

# ROSCREA

# REVIEW

No. 44

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea Union

Summer 1984

## South Tipperary Branch Function

On Friday, 28th October, 1983, the South Tipperary branch of the Past Pupils' Union excelled last year's performance with yet another marvellous social function. The soiree cannot be classed as a dress dance or dinner dance, yet it resulted in an evening which provided an excellent cold buffet, prepared unselfishly by the ladies' committee, which would put any gourmet restaurant in the country to shame.

Matching the repast was the excellent hospitality coupled with unadulterated drink and a sing-song and cabaret from the Athlone Musical Society members. The end result was an evening to be remembered — by the way, we danced also!

The frivolities went on into the early hours of the morning, the diehards into the late hours.

Among those present were Father Hogan, from the Glen of Aherlow, as guest of honour in recognition of his stalwart work in the branch over the years; Noel Windle, President of the Union and Director of the E.B.S., showed his usual stamina . . . on the dance floor.

Representing the College and Monastery was Fr. Dermot as Secretary of the Union.

We were pleased to welcome, from the Cork Branch, Donal and Kitty McCarthy, Donal as Past Chairman of his branch.

The Kilkenny branch attended in the form of Pat and Margaret O'Shea and John Keogh and Kay — Pat being a Past President of the Union.

John Cahill as Chairman of his branch and his wife Winnifred together with Gerry and Mary Maher, represented our North Tipperary neighbours.

The Midlands Branch was present in force with Liam and Anne Dwan most ably supported by their troupe of troubadours. We were also delighted to welcome Declan O'Dea, B.Eng., and Jim McNamara, B.Sc. (both recently qualified) as younger representatives of that branch.

Among our distinguished guests also were Dr. Colm O'Colmain and his wife Carol. Dr. Colm is a past pupil and a brother of Fr. Dermot and has recently retired from the World Health Organisation. Now residing in the Nenagh District, we wish Dr. Colm and Carol well in their retirement.

Such was the success of the raffle, which some deemed a fix. £100 was donated to a local deserving charity.

We cannot adequately sum up the success of the night without mentioning the ladies' committee for their excellent meal and organisation eclipsing even their magnificent results of last year. Our sponsors, too, must be mentioned, John Purcell, Jackie Griffin,

Michael Boyle and Neil Scott demolished! Again we thank all who gave generously under limited duress.

To all who attended and contributed to making the night such a success, including the large contingent of younger past-men, we say mark your diaries for next year — booking has commenced.

## North Tipperary Branch Function

The North Tipperary Branch Function had a fantastic night — fabulous meal, very good music and an array of talented singers. The Pastmen, their wives/girlfriends were just great. The singing continued late into the night and needless to say John Cahill, our Chairman, was last to leave very early on Saturday morning. Gerry Maher did M.C. at the meal and for the singing afterwards. All the men present were past pupils — about fifty attended the meal.

## DUBLIN DISCO FEVER

### Netts £2,000 for Review

On Saturday, 12th November, 1983, some of the most renowned CCR disco dancers (remember the Hops) and friends gathered together in Lansdowne RFC and danced to the sounds supplied by Fintan McMahon to raise funds for the *Review*.

Among those notable for their athleticism on the dance floor were Noel and Brendan Flood, Michael Coyle, Frank Cullen and last but not least Mr. Twinkle Toes himself Noel Windle.

We are indebted to Fintan McMahon for this novel idea and for giving freely of his valuable time in making the disco a most enjoyable social occasion and a very successful fund-raising event. Billy Murphy, Terry Gleeson, John Coady, Noel Hayes and Pat Foley by spreading the word through the grapevine and offering their assistance on the night ensured the success of the disco.

Finally a word for those disappointed punters turned away at the gate — come early next time.

Well done — DISCO FANS!



South Tipperary Branch Committee — Front (left to right): Fr. T. Hogan, Kevin Dwan, President Noel Windle, Fr. Dermot, Jim Doyle. Back: John Hanafin, John Quinn, Pat Lanigan-Ryan, Michael Roche, Rev. D. Curtin, John Scott.



# Report on Dublin Branch Annual Dinner

By CONOR MASSEY

The 54th annual dinner of the Dublin Branch was held on November 18th last at the traditional venue of Jury's Hotel. A three-figure attendance enjoyed what is increasingly becoming one of the most eagerly awaited functions of the Union year.

Guests included our President, Noel Windle, Fr. Peter Garvey, and the Presidents of the P.P.U.s of Presentation Bray, Castleknock, Terenure, Newbridge and Clongowes Wood Colleges. In a few short years the presence of these guests has become an integral part of the dinner and contributes immeasurably to fostering mutual regard and affection between Roscrea and our kindred Unions.

The toast to the College was proposed by our recently elected Chairman, Frank Cullen, who has lent dash and creativity to the Committee at a time when it was most needed. One wonders if he is an intimate of C. J. Haughey's. Fr. Peter replied to the toast and literally had them rolling in the aisles. Other speakers were Noel Windle; past President Barney Sherry who outlined the objectives of the College in moulding the "Roscrea Boy" and gave us a graphic example in his own inimitable style; Conor Brady who was as

witty as he was urbane; and John Fitzpatrick of Castleknock who replied on behalf of the guests.

A special presentation was made by Frank Cullen to Gerry Culliton in recognition of his input in terms of time, commitment and dedication to the College over the years. Gerry's old friends and former international team-mates, Ronnie Kavanagh and Al Moroney, came along to offer their support and congratulations. Gerry responded in his usual self-effacing manner and was given the ovation of the night.

