

ROSCREA REVIEW

No. 72

Newsletter for the Cistercian College, Roscrea, Union.

Spring 1999

Union Celebrations

Dear Fellow Past Students

As those of you who were there well know, Lansdowne Road on St Patrick's Day was the occasion of a huge Roscrea gathering. Blackrock College may have been there also, even won the game, but it was Roscrea's day none the less. The skillful and determined performance of John Phelan's team, and their fine sportsmanship, gave us another good reason to be proud of Roscrea. For that, we thank the team and send to each one of them our heartiest congratulations.

The Union year is drawing to a close, with the AGM coming up on May 15th next. I have had the great pleasure of being present at Union functions all over the place, and received memorable hospitality for which I am deeply grateful.

There was Union Day at the College, the North Tipp Branch organised Lord Abbot's Cup and the 1988, 1973 and 1948 Class Reunions in September; then in October, the North America Branch function in New York, the Limerick reunion, the London reunion and



the Kenmare weekend; in November, the Dublin annual dinner and the (just recently rejuvenated!) Midlands Branch dinner dance in Tullamore.

The Unions celebration of the Cistercian 9th centenary took place at the College on January 16th, when our Commemorative Stone was unveiled in the presence of representatives from every Branch, including New York and London, and fourteen

Past Presidents of the Union; In February, the Union annual dinner in Cashel, organised by South Tipp and South East Branches; and on March 19th the London annual dinner in the splendid surroundings of the Liberal Club.

Still to come are - Good Friday at Roscrea, on April 2nd; Galway reunion, to be hosted by the Western Branch on a date to be announced; the South Western Branch annual dinner, on May 14th and the Annual General Meeting of the Union and Dinner at the College, on the following day, May 15th.



inside ROSCREA this issue





**THE ABBOT, UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF GERALD MCCARTHY,
PLACES THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX.**

What abiding impressions remain with me from all these visits?

First and foremost, the success of the College over the generations in turning out such fine people. There are many ingredients in this success, not least being the work (and play), year after year, of students and of their teachers and mentors. Secondary schools and Cistercians do not normally go together. It was the promise of the monks to their benefactor, Count Arthur Moore, that brought the College into being. It is the faithfulness of the monks ever since to their College, and ours, which is the foundation on which the success of the place is built.

As past students, we have good reason to appreciate all that the monks have done and all that they mean to us. Our Commemorative Stone, standing in the grounds of the College between the Chapel and the Recreation Hall, will hopefully be an enduring witness to our gratitude and affection.

My other impression has to do with the Union - the work

of the few for the many is magnificent. The Branch Chairmen, their officers and committees, work hard to make Union functions happen, with much success and much enjoyment for all who attend. Thanks to their efforts, thanks to all involved in the College and in the Central Committee of the Union, thanks to the 'Roscrea Review', the lines of communication are kept open. The Union as a result is strong and in good heart.

It is a privilege to serve as President, Seamus O'Brien, the doyen (1945/'47) of Past Presidents, and who was amongst the Past Presidents with us on January 16th, wrote in *An Fiolar*, forty-one years ago, - "In my time, I have travelled the country, and every where I went I met past pupils of Roscrea. It was always pleasant to meet them - they were always kind and hospitable ... To have known so many was a great privilege for me. To have been associated with them was a very great honour." Those are my sentiments exactly.

LAURENCE BRANNIGAN



**NEW SPORTS HALL
FR. PETER GARVEY, PAT O'SHEA, FR. KEVIN DALY, JOHN O'SHEA.**



Abadi-Bee Abadi-Bey (Aintree '79)



BY CONOR IRWIN (CCR 1975-'80)

I finished my time in CCR in 1980. The relief on my departure was enormous and probably mutual. I paid scant attention to events there for the next ten years, as indifference, distraction or perhaps even study focused my sights on other targets.

The "Roscrea Review" followed me faithfully for the next 19 years. Like a letter from your mother during an on-going tiff - they were always surprisingly welcome. These past few years, they have become shockingly interesting. What was going on down there? A lay President; a £3 million pound face-lift; new computer laboratories; school uniform; lots of lady staff; four weekly terms; rugby and hurling development committees. It was all fascinating stuff. It was hard to ignore the fact that the old place was finally coming of age. Well, the day that split the atom for me was the day I read the casually placed article in the "Review" that declared "Roscrea Racing Club go to Thurles"! Well, was this not the best little school in Ireland?

Racing was a criminal offence in my day. A white collar crime. Not quite the same as lifting some 2nd year three foot up a wall to extract a forecast of the next rugby match and encouraging him to back his judgement with a pound. I was opposed to such a thuggish form of gambling. Not because I could not lift a 2nd year three foot off the ground, but because I felt it gave the noble art of gambling a bad name. It was the "Sport of Kings" that captured me and helped to while away some damp grey winter hours in Roscrea. However, the pursuit of my interest was never straightforward. The Cistercian code of conduct was stiffer than Beecher's, the arm of the law, longer than the Melling Road. I was driven underground.

Tom Murphy from Listowel was my racing pal and punter. Each day, after classes we set off to remove the racing pages from the Monks' reading room in the front corridor. This in itself was an irritatingly tricky task. It was never easy to secure the corridor with just one of you keeping nicks. Occasionally, we would find a monk actually using the room - reading our paper - and we would have to be pretty inventive with our on-the-spot excuses. On especially important race days, they would have to be told that they were needed elsewhere. Needs must!

Armed with the required text, we would make our way to the middle floor to Fr. Eanna's Museum displays and perched over the conveniently slanted bird display case, with some long-beaked stuffed bird perched on, we would predict the outcome of each race. His selection against mine with 10p backing each one. Now, I am sure it would apply to other subjects but I can only vouch for racing - consistent hard work, hours of study and attention to detail does pay off. It was not long before Tom and I could give accurate, in-depth biographical details on 90% of our equine cousins - the inmates of racing stables on either side of the Irish Sea. The results of each days racing were scrutinised and wins for either party were settled outside tuck shop on a Sunday. It rarely amounted to more than a couple of quid either way.

These hours of idle fun would probably have come to nothing more than the foundations of an even more idle adult pastime were it not for the events of Easter 1979. Our skills were given an early opportunity to express themselves. Easter came early that year, and Tom and I were totally deflated when we realised that rather than being at home for the National, we would instead be incarcerated during the annual Aintree spectacular. We moped around for days. Even if we could get to see the race on telly, it wouldn't be the same without a bet. We couldn't be certain to get a bet on, as Tom and I had been declined when

we applied for membership of The Legion of Mary, who make weekly visits to the poor and elderly folk in Roscrea. We had taken this slur on our character badly at the time but now it was a particular nuisance.

A couple of days later, we were in a much tidier state of mind, and hummed around the place with the assured confidence of men with a plan. We started with the smokers. They were generally more rounded men with an openness of mind not always guaranteed in the church corridors. A few weeks previously, a horse called Alverton had won the Cheltenham Gold Cup, ridden by Jojo O'Neill. Some argued that he was a fortunate winner, taking advantage of the last fence fall of Tommy Carberry and Tied Cottage. Alverton immediately became the hot favourite for Aintree at 6/1. Tom and I took the view that despite his moderate weight he would not find it easy to get around those enormous fences. We offered 12/1 the field with Alverton heading our list. We boldly added at least 2 points to the bookmaker's prices for every horse in the race.

It was not long before the "wise heads" got on the favourite - at double the bookie odds and tax-free. In no time at all we had a healthy market with plenty of punters eager to get in. We diversified and offered odds on horses to finish etc. By a peculiar coincidence, the Eurovision Song Contest was being broadcast on the same evening as the National and we opened a second market for that. For especially clever punters, we were adding 100 points to any successful double. This did great business for us.

The only problem we had was keeping the operation under wraps. We would not accept bets from juniors, but we were stopped everywhere we went and money thrust at us by eager investors. We had a hellish job turning them away. We were updating our balance sheets twenty times a day. At night, we dreamed of Aintree and Alverton. Saturday could not come quickly enough.

I got permission to go into Roscrea "to get my watch repaired" on the day of the race. I knew there would be pandemonium if we were both around the place. I left poor Tom to take care of the business in my absence. I watched the race in the Pathe Hotel with a few pensioners and a cup of tea. They couldn't have known how anxious an observer they had in their midst until one of them went to turn off the Television and nearly fell over such was my outburst of objection.

The race was only awesome!" In dreadful conditions, one by one the horses were falling away - Rough and Tumble, Zongalero, Drumroan. At Beechers first time around the Gold Cup hero Alverton took a horrible fall and broke it's neck. It was not how I would have wished it, but that was the turning point for Tom and me. After ten glorious minutes of compulsive viewing with tears of laughter running down my cheeks, I said farewell to the guests and left in a delirious daze. The winner was Rubstick - a 25/1 shot. Five horses finished the race - among them a 300/1 shot, Wagner.

Back at the college, Tom told me that nearly a hundred students had clamoured around the TV in the Recreation Hall. "The Monks could not understand this surge of interest in racing, the huge roars of encouragement and the deplorable language of some of the students as their selection tripped up. Poor Tom was mobbed, but only one intrepid punter, Donald Collins, had backed the winner - 50p on the nose!

Israel won the Eurovision that night and Tom and I sang 'Abadi-Bee Adadi-Bey' for weeks afterwards!





Editorial

The Spring 1999 edition of the "Roscrea Review" highlights a variety of events and developments that impact on the monastery and the college. Firstly, all pastmen join in congratulating the Cistercians on the occasion of their 900th anniversary. Nine centuries of unbroken commitment to the ideals of monasticism is a formidable achievement and testimony to the resilience and faith of succeeding generations of Cistercians. It is the earnest wish of all pastmen that this great tradition will continue to influence future centuries.

This "Review" also indicates some of the important developments that are an integral part of the College's future. The new Information Technology Centre represents a major educational resource for students and staff alike. It provides within the school, state-of-the-art Technology and has the potential to radically alter learning methodologies for present and future students. The new Sports Hall, scheduled for completion in September of this year, is a huge investment in the future. Again, it represents tangible evidence of positive strategic planning and will ensure that the college's facilities can comfortably face the challenges of the new millennium.

Even the most cursory perusal of the "Review" gives some flavour of the range of Union activities. The strength of the Union lies with the individual branches and they now operate from Kenmare to San Francisco. While all branches deserve credit for the work they undertake it was a source of special pleasure for many pastmen to see the revival of the Midland Branch Dinner. A wonderfully relaxed and enjoyable evening was had by all and full credit to all those involved in organising the event.

