eugene O'Loughlin, Tim John O'Donoghue.
- Row 4 Brian Sherry, Derry Shaw, Pat Cahalan, Cormack O'Loughlin, Jim McNamara, Colm O'Connor, Joe O'Loughlin, Paul Irwin, John Kinirons, Stephen Smith.
- Row 5 Anthony Garaghy, John Naughton, Joe Nolan, Conal Ryan, Bill Shaw, David Culliton, Séamus Lanigan Ryan, Owen Sherry, Mark Ryan, John Murphy.

Branch Affairs

At the annual general meeting in 1975 it was proposed that a new branch be formed from part of South Tipperary and the south-eastern area of the Dublin Branch to be known as the South-Eastern Branch with the centre at Kilkenny. At the A.G.M. Mr. Pat O'Shea pointed out that County Kilkenny and the surrounding counties had a considerable number of past students and a growing number of present and future students of Roscrea and that the area showed promise of a healthy branch. The idea was first advocated by Fr. Hogan of South Tipperary who did trojan work during his swimming pool collection campaign in that particular area and realising how far away it was from the South Tipperary centres he advocated that it should be separated and formed into a unit of its own. The establishment of a South-Eastern Branch was proposed at the meeting by the general secretary and it was seconded by Mr. Gerard Houlihan of Galway.

This is not the first time that a South-Eastern Branch was formed. In the early days of reorganisation, 1958-1962, Carlow/Kilkenny Branch sprang into existence and died quietly in a short time. Is the same thing going to happen to the 1975 South-Eastern Branch? There have been no signs of life from this area since the last A.G.M.

There are other branches in the Union faced with other difficulties. The Limerick/Clare Branch has been without a properly-organised committee for some time. It is from this branch that our new President comes. This may be an occasion for the members to exert themselves, and like what happened in Cork not so long ago when the President came from that area: it set a headline of zeal in organisation to the rest of the Union ever since.

Which brings us to South Tipperary, once the pride of C.C.R.U. At the last Central Committee meeting Rev. Fr. T. J. Hogan, the veteran of so many campaigns on behalf of South Tipperary and the indefatigable collector on behalf of the swimming pool in that area, handed in his resignation. Sixteen years of service on behalf of the Union is a long time and many people are thankful to Fr. Hogan for his zeal and service. It took a serious occasion to prevent him being present in his official capacity as representative of South Tipperary at any Central Committee meeting held in Roscrea. His opinion was always valued and his opposition sometimes feared. The wisdom of many years at the conference tables of the Union was evident in the opinions he expressed and the advice he gave. Not only will South Tipperary be the loser by his resignation but the Union generally will miss a stabilising influence. We hope that the South Tipperary Committee will be able to find someone who will walk in the footsteps of Fr. Hogan, and as cheerfully carry even half the load that he did on behalf of the branch.

South Tipperary has the makings of a very good branch committee by all accounts. They should seriously consider the situation in which they now find themselves and plan prudently for the future. Elsewhere in this issue a list of the members of the South Tipperary Branch is given, from it a selection of fine material can be made.

Obituaries

Kennedy A. O'Brien who was Captain of the College in 1939 died recently. He lived in Nutley Lane, Donnybrook, Dublin.

Nicholas Cusack (1936) formerly of Liscannor, Co. Clare, has also died.

Billy O'Meara (1934) formerly of Ardfort, Thurles, died in London recently. He was fortified by the last rites of the Church administered by Fr. McGrath of Moycarkery.

James O'Sullivan (1936) formerly of Cork died in Colae, Victoria, Australia, where he was a dentist.

We extend to the relatives and friends of these men our deepest sympathy.

Statistics

Almost every aspect of life is now subjected to a process of analysis and is reduced to a statistic to prove this, that or the other, or to show a trend. Statistics are important to very many people: to boxers and beauties (vital statistics), to governments and to the generality of people, to the professions and to the police, to politicians and scientists and economists. Even the Church has been found to dabble in percentages in its evaluation of the progress or otherwise of its salvific mission. Statistics are fine as far as they go and they serve a useful purpose. But they are not the "be-all-and-end-all" of life. We should not let them blind us to the realities of life.

One day a chap with a mind for statistics met Our Lord and asked him for some. "Sir," he said, "will there be only a few saved?" Our Lord did not oblige him by giving him the figures: no doubt he could if he so wished. Rather, he reminded him that more important than the number who would be saved, more important than the percentage of the human race who would be crowned with eternal happiness, was the work of saving his own soul, a work to which he should turn his attention.