A report on the Dublin dinner would not be complete without mentioning the famous McMahon table which has played a central role in recent years in making the evening such a success. Although this year their numbers were reduced by their own high standards, the level of brilliant, razor-sharp and discerning interjection — there is no heckling at Roscrea functions — was not. Although, thank God, never approaching the heights of one of Belfast's livelier nights, cut and thrust and repartee were given free rein, resulting in what was, conceivably, the most enjoyable dinner for many years.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

**Review Affairs:** To reduce the workload of our General Secretary, Fr. Dermot, the Central Committee decided in its wisdom to delegate to its Branches the responsibility of producing the Review on a rota basis. The South East Branch were nominated and happily took up the challenge. It is intended to be a review in its truest sense — where we are — where we might be going! We are indebted to all Branch Chairmen and Secretaries for their reports on branch functions and activities and also to Brendan O'Ruairc for his report on Trom agus Eadrom at C.C.R. A very special thanks is extended to our feature writers Conor Brady (*Irish Times*) and Gerard P. Maher where an attempt is made to anticipate the future — 'Home or Away' — '2000 A.D. Don't forget the wrong assumption can give rise to a wrong attitude and a wrong attitude can lead to wrong behaviour — so let's check our assumptions at all times before moving forward. From the response and the support received we can reliably assume that our Alma Mater is in good heart and the spirit of our Pastmen is vibrant in all branches — just awaiting to be harnessed for the future. The next Review should do better and why not — the Dublin Branch will do the honour.

**Review Fund:** A major drive to set up a self-financing Review Fund is under way. We are delighted to report that approximately £6,000 is now collected. The Central Council extends its sincere appreciation and is confident it will reach its £20,000 target. Those who would like to contribute handsomely please contact your local Chairman or our Secretary General Fr. Dermot.

**The Passing of a Past President of our Union — Mr. Gerard J. Houlihan (1930):** As we go to press we have learned with deep regret the sudden death of Gerard Houlihan, R.I.P., a former anchor man of our Union. The plan to build a swimming pool for the students of the college was his brainchild when he was President of the PPU 1968-1970. For most of his life he was an ardent all-year-round swimmer who excelled in salmon and trout fishing and at playing bridge. As a Company Director and as a supporter of our Alma Mater, Monastery and Union he was a man of vision with limitless generosity and kindness. His brother Ignatius M. Houlihan was President of our Union in 1978. To the Houlihan family we extend our sincere sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

P. F. O'SHEA

## NEWS OF PASTMEN

**Jim Lyndon**, 1961-66, has been appointed Conference, Incentive and Tour Sales Manager North America for Aer Lingus in North America. Jim joined Aer Lingus in Dublin in 1966 and after five years of commercial and operations experience there, transferred to the Irish carrier's operations and passenger services at JFK Airport, New York. In 1979, he joined Aer Lingus' Chicago District as Sales Representative, a position he held until his new appointment. In his new role, Jim, who has now transferred to Aer Lingus Regional Headquarters at 122 East 42nd Street, New York 10168 (Phone 212-557-1090), will be responsible for the continued development and expansion of the business conference, incentive and national tour markets for Aer Lingus throughout North America. He is a native of Birr, Co. Offaly, and is married with three daughters.

**John Heffernan**, 1954-57, native of Limerick, now working in Dublin, visited the College in January for the first time since he left. Only the faces have changed!

**John McHugh**, 1968-72, formerly of Nenagh, qualified as a dentist in U.C.C. in 1976. He is now married and works in the north of England. He called last month to have his baby son's name put on the waiting list.

Another first-time visitor since he left was **Larry McLoughlin** of Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, who called in February. He was in the College 1945-49.

**Frank Fitzpatrick**, 1965-71, a long spell in C.C.R., came from Athlone/Clonmel, joined the Bank of Ireland after leaving Roscrea and was appointed to the head office in College Green where he has been ever since. He still plays rugby, found time to get married, and has two daughters.

**The brothers Pat and Donal Kennedy**, 1976 and '78 respectively, who came from Granard, Co. Longford, are in the tax business. Pat in the tax office in Galway, and Donal is an inspector of taxes.

## Midland Branch Function

The function was held on 10th February 1983 in the Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar, and was attended by 75 people. Guest for the night included the President of the Union, Noel Windle and the President of the College, Fr. Peter. Kevin Dwan, President elect, and his wife Lucy attended. Kevin also in the capacity of Chairman of the South Tipperary branch.

Following speeches, during which the local members were notified of the appeal for funds for Centre Council, a good night's dancing ensued.

The Committee of the Branch, Eugene Garvey, Johnny Dolan and Paul Wrafter, would like to thank all who attended and look forward to their continued support during the year and a good response to the appeal.

EUGENE GARVEY



# "MEN OF ROOTS"

JOHN BRENDAN HOULIHAN 1959-1963

STEWART HOULIHAN 1958-1961

John Brendan Houlihan writes to us after twenty years to give us a brief account of his family little known but strong and old ties with the Cistercian College, Roscrea.

His greatgranduncle Justin McCarthy was, we believe, an Abbot of the Monastery and his father, John Matthew, uncles Thomas and Patrick (?) all attended the College — probably in the 1920/30 era.

His elder brother Stewart attended the College between 1958-1961 and John attended during 1959-1963. He was awarded a scholarship during his time — the Banagher Prize — for the highest marks in 7, 8 subjects at Intermediate Certificate. The prize was a

princely £7 which, much to his chagrin, was deducted from his father's term account.

Stewart is financial director of P. J. O'Gorman & Co. — commercial refrigeration suppliers for supermarkets and commercial freezing concerns. He graduated with B.Comm. from UCC and is married with two sons. He now lives in Rickmansworth, Buckinghamshire.

