

ROSCREA

REVIEW

No. 49

Newsletter of the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union

Spring 1987

A letter from the President

I was delighted to be honoured with the invitation, from the Central Committee in 1985, to become President of the Union in November 1986. I have already had the pleasure of attending many of the branch functions throughout the country. In addition to having a great time at each and every one of them, I have found our Union in very good shape indeed - which is only to be expected after periods of office of such outstanding pastmen as Kevin Dwan and Noel Windle, and with the continuing guidance of our excellent General Secretary, Fr. Dermot.



Tom Ambrose

His presence at all our meetings and attendance at many of our functions plus his extraordinary knowledge of and affection for all things "Roscrea" ensures a very smooth ride for the Union President and allows him to enjoy the pleasant duties of the office. This I look forward to doing during the next year and one half.

Kevin Dwan said some time ago that among his aims for the Union would be the revival of some dormant branches, to encourage the local branches to incorporate an element of support for an appropriate local charity into their social functions, to attempt to harness the undoubted resources that exist in the Union for getting employment for recent past pupils of the College and to welcome greater involvement of parents of students of C.C.R. in the Union functions. He has worked hard and very successfully to bring about results in these areas and I fully support them as worthy of all our efforts. I would particularly like to congratulate and encourage the small group of very hard-working committee people who toil away behind every successful Branch function, and to ask everyone concerned to think of new ways of raising some monies in these functions to help a selected charity in their district. I think the annual Branch event could also be used as a focus to celebrate the success of a local Roscrea man and make it an occasion to generate pride in and good propaganda for the College and its P.P.U. I hope also that during my term of office we will see the lively revival of the Limerick Branch - which as a Newcastlewest man was my "local" when I joined the Union over thirty year ago.

I wish to put on record my thanks to all the

Branches for the tremendous reception that my wife Maisie and I have received in our travels so far around the country. I cannot imagine any other organisation being able to produce so consistently such a hearty welcome, pleasant company and enjoyable occasion, all wrapped in our common warm feelings for the work of the College and the Community. In particular we both wish to thank Kevin and Lucy Dwan for their unstinted help to us as we settled into the duties of office and especially for the hospitality of their own home on our visits to the South Tipperary Branch Dance.

I have already had the pleasure of attending some College matches and, of course, enjoyed them immensely, particularly the wins! The atmosphere produced by the players, the other students and the parents brings back happy thoughts of similar events long ago and creates an occasion that will live long in the memories of everybody present. Can I encourage the parents of the College hurlers to support their games as often as possible? I firmly believe that the fact that both codes were always played, admired and encouraged in the College was a very big factor in producing the excellent spirit that exists there. The College has nurtured many superb exponents of our national game - please, please ensure that it is supported by us in the manner it deserves.

One of the nicest aspects of the duties of President is the opportunity to visit the different branches which sometimes means going where I've never been before and which always involves meeting new faces as well as old acquaintances. In the past six months I have had the pleasure of meeting at least a

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South-West Branch Annual Dinner 1987

This year the South-West Branch were back in the Innishannon Hotel. On February 21st, Brian and Aine McCarthy, ably assisted by Jim Murphy, looked after some seventy Roscrea men, their wives and friends. A very excellent meal followed a sherry reception hosted by the McCarthys.

The President of the Union Tom Ambrose and his wife Maisie, paid their first official visit down south. In his after-dinner talk Tom exhorted the parents of boys to attend college matches - both rugby and hurling. He advocated also that past students assist in any way possible to help find employment and to give priority to Roscrea boys whenever poss-

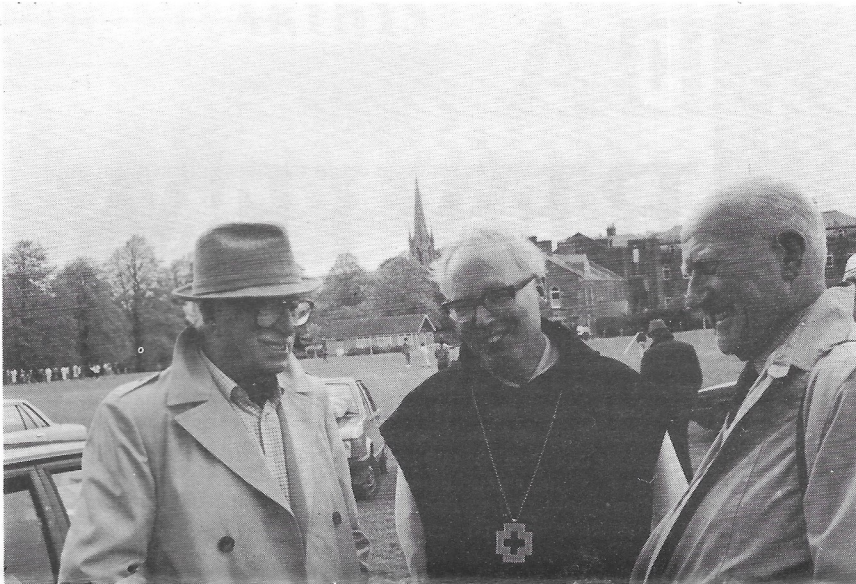
sible in these constrained times.

