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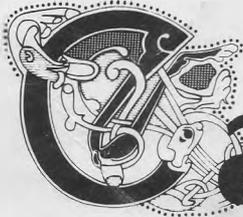
# TRÁČT



KINVARA'S MAGAZINE

ISSUE No.2

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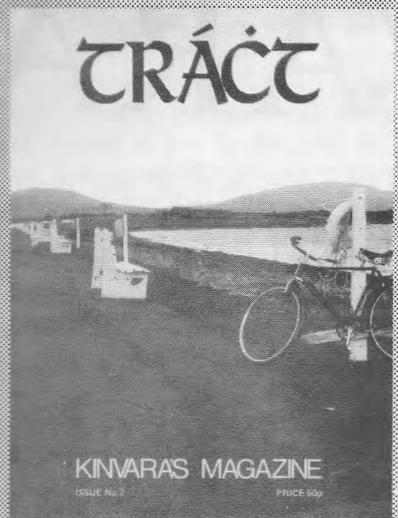


# **Cabhair is cairdiúlacht i gcursaí airgid.**

Más é sin atá ag taisteal uait, buail isteach sa bhráinnse de Bhainc na hÉireann is comhgaráí dhuit. Geobhaidh tú chuile cabhair, is failte geal. Banc na hÉireann. Beir bua i gcursaí bainnse!



**Banc na hÉireann**  
An banc le do linn



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## EDITORIAL

WE ARE PLEASED to present to you the second issue of "Trácht". We have made some changes in the general content and layout. We hope that our readers agree that they make for a better, more colourful and more interesting magazine.

We welcome corrections, comments and letters on any of the articles published, and also material for inclusion in our next issue.

The Kinvara-Duras Historical Society, Connecticut, sent us information and a photograph, which we are very glad to include. We welcome the opportunity of being of service to groups of exiles from Kinvara and the South Galway-North Clare area, and we invite them to let us know of their activities.

This magazine could not be published without the work and goodwill of many people. The Community Council appreciates the time and talent given so generously by all concerned with its production, including all those who submitted manuscripts for consideration.

A special word of thanks to our advertisers. Without their support it would be impossible to publish this magazine. We ask our readers to mention "Trácht" when doing business with them.

## CONTENTS

### *Features*

<i>In Old Kinvara</i> .....	4
<i>Bop till you drop</i> .....	6
<i>The Masters, an appreciation</i> .....	7
<i>Cruinniú na mBád 1980</i> .....	10
<i>Maitiú Ó Mócháin</i> .....	13
<i>Kinvara Bay Survey</i> .....	18
<i>Our Man in Nigeria</i> .....	20
<i>Farming Page</i> .....	21
<i>Sports Roundup, 1980</i> .....	22
<i>Tribute to Galway Hurlers</i> .....	23
<i>Journey to France</i> .....	24
<i>Swimming</i> .....	25
<i>Adult Education</i> .....	26
<i>Poetry Page</i> .....	27
<i>A German Review</i> .....	29
<i>A Race with the Sun</i> .....	29
<i>"Guess Who" Competition</i> .....	30

### *News*

<i>Kinvara-Duras Historical Society, Connecticut</i> .....	9
<i>Local News Roundup</i> .....	14
<i>Picture Parade</i> .....	16

**CALL AT BROGANS FOR CONFECTIONERY  
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ESTABLISHED 1903.

# OLD KINVARA

LIKE SO many of the towns and villages scattered throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, Kinvara has a rich stock of memories, linking her with a colourful past. Any town or village in the country, unless it lies very far off the beaten track, reveals to the discerning eye the rich tapestry of Ireland's history in miniature, and Kinvara is no exception.

For anyone who does not already know Kinvara, this rich past immediately shows itself in the splendid castle of Dun Guaire that greets the traveller on the westward approach to the town. Not so long ago it stood roofless and desolate, but it has now been restored to its former glory and, thanks to the Shannon Development Authority, it once again dispenses hospitality to strangers as it did in times gone by.

Dun Guaire, however, is only the most obvious sign of Kinvara's past. Spread throughout the area are the ruins of old Churches and once grand houses and estates. About eight miles from the town is Kilmacduagh, site of a 7th century monastic settlement, which can still boast of one of the finest round towers in the country. The area's strong devotion to the Christian faith is shown in the number of holy wells and shrines found in the many townlands making up the parish. And a visit to any of the local graveyards helps to fill out the local history of Kinvara, as the tombstones reveal family names borne throughout the centuries and still evident from the shop-fronts along the main street of the town.

It would be impossible in a brief article to do justice to the history of any place, and there are many older people in Kinvara and its surrounding townlands

who will say, quite rightly, that important things have been left out of this account. Yet there is perhaps, one excuse for attempting a summary of this sort, and this is, that those who pass through Kinvara may realize that the area has a history of which its people are proud.

Lack of written records makes it difficult to say when the area of Kinvara was first settled. We know that a great battle was fought here in the 3rd century after Christ, but where exactly is not known. The name of the legendary Finn Mac Cool is also associated with another battle fought with the local chieftains of the area later in the same century, when it became the seat of the High Kings of Connacht. A royal residence was established, called Rath Durlais, on the site of the present Dun Guaire castle, which is itself a 15th century structure. Guaire, who gave his name to the castle and to the present town of Gort, was king of Connacht during the early 7th century. Known for his great hospitality, he was also a relation of St. Colman, a much venerated saint to this day. Colman was one of the early hermit monks of Ireland, living at various times in the Burren hills overlooking Kinvara, and on the Aran Islands. According to legend, it was Guaire who prevailed upon Colman to establish the monastic settlement of Kilmacduagh, and in 610 Colman became the first bishop of the new diocese.

Whatever his other qualities may have been, Guaire does not seem to have been able to hold onto his throne for very long. In the following years he lost control of most of his territory and we are told that he ended his days in the great monastery of Clonmacnoise, where he died in 662.

Like other parts of the country, Kinvara suffered at the hands of the Vikings. Early in the ninth century a strong force of Danes marched from North Clare and ravaged Kilmacduagh and Kinvara. Again in 886 they returned and repeated their earlier destruction. Only once were they turned back, at a battle fought at Raheen in this same year. Situated as they were, at the head of a bay, the people must often have sighed with relief when a storm blew up, preventing the fiercesome long ships from entering the unprotected inlet:

*Since tonight the wind is high,  
The sea's white mane of fury,  
I need not fear the hordes of hell  
Coursing the Irish Channel.  
(Anonymous 9th cent.)*

When the Irish eventually made a stand against the Danes at the Battle of Clontarf, a great number of the men of Connacht joined Brian Boru, whose second wife was a descendant of Guaire. Although the battle resulted in victory, many of those who had come from the area of Kinvara perished, and the chieftaincy passed from the O'Heynes to the O'Clery's who retained it until the 13th century.

## Local Chieftains

The English invasion of Ireland had little immediate effect on the area. Local chieftains continued to struggle for power. Eventually Rory Mór O'Shaughnessy gained control of the area and it was he who built Dun Guaire Castle in 1520. Dermot O'Shaughnessy accepted a knighthood from Henry VIII in 1533, but he seems not to have regarded it as anything more than an empty title. For he continued to operate independently of the English crown. As English power spread across the country, the O'Shaughnessy's lost both territory and possessions.

In 1642 we find that Richard Martyn, Mayor of Galway, occupied Dun Guaire castle. This Martyn was an ancestor of the Martyn's of Tulira Castle, of whom Edward Martyn, writer, patron of the arts and associate of Yeats and Lady Gregory, is one of the best known figures.

The Cromwellian invasion of a few years later broke the last remaining resistance of the native Irish. We know that Kilcolgan, Gort and, Kiltartan suffered much from the cruelty of the Cromwellian forces as they destroyed the last pockets of rebellion. The land was confiscated and a new class was planted, unsympathetic to the native inhabitants. New names began to appear in the area, the most important of which was



*De Basterot Tomb in Parkmore*

probably the Gregory's of Coole. This was fortunate in many ways, for the Gregory's were enlightened landlords, who tried to improve their holdings, which included the town of Kinvara. They caused a pier to be built in the town, making use of the ruins of another castle which has stood on the present site of the pier. Subsequent additions were made to the pier and the harbour was cleared to allow fair sized ships to enter the new port.

#### De Basterot Family

Another new name in the area was that of De Bastorot. In 1750, Frances, daughter of James French of Duras, married Bartholomew de Basterot, President of the Bourdeaux Parliament. Upon his wife's death, de Basterot became heir to her property and came to Ireland to assert his claim. Eventually the family settled in Duras and the present Youth Hostel – Duras House – was the family home. The De Basterots were devout Catholics and they gave the site of the present St. Colman's Church to the people of the area.

#### The Famine

According to a census, the population of the area of Kinvara was very large at the beginning of the 19th century – 1900 families. The great Famine of the 1840's brought great suffering to the people of the area. It is estimated that there were fewer than 700 families by the time the worst of the Famine was over. It is worth noting that much relief work was carried out not only by the dedicated priests of the area but also by Gregory of Coole. Sadly, the Gregorys were obliged to sell much of Kinvara to pay off creditors, and one of the main purchasers was Isaac Commerford of Galway. Commerford raised the rents and those who could not pay were driven off their lands. The scheme back-fired, however, and eventually his property passed into the Court of Chancery.

#### Historical Figures

In 1848 one of the great events of Irish history briefly touched Kinvara.



*Duras House*

After the failure of the '48 rising, one of the leaders, John Blake Dillon, fled to Kinvara. He took refuge with the parish priest who undertook to get him to safety. Troops were combing the area and the priest sent Dillon to Parkmore. A boatman was engaged to take Dillon to Aran. The sea was very stormy but the little boat continued on its way, reaching Inishman in safety. Eventually, Dillon escaped to America and, years later, repaid his debt by ordering the construction of a pier at Parkmore.

Another well-known figure associated with Kinvara was Francis Fahy. Born in 1854 in the town of Kinvara, Fahy early showed remarkable ability as a teacher and writer. At the age of fifteen he wrote a play called 'The Last of the O'Leary's', which was performed in aid of a fund for the families of Fenian prisoners. He wrote a number of poems which were printed in 'The Nation', and eventually moved to London, where he held a position in the Board of Trade. He continued to interest himself in the Nationalist movement as a member of the Home Rule Confederation and the Land League branch in London. When a branch of the Gaelic League was

formed in London in 1894, Fahy was elected secretary and later president. Fahy wrote many poems and songs which took their inspiration from his home in Kinvara, the best known of which is undoubtedly 'The Ould Plaid Shawl'. He died in 1935 and is buried in London. A plaque was erected to his memory in Kinvara a few years ago as a tribute to one of the area's 'favourite sons'.

#### Kinvara to-day

As we enter the 20th century the history of Kinvara becomes far more complicated and to deal with it properly would require another article. It only remains to say that the town and its surrounding area has witnessed a happy growth of population in the last few years. All one has to do is look at the large number of new houses which have been erected in the last ten or fifteen years. Once again we see flocks of children – always a promising sign – in every part of the parish. Kinvara has a past to be proud of and there is every reason to suppose that it has a future of great potential.