Finally, the standard of the "Review" is largely dependent on the quality and range of material submitted to the Editor. All contributions are welcome and photographs can especially enhance individual editions. Material can be forwarded to the college or sent by Email to mtjoseph@iol.ie

DUBLIN BRANCH Dinner



TOP :
VIVIEEN CULLEN, PRESIDENT, PRES. BRAY P.P.U., AVRIL NASON,
PRESIDENT, KING'S HOS. P.P.U., LISA HURLEY, PRESIDENT, DE LA SALLE,
RAHENY P.P.U., LAURENCE BRANIGAN, PRESIDENT, C.C.R. P.P.U.

MIDDLE : GERRY BATES, SHAY GARVEY, GERARD MAHER, GERALD
MC CARTHY, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BOTTOM : CLASS OF '92 - DECLAN MCCARTHY, RONNIE KIERAN,
SHANE MCINERNEY, MAURICE PHELAN, DAVID LAWLOR, FERGAL COX.



Dublin Dinner Dance

The Dublin Branch Dinner was first held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on December 16th, 1929. It really was the Union Dinner, for when the Union was established that year, its functions were held in Dublin only and not throughout the country as obtains to-day. Fr. John Ryan, the distinguished and beloved Dean of U.C.D., was responsible for the Union's foundation which coincided with the Silver Jubilee of the College. During his speech at the Dinner he said; "we cannot speak the joy that is in our hearts tonight", thus unknowingly laying down the standards of eloquence that would become the norm at this event in the following years.

One of the founders, Prof. Denis Crowley, is still hale and hearty and remembers the evening clearly. The late Matt Hyland and T.P. Hogan, two recently deceased pastmen who will be known to many, were also present that night, and they, along with the late Prof. John Dunne, attended the Diamond Jubilee Dinner which was held in 1989 at the same venue and on the same day and month as the inaugural Dinner in 1929.

Very quickly, due, no doubt, to the gregarious nature of Roscreamen, the annual function became a dinner-dance which, in an era of sophisticated entertainment when the dinner-dance reached its apotheosis, was considered one of the high points of the Dublin Season. And no wonder, since the attractions on offer ran to such exotica - this was in November, 1939 - as a raffle for a bag of sugar provided by Gerard Bates who, it would appear, was as resourceful then as he was when he almost singlehandedly collected the funds to build the swimming pool in the early seventies. He is still a stalwart of the union and rarely misses a function. One interesting fact regarding the committee which organised this dance was that it comprised eight men and ten ladies. It has all been downhill since then.

The dinner-dance continued through the forties and fifties - when Dublin Airport Restaurant was a popular venue - staggered through the sixties and finally fizzled out in the seventies. Happily, by that time, the Dinner had made a comeback.

In 1958, the Union had grown so much that it was divided into the various branches, and thus, no more was Dublin the Union base. After a couple of uncertain and tentative years a marvellous Dinner launched the Dublin Branch with style and optimism for the future in old Jury's Hotel in College Green in 1961. It was honoured by the presence of the Lord Abbot, the late Dom Eugene Boylan, who made an inspiring speech

which was reported at length in the following day's newspapers. In fact, up to the sixties, but more particularly in the thirties, forties and fifties reports of Roscrea functions were widely reported in the press.

There was a hiatus for a few years in the life of the Dublin Dinner which was ended memorably in January 1970 in Jury's Hotel when Noel Windle spearheaded a revival to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Union. Noel had the good idea of introducing a guest speaker, and the spontaneous revelry which followed this man's speech will not be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to be present.

This dinner was the kickstart that was needed to revive the Dublin function. In 1972, the Shelbourne Hotel was the venue for the first of an unbroken chain of Dinners which has continued to this day. It was held in Jury's Hotel until 1987 when we changed to our current spot, the Hibernian United Service Club in St. Stephen's Green.

In 1983, the Presidents of those kindred Leinster Unions of the schools with which Roscrea plays friendly rugby matches, were invited to attend, and this has resulted in a generous reciprocity which involves the Chairman in quite a lot of dining out.

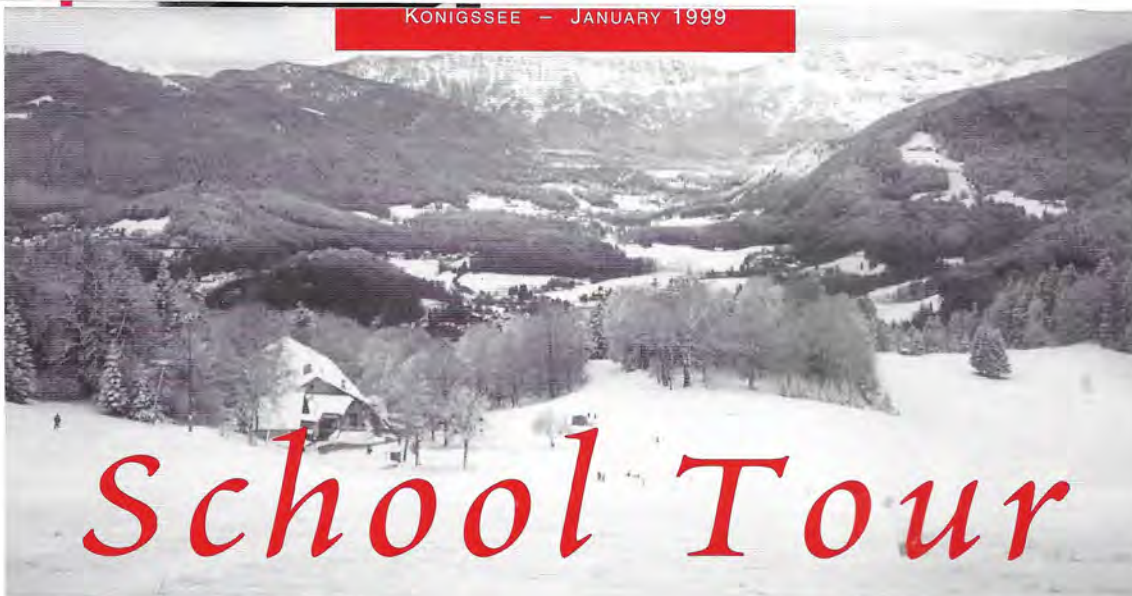
Guest speakers have become an integral part of the Dinner and we have had a number of very entertaining ones over the years. One of the very best was the late Prof. P.J. Bofin, the Dublin City Coroner. Others who come to mind are Mr. Justice Richard Johnson, Mr. David Walsh, the sports journalist, the D.P.P., Mr. Eamon Barnes and last year's speaker, Mr. Eugene McCague who was extraordinarily witty.

The Union itself has not been found wanting in bringing forward its own orators. Who can forget the late and lamented Gus Martin when he had the choke full out? Or Conor Brady, Dermot McCarthy or Kieran FitzGerald?

The success of the Dinner in recent times has been unquestionably due to the commitment of the committee which has three members of the original 1972 Shelbourne Hotel group in its number and which draws its constituents from across the generations

This year's Dinner is on November 12th and early booking is advisable.

CONOR MASSEY



School Tour

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This year, the school decided to take a different approach to the school tour by opting for a ski-trip instead of the type based on a sightseeing programme, as had been the case for the past few years. And so, on January 5th, 47 students and 5 members of staff departed from Dublin Airport in the direction of Frankfurt, where we then experienced a quick changeover before continuing to Munich. In Munich, we were driven by coach to a small village in the south of Bavaria called Konigsee.

As soon as we stepped off the bus, we realised that we were far from the front steps of the College, though there were some resemblances in the weather. On arrival, we were given our lodgings in two very fine hotels, where we were assigned to rooms - two or three people in each. At this stage, the boys though overcome with lack of sleep, were forced, and I mean "forced" to access the local socialising facilities in the village. Fortunately for us, these facilities were of the same high standard with a disco run nightly, whilst in an adjacent building there were pool tables and arcade games available. Finally however, we were allowed to go to bed.

The following morning, memories of CCR in all its glory with the rattling of keys and the thoughts of tears welling in one's eyes flashed by for an instant when Mr. Maher and Mr. Burke aptly played the roles of Housemasters, Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Guiry, as they gave us an early call at 8.30 a.m. However, as was already stated, Roscrea was far, far away.

The following morning, we received our first real taste of Germany. The village of Konigsee is situated in a picturesque valley surrounded by mountains.

We got a shock when we sat down to our first German breakfast. The wide selection of ham and cheese was something new to all of us, though we still had no complaints, as we left no plates full.

After getting fitted with our boots, we quite literally hit the slopes. Truthfully, I do believe I have seen a sight as funny as Mr. Maher reversing, yes reversing, down the slope, with absolutely no control over his movements and a look of perplexity etched across his face. Prior to the trip, I would have never thought it possible for such a feat to be performed.

At the start, most had difficulty getting to grips with the skis, but after a couple of days progress was being made. I must admit that in the beginning the thought of taking a right turn seemed about as easy as winning the Senior Cup, but eventually I prevailed.

The site where we were taught the basic skills of skiing was only approx. 250 yards from the hotels, so returning





PAULINE DEEGAN, GERARD MAHER, FRANK SMYTH, SEAN BURKE.



for the eagerly awaited dinner did not prove a problem. Again and again, at the dinner table I asked my companions "Vo ist die spudz?," but they seemed as confused as I. Again, we pondered over the question whilst slurping at our spaghetti.

Each day, our skiing sessions finished at 3.30p.m. upon which we returned to our hotels for a shower before eating and socialising. The days were very long and tiresome and it was not surprising to see some students go to bed early.

On the third day, our instructors decided that we were ready for the higher slopes. There one could take full note of the staff's progression.

Mr. Frank Smyth - The D.O.S. was thoroughly enjoying his trip, until he set foot on the slopes. Mr. Denis Kelliher the newly installed Housemaster from Australia had the most experience and so took to the slopes like a monk to the monastery. Ms. Deegan - the sole female member of the tour, held her own throughout. Mr. Maher - it seems that Mr. Maher's hobby of refereeing finally took its toll as he was forced to fall out injured at the last moment, and so he joined Mr. Burke.

The vast majority of the group agreed that the venue for



the final two days was certainly the most challenging. The resort was situated on a golf course and so contained a number of hidden surprises i.e. bunkers and drainage lines. The scene was exhilarating, when at the top of the slope, one could see for miles an abundance of mountains, carpeted with forests and pure white snow, a spectacle in itself.

And so the tour came to its last night, 52 exhausted troopers collapsed into their beds at varied times before midnight, safe in the knowledge that 12 hours later they would be safe on Irish soil and 24 hours later in the comfort of their own beds around Ireland and 48 hours later back in the College. All slept soundly.

Speaking for all 47 students, I feel that the School Tour of 1999 was a huge success. Both students and staff alike cooperated very well to make it a very enjoyable trip. Also, on behalf of the students, I must thank the five adults who watched over us throughout. They were, Mr. Gerard Maher, Ms. Pauline Deegan, Mr. Frank Smyth, Mr. Sean Burke and Mr. Denis Kelliher. Without their help, this fine tour would not have been possible.

