

# SLIGO STARR

The peoples paper

VOL. 1 No. 3

NOVEMBER 1976

PRICE 10p

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HEALTH  
CARE

WORLD  
WIDE

**ABBOTT**

**....the facts**

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# EXTRA EXTRA!!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TOWN

SPEAKING AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF SLIGO CORPORATION, CLR. D. BREE, SAID THAT THE TENANTS OF THE CRANMORE HOUSING ESTATE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS AS IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WHICH HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING THE HOUSES WITHOUT CHIMNEYS IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE COUNTY MANAGER IN REPLY SAID THAT THE MONEY WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO PAY MORE THAN THE 33% SUGGESTED BY THE MINISTER.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT ON THE SAME DAY, THE ARMY PUT ON A DISPLAY FOR THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MR. DONEGAN AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ATTACHE TO IRELAND, IN THE GLEN OF IMAAL.

THE ROUNDS THEY WERE FIRING INTO THE HILLS COST JUST OVER £200 EACH AND BY THE END OF THE DAY THEY HAD EXPLODED £30,000 WORTH OF MUNITIONS. WE ARE SURE THAT THE TENANTS OF CRANMORE, WHILE SHIVERING THROUGH THIS WINTER, WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE COUNTRY IS BEING WELL DEFENDED!

### THAT GARDEN PATH

Speaking at a meeting of Sligo County Council in June of last year during a discussion on an article published in the "Sunday World" regarding housing in county Sligo, Councillor John Fallon said "I would advise Clr. Bree to be careful because one can be led up the garden path very easily by wrong information." Things he wants to have done must be done democratically, "and for God's sake keep away from Mary Gaffney."

However, five months later the County Sligo Vocational Education Committee set up Boards of Management in each of its Technical Schools. And, the members of the Coola School Board of Management are: Rev. M. McLoughlin, Clr. Tommy Higgons, Batty McKeon, Seamus Mulhern, Clr. D. Bree, Mary Gaffney and believe it or not, Clr. John Fallon.

### A VERY COMMON PRACTICE

We see that the ever vigilant Sgt. F. Glackin is now landing people in court for sounding their car horns at weddings. Speaking at the hearing of such a case in Sligo District Court, Sgt. Glackin said that although "it was a common practice, there were five or six weddings a day and it was a bit ridiculous." We would suggest that Sgt. Glackin would want to be careful in case he puts off any young married couples from buying the houses he is building at Ransboro!

### DOES RYAN KNOW THIS

The temporary Tax Offices built for the Dept. of Finance on the Mall, Sligo, cost over £150,000 and is given a life expectancy of ten years. That's £1,500 a year from our taxpayers, and what will we have to show for it 10 years from now.-nothing. So much for economic planning Ritchie!

### DUBIOUS LEADERSHIP THIS

Speaking about the problems of youth and vandalism, at the end of August, the Mayor, Clr. John Harrison, Principal of Sligo Vocational school said he was obviously aware of the many problems facing youth. He said "I would prefer to hear people talking about methods to rectify the situation rather than complaining about its consequences. When you examine the situation carefully the blame must come back to adults. Adults must lead young people and unfortunately this is not happening to any great extent in Sligo."

However, speaking about young soccer hooligans at the end of September Clr. Harrison said "these people have got to be dealt with in the same way as they treat others. It would be no harm at all if the birch was brought back and I certainly would support any such move." So much for leading young people...methinks that this country has quite enough violence as it is.

### THE SACRED COW

Speaking at a meeting of the County Sligo Vocational Education Committee against a motion by Clr. Bree, calling for an inquiry into the price of school books, Clr. Fallon said "we have no right to demand to know the profits of private companies. They had one hundred and one things to meet and they have to make profit."

THOUGHT AND PRACTICE --VERY DIFFERENT  
"The country would do well to give serious thought to the suggestion last week by Victor Bewley, that all with an income in excess of a certain reasonable figure, say £5,000 a year, would give voluntarily that surplus in the interests of relieving our economic difficulties. This would stem the rising tide of self-seeking." Would you believe it, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. D. Conway, Bishop of Elphin, while speaking at the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday, August 29th! Strangely enough the 600 word article on the pilgrimage which appeared in the "Sligo Champion" on the following week failed to mention the above statement. Truth conquers - how are ye! ! HOPE HE KEEPS IT UP

Deputy Ray McSharry was the picture of sincerity when he participated in the Peace Rally. One could hardly have imagined that he was the same man who called for the burning of a million Northern Protestants just a few short years ago! contd. on page 10



# SCHOOL BOOK SCANDAL!!

As thousands of school-students returned to school over the past period, parents and pupils were again faced with the problem of purchasing school-books, a situation which often causes great problems in working-class homes. In spite of the general public outcry at this time last year against the exorbitant pricing of basic textbooks, the Department of Education has again completely ignored the issues involved.

## EDITORIAL

It is not enough for the Government to abolish fees for second-level schools and then maintain that there is a free education system.