It was Fr. Kevin's first visit down south as well. He brought greetings from the Community and news from the college. He expressed the hope that there may be some new vocations soon to augment the numbers in the monastery.

Visitors from Dublin included Conor Massey and his wife and Noel Windle; from Wexford came Billy Murphy who intends marrying during the year; from Clonmel were Michael Phelan and his wife. Past Chairmen were much in evidence - Donal McCarthy, Conor O'Flynn and Gerry McCarthy among them. The M.C. for the evening was Cathal

Bredin. Other medical men present were Cuimin Doyle and an ex-Mellary man Tom Browne. It was nice to see debutants Mick O'Neill, Frank O'Hara, John Kiely mixing with stalwards like Paddy Abernethy and Jim McCarthy, in true Roscrea style. Roscrea stamina was also evident when many of those present were back in the College for a Central Committee Meeting early on Sunday afternoon. A disappointment was the dearth of Kerrymen.

Our new Chairman is Ger Malone who hails from Edenderry. We wish him success in his term of office.



SPANNING THREE DÉCADES

Maurice N. Hennessy on the left was in C.C.R. in the '20s. Abbot Colmcille O'Toole was in the College and joined the Monastery in the '40s. Paddy Moriarty on the right, who is the new Chairman of the (Overseas) London Branch, was here in the '30s.

NEWS ABOUT PASTMEN

Jim Glennon, 1970, native of Skerries, Co. Dublin, lost his shirt in the Rugby International against England. Jim, who is now 33, last played for Ireland in 1980.

Kevin Galvin from Nenagh, got first in Irish in the Matriculation results 1986.

Joe Hayes, 1967, who came from Cassestown House, Thurles has returned from Moscow where he was with the Irish Embassy. He is now working with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. At present he lives in Sandymount.

Brendan Murphy, 1965, originally from Whites Cross, Co. Cork, was recently appointed General Manager, Banking, in the Industrial Credit Corporation. He now lives in Marley Grange, Dublin.

Tony Mullins, 1977, is a very well-known National Hunt jockey whose name will always be linked with the famous racehorse Dawn Run, plans to get married in May to Margaret Lennon, a very successful amateur lady jockey.

John Ball, 1978, from Louisbourg, is now co-manager of the Limerick Branch of Heights for Hire Service.

Jim Spillane, 1971, From Aherla, Co. Cork, qualified in Business and Management. He is with Cement Roadstone Holdings.

Brendan Flood, 1970, from Mohill, Co. Leitrim, married Valerie Sheehan in 1984.

Hugh Logan, 1982, returned to Mohill when he finished in C.C.R. to take part in the family business.

Mark Morris, 1979, from Sutton, Co. Dublin, has completed his studies and qualified as a Quantity Surveyor.

Adrian Smith, 1970, from Malahide, is now working for a London Tenants Organization as Development Officer.

David Cummins, 1975, from Dublin, is at present working for the Foreign Office in London.

Gerry O'Sullivan, 1969, from Dublin, is now living in Drogheda where he has his own business, Audion Plus Ltd.

Brian Guinan, 1965, formerly of Birr, has settled in Leixlip with his wife and five children. He is planning to go to the Middle East to train Air Traffic Controllers.

Gerard Enright, 1968, has been out of touch for some time. He is now back near London once more at 13, Queenhill Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DU. Overseas Secretary please note.

Eamonn O'Loughlin, 1976, from Dingle, at present General Manager of The Four Seasons Hotel in Manchester. His brother **Seán**, 1980, is Assistant Manager of Rusacks Marian Hotel, St. Andrews, Scotland. The third brother **Pat**, is with 'K' Computers, Killarney, having qualified at U.C.G. in 1985.

John Sheehy, 1981, another Dingle man took Business Studies in Rathmines and is now studying Accountancy.

Michael Moriarty, 1981, returned to the family business in Dingle when he finished in Roscrea. So did **Paul O'Shea**, 1981.

Jonathan Moriarty is studying for his B.Com. in Galway and hopes to sit for his finals in 1987.

Paul McGovern, 1971, from Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, took a Ph.D. in Psychology. He is now with the Iowa State University and

is married to a Mexican girl. They have two children.

Paddy O'Boyle, 1954, a nephew of the late Fr. Fintan, called to see us last autumn with his wife and daughter. They live at Altmonte, Ontario, Canada.

Kieran Egan, 1977, now lives in Greystones. He is a solicitor and lives at 1 Triton House, Trafalgar Road.