John graduated with Honours B.A. Natural Sciences with subsidiary English Literature from T.C.D. in 1967. His four years at Trinity College were a great personal triumph for him and his father; his father fought many a verbal battle with the "establishment" to secure his entrance to the College at a time when outdated bigotry still prevented such as himself from attending with the blessing of the Church. Another great instrument in his support was his ertswile English teacher Gus Martin.

From T.C.D. he took a two-year post-graduate training with Rolls Royce Derby and after a period with International Com-

puters Limited and Management Consultants A. T. Kearney Ltd. (Chicago based, but working from the London office), John joined Booz Allen and Hamilton — the world's largest and oldest management consultancy — in 1977. He was recently appointed a Principal of B.A.M. in the London office.

His consulting career has taken him to the United States, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong. Most of his assignments are in International Consulting — covering Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the U.K. Occasionally he works in Ireland but less than five per cent of the time (unfortunately).

John is married and has two daughters and lives in Pangbourne, Buckinghamshire, with his wife Ann.

During his time in England he has played some golf — like he tried to do at Roscrea, with some welcome encouragement from Fr. Declan. He has played to 4 handicap at Sonning Golf Club and was captain of the International Computers Golf Society for three years.

Incidentally, while an infrequent debator at Roscrea, he debated occasionally at T.C.D. in the Historical Society. However, now he frequently speaks publicly at Professional Conferences in the U.K., the U.S. and in Germany on aspects of his work in International Consulting, Management Control and Logistics.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday, 6th October, 1984:** Annual Golf Outing at Roscrea.

**Sunday, 7th October, 1984:** Union Day at the College — starting with High Mass in the Abbey followed by annual general meeting, Past v. Present matches and Union Dinner preceded by Sherry Reception.

**Friday, 9th November, 1984:** Dublin Branch Annual Dinner — Jury's Hotel.

**Saturday, 17th November, 1984:** South West Branch Annual Dinner — Park Hotel, Kenmare (special rates on offer for weekend).

**Saturday, 24th November, 1984:** South East Branch, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny.

**Saturday, 24th February, 1985:** South West Branch at Innishannon Hotel.

## THANKS TO S.E. BRANCH

Dear Mr. O'Shea (Chairman),

On behalf of all of us at the Camphill Community I wish to thank you for so kindly collecting £110 at your annual function. At all times such unexpected gifts are greatly appreciated but especially at Christmas time it helps to cover those extra costs.

We are more than impressed by the generosity shown by people around the Festive Season.

With many thanks,

GLADYS LYDAN.

Camphill Communities of Ireland,  
Ballytobin Community for Children  
in Need of Special Care,  
Ballytobin,  
Callan, Co. Kilkenny.  
9th January, 1984.

## OBITUARIES

**Bill O'Brien, C.C.R. 1951-56,** father of David, 1978-83. The farm machinery trade was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of the well-known Ford tractor representative, Bill O'Brien, following an accident. The late Bill was a native of Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary. He was aged 44 and was educated at Roscrea and worked with Fords for twenty-one years. Up to his death he was tractor zone manager for Fords in the North West and was living in Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Bill will always be remembered for his warm and jovial nature, and his big friendly

stature made him a favourite among dealers and farmers alike. To his wife and three children we extend our deepest sympathy.

**Dr. Tadhg Kerins, 1949-54,** one of several brothers from Banagher nearly all doctors now in America. Tadhg was killed in a car crash recently, in Edmonton in Canada.

**George McCambridge, 1950-52,** formerly from Galway City, died recently in England, his remains were brought home for the funeral from Barna Church on Friday, 9th March.



*Pictured at North Tipperary Branch dinner at Beechgrove House, Nenagh were, front row (left to right): B. Galvin (Nenagh), Paul Maher (Roscrea), Kevin Liffey (Shinrone), John Cahill (Roscrea), Fr. Dermott, O.C.S.O., G. P. Maher (Roscrea); back row: T. P. Campion (Rathdowney), M. Killeen (Portlaoise), J. J. Duignan (Roscrea), M. J. Buckley (Roscrea), M. S. Madden (Roscrea), Brendan Hyland (Roscrea).*





Part of the panel from "Trom agus Eadrom".

## TROM AGUS EADROM

Wednesday March 28th at 10 o'clock approximately was a unique occasion for all past and present students of C.C.R. because the programme "Trom agus Eadrom" was broadcast on that night. Many of you will know that Denis O'Grade, a past student, is the producer of that programme and really it was his brainchild that a full programme of approximately 55 minutes would deal with life in the Monastery and life in the College.

When Liam Ó Murchú came to Roscrea to plan the programme he had very definite ideas of what he wanted. He became deeply immersed and involved in the life of the Community and really most of the "clár" dealt with monastic life. To my knowledge he is the first television presenter to go inside the walls of the Monastery. There were some beautiful shots of the interior and the Monks in choir and later an interview with a panel of Monks, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dermot, Fr. Nivard, An t-Athair Aindriu agus an t-Athair Lanna. An illuminating discussion took place and one particular Monk did a "Milo O'Shea", complete with sign language.

The action then switched to the front hall, where Liam was welcomed by Fr. Peter who accompanied him to the recreation hall. Liam met a panel consisting of Fr. Kevin, Liam

Meagher and Breandán Ó Ruairc.