Educational costs for pupils and parents range from travel costs to meals and the largest proportion of such costs consists of text books. VAT ON TEXT BOOKS IS STILL CHARGED AT THE LUXURY RATE, THUS IMPLYING THAT SCHOOL BOOKS ARE NOT A NECESSITY.

By the removal of VAT alone, the government can do much to help those hit by the current economic slump.

In keeping with the promise to "cherish all the children of the nation equally," it is the government's duty to provide equality of educational opportunity, including equal access to text books.

### FREE BOOK SCHEME

The only way to ensure this is to institute a totally unbiased free school book scheme whereby all students and pupils can avail of the necessary texts for the courses they are following.

Coupled with this, because it is so vital to the entire educational system, the publishing of school books must be subject to public accountability, and therefore we believe that there should be an inquiry into school book publishers profits by the National Prices Commission, so that publishers be made to attempt to justify the exorbitant prices charged for text books.

### OUR PAPER'S APPEAL

The "Peoples Paper" is your paper. Are you playing your part in its production and distribution. We want articles, letters, on all issues of local interest - you can also help gain us readers by selling the paper in your Street, Terrace, School, Place of work etc.,

Just contact the Distribution Manager at  
14. WATER LAND.

THE "STAR" is YOUR PAPER.....USE IT.....

Submit your articles, letters etc., to  
The Editor, "Sligo Star," 14. Water Lane,  
Sligo.

Over the past number of years we have seen an alarming increase in the price of school books. In fact they have now become a major burden on hard pressed parents.

How are families with perhaps three or four children expected to pay the exorbitant prices demanded by school book publishers?

At the moment the average outlay on books for an Inter Cert. or Leaving Cert. student may well exceed £30 per year. Add to this the high cost of stationary, copy books, etc, and you have quite a bill on your hands.

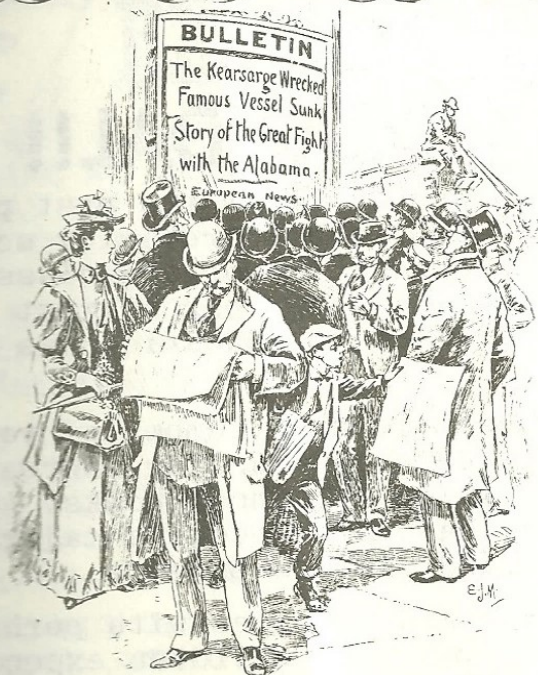
In these days of wage restraints, national wage agreements etc., there seems to be no restraint on the profits that publishers make out of school books. In fact the school book publishing industry is operated at present under conditions of monopoly by a few major firms.

This, coupled with the ineffective control of book prices, gives virtually a free hand to the publishers to set prices of school books at any level they wish, and they have clearly availed fully of this opportunity.

### NO HAND DOWN

Where does the Government stand on the question of school books? They in fact charge VAT on text books, thus implying that school books are not a necessity, whereas they are the bread and butter of the educational development of to-morrow's citizens.

The frequent changes in what text books are needed for courses does not help the situation either. As any parent can tell you, books can no longer be handed down from one child to another. Parents now find themselves handing out large sums of money year after year on new books whilst last year's books end up in the dustbin. For how long more must parents put up with this situation? Now is the time for a full Public inquiry into the appalling affair!



# SLIGO'S NEWSPAPERS OF THE PAST....

Believe it or not, Sligo has made a substantial contribution towards the development of the provincial press in Ireland. Between the years 1771 and 1932 over twenty newspapers and magazines were printed here. The life span of the various organs, excluding the "Sligo Champion," which still exists, varied from six months to a century. And now, having progressed into the 20th century, Sligo produces only one weekly the "Sligo Champion and one monthly the "Sligo Star."

## FIRST RECORDED

The art of printing was introduced to Sligo in the latter half of the 18th century, probably 1760. The first recorded printer was Michael Parker who founded the "Sligo Journal" in 1771. Other early printers included Alexander Bolton, John Gray, Robert Hunter, PJ Connolly, William Barrett, David Erskine, and Alexander Gillmor. Editors and proprietors of local newspapers have figured prominently in the public life of the Borough of Sligo.