Jim McNamara, 1967, of Athlone, has moved to England and now lives at 14 Holm Vale, Holmshore, Rossendale, Lancs. BBJ 4AF.

Derek O'Regan, 1980, of Cootehall, Co. Roscommon, took English/History in Trinity and got an Hons. B.A. He did his Masters in Edinburgh University.

Declan O'Regan, 1982, brother of the above is with the Windmill Studios in Dublin.

Fergus O'Regan, 1982, son of Peter of Lissarda, Co. Cork, took an Hons. B.C.L. in U.C.C.

Brian McClean, 1983, Templemore, got a 1st Class Hons. B.A. in 1986 at U.C.D.

Engagements:

Frank O'Donnell, 1973, of Dublin to Hilary **Gregory Swift**, 1975, of Milltown to Iris Babington.

Dr. Paul Irwin, 1976, of Navan, to Dr. Marie Mahon.

Conor McCullagh, 1979, of Drogheda, to Liza Heath, New Hampshire, U.S.A..

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dozen people I knew well when we were together in the College in our teens but to whom I haven't spoken since. In particular on our many visits to the College it is good to see how another contemporary, Fr. Kevin/Martin Daly, has settled into the hugely responsible job of running the College and how well he is doing this work. As always, the bond of friendship and affection offered by the Community is a very pleasant source of support and encouragement to all of us involved in the Past Student activities.

In conclusion I thank all of you for giving me the honour of being President of the Union and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next eighteen months and to do all I can to ensure the Union continues in its state of good health.

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Fr. Malachy Mara, O.C.S.O. died recently in Tarrawarra, Australia, where he was Guest Master in the monastery for many years. He joined Roscrea in 1935 and was ordained priest in 1943. He spent some years as Spiritual Director of the Children of Mary in the College. He was one of the pioneers of the Australian foundation. May he rest in peace.

Dudley O'Gara, 1933, died in October last year in Sligo. He spent most of his working life in South Tipperary and was President of the Union in 1967/'68.

Fr. James English, 1930, was Parish Priest of Morialloc, Australia, where he died last year. He was a native of Tipperary Town.

Dermot Tuohy, who produced the Shakespearean plays for the College in the early '60s, was killed in a motor-cycle accident in December 1986. R.I.P.

Obituaries

Michael Francis O'Meara was a native of Ballycrine, Roscrea. He came to C.C.R. in 1926 and completed his secondary education there in 1931. This period in the College history produced many brilliant and well known students - Michael was one. His death in Dublin in June 1986 marked the end of an era of geologists who put the mineral resources of Ireland firmly before the public. He was the last of the small but dedicated band of people who, at a time of relatively little interest in the 1930s and during the Emergency period, recognised that the country had much to offer in its geology for its future prosperity.

His unsung achievements in this regard not only laid a firm foundation of the burgeoning development of the Irish mining and quarrying industry over the last 20 years, but enabled him to continually encourage and advise the industry from a senior position in the Geological Survey during the latter part of his working life.

Ironically, a career in mineral resources was far from Michael's mind when he graduated with distinction from University College, Dublin, in 1934. Although chosen to assist Jensen and Farrington in their classic pollen studies on Irish glacial deposits, he elected for an engineering post. His work, however, led him to feel that further experience in geology was essential, and it was typical of him that he therefore unhesitatingly accepted a position in the Geological Survey of Ireland in 1935, even though this meant a substantial drop in salary. This brought Michael into contact with the late Mark Cunningham, good friend and long time collaborator with whom his career was closely entwined for the next 38 years, and whom he appropriately succeeded as assistant director in 1973.

Michael's early work on the Munster Coalfield, brought the glacial deposits of the area to his attention. His original work here included the first recognition of chalk deposits and the identification of a much wider extent to the glaciation than had previously been realised, generating an interest which was afterwards to lead him to many happy hours in the field with another notable geologist and friend, the late Francis Synge. The war years saw him engaged in a wideranging search for essential raw materials, including assessment work on the phosphate deposits of Co. Clare, and then a period of further close collaboration with Mark Cunningham in collecting data for the first magnetic map of the country.

Subsequently he played a major part in the two large drilling programmes undertaken by the Geological Survey in the post-war years, namely over the Kingscourt gypsum deposits and the anthracite coal seams of the Leinster Coalfield. Unfortunately his health suffered under the onerous demand of continuous drilling supervision, but his characteristic determination saw to the completion of the report on the latter programme.

Sadly, relatively little of his output was seen outside the covers of departmental files until he had retired, when he was able to devote himself to his longstanding interest in both the Quaternary of Ireland and the Leinster Coalfield. This work, which kept

him a familiar figure at the Survey as a consultant up to a few weeks before his death, is due to be published as a testimony to his expertise. As a result, he was also readily available for often needed advice, rendering the word "retirement" a misnomer and effectively prolonging his public service to an astonishing 51 years. That he was able to do this with unflagging zest is a tribute to the warm and close-knit family support provided by Kay and his children.