Peter Garvey (5th Year)



READY FOR THE OFF

EVEN THE AUTHOR FELT THE PACE AT TIMES!





The Place We Love

BALLYSKENAGH TO MOUNTHEATON - FRANCIS HEATON

FR. LAURENCE WALSH, OCSO

When Edward Heaton was murdered near his dwelling-house on 4th March 1703, it was his younger brother Francis, who succeeded. Probably born in England in the late 1650's, Francis came to Ireland with his family after the Restoration.

There are indications that he may have been a somewhat wild youth. An uncle who lived in Yorkshire, in his will of 1689, with reference to Edward Heaton speaks of "ye heirs males of his body", and of Francis, - "the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten." A confession under date 14th January 1696 in Killaloe Established Church records seems to refer to our Francis: "Francis Heaton confesses that in King's County, before the wars and when he was young and foolish he committed sin with Mary Kennedy. Since he lived a becoming life as a married man submits and begs not to be exposed to public penance. Instead of an open penance he is adjudged to pay £1 and costs." So he was happily married before 1696, but we have not discovered any other records of the marriage or of children born to it. Perhaps this wife died young.

After inheriting Ballyskenagh on his brother's murder, Francis was soon to get married - this time in December 1704, to Elizabeth Curtis, daughter of Robert Curtis of Inane, Roscrea. Curtis was a man of considerable prominence and means. M.P. for Tipperary he owned the Lordship of Roscrea, containing 2,176 acres which he sold to John Damer in 1722 to £22,000. The sale included the castle, in the grounds of which Damer House, one of the first Queen Anne townhouses, was afterwards built. The year before his daughter's marriage to Heaton he had mortgaged Roscrea to Kilmainham Hospital for £3,000.

By this time Francis Heaton had become a landed proprietor. Besides the home townlands of Ballyskenagh inherited from his brother, and Lisnageeragh from his mother, amounting between them to 481 Irish acres, he had in the Barony of Lower Ormond 619 a. including Derry Island and its ferry, crossed by the present bridge leading to Portumna. In the Barony of Athlone, Co. Roscommon, he had 582 a. - i.e. 1,682 a. in all Irish Plantation measure, 2,683 Statute measure, 1,086 hectares, no mean proprietorship. In pursuance of his marriage settlement, Francis paid £3,000 to purchase 6/7th of a holding in the parish of Killucan, Co. Westmeath. This represented 2,226 Statute acres



making his total land holding amount to 4,909 Statute a. He did not of course farm these lands in various parts of the country but set them, at rates varying from 2/- to 7/- per Irish

acre. This would have realised an annual income of approximately £750. At say £50 an acre today it would yield an annuity of over £200,000.

Francis was High Sheriff for the King's County in 1705. The High Sheriff was elected by the community of the county in full court, holding office for one year only. One of the High Sheriff's functions was to choose the Grand Jury from among leading landowners of the county. The Grand Jury in its turn was responsible for the construction and repair of all road, bridges and public buildings, the support of hospitals, asylums and dispensaries, and the payment of the police. It also voted large sums to be raised from the country for the above purposes.

Francis and Elizabeth Heaton were then well off, and one would have expected them to have a respectable dwelling, but the mansion we know (the present guest house) is thought by experts to date from the latter part of the 18th century rather than from the early part. The walled-in garden, however, is more likely to date from the occupancy of Francis, and perhaps the wall surrounding the estate.

The Heaton's had four children, all daughters: Sarah, Elizabeth, Grizell and Mary. Ann and Grizell Heaton, two sisters of Francis, also lived with them.

Sometime between 1704 and 1710 Francis had the townland name changed from Ballyskenagh to Mountheaton. The practice of introducing new names dates back to the Court of Claims (1666-1669) which suggested that a "new and proper names more suitable to the English tongue" be used instead of the "barbarous and uncouth names" by which most places were called. Up to the present day Mountheaton is the official name, but thanks to the efforts of our late Abbot Camillus Claffey, Ballyskenagh is restored in local usage since the 1940's.

Another evidence of the grand style of Francis was the approval of his coat of arms on 9th of December 1715. On 21st May 1726, Sarah, the eldest daughter was married to Thomas Lumm of Lummville, King's County, near Edenderry by Rev. Edward Synge of the



parish of St. Peter and St. Kevin, Dublin.

In 1732 Mary, the youngest daughter, was married to William Armstrong of Farney Castle near Thurles. Francis leased Mount Heaton to Mary's husband and it was this couple who took over Mount Heaton estate, but more of this another day.

At the time of Mary's marriage, Francis, his wife Elizabeth and his sister Grizell moved to Dublin, where he took a 31 year lease of "the dwellinghouse wherein the Bishop of Kilmore then dwelt, situate on the north side of Stephen's Green (i.e. the Shelbourne Hotel side) in the suburbs of Dublin, together with the Backyard, Coachhouse, and Stables." Francis carried out many transactions from this residence, and it was from here that his second daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Nathaniel Bland, judge of the Prerogative Court in 1733, and his third daughter, Grizell in 1736 to Rev. William Gore, Rector of Rathangan. In 1755 after William's death, Grizell married Humphrey Minchin of Ballinakill which is only a few miles from Mountheaton.

Having made his will, with his wife as Executrix and all the his close ones mentioned, Francis died in May 1736. Theirs seems to have been a happy marriage. His wife well provided for, he divided his inheritance more or less equally between his daughters. He had been an extremely enterprising land-owner having acquired extensive estates in four different counties; he received a grant of Heaton Arms; and changed our townland name from Ballyskenagh to Mountheaton.

FR. LAURENCE WALSH OCSO

New Club Flag



GERARD MAHER, N. TIPP. PPU., RITA CUNNINGHAM, LADY CAPTAIN, KIERAN McDONNELL, MEN'S CAPTAIN, NORA McDONNELL, CLUB PRESIDENT

The North Tipperary Branch of the PPU is sponsoring the new flag commissioned by Roscrea Golf Club as the Club prepares for its millennium celebrations. The relationship between the Golf Club and the Abbot's Cup is firmly established. The level of cooperation received from the Club ensures the smooth running of the Abbot's Cup. The Club has kindly offered Saturday, September 18th for the running of the 1999 competition.

NOTICE

A. G. M.

Cistercian College,
Roscrea, Union

Notice of Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH 1999
AT THE COLLEGE

The Central Committee of Cistercian College Union has scheduled this year's AGM for 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, May 15 - the eve of the College Annual Sports Day.

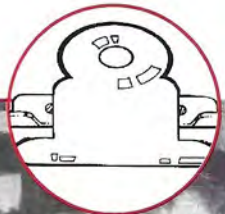
It is desired to have as representative a gathering as possible and to highlight for discussion an area of College activity in which Past Students, at the invitation of the College, might contribute

This year, as we start the run-up to the College Centenary, the chosen topic is "*Sport in the College 2000-2005.*"

The President of the College has kindly invited all present to a Reception and Dinner after the Meeting. If you would like to stay overnight, the College will be glad to welcome you on Sunday, May 16th for Sports Day. Over-night accommodation can be arranged locally.

Please confirm your attendance and accommodation requirements in good time to:-

KATHERINE DONOVAN
Phone: (0505) 21045/23344
Fax: (0505) 22066
Email: mtjoseph@iol.ie



TEN YEAR CLASS REUNION - OF 1988 -

The class of 1988, Ten Year Class Reunion was held on Saturday, August 29th, 1998 at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick. In attendance were twenty nine pastmen, some of whom had travelled from the U.S. and the U.K. and five invited guests: Fr. Peter Garvey, Mr. Patrick Cronin, Mr. Pat Sheedy, Mr. Hugh McDonnell and Mr. Brendan O'Rourke. Early arrivals met on Friday evening at the hotel, where the festivities involved sociable mingling with some of the hotel's other guests. Golf arranged for Saturday morning by Tom Duggan at Ballyneety Golf and Country Club went ahead with the participation of fifteen pastmen, though there was a degree of dispute as to who actually won the three ball scramble competition. Dinner on Saturday evening involved a number of entertaining speeches with frequent references to the outstanding members in our class and their contribution to CCR lore. Unofficial histories recounted during the informal dialogue after dinner at the residents' bar proved just as entertaining. A display of photographs and clippings from the residents were the source of some merriment and though for most of us it was certainly not like looking into a mirror, it was remarked how little some people had changed.

Though this occasion was not union organised, it was gratifying to converse with the teachers who accepted our invitation and College President, Mr. Cronin, hitherto unknown to most of us, proved very gracious and cooperative in assisting with many of the practical details. Special thanks are also extended to CCR Development Officer, Katherine Donovan. The committee responsible for the planning and orchestration of this most enjoyable meeting included former house captain Pierce O'Leary (who had no idea it was a job for life when he was elected in 1987), Tom Duggan, Declan Murphy, Vincent O'Hara and Darragh O'Connor. It is to their credit that they assembled such a large group. A great deal of initial contact was made at the rugby matches in Donnybrook and classmates might bear in mind that these are as good a place as any to meet up in the future.



CCR
10 YEAR REUNION



NEW YORK DINNER '98
L TO R:- NOEL MCCARTHY, PATRICK CRONIN, LAURENCE BRANNIGAN AND PATRICK BOLAND
BACK ROW:- NIALL RAFFERTY, DAVID MCMANUS, SUNNY VAN
FRONT ROW:- DES O'BRIEN, TOMMY LYNCH

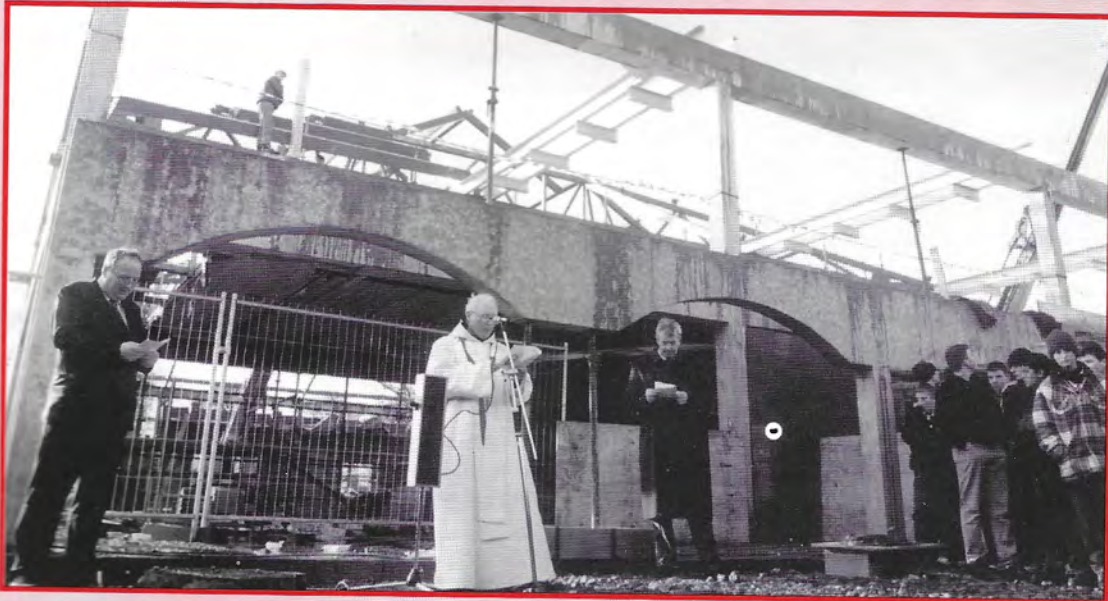




900th Anniversary



UNION PAST PRESIDENTS ASSEMBLE FOR THE 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CISTERCIANS.