So we must give out attention to the things that matter in life rather than to the superficialities. It really does not matter to me how many are saved if I am lost because I failed to use the means given to me to enable me to win my salvation. Priorities are more to the point than percentages.

Canon P. J. O'Grady, P.P.

EDITORIAL

During the past year we have managed to send out three issues of the "Review". This was mostly due to the availability of money. Subscriptions have been sent in regularly and for this we are most grateful. Because if there is one thing that harasses the Editor of a paper like this it is first of all the absence of reading material and secondly lack of funds to print the material when you have it. You have solved the problem of the funds, now what about a little more material for filling up the pages? We were fortunate during the year for meeting several past men with the gifted pen who gave us material worth printing. We hope to meet more of these and even if we don't meet them perhaps you yourself when you read this may get an idea that you would like to see put down in print.

We will do it for you provided that it does not involve us in any libel action or such like inconvenience.

One idea that someone suggested was that after the summer many of you have spent holidays in interesting places, even a number of short letters from a few readers about such holidays would make up quite an interesting article. I have a memory of a certain past man who promised me an article on Iceland. It is still in a frozen state! Please keep up the bankers orders and/or subscriptions because the cost of printing seems to keep ahead of our bank account in spite of all our efforts. The last issue of the "Review" cost over £300 to print, package and post: a big sum for a small paper. I hope you consider it was worth it.

Our experiment last year in the reorganisation of Union Day was considered by many a welcome change so this year we are repeating the performance. Elsewhere we have outlined the programme that has been prepared and we hope that as many of you as possible will come along and join us.

Computers as a Career

By Michael J. Walsh



The computer industry is still one of the fastest growing in the world. In Ireland, computers are already widely used and the number of people employed in computer departments is growing steadily. There are thus growing career opportunities for young people in this field. There is a shortage of experienced computer personnel here and in other countries and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. In Britain there is a serious shortage at present, in spite of high unemployment in many other sectors of the economy. It is, therefore, worthwhile to assess the opportunities that exist in the computer world. Here I will try to provide brief answers to the more usual questions asked by young people about careers in computers.

What sort of jobs are there in computing?

There are three main categories, as follows:

Computer Operators, who actually operate the machine. This requires about three months

training on the job and is a frequent mode of entry into the profession. The man in charge of the operators is usually called the operations manager.

Computer Programmers, who write out the instructions the computer is to follow in carrying out a given task. For this they use a special language such as *Basic*, *Cobol* or *Fortran*. Learning one of these languages is far simpler than learning say a foreign language. Programmers require about two years experience before they can write a reasonably large programme on their own. This is usually acquired while working under the guidance of an experienced programmer.

Systems Analysts, who study business and other applications which require to be computerised. They specify how the system works and how the programmes are to be written in order to meet the needs of the particular situation. The programmer then works from these specifications.

How can I get into computing?

Unfortunately there is no simple answer to this since the training for computing has not been formalised in the same way as say engineering or architecture. The best thing to do is to get a job within a computer department either as a trainee operator or trainee programmer and work your way up from there. There

are plenty of courses you can do in the evening which will give you the theoretical background you require. You get the practical experience on the job. There are full-time university courses in computing, but these tend to be strongly oriented towards the use of computers for scientific problems. In Ireland most jobs in computers are in commercial organisations and scientific computing is not so relevant there. You can do your degree at night while working in a computer department. It is tough going, but is the best solution.

Who do I apply to for a job?

Watch the advertisements in the newspapers. Write to the computer manager of any large company you may have an introduction into. Don't expect to get in at the top. Be prepared to start at the bottom. Promotion is rapid if you are good.

Do I need to be a genius?

This is a very popular misconception. The genius can in fact be very dangerous in a computer department. The best person is *careful*, *methodical* and *logical*. He gets pleasure out of making things work. One way to help find out if you are suitable is to take an aptitude test. Once a month International Computers Ltd. (ICL) hold aptitude tests in their Dublin office and anybody can take part for a fee of £2 to £4. They also hold group tests by arrangement around the country. Apply to the Training Manager, ICL, ICL House, Adelaide Road, Dublin.

Can I do anything now about computers?

Yes. There are some excellent teach-yourself booklets available, also from ICL. Get a set of these and start reading them. They can easily be absorbed by sixteen to eighteen year olds. Better still, form a small study group. Learn a computer language. I recommend *basic* or *cobol*. The Computer Education Society of Ireland will also assist in organising demonstrations, classes, etc. They want computing as a subject for Leaving Certificate. Already in England 1,500 secondary schools are teaching computing to 22,000 students. Even if you don't want to be a computer specialist, still learn computing. It will soon be required in every profession: medicine, agriculture, engineering, science, etc.

