

ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 71

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Autumn 1998

John Comerford

1948 - 1998



On Sunday morning, July 19, Abbot Colmcille had given his customary Sunday teaching to the monastic community in the Chapter room in Roscrea. He then proceeded to talk about the funeral of John Comerford which he had attended on the previous Wednesday. Many of the community would have known John personally but others would not. The Abbot was Dean of Studies in the College when John arrived as a small boy on September 1 1961 and was elected Abbot during John's final year at the College in 1964. While he would have kept contact in the intervening years, he was utterly astonished at the stature of the man and the universal recognition of that stature in that crowded Church and cemetery in Thomastown on Wednesday July 15.

inside ROSCREA this issue





He told us that he had met a Thomastown woman that day who had been a member of a prayer group for many years with John. She wanted to know what it was that Roscrea had that could produce a man of John's calibre and whether the College was sending out many other young men of the same quality. Her second question requires another forum, and while John would have been embarrassed by her first question he would have liked the linking of his adult life to his time at the College.

John spent three years in the College before going on to graduate in Bakery Management at Hollings College in Manchester and take over the family bakery business in Thomastown. He described his years in the College in the *Roscrea Review* of 1997 as "a rite of passage in our teenage years" and then went on to say that it is "the different life experiences and how we learn from our own and other's experiences" rather than formal education that really determine the course of our lives. And yet those three years did leave an indelible impression on John's subsequent life. How else is it possible to explain the pride he took when he and Helen sent their sons Eoghan and Brian to Roscrea in 1984 and 1985: how else is it possible to explain the profound impact he had on the Past Pupils' Union during his all too short year in office as President of the Union? How else is it possible to explain the outpouring of grief and sense of loss felt among all groups of pastmen when the news of his sudden death at 50 years of age was announced, and which was reflected by the great numbers of past students who attended the funeral rites in Thomastown?

So what was the secret of this extraordinary man? Firstly there

was the amazing energy of the man. Conscious as we were at the College of the enormous input he has had into College affairs in recent years including the chairing of the Hurling Development Committee, it came as a surprise to learn how involved he was in all kinds of local community and parochial affairs as well as his legendary sporting interests. At 1 a.m. on the morning he died he wanted to sit down to a detailed discussion of the plans for Eoghan's new house - but the family just hadn't the energy for it.

Secondly, there was the charm of the man. He loved people and it flowed out of his countenance, out of the way he spoke, out of the stories he told. And boy, did he enjoy them! Anybody who was privileged to be present at his last speech as President of the Union (deputising for Larry Branigan) at the Matt Hyland Golf Outing in Milltown on June 18 will never forget the exuberance, virtuosity and wit of the man who loved being among pastmen and their wives and the fact that they were all golfers and that he had won three prizes himself that day were extra bonuses. I would add that although he was President of the Union for one year only and so only welcomed one class of students into the Union, I consider that the speech he gave to the College class of 1997 at their graduation dinner in the College refectory on May 30 of that year, was one of the finest I have heard. I hope that the 1997 class will cherish the memory of the man who received them into the Union and also remember the stirring encouragement he gave to keep alive the bonds with each other and get involved in the Union, but above all, to look to each other and to more senior pastmen for support and advice in critical moments of their lives. He drew from his own experience in stressing this.

Another secret of John's life was his spirituality. He was a deeply spiritual and prayerful man. He carried this gift very lightly and almost dismissively, but it pervaded all his life and decisions and gave him an equilibrium and trust and good humour that very few people or crises could disturb.

It is impossible to think or talk about John without including Helen. They were truly an inspirational partnership who together brought so much happiness to people and specifically to Roscrea past students. In the case of most pastmen they draw primarily on their own experience of being Roscrea students for their identification with the College. In John's case the College was mediated to him through Helen's long association through her brother Eddie Tallent and her sons and nephews and cousins as much as his own experience.

THANK YOU, HELEN.
THANK YOU, JOHN.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.



FR. PETER GARVEY O.CIST



My thanks to the Editor for the opportunity of greeting each one of you, in every corner of the world to which this issue of the Roscrea Review travels.

It was a great honour to be installed as President of the Union (the 39th, as I have discovered from the chain of office), an honour deeply felt and appreciated, for which I thank you.

The joy of the occasion soon turned to sadness. John Comerford, my predecessor, died suddenly on 12th July. You could not mistake the Roscrea influence in John's life. He was a keen sportsman and a man to get things done and he played his part in the Union to the full. As we learned from the tributes paid at his funeral, John was a ready leader in the community life of Thomastown, where he had his home. He will be greatly missed by many. He lived for others - could there be a finer epitaph? He was above all devoted to his wife Helen, truly John's other half, his sons Eoghan and Brian, both of whom are Roscrea pastmen and his daughters Elizabeth and Sarah Jane. To them, and to his other relations and close friends, we extend our sympathies.

There are others who emulate John in their service to the Union. They serve on Branch committees throughout the country, and in London and New York. They keep the Roscrea flag flying and deserve our best thanks and our support. Enclosed with this issue of the Roscrea Review is a pocket-size calendar of Union occasions between now and next May. Please keep it safely for reference. I look forward to sharing the enjoyment of these events with many friends, old and new - the more, the merrier.

A welcome visitor at Union functions is Patrick Cronin, the President of the College, who has spoken of the value of the Union as part of the College community. I hope you will come along to meet him, if you have not already had the pleasure. He is aware of the Union's interest in the College through, for example, the participation of members in the hurling and rugby development groups that have been set up with the encouragement of the President and the Board of Governors. These groups have already achieved much and are deserving of our best thanks.



As pastmen, we regret the reduced input of the monks in the everyday life of the College. We have to recognise reality however. So, in this latest stage of the development of the College, we wish the Abbey, the Board of Governors, the President and staff of the College, continued success in their endeavours on behalf of the students. I should like particularly to mention Gerald McCarthy. On top of a busy professional practice, Gerald undertook the office of Chairman of the Board last year and carries a burden of responsibility. I should like to pay tribute to him and assure him of our fullest support.

At the Leaving Certificate class graduation last June, I had the honour of presenting the Union tie to each member of the class and welcoming them to the ranks of the Union. There were presentations to Father Éanna Henderson, recently retired as Vice President of the College. Father Éanna subsequently wrote to me "to thank you and the Union for your generous gift and for the nice things you said about me... I know it's an appreciation for years in the College but for all that, I was only doing what I was asked to do... Living with the boys renewed my own youth... and it has left me with a sense of gratitude." Phrases like these cause us to think on that special brand of monastic humility and deep spirit of kindness we encountered in the monks amongst whom we lived and which made CR such a significant experience.

We rejoice with the monks of Mount St. Joseph Abbey in this centenary year of celebration for them and we thank them for what they and the life they lead has meant for so many past students over the years.

Yours sincerely

LAURENCE F. BRANIGAN
President of the Union

We are delighted to report that after many months of meetings (first, to discuss the College's requirements, then, how to fund the improvements identified as necessary and last, the implementation of a long-term strategic plan for development at CCR) we are now ready to put brick on brick with the commencement of the Sports Hall in mid-September.

However, the projects outlined below do not just happen. They are the fruits of many hours of discussion and although our Development Plan is an ambitious one, we at the College feel that we have the support of our various constituents in preparing the College to move into the next Millennium with renewed strength. The estimated cost of Phase II of our Development Plan is £2.8m and to date, parents - past and present, our pastmen and friends have pledged substantial financial support. However, we have reached the crossroads, and in order for our proposed plans to become a reality, we must forge ahead with renewed vigour. The

A vital component in the provision of this Multi-Media Learning Centre will be the creation of a full-time position for an Information Technology Manager to oversee the purchase and installation of the hardware, to transfer files from our present system, to advise on the purchase of educational software, to manage and maintain the network and teach others to maximise the system to its full potential.

In Phase II of our development plan, we propose a computer student ratio of 5:1, thus providing approx. 60 terminals for 300 boarders. We see this major investment as an innovative approach for a more rounded education and in this, the Information Technology Age, we cannot overstate the importance of computer literacy as it daily encroaches upon more and more areas of life and work.

This summer, for the first time, we have been able to make use of the College's facilities and accommodation during the summer months. Euro Languages ran two very successful summer courses, one in French, the other in German, each course was attended by approx. 250 students from various parts of Ireland. They were delighted with the facilities and location of the College and plan to return again next year.

Development Office Update

decision to pursue the course of voluntary fund-raising was not taken lightly as the monastic tradition has always been one of self-sufficiency but in an effort to maintain and build on the traditions of what is CCR, we now turn to our many associates for support to help us see these projects to fruition.

The proposed Sports Hall will provide facilities for numerous indoor sporting activities, such as basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer; a weights room to provide improved training for rugby, hurling etc; permit evening sport and appropriate facilities for the boys on inclement days; additional changing rooms and shower areas; accommodation for eleven table tennis tables and five billiard tables; meeting room, viewing area, referee's changing room and sports director's room

We at Roscrea, have always believed that sport plays an integral role in the learning and maturation process. To benefit fully from a well rounded education, a boy must be encouraged to develop his physical interests in tandem with the academic, as this represents the best preparation for later life.