A chat with students followed and also a revealing discussion with three past students. First, with Gus Martin who moved from his professional chair in C.C.R. to one more lucrative in U.C.D. Next was Fr. Dermot McCarthy of "Radarc" fame and finally with Brian Cowen, the youngest county councillor and potentially the youngest T.D. in Ireland. The show's last guest was Noel Windle, President of the Union, who informed Liam of that illustrious Union! Speaking of Noel, one must admire his dedication. He was in Roscrea on Wednesday night, "late", for "Trom agus Eadrom"; he was in Dublin on Thursday, Nenagh on Friday for P.P. dinner, Donnybrook on Saturday for senior cup match, Isle of Skye (Cork) on Saturday night, P.P. dinner, and Portlaoise on Monday for junior cup match. Prospective Presidents please note itinerary!

On a personal note, I was delighted to see Andrew McTiernan (Kilkenny), John Burns (Castlecomer), Morgan Keane (Limerick) and John O'Regan (Cork) introduced on the programme. They have brought great honour to themselves and to their College in winning the All-Ireland Debating Competition for the past two years.

The student body got tremendous enjoyment and information from the R.T.E. crew who were here for three days and they were most unselfish with their time and advice.

Finally I realise time was the most important and limiting factor. Perhaps Liam could return again some day as I feel there is plenty of material and talent available among students, monks and staff members for another enjoyable and worthwhile programme.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach Iar-scoláire taitneamh as an glár.

BRENDÁN Ó RUAIRC

### Dublin Branch Officers and Committee Members

Chairman: Mr. F. Cullen. Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Coyle. Hon. Secretary: Mr. S. Donovan. Treasurer: Mr. M. Hyland.

Committee: Mr. Billy Murphy, Mr. Conor Massey, Mr. Vivian Lavan, Mr. Frank Lynch.

Ex-officio members: Mr. Noel Windle, Fr. Peter Garvey, Fr. Dermot O'Colmain.

## SOUTH WEST BRANCH

By J. J. KENNY

The Isle of Skye Hotel was the gathering for our seventy pastmen and their wives and guests on Saturday 25th February.

The Chairman, Gerard McCarthy, presided, with Noel Windle, President of the P.P.U., and Fr. Dermot, General Secretary, as guests of honour.

In his address Gerard McCarthy advocated a more united approach to the Union matters and hoped that the evident goodwill be harnessed, channelled so that the Branch benefited to the best advantage. Noel Windle's extensive travelling over the weekend between Dublin, Nenagh and Cork and an agonising wait for a try at Donnybrook sorely taxed his endurance.

Fr. Dermot, in his reply to the toast to the College, spoke of the lack of communication endemic in C.C.R. men. He suggested the implementation of an early warning system to alert people to the dates of functions. At the annual general meeting of the branch later he was taken at his word and the date for next year's function is Saturday, 23rd February.

Kevin Liffey stressed his Cork connection and suggested to aspiring biographers that a book on the late Fr. Ailbe Sadlier was long overdue.

The meal was excellent and our thanks to Kevin Morrissey for his co-operation and forbearance.

It was a great night and the singing and dancing continued into the small hours. The revels even continued into the smaller hours.

Colm Ó Colmáin, that much travelled medicine man, travelled yet again from Tipperary. Donal Daly and Billy Murphy came from Dublin. There was a large "fleet" of McCarthys as usual including Seán from Enniscorthy. A sprinkling of Kerry men included Randal McCarthy and Jim Murphy. The mid-Cork area was ably represented by notables like Conor O'Flynn, Ger Murphy and John Lynch.

The Chairman for the coming year is Seamus Gallagher and with an all new committee we wish him well for his time at the helm.

## SOUTH WEST BRANCH

### LIST OF OFFICERS 1984

Chairman: Seamus J. Gallagher, Loughlee House, Western Road, Cork (021-882731 home, 021-45599 work).

Secretary/Treasurer: John Kenny, Rathcoursey East, Middleton, Co. Cork (021-331130).

Committee: Dr. Cuimin Doyle, Glencurragh, Glounthane, Co. Cork (021-953288); Dr. Cathal Bredin, 28 Bishopstown Avenue, Model Farm Road, Cork (021-46733); Gerard Malone, Kilcrea, Ovens, Co. Cork (021-899/87).

Functions Secretary: Jim Murphy, The Park Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry (064-41200).

Minutes Secretary: Michael O'Flynn, Gooseberry Hill, Newmarket, Co. Cork (029-60027).



Two articles published in national newspapers on Aidan Quigley (C.C.R. 1935):

## “Green is My Sky”

In other countries, according to Aidan Quigley, people who are fascinated by flying end to write about it — some of them, anyway, and in the narrative style of the historian rather than the lyrical one of the poet. Not so in Ireland, where Captain Quigley has had the chronicles to himself. It's a matter that puzzles him greatly, since he believes we've had an unusual and distinguished record above ground.

“Green is My Sky” is his third book on the wild blue, and in fact it reads more like an adventure story than a history, which is rather how the author sees his career. It was not Yeat's lonely impulse of desire which drove him to the tumult, but the imperative of the second World War on Irish military recruitment. “I was studying in UCD and just joined the Army when the war started; they were looking for flyers and I applied. I was like any other kid of 18 or 19 about the opportunity to fly a plane — a plane, what was it? I'd never even seen one — well, perhaps just one.”

Much of the latest book draws on experiences during the war years, his own and those of others. Captain Quigley spent two years or more doing research, a good bit of that time in the Army archives section in Parkgate Street. He is impressed by the Intelligence operation — “we were on top of everything” — and by the way in which the information dovetails internationally. “While I was there I met a Canadian pilot who was putting together a book on his experiences; he had been shot down and interned in the Curragh, and was able to get that whole record straight away.

“There's nothing toxic there; just human interest; the point is that tons of records are there, and the public doesn't know about it.” The yield in “Green is My Sky” is a harvest of detail and incident, anecdotes, graphic descriptions and very lively reading even for those who know little about that war and less about aviation.