Are they well-paid jobs?

This is the last question in my list but is usually the first one asked! Yes, good computer people are scarce and can reach very high salaries, even by the age of twenty-five when many of their colleagues are only coming out of university. However, don't take it up for the money. It could be a deadly job if you are not cut out for it. If you are, it is a very rewarding career, both financially and intellectually.

Systems Analysts, who study business and other applications which require to be computerised. They specify how the system works and how the programmes are to be written in order to meet the needs of the particular situation. The programmer then works from these specifications.

NEWS ABOUT PAST STUDENTS

During the summer several past men visited the College after many years of absence.

Pat Sheery of Bahamore, Cloughjordan, a member of the Society of Jesus, having completed part of his studies in UCD, is now prefecting and teaching in Clongowes Wood College.

Another Jesuit past student, Fr. Stan Farrell, formerly from Ballylynan, Athy (1961-63), was ordained in June 1975 having spent a year in Fordham University in the United States. He is now on the missions in Zambia.

Stephen Griffin, who finished in 1923, of Scatternagh, North County Dublin, is one of the leading sheep breeders of the country and his name often appears in the farming news of the press and radio.

Matt Weldon (1926) of Cloghran is still going strong and runs one of the oldest pubs in North County Dublin: The Boot Inn.

Joe Hartford (1964) is another Fingall man. He is now married and employed in Squibbs of Swords.

Another surprise visit that we had during the summer was from Paddy McGovern (1958) formerly of Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. Paddy now lives in California. He is married and has two girls. He is in the paper industry and, he says, if you are ever in Colony Hills, San Jose, California, look him up.

After over eighteen years of absence, Michael Lynch (1943) formerly of Killaloe, called to see us this year. He has now retired from quantity surveying, has a domicile in Norwich, England, he spends his winter in Spain and autumns in Virginia, USA. He is much involved in the Lions International Club. He engages in voluntary work as governor of a group of special schools devoted to the education of handicapped children. In the course of conversation he wondered what had become of some of his old pals, amongst them Eamonn Cassidy, Matt Walsh, Ned Doherty, Tom Bleach and Martin Kilbane. We were able to tell him that Martin was dead, that Tom Bleach is teaching in

Portlaoise and that another man whom he mentioned, Tom O'Toole, was now Abbot of the Monastery.

John Kelly who was with us in 1928, formerly of Pembroke, Carlow, has now retired from the British Aircraft Corporation where he was an aeronautical engineer. John has been abroad for many years. He claimed to have had a dirty war with Hawkers. John married and had one son.

Willie Mullins, one of the recent past, 1974, of Gowran, brought happiness to many people during the Galway races when he brought "Andy Pandey" in second in the Galway Plate. He also won on "Boccoreef" the following day.

Paul Foley (1958) is now living in Earlswood Road, Dorwich, Solihull, Works., England.

Tom Collins formerly of Claregalway, who finished in 1948, after a term as county engineer in Longford is now county manager for Kerry.

Cadet Richard Ryan (1972) of the Curragh Camp received his commission at the end of July.

Maybe we already noted in these columns that John Hogan, the House Captain of 1948-49 is economic advisor to the Irish Embassy in London but we have also been advised that he is also the basic commodity advisor to the President of the EEC. Be that as it may, his son started school in Roscrea this year.

Since last going to press, Con O'Flynn (1971) of Newmarket, Co. Cork, was married to Ann Farrelly of Doneraile on 7th September 1976. The reception was held in Kevin Morrissey's hotel, The Isle of Skye, Kanturk.

We would also like to record that our general treasurer, Philip Sheedy, had a son, Patrick Anthony, born in June 1976.

Patrick Kennedy (1965) of Roscrea and his wife Anne, in August 1976, had their first son Garoid.

Others married recently were Seán Quigley (1967), Rathdowney; John O'Connor (1971), Bengurra, Cahir, Co. Tipperary; David O'Connell (1970) of Cullohill.

Kevin Croke married Collette Coughlan of

Ballincollig, Co. Cork, in March 1976. Kevin is a First Lieutenant in Baldonnel.