J.W. O'Connell

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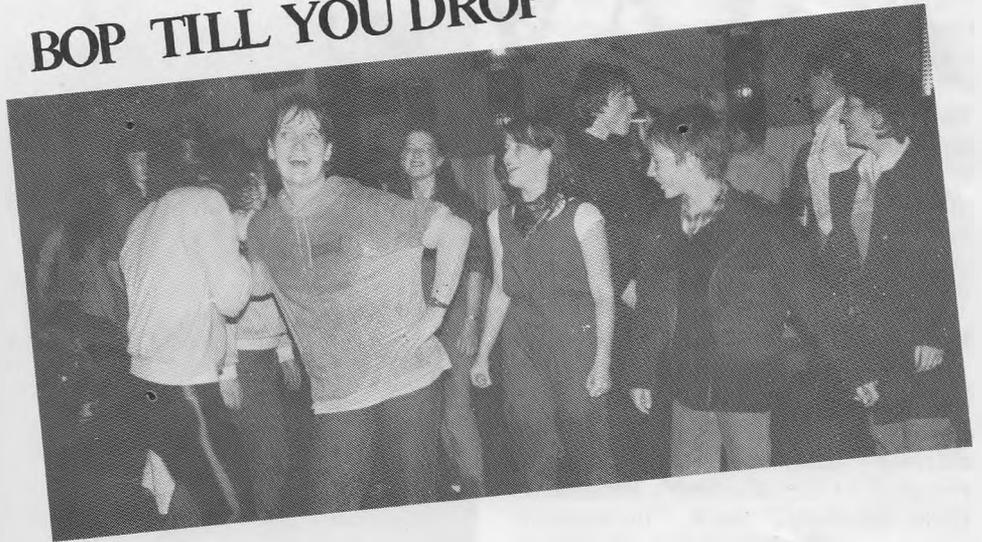
## THE TRAVELLERS INN

BAR

Nogra

FOR A NICE DRINK IN AN OLD FASHIONED  
SETTING

# BOP TILL YOU DROP

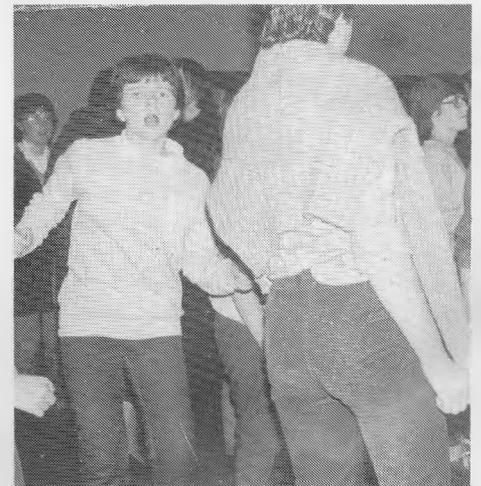


Though a fictitious encounter, the above is a typical example of the conflicting views on music and the fine art of 'Bop 'til you drop.' Few parents could possibly share the same opinion of STING as their teenage daughters. The generation gap, now more than ever, is creeping up on its helpless victim, Kinvara. Its scouting parties on television and radio, and in magazines, have invaded our reserves, spied on our defences and reported that the time is ripe for its major weapon, the disco .

Parents, who in their time studied when at school and socialised afterwards only when safely entrenched in a job, cannot relate to their 12 or 13 year olds demanding £3 for the disco on Saturday night. The universal plea, "but everyone's going," comes as little consolation to them. Visions of drink and drug abuse and thoughts of the teenager's pre-occupation with a newly discovered sexuality plague them. Hell hath no fury like a worried mother hearing her daughter being dropped off by a speeding car in the early hours of the morning. She is inevitably guilty until proven innocent. To the probably innocent daughter the parents would appear over-cautious, and they give the impression that they themselves were never young. The journey of the bumble bee playing on her heart strings, the first pangs of infatuation hurting her, she fails to recognise their worry and mistakes it for envy, perhaps.

Attempts at compromise are taken as an affront to a sensitive sense of independence, though uneasy truces exist

in some households on such shaky terms as exemplified in the statement. "But you'll have to study." Almost afraid of their parents, the children cannot speak to them about what they have experienced in an age of insecurity and recklessness. Encouraged sometimes, but more often confused by this silence, the parents gradually come to the conclusion that "whatever they're up to, it can't be any good." Suspicion, counter-suspicion, and distrust appear to be the norm in a



house with a rapidly growing gangly adolescent. Should it be so?

Parents and teenagers must recognise the problem of the generation gap, and together they must overcome it. I would ask all adults to be patient with our inexperience, but above all I would say to them, "Let your heart dance."

**Emer Monahan**

A transistor is blaring its message —

*"Don't stand so . . .*

*"Don't stand so . . .*

*"Don't stand so close to me."*

"Turn off that crap." A middle-aged man glares at the lithe teenagers, buttons straining to hold in his bulging beer belly, 'Grecian 2000' fighting a losing battle against the rapidly reproducing grey. A young boy, his face bearing evidence of the recent ravages of acne, quickly retorts, "We weren't doing anything wrong." The man's face turns various hues of purple before he finally splutters, "You're disturbing the peace, your radio's too loud."

**FERGUS O'DEA**

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# 'THE MASTERS'

## — An Appreciation

Over the past forty years Joe Muldoon, Tomas Donlon and Kieran Moylan have educated numerous boys and girls who now remember them with affection and gratitude.

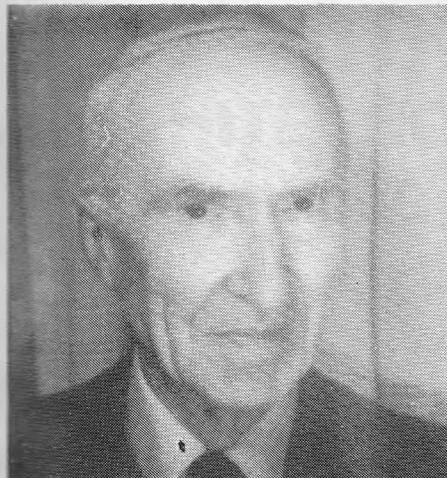
But the three masters did not confine themselves to the school building; they became totally involved in community activities, giving generously of their talents and leadership to improve different aspects of life in the area. Each of them can be readily associated with projects which have been an outstanding success, and which will endure as monuments to their dedication and hard work.

We are pleased to publish this appreciation, written by past-pupils who remember them with pride. We also wish to record our thanks to all the national teachers who have given so much to life in the parish, especially all those who are now in retirement and who include Miss Kathleen Farrell, Mrs. Mary Gleeson and Mrs. Aine Donlon.

### JOSEPH P. MULDOON

Over the last forty years or so there were three or four scenes in Kinvara which would have made great photographs. Each of them would be more evocative than a 1000 words. Together they would give an impression of a remarkable man, Joe Muldoon.

The first one was set 30 years ago in the Boy's National School ground floor. Groups working for all they were worth; some out by the wall reading the 4 penny Grammer; some in desks writing; some learning spellings and tables and others around the board grasping concepts from the Master. Through this pervading air of industry, solidly based on the need for



Joseph P. Muldoon

education whether or not one was ever to board the emigrants' ship, rang a knocking at the door. Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Galway. He was to take it all in.

Up across the road from this school house is Kinvara's fine G.A.A. pitch, a basic amenity for athletes. Planning and engineering called for foresight and staying-power. At each stage, Joe Muldoon was there leading his colleague. That day the G.A.A. President officially opened it, was a landmark for Joe Muldoon.

### Co-Op Chairman

Let's go back to the school house for number three, to a day a couple of years ago. By then the Handcraft Co-Op had taken it over and their spacious boat building premises at the rear was being officially opened by a Minister of State. Not alone had their Chairman, Mr. Joe Muldoon, supervised the construction work, he had also given a hand. The scene, upstairs in the school house during the reception, was truly memorable.

The fourth scene was the field behind the school on a summers' day in the early 50s. He had sent me out to practice shot putting. I never got anywhere with it. It wasn't his fault.

John Flatley



Tomás Donlon

### TOMAS DONLON

Tomas Donlon took over as Principal Teacher in Northampton old school in 1934 from Mr. Cafferty who moved to Kildare. Fourteen years later, Mrs. Donlon joined him on the staff when Miss Annie O'Donnell, R.I.P. retired. They were outstanding partners on an outstanding team, who gave generously of their talents, enthusiasm, encouragement, personal attention and caring to the

christian, social, educational, moral and personal development of all the children entrusted to their care.

It is to be noted that Mr. and Mrs. Donlon's interest in the welfare of their pupils did not finish when the school door closed on Friday evening, or even after their school days were over, but extended on into their adult life. People scattered far and wide throughout the world are thankful and appreciateive of their friendship and assistance.

### Community Leader

As well as excelling in the educational sphere, Tomas Donlon was to the forefront of many other activities and developments in the parish. He played football for Kinvara, and was elected secretary of the South Galway Board of the G.A.A. He was a founder-member of Kinvara Dramatic Society and he produced a number of very successful plays. His closest colleagues in this undertaking, as indeed in others, were Joseph Muldoon, and Kieran Moylan.

However, his most outstanding contribution to the Community has been through Muintir na Tíre. In 1949, with the help of many others he established a guild of Muintir na Tíre in the parish to promote local development through unity, co-operation, self-help and community effort. The achievements of the guild and its successor, the Community Council, are impressive, and owe much to the wise though gentle guidance exerted by its President, Thomas Donlon.

### Adult Educator

Tomás also took an active and participating interest in post-primary and adult education. He has served on the County Galway Vocational Education Committee, taking a special interest in the organisation of Gaeltacht courses and scholarships, and night courses and lectures for adults in Gort Vocational School and in Kinvara.

He has been an active supporter and organiser of Fianna Fáil. He is a trusted and loyal friend of the people he supports, and is highly esteemed and respected by his opponents, who appreciate his enthusiasm, tenacity and sincerity.

Thomas Donlon never sought public acclaim for any of his efforts on behalf of the community. Much of what he has done will never be publicised, but more importantly, it will be appreciated by the people who themselves know only too

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well the extent of his help to a wide spectrum of people in the parish.

Tá mé féin agus go leor eile buíoch do agus dá bhean céile ionmhain, Áine, ní amháin as an gcabhair go léir a thug siad dúinn, ach as an bpríhléid a bhí againn aithne agus eolas a chur ar shardhaoine mar iad.

**BERNIE CONNOLLY**



*Kieran Moylan*

**KIERAN MOYLAN**

Kieran Moylan's retirement as Principal teacher at Doorus N.S. on the 31st of August last has brought back many memories. The first impression on his first day at the school (April 12th 1940)

was that of a small man. Small he may have been in stature but we were soon to discover that he was a giant in his field of learning and in imparting his knowledge to us his pupils. He had the ability to do this and still make school life a pleasure and a place where we wanted to be. This is reflected in the esteem he is held in by the hundreds of his pupils now scattered throughout the world in a variety of jobs and professions. Throughout his life one could say that he maintained a bond with his pupils which was something more than the ordinary pupil/teacher relationship. One always felt that he was the foundation of our educational, social and moral development and later in life as we encountered others from various educational backgrounds, we could always hold our own and look back with pride on the fact that he had been our teacher. He was a native of Peterswell, where his parents, the late Patrick and Alicia Moylan, were teachers also. He taught for 3½ years in the midlands before coming to Doorus. The teaching tradition was in his veins – there being seven teachers in his own family, two in his father's family and five on his mother's side.

**Athlete**

He was a distinguished athlete and hurler in his youth. He played with the Connacht colleges senior hurling team in

1934 and with Waterford, in the National League, in 1935. He also assisted the Peterswell and Kinvara teams. He encouraged athletics in the school and the fact that Doorus school was the first winner, in 1942, of the inaugural competition for the Dr. Browne Cup (presented for athletics competition between national schools in the dioceses of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora) was a tribute to him and the inspiring example he engendered in that field.

**Musician**

A noted singer and traditional musician, he has often performed on Radio and Television. He formed a school band, which was a reflection of his musical talents and ability.

Always involved in local Community affairs, he founded the Kinvara Dramatic Society and was one of its leading players for several years. He was the secretary of the Muintir na Tíre Branch and the Tidy Towns Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Community Council and a member of the N.F.A.

A dedicated and full life indeed, and one worthy of a well earned rest in retirement. Each and every one of his pupils say a very sincere thank you, and join with his many friends in wishing him and his good wife, Tiffy, many pleasant years of health and happiness.

**Jimmy O'Connor**

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# KINVARA-DURAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

The Kinvara-Duras Historical Society came about, as a result of, and following a series of slide presentations, on the historical aspects of the parish of Kinvara. The object and purpose of the society, is to re-kindle and foster a re-newed interest in Irish Culture, Heritage, and the Arts of Ireland.

It is not the object of the society to confine itself to the Parish of Kinvara, but in a much broader aspect, to foster a great interest in Irish Culture, no matter what part of Ireland it is.

Since its foundation last December Dr. Patrick Greene, son of Dr. and Mrs. P.J. Greene late of Kinvara and Loughrea and Dr. Mary Savage, daughter of Mr. Tim Savage of Cork and Bgt. Greene, late of The Quay, Kinvara have organised monthly meetings with film shows and lectures and a Christmas Dinner Dance is on the Winter programme.

There are 200 members and all interested persons are welcome to join.