Four of these, namely, Alexander Gillmor of the "Sligo Independent," Charles Sedley of the "Sligo Chronicle," and both Edward Howard Verdon and PA McHugh of the "Sligo Champion" held the office of Mayor. McHugh was for many years an influential member of Parliament for North Sligo, and in later years, Archie Heron, Editor of the "Sligo-Leitrim Liberator" unsuccessfully contested the Sligo-Leitrim constituency in the 1927 Dail Election, as a Labour Party candidate.

## EXISTING FILES

It is our intention over the next few months to give our readers a short history of the Press in Sligo. For our information we will rely on the existing files in the Sligo County Library and Museum and the information made available by J.C. McTernan, ex-Assistant Librarian of the Sligo County Library.

## THE SLIGO JOURNAL 1771 - 1866

The "Sligo Journal" was the first in a long list of Sligo newspapers. It was founded by

Michael Parker, in the latter half of the 18th century. The date of the first issue is not certain since only odd copies of the early issues exist. In all probability the paper did not appear regularly until 1771. Parker published his paper twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at his office in Castle Street.

## CHOLERA OUTBREAK

In 1793 John Gray became the proprietor and seven years later it passed into the hands of Alexander Bolton, Kings-Arms Press, Castle Street. Bolton was the Crown printer in Sligo from 1800 to 1830. An interesting feature of the "Journal" was that the heading of the paper served Sligo Corporation for many years in lieu of a seal. In 1801 the device at the heading was altered to an oval enclosing the arms of Sligo surmounted by a crown.

## WHISKEY

During the cholera outbreak of 1832 almost every member of the Bolton family was swept away but the paper continued to be published by the widow of the proprietor. Eventually it collapsed on March 16th 1866, after an existence of almost one hundred years. Glancing through some of the copies of December, 1832 which are available in Sligo County Library one could not help but notice the vast difference in prices of many commodities compared with current prices. Sligo distilled Whiskey was costing seven shillings and eight old pence per Imperial gallon, Scotch was 9/- per gallon, bacon was selling at £2 per cwt. and pork at £1 per cwt. Hen eggs were 7d a dozen, and potatoes 1d per stone - hard to believe in a town that was just recovering from the dreaded cholera fever.

## ELECTIONS

In November 1832 the "Journal" gave a lot of its space to the coverage of the Parliamentary elections of the period. John Wynne of Hazelwood, and John Martin, a Sligo

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## SLIGO'S NEWSPAPERS OF THE PAST.....

mercant, were contesting the single seat for the Borough of Sligo, and Edward J. Cooper, of Markree, and Alex Percival of Templehouse, were the only two candidates for the two County seats. A great choice for the people! - not that the people had much say as the abolition of the forty-shilling vote greatly curtailed election proceedings in the county, the number of electors being reduced from 5,036 in 1829 to 610 in the 1830s.

The grand loyalists, Cooper and Percival were returned unopposed but the other Landlord, John Wynne of Hazelwood, lost his seat in Sligo borough to the merchant John Martin. Martin's success was a foretaste of what was coming throughout the country as the power of the merchants and businessmen grew stronger and that of the landlords and aristocracy grew weaker. Not that it meant much difference to the ordinary man in the street as it was immaterial whether it was a landlord or a merchant who exploited him.

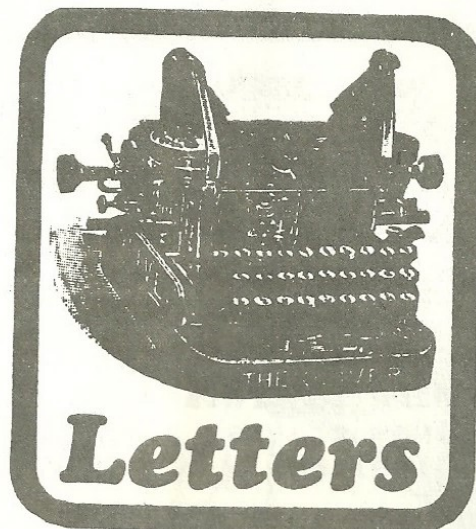
### REWARDS FOR INFORMATION

Not surprisingly some of the people resisted the injustices of the period and formed secret societies the most notable being the "Threshers." On many occasions the "Journal" published Reward Notices for information leading to the conviction of persons involved in such subversive activities as posting inflammatory notices, beating up stewards and bailiffs of various landlords, destroying landlords properties etc.,

Many of the Reward Notices were signed by as many as fifty of the upper class citizens of the day such as, the three MPs Percival, Cooper and Martin, along with such notables as Major O'Hara, William Weir a Justice of the Peace, WJ Treacy, Inspector of Police, Col Parke, Phibbs etc., Opposite each signature was printed the amount of money each individual was contributing towards the reward. Various pieces of repressive legislation were pushed through Parliament at that period to protect the landlords from the wrath of the people but the famine of the next decade succeeded more than any legislation in subduing the native population. However, the story of that tragic period in our history we will leave to another day.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The "Journal" usually consisted of four pages and the price varied from 1d in 1771 to 6d in 1832. Besides local news it also published quite a lot of national and international news items as there were no national papers as we know them today-being published. There are odd numbers of the "Sligo Journal" for 1822 and a short run from November 1832 to December 1834 in Sligo Library, and a long run from 1822 to 1866 in the British Museum. Next month the "Sligo Morning Herald or Connaught Advertiser" 1789-1793. "The Weekly Selector, or Sligo Miscellaneous Magazine" 1812. "The Western Luminary or Sligo Impartial Reporter" 1823-1829. The "Sligo Observer" 1828-1831.