Michael D. Haugh (1968), son of the Past President, Tom, was married in June of this year to Isabel Maguire of Monkstown, Co. Dublin. They now live in 16 Upper Eden Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

Quentin Shortt (1961) is still unmarried and spends his life wandering from one oil field of the world to another. He is technically known as a mud engineer and his headquarters are in Houston, Texas. He was recently investigating the possibility of oil off the south coast.

Liam McNickoll (1970), formerly of Kilmackenny, Co. Cavan, has his B.Sc. and is teaching in the German School in Dublin.

Gerry Mulholland (1970) from Galway started off on a world tour last seen heading for India, last heard of in Kibbutz Kfarruppin, near Beit Shean, south west of Tiberias, in Israel.

Paul Nolan (1969) is doing his final medical in Trinity.

Dr Peter Quigley (1970) got his final in Trinity in June 1976.

Martin Mulligan (1972) of Mullingar took his B.Sc. with first-class honours at UCD and has got a scholarship to Hartford University.

Michael Ryan (1971) and Frank O'Hara (1971) are doing their final dentistry at UCC.

Dr Frank Thompson married Margaret Dee in September 1975 and is now attached to the Children's Hospital in Crumlin.

Dr Oliver Leavy is attached to St. Loman's Hospital, Mullingar.

Dr Seán Murphy and his brother, Dr Gabriel Murphy, have moved as far west in North Mayo as they could. Gabriel is in Belmullet and Seán in Bangorerris.

Dr Hugh Bredin (1960) is now in the Regional Hospital in Galway.

Dr Dermot Kerins (1958) is attached to the Mental Hospital, Ballinasloe.

Dr Dermot Twohig (1959) is in general practice in Ballinasloe.

Dr Damien Kerins (1965) has settled in Dublin.

Noel Kilmartin, Kieran Hayes, Michael Lee and Harry Ryan have taken their final in B.Comm. at UCG. Michael O'Loughlin has got his second medical, Aidan Ó Colmáin has got his first medical and Greg Hayes has got his pre-medical.

John O'Gara and Arthur Chater have done their second science. Fergal Hassett has done his first science and Alfie Burns did first arts.

In the Regional College in Galway, Richard Mellott, Shane Finnegan and John Burne are striving to make a name for themselves.

Other visitors during the summer were Séamus Harney (1954) and his wife, Mary. They now live in Belfast.

Dr Brendan Daly (1942) and his wife, Teresa, now live in La Mesa, California.

Paddy Mulhall returned on one of his periodic holidays from Canberra, Australia. His visit coincided with that of Fr Andy Fennessy (1952), who like the rest of the Irish monks in Tarrawarra, was enjoying his first holiday with us. Paddy tells us that Ulick Boyle (1949) of 4 Albert Street, Cooma, NSW, is making a name for himself in the musical world of Australia in his spare time from the building trade. He is married and has five children.

Another past man that we have not seen for some time was Edward A. Waldron (1934), formerly of Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. He is now settled in Longdale, Yelverton, Devon.

Colin Owens (1961) now lectures in the Department of English, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. 22030, USA.

James Keating (1962), Cahir, Co. Tipperary, was married in September.

Séamus Fennessy (1965), formerly of Croghan, Co. Offaly, is now an engineer living in Maynooth. He is married and has two children, a boy and a girl.

Noel Ryan (1965) and Noreen O'Donnell were married last January in Oughterard Church, Co. Galway. Noel lives in Wellingborough, North Hants., England.

THE UNION GOLD MEDAL

By James Fanning

During the year the decision of the Central Committee to discontinue the presentation of the Union Gold Medal for the first place in the Intermediate brought strong reactions from many quarters. As a result the Gold Medal has been presented to all the winners to date thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. Furthermore, another former winner of the Gold Medal who thought it was of great benefit as a scholastic incitement to the boys has offered to provide the medal yearly for the next five years. In face of such generosity the Central Committee and the Colleague authorities have decided to accept these offers with gratitude and thanks and we hope that the students who merit to win them will appreciate the honour as much as their predecessors have done. James Fanning, who won the medal in 1975, did a research project on the winners of the medal over the years and we print below the fruits of his work. The names are not set out in chronological order but have been put together as they came in from various writers.

Project on the Careers of the Union Gold Medal Winners

Union Gold Medal: The Past Pupils Union first decided to award a gold medal to the most outstanding student each year because they felt that an award was needed to provide initiative in the academic field of College life. Accordingly, in 1931 Michael O'Meara became the first winner of the Union Gold Medal.

Until 1944 the medal was awarded to the student with the best results in the Leaving Certificate Easter examination. From that year on it was presented to the student with the best results in the Intermediate Certificate examination. Usually the medal was presented by the Abbot at the Christmas Opera but in more recent years the President of the Union got the honour.