*Officers and Executive Board: Seated from Left to Right: Dr. Patrick J. Greene, President; Dr. Mary M. Savage, Corresponding Secretary; Martin Regan, Vice-President; Kathleen Glynn Connole, Recording Secretary. Standing from Left to Right: James B. Fahey, Treasurer; Patrick Murphy, Executive Board; Elizabeth Weston, Executive Board; Michael Greene, Honorary Member & Guest of Honour; Helana Nilan, Executive Board; Dr. John H. Harness, Executive Board. Photograph taken at Dinner Meeting of the Society on March 30, 1980.*

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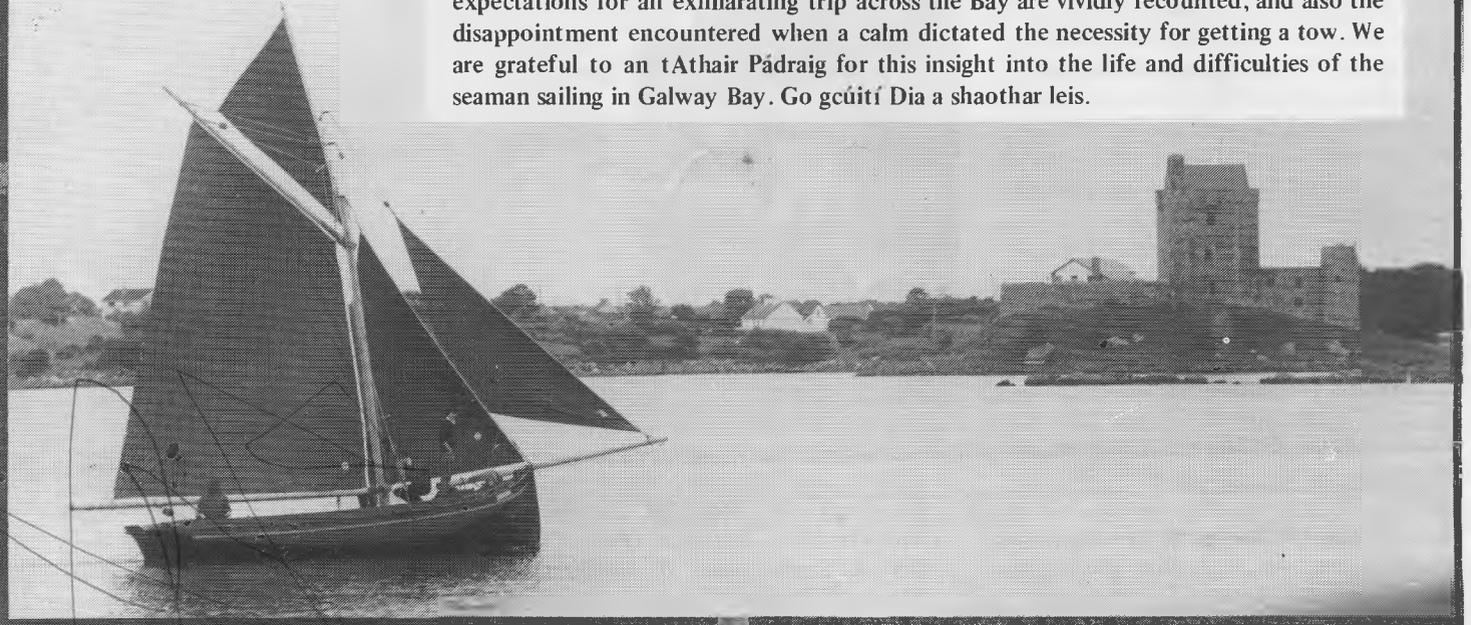
Kinvara, Co. Galway

Boarding and Day Schools for Girls

# CRUINNIÚ na mBÁD

The second Cruinniú na mBád was another outstanding success, enjoyed by all who flocked to enjoy the weekend's festivities. In spite of setbacks, it has established itself as one of the premier cultural and social festivals in the country.

The following is an account of the journey from Caladh Thaidhg, Carraroe, to Kinvara, as experienced by one skipper, Fr. Pádraig Ó Tuairisg, and his crew. The expectations for an exhilarating trip across the Bay are vividly recounted, and also the disappointment encountered when a calm dictated the necessity for getting a tow. We are grateful to an tAthair Pádraig for this insight into the life and difficulties of the seaman sailing in Galway Bay. Go gcúití Dia a shaothar leis.



Chuaigh muid ar bord am eicint roimh 7.00 a.m. maidín Dé hAoine an 8ú lá Lúnasa i gCuan an Fhír Mhóir agus tháinig muid i dtír am eicint tar éis 12.00 an oíche sin ag céibh na Páirce Móire. B'shin os cionn 17 uair ar an bhfarraige – agus tháinig sé thar barr liom, cé's móite den dá uair a chloig deireadh a chaith sé ag báisteach.

Bhí an mhóin luchtaithe ón oíche roimhe. Ba bhreá an mhaidín í i gCuan an Fhír Mhóir agus muid ag fanacht le ordú bailiú linn go Cruinniú na mBád i gCinn Mhara. Bhí na báid ansin idir bheag agus mhór, ag céibh Chaladh Thaidhg, a scailí san uisce agus gan fuaim ó neamh le cloisteach ach corrhuth daonna. Faoi dheireadh, tuairim a 8 a chlog, tugadh cead bóthair dóibh agus seo síos Cuan an Fhír Mhóir iad le cóir gaoithe a bhí díreach taréis éirí. Go deimhin b'álainn an radharc iad ag bailiú síos Trá an Dóilín.

Ní túisce bhí béal an chuain glanta againn ná lagaigh an ghaoth roinnt. D'fheiceá ansin na báid ag scaipadh de réir a chéile – cuid acu ag déanamh ar Arainn ag ceapadh go bhféidir go bhfaigheadh siad gaoth aneas nó aniar aneas as sin a thabharfadh soir an cuan iad. D'fhan cuid eile acu leis an talamh ó thuaidh ag súil le gaoth ansin. De réir a chéile, tháinig gur lá fada a bheadh ann muna neartóidh an ghaoth thar mar bhí sí.

## An Criú

Bhí cúigear againn sa mBád: mé féin agus beirt dearthár liom – Ruaidhrí agus Breandán – agus beirt sheanbhádóir a chuaigh soir an cuan go minic cheana, Willie agus Michael. Bhí an lá deas, te, griamhar, agus bhí neart le n-íthe agus le n-ól againn – agus feighid. Theastaigh sí go géar. Pé gaoth a bhí ann bhí sí ag teacht anoir díreach ó Chinn Mhara chugainn agus mar sin ní raibh againn ach bheith ag tornáil. Mar sin féin bhí muid ag teannadh soir de réir a chéile go dtí meán lae, nuair a thit sé ina chalm ar fad. Gheofá corrléithe ar feadh cúpla nóiméad agus ansin calm arís. Chonaic muid teach solais Cheann Bóirne i bhfad, soir uainn agus dúirt Willie nach mbeadh muid ach leath bealigh soir nuair a bheadh muid ansin. Ach ansin dúirt Michael gur minic a gheofá gaoth, agus gaoth mhaith láidir freisin, nuas ó chnoc Cho. an Chlaír, dá n-éireadh linn dul chomh fada leo!

Thosaigh muid ag iomradh agus ag iomradh, ar feadh na síorraíochta cheap mé, agus faoi dheireadh bhí muid taobh le Ceann Bóirne.

Bhí na fámairí istigh ar na carraigeacha á ngrianadh féin agus muide, an uair sin, ag cur allais go tiubh, ag dul soir tharstu. Bhí sé tuairim a 4.00 tráthnóna faoin am seo agus gan puth gaoithe ann. Bhí mé féin ag aireachtáil cosúil leis an seanfhear í "The Old Man and the Sea". Leag muid orainn isteach sa bpoll atá taobh thoir de Cheann Bóirne ach níor tháinig an ghaoth, agus ansin a d'fhan muid. Faoi dheireadh tháinig iascaire i mbáidín beag chugainn amach as Gleann Fídhneach agus dúirt sé linn go dtarraingeodh sé soir píosa muid mar go bhfanadh muid ansúd go deo. Chaith sé rópa chugainn agus seo soir an cuan muid arís, ar feadh fiche nóiméad nó leathuair a' chloig. Ansin dúirt sé go gcaithfeadh sé féin imeacht nó nach mbeadh aon taoille isteach go Gleann Fídhneach aige. D'imigh sé lenár mbeannachtaí agus ár mbuíochas. Bhíomar linn féin arís. Bhí corrsputa dubh le feiceáil ar an bhfarraige – báid eile a bhí sa geruth chéanna.

Chualamar bád innill ag teacht chugainn agus dúirt siad go dtiocfadh bád le muid a tharraingt níos deireanaí. D'imigh siad leis an dea-scéala sin a thabhairt do na báid eile ansin. Thosaigh muid ag iomradh arís, soir thar shoilse Bhaile Uí bhFíocháin, soir thar Inis Fia agus an dorchadas agus an bháisteach ag tosaí ag titim le chéile. Ní raibh fhios againn an mbeadh muid ann ar feadh na hoíche; an mbeadh an gruiféad sách maith dá dtiocfadh orainn, céard faoin

téad? Faoi dheireadh tháinig Bill Crampton agus Antoine O Maoláin i mBád innill, ceanglaíodh an dá bhád taobh le taobh agus d'fhaig siad thoir ag Oileán Fíde muid. Bheadh muid in ann an bealach a dhéanamh as go céibh na Páirce Móire.

## Oíche Dhorcha

Tháinig an dorchadas agus an bháisteach. D'éirigh sé chomh dubh le pic. Bhí an "Mhaighdean Mhara" amach romhainn agus lean muid di. Le scéal fada a ghiorrú, bhain muid amach an Pháirc Mhór le cabhair solais a bhí á scairteadh ón gcéibh, agus murach é ní bhainfeadh! Ag an am seo bhí muid fliuch agus fuar ach mar sin féin bhí trua agm do Choiste bád Chinn Mhara mar bhí fhios agam go raibh ciseach ceart déanta den lá orthusan – bhí muid ceapaithe seoladh isteach go céibh Chinn Mhara ag 4.00 an tráthnóna sin agus seo muid ag an bPáirc Mhór ag 12.00 san oíche agus gan an bád feistithe fós – ní raibh aon taoille ann. Ní raibh sé i bhfad go raibh. Nuair a bhí an bád feistithe againn bhí carranna ag fanacht le muid a thabhairt isteach go Cinn Mhara. Sílim go bhfuil creidiúint mhór ag dul don choiste as an méid eagrú a theastaigh le smaoineamh ar rudaí mar seo nuair chuimhneós tú ar an gcaoi a ndeachaigh an lá ina n-aghaidh. Fuair mo chomhbhádóirí lóistín i gCinn Mhara; chodail mé féin sa mBád mar theastaigh uaim a bheith cinnte go raibh sé ceart.

## Rásaí

Lá arna mhárach ar an Satharn bhí geallta na nbleoitheog agus ar an Domhnach bhí na báid mhóra ag iomáocht. Shíl mé go raibh rás na ngleoitheog leagtha amach go han-mhaith. I rás na mBád mór shíl mé dá mbeadh an bád ag an mbuaidh marcáilte go soiléir, le bratach mór mar shampla, nach dtarlódh an dearmad a tharla. Ach is deacair cuimhneamh ar chuide rud go háithrithe taréis an chaoi ar thit an Aoine amach. Tríd is tríd sílim gur éirigh go maith leis an deireadh seachtaine. Bhain mé féin an-táithneamh as ár aon chor.

Ba mhaith liom focal beag buíochais a ghlacadh le Coiste Cruinniú na mBád as an rud a chur ar siúl ar chor ar bith mar, as na himeachtaí ar fad a bhíonn thart ar Chuan na Gaillimhe i rith an tséasúir, sé Cruinniú na





As night falls becalmed hookers are taken in tow after seventeen hours on Galway Bay.

mBád i gCinn Mhara is gaire a thagann don saol a bhí ann nuair a bhí na báid sin faoi réim sna blianta atá imithe ag seoladh go "oidh Kinvara quay" lena lucht móna. Agus is mó an t-éacht fós atá déanta ag an gcoiste nuair smaoinéis tú nach mbaineann aon bhád acu le Cinn Mhara. Go neartaí Dia a lámh.

Pádraig Ó Tuairisg (Ath.)

### SHORE ACTIVITIES

Having reached Kinvara there was much activity to hold the attention and interest of all our visitors. The highlights of the weekend were undoubtedly the concerts given by the Cork Garda Choir in Seamount College and by De Danann in the Community Centre.