As a native of Sligo who has been working over here for the past 12 years let me congratulate you on your first two issues of the "Sligo Star." It gives those of us, who were forced by circumstances to emigrate, a straight and honest picture of the situation at home.

Having visited Sligo during August, for the first time in eight years, I found that the atmosphere had changed quite a lot for the better - young people are speaking out, and have a more intelligent attitude towards politics and religion. This is obviously due to those involved in left wing politics in Ireland over the period, who by opposing the status quo and speaking out against the injustices of unemployment, emigration and bad housing, which the establishment upheld, gave people courage to speak up for their rights and demand what was naturally theirs.

However being a trade unionist and an active member of my local branch of the Labour Party I would advise those involved in left politics in Sligo to beware of armchair theorists, pub politicians and people who profess to be radical and socialists and yet remain inactive, as these people are of no use to the labour movement and hinder it more than they help. If we were to depend on that lot (and I'm sure they exist in Ireland as well as elsewhere) we would probably still be living in the terrible conditions of 1913. There is an excuse for those who through lack of political education, know no better, but there is no excuse for the inactivity of those who would describe themselves as Trade Unionists or Socialists.

Active socialists may yet be few in the West of Ireland but by persevering you cannot but succeed in eventually winning over the majority of people to your just cause. Your many brothers and fellow countrymen living in Britain though separated by land and sea are with you in spirit and look forward to the day when your goal has been reached.

With fraternal greetings  
I remain, yours etc.,  
J.J. Reynolds  
Golders Green Road,  
London. N.W.11.

More letters on page 9

# ABBOTT...the facts!

Abbott Laboratories the U.S. pharmaceutical company is on a world scale the 31st biggest in the world. In February 1973, Abbott Ireland Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abbott Laboratories was formerly registered as a private company. Abbott came to Ireland through the Industrial Development Authority, (IDA) which gives grants, advice, factory sites and canvasses for overseas investment in Ireland.

On May the 15th 1973 the request to the parent body for capital expenditure for the Sligo operation was fully approved and two months later, in July, the construction of the 89,000 sq. ft. sligo complex began. The first employees of the company were hired in November 1973, and during the first half of 1974, managerial and supervisory personnel were recruited for the Sligo operation

The Company's first hourly paid employee was recruited in October 1974 and on January 27th 1975 the assembly department commenced production. Besides its plant in Sligo, Abbott also has a plant in Cootehill, Co. Cavan, which makes baby food. However, Abbott's credentials could do with some careful examination.

last three years. These payments were in the form of bribes. The announcement was made by a U.S. Federal Enquiry called the Securities and Exchange Commission which investigates corporations accused of making "foreign pay-offs" and contributions to U.S. politicians election funds. This was reported in the "Irish Times" in March last.

### CLOSING CAP

### BRIBERY

Back home in the United States, Abbott Laboratories have been running into trouble. In 1971, the U.S. Center for Disease Control examined one of Abbott's products called Intravenous Solution 1V and estimated that this solution could have contributed to the death of 500 patients and could have infected 5,000 Patients.

In the face of this record of abuse of hospital patients, little wonder Abbott moved into Ireland shortly after these disclosures in 1970 and 1971 - apparently in some cases by bribing government officials between 1973 and 1976, in some of the countries where they operate.

49 deaths and 434 cases of infection were announced as having been caused directly by a change in the closing cap of the capsules made by Abbott. At the time, Abbott was supplying 45 per cent of the U.S. market - worth 36.6 million dollars a year. Just before the government banned the sale of Abbott's Intravenous Solution 1V, the company sold a great many shares on the stock exchange, and sold out a quarter of the Intravenous Solution 1V production to another company. This shady deal led to an enquiry being requested by the U.S. Department of Justice as to whether this was legal or not.

Abbott workers and technicians and indeed the people of Sligo, will have to be more than careful that the company is not allowed to use the same underhand methods in their treatment of Irish citizens.

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### ADDICTIVE

## MOUNTBATTEN TOO!

This was not the only trouble Abbott ran into. In 1970, the drug section of the laboratories which manufactures amphetamine powder came up against the law. Amphetamine powder can be made into tablets, which if consumed for a long time may be addictive. That year Abbott sold two million doses of Amphetamine to a "company" on Long Island in the U.S.A. The "company" turned out to be a big drug dealer which promptly sold all two million doses onto the U.S. black market. The company claim that they were unaware of what was happening.