The College also recognises the role of Information Technology in education. It sees it as a subject in its own right and also acknowledges how it enhances all aspects of the wider learning process. Expression through the various mediums and access to the wealth of resources and information on the "World Wide Web" can encourage and stimulate the quest for knowledge and increase awareness of our global community.

As the campus was in use for most of the summer, our planned renovations of the dormitories had to be postponed. However it is envisaged that some work will be carried out in the Infirmary area before the boys return in September with a more extensive approach to the renovation of the dormitories during term holidays and during the Summer of '99.

During the summer, it was with great sadness and regret that we heard of John Comerford's sudden and untimely death. John was a valued member of our Development Committee and his loss is felt very deeply by all who knew him. I worked closely with John during his term as Union President and he was always at hand to assist and advise. His good humour in carrying out the tasks he undertook made the asking so much easier and the College is very much the poorer for his loss. On behalf of the Development Committee and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to extend sincere sympathies to his wife Helen and family.

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KATHERINE DONOVAN
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Editorial

JOHN COMERFORD - The death of former Union President, John Comerford, shocked family and friends alike. For years he had embodied all the best elements of a C.C.R. pastman. He was actively involved in every function organised by the South-East Branch and rarely missed a meeting of the Union's Central Committee. In his year as President, he attended every function that featured on the calendar. Indeed, just a year ago, he spoke at the Abbot's Golf Dinner, addressed the 25th Year Reunion group in Grant's Hotel and still found time to meet up with the 40 Year Reunion.

The huge attendance of pastmen at his funeral testifies to his exceptional popularity. Part of the explanation for this is that John actively supported all ventures associated with the College. He was a regular attendant at hurling and rugby cup games and enjoyed both traditions. In addition to being a long-term supporter of the Abbot's Cup, he organised the Mount Juliet Golf Club for a Union Function last Easter. This wide-ranging love of sport resulted in his being the unanimous choice as Chairman of the College's Hurling Support Group, as well as being a founder-member of the CCR Rugby/Social Club.

In his year as Union President he was absolutely determined that all pastmen - young and old, successful or not so successful - would be embraced by the P.P.U. and that it should not be perceived as in any way elitist. That thinking, more than anything else, represents his legacy, and his memory deserves that we never lose sight of that wonderful philosophy.

On behalf of all readers of the *Roscrea Review*, I extend our deepest sympathies to John's wife Helen, sons Eoin and Brian, and daughters Elizabeth and Sarah-Jane.

SPORT IN THE COLLEGE - Two major developments are highlighted in this issue of the "Review". One is the work of the Rugby Development Committee and the other is the recent formation of the Hurling Support Group. Both ventures represent a healthy commitment by pastmen and parents to the promotion of sporting excellence within the College. Generations of pastmen will testify to the central role played by sport in the life of the school and indeed, Hurling, Rugby and Athletic anecdotes survive far longer in "folk memories" than mathematic formulae or rules of grammar. Both groups have been impressed by the level of support available to them, and the willingness of pastmen to provide the expertise required to prepare C.C.R. for the sporting challenges of the new Millennium.

The *Roscrea Review* will ensure that all pastmen are regularly updated on the work of these important committees.

GERARD P. MAHER Editor



Academic Year

1998 / '99

College

Enrolment

LIVE-IN ASSESSMENT WEEKEND :-

Friday evening, November 27th to noon Saturday, November 28th

Parents wishing to make an application for a place in First Year for September 1999, should apply immediately to the President, Mr. Patrick Cronin.

Phone : (0505) 23344 Fax : (0505) 22066 Email : mtjoseph@iol.ie

A very limited number of places will be available in Second, Third and Fifth Year. We also aim to provide extra places in our Transition Year Programme.



The foundation in 1098 by St. Robert of Molesme, St. Alberic and St. Stephen Harding of a monastery at Citeaux which became the first house of a new monastic congregation, the Cistercians, was commemorated by a special Mass of Thanksgiving for nine centuries of Cistercian life at Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea on Saturday.

Most Rev. Willie Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe, was principal celebrant of the Mass with Most Rev. Dermot

O'Mahony, Titular Bishop of Tiava; Right Rev. Dom Colmcille O'Toole OCSO, Abbot of Mount St. Joseph; Fr. Michael Collins PP Roscrea; Fr. Michael O'Donoghue AP Coolderry; Canon Sean Collier PP Borrisin-Ossory; Fr. Tom Phelan, PP in Australia (native of Abbeyleix); Fr. Mark Ryan OCSO, from Notre Dame, Tarrawarra, and members of the Roscrea Cistercian community. Canon J. A. Condell, Rector of Roscrea, and Mr. Adrian Hewson, Diocesan Lay Reader, were also present.

The Mass was the Mass Gaudeamus Omnes for the Feast of the Assumption, and the Proper of the Mass was the traditional Gregorian chant. The first lesson was read by Bro. Oliver Tyrell OCSO, and the second by Bro. David White OCSO. The Responsorial psalm was sung by Bro. Richard Purcell OCSO.

Rev. Gabriel McCarthy OCSO was at the organ.

In his sermon, Bishop Walsh said that 900 years of that Cistercian life reminds us of the shortness of our own lives. "Whether we are members of that Cistercian brotherhood (or sisterhood) or whether our lives have been touched by the Cistercians, we are reminded that we are privileged to occupy a small span of that 900 years. The 900 years of Cistercian life reminds us too of the timelessness of God ... it is that same God in whom Robert in Alberic and Stephen believed in and whom we believe today.

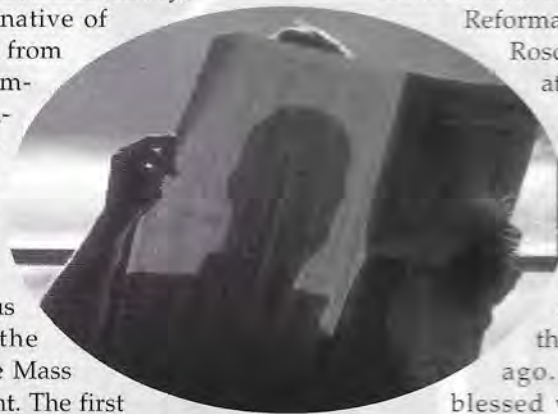
It is that same God in whom they placed their trust and hope, in whom we place our trust and hope today. It is that same God who loved them and whose love they tried to bring home to others, who loves us and whose love we try to bring to others today. There is a sense then in which today we remember, we look back in time over 900 years and there is a sense in which there is no past - all that 900 years is with us here and now"

He went on to say that any looking back on his part is very much as a non-historian, but that even a single sheet

historian will recognise in those 900 years times of ebb and flow, of success and failure, of progress and recession, even if in the timelessness of God what counts as success and what counts as failure is difficult to discern. He said that it would appear however that the early years were indeed times of wonderful growth - from Citeaux to Clairvaux to our own Mellifont, all within a short fifty

years. And that extraordinary growth continued across Europe until the 14th century when the monasteries and

the people generally were decimated by plagues. In the subsequent centuries there were internal divisions and external dissolutions. In particular the Monasteries of Ireland and England suffered the results of the Reformation, and Bishop Walsh recalled that Roscrea's own Monaincha was dissolved at this time.



Later the French monasteries suffered the effects of the French Revolution. But the past century again saw new growth, Mount Mellerary in 1830, and in 1878 our own Mount St. Joseph, and of course the second return to Citeaux 180 years ago. The community in Roscrea was blessed with new foundations in Nunraw,

Tarrawarra and Moone.

"Ebb and flow, success and failure, growth and recession. By human standards it would appear that in the western world monastic life is again in a period of recession, as indeed it would appear that the whole Church is in something of a recession. If 900 years of history has taught us anything it must teach us that recession is often the seed of new growth, that sometimes we are strongest when we are weak, and weakest when we appear to be strong.

And so we are gathered here today to celebrate, to remember and give thanks. We celebrate, we remember and we give thanks for the thousands of Cistercian men and women who dedicated their lives to God over those years, and in doing so we celebrate not just the great figures of Robert, Alberic and Stephen, or Bernard of Citeaux, or indeed the recent Dom Christian de Cherge and companions martyred in Algeria. We celebrate too, the thousands of nameless ones - the unknown saints, and the rogues and the villains too, and no doubt the Cistercians had their share of them. But then there is something of the saint and the villain in all of us. We celebrate and remember and we give thanks for the tens of thousands - indeed one should say millions of people whose lives have been touched by these Cistercian men and women down the years", said Bishop Walsh.

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THE PLACE WE LOVE

EDWARD HEATON ESQ, OF BALLISKENAGH, (KING'S CO.)