But there were numerous other items

including a demonstration and displays of work by the following talented artists; B. O'Brien, Potter; B. Gleeson, Goldsmith; L. Ní Chathmhaoil, Weaver; L. O'Kelly, Woodcarver; K. Meagher, painter; L. McMahon, painter; D. Campion, Textile design student; M. Johnston and friend, spinners.

There were also two Kinvara exhibitors: Thomas Quinn, Crushoa, who mounted a delightful exhibition of his photographs in the Parish Hall following on his very successful exhibition in the Galway Arts Festival, and Mrs. Patricia Stewart, Moy; a lecturer in textile design in the Regional Technical College,

Galway, who gave a demonstration of weaving.

The artistic talents of the young were not neglected either, thanks to Mrs. Judy Crampton, who mounted an exhibition of Kinvara children's art in the Community Centre.

The first function in the new Centre was a production by the Picchpenny Players from America, of "The Dreaming of the Bones" by W.B. Yeats. This was followed by a céilí with music by the Bridge Céilí Band from Portarlinton.

Other items included a puppet show by Brian Bourke and Jay Murphy, an exhibition by antique farm implements and machinery organised by Michael Sullivan and Gerry Byrne, and outdoor film shows by Bob Quinn.

The Artistic Director for the weekend was Gerardine Quinn, Crushoa, who worked unsparingly to ensure the smooth running of the various exhibitions and events.

Cruinniú na mBád may be remembered for many things — the spectacle of the boats, the concerts and exhibitions, the open-air Mass on the Quay, but for many people the abiding memory will be the turf fires on the Quay at night, the singing, dancing and friendly atmosphere, the 'craic' that happened, not organised. Cruinniú na mBád is now 'part of what we are'. It would be unforgiveable if we let it die.

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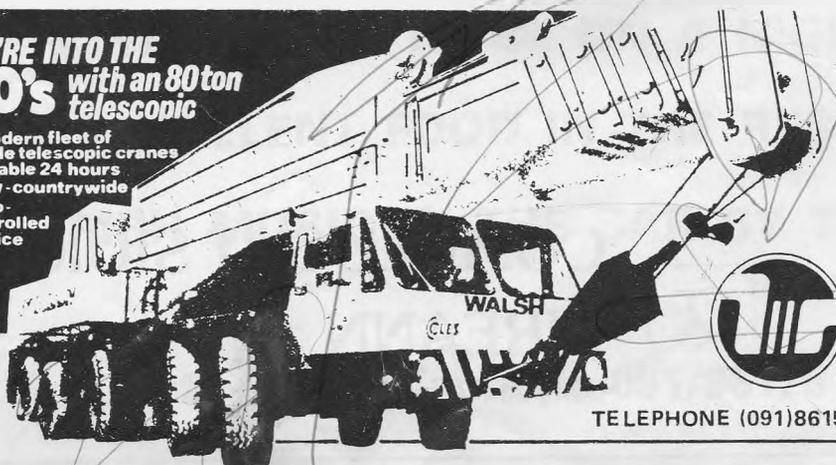
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## **EARTHQUAKE IN KINVARA**

"Kinvara, a market, post, and seaport town . . . in the County of Galway and province of Connaught . . . on the bay of Kinvara, which is within the bay of Galway."

So much for the situation of Kinvara. It has not changed its position since Lewis wrote.

In the course of his sketch Lewis mentions that on the 1st November 1755, the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon, a castle two or three miles to the west of Kinvara was destroyed to its foundations and part of it swallowed up. At the same time the chimneys and battlements of Caherglissane Castle, about three miles to the south, rocked and fell into a chasm, which was formed by rending the rock to a depth of several fathoms. This fact is especially interesting since some scientists have pronounced Ireland immune from earthquakes. According to the Abbe Mac-Geoghegan there was an earthquake here in the west about the 8th century also.

There is a great number of large holes in the vicinity of Kinvara. Some say they were caused by lightning. It is most likely, however, that they are the relics of the earthquakes. The names of some of them are: "Poul na mBó," "Poul Owsh," "Poul Bawn," "Poul Beachan," "Poul a' Mhaigh," "Poul Mór," and "Poul na gCeann."

**F. L. MacEoin  
(Fred Johnston)**

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ÉIREANN**

(early among the nations builders)

## MAITIÚ Ó MÓCHÁIN

Cur síos ar a shaol is a shaothar (ar lean.)  
le Pádraig Ó hEidhin.

Bhí Ó Mocháin ag teacht as Cinn Mhara oíche, agus bhí asal agus carr aige. Bhí na peelers roimhe ar an mbóthar, agus an Sáirsint Clarke i gceannas orthu. Bhí sé ag báisteach agus bhí cúpla mála móna aige ar an gcarr. Bhí sé féin ag siúl go bacach i ndiaidh an asail. Thug na peelers summons dó.

*One night myself and Johnny were coming  
from the town,  
Met were we by bobbies acting for the crown,  
"Where is your light?" they shouted  
When first they approached poor John:  
Johnny didn't answer but failed to gallop on.  
I was weak and weary, not able to run smart,  
So I clung onto the cart  
Until the poor animal got overpowered  
And his load he couldn't pull.  
And then those 'peyse' surrounded us  
Like the beagles of John Bull.  
They grabbed Johnny by the necktie,  
My own name they took down;  
They said, "We want to know,  
Why you're not obeying the crown."*

*"Well, pray me excuse,  
"But don't me abuse,"  
Was Johnny's lone reply,  
"I've got no shoes upon my feet  
"And that's the reason why.  
"You know the roads I have to tramp,  
"Pray, let me home to-night.  
"My boss, a scamp, he bought no lamp.  
"The moon and stars are his light."*

*"Well we'll agree," says the R.I.C.,  
"But this is what we'll do,  
"We'll state our case to a J.P.,  
"And your boss he'll surely sue."*



*Four days passed, the peeler came,  
He wore his jet-black coat,  
And from out of his pocket,  
He handed me a note.  
I lined it with my finger,  
To read the apposite view  
And the name signed to the summons,  
'Twas one from Donohue.  
While perusing the paper, the peeler looked at me,  
And says, "That's your friendly neighbours  
"And your chosen grand J.P."*

Lá na cúirte ansin bhí an t-asal taobh amuigh aige, agus thosaigh sé ag búiríocht.

*When my case was called  
My statement it was read;  
Johnny outside roared and bawled;  
And the court began to jeer and mock  
And said there was another tinker dead.  
A man who' got his name in French,  
Convicted me before the bench  
And I was fined and ordered to pay six pence.*

Ní raibh aon Ghaeilge ag Matt ach a d'fhoghlaim sé óna uncail, agus óna daoine timpeall. Nuair a théadh sé síos go Páirc Mhór, Gaeilge a bhí ag na seanleads, ach ní labhartáí an Ghaeilge sna scoilteacha an t-am sin. Ach bhí a ainm as Gaeilge ag Matt ar a charr agus bhí sé i dtrioblóid leis na peelers faoi sin freisin.

## KEEP YOUR WORD!

Here are some words once in common use in the parish. We give only 'a' and 'b' words this time, with in some cases, the approximate local pronunciation. See have you kept your words. Comment or correction will be appreciated.

*Aerach (air-uch): Isn't you that's aerach this morning.*

*Bádóir (bawd-ore): Boatman, usually referring to the skillful seamen who brought turf from Connemara to Kinvara.*

*Béal Bocht: "He always has the béal bocht" – grumbling about hardtimes*

*Bean-Sí (ban-she): Have you heard her?*

*Bogán (bug-awn): a soft-shelled egg.*

*Bóithrín (Boreen):*

*Bothán (bo-hawn): a cabin.*

*Bodhrán (bow-rawn): a heedless person.*

*Bradach: a bradach or trespassing cow.*

*Breisín: a breisín of turf.*

*Brosna: sticks for the fire.*

*Brónach: You have a brónach (sad) look.*

*Blogam: a blogam of tea.*

*Búirín or Púirín (poor-een): an opening in a stone fence to let sheep through.*

*Baileabhar (bail-ower): You made a baileabhar (mess) of it.*

*Bráisteach and Buachallán: unwelcome weeds.*

Tomás Donlon.

# RAFTERYS REST

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We welcome the following newcomers to the parish. All were born in 1980, up to the end of October.

David Peter to Kevin and Rita Huban, Knockcullen, 7th January; Adrian John to Thomas and Christina Glynn, Cahermore; Michael John Paul to Michael and Patricia Martyn, Dunguaire; Conor Francis to Frank and Mary Quinn, Kinvara; Mary Theresa to Ambrose and Rosaleen Fahy, Knocacullen 4th March; Ciaran Brendan to Anthony and Philomena Moylan, Dunguaire, 2nd April; Noel Martin to Noel and Marian Jordan, Kinvara, 24th April; Thomas Joseph to Anthony and Annie Linnane, Nogra, 1st May; Clare Martina to P.J. and Katherine Canny, Kinvara West, 27th April; Catherine Marie to Benedict and Mary Kelly, Fuinchin, 29th April; Patrick Leigh to John and Denise Griffin, Kinvara, 17th March; Emma Louise to Martin and Catherine Greene, Kinvara, 18th May; Thomas Gerard to Thomas and Anne McCormack, Northampton, 4th June; Catherine Maria to Michael and Mary Curtin, Geeha, 22nd June; Martina Maria to Martin and Bridie Kavanagh, Moy, 7th July; Sarah Lavin to Jeffrey and Aine O'Connell, Parkmore, 25th August; Aidan Paul to Martin and Katherine Kilkelly, Leeha, 29th August; Columba Joseph to Aidan and Rose O'Connor, Poulnagan, 10th September; Siobhán Mary to Martin and Angela Keane, 5th October; Lewis to Richard and Deirdre Fader 23 Sept.; Belinda to Sean and Bernie McInerney, 1st July; Jonathan to John Joe and Sheila

## LOCAL NEWS

Kavanagh, 30th October; Adrian to Martin and Bernie Flaherty, 15th October, Brian to Bernard and Ann Murphy, Carrowgarra, 28 August; David Michael to Arthur and Ann Connors, Doorus, 29th September; Caroline to Paddy and Marian Connolly, Kinvara October 1st.



**Our Heartiest Congratulations to the following for whom the Wedding Bells did ring up to 1st November, 1980:**

Norah Conole, Crushoa, to Vincent Mullins, Labane; Catherine Leech, Crushoa to John Hynes, Ballinderreen; Linda Bermingham, Caheravoneen, to Francis Moylan, Castledaly; Brigid Teresa Naughton, Shanclough to John Gerard Drony, Belharbour; Margaret Flaherty, Parkmore, to Peter Healy, Lisdoonvarna; Norah Gill, Cahermore to Thomas Burke, Corrandulla; Thomas Curtin, Knockcullen to Mary Ruddy, New York; Martin Shaughnessy, Killina to Catherine Breen, Dublin; Martin Winkle, Dunguaire to Teresa O'Neill, Labane; Stephen Moylan, Crushoa to Brid Greally, Oranmore; Gerard Curtin, Newtownlynch to Teresa Lane, Ballinderreen; Joseph Mahon of Newtownlynch to Una Keane, Tír an Fhia; Tomas Tully, Kinvara to Monica Ryan, Dublin.

### LOCAL NOTES

#### Community Council:

Kinvara Community Council at their A.G.M. elected the following Officers:

President: Tomás Donlon; Chairman: John Conneely; Vice-Chairman: Eilish Bermingham; Secretary: Paddy Geraghty; Ass. Secretary: Anne Tully; Treasurer: T. Byrne; Council Members: S. McEoin, D. Barry, Fr. P. Callanan, Sr. M. Joseph, Sean McMahon, Finola Johnston, Paddy O'Loughlin, James Conole, Chris Mooney, John O'Connor, Thomas Mahon, Paddy Kavanagh, Michael McInerney, Patricia Stewart, P.J. O'Connor, Thomas Tannian, Michael O'Connor, Michael Waites, Bertie Linnane, Michael McCormack, Mary Keane, Owen McMahon.

The Community Council received a loan of £16,000 from the Irish Nationwide Building Society through the good offices of Joseph McInerney, Gort. Over £7,000 was raised locally during the past year, thanks largely to the ladies' committee. Christmas dances in the centre were planned.

The Gun Club reports that they have acquired a pen of fifty birds which are being looked after on the land of Patrick Madden, Moy. It is hoped that this will improve the standard of competition during the shooting season.

