

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 39

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Summer 1981

A Message from the President

A Little Bit of Realism

During my first six months as President of the Union I have had the pleasure of attending seven branch functions which were held throughout the country from Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford, to Innishannon, Co. Cork. Also I had the pleasure of meeting past men who have turned up at the various Leinster schools rugby and hurling matches. One of the major successful events of the year, however, can be considered the involvement of our past students in a Careers Guidance Workshop which was held at the College in November 1980.

In a review of the above events I now take this opportunity of recording my observations in relation to:

- (a) The spirit of the Union.
- (b) Identification of the real needs of the various groups of past students within our Union.
- (c) Identifying at Central Council level how we can satisfy these needs.
- (d) Crystal ball gaze for the future.

While it is recognised that the primary aim is to develop ways and means of developing the spirit of camaraderie which was initiated during our College days, it has now become apparent that we should recognise in my opinion that there are three groupings of past students readily identifiable and may I take the liberty of identifying them as members of JUNIOR HOUSE of the Union, MIDDLE HOUSE of the Union and SENIOR HOUSE.

The Junior House of our Union and possibly those who have left the College within six years and who are endeavouring to establish themselves in a way of life and for specific reasons cannot necessarily be active members of local branches or cannot support the Branch functions and mainly for economic reasons. This fact we must recognise and accept fully and perhaps at Central Committee level we should consider how these past men can perhaps be subsidised at our functions. There is no doubt whatsoever that the spirit of our Cistercian heritage and the pride of being past men of Cistercian College, Roscrea, is as radiant in this Junior House as it is in the other sections. Their involvement in coming back to the College for the past versus present matches and supporting the College at the Leinster school matches is indicative of their wish for involvement both in the Past Students Union and also with the College which is of primary importance.

Branch Functions

I am delighted to be able to record that all Branches within our Union have now held their functions with the exception of the South Tipperary Branch who I understand are planning a function in the Autumn of 1981. I wish to congratulate all Branch Committee members in the various areas of the country for their loyal and dedicated efforts in making their particular functions a success. I do not wish to pick out any particular individuals but special mention should be made regarding the Midlands Branch and also the Limerick/Clare Branch who have with a renewed spirit of enthusiasm revitalised their functions. Whilst we recognise and appreciate the efforts made by those in the past we now thank sincerely Anthony Bennet, Eugene Garvey and Johnny Dolan in the Midlands Branch whose function held at the Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford, was a rip roaring success. Similarly the revival of the Limerick/Clare Branch annual function which was held on Friday night, 10 April 1981, at the Limerick Inn Hotel, was a tribute to those active members who include Joe O'Connor, Michael Murray, Barry Bennett, John O'Riordan, Michael Carr, Billy Slattery, John Coughlan and Paddy Chambers. Keep it up lads!

It is to the Senior House also that we look for dedicated support and stability for our Union. It is on this note that I wish to reflect upon the formal stag function held by the Dublin Branch which also services the needs of the Senior past men in the Dublin area and is a function that should also be continued, promoted and supported.

Careers Guidance Workshop

I wish to compliment the College authorities and in particular the Career Guidance Master, Fr. Andrew, for his tremendous vision in organising a most successful Careers Guidance Workshop. My sincere thanks is due in no small way to the eighty past students who returned for this occasion to give of their experience to the present students. The workshop involved making available to the present students people from all walks of life and professions together with representatives from the various universities and technological colleges, AnCO, Department of Agriculture, Aer Lingus, Financial Institutions, Law Society, Department of Defence and many others.

The category of past students that returned

for this workshop in my opinion would belong to the Middle House of our Union, i.e. past men who had already set themselves up in their new careers and were at the point of either getting married or were presently heavily involved in saving for down-payment for mortgages or repaying mortgages, etc. These chaps are at the point of getting out off the ground so to speak and would have relatively heavy financial commitments. Following conversations with a number of them I am satisfied that these men also reflect the true spirit of the Union and were delighted at having been invited to be involved with the College in the Careers Guidance Workshop. The feedback which I have received from the present students has indicated a very high appreciation on their part for what the past students are doing and that it would be their intention when their time comes they will gladly return to the college to give of their experience at future Careers Guidance Workshops. This would indicate, therefore, that the future of the Careers Guidance Workshop is now soundly based and that we can say to the College authorities that the Past Students Union in conjunction with the Careers Guidance Master is willing to co-operate in every way possible to foster, promote and develop this particular activity.