Workers at the Halliburton controlled Sligo Bay Barytes Mine at Glencarberry on BenBulben were surprised, last month, to see Deputy Ray McSharry and Councillor Willie Farrell, of Grange, arrive at the mine and hold consultations with members of the management. Can we expect to see Deputy McSharry change from Housing Speculation to mining in the near future!!

In March this year Abbott Laboratories Incorporated reported paying 528,000 dollars to officials in unamed foreign countries over the

Lord Louis Mountbatten has also become involved in the sell-out of our natural resources. He has leased a portion of Benbulben to Sligo Bay Barytes and the terms of the lease which will terminate in 21 years are:- £15,000 payment to Lord Mountbatten on signing, plus £2,000 a year rental, plus 40p per ton royalty. THAT IS A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN THE CITIZENS WILL SEE OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES!



## PLANNING

Well, our article on Housing Speculators last month was very well received judging on comments from the public - so much in fact that we have decided to publish another short article next month, to include these speculators whom we failed to mention last month. In fact a Priest of the Parish, who was delighted with our article dropped us in the following reading from the letter of Saint James which was obviously hitting at the speculators of the period. We quote:

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have killed the righteous man; He does not resist you." How about that!! - and it was read at all the Masses on Sunday the 26th September.

Because of the amount of building taking place in this area we have also decided, as and from this month, to publish a list of all Planning Applications received in the Town Hall each month. As all will realise, Planning application notices can at present be

published in any local, National daily or evening paper. Naturally very few people have either the urge or the time to read all the papers so we now offer this service to the public.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

A M Barry.	Extension of 44 Martin Savage Terrace, Sligo.
J K Daly	Outline permission for Housing Development at Knappagh
E Healy	Erection of shop, store and dwelling at Maugheraboy
M Healy	Erection of 10 split level bungalows at Ash Lane
D Henry	Extension to dwelling at Riverside
E S B	Erection of boundary fence at Castle Street
Midicentre	Erection of surgery at Stephen St.
D Toomey	Alteration to dwelling at Strandhill Road
R MacEivilly	Erection of dwelling at Cleveragh Road

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## DRAMA REVIEW



OSCAR WILDE'S

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"

Reviewed by "SKUG"

SLIGO DRAMA CIRCLE'S CURRENT PRODUCTION OF OSCAR WILDE'S "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST" IN NO WAY HELPS THE REPUTATION OF WHAT IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE FINEST LIGHT COMEDIES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - IN FACT IF ONE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE WORKS OF WILDE IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE TO THINK THAT THE AUTHOR'S REPUTATION WAS GROSSLY INFLATED.

Ofcourse, in a sense, "The Importance" is a dated museum piece. It was the best way Oscar Wilde could find of puncturing the bombast of social nonsense at the end of the last century. He subtitled it "A trivial comedy for serious people," but to his contemporary theatre goers that must have seemed like an inversion of the truth.

With controlled panache he scratches the gilded box and ruffles the ribbons of the frivolous milieu which he knew first hand. To have bashed it with a hammer would have fallen into Lady Bracknell's trap. ("Never speak disrespectfully of society, Algernon. Only people who can't get into it do that")

And the play undoubtedly has a curiosity value. London at the turn of the Victorian tide, with its exaggerated social attitudes and upper-class dandyism, perfected in Algy, who "has nothing but he looks everything. What more can one desire?" Society, caught as the gilt began to chip, when breeding and behaviour were bolstered up and up (and are here sent up) in the rush to catch a rich partner.

Talk about business remained vulgar (though Wilde had the guts to tread on grisly ground and even mention specific sums) but, in matrimony money was chased harder and faster than title, as the old aristocratic cohesion disintegrated. What brings a beady glint to Lady Bracknell's eye is the fact that Jack, although not down on her list of eligibles, has investments; that Cecily has £130,000 - "And in the Funds!" A rich catch is "what a really affectionate mother deserves" .. especially with a daughter on her hands as the "Season" draws to a close.

Its a way of life which, since Wilde, has continued to twitch on, with injections from the Americans, and now, bent and bowed, has almost passed over. So "The Importance" remains a museum piece; but not a dusty one.

Today it reveals itself as Wilde's only complete success; a summation of his nugget - bright talents. He is sharp without being bit-

chy, pithy without being trite and his creations are characters not cartoons. And there's not one lapse into sentimentality. Apart from a sag in the second act, with Gwendolen and Cecily sparring, overlength, it personifies the Well Made Play - and bombs the theory that its got to be dull. The dialogue shimmers with familiar epigram following familiar epigram, but not out of ostentatious bravure, rather springing naturally from the text, as cherries on the top of thick cream.

As far as I could gather all of the cast were line perfect although at times it was hard to hear. They moved about the stage with confidence - the costumes looked very well - the set was adequate apart from that horrible yellow wall in Algernon's flat along with that table that never stopped shaking.