The P.T.A.A. and A.A. organised a Seminar in Kinvara on the effects of alcohol and drugs on the young and not so young throughout the country. This was held in Seamount College during Temperance Week.

Did you know that up to 90 youngsters are catered for at Kilcornan each week by the Swimming Club?

Congratulations to Mary Kilkelly, Currenruie on her achievement – 4th in the long puck – in the Community Games Finals at Mosney, Co. Meath.

Kinvara G.A.A. had a very successful year in u-14 and u-16 age hurling. Both teams got to Co. semi-finals.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2nd ISSUE  
OF TRÁCHT  
FROM

## THE CASTLE TAVERN KINVARA

### VISIT

## TULLY'S

Bar and Select  
Grocery

### Play Group

Kinvara Pre-School Play group is now in its second year. There are nine children in attendance under the direction of Mrs. Danielle Clissman.

The officers of the Committee of the Play Group are as follows: Chairman: Sheila Conneely; Secretary: Kathly Conneely; Treasurers: Noreen Fahy and Sara O'Sullivan. Enquiries about the Play Group can be made to any of the Committee.

The Board of Management of Northampton School have been organising card games in the school to organise funds for the up-keep of the school.

Congratulations to T Byrne on becoming Chairman of Galway County Council.

Congratulations to new doctors Deirdre Johnston-Fader, Frank Green and Vincent Brogan. Also to Fr. Colm Niland on his ordination.

The Youth Club has a wide and varied programme including drama, planting of shrubs, craftwork and discos.

Kinvara improved its rating again in the Tidy Towns competition. A major prize is within reach, but only if more townspeople play an active role.

Seamount College success stories include the selection of Siobhán Forde on Connacht Hockey team (schools), the

award of 'highly commended certificate to young scientists Eilis Mc Mahon and Mary Barry, and the school's victory over Our Lady's College in the Kinvara-Gort Schools' Debating Competition Final.

We apologise that the names of such stalwarts in Community Development as Patrick Fahy, Rineen, were omitted from the article. 'Kinvara - A progressing Community' in the first issue.

We hope we have not omitted anyone who should be included in our lists of births, marriages and deaths. We beg forgiveness for any omission. Our thanks to Fr. P. Callanan, C.C. for helping compile the lists.

We extend our sympathy to the relatives and friends of the following who died in the period up to end of October. May God grant His reward for their labours:

Michael Quinn, Gortsgeagh, 6th February; Martin Lally, Northampton, 13th April; Mrs. Peter Waters, Ballybuck, 23rd April; Thomas Reidy, Townagh, 23rd April; James Fahy, Kinvara West, 15th May; Michael Hynes, Parkmore, 2nd June; Thomas Tierney, Loughcurra 13th June; Mrs. Mary Fahy, Knocaculleen, 3rd July; Martin O'Regan, Kinvara, 4th July; Patrick Jordan, Mt. Scribe, 23rd July; Thomas Forde, Killina, 28th August; Mrs. Katie Fallon, Kinvara, 18th September; Mrs. O'Connor, Newline, 22nd October.



*Mr. Michael Fingleton, secretary Irish Nationwide Building Society presenting £16,000 enablement to Stan Mac Eoin, outgoing Chairman, Community Council, to expedite completion of Community Centre. Also in photograph are Paddy Geraghty, Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Eilish Bermingham, Vice Chairman; Toddie Byrne, Hon. Treasurer and Joseph Mc Inerney, Irish Nationwide representative in Gort.*

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*Christina Glynn*

*Caherglissane; Oranmore Senior Camogie team*



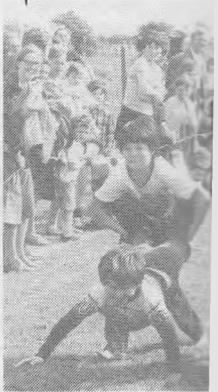
*Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Moylan at the Sale of Work.*



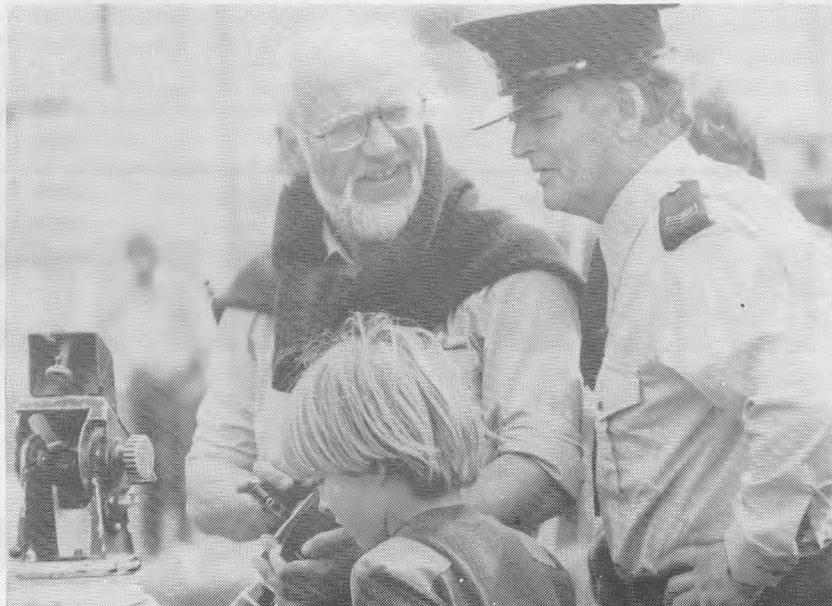
*Above at Sports D*



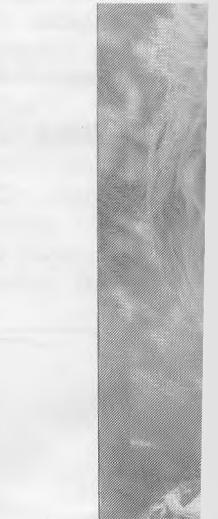
*Toddy Byrne spins the wheel at the Sale of Work.*



*Gerry O'Connor and Joe Byrne  
- u-16 inter county players.*



*Film-maker Bob Quinn and Sgt. McLoughlin chat during the "Cruinniú na mBád."*



*Michael Curtin -*

# BRENDAN BURKE



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VISIT

# FLATLEY'S BAR

AT THE SQUARE, KINVARA



Looking for a bargain at the Sale of Work!



Leon Uris helping to keep Kinvara tidy during a recent visit.

Below:  
y. Kinvara



Seán Forde on the set of "The Travellers", a film by Joe Comerford.



best swimmer in 1980 Gala.  
Michele McCormack



best boy athlete in Community Games.



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# Kinvara Bay

## A Recent Survey

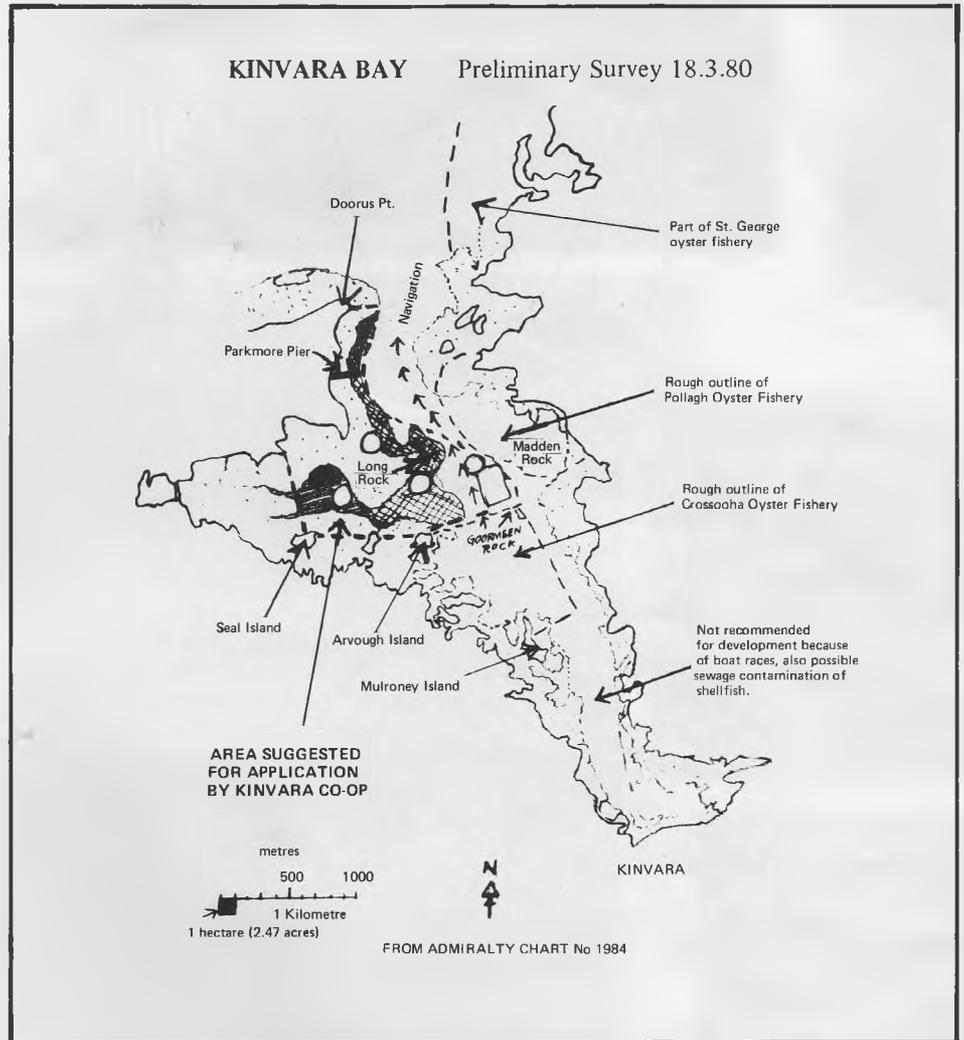
This shore survey was carried out with the assistance of Bill Crampton for the Kinvara Co-operative, on a low spring tide and was confined to one area of the bay for the following reasons:

- though there are two small oyster beds near Kinvara they are liable to contamination from sewage from the town, and the inner bay generally is earmarked for leisure activities such as boat-racing;
- much of the rest of the shoreline, apart from the area surveyed, is already claimed under "traditional rights" established by long precedence. Oysters are fished on a managed basis by the 10 members of the Crossooha group on the west side (who also have title through land commission transfers); and on the Pollagh oyster fishery on the east side;
- the north-central part of the bay is subject to strong currents and a long fetch to the N.W. and S.E. Although there is one point, just N.W. of Goormeen Rock, which may have adequate depth for fish cages, these 2 factors would lessen the suitability of this site for this purpose. The mouth of the bay is also deep enough but too exposed.

Basically, therefore, the available area is most suitable for growing oysters in mesh bags held on trestles at low spring tide level or "open-laying" young oysters in shallow water or on areas that dry on low spring tides.

The cross-hatched area on the sketch-map (area A) and the outer strip of the stippled area (area B) i.e. the strip of ground which is visible only at low spring tides, should be suitable for these types of oyster farming, which in fact can be complementary, the oysters being grown to reasonably crab-proof size (40-50mm) in the mesh bags and then spread on the ground wherever it is fairly hard. Softer muddier areas could be hardened up by scattering barge loads of gravel and shell. Oysters, particularly the flat oyster, are recommended as the main species for development in this bay rather than mussels for the following reasons:

- the lack of depth for rafts, or large surface area for putting out long lines (e.g. with shallow net rigs) on a sizeable scale;
- the high market price and outlets for flat oysters and the good quality of Galway Bay oysters;
- the prevalence of the mussel pest *Mytilicola* ("redworms") in Galway Bay, which does not affect oysters.



Pacific oysters could also be produced here for a local summer market and possibly also for export to France if the present trouble with the French "gigas" industry persists.

There is an estimated 20 hectares or more which would be suitable for oyster culture as mentioned above plus a further 10 hectares at least, in the shaded area (area C) which could be used for a large very sheltered oyster "parc" or alternatively for "bouchot" culture of mussels, provided small-scale trials with seeded ropes wrapped around poles driven in the ground indicate that predation by birds is not a serious problem (or later infestation by "redworm" or pea-crabs).