• Information Technology Centre

We are glad to report that we have recently completed the first part of Phase II of our Development Programme with the installation of 50 Pentium II Computers. This facility has been available to the students since February 15th and has full Internet and Email capability, together with a wide range of Reference and Curriculum Based Software. The provision of this Information Technology Centre is



MICHAEL GEOGHEGAN (OFFALY), CATHERINE SMITH (I.T. OFFICER), PATRICK CHONIN (PRESIDENT), KATHERINE DONOVAN (DEVELOPMENT OFFICER).

one of three projects which comprise our "College of the Millennium" Programme - a long term strategic plan to prepare and equip the College for the new Millennium.

Our I.T. Cordinator, Catherine Smith has spent many hours in close consultation with teachers, outlining how I.T. can support and enhance their individual subject areas, and with her guidance and support, teachers of various subjects can take some of their classes in the I.T. Centre, availing of up-to-the-minute technology to enhance information dissemination and explore the wealth of educational resources available in today's global community.

Our system was supplied and configured by Offaly Computer Systems, a major manufacturing and retail outlet for computers and accessories in the Midlands. Their headquarters are based in Tullamore with a sister company in Roscommon. A great deal of credit is due to company director, Michael Geoghean, for his expert advice and assistance throughout the installation process.

Our I.T. Centre boasts 50 Pentium II Processors linked to a Central Server. All software is stored centrally on the CD Server and can be accessed by any or all of the terminals simultaneously. An Internet Sharing Device has been installed to give each computer Email and Internet access under supervised conditions. A Teachers' Instruction System operating via individual Switch Boxes, gives teachers complete control over each computer terminal

CISTERCIAN DEVELOPM

*Celebrating the tra
Recognising the oppo
Planning fo*

for class-based work. Scanners, Printers and a Data Projector have also been installed resulting in a varied and user-friendly environment.

The provision of this Multi-Media Learning Centre will provide our students with a comprehensive exposure to and understanding of practical computer use and help them attain valuable skills, whatever direction their future careers takes them.

• Modernisation of the Library

Aims :-

- To maximise available space
- Evaluation and updating of stock
- Computerisation

During the summer of '99, a walk-around Gallery will be erected in the Library so that shelving can be extended to ceiling height, thus increasing capacity. The current book stock will be assessed and updated as much of the Reference Material would be more beneficial on CD-ROM. Two computer terminals have already been installed into the Library with this in mind. A separate Reading Room is also being renovated adjacent to the Library to provide a quiet and relaxing environment, which the avid reader can avail of. This Reading Room is the first step in a concentrated effort by the College to promote and encourage reading amongst all students.

£800,000

CAMPAIGN SHORTFALL



CCR New Inform

CISTERCIAN COLLEGE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

*Traditions of our past
Opportunities of our present
for our future*

• Sports Hall

Our Sports Hall, which for long seemed a distant dream, is now fast becoming reality. Builders have been on site since September 28th and anyone who has had occasion to access the College via the back avenue will be witness to the fast growth of this building, which will be handed over to the College on September 3rd, 1999. The Sports Hall will be a tremendous asset to the students in offering facilities for a more varied sports programme, and will provide excellent indoor training facilities during inclement weather.

On January 16th, the Abbot and members of the Monastic Community joined with representatives of the Board of Governors, Pastmen, Staff and Students to celebrate the laying and blessing of the Foundation Stone for our Sports Hall. While laying the Foundation Stone, Father Colmcille O'Toole, Abbot, referred to the Sports Hall as "a focus for the community-run spirit of the College and a sign of trust in our future". This is reinforced by the generous support we have received to help make this project become a reality for our students - present and future.

The Official Opening of the Sports Hall and Information Centre will take place on Sunday, September 19th 1999, (Union Day). Details of this historic event will be distributed at a later date.

• Dormitory Renovation

The third project proposed in Phase II of our Development Programme is the upgrading of existing Dormitory accommodation. These plans include structural restoration to roofs and floors, improved ventilation, and modernisation of the sleeping areas and shower facilities. Due to the vast and costly nature of this project, work will take place on a phased basis beginning with the Upgrading of the Infirmary Wing in the summer of 1999.



I.T. CENTRE, CATHERINE SMITH DIRECTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMPUTER BUFFS.

• Campaign Overview

This is a challenging period in the evolution of Cistercian College Roscrea. As we prepare ourselves to meet the demands of the new Millennium, we feel that the projects we have undertaken will ensure that CCR continues to make a relevant impact on Irish Secondary education.

We encourage all who share our commitment to the Academic, Cultural, Spiritual, Sporting and Social Development of our students to help us bring these projects to completion.

Maybe you have already received documentation in relation to our fund-raising campaign and filed it away - to be considered at a later date! If so, we ask that you now give serious consideration to our request.

Maybe, in the coming months, you will be requested to meet with representatives from the College to discuss our development programme - if so, we would be grateful for your time.

Maybe, you have not had direct contact from the College but believe in what we are trying to achieve and may in a position to support us - If so, we would love to hear from you.

Fund-raising is not an easy task but we believe that the needs of the college cannot be overstated. Collectively, we have made a commitment to Cistercian College, Roscrea and together we must work to ensure that we can meet these commitments.

We commend this campaign to your generosity.





The Late
Fr. Desmond Dockery

- Born - Elphin, Co. Roscommon on 30th June 1934
- Came to Roscrea College in September 1951 after completing intermediate examination in Grammar School, Elphin.
- Left Roscrea after doing his Leaving Certificate there in 1953.
- Played full - back on the College Senior Cup Rugby team during the two years he was in Roscrea.
- Went to Clonliffe College as a trainee priest for Dublin Archdiocese in September 1953.
- Was ordained in Clonliffe on 21st May 1961 having spent the last three years of his training at Maynooth College.
- First posting as a priest was to Peamount Sanatorium as a chaplain.
- Afterwards in the following order he served as Curate in Aflane, Kilmeade, Co. Kildare, Balbriggan, Clonburris, and then as Administrator of Westland Row, Parish Priest in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, and finally as Parish Priest in Harolds Cross.
- Played Gaelic Football for Roscommon Senior Team in 1955, 1956, 1957 and finally in 1961 after his Ordination. In 1961 he was a member of the Roscommon team that won the Connacht Senior Championship and was beaten in the All - Ireland semi -final by Offaly. He missed the 1958, 1959 and 1960 Championships because Roscommon were beaten in the first round, usually on the Sunday before he got his summer holidays

Widespread sadness at death of former GAA star, Fr. Des Dockery

RELIGIOUS and sporting circles in Co. Roscommon have been saddened by the sudden death of Elphin native, Fr. Des Dockery P.P. Fr. Dockery, who was parish priest of the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Harold's Cross, Dublin, died last Sunday, 21-2-1999.

By Noel Fallon

Fr. Dockery, who was aged in mid-60s, was one of Elphin's greatest-ever footballers and was also an excellent midfielder for Roscommon in the 1950s and early 60s. In the history of Elphin football, Micheál Mulleady and Fr. Dockery was "the best Irish player I've seen in Elphin or Roscommon".

Hynes. Even in defeat against Clann na nGael in 1960 Dockery gave a terrific display at centrefield.

The highlights of Fr. Dockery's career were his

cent, brothers Louis and John C., sisters-in-law Nóirín and Moira, nieces and nephews. A vote of sympathy to the family of the late Fr. Dockery was passed at last Monday's meeting of Roscommon County Council.

Councillor Danny Burke said that Fr. Dockery was an excellent experience in football.



from Maynooth. He was eligible to play for the Roscommon juniors in the 1959 All - Ireland semi - final against Kerry, which the latter won narrowly. He won 5 Senior County Championships with Elphin in the 1950's during a great period for Elphin in Roscommon football.

- Fr. Des was a brother of Sister Margaret Vincent, Irish Sisters of Charity, of Louis Dockery, former Chief State Solicitor (1978 - 1993) and of John C. Dockery, Elphin, Co. Roscommon.
- Fr. Des died on 21st February 1999.

VENUES NATIONWIDE

RESIDENTIAL FRENCH AND GERMAN

SUMMER COURSES FOR TEENAGERS IN IRELAND

TOTAL IMMERSION. NATIVE SPEAKERS. EXAM PREPARATION.
WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. INCREASED ORAL SKILLS. LOTS OF FUN!

VENUES: Wilson's Hospital School, Multyfarnham; St. Flannan's College, Ennis; Villiers School, Limerick; Clongowes Wood College, Naas; Newbridge College, Newbridge; The Cistercian College, Roscrea.

FOR YOUR BROCHURE AND APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT:

Euro Languages College • 21 Nun's Island, Galway. • Tel: 091562511 • Fax: 091564118 • Email: elcgalway@tinet.ie



There is a pub somewhere between Roscrea and Dublin with that title. I often wonder is it owned by a horsey man who used go the races regularly and maybe liked that phrase of the commentator - 'they are coming into the final furlong now, and Macdoodle is leading by a half length - he is pulling ahead'... exciting stuff!

Well, we have come to the final furlong of this Millennium. Everyone is talking about the next one but what about this one which is ending - probably with a whimper rather than with a bang! There is so much attention being devoted to next year that this one in danger of slipping by almost unnoticed. Which would be a pity as this must be a historic year in some way. The last year of the thousand that have gone.

The Pope suggests that we devote it to God the Father. The final three years of the Millennium being devoted to the Son, the Holy Spirit and the Father. And you know it is an odd thing but people tend not to be too clear where they stand about God the Father. Which is strange. Perhaps Fathers tend to get a bad press nowadays. They rarely figure in the news except when they abuse children, or walk out on the children's mother, or refuse to pay her maintenance, or figure in autobiography as alcoholics and general no-gooders. I suppose there are some men (let's talk about sons, not about daughters which gets us into a different relationship) who write their stories and say "I had the most wonderful father who taught me most of what I know about life". But there don't seem to be too many like that. Yet we all know many men who are very good fathers to their children. So why the bad press? Good guys don't make news?