Fr. Stanislaus (Gerard) Sweeney was born in the town of Loughrea in Co. Galway in 1914. He was one of seven children, the son of a well-known business man in the town. One brother and one sister survive him. He was educated at the local primary local school and at Garbally College, Ballinasloe, where he was a contemporary of three others who also became monks in Roscrea.

He joined the community at Mount St. Joseph in 1933, and was duly professed and ordained priest. He had a remarkable gift of practical work with his hands and there was nothing in the electrical field that he could not deal with. This skill manifested itself in e.g. watch and clock repairing, and his ability to mend any piece of machinery or small domestic item had him in constant demand in the community.

During the late 1940's Fr. Stanislaus acted as Bursar in Mount St. Joseph and during these years he made a lasting contribution to the locality in which the monastery is situated. He founded a branch of the Legion of Mary, a lay Catholic organisation, and through this group, made over a disused creamery on the Abbey property to the locality as a community centre.

In 1954 Father went on the foundation to Tarrawarra, where he acted as Novice Master and later as Prior. He formed the first novices of the new monastery and returned to Roscrea in 1966.

He again took up duties as Infirmarian but ill-health dogged him after this and he gradually took less part in community activities. He fell and broke his hip about three months before his death, and emergency surgery on July 5th hastened his death, as he was worn out by illness. He died peacefully in hospital on the morning of July 7th. The Abbot was with him as were some of his family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Fr. Canice (James) Butler was born in Co. Kilkenny in 1912, the eldest of seven brothers, all of whom are still living. After leaving school he went to Teacher Training College where he took his Diploma as a Primary Teacher. He found a post near home and taught there for several years.

He was a man of serious outlook and devout disposition and had often visited Mount St. Joseph Abbey, which is about 60 miles from his home. In 1940, at the age of 28 he entered the community and he took to the silence and austerity of the life with assiduity.

As event turned out he was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of his native diocese and that was the last time he visited home. He fasted severely all his life and as a result was noticeably emaciated. All attempts to deflect him from this severe fasting were unsuccessful, as he was convinced that after 1969, fasting declined in the Order, and he became if anything more convinced of its value and necessity.

Eventually his health gave way and he had to spend a longish period in hospital. This led him to what amounted to a conversion. He saw it as his christian duty to visit the other sick people in the hospital, to support and console them, and where suitable, to pray with them. He reflected further on the same passage in Matthew and said to one of the brethren in the monastery that he feared that at the Judgement the Lord might say to him "I was in prison and you did not visit me". So next time he was in hospital he arranged to visit a prison and made friends with a number of long-term prisoners, to whom he wrote regularly, until his death. Fr. Canice took this very seriously as he did everything in the Gospel. His approach to the Gospel was simple - if the Lord said we must do something then we must do it! For a man who had spent his entire monastic life in near total silence and in great austerity, this care for the poor and deprived of society was an about-face that can only be explained by a remarkable grace of God. For the last couple of years of his life he went each Saturday afternoon to a number of travelling families who have settled near the monastery in order to teach the children to read and write.

While his own life was exceedingly austere, Fr. Canice never tried to impose this on others and was noted for his kindness, meekness and charity. Whenever any of the community was in hospital he would invariably write to them, and assure them of prayers. He died after emergency surgery, having written a letter to the Abbot thanking him and the Community for all they had done for him, and saying in the letter that he did not expect to recover. He had no fear of death, and went peacefully to meet the Lord.

May he rest in peace.

Breffni McGovern who left the College in 1975 was killed in a motor accident in Cork last July. He was the son of Gerard McGovern of Ovans, Co. Cork who was also a past student. We offer him and the family our deepest sympathy.

Michael Brendan Kelly, 1929, formerly of Harbour St., Tullamore, died in Flushing, New York in July 1986.

Tim Quinlan, 1914, a retired teacher from C.U.S. died recently. He was a native of Borrisoleigh, but had lived in Dublin for many years. May he rest in peace.

Fr. Vincent Dooley, 1914, a native of Roscrea, spent most of his priestly life in Liverpool. He died in Huyton some time ago, R.I.P.

Thomas Augustine Weldon, 1926, owner of the Pearl Bar, Fleet Street, died in his home in Sandymount in April of last year. R.I.P.