### £1 Million

Theoretically 20 hectares of onlaying ground could produce 10 million oysters at 50/m<sup>2</sup>, with a further 10 hectares being used for trestling the younger stages. More realistically perhaps, 5 million oysters p.a. could be produced eventually, valued at present prices at about £1 million. Thus it can be seen that

a sizeable industry could be developed within this area, not only through the Co-op employing people but also through local partnerships or family businesses working areas subleased from the Co-op.

Small scale trials would be needed over 2 or 3 years at several points to verify the potential before a large investment in seed and equipment were to be considered.

Due to the cost and the unpredictability of survival of hatchery seed, trials should also be carried out on the use of "culch" in the bay, to find out if wild oyster spat can be obtained; mussel shell could be strewn on the sea-bed or suspended plastic collectors or mussel shell in bags of fish net hung from buoyed long-lines. The striped area on the map (area D) has 2-3 fathoms and would be suitable for hanging collectors, also lantern nets and trays of young oysters, scallops and clams.

Suspended mussel culture on a minor scale could also be carried out here with short ropes or net rigs seeded with spat rope and hung off long-lines.

Some of the area B in the lower part of the tidal range may be suitable for



bay is designated for mariculture under the new Fisheries Bill, after a Public Enquiry held in the name of the Minister for Fisheries, and the Co-op applies for an Aquaculture Licence for this area. In the meantime carrying out trials at several points will help to establish some presence in the area, especially if people from the immediate locality are involved. Foreshore licences from the Dept. of Transport will be required for any structures put out and a Fish Culture Licence should be sought from the Dept. of Fisheries as a temporary means of allowing aquaculture to proceed without infringing the new legislation, though unfortunately this is only a permit and does not give legal protection like an Aquaculture Licence.

clam "parcs" especially where the ground consists of muddy shingle. These areas could be seeded with hatchery "palourde" clams held first in mesh trays until they are reasonably crab-resistant and then strewn on the ground where they burrow in.

The higher parts of the shore would not be suitable for any type of cultivation and perhaps this area could be excluded from the application if the 80 or so hectares marked out on the map is considered excessive.

A more intensive survey would be required to assess any problems that

might arise, for example, water salinity should be monitored during winter to examine the depth, extent and duration of freshwater layering as this may affect oyster growth and survival. Samples of shellfish and water should be monitored for bacterial contamination, at the Regional Hospital. The type of fouling of shells and structures and the extent to which this would be a problem can only be ascertained through growth trials.

As it is too late to apply for an Oyster Fishery Order under the old legislation, legal protection for shellfish under cultivation will only be available if the

#### Great Potential

To conclude, Kinvara Bay in my opinion is amongst the inlets with the greatest potential on the west coast for oyster growing, like the other nearby inlets of Galway Bay and North Clare and every effort should be made to develop oysters as a local renewable natural resource.

**Niall Herriott,**  
Site Survey-Officer  
-Western Region,  
National Board for  
Science and Technology

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## OUR MAN IN NIGERIA

would be going home. The stories we read about Africa, or saw on "Armchair Traveller" were not quite the same as experiencing the atmosphere of the trip from the port to our first place of work — a distance of some two-hundred really odd miles. Along the road, we passed women carrying babies on their backs, while on their heads they carried loads that varied from tree trunks to sacks of flour.

I began my work at Iwo, a town of 60,000 people where I spent six months, learning the local language — Yoruba — a tonal language much different from English. Most of the words have three or four meanings depending on the inflections that are made. Many a long hour was spent in the market place at night testing out my proficiency on the people who had come in from the farms to sell their vegetables.

The markets are usually held after dark (7.00 p.m.), and there is really a very exotic scene when you see the whole market square lit up with flaming bush-lamps. This was really the place to get to know the language, because when you went to buy something, you had to argue over the cost until you bought it at about half the original "marked price".

The day usually began with "morning call" at 4.30 a.m. by the Moslems calling their followers to prayer. Since the town was 80% Moslem, this was the usual sound you heard before finally waking up. Mass usually began at six o'clock because the people go to farm very early in the morning. My day is generally spent visiting schools. There are a about eleven



Fr. Flatley with Bishop Job, the first native bishop of Ibadan visiting Ikire. In background can be seen the Mosque.

Catholic Primary schools in the area and these are visited as often as possible. The visit to the school will also be the opportunity to call on the Catholics in the villages.

Sometimes I would go out to the villages on Saturday evening by motorcycle with a boy who acted as cook, sacristian and altar-boy. He cooked fish, yam or eggs, or I was given the local food, (hot and tasty), by the villagers.

After supper in one of the 'houses' or in the 'church', I would visit the people. I was far removed from watching "The Late Late Show", sitting with a group outside a mud house listening to the "crack".

Later, there would be a procession back to the Church, where the boy had already made the camp-bed which looked very "important" with the mosquito net tied up over it. The net is always used, because the mosquitos thrive in a hot climate. From this central "outstation", I would usually minister to other outstations, saying Mass, hearing confession and meeting the people. The numbers of Catholics in the outstations are small because the parish is predominantly Moslem. They are always very generous with the food, and I have often come back to the Parish Church

laden with yams, oranges, bananas and coconuts.

One of the projects being undertaken in the Parish is adult education classes. These are conducted in some of the villages where some adults are taught to read and write. The local council presents certificates to those who complete the course.

Another project I was involved in was going to the villages with a nurse from the hospital and some Secondary School Legion of Mary girls to treat "guinea worm" and instruct the people in hygiene. There was a good response in the villages, but a lot of people still felt that native cures were better.

I was appointed to a Catholic Secondary School and have been teaching there for a number of years. On week-ends, I help out in the Parish by going to the outstations. The majority of pupils there, particularly in the lower classes, are Moslem. I celebrate Mass in the school every day, and even though it is optional for non-Catholics to attend, the majority of them do. There is an average Baptism class of twenty-five every year, and that in itself is encouraging.

South Galway has always been well represented among the S.M.A. Missionaries in Africa. They include my brother, Fr. Paddy, Fr. Paddy Gantley, (brother of Mrs. Tom Mahon, Geeha), Fr. Ned Casey, (Kilbeacanty), Bishop Casey (Derrybrien), Fr. Johnny Haverty, (Craughwell), Ned Birmingham, (brother of Mrs. Sean Connolly), Mick Cahill, Michael Cummins, (Craughwell), and Fintan Nellv (Gort). We cannot forget Colm Nilan, who was ordained in Kinvara last June, and is now working in Ghana.

I am now studying for a year in Maynooth, and I intend to return in July. There is still plenty of work to be done in the Missions, and anybody interested in this life will find it an interesting and rewarding challenge.

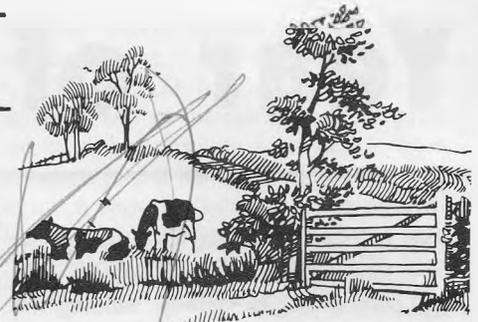
Phonsie Flatley, S.M.A.



Fr. Flatley at a Naming ceremony celebration — a native custom preceding baptism.

# FARMING PAGE

## CALF REARING



Practically every farmer in the Kinvara Parish rears calves. The two most common methods of calf rearing are: (1) suckling calves and cows (2) feeding milk replacer.

This article highlights the important points in calf rearing in order that the farmer rears a strong, healthy, well grown calf at the lowest possible cost.

Every farmer knows that calf health is the most important aspect of calf rearing. The weak calf wastes costly feeding stuffs, and, treatment is expensive and time consuming. Therefore, the calf-rearer must be constantly aware of the value of disease prevention to reduce mortality and illness.

Calves should be born into a clean environment and the navel should be treated with a suitable antibiotic spray or tincture of Iodine.

The next step is adequate and early colostrum (biestings) feeding to build up immunity against disease. The first 18 hours in a calf's life are especially important and two or more feeds of Colostrum should be given during this time.

The calf may have to be aided in suckling its mother or it is bucket fed, it should get one feed of Colostrum 4-6 hours after birth and another 4-6 hours later.

### Pattern of Feeding Home-Born Calves:

Colostrum to 2 days. Whole milk to 5 days. Introduce milk replacer from 5 days of age.  
5-15 days -  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Milk Replacer/ Calf/Day.  
11-15 days -  $\frac{3}{4}$  Milk Replacer/ Calf/Day.  
16-21 days - 1 lb/ Milk Replacer/ Calf/Day.  
22-40 days -  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lb. Milk Replacer/ Calf/Day.  
41-50 days - 1 lb. Milk Replacer/ Calf/Day.

Mix 1 lb. Milk Replacer in 1 gallon water. Feed at body temperature. Introduce Calf Ration, good quality hay and fresh water at 10 days of age.

Feed ration ad lib up to a maximum of 4 lbs. meal per day. Wean calf off Milk Replacer when he is consuming  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of Ration.

### Type of Calf:

Where possible, it is recommended that you purchase calves direct from a dairy farmer. Purchase good strong healthy calves, weighing at least 40 Kgs. This lessens the risk of mortality. The "light" calf, whether its size is due to age or it may be physiologically younger at birth, has more rearing problems than the heavier calf.

If one wants to rear large numbers of calves and at the same time maintain a low rate of mortality you must purchase the older, heavier calf.

### Treatment of Bought-in Calves:

Bought-in Calves should get a multivitamin dose on arrival and again two weeks later. Feed diluted milk or milk replacer for the first two days. On the third day, feed like home-born calf.

### Calf Scours:

Calf scours are of two origins:

1. Nutritional
2. Bacterial and Viral.

1. Nutritional scours occur due to feeding mismanagement. Give the calf a dose of liquid paraffin as the scouring is usually triggered off by indigestion. Give water at blood heat and gradually reintroduce milk feeding. A scouring calf may quickly lose body fluids and become dehydrated. Salts lost in the body fluids may be replaced by feeding new preparations, such as "ionalyte", "zwabolyte" or "lectade". These preparations are available from chemists. Antibiotics and glucose are, also, recommended for scouring calves. A multivitamin dose is useful if the calf has become weakened.

2. The bacterial and viral scours need veterinary attention. Finally, never mix older calves with younger ones. Older calves may be carriers of infections to which they have built up immunity. They can transmit these infections to the younger calves, who are less resistant to disease. For similar reasons, always isolate bought-in calves.

### Dehorn:

- 3-7 days Caustic Potash.
- 3 weeks Electric Dehorner.

### Castrate:

- 2 weeks before going out to grass.

### Calf Rearing Ration:

Should contain 16-17% Cr. Protein plus minerals and vitamins.

The following is a suitable meal ration:

4 cwt. Soya Bean Meal

$15\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. Barley

$\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of Minerals plus Vitamins.

(Rosette or Minavite, i.e., prepared Mineral Mix).

Introduce ration with Hay and water when the calf is 10 days old. Wean off milk replacer when the calf is consuming  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. ration/day. Feed ration to a maximum of 4 lbs./day and continue feeding for 2 weeks after the calf has gone out to grass.

### CALF REARING — USING ACIDIFIED MILK REPLACER

#### What is an Acidified Milk Replacer?

Acidified Milk Replacer is a normal milk replacer to which organic acids and organic salts have been added at the processing stage. The acidified milk replacer is guaranteed to remain stable for two to three days. If, however, it is placed in the direct path of sunlight, it can go sour in 48 hours.

#### What are the Advantages of Acid Milk Replacer?

1. It can be fed cold, thus dispensing with heating equipment.
2. Mixing need only be done every 2-4 days, this reduces the time spent mixing and washing.
3. Where ad lib feeding is practised, cold milk replacer restricts intake to small amounts of frequent intervals and this may reduce digestive upsets.

#### The System in Operation:

After calving and for the first few days, it is essential the calf be treated in the standard recommended way as regards colostrum.

The acidified milk replacer can be introduced at from 5-7 days of age. Where an

ad lib feeding system is adopted, the following equipment will be required:

- (a) Container, such as a Dust Bin
- (b) A tube, teat, bracket
- (c) Mixer.

One nipple is sufficient for 6-9 calves. A non-return valve inserted in the plastic milk pipe will help calves in the early stages of feeding.

#### Management:

Any ad lib feeding system requires keen observation and management. There will always be individual calves that will need special attention. Indeed in certain cases, it may be necessary to raise the temperature of the milk replacer, for problem calves.