Around Christmas 1666 Richard Heaton died at Ballyskenagh, now Mount St. Joseph. By his will he had appointed 'my dearly beloved wife Grizell' as his sole executrix, and he bequeathed to her the life-use of the lands of Ballyskenagh knowing that 'her tenderness to me whilst I lived gives me full assurance of her justness to mine and her children after my death'. There were six children, three boys, Edward, Richard and Francis, and three girls, Elizabeth, Ann and Grizell jnr. Richard had arranged that after his wife's death Ballyskenagh would go to his eldest son, Edward. The rest of Richard's estate, real and personal, he left entirely to his wife to be disposed of for her and the children's best advantage. He charged the children to be helps and not afflictions to their dear mother, and to the eldest, Edward, he gave the charge that 'on my passing he be very dutiful to his mother and careful to assist her.'

The Place We Love

BY FR. LAURENCE WALSH, O.CIST.

Grizell died within a year or two of her husband. In September 1669 her son Edward had succeeded to the property and had appealed to the King to have his title to Ballyskenagh set in order. Of the petition we read that 'The King thinks it hard if there be nothing more in it, that the petitioner should be disappointed of his good intentions by the mere omission of the rent to be reserved and so in due course he was granted his petition in a deed of 10th December 1669.

Edward Heaton has been described as one of Cromwell's officers and elsewhere styled Captain. There can be no foundation for these descriptions. The Heaton's were strongly royalists and fled Ireland during the Cromwellian period. Moreover Edward was no more than a teenager in Cromwell's time. He never married and he lived at Ballyskenagh all his adult life. It appears that his two younger sisters lived with him, Elizabeth, the eldest girl, having married Richard Barry. It seems Edward's second brother, Richard, died as a teenager. The third boy, Francis, inherited his mother's property of Lisnageeragh. He was the wild man of the family, but more of this another day.

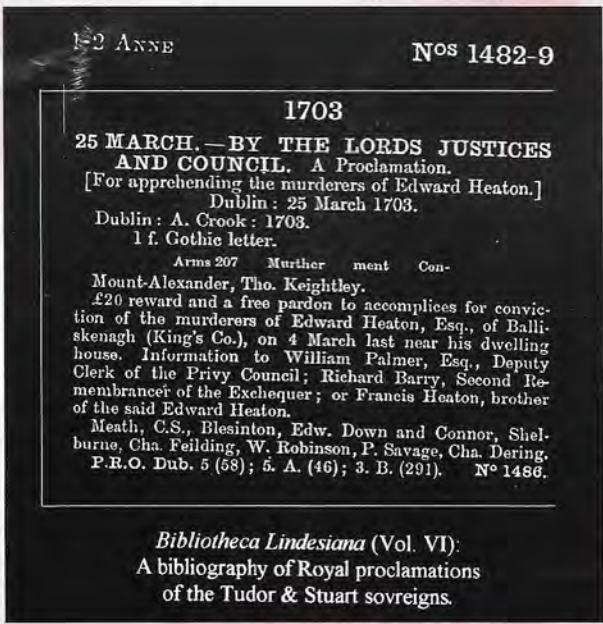
Over the sixteen years after the 1669 grant, confirming his ownership of Ballyskenagh, Edward Heaton acquired several other properties in our local Barony of Clonlisk, Co. Offaly, and in the adjoining Barony of Lower Ormond in Co. Tipperary. A grant of 28th December 1685 lists the lot, totalling 865 acres Irish plantation measure (i.e. 1,401 statute acres or 567 hectares) in 13 different lots. At least one of these he had inherited from his father. A contemporary reference shows that one Mr. Heaton, a Minister claymes title of mortgage to 60 acres of Clongowna. This was situated near Rathcabbain in the northern tip of Co. Tipperary. The 1635 grant also includes 62 acres of the adjoining townland of Coolerosse.

Edward came into possession of 142 acres of Tubrid to the N.E. of Corolanty Cross on the Shinrone/Birr Road, 190 acres of Glascloon and Ballybrack just a mile south of the Mount St. Joseph side entrance. These lots had been held by Trevor Lloyd of Gloster and his wife, who was a maternal aunt of Heaton. The grant also lists plots totalling 90 acres in the parish of Innigh, east of the village of Puckane. All the above measurements are in Irish acres.

By his will, proved on 4th October 1701, a step-uncle of Edward bequeathed to him 'All my houses, lands, tennements, leases and hereditaments in Yorkshire.' 'Edward was then a very wealthy man. We can take it too that one who inherited a taste for the business or mortgaging had not been idle during the last 18 years of his life, i.e. after the grant. So the traditional explanation for his death may well be correct. Here it is in the words of Fr. Joachim Hennessy, the first historian of Mount St. Joseph, writing in 1893:

'Many are the anecdotes told of this doughty warrior around the firesides of the surrounding country, how he foreclosed a mortgage on a neighbouring brother-at-arms, who shot him as he sailed in a small boat on the river within view of his residence, and how the murderer was hanged from the branch of a gnarled oak that grew on a low sand-hill which from him derives its name of Harold's Hill. This oak survived the storms of 200 years and was pointed out with much interest until it fell a few years ago. A blighted and withered stump is all that now remains.'

The reputed place of execution is still known as Harold's Hill, situated behind the site of the former poultry houses. The official proclamation gives us the date, place and the nature of his death: 4 March 1703; near his dwelling house at Balliskenagh: murdered. He was in the latter half of his fifties and unmarried at his death. He was succeeded by his brother, Francis, his heir-at-law.





CONOR BRADY

Media and Politics

AT AN "ALL-TIME LOW" A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY?

One of the wisest professional moves I ever made was to tell the News Editor at *The Irish Times* when I joined the paper straight out of UCD that I didn't have shorthand. It was no lie, for any skill I had in that area I had derived from a form of speedwriting which I taught myself during idle hours in Roscrea. At all events, my declared handicap saved me from assignment to the Dail press corps. I am thus, happily, one of a relatively small number of senior Irish journalists who has not served time with the denizens of Leinster House.

I number some political figures among my good friends. But I have not gone through that curious love-hate bonding process which affects virtually all politicians and media practitioners who move through the houses of the Oireachtas. The relationship can often be likened to that between kidnapers and the kidnapped. Both are incarcerated in the same place, often sharing the same recreation and the same privations. One side's existence is defined and made meaningful by the other. Their relationships are punctuated by alternating sentiments of empathy, fear, mistrust, anger and good humour. The politician uses the journalist and vice versa. The journalist alternatively cultivates and castigates the politician.

Having been spared this process I think I may have a more detached perspective when the inherent tension between journalist and politician occasionally spills over into open conflict. Such manifestations are more frequent than in the past for, perhaps, obvious reasons. We have come through a difficult and unstable period in politics. Various improprieties have come to light, in considerable measure due to media inquiry. Newspapers have become very much more probing. On three occasions in my 12 year editorship of *The Irish Times*, political figures of seniority have fallen from grace, in whole or in part because of inquiries by our journalists.

I do not believe I would necessarily dissent from Dick Spring's view, expressed in a recent edition of the *Roscrea Review* that relations between media and politicians are at an all time low. And I believe it is not all the fault of the politicians either. Where I would take issue however is in regard to his proposed remedy - a commission of inquiry. I will explain why. But first I think Dick's comments need to be put in context of time and circumstance.

His remarks came at the end of an extraordinary period in which he stood at the very pivot of political power in this State. It was clear that the fortunes of the Labour Party were now in steep decline. The 1997 general election saw the party's Dail representation slashed while its campaign on behalf of its presidential candidate, Adi Roche, failed to elicit any enthusiasm from the elec-

torate.

Dick Spring's period in power must be recorded as one of very significant and positive reform and progress. He drove through a programme of enlightened social legislation. He contributed vitally to the peace process in Northern Ireland. He developed Ireland's international profile. Along with his partners in government, he helped to advance the economy towards its present levels of success. He effectively "invented" Mary Robinson as President, giving the country an icon of principled achievement in public life.

Yet for much of this period he and the Labour Party endured a high degree of media criticism, amounting in some cases to a policy of unveiled hostility. Some of it was not deserved. Some was. At *The Irish Times* we severely censured him - and certain of his colleagues - for indulging in the sort of patronage for which we had traditionally castigated the larger parties. When he opted to enter government with Fianna Fail I decided to republish - in full - his recent speech in which he had declared he could not do business with that party until it had been wholly reformed. It was a telling publication and I think it angered him greatly, the more so when - as events turned out - he found he could not continue in government with the party led by Albert Reynolds.

By the time he came to stand down from the party leadership Dick had effectively been hammered twice over by the electorate. *Independent Newspapers* titles had conducted a campaign of unprecedented hostility towards him, towards certain of his colleagues and towards the economic policies which they represented. On election day in June 1997 the *Irish Independent* carried a front page editorial urging the electorate to reject the Bruton-Spring option with the slogan "It's Payback Time".

Senior figures within all three parties of the Rainbow Coalition believe they were targeted for hostility by *Independent Newspapers* and I assume that this conviction, in part at least, motivated Dick to describe media-politician relations as being "at an all time low". Aside altogether from the role of *Independent Newspapers*, however, I would not argue that his perspective on this wholly lacks validity. I believe that for some journalists, the sequence of revelations and political scandals of recent years has led to something of a frenzy. In too many instances rumour has been translated into reportage. I am certain that many reports have made their way into print without proper checking or validation by reporters or their supervisors. I am sure that unscrupulous figures have made use of journalists' gullibility and thirst for a good story to plant mischievous and misleading information in the pub-



roscrea review - media and politics at an "all-time low"

lic domain.