According to the completed questionnaires, more than two-thirds of the surviving winners (three have died), still have their medals. One-sixth do not know where they are and the remaining sixth did not say anything as to their whereabouts. Most of the more recent winners still have their medals.

Careers: It seems that engineering is by far the most attractive career for the Union Gold Medal winners. In all, nine of the forty-two boys who won the medal became engineers.

Dudley A. O'Gara, the third winner of the medal, was the first to choose engineering as his career. He graduated with a B.E. degree from University College, Galway, in 1936 and in the following year postgraduated a course in electrical engineering. His first appointments were assistant engineer in Sligo and assistant engineer for Donegal County Council. Since 1950 he has the post of chief assistant county engineer and part-time acting county engineer in Tipperary South Riding.

Ulick Nolan graduated from UCD with a B.E. degree in 1943. He completed a course in electrical engineering. Ulick had won the Union Gold Medal in 1939. In 1944 he joined Standard Telephones and Cables Limited and worked on the development of radio transmitters. Four years later he joined the Marconi Company and in 1954 became head of their antenna development group. He has travelled on business to all of the five continents.

Aidan J. Mottley, who won the medal in 1947, did a civil engineering course at UCD from 1949 to 1952, at the end of which he was conferred with the B.E. degree. In 1961 he was granted the M.I.E.I. degree. He spent the first two years with a consulting engineer in Dublin and then short periods with McNemey Bros. and with the ESB. Since 1956 he has been with O.P.W. and his present post is area civil engineer on Boyne Drainage Scheme.

Michael J. Walsh, who won in 1948, got his B.E. degree with first-class honours at UCD. Recently he got his Ph.D. degree in statistics

also at UCD. He became chief engineer in the Irish Sugar Company and later managing director, T.M.G. Group Limited. Now he owns his own consulting company.

Brian A. Hegarty (1955) took his B.Sc. degree at UCD and then he went to London where he spent five years with Standard Telephones. Then he moved to Radio Corporation of America at Indianapolis, USA, and at present he is chief executive of the Honeywell Corporation at their Colorado Springs plant.

David O'Connor (1964) did a course in engineering at UCD and at present he is an engineer with the ESB.

Leo Crehan, who won the medal in 1966, "meandered" from the Science faculty of UCD to the Engineering faculty where he took a degree in Civil Engineering in 1973. He worked for two years in Dublin but because of his interest in third-world development applied to Voluntary Service Overseas and is now working in Papua, New Guinea.

Séamus Mulherin entered the school of engineering in UCD in 1969 and in June 1973 got his B.E. degree with first-class honours. He had the added distinction of being first in the class. In August of that year he joined the London-based international firm of consulting engineers Ove Arup and Partners.

Michael Bruen, who won the medal as late as 1969, has already qualified with a B.E. degree from UCD and at present he is doing research in the engineering faculty of UCD leading to a higher degree. Already as a student engineer he has spent two periods of three months each in the USA and one period of three months in West Germany.

Michael O'Meara, the very first winner of the Gold Medal, worked as an engineer for two years, having graduated with honours in UCD with his B.E. and B.Sc. Then, however, he became a geologist in the Geological Survey of Ireland. In 1950 he became a senior geologist and in 1972 assistant director of the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Thomas P. Haugh won the Union Gold Medal in 1937. He obtained his B.E. and B.Sc. degrees in UCG and then did a Diploma in Public Administration in TCD. He commenced his employment with Offaly County Council as resident engineer, worked for brief periods with Ennis UDC, Carlow UDC, Kilkenny County Council, CIE, and Dun Laoghaire Vocational Educational Committee before joining the ESB in 1947. He is now district manager of the Athlone area.

Thomas Bleach studied at Clonliffe College and UCD. He got his B.A. with first-class honours in 1946 and later his Higher Diploma in Education. In 1969 he took a B.Sc. degree in London in chemistry and mathematics. He has been a secondary teacher in Portlaoise CBS since 1954.

Christopher Carroll, the 1940 winner, was conferred with his B.Sc. degree in chemistry in UCD. He taught science and maths for a year and then became a chemist with the Sugar Company. In 1946 he joined the Dublin Glass Company and now is chief chemist there.

Rev. Charles Alyward entered Mount St. Joseph Abbey in August 1942. He was transferred to Sancta Maria Abbey, Nunraw, Haddington, Scotland, in February 1946. He moved to the diocese of Portsmouth in July 1968. He was ordained a priest in May 1949 at Nunraw Abbey. He is now working as priest in the Portsmouth diocese.