When he talks about his recollections — “at 19 I didn't know what my part in the war machine was, but in fact I was defending the Shannon” — he centres more on the dimensions of human problems than anything else. “Military units in those days had to be self-sustaining. There was no nice man delivering coal. There was no bloody coal. We had to supply our own fuel and do our stint in the bog cutting turf. Sometimes the turf would be blood wet, and it would be 6 a.m. and the cook couldn't get the fires going, and there'd be 600 or 700 men waiting for their breakfast.”

When the war ended at least some of the Irish pilots had a natural outlet in the national airline. “We were the lucky ones; 99% of the guys who went through that war had no jobs to go to. And there were a lot of pilots who never wanted to see a plane again after what they had seen during the war.”

The system of recruitment at the time, he observes in the book, was hardly sophisticated, and the key credential to obtaining a civilian flying job was the log-book, usually a service one.

“Such a facile method of qualification produced from time to time a highly mixed result — forged logbooks, or genuine qualifications confirming pilots who could occupy no place in domestic flying. Yet the system at that time was no different than in any European airline company . . .”

Aer Lingus relied heavily on the demobilised ranks of RAF personnel, Captain Quigley says, to augment a nucleus of home pilots. “The Air Corps-RAF undertones continued down through the years, not a healthy ingredient in my view, but then human endeavour is born of different and varied allegiances, and the mix produced without a doubt the finest collection of professional airline pilots operating in Western Europe.”

Aer Lingus was also the first to set up its own pilot selection and cadet training system in early 1960, by which time Captain Quigley was Chief Pilot. Ireland's record in every



aspect of aviation, he claims, is exceptional, given the size of the country.

“There is no doubt about it, our product is much in demand, and that's right through the whole aviation spectrum — management, office staff, engineering, technology, all of it. Because we were seen as non-aligned, a neutral nation, we attracted others who wished to learn, and we still do big business exporting our skills. You can go out to the airport anytime and see six or seven races there; the place is a continuing school of technology. Our colonial background is a factor, too — the Irish will go out to a developing nation, do the job and then pull out.” Despite industrial relations difficulties, he considers the entire staff to be also strongly committed to the work and proud of their achievements.

His own achievements he treats with suitable modesty: Senior Captain on the Jumbo fleet from 1971 to 1981, he flew the Boeing carrying the Pope from Ireland to America in September 1971 and vaulted protocol to invite Karol Wojtyla personally to the flight deck. There Captain Quigley produced an instamatic, and the snapshot, blown up and coloured i, now hangs in his dining room.

It also appears in “Green is My Sky” with a dozen other historical photographs, sandwiched like jam for the airplane aficionado between 70,000 words of prose. But for the aviationally ignorant, and for those of us

crippled by flight anxiety, Captain Quigley is equally entertaining and rather reassuring, like a good host.

Panic? “The guy who doesn't go through it is in trouble, the one who is cold to fear. But it's hitting the switch that compounds the panic. These days, on modern airplanes, there's never need to panic. You can look it up in the book — red light goes on, reach down, get out the book, turn to page 14 and look up ‘Engine failure.’”

If that makes you break out in as cold a sweat as it does me, Captain Quigley says our problem is we're the wrong generation. “Look at it this way — we get flight fever because air travel is the same new experience as railway and automobile travel was to our parents or grandparents. Kids today aren't afraid of flying. They'd sit on a rocket.”

—Interview with Mary Maher in The Irish Times.

## Quigley: The Down To Earth Pilot

Captain Aidan A. Quigley still has the look of a man whose eyes are fixed on the curve of a distant horizon. A Mills and Boon novel would describe the laughlines around his eyes as “crinkly”. Definitely crinkly.

The former Chief Pilot of Aer Lingus has decided not to let any grass grow under his feet in retirement, and has set up his own publishing house — the first *oeuvre* of which is his own book, “Green is My Sky”, a semi-autobiographical account of his years of flying, first with the Irish Air Corps during the second World War, and later with Aer Lingus.

When he started with the airline, “it was full of fire. Everyone did everything. So if there was a gap in publicity you filled in,” or a gap anywhere else for that matter. It is not that way any more, with the growth of the airline there was a corresponding growth in demarcation.

Quigley came to aviation “in the tail-end of the generation that didn't know where it was going”. School-leavers in 1939 — at least at the beginning of that fateful year — drifted into jobs, not “careers”. So because his uncle was an engineer, he went to UCD, and started in the Engineering faculty.

Then the war broke out. Quigley joined the Irish Air Corps, “and defended the Shannon”. The Air Corps possessed a squadron of Hurricanes, “which would have been useless against the RAF, but if we had come up against the Germans, we would have done quite a lot of damage. The Germans were far from home.”

He left the Air Corps as the war ended in 1945, then a lieutenant, and like a lot of his contemporaries, joined the developing National Airline. He stayed there until he retired, on the day he flew what he himself considers to be his most memorable mission. On 31 October he flew the Pope from Ireland to Boston. His memory of John Paul II is “that he has the same overwhelming personality I've come across of some doctors”. Born of total commitment and concern.