It can be noted that the present students related particularly well with these representatives from our Middle House. This is said without reflection upon representatives of the Senior House of our Union who were present in a minority fashion and my sincere thanks to them is also extended.

Appreciation of Anonymous Donations

On my own personal behalf and on behalf of the Central Committee I wish to thank most sincerely those few Senior members of our Union who have handsomely between them contributed £600 to the Union funds within the past two months. This is a gesture which has crowned my total motivation to continue fostering and developing the spirit of camaraderie within our Union and for our continued involvement with the College.

Forthcoming Retreat (17 May 1981)

It is the aim of the Central Committee to revive the concept of our annual retreat or let us call it a day of recollection (to be held on Sunday, 17 May 1981, for all past men). This is in response to a number of requests from certain past men and we are delighted at Central Committee level to arrange and provide this facility and hopefully on an on-going basis for the future. Those who feel their batteries need re-charging are welcome to come along and I am quite sure a day of

reflection within the walls of Cistercian monasticism will do us good.

Happy Birthday to our most Senior Past Student, Thomas J. Veal

It has been brought to my attention by our hard-working General Secretary, Fr. Dermot, that Thomas J. Veal who resides at Atlantic View, Church Road, Tramore, has recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was among the first batch of students who arrived in the College in 1905. On behalf of all past students may I say: Happy Birthday, Thomas.

Conclusion

I am delighted to record my confidence in the future of our Union following the recent celebrations of the centenary of our Abbey and golden jubilee of our College, that our Union at all levels is filled with the Spirit of renewed enthusiasm and hopefully Central Committee will at all times be able to satisfy the needs of all its members and can I assure them from my part that it will not be from the want of trying.

P. F. O'SHEA
President C.C.R.
Past Students Union

Pressures

At this time of year (late Spring) we who teach at the College tend to feel we are being used as "exam-machines". "Used" may be too strong a word but we do have that sort of feeling. For those of us interested in long-term education, this can be a saddening experience. Our students are pre-occupied with exams and grades to the exclusion of any genuine search for knowledge.

Our primary task is to train our students how to think honestly and ruthlessly. Being in a human situation, we can only guide them in their training-processes. We cannot do their thinking for them. But as long as they are sharpening their judgements on issues of literary, scientific, linguistic and moral consequences, we feel we are fulfilling to some degree our great task.

Then comes the "exam fever" with its emphasis on memorising and regurgitating. I am convinced the contagion does not emanate from the teachers or the school-authorities. It emanates from parents and from society; and we can censure parents, if not society. The pressure they put on their sons is, in my opinion, immoral. It is immoral because it is based on expectations which are not in conformity with their sons' abilities and/or their sons' aspirations. Parents' ambitions are frequently equated with their sons' desires. Tastes are crushed and abilities are stunted so that parents' frustrated ambitions may find release. That I find immoral.

Hard words? Yes. But when you have watched parents' pressures, as I have, for over thirty years, you realise that even words as hard as these may be heard but they will not be listened to. We try to teach our students how to keep on searching for truth. At times we are compelled to shout "Stop" to the parents in the hope (vague as it may be) that some of them will listen to us and will stop before they have warped another generation of young people.

"Stop! Please stop!" Anyone listening?
LIAM S. MAHER

Midland Branch

The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule, was the venue for the 1981 Dinner Dance of the Midland's P.P.U. Over one hundred were in attendance, and the evening (and early morning!) was enjoyed by all. The event was organised this year by Anthony Bennet, Eugene Garvey and Johnnie Dolan, and their efforts certainly paid off. The dinner was preceded by a sherry reception, following which guests chose either steak or salmon for their main course. Some commented that they had been well trained for such a choice in C.C.R.