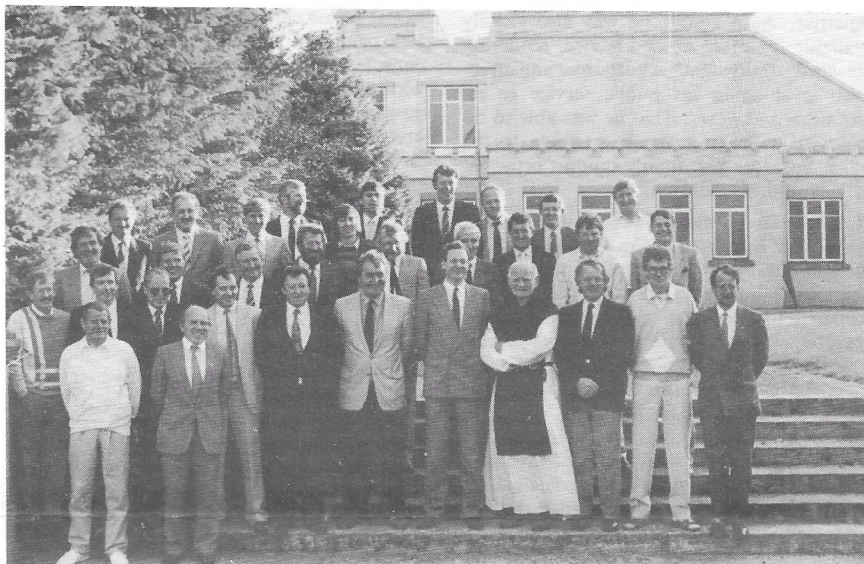
Charlie McCarthy, 1933, a well known figure at the functions of the Cork Branch, died in Newmarket, Co. Cork earlier this year. R.I.P.

Paddy O'Connor, 1928, a solicitor in Roscrea for many years, died in May '86. His sons John and Myles were also in the College. We offer his family our deepest sympathy.

Fr. Daniel O'Connell, 1926, a native of Waterville, Co. Kerry, died in Iowa, U.S.A.

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Class of '65 Reunion



Front row, left to right: Seamus Downey, Eamon Tansey, Eugene O'Sullivan, Vincent McEntyre, Neil Rafter, Michael McNulty, Milo Butler, Columba Eastwood, Brian Jennings, Fr. Patrick Maloney, *President of the College 1965*, Michael McCarthy, Edward O'Doherty, Desmond Purcell. **Second row, left to right:** Eymard Griffin, Andy Lyons, Charlie Sheerin, John Fitzgerald, Liam Kennedy, William Dillon, Liam O'Brien, Michael Murray, Joseph Chambers, Aidan McNulty. **Back row, left to right:** Philip Sheedy, Michael Stapleton, Brendan Murphy, John Sherry, Andrew O'Keefe, Michael McKeigue, Michael McDonagh, Patrick Kennedy, Frank Cullen.

Union Day, 5th October, 1986

Union Day falls on the first Sunday of October each year. Three main events make up the day's programme; the Union High Mass, the A.G.M., and the Union Dinner. For light relief and entertainment the Past v. Present rugby and hurling matches are played the same day. The competition for the Abbot's Cup, in golf, is played the Saturday before over the Roscrea Golf Course.

The Prior, Fr. Nivard Kinsella, celebrated the Union Mass, and the students of the College took part in the choir. The lessons were read by Kevin Dwan, President of the Union, and Tom Ambrose, President-Elect.

About 50 past students attended the A.G.M. Kevin Dwan, President of the Union for the past two years, presided. In his valedictory address he thanked the Branch officers for their co-operation and hospitality to himself and his wife Lucy, during his term of office. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences of his life.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, discussed and signed. The General Secretary gave his report on the year's work and he was loud in his praise of the work done by Kevin Dwan and he itemised some of his achievements, the revival of the London Branch, the re-establishment of the Galway Branch and his efforts to vitalise the Limerick/Clare Branch. Kevin had left his stamp on the Union and it would last for many years to come. The Secretary reported the finances to be in a healthy state, in spite of the fact that some of the Branches had failed to reach the cash quota fixed for them

by the Central Committee. The number of registered members accepted this year was 75. Many of these were due to the efforts of Sean Murphy and Aidan McNulty among their contemporaries at the class re-unions, an exercise that has become very popular in recent years. During the A.G.M. Tom Ambrose took over the Presidency from Kevin Dwan.

After the Past v. Present matches were over there was a Sherry Reception for all. Dinner was served at 6.00 p.m. The crowd was small by general standards - about 70 including guests and the teams.

The speeches were few and brief; the Prior spoke of an increase of numbers in the Community and paid tribute to some of the priests who died during the year in Roscrea and in Tarrawarra. Fr. Kevin assured the assembly that the good traditions of C.C.R. were being kept up. The academic achievements of the students were very good and results on the sports field were encouraging, although the Rugby Cup had still eluded them. A guarantee of the esteem in which the College was held by past students was the presence of so many sons during recent years.