The captain, a spare, fit man, impeccably groomed, still talks with soft traces of his

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# SOUTH EAST BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

By P. F. O'SHEA

The 10th annual dinner dance was held at the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny, on Saturday 10th December 1983 and lived up to its usual high standard of cuisine and entertainment. No doubt a part of the success is due to the attention of detail in the organisation of functions by the local committee and the high standards maintained by the hotel but the main reason for its success is mainly attributed to the participants themselves who arrived from all directions of conviviality having had their horses watered at certain well-known Kilkenny houses. Among the participants included Paul Irwan (Navan), David McEvoy (Wexford), Eugene Garvey (Tullamore), Seán McCarthy (Wexford), Desmond McEvoy (Wexford), John F. Walsh (Dublin), Tom Ambrose (Dublin), Dr. Ó Colmáin (Nenagh), Kevin Dwan (Thurles), Donal O'Brien (Kilkenny), Jack Dwan (Kilkenny), Joe O'Shea (Kilkenny), Tim O'Brien (Kilkenny), John Keoghan (Three Castles), John Comerford (Thomastown), Pat Crotty (Kilkenny), Pat O'Shea (Kilkenny), Phelan brothers (Abbeyleix), Michael O'Brien (Stradbally), Jim Doyle (Thurles), Michael Roche (Urlingford), Tom Hastings (Wexford).

Special guests included Fr. Peter, President of the College, Noel Windle, Presi-

dent of the Union, Fr. Raymond Pelley, Moore Abbey, Kevin Dwan, President Elect, and Dr. Colm Ó Colmáin (recently retired from the United Nations).

At this stage it should be recorded that the South East Branch function is always considered a gala night for the ladies. The style is out of this world. The dinner which started with shrimp cocktail and a soup selection with a palate freshener of lemon sorbet which preceded a choice of salmon steak or a piccata of veal, which was rounded with a speciality of Newpark, cassata, a selection of Avonmore cheeses, mints, petit fours and liquors.

The usual toasts were then proposed to the President of Ireland and to our Alma Mater by Pat O'Shea, Branch Chairman, and Noel Windle, President, respectively.

President Noel in his opening remarks reminisced on how much he enjoyed coming to the South East functions and complimented the committee on their choice of menu and added that Jury's should take note or did he mean his Dublin Branch! Noel welcomed everybody and also reflected on the spirit of the Union which radiates in a vibrant fashion at all the branch functions he has attended and concludes that the College plays a major role in the formation of the spirit of the branches and for which we as pastmen are extremely grateful. He also paid tribute to the teaching staff who were represented at the

function by Mr. and Mrs. Pat and Pauline Sheedy.

Fr. Peter in his reply on behalf of the College and Monastery said how much he envied The Abbot, Don Columcille, Fr. Kevin and Fr. Dermot whenever they had the honour of coming to the South East Branch function. It was now his turn and he gave a glowing account of not just the spirit of the pastmen but also of the present students and was delighted to see so many parents at the function. He complimented the South East Branch committee under the chairmanship of Pat O'Shea for their efforts and wished them continued success at their future functions.

A lively and enjoyable session of dancing continued until 2.45 a.m. At that stage the night was "just a pup". A sizeable number remained on and sang their way through various operas, shows and "comailyez" to almost the crack of dawn. Some lead singers included Kevin and Lucy Dwan, Sean and Anne McCarthy, David McEvoy, Michael Roche and others.

Before rounding off the evening's entertainment and being in the festive spirit a "whipround" was organised for a special charity to aid some of those who are not so fortunate. £110 was presented before Christmas to the home for the mentally handicapped in Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny. A letter of acknowledgement is reproduced in this issue.

## QUIGLEY: THE DOWN TO EARTH PILOT

◁ Continued from previous page

western origins. Born 61 years ago in Foxford, he married an air hostess. Their daughters are now well established. Quigley went to Bermuda recently to see one of his daughters, Daphne, in the final weeks of her performance as a harpist in an Irish show organised by Val Fitzpatrick.

He can still avail of the travel concession offered by Aer Lingus to all its staff and retirees, and is loud in his praise of the airline's humanitarian concern for its staff.

Do pilots suffer fear of flying? "If they didn't they would have the wrong reactions." There is no place for complacency on the flight deck of a Jumbo. A certain *frisson* of nervousness is necessary to keep reactions sharp. The public will never know how many near-misses there are in the air, "particularly in Europe, where there is a very heavy concentration of military traffic. But it is like walking down Grafton Street," he adds reassuringly, "when you nearly get hit by a bus. In fact you *don't* often get hit by a bus."

Now that he is a man of leisure, Aidan Quigley has less free time than he ever did. Apart from his golf, his publishing company, his painting (one of his aviation paintings is on display in the Aviation Museum in Dublin airport), his walking, and his holidays ("we've been to most of the exotic places, now we like to slip away to Clifden") he likes his few pints. One thing he will not take up, he says, is jogging.

—The Sunday Tribune.



In full voice at North Tipperary Branch function: Kevin Dwan (President Elect) and Gerry Maher.



Those who worked at the South Tipperary Branch function (left to right): Mark Dwan, Niamh Dwan, Margarita Purcell, Miss Monaghan, Paul Dwan, Ann Ryan.



# REFLECTIONS — HOME OR AWAY

By CONOR BRADY

So, now I have a son, a two-and-a-half year old bundle of energy, hurtling around the house, tackling me below the knees when I come in the door, utterly refusing to concede my entitlement to a morning lie-in at the weekend. Will I send him to Roscrea?

Until he arrived, I always assumed that if I had a son Roscrea would be the place for him. It seemed entirely logical. Then, as we watched him griw over the past two-and-a-half years, the thought of parting with him seemed to grow more and more improbable. Now, I feel, we are entering another phase. As his mobility increases and his vocabulary expands, one is forced to acknowledge his potential independence. Perhaps that independence will best be served by sending him away.

"Sending him away." It has such a harsh ring to it. Suppose something happened to him down there? Suppose he hated the place and never told us?