#### AUTOMATIC CALF FEEDING

With the automatic calf feeder, 40 to 60 calves can be reared on one machine at the same time. It is important that the machine has four nipples so that the calf group is no more than 10 to 15.

#### Guidelines to the Operation of Automatic Milk Feeders:

1. Select a suitable house allowing 250 cubic feet of space per calf.
2. Place the nipples at the front of the pens 28" to 32" above floor level and about 2" above the level of liquid in the mixing bowl when full.
3. For purchased calves, the best procedure is to set the machine for a 5% powder concentration at first and gradually increase the concentration up to 10% at two weeks after arrival; the concentration is retained at 10% for the remainder of the milk feeding period.
4. The mixing bowl and milk tubes should be washed every second day with water and detergent steriliser.

#### Management Problems:

With the automatic feeder there is ad lib intake of milk, this increased intake increases the incidence of scours, especially with purchased calves.

At about 10 days of age, meals should be placed in a trough close to the teat of the automatic machine. In any event, it is unlikely that the calf will eat more than 8-10 kg meal prior to weaning.

Generally, the calf reared on the automatic feeder is considerably heavier at weaning at 8 weeks than the calf that is bucket fed.

The automatically fed calf will consume about double the amount of milk replacer and about 20 Kg less concentrates.

#### Advantages:

It reduces the labour required in managing large numbers of calves.

It does, however, require vigilant stockmanship by the operator.

Michael Sullivan

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# Year of Sportsmanship

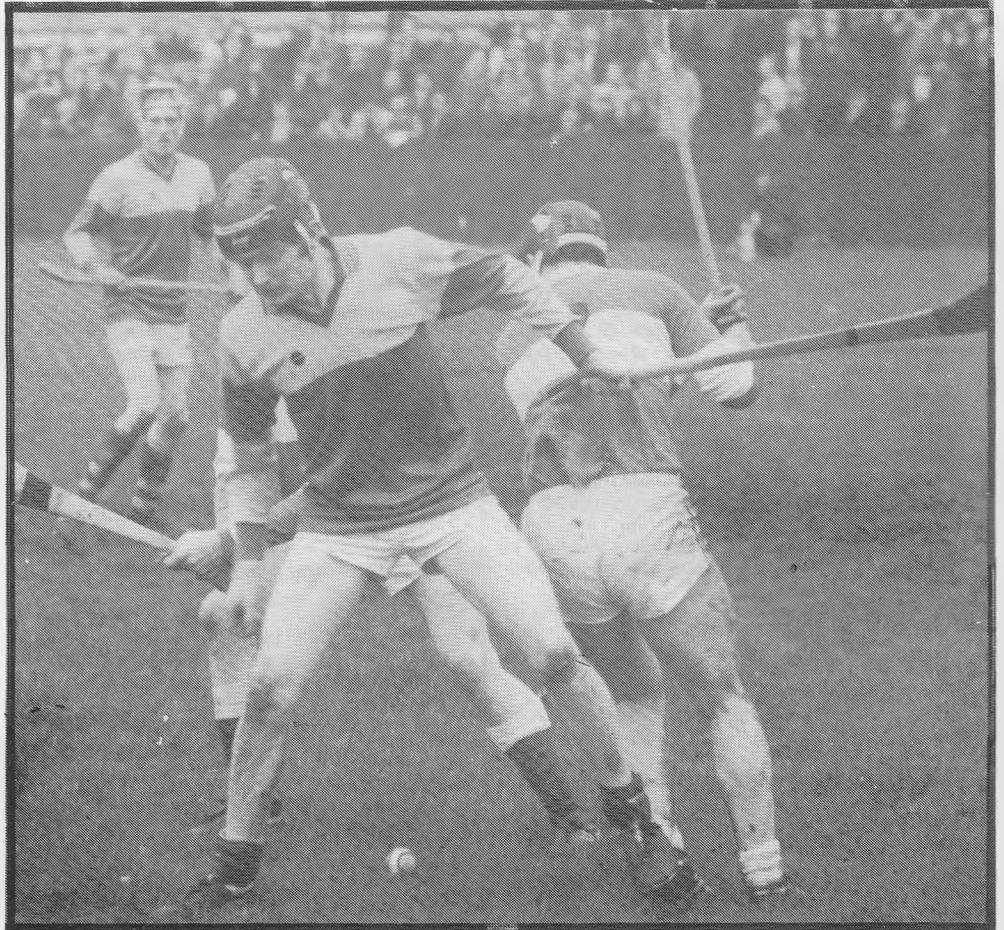
1980 is a year that will be talked about for a long time to come. It was the year that culminated in Galway winning the All Ireland Hurling Final after a 57 year wait. It was the year that Connacht won the Railway Cup; U.C.G. won the double; Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cup; Galway hosted Féile na nGael for the first time. For the youth of Kinvara the highlights were the hosting of the Laois team (Portlaoise) for Féile, and the winning of the South Juvenile title. Even though Portlaoise beat Kinvara in the first round, we gave every help and support to the Laois boys in getting to the final in Pearse Stadium on 6th July.

It was great to see these young lads follow up Féile by winning the South Board Juvenile title.

On the senior front, Kinvara, who got to the final last year, were beaten at the semi-final stage this year by Meelick-Eyrecourt.

Gerry Curtin was a sub for Galway in their historic win. In former years, the following wore the maroon jersey: Colm Corless, Weeshie Corless, Tom Doyle, Bob Forde, Colm Muldoon and Mike Curtin (a brother of Gerry). Gerry won a Railway Cup medal and an All Ireland medal in his first year on the panel. There were no fewer than seven South Galway men on the Galway team, and each one of them did their parish proud. They were Sylvie Linnane (Gort), Steve Mahon (Kilbeacanty), Bernie Forde (Ardrahan), Finbar Gantley (Beagh), Joe McDonagh and Noel Lane (Ballinderreen).

While Inky Flaherty, Joe McDonagh and I would travel the short journey to Athenry for training, Gerry had to travel from Dublin often three, four or five nights a week. So, with this kind of dedication, it is no wonder that success was achieved in the end.



*Gerry Curtin in action*

The trip to America was richly deserved and very much enjoyed by all who travelled. I travelled myself for the weekend to New York, and was amazed at the amount of people from Kinvara area that I met in Gaelic Park. Among those were Austin Connors, John Shaughnessy, three more of the Curtin brothers, John, Paddy Joe and Tom. Tom is Vice-President of the Galway Hurling Club of New York, and I am very grateful for the hospitality he showed to me and

my two brothers. Others I met were P.K. Huban, who very kindly acted as chauffeur for me on several occasions, Bridie Linnane, the Carty Brothers, Tom McNerney, the Fahys and many others from the South Galway area. Colm Corless travelled on the All Stars trip, and certainly Gaelic Park must have brought back happy memories for him as he played on the Galway Team that beat New York in N. League Final by 2-11 to 2-8 in 1951.

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Sean Forde, star dual-player

Another Kinvara man, Sean Forde, joined the select players in Ireland who collected a Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Medal in the same year. Sean is son of Donough Forde who has the distinction of playing football with his native Antrim and hurling with Galway. Sean was one of three Kinvara men who helped win the

Sigerson. The others were Colm and Declan Brogan. Sean's display in the Fitzgibbon Hurling was truly magnificent. In the semi-final against U.C.D. he scored 2-2. In the final against U.C.C. in Pearse Stadium he scored two memorable long range points to help Galway achieve that unique double.

So as 1980 comes to a close, let's hope that 1981 will bring to

Kinvara more success on all fronts especially that Senior Hurling title. For myself, as P.R.O. for the Galway County Board it was an interesting year. It gave me an opportunity to meet people from press, radio and television. To be involved so much with the Galway Hurlers on their historic win was an experience I will never forget. Uaimse go fóill, Slán agus Beannacht.

Ciarán Ó Maoldúin

### TRIBUTE TO GALWAY HURLERS 1980

(Sung) to Air of Roddy McCorley)

Ho! see the hosts of fleetfoot men,  
With sliothar and Camán,  
From Galway bay and Limerick Town  
They marched onto the bawn:  
Long years of yearning for that prize,  
Give best, give best, they say:  
*For Páirc a' Chrócaigh never dies  
Nor will its dreams decay.*

Oh Ireland, mother Ireland,  
You love them still the best,  
The game of hurling now does call,  
And hearts they cannot rest,  
For the boys of Galway are our boys  
Come West, Come West, they say.  
*For Páirc a' Chrócaigh never dies  
Nor will its dreams decay.*

Up the field went Bernard Forde,  
Then the ball was in the net:  
P. J. Molloy also scored  
And Galway looked all set:  
Then we waited for the Limerick boys!  
Too late, too late are they  
*For Páirc a' Chrócaigh never dies,  
Nor will its dreams decay.*

Galway needed this All-Ireland.  
More than any team before:  
So all of them fought as one band:  
To bring back the cup once more  
True to the last, Oh! true to the last  
Come West, Come West they say.  
*For Páirc a' Chrócaigh never dies,  
Nor will its dream decay.*

Fr. P. Callanan, C.C. Kinvara.

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The 24th October dawned dull and drizzly but nothing could dampen the gay spirits of the Seamount girls. It was the day we had long been waiting for, the day we were going to France. After 8.00 a.m. Mass in Seamount chapel we set off for Rosslare.

At 5.30 we boarded the St. Killian and at last we really felt we were on our way to France. The excitement of the girls was increased by the fact that the pop-group, U2, were travelling on the same boat. Sr. Bernard unwittingly held a conversation with the lead singer, Bobo!

After 17 hours sailing we arrived in Cherbourg. The town really impressed us – the uniform appearance of the houses, the good roads, the beautiful scenery and above all the neatness and cleanliness of the streets.

It was at Lisieux that we first touched French ground. We visited the Basilica and also the Carmelite Convent where the body of St. Theresa is preserved.

We were all eager to arrive at Paris so we set off on the autoroute. Dusk was falling and the city was at the height of its glory with myriads of lights lining the boulevards. For a few minutes we were struck speechless. Certainly Paris lived up to its pet-name "ville lumière" on that night. Soon we began to pick out the landmarks of Paris, the Eiffel Tower appeared towering over the illuminated city. The Arc de Triomphe came into view as we drove through the Champs Elysees. We went straight to Rue de Jean Jacques Rousseau where our hostel was.

#### PARIS BY NIGHT

After our evening meal we reported back to the bus for a night tour of Paris. We saw many famous landmarks that we were to visit the following day – l'Arc de Triomphe, Hotel des Invalides, Notre Dame, Place de la Concorde. We were really delighted to be informed that that very night we would go up the Eiffel Tower. An escalator brought us to the second floor. The view was breathtaking. The city spread out below us like a

## JOURNEY TO FRANCE



sequined carpet. The people down below looked tiny. We even saw the French soccer team training for their encounter with the Irish on the following Tuesday.

Sunday began with Mass in the Chapelle de la Médaille Miraculeuse in Rue de Bac. There also we saw the preserved bodies of St. Catherine Laborière and Louise de Marillac. Afterwards we visited the Hotel des Invalides where we saw the tomb of Napoleon. From there we went for a cruise on the Seine on a "bateau mouche". Needless to say cameras were continuously clicking.

The Louvre was what we had all been waiting for. Everyone was anxious to see the famous Leonardo de Vinci portrait, Mona Lisa. Despite the fact that we had only a half hour to spend in the Louvre it was well worth it.

After lunch in Mac Donalds on the Champs Elysees we went to the Palais de Versailles. The sight of the palace brought us back to the reign of King Louis XIV. The enormous gates, the cobbled courtyard, the beautiful blossoming gardens and the magnificent forest-walks revived the feeling of pomp and revelry of the pre-revolutionary era. On

touring the palace we were stunned at the magnificence and splendour of the rooms, especially the Hall of Mirrors.

At 6.30 p.m. we arrived at the Cathedrale Notre Dame for another Mass. There was beautiful, harmonious Gregorian chant to be heard.

#### THE LATIN QUARTER

That night we visited Montmartre which had its own peculiar atmosphere. The street artists and the narrow cobbled winding streets truly brought us back to the Bohemian life-style of Paris. One could have one's portrait pencil-sketched for anything from 40 francs to 400 francs depending on one's ability to bargain and one's willingness to pay. The tiny shops all along the cobbled streets vied with each other to extract every penny, or rather every franc, from the unwary tourists. Needless to say there was none such among our group.