After the meal there were a few brief speeches, Fr. Kevin, representing the Abbot and community, spoke of the philosophy of the school which remained unaltered in the 1980s. The C.C.R. spirit, he said, was to train boys to educate themselves. He paid special tribute to the ever increasing lay involvement in the school, and stated that this was a good omen for the years ahead. The P.P.U. President, Pat O'Shea, and his wife, Margaret, also attended. Pat brought good wishes from the Dublin gathering which he had attended the previous evening.

Tony Bennet thanked all who supported the event, including the Branch's guests, Gerard and Mary Maher, representing the school's teaching staff. He was also glad to see two female members present, Mary Ryan and Pauling Flaherty.

The speeches were followed by impromptu entertainment which would put many professional artists to shame. Highlights were provided by the singing (?) of the Brandon brothers, the tap dancing of Brian Grogan, and the story-telling of Tony Bennet. This continued long after the bar had closed. There is no truth in the rumour that Albert Reynolds, who was in attendance, offered to sign up all the acts for a new variety series on R.T.É.

Dublin Branch Dinner

Connor Massey, Dublin Branch Chairman, and his Committee are to be congratulated on a wonderful evening's enjoyment at the Dublin Branch Dinner, which was held at the Milltown Golf Club on Friday, January 30.

This function has certainly become one of the highlights of the Dublin Branch social calendar, and since its re-introduction back in

1978 has enjoyed the support of increasing numbers of Roscrea past students, and following this year's dinner it is easy to understand why this is the case.

The enthusiasm with which old friends greeted each other in the bar before sitting down to an excellent dinner was surpassed only by the equally enthusiastic reception given to the many fine after-dinner speeches, which ranged far and wide, only to be brought back to earth by the MacMahon brothers and Ron Massey, all of whom contributed in a very good-humoured way to a happy and enjoyable occasion.

The Chairman of the Dublin Branch then introduced the President of the Union, Pat O'Shea, who proposed the toast to the Dublin Branch, and dwelt particularly on the spirit of the Union and the need for every past student to do everything to foster this within the Branch structure.

Fr. Peter, President of the College, our other guest of honour, gave us an interesting insight into the present state of affairs at C.C.R., and moving from the social and academic side of life in the College did not dwell on the chances of the school's team in the forthcoming cup matches, because he understood there was a spy from the Wesley camp among our guests.

Among those present was one of our founder members, Dr. Denis Crowley, and five past Presidents of the Union, and many of the old loyal members of the Dublin Branch together with a liberal sprinkling of the younger, newer, members who are taking an increasing interest in branch activities.

A special word of thanks to the Dublin Branch Secretary, Michael Coyle, who in his usual efficient and business-like manner was responsible for organising a very enjoyable evening, following which most of those present departed making a note in their diary for next year D.V.

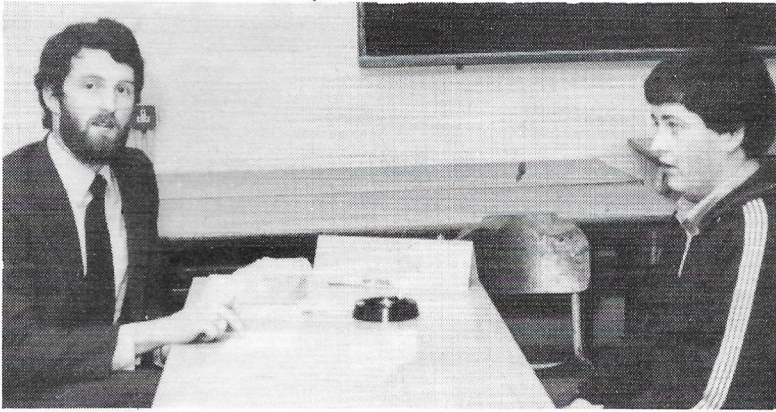
North Tipperary Branch

After the success of last year's event the Committee opted to return to the Fox's Den, Cloughjordan, for the Annual Past Pupils' Dinner. Sixty attended and all agreed that the night was most pleasant. After the meal the guests assembled to hear the address of the Lord Abbot, Dom Colmcille O'Toole. He thanked the Committee for inviting him, and