I loved my Roscrea years. Or did I? Sometimes I think I love them more as they recede into the past. It's a great place to go back to. I enjoy the atmosphere, knowing that I can get back into the car and drive away to the comfort of home, the interest of my job, the company of my friends.

Time dulls the memories. The agony of the morning bell. The misery of games on wet and freezing Wednesday afternoons. The sense of hollow loneliness awakened by the distant sound of a train thundering down the track from Dublin to Limerick. I could see the people in that train in my minds eye; warm and cosy, reading novels or the evening newspapers, tea, toast and mixed grill spread before them in the dining car. If I concentrate I can bring it all back.

But the spontaneous memories are warm. The fun of the Christmas Shakespeare production. The "Cats Concerts" at Hallowe'en. The warmth of May and early June on the farm. Liam Maher's debating society. Fr. Emmanuel's paperback library where we got Steinbeck, Frank O'Connor, O'Casey, Hardy and even, on occasion (God forgive us), Joyce.

It's very different now, of course. And it will be changed even more by the time Neil reaches secondary-school age. We seldom got out. To go beyond the front steps was a hanging offence. We had a picture once a fortnight and television (black and white, of course) was reserved for special occasions like the Pope's funeral. In summer we swam in the river, if we could flinch the material for a dam to raise the level.

Would Neil like it? That's a daft question to ask about a two-and-a-half year old. Who knows what he'll like or won't like?

What would he get from it? What did I get from it? I think I got some valuable things; friends for life, boys, now men, in whose company I expand and feel at ease, up to this day; a sense of order, of duty, of priorities, of the importance of the group, whether it is a class, a team or simply three or four people working in common cause; few enough people can accomplish anything if they are truly on their own.

As much as anything else and I probably didn't even know I was learning it at the time, Roscrea taught me that the human psyche is a multi-dimensional thing. Excellence or success in one dimension, if it is achieved at

the great expense of all the other dimensions, is illusory. Success at sport, or in the sciences or in the humanities may be a good thing in itself but it must not blind one to the fact that there are other — many other — aspects to the human spirit.

Roscrea, to me, was as good as its motto. "Insideat Coelis Amino Sed Corpore Terris" — let the mind be in Heaven but remember the body exists on earth. I think I still find that happy balance among Roscrea men, not all of them, of course, but among enough of them to recognise it as the ideal stamp of a Cistercian education.

There are schools where the rugby field or the athletic track or the Leaving Certificate points system is the sole yardstick of success.

Roscrea was different. It fostered excellence and encouraged it, but it idealised the all-round man, rather than he who achieved outstanding success in one field.

I liked that ideal. I like it still. It has stood me in good stead. It may not suit everyone. Maybe Neil will want to get more points in his Leaving than anyone else in Ireland. Maybe he'll want to win Olympic gold. Maybe he'll want to captain the next Irish Triple Crown team. I won't discourage him from any of that, but I'll try to teach him that there's more to life and more to living than being the fastest or the brightest.

Maybe I'll need Roscrea to help teach him that. I don't know. If I do, I hope I'll be selfless enough to "send him away". It's early days in the story yet. Watch this space for details.



At the South Tipperary Branch function (left to right): Mrs. Carol O'Colmain, Kevin Dwan, Fr. Dermot, Dr. Colm O'Colmain, Mrs. Kitty McCarthy.

An extract from Joe Kennedy's *Dubliners Diary in the Evening Press*:

## Reflections on an old pub photograph

Some time ago we had a story about an historic photograph which hangs on the wall just inside the door of one of Naas's most interesting pubs, Thomas Fletcher's of Main Street. This is one of those Edwardian masterpieces of mahogany, great brass lamps and oak barrels of whiskey, high ceilings and broad counters.

You will find them in towns around Ireland . . . but they are scarce. Once they were numerous, but then the era of plastic arrived and the great mahogany counters were thrown out. Some were seized upon by wise cabinet makers and ended up as tables and beds. Others rotted in the backyards of licensed premises where they had served a lifetime of trade, stained with spirits and beer and tobacco burns, honourable wounds gained in part of a lifetime which had been wrenched to an end in the name of progress.

The interior of Thomas Fletcher's is almost perfectly preserved. But not consciously. It is in the nature of its owner, **Tommy Fletcher** (C.C.R. 1956-60) and his father Thomas before him and of the customers that the

place should remain as it was.

And thankfully so.

I did talk to Tommy Fletcher of such things, but rather about the photograph on the wall which has always intrigued me when I called to the premises on my many passings through Naas.

At least it was established that it was taken at the opening meeting of Naas races in 1923 and that the man whom I had earlier assumed to be the Aga Khan was a Charlie Farrell, a farmer from Clane (superbly clad, I might add, in the fashion of the time) and that others included Tom Whelan who once owned Fletcher's pub, and two jockeys, Jack Moloney and Johnny Dynes, another Kildare stalwart named Tiernan or Tournan Kennedy of Bishops court near Kill and at least two Naas men, Ned Gaul and Tony O'Brien.

Thomas Fletcher senior took over the pub from Tom Whelan in 1931. Perhaps there are no longer groceries served at the front of the house, but little else has changed since that time. An honourable contestant for some pub-of-the-year competition.



# The State of the Nation in 2000 A.D.

Some Projections from Gerard P. Maher

Given the present nuclear preparedness of the world's super powers, it is presumptuous to even assume that Ireland will exist at the start of the next century. Nevertheless I'll start with the optimistic assumption that the world won't have committed mass-suicide by then. Ronald Regan will not lead the United States by then. Ronald Regan will not lead the United States by then and that in itself lessens the possibility of a holocaust. A new generation of politicians will have taken the stage, condemned Vietnam and Afghanistan, marched against the bomb and acid rain. We will all benefit from a leadership which by then will place a priority on maintaining a healthy environment. By the year 2000 we will hopefully inhabit a world which will have dismantled the so-called "nuclear deterrent" and replaced conflict with compromise.