The view from the Sacre Coeur church which stands on the hill of Montmartre was awe-inspiring. The city swelled out below us like a black velvet carpet studded with glimmering lights. We were

contin. next page



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contin. from previous page

reluctant to go back to the bus but as it was past midnight we were finally prevailed upon to walk down 309 steps to the bus.

The following morning we arose at cockshout to bid au revoir to Paris. In our final two hours we visited le station de Métro and Le Centre de Pompidou, the art and cultural centre. We travelled many

of the narrow streets which formerly formed the Les Halles market area.

We left Paris at approx. 10.00 a.m. At this stage our money was truly burning holes in our pockets, so we stopped at Rouen for shopping. At 3 p.m. our money was spent and we set off for Le Havre.

We boarded the St. Killian and

braced ourselves for the 23 hour journey to Rosslare. Yet another celebrity from the showbiz world was travelling on the boat – Finbar Furey.

Although most of us were suffering from nostalgia, we went home anticipating another trip to France in the near future.

4th year students, Seamount College)

## THE SEA, Oh! The Sea

WE ARE BLESSED in Kinvara in having such a wonderful amenity as the sea. Many of us swim and boat in it for pleasure, and more of us supplement our income by reaping its harvest of fish, oysters and seaweed. Maybe we take it too much for granted!

Undoubtedly, however, it is a resource which we are not using to its full potential. More people could earn a profitable livelihood from the sea, as was proven by a recent survey commissioned by the Co-op., and while the numbers swimming and boating are increasing yearly, there is still plenty of room for many more in these most challenging and enjoyable of sports.

### TRAINING

The sea is our friend, but we must have a healthy respect for it! This means that we should take no foolhardy chances. We must be competent swimmers before we venture to swim in the Quay, and we should only do so when other competent swimmers are with us.

But how do I become a competent Swimmer? The answer is by learning from qualified swimming instructors, such as those provided by the Kinvara Swimming Club.

However, it has been noticed that some parents in their anxiety to make swimmers out of their four and five year old children bundle them off to the weekly swimming classes. This is hardly



Caroline McCormack at eight years

fair to either the child nor the instructor as small children must be tutored on a one to one basis and many young swimmers who should be themselves training and improving their strokes must be called upon to support some little toddlers who are not able to stand in the bottom of the pool.

### WILL YOUR BABY SWIM?

However, far from discouraging young children, I think it is the greatest thing possible to bring a very young child to the swimming pool. But it should be done at a time when there are very few other people in the pool, and he should be accompanied by a close relative, preferably his Mammy or Daddy.

At what age should a baby be brought to the swimming pool?

Claire Zimmermans in her most interesting book, "How to teach your Baby to Swim" says: "When a baby

stretches his arms out in the bath and barely has room to do it because he is touching both sides of the tub, he is ready for a larger body of water."

So it is down to the pool, but don't rush things. Let baby dictate the pace, and make the whole exercise enjoyable for yourself and the child.

Two years ago the Swimming Club offered a "Mother and Baby Swimming Lessons" but there were not sufficient people interested to start a class, but if a group now asked for such a class, I'm sure every effort would be made to facilitate them. Alternatively, parents might like to buy Claire Zimmermans well-written book clearly illustrated and typed in large print. At £3.00 approximately, including postage and packing, it might be the best value you will ever get. Kinvara Swimming Club would be happy to order it from the publishers for you.

STAN MAC EOIN

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## ADULT EDUCATION

*"Is it too late? Ah! Nothing is too late, till the tired heart shall cease to palpitate."* (Henry Longfellow).

WE can all take part in adult education classes. They can include subjects as diverse as crochet, English literature, art, tractor and car maintenance, welding, woodwork, Irish, bridge. In fact if there is anything you want to learn, your Adult Education Officer, Paddy Haverty of Craughwell, will do his best to provide the teacher and the facilities for you.

The Adult Education services in County Galway are run by the Vocational Education Committee. At present classes are being run in Seamount College, and Raymond Monahan has woodwork classes in Johnston's Hall. More classes will be started after Christmas and Sr. Bernard will be happy to deal with any enquiry you might have.

Education can fulfil a number of needs. These can be in relation to our job, or simply as a means of personal fulfilment, or a means of learning to use our free time in a satisfying and creative way.

Whatever our motive in enrolling for a class, and there should be a class for everyone in the

community who wants to learn, we should recall to mind Thomas Davis' slogan, "Educate that you may be free." What he means really is that it is through education that man is freed from ignorance, personal insecurity and from the bewilderment of this complex world.

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# Sullivans

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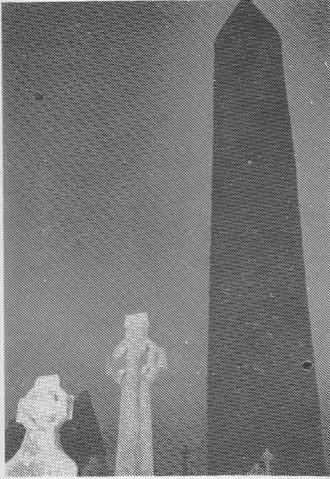


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# POETRY



## THE ADVANCING YEARS

The advancing years evoke the fears  
Of whither goest thou?  
But you must know,  
As I must know,  
To this, we all must bow.  
To this our fate  
We must relate  
Our actions and our dreams,  
For all through life  
There's nought but strife.  
And nothing is what it seems.

**Richie Johnston (R.I.P.)**

## HIDDEN BEAUTY

The sky was clouded, but ever  
anon,  
Out of the clouds a glory shone,  
Lighting up heaven and earth and  
sea,  
Revealing undreamt of beauty to  
me.

Vulcan's organ! , an appropriate  
score,  
As flash flashed back from sea and  
shore,  
When nature's mirrors back  
skywards threw  
A thousand flashes of myriad blue.

Mountains like mammoth domes  
shone bright,  
Dew polished by the hand of night;  
The windmill and castle flashed  
into view,  
But vanished again as the flash  
withdrew.

And Kilmacduagh in frosted sheen,  
Like crystal tower for moment  
seen,  
Leaped sparkling out of the shroud  
of night  
To dazzle with splendour my  
wondering sight.

While there in Gort Saint Coleman's  
spire,  
Glowed with a celestial fire,  
Pointing its pinnacle to the skies  
As if showing us where our future  
lies.

So flashed that flame – a sword of  
light-  
That pierced and thrust aside the  
night,  
And showed me in its brilliant  
gleams  
Kinvara huddled in nests of dreams.

Night that always to me did seem  
That dark antithesis of a dream,  
Was shown to me in that lightning's  
ray  
Lovelier by far than the sunlit day.

So moved was I, my soul within  
Cried out, "O God, is it not a sin  
That sleep should fall like withering  
blight  
On the eyes of men upon such a  
night?"

**F.L. Mac Eoin (Fred Johnston)**

## SUMMER'S PAST

From snapshots filed in memory  
Against the dank of a dying year  
I conjure now –  
Atlantic mists like melted light  
Dissolving the Burren blues,  
Corn ripening in a gauze of rain,  
Wayside flora, gentle native hues,  
Flourishing free.  
Purple tassle of thistlebloom  
Crowning intricate prickliness,  
Oases of greenery fringing the Carron crags.  
Black-shawled crows looking askance  
From the roost of a loose-stone wall  
Or stalking the humpy pastures with hob-nailed feet.  
Sheep grazing a rocky ridge down to a weedy strand  
Spume of a summer tide launched from the  
cliffs of Fanore,  
The liquid wash of a languid ocean rimmed with fire.  
Cloud-films rolling on the ether's deep  
And the scent of air that has winnowed the wilds.

**Bridie Tannian.**

## KINVARA TOWN

I have come to love a place,  
It is called Kinvara Town,  
It lies between the mountains,  
And the sea so grey around.

It's renowned for its beauty,  
And it's history so grand,  
So why not come and you will see,  
This enchanted piece of land.

The castle of Dungaigue,  
Stands as noble as its Kings,  
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They talk about Killarney,  
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## A GERMAN REVIEW

The following is a short account of Wolfgang Scherp's impressions of Kinvara as experienced during his three weeks in Kinvara when working as a member of the 12-person international volunteer force who helped to build the Community Centre.

Dear Community Council,

Bonn 25/4

Here is my review of the work-camp Kinvara '79.

I arrived Monday evening at Kinvara finding myself in a very lively group of multinational volunteers.

I took pleasure in tearing down walls and picking stones, and when it started to get monotonous, there had always been a nice tea-break in sight. Maybe for some people it was surprising how well the girls did the hard work.

Most of the evenings we spent in several pubs drinking Smithwicks, Lager or Guinness. It is amazing how busy and lively Kinvara streets are when the pubs are closing about 12 o'clock. Half an hour later streets are dead and you can only hear dogs barking and seagulls crying.

Kinvara is a romantic and beautiful place on the Irish west coast. I like the low houses and it's a nice place sitting at the harbour and looking at the castle, Kinvara Bay and the hills in the background. One can find peace of mind and relax in this peaceful and wonderful landscape.

I also like Kinvara folk I happened to know on their visits to pubs and when I went shopping. Kinvara kids became from day to day more familiar with us and we grew very fond of them. One day we arranged a crazy football match which ended 5:5 and camp-leader Don Herron was the best referee for boys teams I have ever seen.

The Parish and Community Council showed us great kindness and friendship. Thank you of the fantastic supply of food, the bus sight-seeing tour, the occasions for swimming, the castle banquet and the beautiful trip to the Aran Islands.

It was important that the camp had been arranged in a way we could get in touch with Kinvara folk so that they could see us and we could see them.

So I have taken unique impressions of Kinvara back to Germany. And not only memories – now and then I bake Irish brown bread at home.

So that's my review (I hope not too many mistakes in it)

Your German volunteer,

WOLFGANG.

mortal tap fickle fancy fled.

I pressed my head on my knuckles, scowled at the sheets of paper in front of me, scratched my head, bit my pen. No use. The trick had worked again.

Then I stroked my chin, that touchstone of true philosophy. A tingling sensation like pins and needles ran through my fingers. Eureka – the beard – that fertile cause of intellectual barrenness.

Oh, come my intellect loyal and free,

Since Fancy tried deserted me,

With thy great wheels of thoughts a-burning,

Set my idle pen a-turning.

The intellect would do it, but it must have play. I had not shaved that morning, and knowing from experience that there is nothing more conducive to literary ebullitions than that feeling of well-being produced by a clean shave, I decided to shave.

I got up and went to the bathroom. Through the window I saw it was going to be a race with the sun – the sun was just about three inches above 'Cappa Beag', that little cap that sits like a pimple on top of the Burren Mountains.

I took off my coat and tie, turned down the neck of my shirt, rolled up my sleeves. I bathed my beard and it was as docile as a lamb. At least I thought it was. Like a hawk on its prey down swooped my hair-splitting razor on my beard. Rib after rib fell before its sweeping onslaught, until I came to the point of the chin that boxers are always looking for and sometimes find. That point so susceptible to the influence of a boxing glove but so difficult to negotiate with a razor. Here my beard determined to make a stand. There was stroke and counter-stroke, manoeuvre and counter-manoeuve. At length age and experience triumphed and the strength of the beard succumbed to the strategy of the razor.

But the end was not yet. Even as I worried the last rib to death before I slew it, the sun grinned across at me, the ducked behind the Burren Mountains, convulsed with laughter.

F.L. Mac Eoin, (Fred Johnston)

## A RACE WITH THE SUN

Exile returned to my native parish of Kinvara for a short break, I idly perused 'Gort and South Galway Notes' in the 'Donnacht Tribune'. "What's this?", I read, "Tracht" invites Kinvara people to submit articles for publication in its next issue. Here's a chance for a chancer.

I got my biro and paper, wrapped my fingers around me and sat down at the table. But I was scarcely seated than there

was a knock at the door. Shades of Coleridge!

"Would you mind keeping an eye on your grandchildren while I go into Kinvara for some groceries?"

"Oh, botheration," I cried and beads of sweat stood out on my forehead and I thought of "Kubla Khan."

Twenty minutes later I sat down again. I got up again and sat down again, and – began to write, no, I didn't begin. My mind had gone blank. At the sound of

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.... mar sin, is le cúntas taise an Bhainc Aontais a thosaíomar.



**Banc Aontas Éireann**  
*Baincéireacht do shaol níos fearr.*