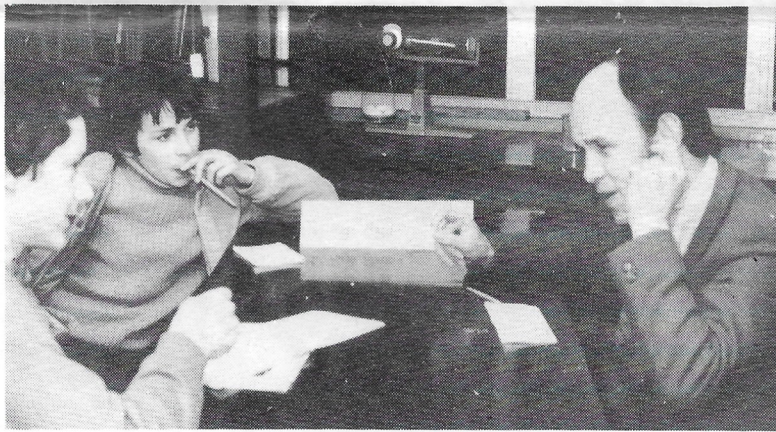


Change of government in North Tipperary: From the left: Brendan Galvin, Hon. Sec.; Michael Madden; retired Chairman, Richard Liffey; the Lord Abbot; Tim Maher; Dan O'Meara; Phil Sheedy, Chairman, North Tipperary Branch; at the Fox's Den, Cloughjordan.

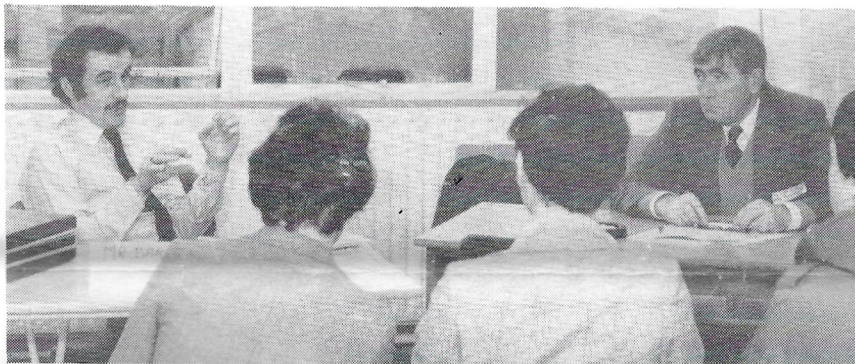
Career Guidance Workshop



The ramifications of Aer Lingus are explained by Gerard Ryan, Traffic Control Officer in Shannon.



Hugh Bredin — now in Galway — discusses careers in Medicine and Surgery to an interested group.



Barry O'Sullivan, on the left, expounds on the hazards of running a hotel, while Steve Foley — on the Examining Board for Shannon — takes it all in.



Jim Phelan inspires hope in future Dentists.



John Fennell and Tom Gunning talk Banking to the boys.

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of subscriptions and new bankers' orders for the maintenance of the *Review* and our services, which we have received since the last issue:

Mr. Pádraig Mulcahy, Dublin.
Mr. Liam Brandon, Creggs, Co. Galway.
Mr. Brian Grogan, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.
£200 from an anonymous supporter in Dublin.

Mr. Michael Hayden, Ardilea, Dublin.
Dr. John Ailbe O'Meara, San Jose, California.

The anonymous sponsor of the current issue of the *Roscrea Review*.

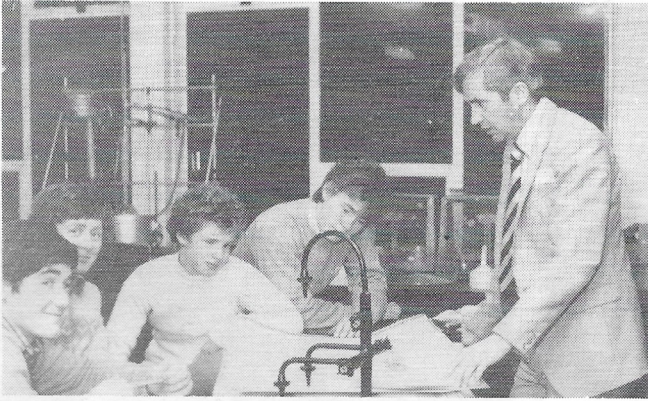
Entrance Examination

The Entrance Examinations to the College were held this year on April 9/10. Over 130 sat for the exams.