David Johnston (Algernon) was quite good, he avoided the temptation to "camp" which a less sensitive actor would have indulged in. The only thing that marred his performance was the difficulty one had in hearing him especially in the first act. The producer Joe Meehan, should have had the good sense to keep John Caheny (John Worthing) and Ann McDermott (Lady Bracknell) well away from this play - for at no stage during the evening did they deliver their lines with any feeling.

It was maddening to sit and listen to some of Wilde's greatest lines being butchered by these two people. Wilde suffered enough during his life; why now inflict this horrible miscasting on his great play. There are a number of people in the Circle who could have made a decent attempt at Lady Bracknell and John Worthing, what a pity they were not called upon. Sheila Horan (Cecily Cardew) who normally gives a good performance for some reason did not seem at ease. I blame this on lack of direction by the Producer. Walter McDonagh (Rev. Canon Chasuble) gave a splendid performance although at times he suffered from a little overacting. Eamonn Martin (Lane) conveyed the right deadpan expression.

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# comhaltas ceoltoirí éireann



THE GREATEST EVENT OF THE YEAR FOR ANY MEMBER OF COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI ÉIREANN IS OF COURSE, FLEADH CEoil NA h-ÉIREANN. HAVING PARTICIPATED AND FOLLOWED WITH VIVID INTEREST, THE KNOCK-OUT ROUNDS, FROM THE COUNTY FLEADH ON TO THE PROVINCIAL, THE ALL IRELAND PROVED AGAIN THIS YEAR TO BE THE GREATEST FEAST OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC THAT ONE COULD COMPREHEND,

THIS YEAR'S OUTSTANDING FESTIVAL WAS AGAIN HELD IN BUNCRANA, Co. DONEGAL, ON THE LAST WEEK-END IN AUGUST. SLIGO WAS WELL REPRESENTED AMONG THE COMPETITORS WITH MUSICIANS FROM PRACTICALLY EVERY CRAOBH OF COMHALTAS IN THE COUNTY PARTICIPATING. INDEED THE LARGE AMOUNT OF SLIGONIANS WHO VISITED BUNCRANA DURING THE FLEADH IS TRUELY AN INDICATION OF THE REVIVED INTEREST IN TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN THE COUNTY.

Carmel Gunning, Hon. Secretary of the Sligo town Craobh, after doing extraordinarily well at the county and provincial fleadhanna again emerged as a top class musician at the Buncrana fleadh. Loretta Reid of Ballisodare, who needs no introduction to readers, and Philip Flynn of Collooney, again carried off some top awards. Pat Sweeney, Sligo, Gerry Danagher, Easky, the O'Connors of Ballymote and Seamus and Fearghal O'Boyle from Sligo town also succeeded in gaining first place in their respective classes.

In conclusion we would say that the Fleadh committee deserved to be congratulated for the marvellous job they did as hosts to Fleadh Cheoil na h-Eireann and a word of thanks should also go to the people of Buncrana for their kindness, courtesy and hospitality to the Fleadh visitors.

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A General Meeting of all members of the Sligo Town Craobh of Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann on Tuesday 26th Oct. discussed the arranging of the Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the end of November, and the registration of members.

MICHAEL COLMAN

A crowd estimated at several thousand attended the 2nd Annual Commemoration to the memory of Michael Coleman, the world famous fiddler, which was held at Gurteen, Co. Sligo, on Sunday 5th September last.

Although the weather was dull early in the day it brightened up in the afternoon. The Parade from the Coleman home was led by a Colour Party consisting of members of the local Coleman Traditional Society who carried the flags of each of the five counties of Connaught. The parade halted at the platform and there a musical tribute was played by Fred Finn on fiddle, and Peter Horan on flute. Dr. Charles Lennon gave the oration and wreaths were then laid on the memorial by representatives of various groups in the region. Mr. Seamus Tansey expressed thanks on behalf of

the Society and local Councillor Joe Shannon, congratulated all concerned with the success of the event. An excellent session of open air music followed the commemoration ceremony and the Junior Feis, which was held for the first time in conjunction with the Commemoration, this year, was indeed a great success. The day's events culminated with a Ceili Mor at Gurteen Hall that evening.

## LETTERS ..... LETTERS ..... contd., from page 5

Sir, With reference to the article on the Green Fort which you published in your last issue of the "Sligo Star" I feel that there is one point you failed to mention.

As a resident of the Forthill area I feel that the historical value of the Fort should not be the only consideration in preserving it. The proximity to the town of such a green belt (particularly one commanding a fine view of town and countryside) is surely an asset many a town in the country would be envious of. Sligo boasts of Doorly Park as its Public Park. A Public Park in most peoples estimation would consist of childrens playground, trees, shrubs and flower garden, open green space and perhaps a playing field or two.

The "back avenue" hardly qualifies here, and its situation along the river is not a place where parents with young children can relax. In a time of recession it is unlikely that the municipal coffers could accommodate such a elaborate complex, but surely Fort Hill could be kept as it is until more prosperous days. Yours etc.,

Philip Conlon. 56 St. Edwards Terrece. Sligo.