Very Rev. Fr. Joseph O'Dea joined the Cistercian Order in 1946 intending to go to Nunraw Abbey. The following year he was transferred there from Roscrea. Later he went to Rome to complete his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained there in 1953. He remained in Rome until 1969. During that period he served as librarian and tutor in the Cistercian Generalate in Rome and later as rector of students. Other academic distinctions he has won are the Pius XII Gold Medal and John

XXIII Gold Medal. Since 1969 he has been Prior of Nunraw Abbey and since 1972 External Examiner to the University of Edinburgh.

Rev. Denis Curtin studied for the priesthood at the Irish College, Rome, where he was ordained in March 1958. His first appointment was to a parish in Dublin. From 1960 to 1964 he taught theology in St Patrick's College, Thurles. Since 1964 he has been director of religious education in the diocese of Cashel.

Nicholas O'Connor, the winner of the Gold Medal in 1946, studied chartered accountancy and became a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. At present he is practising as a consultant in Dublin.

Patrick Kelly, who won the medal in 1968, went to Trinity College and entered the faculty of economic and social studies. In 1972 he was elected a scholar of Trinity on the basis of examination results. In 1974 he graduated with Bachelor degree in business studies. He is now midway through his final training period to become a chartered accountant.

Noel Moloney studied for his teaching diploma in St Patrick's College of Education from 1953 to 1955. He furthered his studies from 1963 to 1966 by studying for his B.A. and Higher Diploma in Education in UCG. He taught in St Brendan's national school, Portumna, until 1973 when he became lecturer in education in the Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick. Noel is also the author of some primary school text books.

John Geary (1962) graduated with M.Sc. degree from UCC and got his Ph.D. degree from Yale University in 1974. He studied and worked in North America from 1968 to 1975 and in 1975 he became lecturer in education in the School of Education, University of the West Indies, Trinidad.

John B. Lynch who was awarded the Gold Medal in 1953 graduated with his B.D.S. degree from UCD in 1961. He did some postgraduate work in London but did not pursue any further degrees. In 1963 he began practising dentistry in Mallow. He took in a partner in 1971.

Hugh Bredin (1958) entered the medical school of UCD in the early 1960s and qualified with honours: his qualifications being M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. In 1966 he was conferred with his F.R.C.S. His first appointment was to St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, and in his second year there he became senior house officer in surgery. Then he moved to the United States and was resident in urology in New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Centre, for three years. Then he became chief resident in urology there. He spent two years as assistant in urology at Massachusetts General Hospital and instructor in surgery in urology in Harvard Medical School. In 1976 he returned to Ireland and took up his present post of consultant urologist, Western Health Board.

Leslie Faughnan (1960) graduated from UCD in 1965 with a B.A. degree in English language and literature. He immediately became a features writer for the *RTE Guide*. Later he became assistant editor and finally managing editor. In 1969 he became editor of publications for the Irish Management Institute and since 1973 has been managing director of McGonnells Public Relations Ltd.

Patrick Ryan got his M.R.C.V.S. degree in UCD in 1967 and began practising as a veterinary surgeon in Newport, Co. Tipperary.

Richard M. Nash qualified as a medical doctor in UCD in 1941. Later he got his F.R.C.S. and he practised in Winnipeg, Canada.

Liam Kelly spent one year at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, and three years at UCG. He received B.Sc. with first-class honours. In 1972 he entered the University of California at Santa Cruz. In 1975 he was conferred with his M.A. degree in physics and this year he received his Ph.D. in physics. He has worked as a research physicist for De Beers Industrial Diamond Division (Ireland) Ltd., and now hopes to get a job in Ireland, perhaps in one of

the universities.

Martin Mulligan, one of the very recent winners, is at present completing his B.Sc. (honours) degree in biochemistry. Afterwards he intends to do postgraduate work in the United States June 1976: Honours B.Sc., working for M.Sc. at Harvard University.

Personal Details

As one glances through the personal details of the Union Gold Medal winners, one striking fact immediately comes to light. That is that very few of them, apart from the three priests, have remained bachelors. Indeed every winner I have managed to contact since 1966 has got married with the exception of David O'Connor who was the winner in 1964. Nevertheless, none of the last eight winners starting with Séamus Mulherin have married so far. Also, all except the recently married have two or more children. Michael Brophy, a farmer from Rathcabbin, leads the table with ten children ranging in age from twenty-six to ten years. Both Ted Ryan and Noel Moloney are the fathers of twins. Michael Walsh has two sons, one son, John, is at present in Roscrea and Nicholas O'Connor has his son, Nicholas also, at school in Roscrea.