Union Day

Union Day for 1981 will be held on Sunday, October 4. The A.G.M. and Union Mass will be on that day. Please send us the names of past men who may have died during the year and were not recorded in the *Review*.

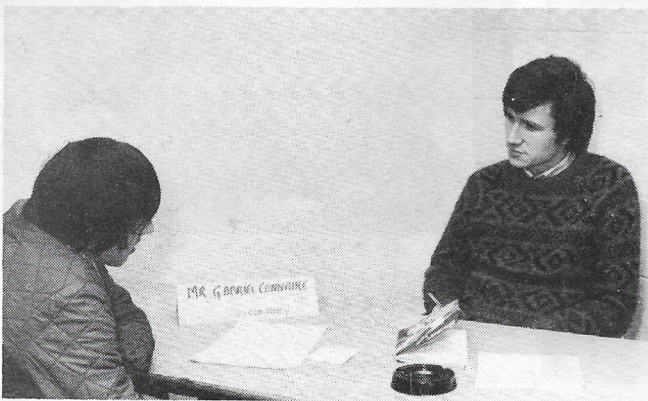
Career Guidance Workshop



Gerard McCarthy explains to his audience what Corbusier meant when he said: "A house is a machine for living in."



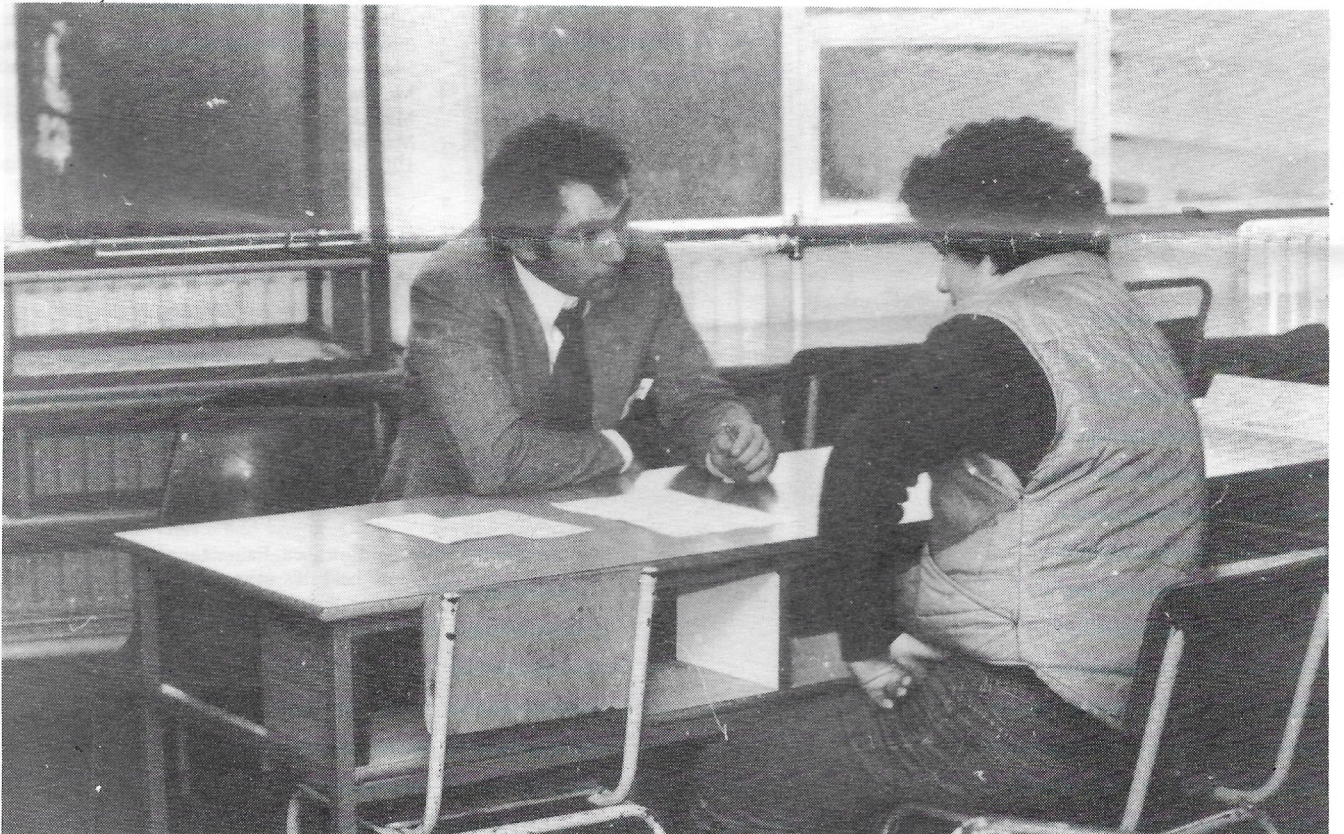
Pádraig Mulcahy tells an aspirant what Quantity Surveying involves.