But I think it is also important to put Dick's comments in the context of his leaving office in adverse circumstances. The late John Healy - *Backbencher* - as he was, never tired of stressing the trauma which loss of office visits upon even the best-adjusted politician. The State car is gone, the willing civil-servants, the back-up staff, the automatic invitations to every event that matters, the patronage, the deference, the sense of power. It distorts the vision and clouds the understanding. It did so for Dick's senior adviser, Fergus Finlay, who launched an extraordinary attack on my integrity as editor of *The Irish Times* because of my failure, as he saw it, to recognise the qualities of presidential candidate Adi Roche and to give her fair play in our coverage.

I suggest that Dick built up to a condition of considerable anger with the media and, as I have said, I do not believe that his anger was wholly unwarranted. But I find his call for a commission of inquiry odd and singularly unconvincing. Here's why.

There are serious problems in the Irish media and the media themselves have long beseeched the politicians to help sort them out - as only those in political authority can. In September 1995 the Government of which Dick was Tanaiste did, in fact, set up a commission of inquiry under the former Chief Justice Mr. Thomas J Finlay to look into the Irish newspaper industry. It inquired into commercial aspects of the media but also issued a range of recommendations in regard to publishing law, standards within newspapers, the accountability of newspapers to their readers and competition between newspapers within the State. In June 1996 that commission presented its report to the government whose Minister for Law Reform was Dick's Cabinet and party colleague, Mervyn Taylor. A full year elapsed from the presentation of the report until the change of government. But no action was taken on any of its recommendations. It was left on the shelf by the outgoing administration. And there it remains.

The commission had been set up in the aftermath of the collapse of the *Irish Press* Group. Its report afforded an opportunity for newspapers and government to identify common measures which would ensure that Ireland has a press which is well-conducted in the broadest sense, free, fair, reasonably secure in economic terms and in which there is a good spread of ownership and ideology. Central to Finlay's report was a recommendation that the newspapers should set up an independent Ombudsman system and the

government, it was suggested, should introduce "as a matter of urgency" extensive changes in the law of libel.

Repeated efforts by the newspapers to persuade successive governments to proceed along these lines have come to naught. Dick's Minister for Law Reform, Mr. Taylor, told me it was not a priority as far as he was concerned. Efforts to secure action from his successor in office, Mr. John O'Donoghue, have not proven any more fruitful.

There is, in effect, a stand-off between newspapers and the political establishment. The politicians believe the newspapers must be kept in their place and that any relaxation of the antiquated libel laws would simply result in more reckless journalism - much of it visited upon politicians themselves. The industry believes that unless there is some reform of the law, adding another layer of restrictions in the form of an ombudsman is only going to make their task more difficult and will further cramp their room for manoeuvre.

My belief is that the Finlay commission had the right approach and that until its recommendations are implemented both public figures and media practitioners will be ill-served. The libel laws are a nonsense. For example, it is not possible for a newspaper to publish an apology without prejudice when very often this would defuse many a complaint. Equally, it is wrong that most Irish newspapers have no system of accountability to readers - either along the lines suggested by Finlay or, as we have at *The Irish Times*, through our own Readers' Representative Office which investigates complaints and, if necessary, arranges publication of corrections or clarifications.

I suggest that Dick had not thought this one through. I believe the answers to the concerns which he expresses about media-political relations are to be found within the Finlay Report. The need is not for another commission but to put into effect the recommendations of the one which was set up by the government of which Dick was Tanaiste. The question I would ask of him is why he didn't do so when he was in office.

CONOR BRADY WAS IN CCR 1962-1966. HE HAS BEEN EDITOR OF *THE IRISH TIMES* SINCE 1986. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD EDITOR'S FORUM, BASED IN PARIS AND HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNSELLORS OF THE EU'S EUROPEAN JOURNALISM CENTRE AT MAASTRICHT

CLASS OF 1973 - 25TH YEAR REUNION

PAST STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL BE ARRIVING IN ROSCREA FROM SEPTEMBER 18TH TO ATTEND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 1973. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEKEND WILL BE THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE COLLEGE ON SEPTEMBER 19TH AND LATER THAT EVENING THE FORMAL DINNER IN GRANTS' HOTEL ROSCREA. A GREAT WEEKEND HAS BEEN PLANNED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, FULL REPORT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE "REVIEW".





Abbot's Sporting Achievement Awards 1998

Since the foundation of the College, sport has formed an integral part of school life. Over the decades there have been countless achievements of distinction in the areas of hurling, rugby and athletics. In 1998, it was decided that excellence in one or more of the sporting arenas of school life should be publically acknowledged in some way. This led to the introduction of the "Abbot's Sporting Achievement Awards". The purpose of the awards is to highlight an exceptional sporting achievement, involving a provincial or international dimension.

Two awards were made in 1998 and they went to Dermot O'Loughlin and Gavin Duffy. Dermot captained the Senior 1sts fifteen in the Cup Campaign and was an inspirational leader throughout. By common consensus his individual performance against Terenure in the Cup Semi-final was one of the most dominant displays at the venue for a number of years. Due to injury, Dermot has missed the entire schools inter-provincial campaign so his selection for the Irish Schools' Squad was ever more meritorious as a result. He availed of the opportunity and played number 8 for all three of Ireland's games. The team defeated Scotland and Wales and were narrowly defeated by England in the Triple Crown decider.

Since his arrival in the school four years ago, Gavin Duffy has revealed exceptional potential as a rugby player. As a member of the J.C.T. in the 1996/'97 season, he brought himself to the attention of the schools' selectors, particularly with his display in the Quarter-final game against St. Mary's. He had a very successful Cup Campaign with the '97/'98 Senior Team and his reward was selection as a member of the Irish Schools Squad. What is especially notable about Gavin's achievement is that he made the Irish Squad while still a Transition Year Student. He is underage for schools' rugby for a further two seasons so, provided he avoids injury, he is in line to accumulate a record number of schools' caps.

Both students are worthy recipients of the highest sporting awards promoted by Cistercian College.



FRANK SMYTH (PRINCIPAL), DERMOT O'LAUGHLIN, DOM COLMCILLE O'TOOLE AND GAVIN DUFFY.



DIARMUID FITZGERALD, DERMOT O'LAUGHLIN, KEVIN WEST, GAVIN DUFFY AND GERRY HAYES.



DERMOT O'LAUGHLIN, ANGELA O'LAUGHLIN AND DERMOT O'LAUGHLIN (SNR.)



Rugby Development Report 1997/'98

The Rugby Development Committee, under its chairman Bill O'Brien, is composed of the following: Patrick Cronin (ex-officio), Frank Dineen, Mark Ryan, Jim Glennon, Gerry Maher, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Gerry Casey, Barney Sherry, Pat Crotty, Sean Burke, Brendan Hyland and the school's Director of Sport, Gerry Hayes. The Committee meets on a regular basis and has as its sole objective the maximising of rugby potential within the College. The success of the '97/'98 Senior Squad is indicative of what can be achieved with good structures and top quality personnel. It is envisaged that over a three year period there will be a major upgrading of the levels of coaching offered to boys at all levels throughout the school. The numbers of in-house staff involved in coaching may well decline and the policy of utilising outside expertise will continue. For the '98/'99 season Kevin West will continue in his dual role as Coaching Co-ordinator and Senior Team Coach. Charlie Cooper and Jim Shortt will both have expanded roles with Under-age and development sides.

The Rugby Development Committee also involved itself in organising pre-match lunches and these proved very popular. It allowed pastmen and parents an opportunity to meet and socialise prior to

the cup matches. The committee owe a special word of thanks to the Dublin Branch of the Past Pupils' Union, who were very supportive of the new venture. It is intended to continue and expand this aspect of the school's rugby.

The Committee, thanks to the generosity of pastmen and parents, was able to provide jerseys, tracksuits, and gear bags for all members of the Senior Panel.

In March 1998, the College President, Patrick Cronin, launched the C.C.R. Rugby/Social Club at a pre-match luncheon in Bective R.F.C. This is intended as an avenue of involvement for all pastmen and parents interested in rugby within the school. All members of the

Rugby/Social Club will receive a bi-annual newsletter, details of all fixtures and updates on all social events connected with rugby. The annual membership fee is £50.00 and further details are available from Ms. Rowena Mitchell, a member of the College Administrative Staff. She can be contacted at (0505) 23344.

Finally, the Rugby Development Committee welcomes the formation of the College's Hurling Support Group and wishes them every success.