Jesus was all the time talking about his father. When he was baptised in the Jordan at the beginning of his ministry, the voice of the Father was heard saying "This is my beloved Son". No more wonderful thing could be said by any father. And the relationship between them dominates the whole gospel story. He died calling on the Father to forgive his executioners as they did not know what they were doing. They were soldiers carrying out orders - Legionaries who saw him only as another Jewish criminal. There was only one way to deal with that lot - crucify 'em! So they did!

Jesus' use of the word "Father" was particularly affective - that is it always expressed his close relationship with his Father. He spoke to him in prayer as "Abba Father". There is no adequate translation of Abba. It is a term of affection, of closeness, of knowing that you can depend on this person with your life, the one who will never let you down, who will never walk away from you. I recall hearing a father say that he never realised the truth of the story of the prodigal son until his own son got into trouble over drugs and ended in jail. "I never really believed the story until then. I used say to myself when I heard it in the Church that the father in it was an old fool. But sitting there with him behind bars, I knew the story was absolutely accurate. He is my son and I'll stand by him!". To translate the word 'Abba' as something like "Daddy" is to trivialise it. I think the nearest I have come to it is hearing an adult son say, in a tone indicating that he was totally at ease "Listen Dad, I want to ask your advice about something". That gets it. Some parents today have their children call them by their christian names - so instead of Mum and Dad it is Mary and John. There seems to be a loss there. We are not all equal! But who am I to criticise any parent, not being one myself?

THE *final furlong*

But we have a problem - for so many, especially apparently for many women, addressing God as Father seems to be another piece of male chauvinist oppression. I was offering the Eucharist in a House of Prayer

run by a worthy Benedictine nun on one occasion. We began by making the Sign of the Cross "In the name of the Creator, of the Redeemer and of the Sanctifier". Well, having got over that with a bit of a gulp, for it does not mean exactly the same as the traditional formula, I was not too surprised to find that wherever the word Father was printed in the missal it had been carefully scratched out and the word Creator written in. One does not start a theological discussion when one is eating someone's bread and salt but In the name of the Creator is not in fact the same as In the name of the father.

But the problem is wider than that. The first time I realised that was long ago in Theology class with Eugene Boylan. He pointed out that if a person has a bad experience of his own father, telling him that God is his father will not do much for him. It opened my eyes! I wonder if this is part of the reason for the extraordinary strength of devotion to Our Lady - Mother of God and Mother of the Believer. Perhaps we cannot quite deal with devotion to God the Father. God's love is deep and unconditional. But the first experience we have of love, which we get in the relationships that exist in the home, conditions our attitude to love for the rest of our lives. If we could not trust what was offered us in childhood, we will not be able to trust God.

I don't think it is enough to dismiss the problems people have with the Fatherhood of God. We bring our experience of life to everything including our faith and our understanding of God. There is a real sense of course in which any human language about God is metaphorical. But language is all we have to say something meaningful about God and when we call him Father we are saying that he is loving, dependable, caring, provider, wise, related to us in a real sense, in some way akin to the way he was related to Jesus. So many of the parables show this - none better than the one I have already referred to, which so many have said should more properly be called The Story of The Prodigal Father.

And there is the widespread problem of men who father children and then walk away from both mother and child. It is not always single mothers we hear about but most of the time it is. Rarely do we hear about single fathers, although some are admirable in that respect. And at this point we are probably all thinking about one or two particular cases in Ireland in the recent past, which fairly shook up the country.

Perhaps this year could be for us The Year of the Father in more ways than the religious one - for fathers to ask themselves if they are really everything they should be, and if not, why not? And for the rest of us to ask if we affirm and give back to them what they need as much as everyone else - love and affection and support and all that we look for from our Father. As the Sage says: "Whoever respects his father will in turn be happy with his children's house firm . . . do not despise him even if his mind should fail, for kindness to a father will not be forgotten and in your own day of suffering God will remember you"

FR.. NIVARD KINSELLA OCSO



Golf Classic



Our second annual Golf Classic will be held in Roscrea Golf Club on Saturday, 10th July, 1999. Given the golfing and social success of last year's event we will be expecting another huge turn-out.

Please note the date in your diary.

Full details will be circulated in May.

BRENDAN O'ROURKE



CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA GOES "ON-LINE"

In keeping with "up-to-the minute technology", Cistercian College Roscrea has recently published its Internet Webpage with Ireland-On-Line. This can provide people world-wide with an insight into all that C.C.R. has to offer. Log-on to access our comprehensive

Prospectus which outlines the Academic, Spiritual, Sporting, Cultural & Social Activities of the College.

Also, Past Students can "log-on" to obtain the calendar of Union Functions, guidelines to assist in the organisation of Class Reunions, and excerpts from the "Roscrea Review".

Our Web Site Address is: <http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph>

ATTENTION PASTMEN

Please detach and return in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

ATTENTION PASTMEN !

Are you receiving the "Roscrea Review" twice a year, posted directly to your present address.

If not, or if the "Review" is being re-directed to you, please fill in your details below so that we can update our computerised database of pastmen.

The details below will also help us with Mailing Lists and in the organisation of Class Reunions.

Name : Year Entered: Year Left:

Home Address: Occupation:

..... Business Address:

.....

Home Tel.: Work Phone: Fax:

Mobile: Fax: E-mail:

What generation Roscrea are you? 1st 2nd 3rd Other..... Family at CCR:

Have you attended or been informed of a PPU Function in the past year? Yes No

Do you know who are your regional PPU representatives? Yes No

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

WRITE FOR THE "REVIEW"! SEND US A WRITING ON YOUR EXPERIENCES, TRAVEL, ETC. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Reach us on E-mail at mtjoseph@iol.ie Web sit: <http://www.iol.ie/~mtjoseph> **THANK YOU FOR A PROMPT RETURN.**



ABBOT'S CUP, 1998 BACK ROW: JOE RYAN, CAPTAIN, ROSCREA GOLF CLUB; DONAL TAAFFE, MATT PETERS, GERARD MAHER, NOEL WINDLE, MICHAEL McNAMARA, LIAM SPOONER
FRONT ROW: GERRY HAYES, CONTY CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT, ROSCREA GOLF CLUB; JOHNNIE O'CONNOR (WINNER ABBOT'S CUP), JOHNNIE DOLAN, ROSARIE CULLINANE, LADY CAPTAIN, ROSCREA GOLF CLUB.



THE "YOUNG STAFF" OF C.C.R. ENJOY THE ABBOT'S CUP.
L TO R:- FLOR O'BRIEN, PAULINE DEEGAN, NIAMH O'ROURKE, GERRY GREALISH, ROWENA MITCHELL, TOM CARROLL



ABBOT'S CUP 1998
BILL O'BRIEN, PAULINE SHEEDY, PAT SHEEDY

UNION EVENTS

CLASS OF 1959- 40TH YEAR REUNION

Saturday, September 18th, 1999

Venue : Grant's Hotel, Roscrea

Contact: Andy Galvin (0506) 21485/21893
Tom Maher (0506) 21663 / (088) 2548996
Conor Massey (01) 2804603/4533333

CLASS OF 1974- 25TH YEAR REUNION

Saturday, September 18th 1999

Venue: Grant's Hotel, Roscrea

Contact: Joe Chambers (065) 51897

KENMARE WEEKEND

Friday, October 29th to Sunday, October 31st

Venue: Park Hotel, Kenmare
2 nights B&B and Dinners
(including Gala Dinners) £170 p.p
1 night B&B and Gala Dinner £108 p.p
Extra night, Dinner, B&B £95 p.p.

Contact:
The Park Hotel (064) 41200

SOUTH WEST BRANCH FUNCTION

Friday, May 14th 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Maryborough House Hotel, Douglas, Cork

Cost: £30 per person

Contact: Liam Kelly or Margaret Bradfield (021) 304544
Gerald McCarthy (021)361102

MATT HYLAND GOLF TROPHY

Venue: Milltown Golf Club

Thursday, June 10th

PASTMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA TAKE NOTE!

The College President, Mr. Patrick Cronin will be travelling to South Africa - staying in the Johannesburg area in early July 1999
Anyone who might be interested in arranging a small gathering of past students in the area please contact the college

Phone : (0505) 23344 / 21045 • Fax: (0505) 22066
Email: mtjoseph@iol.ie



THE JOHN COMERFORD CUP

At the September meeting of the HSG it was decided to inaugurate the "John Comerford Cup" in memory of our first Chairman, the late John Comerford. The cup will be presented to the hurler of the year in the school. Helen Comerford and her family are very pleased with the idea. It will be a fitting and lasting reminder of the great man. The trophy will shortly be purchased and will be presented for the first time in the summer term of 1999.

SENIOR HURLING

Our Senior hurlers have got off to a great start winning all three of their league games in the Leinster competition. The first outing was against Ballyfin and despite terrible conditions we emerged the victors. Good performances from J. O'Brien, I. McCarthy and B. Connolly led to this victory.

Having won the first league game the team was now in a very good position and this was followed up by two good victories over Carlow CBS and Heywood Community School. A good team performance resulted in these wins and this sets the stage for a quarter final meeting with Mullingar on or before February 14th.

In addition to the Leinster competition our U/17 team has begun to participate in the Tipperary Schools league and have done very well. Victories over Nenagh Vocational School and Newport Community School have insured passage to the final which will be played as soon as pitches are available. Opposition will be either Carrick on Suir or the High School, Clonmel.

HURLING SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to two of our 1997 Leaving Cert Class, Paddy O'Brien and Stephen Lucey, who have been awarded hurling scholarships to UCD. Indeed, only three first year scholarships were awarded in UCD. Paddy won a Tipperary senior title this year with the Toomevara "Greyhounds". Stephen played minor hurling and football with Limerick in 1998 and has recently been promoted to the Limerick Senior Panel. He is a nephew of the legendary Limerick hurler Dermot Kelly. We wish them both well in UCD and we hope that they will be the first of many CCR men to get much awards.

H. S. G. DEVELOPMENT PLAN

At the November meeting of the Hurling Support Group, a committee was set up to draw up a development plan for the game in CCR. The committee consisted of Hugh Mc Donnell, Dan Ahern and Matt Kennedy. They worked very diligently over the Christmas period and drew up a comprehensive plan which charts the future of the game in the school. The emphasis in the future will be on good coaching and proper promotion of hurling. We look forward to implementing the plan with the co-operation of Mr. Patrick Cronin and Mr. Gerry Hayes. If any past pupil would like to obtain a copy of the report, please contact Pat Sheedy clo CCR.