Accounting is a popular profession. Gabriel Connaire advises a hopeful aspirant.



Pat O'Shea, putting aside his Presidential chain, gets down to Business.



Tom Kelly explains the joys and sorrows of Farming.

News of Past Pupils



*Joseph Thomas Veale
C.C.R. 1905-1908*

Joseph T. Veale was 90 years old on 11 April 1981. In September 1905 Joe and sixty-four other boys enrolled as the first batch of students in C.C.R. He was fourteen years old. His family was friendly with Dom Camillus Beardwood who was Abbot at the time. An aunt of the family, Margaret Ahearne, is buried in the public cemetery near the Abbey church. Joe went into business in Waterford where he spent most of his long life. When he retired he went to live in Tramore. He attended the golden jubilee celebrations at the College in 1958, and there were a few more of the original band present that day but Joe was the oldest of them all. I wonder how many of those sixty-five are still with us – if you know them please let us know.

Niall O'Donoghue, 1958, featured recently in the papers when he handled the negotiations on behalf of the descendants of George Henry Pentland for the transfer of the freehold of the ground rent on which the G.P.O. stands, to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. Since the foundation of the State the Post Office has been paying £24 per annum to the Pentland Estates.

John O'Meara, 1972; formerly from Roscrea town, marries Katherine Hearn in May. He is a son of the dentist to the Monastery and the College, Dan O'Meara.

Callaghan O'Flynn, 1972, is Laboratory Control Officer of the North Kerry Co-op. He married Catherine Frost of Sixmilebridge in 1979. And during the past year they had a baby girl, Jane. He came from Newmarket and now lives in Moynane.

Michael O'Flynn, 1977, brother of the above, finished in C.C.R. in fifth year. He is farming in Newmarket – cows are his line – and lives at the home place, Gooseberry Hill.

Michael Coyle, 1968, was one of the longest-serving officers of the Dublin Branch, and when elected was one of the youngest officers in the Union. Michael is getting married in August to Jennifer Legge, a Dublin girl. We wish the young couple every happiness.

Pat Crotty, recent vintage, from Kilkenny,

has been studying the family trade – bakery, etc. – in London. He won the "Student of the Year" award in the U.K. for 1980. The family have a "cup as big as a bucket" on the sideboard at home to remind them of this achievement. It looks as if the future of the family business is in safe hands. Pat played for the London Polytechnic, so his rugby training in Roscrea stood him well.

OBITUARIES



Dr. Billy O'Driscoll

One of the saddest losses the Union has received in recent years was the death of **Dr. Billy O'Driscoll**. Since he first came to Roscrea in 1929 Billy was heart and soul a C.C.R. man. During his school days he was a brilliant athlete and rugby player. In his last year he was House Captain. From Roscrea he went to U.C.D. where he studied medicine and continued to play rugby.

After qualifying, he practised in Manchester for two years and then he returned to general practice in Clontarf where he spent the rest of his life. He took part in many of the past versus present matches in the 1940s and 1950s and never missed a cup match that C.C.R. was playing and gave his professional assistance on the field whenever it was needed.

In 1955 he was elected President of the Past Pupils' Union and held that office for three years. He was in office during the golden jubilee in 1958 and was succeeded by Séamus Sherry. For some years past he has suffered from ill health which he bore with fortitude and patience. His passing was mourned by

many friends. To his wife and family we offer our deepest sympathy.