What of Ireland at the commencement of the next century? The next sixteen years will see major changes in every area of life. Divorce and contraception will be the norm. The next generation will look back in wry amusement at the posturings and vacillating tactics of all the vested interest groups of the 1970s and '80s. The Catholic Church will undoubtedly retain its tradition stance on both issues but that will in no way halt the process of change. What new function will have emerged to allow this to happen? The most important one will be the emergence of a new generation and each generation brings with it new attitudes and values. At present Ireland has the largest youth population in Europe and a country where youth are in the majority undergoes an accelerated process of change. We will have to live with the unpalatable consequences of new values — broken/separated families. Children reared with one parent, increased sexual promiscuity, etc. Perhaps now is the time to commence preparing for that scenario.

We hear much talk nowadays of the video/communications revolution but as yet we have seen very little. Satellite television will be firmly established in the near future. Each house will have a choice of up to 60 TV Stations. Indeed there is no reason to suppose it will stop at that. The implications of this are enormous — where does it leave censorship for example? Already Ireland video has made a nonsense of the laws relating to film censorship, for the simple reason that the laws do not relate to video material. Many parents are discovering that what was an innocuous film in the local cinema is something quite different in the unexpurgated video version. A 60-channel cable service will mean that individual governments and their laws will have little if any impact on the political and moral views travelling into individual homes. You may well ask what on earth could be on 60 channels. Certain American cities have at present such a service available and no doubt we will imitate their pattern, sport, films, repeats, educational material constitute much of what is shown. In addition New York cable subscribers have two 24-hour porn "stations" available. Therefore the need to educate everyone in Ireland on video and its implications is vital. We must train the present generation to distinguish between art and rubbish, between explicitness and exploita-

tion, between excess and artistic integrity. But on the positive side, by the year 2000 we should be considerably less parochial and insular in our attitudes and beliefs simply because of the multiplicity of new influences on our view of the world.

Any article about Ireland inevitably involves some discussion on what we euphemistically term "The Northern Question". I cannot see Britain maintaining their presence in Northern Ireland for much longer, certainly not for the next 16 years. They will not leave because of the Provos or, much more regrettably, because of the finding of the New Ireland Forum. They will leave because it will suit them to do so. But I do not think the consequence of their leaving will be United Ireland in any real sense. Even yet, we in the Republic have absolutely no comprehension of the psyche of the Northern Protestant. They are a fundamentally different people from us. The prospect of a United Ireland under a Dublin Government is anathema to them and very many of them would die, rather than accept it. Furthermore we in the South do not understand the Northern Catholic and I wonder has anyone begun to seriously tease out the implication of a "United" Ireland? Our glib and simplistic Republicanism rhetoric has blinded us to one unpalatable truth. Ireland will remain divided even after the departure of Britain. The mental border that exists is far more impenetrable than the political divide. I think there will be extensive trauma for all Irish people on this issue, I offer no solutions — we already have too many of those, all of them simplistic and doctrinaire. Instead I would like us to prepare realistically for assuming responsibility for the affairs of the entire Island and accept that compromise will achieve far more than dogma.

Two other factors will dominate life at the conclusion of this century. One is unemployment and the other is urban growth. It may sound defeatist to say so but in a few more years we will look back at a figure of quarter of a million unemployed and regard it as the good times. The need for manual labour is declining rapidly. Our definition of work will have to change. A high level of unemployment will serve to exacerbate social

divisions, increase crime rates and multiply the level of drug addiction. In the past we happily solved the problem with emigration but that option is no longer available. By 2000 we may have in excess of one million people without jobs in the formal sense. What can be done. Well no amount of increasing the number of public servants and setting up I.D.A. factories is going to improve matters. What may happen is that jobs are shared (and salaries). That will not meet with general approval but there may be no choice. Also Society may introduce a whole range of service industries that it is prepared to pay for i.e. hiring someone to light your fires, to mow you lawn, to Hoover your car, etc.

Portlaoise will be a suburb of Dublin, as will Kinnegad, Arklow and Drogheda. It may sound preposterous but Dublin's growth continues daily. The sociological implications are immense. All travel, entertainment and recreational facilities will be stretched to the limit. Many existing county barriers will be subsumed by a mighty Dublin Corporation which will have responsibility for the welfare of the majority of citizens in Ireland. Areas hitherto unaffected by urban violence, crime, etc., will have to live with car thefts, burglaries, etc.

For educationalists the most pressing responsibility will become what is termed *education for leisure*. People will work less and less, with two and three day weeks becoming the norm. Schools will have to provide pupils with a range of skills to cope with immense amounts of free time. Sport will become an even more important aspect of the educational process. People will have to be trained to read for leisure to enjoy films, to develop hobbies to a degree unimagined up to now. Up to now Society has promoted the job ethos. Shortly Society will be forced to promote the leisure ethos and many will find it equally difficult to cope with.

Finally, where will C.C.R. be in 2000? I started on an optimistic note so I had better conclude in the same view. I think the school will be there and hopeful will be providing the challenging and innovative type of education that a rapidly changing Society will require. P.S.—Orwell got it wrong!



Among those at the North Tipperary Branch dinner were, front (left to right): Marie Buckley, Ita Cahill, Miss Duignan, Bernadette Lyndon; front row: Mrs. B. Hyland, Mrs. M. Killeen, Marguerite Maher, Colleen O'Driscoll, Mrs. M. Maher.