Tom Ambrose took the opportunity in his speech to thank the members who had elected him and he promised to carry out the job to the best of his ability. He said he had an excellent headline in the example of his predecessor. He asked for a special vote of thanks to Srs. Anthony and Rita and their staff, for the excellent meal they had provided.

ACADEMICS: College News

The President's Prize for Debating was won by James Haughey from Waterford.

The Silver Medal for Public Speaking was won by Kenneth Bredin from Galway.

The Union Gold Medal was won by Edward Russell from Kilkenny. This student also won a Silver Medal from Department of Education for Best Irish Essay in Inter. Cert. examination.

The Sherry Cup was won by Ciarán Coughlan from Tipperary.

Senior rugby team lost to Blackrock in second round.

Junior rugby team lost to St. Paul's in second round.

Senior hurling team won the Leinster 'B' final against Wexford C.B.S. by 3-12 to 1-6.

Junior hurling team lost to Gorey C.B.S.

Triangular Sports at Roscrea on 2nd May.

Leinster Sports: Minor and Junior, 20th May, Belfield; Inter and Senior, 23rd May, Belfield.

Sports Day: May 31st.

NATIONAL WEEKEND

This much-publicised event took place on the 14th-15th November last, at the Park Hotel in Kenmare. From early on Friday Roscrea men were converging on Kenmare and the last arrivals appeared on the scene at midnight. By that time the hotel was weaving its mystical spell on its visitors.

The general relaxed atmosphere continued into the early hours with excellent conversation, fine piano playing and the exceptional voice of Michael Fitzsimons.

Saturday dawned beautifully and everyone went about his chosen pursuit. The ladies' doubles golf competition was won by Margaret O'Shea, the McNultys shaded Gerald and Nance McCarthy in the tennis final, Brendan Galvin, despite the handicap of having Jim Malloy and John Kenny as playing partners, won the golf scramble and tamed the local course.

The highlight of the weekend was dinner. The meal was superb. The after-dinner speeches were short. Tom Ambrose's fit official function and he carried it off with the panache of a master. The remainder of the night maintained the momentum. The atmosphere with dancing and chat and a full lounge involved in a sing-song did not wane until the wee hours.

Mass in the hotel on Sunday morning, with Fr. Dermot, brought the curtain down on a memorable weekend.

From the small seed sown by the S/W Branch three years ago the National Weekend has truly arrived.

The 1987 date for this function is November 13th/14th. Be warned - book early.

Editor's Note

This edition of the "Review" has been put together by the South-West Branch. Special thanks to Fr. Dermot, Fr. Kevin and Liam Kelly.

DUBLIN DINNER

Dublin Branch dinner returned yet again to the familiar surrounds of the banquet rooms in Jury's on 7th November last for another most successful and enjoyable evening, 104 in attendance. The speeches at the dinner were the most laid back we have had for some time. One wonders if this is the dinner which is to be remembered as the one that Ron

Massey missed? Oh yes, that was 1986 was it not? Our Chairman Matthew Hyland proudly wore the newly acquired Chairman of the Dublin Branches insignia of office which consists of a gold union medal suspended by a black and white ribbon, the College colours. He graciously welcomed and thanked the Lord Abbot for gracing our table with his

presence, much to the delight of all those in attendance. The Chairman also made a special presentation to Mr. Denis Crowley in appreciation of his contribution and dedicated loyalty to the union since its foundation and to his attendance at the Dublin Branch dinners in particular.

Aidan McNulty, Toast Master.

THE RIGHT WAY TO LIVE

by John Kidney

When I was working in Steel, on the night shift (8 to 4), I often called to The Hotel for a pint before I caught the boat over. In a Steel Works you have to be careful, so I never took more than two before going on. I liked a drink in The Hotel around that time, as most of the afternoon crowd would be gone home to their tea, while the night drinking had not yet begun. So it was a nice relaxed atmosphere and from the window I could watch for the boat coming over with the noon to 8 men, and I'd leave in plenty of time to board her for my shift. One evening about seven I was on my way in when I met The Dosser coming out. He was no more than half-drunk, but carrying himself with the training that years of experience brings. He was lonely - a mood that often comes to people when they are in that condition - and wanted someone to talk to. We had been mates on a few jobs together before - he talked while I worked - and I was going to ask him to have a pint. But he beat me to it by him asking me to have a drink, a fact which surprised me as I knew he was on the Labour, and even though he offered I expected to be caught. But I said to myself 'It can only be for two pints at most' and we swung into the Hotel Bar together.

I would not expect to see The Dosser drinking there normally - the pint is tuppence dearer - and to add to my astonishment, he ordered a large gin and lime for himself and a pint for me and, before I could put my hand in my pocket, paid for both.

'I had a great day, altho' it started badly' said the Dosser, sipping delicately at his gin and lime. 'I've had a good few drinks already, and this is only to break the wind for the rest of the night. But, to go on with my story.