DIARMUID FITZGERALD (MANAGER SENIOR 1STS) AND KEVIN WEST (1ST TEAM COACH)

GOLF CLASSIC - RESULTS - HURLING SUPPORT

- 1 KAIDEEN KNITWEAR
- 2 TULLAMORE FROZEN FOODS
- 3 RAY O'DONNELL (CASTLECOMER)
- 4 BANK OF IRELAND, ROSCREA

- 5 CCR HURLING SUPPORT TEAM
- 6 SHANNON TRANSPORT
- 7 IRISH STEEL COMPANY



WINNERS: KAIDEEN KNITWEAR TEAM
STEPHEN MCGUINNESS, NIAL DOOGUE, JAMES D'ARCY AND GERRY HAYES



BILL O'BRIEN, RUGBY DEVELOPMENT TEAM
G.P. MAHER, D. FITZGERALD AND S. BURKE.

900 years a growing

FATHER LAURENCE WALSH O.CIST

On March 21st 1098, Robert Alberic and Stephen together with eighteen companions left their monastery of Molesme to set up the New Monastery in a wilderness, later to be called Citeaux, near Dion in Burgundy, France. For the first ten years or so the new venture made little or no headway and seemed to be doomed to failure. Gradually, however, the tide turned. Young men were inspired by this way of life and with the entry of St. Bernard and thirty companions in 1113, the floodgates opened. Soon new monasteries were founded all over Europe.

St. Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, was a close friend of St. Bernard and it was through Malachy's initiative that Ireland got its first Cistercian Monastery at Mellifont, Co. Louth. It was founded in 1142, with Christian O'Conarchy as first Abbot. Eventually, there were 40 Cistercian monasteries in Ireland and by 1150 over 350 throughout Europe - From Ireland to Hungary and from Sweden to the Moorish frontier of Spain.

The primitive documents of the founders of Citeaux show that they were motivated by very definite ideals; authenticity, simplicity, solitude, austerity and love for the Rule of St. Benedict, which with its balance of the work of God (liturgical prayer), manual work and *lectio divina* (prayerful reading, especially of the Scriptures) gave them a solid monastic way of life.

After an initial golden age, there was in the Cistercian order ebb and flow, just as in all human endeavours. Besides internal weaknesses, there were external influences, such as the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536-1539 under Henry VIII, when all those in Britain and Ireland were confiscated. This was to leave a trail of martyrs, such as Glaisne O'Cuilleanáin, Abbot of Boyle, who was hanged in Dublin on November 21st, 1580. We are honoured to possess his rosary beads in a reliquary in our Church.

There were great reforms too - most notably that of Abbot de Rance of La Trappe in 17th century France. Mount Melleray 1832 was the first post-Reformation monastery in Ireland and we here in Mount Saint Joseph, Roscrea were founded from Mount Melleray in 1878. It was our turn to found Scotland's first post-Reformation monastery in 1946, at Nunraw, near Edinburgh. We later founded two other houses: Tarrawarra, near Melbourne, Australia in 1954, and Moone in Co. Kildare in 1965. The 1940's, 1950's and early 1960's were periods of flow in many European countries and in North America. The last few decades saw an ebb in these parts and a flow in South America, Africa and the Far East. Today, there are 6,000 Cistercian monks and nuns in over 50 countries.

We have had our martyrs once again - Chinese Cistercians in the early days of the Revolution, Hungarian and Yugoslav Cistercians under Communism and our seven monks beheaded in Algeria on May 21st, 1996. We have had new beatifications also - a Sardinian, Gabriella who gave her life in the cause of Church Unity, and Cyprian Michael Tansi, beatified last march in his native Nigeria, by Pope John Paul II.

Roscrea occupies a unique place in the Trappist half of the Order as being the only Abbey which has a College attached. While some of the Abbeys of the Common Observance have schools dating back up to 800 years, Mount Saint Joseph is proud to have maintained the College since 1905 and of being able to mediate the specific Cistercian way of experiencing life and God to students. This would include a conscious living of each day in God's presence, an honest effort to bridge the divisions and tensions and build a harmonious community, a love of the place and of the land, an openness to receive all visitors with warmth and attention, and keeping a balance between the different parts and activities of the school life.

The Lord has looked after the Order well during the past 900 years and seen it through many crises such as the decline in fervour in the 13th century, the Reformation and the French Revolution. This century has witnessed two amazing expansions, after World War II and currently in the Far East and Africa. So we place our trust in God to continue to call men and women to the Cistercian way of life and to keep the original inspiration of the founders of 1098 alive in our hearts.





Nine Hundred Years YOUNG!

FR NIVARD KINSELLA OCSO
MOUNT ST JOSEPH ABBEY, ROSCREA.

It is a time for congratulations. We started out in 1098 on a few acres of poor land about twenty five kilometres south of Dijon and we are still there. And in a lot of other places too - from Ireland to Indonesia, from Central Africa to Australia. During our long history, monasteries have sometimes become wealthy and powerful and sometimes have been suppressed; Popes have sought counsel from us and Crusades have been preached. Monks and nuns have died for the faith, and Knights founded and organised by the Cistercians have died under the walls of Jerusalem for what they believed to be the glory of God and the destruction of the infidel in the Holy War. The Battle Flag of Don John of Austria still hangs above the seat of the Abbess in the great Spanish monastery of Las Huelgas, given by Don John himself in thanksgiving for victory. We have owned and planted the great vineyards of Burgundy, out of which the best wine in the world still comes. We have given our name to a style of architecture so pure and unadorned that it has never been surpassed in beauty and simplicity of line, so that even in ruins the monasteries stand as monuments to the genius of our forefathers. The Dissolution swept us away in this country and in Northern Europe and then the Revolution took out what had survived in France. We have built the great Baroque churches of Heiligenkreuz and Zwettl, which are still places of prayer and pilgrimage. Our shrines and holy places have been taken over and despoiled; stripped of their paintings and their beauty, the churches used as quarries for building everything from cathedrals to cattle sheds. We have owned vast amounts of land in some countries, and in others have been deprived even of the right to live. We have put several Popes on the chair of Peter; and have sat in the great universities of Europe and we have shivered on the snow-covered roads of China and Yugoslavia, even in our own day, seeking for somewhere to live and pray, the only light being the flames rising from the Abbeys we have left. The monks and nuns of the Order have died for their beliefs, and have still gone on believing it was worth it all. It is not too much to say that over the nine hundred years we can take to ourselves the words of Paul to the Corinthians (2Cor:6:5+) "...we try to prove ourselves authentic servants of God; by resolute perseverance in times of hardship, difficulties and distress; when we are flogged or sent

to prison or robbed; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness... in times of honour or disgrace, blame or praise, taken for imposters unknown yet acknowledged... dying and here we are alive".

It is not a bad record. Over nine hundred years we have had our highs and our lows, light and shade; glories and shadows. In a word, we have lived. So where are we today? It is easy to live in the past and talk only about past splendour. It is comforting to do so and it relieves us of facing the present and asking ourselves where we stand now and what have we to say to the world, our world, at this time.

So this great anniversary is also a time for self-questioning. There are three areas in which we Cistercians can contribute to the needs of the Church, and these are Prayer, Silence and A Sense of Continuity.

(1) **PRAYER.** There is an enormous interest in prayer among Christians at present. Prayer groups abound; meditation groups flourish; there is a hunger for prayer. There is an interest in the Divine Office among layfolk which did not exist when it was in Latin. There is a growing conviction that without prayer, religion and its exercises remain impersonal and do not bring one to meet the Saviour. And in the end that is what Christianity is about - 'I have not called you servants, I have called you friends.' We can teach people how to pray and how to pray the Office, which St Benedict calls the Work of God, along with us.

(2) **SILENCE.** Since the building of the Tower of Babel, society has never been so full of noise, of racket, of voices battering our outward and our inward ears. Everywhere there is sound and everywhere the volume is turned up. It is difficult to hear the voice of God. People need places of silence, citadels of quiet and of peace. Monasteries can provide these in the traditional reception of guests, which is such an important part of the monastic tradition. But we need to ask ourselves what we are offering guests. Is the monastery just another place to stay, far indeed from the sound of traffic, or is it truly a place of quiet and silence and peace; a place where one's soul can rest and one's spirit revive in quietness and calm; a place where one can find God and hear his Word?