CCR Hurling - NEWS -

A message from the Chairman of the Hurling Support Group

I am honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Hurling Support Group in succession to the founding Chairman, the late John Comerford (RIP) whose untimely death caused the vacancy. I hope to bring the same commitment to hurling in CCR as John undoubtedly did. The best way that we in the HSG can honour his memory is to work towards making the College a centre of hurling excellence, involving the participation of the maximum number of students.

Recent achievements show that there is already a solid foundation on which to build. For example - three Leinster senior B finals won, six contested; three All Ireland B finals reached; a Leinster Junior and Juvenile title won. Add to that the awarding by UCD in 1998 of the only two hurling scholarships available nationally, to Stephen Lucey, Croom, Co. Limerick and Paddy O'Brien Toomevara, Co. Tipperary, it is a record of which to be immensely proud.

Sincere thanks are due to all who have contributed to the support group. Your act of faith is being rewarded! With your continued involvement and encouragement CCR hurling can achieve great things in the years ahead. Ar aghaidh linn - de reir a cheile a thogtar na caisleain!

CUIMIN T. O'DUBHGAILL

H. S. G. FINANCES

1998/99 has been a very successful year from a financial point of view and it is hoped that this money will go some way towards fostering and encouraging hurling in Cistercian College Roscrea. Generous sponsorship and participation in the golf classic have helped enormously in this area and special thanks must go to all involved in this.

The Golf Classic held in July raised a substantial sum of money and is being used to supplement the contributions made by the college to hurling. The Hurling Support Group has funded hurleys for those who may not have participated in hurling heretofore and wished to become involved in the game. This policy was aimed at first years in particular. To further this initiative a first year and second year hurling league came into being and is moving along quite well. Medals will be given to the eventual winners and it is hoped that all who participated will receive some token.

Given that we have no control over our weather it was decided that we should invest in proper rainsuits which would give adequate protection to substitutes. These have proved popular amongst the boys this winter as games have been played in very bad conditions.

In an effort to encourage the teams we send to play challenge matches, the Committee has decided to fund post match meals/snacks. These have proven to be very popular with the players and it is only right that their enthusiasm for the game should be recognised in some way.

Finally we are looking forward to seeing everyone at next summer's Golf Classic which will be held in Roscrea Golf Club during the month of July.

U/16 HURLING

Given the success of last years U/14 team we were expecting a good run from this team. Two valuable recruits joined us in September, Brian Connolly, son of Joe Galway Captain 1980, and Hugh Maloney from Nenagh. In our first round game we defeated L.S.U. Banagher in Banagher by 5-11 to 3-9. A feature of this game were the performances of Ivan McCarthy (Abberdorney) and Pat McIntyre (Banagher). Mullingar CBS defeated us in the second round 6-6 to 3-11. It was a thrilling game and we lost to a last minute goal. Brian Connolly was unavailable that day.

Our last league game was a very difficult game away to Trim CBS. Conditions were poor and we were lucky to survive, 3-5 to 1-9. Cormac Loughnane, our captain, scored a crucial second-half goal. This victory left us facing Mullingar CBS in Tullamore in the North Leinster Final. This game was a thriller from beginning to end. Brian Connolly scored 1-6. We led at half-time 2-8 to 0-6 but we had to withstand sustained late pressure from Mullingar. The Phelan twins, Peter Brady and Nigel Purcell also starred.

We had now qualified to play Colaiste Eoin from Dublin in the Leinster semi-final in Carlow. We fancied our chances but were well beaten by a strong and skillful Colaiste Eoin. Colaiste Eoin has been "adopted" by Ballyboden St. Enda's and have use of their Leinster Council Coach. Overall we make no excuses for losing to a much better team which subsequently easily won the Leinster final.

HURLING CAPTAINS 1998/99

Senior:

S. Ormond - Shinrone, Offaly Minor.

U/17

P. Garvey - Sarsfields, Galway U/16

Junior

C. Loughnane - Birr

U/15

C. Phelan-Clara, Kilkenny U/16

Juvenile

J. Byrne - Fourmilewater, Waterford U/14

U/13

D. Cordial - Banagher



Formed just two years ago, the Rugby Development Committee exists to discuss and explore matters pertaining to the growth of rugby football at the College. Advisory in nature and drawing its members from pastmen, parents and the College staff, the group acts as a conduit for ideas and suggestions to the Director of Sport and to management of the College. The role of Rugby Development is to maximise the numbers of boys playing rugby at CCR and to create the environment and structures for each of these boys to develop to his fullest potential within the code. Like our counterparts on the Hurling Support Group, the rugby Development Committee welcomes any initiative designed to enhance the development of the overall sporting agenda within the College.

The Committee has been involved in several initiatives at the College :-

- Introduction of the position of Director of Sport
- Introduction of an external S.C.T. coach
- Establishment of C.C.R. Rugby / Social Club
- Funding of track-suits, kit bags etc. for S.C.T. panel
- Rugby tour to South Africa, summer 2000

The position of Director of Sport has been created as a result of extensive research by the College management, the Board of Governors and advisory groups such as Rugby Development Committee and Hurling Support Group etc. While the appointment of Mr. Gerry Hayes to this demanding post has effectively meant his loss to rugby in the practical sense, it has set in place the opportunity for a wider coordination of the total sport concept at CCR. Allied to this, the dedication and opening of the Sports Hall (September '99) will undoubtedly benefit all those participating in the various team codes at the College as well as enhancing the quality of life for the general body of students.

Few will be unaware of the arrival on the CCR rugby scene 18 months ago of New Zealander, Kevin West and few will be unaware of the level of success of the two senior cup sides he has produced since then. His philosophy embodies principles of TEAM, top standards of performance and quality ball retention. It is widely agreed that over the last two cup seasons, CCR sides have provided the finest quality rugby on view in Leinster schools rugby.

The CCR Rugby/Social Club was established as a vehicle to maximise the flow of information concerning the game at CCR to as wide a constituency of pastmen, parents and friends as possible. To this end, Newsletters and Bulletins are circulated with the latest information.

Luncheons are regularly organised prior to Senior Cup matches. Money generated by membership is used for development purposes. Membership is open to all who identify with the Rugby/Social Club objectives. Information may be had from Rugby/Social Club Chairman, Mr. Donal Taaffe 6770517 or Ms. Rowena Mitchell at the College (0505)23344.

It has been decided to undertake a major tour to South Africa next

year. A touring party of 25 players will travel, accompanied by 5 members of the College staff. In addition a party of 30 adults will travel with the touring squad. A series of 5 games is planned over an 18 day trip. To help fund this undertaking, a golf classic has been arranged for Mount Juliet Golf Country Club. Details of this event may be had from Mr. Pat Crotty (056) 64640 or Mr. Brendan Hyland (0505) 21739.

On the playing front, both S.C.T. and J.C.T. sides enjoyed considerable cup success this season. The Juniors having weathered the disappointment of a controversial exit from the league (courtesy of an unrecorded conversion against eventual league winners, St. Paul's) really got the bit between their teeth come cup time and defeated a fancied Clongowes side at Portlaoise. Following this victory came a very impressive display against Castleknock.

The S.C.T. who did not compete in this year's Senior league enjoyed mixed fortunes in their "friendlies" but showed steady improvement as the cup campaign approached. First round opponents, De La Salle were dispatched, though unspectacularly. Gonzaga were next to perish at the hands of the Black & White machine and there were certain indications on the quality rugby that has now come to be associated with CCR. The quarter final match against Castleknock provided some dazzling rugby from the team in the opening 35 minutes. After the interval however, they handed the initiative back to the Dublin school and indeed had to muster all reserves of tenacity and skilled defence to hold on for a 22 pts to 13 victory, thus securing a semi-final berth against Newbridge College.

The members of the Rugby Development Committee are Sean Burke, Gerry Casey, Pat Crotty, Frank Dineen, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Jim Glennon, Brendan Hyland, Gerry Maher, Bill O'Brien (Chairman), Mark Ryan, Barney Sherry and Donal Taaffe.



C.C.R. RUGBY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 BACK ROW:- PAT CROTTY, DONAL TAAFFE, GERARD MAHER, FRANK DINEEN, JIM GLENNON, MARK RYAN, BILL O'BRIEN
 FRONT ROW:- BARNEY SHERRY, GERRY HAYES, PATRICK CRONIN, BRENDAN HYLAND, SEAN BURKE.



PATRONS OF PROPOSED SOUTH AFRICA TOUR
 BACK ROW:- FR. PETER GARVEY, DICK SPRING, RONNIE DAWSON, FR. KEVIN DALY, GERRY CULLETON, MICK SHERRY, NEALL BROPHY.
 FRONT ROW:- NOEL WINDLE, CONOR MASSEY, PATRICK CRONIN, JOE DALY, GERALD MCCARTHY.

(a) celebrate the Millennium and the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Cistercian Order.

(b) raise the profile of C.C.R. nationally

(c) expose the boys (and thus the school) to a wider international rugby skills base

(d) foster a spirit of pride in achievement of excellence.

- The tour will involve games with selected schools in either Canada, South Africa or Australia..

- To raise funds for the tour C.C.R. Rugby Development Committee has organised a major Golf outing to Mount Juliet Golf and Country Club on Friday 15th of October 1999.

- Mount Juliet Golf Course has been exclusively booked for the day for supporters of the Rugby Tour.

- Details of this event are contained in the attached letter.

- This is an exciting new project for C.C.R. Rugby and already has attracted much interest. We look forward to your support and participation in what will be a most enjoyable occasion.

Brendan F. Hyland
 Beechmount
 Roscrea

* former Irish International

Pat Crotty
 High St.
 Kilkenny

** former Lions International

C.C.R. PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL RUGBY TOUR - JULY 2000.

PATRONS

Abbot Dom Colmcille O.Cist., Patrick Cronin, President Gerald McCarthy, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Eddie (Ned) Byrne,* Gerry Culleton,** Willie Duggan,** Jim Glennon,* Dick Spring,* Michael Sherry,* A.R.W. Dawson,** Noel O'Callaghan, Conor Massey, Noel Windle, Dr. Barney Sherry, Dr. Joe Daly, (Senior Vice President Connaught Branch I.R.F.U.), Dom Dineen (Past President I.R.F.U.), Niall Brophy, (Senior Vice-President I. R.F.U.).

- C.C.R. plans an 18 day tour for a panel of 30 players and staff with 30 supporters (past pupils and parents) for summer 2000 to :-

Rugby Diary 1998 / 1999



SENIOR CUP SEMI FINAL V NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE

March 8th - In what one eminent sports commentator would correctly term " a game of two halves", the senior squad wrote themselves into the history books by snatching victory from the jaws of defeat against a fancied Newbridge side. Playing against a stiff breeze in the opening period Roscrea were first to settle but injury to Roscrea No. 4 David Farrell led to a lengthy delay and on resumption, it was Newbridge who seized the initiative. Before half-time the Kildare side had scored two tries and converted one to leave half-time score of 12 pts to 0.