Dr. Bart Cullen, 1930, who was in medical practice in Coole, Co. Westmeath, died in February of this year.

Tommie Grennan, a member of the teaching staff in the 1930s, died last March. His sons Eamonn, Thomas and Dermot, were students in C.C.R.

Seán McCormack, 1950, formerly of Dundalk, died in Mullingar recently. He had been living there for some years.

Frank Moynihan, 1925, formerly of Cahir, Co. Tipperary, died in England in early February.

Matthew Weldon, 1926, of the Boat Inn, Cloghran, Co. Dublin, also died in February.

Hugh Garahy, 1935, a native of Cloghan, Co. Offaly, died there recently.

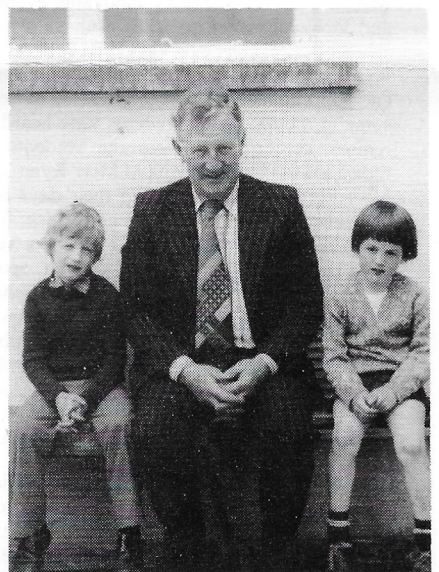
Michael Fenton, 1940, a well-known figure in Limerick Branch circles, died early this year.

News of the death of **Fr. John Shanahan (Denis)**, 1919, in Nunraw, came just as we were going to press. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Fr. John was born in Knocklong, Co. Limerick, in 1900. He spent four years in C.C.R. and entered the monastery shortly after leaving school, 15 August 1919. Five years later he was Solemnly Professed. He was called to the priesthood in June 1927 and ordained by Most Rev. Dr. Doorley, Bishop of Elphin.

He taught for some time in the College, but the greater part of his life in Roscrea was spent as confessor in the public church, and infirmarian to the monks. When Nunraw in Scotland was founded, he was one of the most senior priests to be sent over. His life-long love of the Irish language went with him, and in the Guest House of Nunraw he delighted to meet speakers of Scottish Gaelic with whom he compared his own beloved tongue.

His long and useful life in the service of God came to a close on 8 April 1981.



Pat Ryan (1945) with his son, right, and grandson, left. The uncle and nephew hope to begin in C.C.R. together . . . another record for Ryan!

said that past pupils were a very important element in the history of C.C.R. He said that many changes had taken place in the school, but its basic character and style remained the same. On the monastic front, he spoke of the need for vocations and said that he took hope from the revival that was taking place elsewhere.

Pat O'Shea, much-travelled President of the P.P.U., spoke of the new developments in the area of career guidance in the school. He said it was gratifying to see over eighty past pupils present at the recent Careers Workshop representing as wide a spectrum of employments as one could imagine.

Richard Liffey, ending his term as Chairman of North Tipp Branch, thanked all who had helped him during his stay in office, particularly his Treasurer, Tim Maher. They were now handing over to Phil Sheedy and Brendan Galvin and he was confident that the Branch's affairs were in good hands.

Singing and dancing followed, with no one contributing more than Tim O'Meara who could still recall the lyrics he learned for school operas during the 1920s!

Dublin Branch

The Dublin Branch Dinner Dance, coming so soon after the Annual Dinner, placed an extra strain on the Branch Committee, however, nothing daunted under the leadership of Branch Chairman, Conor Massey, and Committee Secretary, Michael Coyle, the Committee organised a very successful Dinner Dance at Jury's Hotel in Dublin on the night of 27 March 1981. The organising Secretary, Michael Coyle, undertook his last official function as Branch Secretary with the obvious intention of making this a spectacular success, and it was agreed by all who attended that it was one of the most enjoyable social occasions organised by the Branch in recent years.