I didn't feel too well in myself this morning - I hadn't a tosser on me when I woke up, and I must have got a bad pint last night unbeknownst. So, after signing as usual for the free dole, I decided to walk out as far as the First Bridge, hoping that the sea air would clear my head. I hadn't got as far as the Yacht club when I met an old Yankee priest puffing his way up from the Railway Station, under the weight of two big suitcases. "Say Boy" he says, "Where's the Hotel?". 'Twas only across the road from the Yacht Club where he was and he couldn't see it. So I relieved him of his cases, brought him over and fixed him up. He gave me five dollars. But that was only the beginning - finish and have another!

After some routine protests, I rushed my first pint - a thing I hate doing - and had another. The Dosser continued on gin and lime - a small one this time, paid for both, and resumed his yarn.

'I went hotfoot up to Danny O's' said The

Dosser 'and gave him the five dollars to change. Danny O is slow but he pours a good pint. He gave me one before he went onto the back to work out what to give me and it was smooth as mother's milk. I got a nod from the Maggie May's, who was standing at the counter, to show that it was included in their round, and I started talking to them. They'd had a good night's fishing, sold their catch, and were already half awash. Even when I got the change for the dollars they would not let me put my money up, but struck me four pints and left.

I was just about to order for myself, when I saw my Oul' Wan passing by the window. She was going great guns, and I had to hurry down as far as the corner before I caught up to her. I gave her a pound to buy some stewing beef - she makes a great stew - and went back to Danny O's to have what I thought would be my final. Who should be there before me but the relief crew for the Lightship, waiting for the launch to take them out. I got three pints off them with no return and, as by this time I was beginning to feel heavy I ambled up home, ate my stew, and had a doss down until about five o'clock. I woke up feeling thirsty again'.

'On my way down here' continued The Dosser, signalling and paying for another round - 'On my way down here' he repeated 'I saw two respectable couples knocking at the door of Callaghan's Lodging House. "They'll be for the boat in the morning" I thought - knowing all the time that the Callaghans were gone to their son's ordination. So I approached these people politely, offered my help and finally got them fixed up in Mrs. Sullivan's. I got a pound from Mrs. Sullivan for that and another pound from one of the women for my assistance.

You'll hardly believe what happened next - on my way back past Callaghan's, I found a purse near the door. I did a bit of quick thinking, and I was right - it belonged to one of the women I'd met looking for lodgings. Way back with me to Sullivan's and her husband gave me two pounds in gratitude.

I made my way in here next, and met the Assistant Post Master having his usual half-pint of lager. He often gave me a job with the Christmas post, so I asked him what he'd have. "He has a bad stomach" said The Dosser in a hushed voice, and added in tones of sad astonishment "and he can't drink much". But he stuck me two pints before he finished his half-lager and left. On my way out I met yourself, and do you know what? - and, he paused impressively "You're the first person today I was allowed to stand a drink to".

As he was finishing his story I could see through the window the Steel launch tying up. It was late, I'd have to hurry, and I just

had time to hear his final remark. "Well! I may as well make a night of it and enjoy myself" said The Dosser, and added slowly and solemnly "Nobody should work in this town! As I ran out the pier with the stout jumping in my throat and thinking of the heat and sweat of the Steelworks, I was inclined to agree with him. I also felt a queer sense of inferiority - imagine feeling inferior to The Dosser!

Conor Brady - C.C.R. 1961-1966

New Editor - Irish Times

G. P. MAHER

It was with a great sense of pride that the College learned today, December 15th, 1986, of the appointment of Mr. Conor Brady as Editor of "The Irish Times". Conor has been a Deputy Editor of "The Irish Times" for the last two years and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company in December 1985. He has previously held the post of Editor of "The Sunday Tribune". Conor, a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly, attended the College between 1961 and 1966 and after leaving here he took a Masters Degree in History and Political Science in U.C.D.

Since leaving the school Conor has maintained close links with the Past Pupils Union and with the Student Body. He has attended the Careers' Workshop organised by Fr. Andrew and has provided students with a highly qualified insight into the world of journalism. He is a regular attender at the Annual Dublin Branch Function, and has spoken at that venue on occasion. He is probably best known among past men for his regular articles which are printed in the "Roscrea Review". In the Summer 1984 edition, in addressing the question of whether or not he'll send his son (then two and a half years old) to the College, his love of his own school days were clearly apparent in the following extract.

"But the spontaneous memories are warm. The fun of the Christmas Shakespeare production, the Cat's concert at Halloween, 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".

As Conor Brady takes up one of the most prestigious appointments in Irish Journalism, we wish him well. It is to the credit of the school and particularly its high standards in English, that appointments of this stature come to its past men.