In the second period Roscrea turned the screws and forced a series of Newbridge errors. Full back Redmond Barry landed two excellent penalty tries. Clever strategic kicking and committed attacking play by a very determined Roscrea pack led to a lineout deep in the Newbridge 22. John Phelan threw in, Dan Cavanagh caught expertly, the pack set up a strong driving maul and Barry McCann touched down for Roscrea's only try.

R. Barry calmly landed the conversion - 13-12 to Roscrea. A tense final quarter followed with relentless pressure from Newbridge, but the boys from Roscrea refused to yield and held on to qualify for the College's first cup final appearance since 1941. Few will forget Brian Hall's heroic charge-down of Newbridge out-half Patrick Noble's attempted drop-goal deep in injury time - few will forget the scenes of unbridled ecstasy that followed the final whistle seconds later.

JUNIOR CUP QUARTER FINAL V ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

March 10th - Travelling to Dublin for Rugby Cup matches was by now becoming a routine activity, though we at Roscrea would not object if a 'neutral venue' were interpreted to include parts of Leinster outside of the greater Dublin area.

St. Mary's were hotly tipped but the CCR Juniors were determined to emulate the senior performance of two days earlier. Alas, it was not to be. While the Roscrea pack dominated it was the Mary's back division who held the key to the final outcome. Roscrea pressed consistently during the opening half but were only able to secure a penalty goal by Stephen Miller for their efforts. A try by St. Mary's in the 5th minute of injury time led to a frustration 5-3 scoreline for St. Mary's at the interval. The Dublin side applied greater pressure in the second half and scored two further tries (one converted) and a penalty goal to leave a final scoreline of St. Mary's 20-3 Roscrea - not an accurate reflection of the tightness of the game.

Congratulations and hard luck to William Guiry, Tom Carroll and Seamus Egan for all their effort and to the entire squad for the quality of their play throughout this campaign.



A Trip down Memory Lane

April 27th, 1939

Roscrea Boys win School's Cup

Forwards' Big Part In Replayed Final Against Newbridge

Mount St Joseph's, Roscrea, won the Leinster School's Junior Cup final at Lansdowne Road yesterday at the second attempt, for they beat Dominican College, Newbridge with whom they had previously played a scoreless draw, by a penalty goal and two tries (9 pts to nil)

This is the first time that Mount St. Joseph's have won a school trophy. The only other time that they reached the final stage was twenty-nine years ago, when on their first appearance in the competition, they were in the final of both the senior and Junior Cups, but were beaten in each by 3 pts. to nil by Blackrock College in replays after scoreless draws.

Roscrea owed their victory yesterday mainly to the vigorous work of their forwards, who were too heavy for the Newbridge eight and more effective in both tight and loose. Another telling factor was the long punting of Flanagan at out-half for the winners - rather negative tactics to some extent, but very useful in keeping his side on the attack.

Newbridge Backs Handicapped

The Newbridge backs, regarded as the match winning section of the side, never showed up to advantage. They were not well served by their forwards but apart from that they found the Roscrea defence up on them so quickly that their passing was flurried and they were seldom able to make ground.

Roscrea did make the most of the attacking and fully deserved their half-time lead of a penalty goal, kicked by Flanagan from quite far out.

Newbridge made desperate efforts to strike back in the early stages of the second half but they never really looked like scoring and eventually Roscrea increased their lead. Dillon booted the ball downfield, followed up first and dribbled over to score a try, which was not improved. Just before the final whistle a further try by Geary from a forward rush put the issue beyond doubt.

Dominican College Newbridge -
N. Burns, J. Feely, D. Columb, B. Devine, D. Roche, D. Morrins, L. Mc Gauran, P. Maher, P. Hover, P. Twomey, R. Twomey, A. Dinan, P. Molloy, W. Brophy, P. Scott

Mount Saint Joseph's Roscrea - D. Kelly, J. Dillon, P.G. Kelly, C. Aylward, J. De Loughrey, D. Flanagan, M. Nolan, J. Lillis, J. Geary, T. Donoghue, M. Flynn, J. Doohan, M. Woulfe, M. Mc Keown, D. Taylor

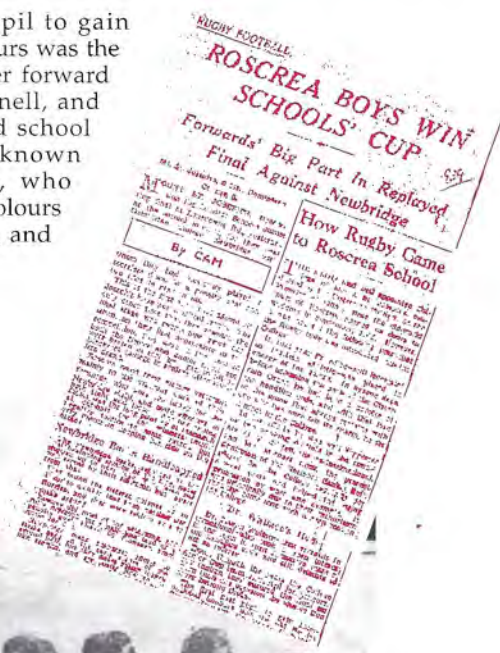
How Rugby Came to Roscrea School

The stately and well appointed College of Mount St Joseph's conducted by the Cistercian Fathers, on the Frontier of Offaly, near the old-world town of Roscrea, opened its doors to students in September 1905 However, it was not 'till the following year that the Rugby code was introduced into the College. In that year, Fr. Ailbe was placed in charge of the games. In bygone days, before assuming the garb of the Cistercian Order, he had been a devotee of the handling code, and with that love of the game that always remains with one who has once felt its charm, he set it afoot in the College.

In his efforts, he was well supported by two banking officials in the town - Mr. G. V. Killeen the ex-International and Mr. Michael Cook, the then Chairman of the National Bank. Both played for the College regularly for several years and helped the rising generation by word and example. It was principally due to their enthusiasm that the game took such a deep root in the College.

Dr. Joseph Wallace - that versatile International - also took a keen interest in the team in their formative years of the handling code. Down through the years the College Senior Cup team competed for honours but though they entered the final on more than one occasion the elusive Cup never became theirs.

The first past pupil to gain International honours was the Old Bective Ranger forward Dr. Paddy O'Connell, and another of the old school was the well known Seamus Deering, who secured College Colours in Rugby, Hurling and Gaelic Football.



ROSCREA BOYS ARE FEELING HAPPY AFTER RUGBY SEMI-FINAL



The Mount St. Josephs (Roscrea) team who defeated O'Connell Schools in the Junior Schools Cup semi-final at Donnybrook yesterday.—Irish Independent Photo. (H.).



Obituary Notices

FATHER KIERAN COLLIER died at St. Columban's Navan on April 27th, 1998. The late Father Collier received his secondary education in CCR before joining the Columbans in 1937. His older brother Tony was ordained the following year and was killed in the Korean War in 1950.

DR BRENDAN WHITE (CCR 1934-'37) died on August 26th 1998. He was a skilled hurler and played for both CCR and UCD.

SHANE O'LEARY (CCR 1971-'76) died on March 5th 1998 after an illness. He won the Triple Jump for Boys at the Leinster Schools Championships in 1973. An Accountant by profession, he was Treasurer of Longford Rugby Club for many years.

FATHER DES DOCKERY died on February 21st, 1999. He was one time Chaplain at Peamount Hospital. He worked in Westland Row and was Parish Priest of the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Harolds Cross, Dublin at the time of his death.

MICHAEL BOYCE died instantly after a tragic car accident on January 10th 1999. After leaving Cistercian College, he went to UCD and graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1968. He began practicing in Broadford and in the intervening years built up one of the largest Veterinary Practices in County Limerick. Greyhound Racing was his first love and he was a very successful owner and trainer.

ALEX BROWNE (CCR 1938-'39) died on December 11th 1998. He had a family food business in Ennistymon, Co. Clare which he ran until his retirement in 1986. He was a keen sportsman, having played on the Senior Cup Team of 1939.

The death recently occurred of **JOHN BEGGS** of Skerries. He was 87 when he passed away and was a student in the college in the late 1920's.

Br. Jerome Kelly R.I.P.

During the 1980's the Abbot, Dom Colmcille, had served for some years on the central executive of the Conference of Major Irish Religious Superiors (CMRS) and a friendship and admiration developed between himself and Br. Jerome, who also sat on the executive. So when the time came to form the Board of Governors for the College, the Abbot invited Br. Jerome to accept a place on the Board. At that time he was Superior General of the Presentation Brothers with responsibility for the Irish Houses and throughout the world. Consequently people were astonished that Br. Jerome accepted the post in Roscrea. He later described driving in through the front gates for the first time in October 1990, stopping his car on the avenue, and gazing around in wonderment that such a place as Mt. St. Josephs existed. That was the beginning of his regular visits to the College for Board meetings and other major events such as the Abbot's Christmas Dinner and the 6th Year Graduation Day. During three of those years he was a sick man from the illness which finally took his life, and yet he still came to meetings and was as clearheaded and articulate as ever. He grew to admire and cherish the College and the Community in a way that reflected his close friendship with the Abbot and he never ceased to proclaim the importance of maintaining the traditions and roots of the College as he had come to know it. At Board meetings he would listen to discussions for a long time saying nothing. Then he would sum up his assessment of the situation, often coming at a topic from a completely different perspective, and give it a focus and a thrust forward that often had us Board members reeling in admiration and shock. Especially in relation to situations which were considered negative or problematic, he would say "these are the facts, friends, and the facts are friendly", or "this is the reality of the situation and reality is a very good place to be". I recall at an early meeting of the Board, some members being somewhat taken

aback at the condition of the dormitories and washroom areas of the College. Br. Jerome proceeded to describe some of the wonderful school facilities he had seen in the course of his world trips and added that he would not recommend his 27th cousin to go there. Above all he brought his knowledge of students and staffs to bear on all discussions - he brought his instinctive compassion for the difficulties of teaching boys or caring for them, as well as his compassion for the traumas of adolescence - he brought idealism and pragmatism of the highest order to the institution he loved so dearly - the Christian school. He brought his love for and appreciation of the monastic life and its influence on the College to all his interventions, and from his broad experience of Boards of Management he helped to give the first Board a belief in themselves and conveyed to them a pride in their achievement and commitment which were vital ingredients in establishing that first Board on a sound basis. Roscrea, like other areas of Irish life owes Br. Jerome a lot and we are proud that he associated himself with the College at such a critical period in its evolution.

Bro. Jerome was Principal of the Presentation Brothers College in Cork from 1969-'81. He was also a former Superior General of the Presentation Brothers Order.

In 1970, he founded SHARE by which students enlisted the help of Cork Corporation and the support of the city's population to amass enough funds to begin a building programme to house the needy in Cork.