(3) **A SENSE OF CONTINUITY** This seems to me very important today. Everything is changing. I have heard a sociologist say that between 1980 and 1990 there was more change in society than in the previous fifty years. And that between 1990 and 1995, there was more change than in the whole decade of the '80s. We cannot handle too much change. It disorients and depresses us. Values we knew, situations with which we were familiar, social patterns with which we grew up - all are gone or are going. It is only a few years ago we traded pounds, shillings and pence for pounds and pence. And now that too will disappear and the Euro will replace it. This is just one small indication of the rapidity and immensity of change that we live with and must survive. Monasteries too must change, but they

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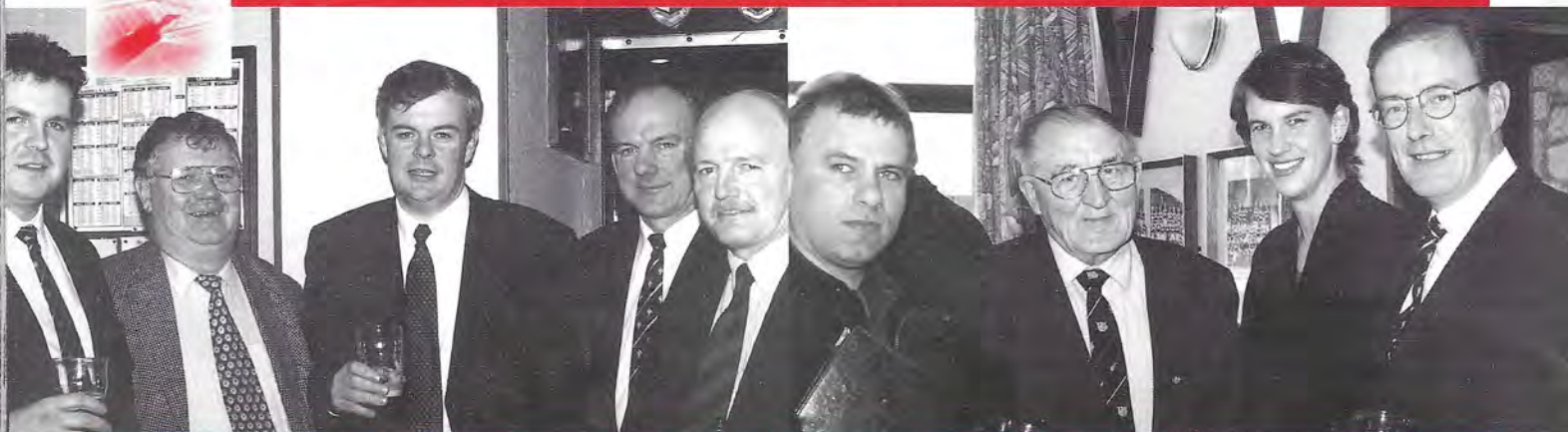
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SEMI-FINAL PRO MATCH LUNCH

L TO R: DONAL TAAFFE, TOMAS GARVEY, MARK RYAN, BILL O'BRIEN AND JOHN PRESS. - TONY WARD, EDMUND VAN ESBECK, CARA TAAFFE AND JOHN COMERFORD R.I.P..



LONDON BRANCH
DINNER 1998
KATHERINE DONOVAN
AND BRIAN FLYNN

LONDON BRANCH
DINNER 1998
DOM COLMCILLE
O'TOOLE, BRIAN FLYNN

All Ireland Schools Athletics

Pat Creagh does it again!! - 1998 -

3 GOLD FOR CCR IN THE HAMMER

- Senior : Michael Grace (Tralee) 1 st
- Junior : Peter Tierney (Ballinasloe) 1st
Barry Mc Cann (Galway) 3rd
- Junior : John Phelan (Kilkenny) 1st
Conor Phelan (Kilkenny) 2nd

This is the 14th Year in succession that CCR has won the Junior All Ireland. Can this record be equalled?

Congratulations to those who participated and to Pat Creagh, their dedicated Coach.



ALL IRELAND B.L.O.E. ATHLETICS

- 1st
U/18 David Thompson (Tullamore)
- 1st
U/17 Barry Mc Cann (Galway)
- 2nd
U/15 Peter Tierney (Ballinasloe)
Conor Phelan (Kilkenny)

SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS

- 3rd
Peter Tierney (Ballinalsoe)

have a tradition and a history which has given them a sense of continuity which brings an ability to change while holding on to what is of enduring worth.

The rule by which Cistercian monks have always lived is the Rule of St Benedict, written by the abbot of a monastery in Italy sometime around 600 AD. Surely it is time to move on from that - it can hardly be relevant to life today! . One of the more interesting phenomena in spirituality (and in publishing!) at the present time is the number of books interpreting the Rule of St.

Benedict for laypeople today. These books are not being written by monks or nuns. The Rule is being proposed by laypeople as a rule of life for laypeople, living not in monasteries but in homes and families, with jobs and careers, with children to rear, and spouses to care for, with mortgages to pay, and loneliness to overcome, with all the ordinary problems of life to cope with. This is surely saying to us monks and nuns today - "Look, you Cistercians have got something good - why don't you share it with us?".



A Message from the President of the College - PATRICK CRONIN

Well, I now have one whole year under my belt - and what a year ! Among the highlights of the year have been the various Union events that I attended. Like the late, lamented John Comerford whose year as President of the Union coincided with my first year, I managed to attend them all. I could not have asked for better support during the year than that given so unstintingly by John and Helen. Public speaking did not come naturally to him at first - he used to insist that he always spoke before me, claiming he could not stand the competition. However, his speech at the UK Dinner at the National Liberal Club in London on 3rd April was excellent and all present were uplifted by his eloquence and wit, embodying his deep commitment to the College. John's other commitments, especially to the Hurling and Rugby Development Groups, enabled us to defuse many of the tensions which have dogged the dual tradition in College sport. This has enabled us to make substantial progress in ensuring that both sports can be developed in parallel to the highest possible standard. We shall miss John's warm personality and great gifts. The best tribute we can pay to him is to ensure that all the various projects he has started come to fruition. If the support for the Golf Classic at the Curragh Golf Club on 20th July in aid of the Hurling Support Group is a reliable indicator, you will do John's memory proud.

I am very grateful to the various Branch Chairmen who hosted me so magnificently and warmly through the year. I have been to two functions in the U K and the South West (when in May of this year I fulfilled a long cherished ambition to sample the food of Ballymaloe!), to New York for the (North American Branch Annual Dinner in October, to Dublin in November (when that fearsome crew were very gentle with me) and to the South East at Mount Juliet on Easter Saturday. There were also the various Class Reunions and the Abbot's Cup Competition in September. Union functions have been the major part of my social life for the past year -indeed because of the many and varied pressures of College life in my first year, they were the whole of it! I could not have asked for more open and welcoming treatment than that which I received on every occasion. I am more grateful to you all than words can adequately express.

During the course of the year I was overwhelmed by the level of support of Pastmen for College teams, especially for the Senior Hurling and Rugby Squads. It speaks volumes for the commitment and loyalty of Pastmen to the College and I pledge myself to do everything possible to enable that to continue. It gave me enormous pleasure to know that the College responded to that loyalty by providing memorable sporting occasions in both traditions.



BALLYMALOE HOUSE, 1998

TOP PIC L TO R: BARNEY SHERRY, PATRICK CRONIN, PATRICK ABERNETHY, NOEL WINDLE, LENA DOYLE, CUIMIN DOYLE.



BALLYMALOE HOUSE, 1998

FR. PETER, THE LATE JOHN COMERFORD, LIAM KELLY AND PATRICK CRONIN

MOUNT JULIET GOLF OUTING

THE LATE JOHN COMERFORD PRESENTING 1ST PRIZE TO MARK LUCEY





C.C.R. Hurling Support Group

At the meeting held 23rd April, 1998, the C.C.R. Hurling Support Group (H.S.G.) was formed. John Comerford, Ex-President of the Past Pupils' Union was elected Chairman and Pat Sheedy of the teaching staff was elected Secretary. At a later date Mr. Mark Carey was elected Treasurer.

Mr. Patrick Cronin, President of the College, addressed the meeting. He paid tribute to those present for their continuing interest in hurling in the college. He gave a commitment to develop all sports in the college and to give parity of esteem to all.

After a frank discussion the following objectives were agreed for the HSG:

1. To enhance the status of hurling in the college.
2. To draw up a development plan for the game in the school.
3. To raise funds to help the school in funding this plan.
4. To provide social contact for former C.C.R. hurlers.

Mr. Hugh McDonnell gave a full account of the state of the game in the school. We reached the semi-final stage of each of the three Leinster Championships we contested in 1997/98. He spoke about our short-term and long-term needs. He stressed that our biggest need was a full-sized hurling pitch. As a result a deputation was appointed to meet the Abbot to request a suitable field from the Abbey.

In order to gain publicity and to raise some funds for H.S.G. it was decided to run a golf classic. John Comerford and Niall Doogue undertook to organise the event. As I write this article, the time sheet is filling up for our classic in the Curragh Golf Club on July 20.



FRONT : GERRY HAYES, FR. ANDREW, JOHN COMERFORD R.I.P., BARNEY SHERRY,
JOHN STOKES AND PAT SHEEDY
BACK : MARK CAREY, NIALL DOOGUE, HUGH MCDONNELL, DAN AHERN, TOM GARVEY,
MATT KENNEDY AND DAVID TARPEY.

The funding of the H.S.G. has given a huge boost to the morale of the hurlers in the college and in particular to the young juveniles. A new coaching plan for first years will be in operation in September 1998. Visiting coaches will be brought in. Many former hurlers have expressed a willingness to return to help out with some special coaching sessions.