Unfortunately, due to a clash of dates, our President, Mr. Pat O'Shea, was unable to attend, he did, however, convey his apologies through ex-President, Frank Lynch, and wished everybody a very enjoyable evening and looked forward to being with us on the occasion of our next Branch function. Mary Ryan represented the College, and charmed everybody with that wonderful smile of hers, some of the older past students were heard to remark on how fortunate the students of today are in C.C.R. to have Miss Ryan and Miss Flaherty to brighten up their days and add some colour to the College routine. The Chairman, Conor Massey, following a very brief speech of welcome to all present, spoke of the Branch's debt of gratitude to Michael Coyle who shortly retires after seven years of unselfish and dedicated service to the Dublin Branch, and wished him and his charming wife to be, Jennifer Legge, every happiness in the future, and thanked him on behalf of all his friends on the Committee both past and present.

Following an excellent meal we danced late into the night, and it can be said that our Dublin Branch which has organised two social functions each year is in good heart and capable hands. The new Treasurer, Matt Hyland, let it be known that the occasion was a social and financial success, which is due in no small way to the tremendous loyalty and support of our Roscrea past men.

Limerick/Clare Dinner Dance

On April 10 the Committee of the Limerick/Clare Branch, under the Chairmanship of Joe O'Connor, turned up trumps, and provided the members of that area with a very enjoyable evening. The newly-constituted Committee represented a very good cross-section of years from Michael Murray to Johnny Coughlan and Michael Carr.

The venue was the Limerick Inn on the Ennis Road. The attendance came from as far away as Foxford, Tullamore, Roscrea, Cullohill, and Kilkenny. Kevin Sherry and his son Michael — who now lives in Limerick — were there. Michael is captain of Garryowen and the President of the Club, Michael Pennie, was also there. Barry Bennett is a member of the Limerick Branch and is also on the Committee. He, and his brother Tony, from the Midland Branch, were there. Without Ignatius Houlihan and his wife Oona the gathering would not be complete.

The speeches at the end of the meal were few. Joe O'Connor, as Chairman, welcomed all present and thanked the President of the Union, Pat O'Shea, and his wife Margaret, for coming so far to honour the occasion. He also expressed his pleasure at having Fr. Dermot, the General Secretary, present, and it was very good to see three of the College staff also enjoying themselves here. In his speech Fr. Dermot reminded those present that Limerick was the first Branch of the Union ever to be established, in 1947. Now the Union as a whole has followed in this lead and restructured itself on Branches all over the country united to the Central Committee in Roscrea. As long as the Branch structure was maintained the Union was safe, and it only took a few key men with the proper motivation to achieve this. The overseas Branch was dormant at the moment but steps had been taken to revive it. He would like to get the names and addresses of past men in London who might be interested.

The President's address concluded the speeches and he said that in this his first year in office he had attended functions in all the Branches except Galway and he hoped the West would soon awake! He congratulated Joe O'Connor and his Committee for the fine show they had put on and thanked them for having himself and his wife present. He encouraged those present to support the *Review* which was a most important link in our organisation.



Change over for South-Western Branch: Donal McCarthy, on the right, Chairman, and Dr. Duimin Doyle, Vice-Chairman.

Union Retreat

SUNDAY, 17 May 1981

To be held in the Guest House, Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. Retreat Master: Fr. Nivard Kinsella, O.Cist.

General Programme:

Assemble.

11.00 a.m. High Mass in monastery.

12.15 p.m. Lecture in Guest House.

1.00 p.m. Lunch.

3.00 p.m. Discussion or Question Time.

4.30 p.m. Talk.

6.00 p.m. Vespers and Benediction.

Tea.

Short talk before leaving.

Retreat Reservation Form

If you wish to take part in the Union Retreat please fill in this form, cut it out and send to the Rev. General Secretary, Cistercian College Union, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, as soon as possible.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Enclose fee £6.00

The Union Tie

Brendan Galvin carries a stock of Union ties in his shops in Nenagh and Limerick. They can also be purchased from Seán Collins, Capel Street, Dublin. Or from the General Secretary of the Union, Cistercian College, Roscrea.

Central Committee Next Meeting

The Central Committee holds its next meeting in the College at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 24.

Sports Day

Sports Day is on Sunday, June 7.