THE McCARTHYs

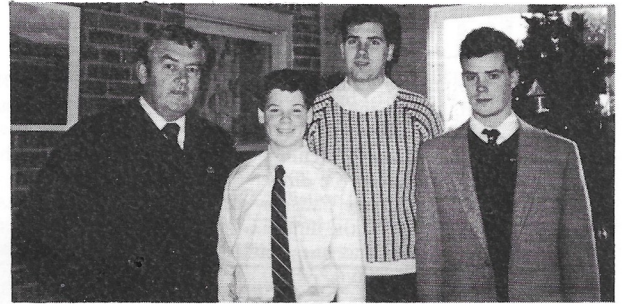


Brian McCarthy, Innishannon Hotel on the left, Kevin Morrissey who owns the Isle of Skye Hotel, Kanturk, far left, Gerard McCarthy on the right.

The three McCarthy brothers, Noel, 1953, Brian, 1955, and Gerard, 1956 are known to many of you. Their father Dr. Gerald McCarthy left the College in 1922. He was President of the Union 1947/49. Noel followed his father's example and took medicine. He is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in North Haven in the U.S.A. During his last visit to the College, Noel, with a very generous gesture, arranged that there will be an annual award for achievement in English in the school. It is envisaged that the

prize will be given each year to a 5th year student and selection will be made using the following criteria.

- (1) Academic performance.
- (2) Class contribution and general interest in and/or participation in English debating.
- (3) Evidence of written work (creative writing, poetry, essay, etc.), published at any time in "Vexillum" or any other magazine or newspaper.
- (4) Research - evidence of independent



Dr. Noel McCarthy and his sons Kevin, Paul and Brendan, at North Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.

reading, both literary texts and general fiction.

Those taking the 5th year English classes will nominate candidates and the final student selected will, in the opinion of those teachers, best embody the standards outlined. The second brother Brian owns the Innishannon Hotel, near Cork. The South West Branch hold some of their functions there. It is managed by Jim Murphy of Enniscorthy. Gerard is a well-known architect in Cork City.

"If the salt loses its savour"

Recently Rupert Coughlan died. He was a past student, and spent much of his retired life writing on the military history of Ireland, and especially on the part played by the O'Donnell Clan. This led him to study the famous "Cathach", the "Battle Book of the O'Donnells". It is a Latin version of the Hebrew Psalms of the Old Testament, preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, it has the distinction of being both Ireland's oldest ecclesiastical manuscript, and the earliest example of Irish writing. Produced before the seventh century, it pre-dates the Book of Kells by more than 200 years. The manuscript itself has nothing to recount about the O'Donnells, not a word about Irish history - it was not written in the Irish; it was Latin, as mentioned above. Yet it has woven its way into the legends and folklore of Ireland. It was the cause of a clan war that culminated in the Battle of Cúl Dreimhne in 561, and the exile of St. Columba to Iona. Two good results arose from all this trouble, the promulgation of the Law of Copyright, and the expansion of Celtic monasticism in Scotland and Northern England as a consequence of the Iona foundation. In a Radio quiz recently someone said that "A psalter is part of condiment set for holding salt" - he got no points for that one. It is one of the books of the Bible, and has been the prayer book of the Jewish faith since the time of King David, to whom the authorship of some of the psalms has been attributed. The Christians took them over in their own time.

There are 150 psalms in all, and in them are found the whole gamut of human emotions in

our relations with God, and God's attitude towards us. They formed the basis of the liturgy of the Temple of Jerusalem. They were the prayers of the prophets of the Old Testament from Samuel onwards. They were the prayers which Mary the Mother of God taught her son Jesus of Nazareth. He prayed them later when he called His followers aside with Him into the desert place to pray. They were His last words on the Cross. When the disciples gathered around Mary to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, the psalms were their daily papers. St. Paul called down God's vengeance through the psalms on the heads of the followers of Christ, whom he claimed flouted the Law and the Prophets; but he used them yet again in the years of his conversion and contrition.

The Psalms have been the prayers of monks since monasticism first appeared in the Church. St. Benedict in his rule laid down minute regulations about the division of psalms and their distribution over a single week. His monks put them to music - Gregorian Chant. The Jews also sang their psalms, and still do in their synagogues. The Culdee monks thought the best way to recite them was up to your neck in cold water in the middle of a stream on a winters night. The Breviary of the priest, and the Book of Common Prayer of the Protestants, are selections of the psalms interspersed with other short prayers and readings. It all comes down to prayer. Maybe there was more than met the eye in the answer in the quiz-game, for those who pray are "the salt of the earth".



Frederick Joyce, guest of Honour at the Teachers' Dinner, 1986, being met by the Lord Abbot who was a pupil of Freddie's in '44/'45.

DATES FOR DAIRY

Galway/Mayo/Sligo Dinner Dance in Great Southern, Galway on 11th April under Chairman Joe Daly.

South Eastern Dinner Dance in New Park Hotel, Kilkenny, on 15th August 1987.