Editor's Note

In the list of Gold Medal winners printed in the *Fiolar*, 1958, the name of Michael Keeshan is given for the year 1937. In that year Tom Haugh won the medal and he still has it. We are sorry to have to "demote" Michael, who, by the way, is a teacher in Ontario, Canada. The Union Gold Medal for 1976 was won by Anthony Brady who got seven As and one B.

Public Exam Statistics

Evidently you don't fail, pass or get honours in the Inter or Leaving nowadays! When I asked the Dean of Studies for the general results this is what he gave me:

Intermediate Certificate C Grades or Higher	Leaving Certificate C Grades or Higher
4 students got 9.	5 students got 7.
15 got 8 or more.	8 got 6 or more.
28 got 7 or more.	15 got 5 or more.
35 got 6 or more.	23 got 4 or more.
41 got 5 or more.	31 got 3 or more.
46 got 4 or more.	34 got 2 or more.
52 got 3 or more.	41 got 1 or more.
54 got 2 or more.	
57 got 1 or more.	

There were 61 presented for the Inter and 49 for Leaving.

Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of subscriptions and bankers' orders for the maintenance of the *Review* which have been sent since the last issue.

Mr. Denis Martin Murphy, Newmarket, Co. Cork.

Right Rev. Mgr. Charles Hurley, P.P., Dublin.

Rev. James Bates, S.J., Limerick.

Mr. Patrick Shee, Carrick-on-Suir.

Very Rev. Thomas Bowden, P.P., Clogh, Co. Kilkenny.

Dr. Thomas Collins, Dublin.

Mr. Eamonn O'Donoghue, Naas Road, Dublin.

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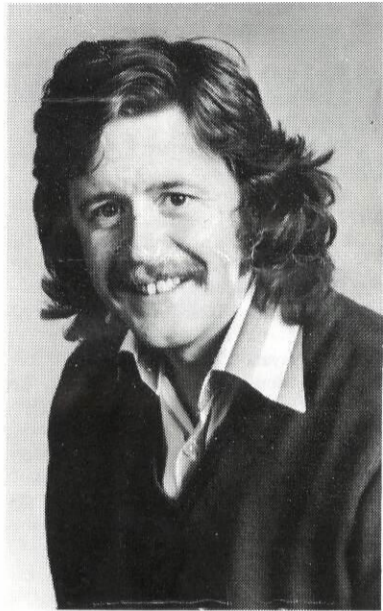
Mr. Thomas Haugh, Athlone.

Mr. Joseph V. O'Loughlin, Dublin.

Mr. Thomas Lynch, Bulgaden.

Roscrea . . . ten years after

By Bill Start



I walked out of Cistercian College, Roscrea, in June of 1966 (or was it 1965) a free man (or so I thought) having done a six-year internment stint.

Last week, a decade later, I found myself back in the front hall. A million memories flooded back. Foremost among them is the night I returned there to do my final year and the high-spirited Seán Loughnane leaped on my back yelling like a Birr Comanche, much to the consternation of assembled parents, new boys and the eagle-eyed President, Fr. Patrick.

Now, Fr. Dermot greets me with real warmth and I start to realise quickly that it is really great to be back. "You have to see the new studio," he says.

It is a far cry from the old billiard room where the gloomy surroundings performed an exorcism on the Muses of Inspiration. Apart from being well laid out and brightly lit, the new studio has four aquaria of multi-coloured fish which may, perhaps, yet help to produce a Picasso from Roscrea.

Incidentally, the fish are now living a monastic-type existence. They were multiplying so rapidly that Fr. Dermot was forced to segregate the sexes. Looking at the numbers and the size I remark that that cannot have been an easy task. He agrees and laughs.

The amiable dean of studies, Fr. Emmanuel, looks no older and a lot less harassed than the last time we met. On that occasion he waved his schedule/timetable at me and declared: "Possibly the worst thing that can happen to me, William, is that I'll be holding this job this time next year." When I remind him he is amused. "Come on, let me show you around," he says. The new classroom wing is indeed a credit to the school. Well laid out, spacious and with new desks. "The fellows tell me that the problem with these new desks is that you have no protection when a teacher comes at you," Fr. Emmanuel jokes.

The blackboards in the new classrooms are green and non-shine. It was Fr. Emmanuel who, when a student at an angle of seventy-five from him complained that there was "a shine on the board" retorted: "Don't worry, son, that's my halo."

The science labs make me a trifle envious. They are astoundingly modern. I think of how Fr. Benignus (still going strong, by the way) and Fr. Ciaran laboured to demonstrate to us the intricacies of the Bunsen burner.

The 6A classroom has a side window which gives a perfect view of the road to the shops out of bounds. But the cross-country

route to Mary Appletart's that Joe Hayes and myself used to use would still appear to be a safe one.

There are many other changes in Roscrea; the old chemistry lab is now a lovely dormitory; Fr. Mark is in the process of compiling an excellent library in what was the old oratory study; it's self-service in the updated refectory; and the seniors eat in what was the billiards room. The wooden breadboards and the knives are still there.

Outside there are new hard tennis courts and, at last, a swimming pool. I feel a sense of satisfaction in seeing the pool having contributed much towards its establishment by way of smoking fines.

Which reminds me, I ask Fr. Emmanuel if by any chance he would return the half-crown he ripped me of when I was caught smoking in Miss Bergin's music room. He points to the pool and says: "Actually, the fines have gone up. It's more now."

On that score, Fr. Kevin agrees that things don't change much. The type of youngster going to the College today is very much the same as in my own time.

Liam Maher, John Shanahan and Roddy Ryan stop for a chat. They are wearing their years very well, despite each having the odd grey hair . . . to which I myself contributed in no small share.

Sister Rita comes down the church corridor. With instant recognition, she recalls the tears during my first days in Roscrea. We laugh about it now.

And here too I am struck by memories of the many times she doled out Bisodol for sick tummies and cared, always with sympathy and understanding, for any of us who were ill. At the same time she was always quick to spot someone who was using toothpaste to raise the temperature reading on a thermometer.

On the way out, I glance, with a measure

of nostalgia at the little office on the left corner of the front hall. The Vexillum is still being produced there.

That same little magazine was the first step on the road to journalism for Cyril Ferris, Joe Doyle, Leslie Faughnan, Conor Brady and myself—to name a few.

Roscrea hasn't changed much inwardly. You are greeted with great warmth when you return. You remember the good times there much more than the rough times.

And, I suppose like everything else, you only really appreciate the good times when they're gone.

PLEASE NOTE

All our loans for the Swimming Pool are not yet paid. Please keep up contributions.

SOUTH TIPPERARY BRANCH

Please check the names and addresses on this list. If you see any errors or RIPs write to the General Secretary of the Union and we will put it right.

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HOUSE CAPTAINS 1975/76



John Phelan, Captain in centre, with Anthony Garahy and Kieran Burns, Second and Third.

R.I.P.



Kennedy O'Brien died recently, a sad loss to his family and friends. He was House Captain of Roscrea 1939 and led the senior rugby team the same year.



Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ABBEY,
ROSCREA.

October, 1976.

My dear Past Student,

Once again the Reunion is upon us. As you can see from the Review it is being held on Saturday/Sunday 30th/31st October. We have arranged the programme on similar lines to last year but the Sport Authorities have fixed some other date for the Past v. Present when the students will be in residence.

You will greatly help in the arrangements if you will please fill in the form attached below and send it with the appropriate remittance as soon as possible to the General Secretary of the Union, at the above address.

The programme is broadly as follows :

Annual General Meeting of the Union,	4.30 p.m.
Sherry Reception.	
Union Dinner	7.30/8.00.
Bar service and Concert:	
Sunday 31st.	
Breakfast for all in the College,	9.00/9.30 a.m.
Union Mass	10.30 a.m.
Golf for the Abbot's Cup	
Swimming - Union Trophy.	
Lunch in the College.	1.30 p.m.

You have your choice of alternative amusements, tennis (hard courts) handball, squash, table tennis, push penny, and it has been suggested to have a football match - Dublin versus the rest! However in the event of the latter match taking place the Central Committee insist that players over 60 have a good Life Insurance policy and a recent Medical Cert.

See you Saturday 30th, D.V.
Yours sincerely in Christ,

J. M. Delaney O.C.S.O.
(General Secretary)

Please return reservation form as soon as possible before OCTOBER 28th.

REUNION CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA PASTPUPILS.

Please make reservations for me :-

- Week-end all in£8.
- Union Dinner only£4.
- Dinner & Lunch£6.
- Genuine students half price.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

Amt. chq. or p.o. enclosed

£.....