The H.S.G. is aware that a bright new era is opening up for all sports in the school. The H.S.G. is delighted with the appointment of Mr. Gerry Hayes as Director of Sport. We look forward to working in tandem with Mr. Bill O'Brien and the Rugby Development Committee in developing sport in the school. We are also delighted at the prospect of having a great new sports hall, as indoor hurling for schoolboys is one of the great new developments in the modern game of hurling. We are, of course, privileged to be living through the 'golden age' of hurling. Live television has 'made' the game in the last four years.

The H.S.G. is absolutely thrilled by the reaction to our founding by past-pupils and parents. People are delighted to be asked to help and this has been clearly illustrated by the response to our golf classic. Finally, we hope to publish a progress report in every edition of the *Roscrea Review*.

The following is a full list of the members of the H.S.G.

Mr. John Comerford, (Thomastown)
Mr. Pat Sheedy (C.C.R.)
Dr. T.B. (Barney) Sherry, (Dublin)
Mr. Tom Garvey, (New Inn)
Mr. Donal Ahern, (Fermoy)
Mr. Niall Doogue, (Baltinglass)
Mr. Dan Treacy, (Naas)
Mr. Tony O'Grady, (Dublin)
Mr. John Stokes, (Dublin)

Mr. Pat Murrhly, (Adare)
Fr. Andrew Cowen, O.Cist, (Mt. St. Joseph's)
Mr. Hugh McDonnell, (C.C.R.)
Mr. Mark Carey, (C.C.R.)
Mr. Declan Phelan, (Durrow)
Mr. David Tarpey, (Oranmore)
Mr. Barry Cowen, (Tullamore)
Mr. Shane McGuckin, (Banagher & Gorey)
Mr. Patrick Cronin (Ex-officio)

It is with genuine personal sadness that on behalf of the H.S.G., I extend our sympathies to Helen and the family of the late John Comerford. John had an extraordinary ability to move ahead, taking people of all ages and views with him. This he showed so aptly as Chairman of our H.S.G. even in just three months. He is a great loss to Cistercian College.

"NÍ BHEIDH A LEITHÉID ARÍS ANN"

AR DHEIS DÉ GO RAIBH A ANAM DÍLIS

Any Past pupil wishing to get a copy of our Hurling Newsletter or wishing to support the H.S.G. in any way, please contact Hugh McDonnell or Pat Sheedy at CCR (0505) 23344



Fr. Bonaventure Melvin

C.C.R. Teacher and Monk 1964-'98
(Student C.C.R. 1948-'53)

When I overheard some students refer to Father Bonaventure as "sound", I knew that he had reached the "Hall Of Fame" because that is the term used by CCR boys when they have the utmost respect for a member of staff. He joined the College Staff on Monday August 16th 1964 and the President was Father Declan. His first brief was 3B Religion and as a bonus he had the responsibility of supervising the small Study Hall for First Study, seven days a week, with two periods on Sunday. So for the past thirty eight years he has been involved in supervising study as well as carrying out other posts of responsibility.

He has served under five Presidents; Fr. Declan, Fr. Patrick, Fr. Peter, Fr. Kevin and now Patrick Cronin. It was he who founded the Junior Library in 1972 and it is thriving to this day. When Eddie O'Sullivan and the other Housemasters joined the staff, this lessened his burden somewhat, but if any staff member wants to know how the new students are settling in to boarding school life, then Fr. Bonaventure is the man to consult and his astute evaluation is welcomed by all.

Despite the chore of looking after Study Halls on Sunday, he still finds time and a radio to listen to the commentaries when his beloved Galway are playing and in their moments of glory the maroon and white emblem adorns the black and white on the Monday morning.

Everyone acknowledges the unselfish contribution that he has made over four decades and it is all done so humbly and so unobtrusively. It would be difficult to envisage a CCR without the smiling face of this most congenial monk.

Brendan O'Rourke



Obituary Notices

BOB SCANLON, died on November 25th 1997. He taught Irish and Geography in CCR from 1949 until 1968 when he moved to Colaiste Chodim in Swords, Co. Dublin. He had a great love for the Irish language and for many years was a senior examiner with the Department of Education and when he retired he spent many years translating Irish documents and manuscripts in the Royal Academy in Dublin.

DONAL JOHNSON (CCR '44/'46) and his brother Patrick ('47/'49) from Rathkeale, Co. Limerick both died in April '98 within a week of each other. Donal, a vet, developed his personal and professional interest in horses and he was in demand locally, nationally and internationally as a judge. He was a senior official with the Royal Dublin Society and a member of the Showjumping Association of Ireland. Patrick also was a keen horseman traditionalist and community man. As chairman of Golden Vale he helped oversee the changeover from cooperative to public limited company status.

MICHAEL PENNY late of Mayorstone, Limerick died March 1998

FRANK CLAFFEY (CCR '42/'44) from Portumna, Co. Galway died April 1998

KEVIN LIFFEY (CCR '42/'46) from Shinrone died April 1998

AIDAN COLLINS (CCR '63/'68) late of Cork and Stoke-On-Trent died on March 14th '98

KEVIN O'DEA died tragically while on holidays in Africa

JOHN JOE HEALY (CCR '33/'38) died on March 18th, 1998. A native of Belmullet, Co. Mayo he spent much of his life in Clonmel Co. Tipperary.

PIERCE GREY (CCR '37/'38) died on July 21st 1997. He was a winner of the Gold Medal in the Royal College of Pharmacy. He is survived by his three children Brian, Peter and Mary.



YES OR NO

Sometimes one's life faces a yes or no answer if one is to survive, progress.

The quick to yes one need never regress, gets due reward, then lives as most must do.

The one says no left dead, quick forgotten: must bide dear time, face each day's start anew to live and grow one of that refined few who shape a mode of life because self-chosen.

Desmond O'Grady
Kinsale, Co. Cork C.C.R. 1949-'54

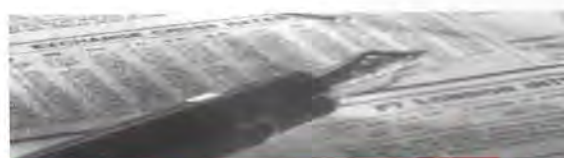
Vocation

Vocation varies; where we tend to prodigal, how we take and give our own example: the Occident, the Orient, or both; whether or not to cut our personal cloth.

Initiation grants us place among like aspirants. We each chant our song while we keep faith; may mature to hymn. Some stay in choir. The rest change voice, go dumb.

As postulants we've time to meditate upon our choice of life and to collate what was left, what taken. Both texts evaluated we may decide to stay, or change our mind.

With ordination we apply what's learned from the contents and consecrate what's mirrored. Some may scripture what inspires vocation, to sacrament its value and its duration.



SEPTEMBER 19TH

LORD ABBOT'S CUP GOLF COMPETITION

Venue: Roscrea Golf Club
Tee Times available from 8.00 a.m.
(All Tee Times must be pre-booked)
Entry Fee Golf (including Green Fees) £25

Contact : Gerry Hayes / Aileen Spillane
Phone (0505) 23344 or 087 2224253
Fax (0505) 22066

Dinner £15
Dinner Bookings only through Liam Spooner
(0505) 21063
Venue : Roscrea Golf Club

Accommodation

A limited amount of accommodation is available in the local area.

Please contact Katherine Donovan to confirm same (0505) 21045

25 Year Reunion (Class of '73)
Grant's Hotel, Roscrea

40 Year Reunion (Class of '58)
County Arms Hotel, Birr

50 Year Reunion (Class of '48)
Guesthouse, Mount Saint Joseph Abbey
Reunion Mass in College Chapel @ 5.00p.m.
Sherry Reception in College @ 6.00p.m.
Photographs of Reunion Groups @ 6.45p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20TH

UNION DAY AT CCR

Union Mass @ 11.00 a.m. in the Abbey Church
Career Guidance Seminar @ 12.00 in Guesthouse
Buffet Lunch in the College @ 1.00 p.m.
(Bookings : 0505 21045)
Union Commemoration of Cistercian 9th Centenary @ 2.30 p.m.
Past v Present Rugby Match @ 3.00 p.m.
Past v Present Hurling Match @ 3.00 p.m.