Since SHARE's formation, more than 200 apartments for the homeless in Cork have been built, and since the 1970's the concept has spread throughout the state.

PETER GARVEY O.CIST.



Matt Hyland 1909 - 1998.

ROSCREA 1924 - 1928.

A lively mind, ever alert and open to new information. An extraordinary capacity to remember the names and families of people he had met. An energetic body that enjoyed its work and its play. A generous man ready to give his whole attention and talents. That is the Matt Hyland that his friends remember.

Matt's alert brain was mirrored in his bright and very focused eyes. Often such a mind seems to wear down the body in which it never seems quite at home. In Matt's case the mind was perfectly at home in the body, whether that was the result of his involvement in sport and athletics as a boy and young man, or whether the balance was there from family and birth I do not know, but what is clear is that Matt's early balanced education and training served him well. His fellow students at Roscrea in the 1920's remembered him as brilliant academically, a gold medalist in athletics, and somebody to be respected on the rugby field!

He found outlet for his great physical energy in later life in golf and deer hunting. He played golf up to less than a month before he died at 89. He shot deer down in the Wicklow hills when he was already well into his eighties.

Born in Ballycrona, Kilross, Tipperary, in 1909, he came to the College in 1924. 'A brilliant and well behaved boy who gave complete satisfaction at all times' (Father Ailbe's reference for Matt written in 1933.) he left the college in 1928 and studied Agricultural Science in Glasnevin. He told me that, during his early years in the university, he found himself with such a strong foundation in physics and chemistry from Jack Murphy's class in Roscrea, that he began reading St. Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theological in Latin to keep himself occupied. His studies of Aquinas did not prevent him from graduating with a first class honours degree in Agriculture in 1933.

His first appointment was a teaching one in Dunshaughlin under the Vocational Education Scheme.

In 1934 he took up an appointment as Agricultural Advisor at the Mallow sugar factory. Subsequently he was engaged in the sugar factories at Tuam and Carlow.

He resigned from the Sugar Company in 1954 to take up a position with the North Tipperary Committee of Agriculture. In 1958 he was appointed to the Dublin Committee of Agriculture.

In 1963 the Bank of Ireland decided to appoint an Agricultural Advisor. This was a new service and Matt was appointed. He stayed with the bank until his retirement in 1977. By that time the service had grown under his direction and Matt was by then the senior member of a team of advisors.

It was as Advisor to the Bank of Ireland that he began to help our monastery with its farm development plan. As well as his agricultural professional expertise, he brought to the work a profound grasp of the history of monastic life both in Ireland and in Europe. His love for the monastery and college here and his conviction about their importance in the life of the country were always evident in his approach to decisions. He accompanied us in some of the most basic decisions that had to be made at a time when traditional farming was changing, and when the manpower in the monastery was diminishing. He was able to focus on the specific needs of the farm and the economy while, at the same time keeping in mind the overall purpose and goals of the monastery and college. On a number of occasions I remember his advice was completely contrary to what one would have picked up from the popular farming press at the time, and on each occasion Matt turned out to be right in the long term. With his experience and his keen analytic mind, and his diligence in studying a situation with thoroughness, one could have confidence in his judgments. In the years after he retired from the bank, the monasteries of Mellifont, Glenstal and Kylemore benefited from his wide experience and devoted hard work as well as we did here in Roscrea.

Matt has been involved in the Roscrea Past Pupils' Union from the very beginning. It was founded in Dublin in 1929 when Matt was there as a university student. He was an interested and active member all his life. A

great man to attend meetings, and as a rule his fertile mind had ideas as to what ought to be done. He was one of the most familiar faces at the boys' rugby cup matches. I sat beside him at last year's semi-final against Terenure. His analysis and enthusiasm were just amazing. I remember thinking to myself on the way home what a blessing it is for somebody to have developed an interest as a schoolboy that has served him all his life and can still fill him with such excitement and enthusiasm on a cold early March day when he is already 88 years of age. Take a bow those who give their time and talent to enable schoolboys to develop an interest in sport!

The last time I saw Matt was on the 20th August last year at the celebrations in Mellifont to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Cistercian Order. The spark in the eye was as lively as ever, and the mind was still bubbling over with ideas. In particular he talked about his hopes that the boys in our school would do a pageant illustrating part of the influence of the Cistercians on the history of Europe. He even had identified the exact period on which they should concentrate when, according to him, Cistercian influence was at its height. There was a Cistercian pope and several of the key Archbishoprics in Europe were filled by Cistercian archbishops. It was obvious that much research and work would have to precede such a pageant. But Matt was never one to be put off by research or hard work.

It was noticeable that day how much he had slowed down physically. He told me he was due to go in to Elm Park Hospital. He gave me the details of what he expected the treatment to be and there was no hint that he had any doubt but that all would be well. He would be down to Roscrea later and would be in touch. As he drove down the avenue I noticed that he was driving more slowly than usual.

In fact he was not to get well. The body had just worn out. It was appropriate that he had not to endure a long illness. He spent his last days surrounded by the love and care of his family. He seems to have accepted that the battle for more time here was lost and his lifelong faith and spirituality were there to sustain him as he edged towards the greatest act of his life; the act by which he gave himself back to his Creator. "Well done good and faithful servant." It was Sunday 27th September.

The Requiem Mass was celebrated in Matt's parish church, Newtown Park Avenue, on Tuesday 29th September. It is the Church of the Holy Angels and it was the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. It was a beautiful September morning. In such a setting Father Philip Tierney of Glenstal, one of Matt's closest friends, who was presiding celebrant and homilist, was able to express on behalf of the family and of all present, the unique sentiments of joy and sorrow that crowded our hearts. It was touching to see the Roscrea Past Pupils form a guard of honour as the coffin was carried from the church. It was more than seventy years since Matt had left the college. The bonding had only grown and strengthened over the years.

On the 24th October his ashes were buried in the cemetery here at Mt. Saint Joseph. The rain swept down and the cold wind blew during the ceremony, and seemed to reflect the struggle of the farmers of Ireland since Matt first began to help them in 1933. How many times did he brave the elements to inspect conditions on farms down the years? It was in contrast to the peace, the joy even, at the Mass before the burial and the meal in the guest house afterwards. There was a real sense of peace and joy among those present. We were able to join with Kay his wife, his daughters Leán and Trionna, and sons Ceall and Colm, the grandchildren and the extended family, in thanking God for Matt's life and gifts. We knew he would not want an air of gloom or despondency on the occasion. He was a born gentleman with a sense for the social occasion. He would have been proud of his family and would have given full approval to the dignity and spirit which surrounded the days of his death and burial.

In Matt's case it does not seem right to finish by saying 'may he rest in peace!' If resting in peace means being idle it does not fit easily on Matt. It is easier to imagine him spending his heaven doing good on earth. He has, I feel sure, already worked out a plan whereby we are all benefiting from his new life with his God.

COLMCILLE O'TOOLE.



News of Pastmen

Hugh O'Neill (CCR '63-'68) is a partner in the firm of Marcus Lynch Solicitors. He has been elected president of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association for the year 1998/99. The Association represents and protects the interests of the three thousand solicitors currently practising in the Dublin area.

Oliver O'Shea (CCR 1968-'73) is currently working as an analyst at Goodbody Stockbrokers.

Ian Curley (CCR 1975-'80) is now chief Financial Officer with Smurfit Europe.

Stephen Lucey (CCR 1992-'97) made his debut recently for the Limerick Hurling Team to face Galway. He is a son of former Rugby International Dr. Mick Lucey and is currently studying medicine.

Mark Kinirons (CCR 1974-'79) is currently working in Geriatric Medicine at Guy's Hospital in London.

Paddy O'Brien (CCR 1993-'98) is presently on a Hurling Scholarship in UCD. Paddy won a Leinster Colleges Medal with CCR in 1996 and won an All-Ireland Minor Medal with Tipperary in the same year.

Paddy Mc Mahon is now Chief Executive of Ulster Banks Markets.

Gareth Doorley (CCR 1990-'95) was conferred with a B.A. in Law Accounting at the University of Limerick. He is now with the firm of Ivor Fitzpatrick & Co. Dublin. He won Offaly, Leinster & All-Ireland Club Medals with Birr Hurling Club.

Robert O'Shea recently got engaged to Eilis Holden. Robert is a brother of pastmen Joe, Liam and Paul and the son of pastman Pat, a former President of the past Pupils Union.

Frank Gleeson (CCR 1966-'71) has been appointed Chief Executive of Marc Rich & Co. Investment (MRI). MRI has annual revenues of \$4.5b and employs three hundred staff.

William O'Donnell (CCR 1979-'84) has commenced practice as a solicitor at 18 Mallow Street Limerick. After leaving CCR, William took a degree in Politics and Economics at UCD before going on to qualify as a Solicitor. He is well known in racing circles and is an avid rugby supporter, and is currently Vice-Chairman of Bruff RFC.

Karl Deering is now working at the International University of People's Institutions for Peace in Rovereto, Italy. This follows on his completion of a Master's Degree in Peace Studies in Dublin. He misses his rugby involvement from his Trinity days and now enjoys a sedate game of cricket from time to time.

Alastar Browne (CCR 1972-'78) is currently living in Fife in Scotland. He now works for Johnson & Johnson and is the business unit head of Ethicon Endo Surgery in Scotland. In 1989, he married Noreen Cleary and they have a six year old daughter, Sophie. He can be contacted on his Email address: abrowne@medgb.jnj.com

Michael Finlay (CCR 1981-'86) recently announced his engagement to Avril Harding.

Adrian Smyth (CCR 1965-'70) now works in Dublin as Group Secretary of the National Association of Building Co-Ops.

Paul Mc Grane is working with the Irish Repertory Company in New York and recently starred in "The Shaughran"

One of the great social occasions in Kuala Lumpur in January was the wedding of **Michael "Charlie" Monaghan** to Dr. Naoida Razali, niece of the Prime Minister of Malasia. Three well known Pharmacists, CCR Pastmen, Jim Mc Cormack, Aidan Murphy and Eamon O'Flaherty, in company with rugby scribe Des Berry (don't mention the monsoons!) represented the college. The happy couple are now living in London.

Congratulations to **Kieran Somers** who won the Gregory Peck Film Scholarship and who has completed his Masters in Film Studies. We await his first novel next year. His brother Pat is a journalist with the Leinster Express.

Gearoid O'Flaherty from Salthill, brother of Eamon, is presently studying for a Phd. in English in the University of Kent.

Congratulations to **Eoghan Comerford**, son of the late John Comerford, on his recent marriage to Nessa.

Congratulations to **Ollie Byrne** from Kilkenny (CCR '81-'86) who recently "popped the question" to Mary Scott from Portumna in the romantic setting of the Mexican Carribean