OCTOBER 9TH

LONDON BRANCH REUNION -

Kavanagh's Bar in Jury's Hotel, South Kensington.
Contact : Brian Flynn 01799 524226

OCTOBER 16TH

North America Branch Annual Dinner

Langan's Restaurant & Bar, 150 W 47th Street,
New York, NY
Cocktails & Dinner \$50
Contact : Dr Noel Mc Carthy, 460 State Street,
North Haven, CT 06473
Tel (203) 248-4461 Fax (203) 288-6761

OCTOBER 23RD

LIMERICK/CLARE BRANCH FUNCTION

The Lock Bar (beside Barrington's Medical
Centre) @ 8.00 p.m.
Contact : Michael Sherry (061) 314788 or Gerry
Casey (061) 410488

FRIDAY, OCT 30TH TO SUNDAY NOV 1ST

KENMARE WEEKEND

Venue : Park Motel, Kenmare

2 nights B&B (with Gala dinner) £165p.p.
1 night B&B and Gala dinner £105 p.p.
Extra night, dinner, B&B £92 p.p.
(Early booking essential as places are limited)
Contact The Park Hotel (064) 41200

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH

DUBLIN BRANCH DINNER

Hibernian United Service Club, Stephen's Green,
Dublin @ 7.30 p.m.
Contact : Michael Mc Namara at 29 Lower Leeson
Street, Dublin 2. Phone (01) 6765257
Email : ma@tinet.ie Joseph O'Shea (01) 2695666

FEBRUARY 12TH '99

**UNION ANNUAL DINNER (SOUTH EASTERN AND SOUTH
TIPP BRANCH)**

Chez Hans Restaurant, Cashel, Co Tipperary
Contact : Gearoid O'Brien (051) 843002
Frank O'Meara (052) 33204

February / March '99

**Support CCR Rugby and Hurling Cup
Campaigns**

Information from the College (0505) 23344 or 21045

Midlands Branch Reunion

(details to be advised)
Contact : Andy Galvin (0506) 21485

APRIL 2ND '99

GOOD FRIDAY REUNION & LITURGY

Meet at Guesthouse @ 11.00 a.m.
Talks by College Pastor, Father Peter Garvey &
Discussion
Mount Saint Joseph Abbey @ 3.00 p.m.
Lunch Bookings (0505) 21711

MAY 14TH '99

South Western Branch Annual Dinner

Ballymaloe House Hotel @ 7.30 p.m.
Contact Dr Liam Kelly (021) 372572
Fergal O'Gara (021) 870628

MAY 15TH '99

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNION

Reception at Cistercian College, Roscrea @
5.30p.m.
Meeting @ 6.15 p.m.
Dinner @ 7.30 p.m. (Booking : 0505 23344 or
21045)
(Overnight accommodation can be arranged on request)

MAY 16TH '99

SPORTS DAY AT CCR

All are welcome



Union Calendar 1998 - '99

CCR

ROSCREA

REVIEW

News of Pastmen

Congratulations to **John O'Regan** (CCR '78/'83) who is enjoying popular success with a musical track called "Theme from Green Machine". Five years ago, John was working at Granada Television with Mike Timoney and the two were listening to John F. Kennedy's 1963 speech to the Joint Houses of the Oireachtas. The two started setting bits of it to music, forgot about it and it was five years before John rediscovered the demo tape in a box. On its first week of release it was the highest new entry in the Irish Charts and reached Number 10 in its second week. John's "real" job is as a Producer and Director at R.T.E. and he worked on the latest season of "Kenny Live" and "Later On Two"

Edward Wilson (CCR '88/'93) has just been accepted by The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, one of 32 people accepted from 3,000 applicants. Edward highlighted the encouragement he received in the College in a recent interview in the *Examiner*. "It was at school that I was introduced to Public Speaking and Elocution. I had a great teacher called Miss Bergin who introduced me to 'The Merchant of Venice' which was my first taste of Shakespeare. The teachers there emphasise your integrity and expect you to bring a certain truthfulness to everything you do. I try to do that in acting". Edward will now focus on trying to raise his fees for the RADA, since the first year alone will cost him about £15,000.

Joe Harford (CCR '59/'64) has spent the past ten years working with the Japanese Chemical giant Yamanouchi. In that time he has overseen an investment of nearly £70m by the company in Ireland. He started with Yamanouchi as Chief Executive of the Irish operation. Joe is married with two children and presently lives in Swords, Co. Dublin. For the past two years, he has been Chairman of the Economic Social Research Institute.

Philip O'Shea (CCR '80/'85) qualified as an accountant and worked with Price Waterhouse in Dublin. At present he is working with FYFFES in Dutch Guiana as a Financial Controller. He got engaged in May of this year and hopes to return to Ireland in the near future. His younger brother, Declan (CCR '82/'87) has travelled extensively in Australia and South East Asia and is currently working with Stenna Line in Dun Laoghaire. In the past two years, the family have suffered the deaths of Declan (Snr - CCR '53/'58) and of Tim (CCR '84/'89) and have shown great courage in the face of such sorrow.

Pastman **Marty Dwan** featured recently in the *Irish Times* as one of the major campaigners against the proposed route for the Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny By-pass. He believes that the proposed route will destroy 22 historically important sites between Jerpoint Abbey and Mount Juliet Estate.

Congratulations to **Peter Daly** (CCR '79/'85) on his recent marriage to Olive Blackmore.

Dr Sean Ó Riain (CCR '67/'72) recently launched his book "Pleanál Teanga I Éireann 1919 to 1985".

Congratulations to **Dr. Adrian O'Gara** (CCR '84/'89) who recently got engaged to Maria Carmody from Listowel.

Congratulations to pastman **Justin Keogh** (CCR '92/'97) who was a member of the victorious Irish Boys' Golf Team who won the European Championship. Ireland finished as the top qualifiers mainly thanks to Justin, who was the only player from the eighteen countries to beat par on both days of the qualifying round. After wins over Finland and England, Ireland beat hosts Scotland 4-3 in the final.

Liam Ryan (CCR '77/'79) has recently formed a new Architectural practice with his wife Pam in Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Tipperary. After leaving Roscrea, Liam qualified as an Architect at Liverpool's John Moore's University where he met his wife Pam. He returned to Ireland a few years ago and is looking forward to a successful practice in his new location.

Don Harrington (CCR '80/'85) is now working with Davy Stockbrokers where he is an Associate Director with Davy's Corporate Finance Team.

Congratulations to pastman **Gerry Slattery** of Warren Estates, Gorey who was recently installed as president of I.A.V.I. His three sons, Niall, Shane and Gearoid are also CCR pastmen.

John Geary (CCR '76/'81) is currently a Lecturer of Industrial Relations / Human Resource Management at the graduate school of Business in U.C.D. He studied for his BA and MA in Sociology in Maynooth before completing a Doctorate in Sociology in Nuffield College, University of Oxford. He worked in Warwick Business School, University of Warwick before returning to Ireland in 1994 to take up his current post.

Congratulations to **Vivian Lavan** (CCR '80/'82) who was recently appointed by the Government as New Chairman of the Law Reform Commission.



News of Pastmen

Pastman **Eamon Maher** (CCR '72/'78) was recently awarded his Doctorate in French Literature from University College Galway. At present, he is lecturing in Tallaght R.T.C.

Patrick Murphy (CCR '76/'81) did an MBA last year and is now legal director for Shorts in Belfast.

Visitors from abroad recently included three members of the class of 1981. **James Gavigan** with his wife Pepe and their three sons came from Seville. James works with a European Community office there but still hopes to return to Ireland some day. It was amusing though hardly surprising to see his three bilingual and bicultural sons wielding hurleys expertly in front of the College. **Stephen Brady** and his wife Jane visited with **Michael Roche**. They travelled from San Francisco - Stephen for a holiday and Michael permanently. Stephen works with an auto crash repair company in San Francisco but also hopes to return to Ireland some day though he emphasises that the U.S. has been good to him. Michael pursued his cherished natural science gift and works on the development and refining of fish cultures off the Californian coast. He hopes to get into the burgeoning fish farm industry here in Ireland. They both bumped into Father Kevin while he was studying in Berkeley University during the year and many tales were swapped and characters of the 1976-'81 period recalled.

Congratulations to **Dr Declan Murphy** (Portumna) who married Sheila Finucane - niece of Fr Aengus and Fr Jack of *Concern*, in Adare on September 4th. Declan is presently working in the new Hospital at Tallaght. His best man was brother **Brian** who graduated as a Physiotherapist from Glasgow Caledonian this summer. Another Galwegian Ronan (Stan) Stewart, a graduate of U.C.G. is doing his final year of Chemical Engineering at Bath University.

Darren Brennan (Galway) is doing his fellowship in Medicine in Beaumont and **Paddy O'Malley** is doing his in University College Hospital, Galway.

Martin Ryan (Newport) has just finished his masters in Veterinary Science and has just left for 6 months in New Zealand. **John** is with Craig Gardiner in Dublin and Chris is in 5th Year Medicine.

Brian Hogan (Rosslare) has qualified this year as a Pharmacist.

Simon Kelliher, solicitor, has decided to embrace the noble profession of teaching and is in *Mater Dei*.

John O'Connell (Kerry), **David Ryan** (Nenagh), **Brian Brosnan** (Waterford) and **Geoff Barry** (Wexford) are presently in Bondi Beach.

news of past students

• roscrea review •

Attention Pastmen

ATTENTION PASTMEN Please detach and return in the enclosed pre-paid envelope We are currently in the process of updating our computerised database of postmen. The details below will help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions

Name:..... Year Entered:..... Year Left:

Home Address :..... Occupation :

..... Business Address :

.....

.....

Home Phone :..... Work Phone :

Mobile :..... Fax:..... Email:

Have you attended a PPU Function in the past year? Yes No

Would you like to receive information regarding the "Abbot's Cup" Yes No

Write an article for the "Roscrea Review"! We want to hear from you!

Contact the College: (0505) 210451 23344 Fax: (0505) 22066

Email : mtjoseph@iol.ie Website: http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph