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Sir, "One does not sell the earth upon which the people walk." Tashunka Witko (Crazy Horse) North American Indian 1875

Yours faithfully.  
M. Meldrum. Wolfe Tone St. Sligo.

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# TRADE UNION NEWS

# OUR PRINTING FUND

The inaugural meeting of the Sligo branch of the National Engineering and Electrical Trade Union was held in the Imperial Hotel, Sligo, in September

The General President of the Union Mr. C. Fullerton, addressed the meeting along with Mr. E. Herbert, Tuam branch secretary, and Mr. L. O'Neill, the Industrial General Secretary of the Union.

The meeting was quite well attended and it is expected that the local and regional business of the NEETU will now be carried out by officers of the Sligo branch who were elected at that meeting as well as a committee.

They are: President, Mr. C. Harrison Secretary, Mr. H. Mitchell, Dunfore, Ballinful Co. Sligo. Treasurer, Mr. J. Flynn. Committee, Mr. P. Gunning, Mr. J. Moynahan, Mr. C. Kelly. Mr. D. Farrell. Mr. E. Dalton. Mr. P. Coyne. Mr. A. Cullen.

\* \* \* \* \*

EXTRA..... EXTRA .....

contd., from page 2

Speaking at the September meeting of the Sligo Local Health Advisory Committee against a motion proposed by Clr. D. Bree and seconded by Clr. A. Higgons, calling for the setting up of a Family Planning Clinic in Sligo by the Health Board, Clr. Pat O'Neill said "Contraception is a form of killing. That is what I believe and that is the teachings of the Church. I will stick to what the theologians explain and we have no right to interfere with church doctrine." Only three members of the committee voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor John Harrison looked well with the Mayoral chain, when he took part in the Peace Rally in September at Sligo. His condemnation of violence is to be lauded by all. One wonders what his ex-comrades in the IRA feel about his present stance!

At the September meetings of both Sligo Corporation and Sligo County Council, Clr. D. Bree proposed that each of the two bodies "call on all TDs and Senators to oppose the Emergency Powers Bill and the Criminal Law Bill as both pieces of legislation are a serious derogation of our Civil and constitutional rights." Surprisingly, the motion did not even find a seconder at either meeting. SO MUCH FOR THE ANTICS OF FIANNA FAIL DURING THE DEBATE IN THE DA'IL.

Connolly Youth Movement Sligo Branch Week-end school 27/28th November. Three lectures. "History of C.Y.M." "History of Ireland 1870-1930" "History of Irish Labour since 1900" ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, INVITED TO ATTEND.

Chairman Clr D. Bree.

The Printing Fund got off the ground slowly in our second issue with lots of promises but only two donations. The first was of £5 and it came from T.D. Sligo. The second, again for £5, was sent to us from Bryan Gilgunn of Rossendale, Lancs., England.

Bryan is an Old Age Pensioner who emigrated from Leitrim many years ago and still takes an interest in his native Breffni. He has been involved in the British Labour movement for many years and along with his donation, he sent encouraging words to the Editorial Board of the "Star." Our thanks for both donations.

Funds are urgently needed to ensure that the "Star" expands and develops so as to make certain that the interests of the common people of Sligo are properly protected and defended. Send all donations to:- The Treasurer, Peoples Paper Printing Fund. Sligo Star, 14. Water Lane. Sligo.

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## "THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST" contd., from Page 8

The only people who seem to have enjoyed themselves and knew what their role was about were Walter McDonagh and David Johnston. One felt an awful tension in the rest of the players, the whole production moved at too pedestrian a pace, there were times when one almost dozed off - surely an unforgivable offence at an Oscar Wilde play.

I was baffled to learn from the programme that there was actually someone in charge of lighting, maybe they had fallen asleep with boredom, for I do not recall any lighting plan whatsoever--indoors and outdoors looked the same to me.

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ADVERTS ..... ADVERTS .....

<p>CONNOLLY YOUTH MOVEMENT SLIGO BRANCH</p> <p>ANNUAL DINNER DANCE GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL SLIGO Friday November 19 8 pm to 1 am Guest Speakers: Mr. P. Delaney National Chairman of the C.Y.M. Ms. Madge Davison, Northern Area Committee C.Y.M. MUSIC BY SUNDOWN ADMISSION £3 Limited tickets</p>
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# BALLAD CORNER

CONNOLLY WAS THERE

There lies a page in history  
 When the workers first fought back  
 When the might of exploitation  
     at last began to crack  
 In farm and field and factory  
 In workshop, mine and mill  
 A flame was lit, a beacon bright  
 That flame is burning still

Chorus

For Connolly was there  
 Connolly was there  
 Great, brave undaunted  
 James Connolly was there

When the bosses tried to sweat the men  
 Away on Glasgow's Clyde  
 A voice like rolling thunder  
 Soon stopped them in their stride  
 In Liverpool and Belfast  
 When the workers lived in hell  
 Until at last they organised  
 and any man can tell

Chorus

William Martin Murphy  
 And his Dublin millionaires  
 Tried bribery and corruption  
 Hypocrisy and prayers  
 To smash the Transport Union  
 The scabs they did enlist  
 But all their graft was shattered  
 By a scarlet iron fist.

Chorus

They say that he was murdered  
 Shot, dying in a chair  
 But go, march on to freedom  
 Irish workers don't despair  
 In farm and field and factory  
 In workshop mine and mill  
 That flame of light, that beacon bright  
 That flame is burning still

Final Chorus

For Connolly will be there  
 Connolly will be there  
 Great, brave, undaunted  
 James Connolly will be there

The song printed here was written by Dominic Behan and is sung to the air of "Brennan on the Moor." It was first published in June 1955 in the "Irish Workers Voice," the Communist Party journal of the period and forerunner of the "Irish Socialist."

NOTE: We would appreciate if readers would send us copies of any local ballads they might have in their possession. i.e. "Sligo's Noble Six" etc.,

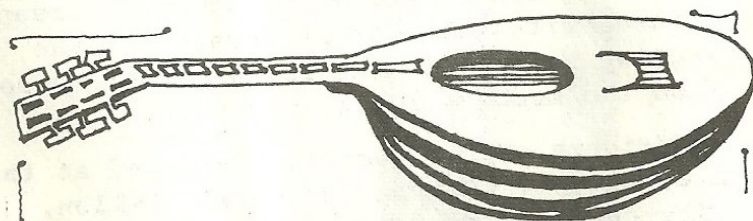
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The Progression Folk Club has meandered its way through time since the days of "Progression Club" in 1973 and still exists, holding sessions in the Trades Club every Thursday night.

Having a fairly successful summer, the highlight being a visit from Mick Hanley; it settled into September nicely with the sounds of "Jargon" singing Thom Moores, "Here comes a man does his workin on the land" ... Jargon are the most successful sound in the "trades," and always have a fair good audience, their jokes can be thin, but they are there, and can get a laugh.

Thom Moore and Janie Cribbs had a lovely night there too, in September, making the most of Thom's own material, "Sorry Honey" coming out a top class number.

Barry Moore had a great visit and proved very popular, he shows a much better talent than his brother Christie, and can crack a



## PROGRESSION FOLK CLUB

joke or two. his versatility shows in his instrumental treatment of "Streaky Bacon" and is confirmed with his own composition "The Soldier Passed Away."  
 Robin Nancarrow had a quiet night in comparison. Here is a good act, but it lacks soul and does not seem to hold an audience. He is inclined just to accept his audience without real communication. The Club has survived so far with a fair standard maintained and we look forward to seeing it thrive through the hard Winter months ahead.

# NATO NEWS

## A ROUND-UP OF THE TENANTS MOVEMENT

The Tenth Annual Conference of the National Association of Tenants Organisations which took place in Dublin in September heard a strong condemnation of all emergency legislation and voted to demand that no part of the Irish Constitution be deleted, suspended, or changed without the consent of the majority through a National Referendum.

Away from the area of national politics the NATO delegates also debated questions of social welfare, consumer protection and prices, education, national NATO policy, income tax, justice and local government. If space permits we will give more coverage of the conference next issue.

The Sligo Area Council of NATO met twice in the last ten weeks to formulate policy. The Council was formed to help with the development of the various branches and to promote the ideals of NATO at an area level. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday the 9th of November.

**ABBNEYVILLE BRANCH** The Abbeyville Branch of NATO held its first Annual General Meeting on the 17th September in St. Annes National School. The outgoing secretary, Eamonn O'Donnell, gave the Annual Report and stated that the committee had a positive response to many of their requests to the Corporation. He said that the Borough Engineer, Mr. D. McDermott had visited the Estate in August and met members of the Committee. Mr. McDermott promised action on the landscaping and tidying of the Estate and assured the committee that the Corporation would supply trees for the Association to plant in the area.

The outgoing Treasurer, Mr. Paddy McDonagh gave his report and said that the finances of the Branch were in quite a healthy condition. The Committee, were, however, disappointed with the poor attendance at the meeting and are hoping for a better response from the members in the new year.

Officers of the Committee elected at the meeting are: Chairman, Mr. Dossie Fallon. Vice-chairman, Mr. Paddy Walsh. Secretary, Mr. Eamonn O'Donnell, 29. Abbeyville. Assnt. Secretary, Mr. Francis Loftus. Treasurer, Mr. Paddy McDonagh. Assnt. Treasurer, Mr. Michael Finan. As we go to press the Committee are preparing to meet the County Manager to discuss various problems with him.

**CARTRON ESTATE BRANCH** The Cartron Estate branch of NATO have at last got some satisfaction from the Corporation - a sign was erected at the site adjacent to the Bundoran Road where illegal dumping was taking place, and the area has been levelled off. The Committee are still pushing for the repair of houses and chimneys plus the erection of a Bus shelter for the school children of the area. Betty McGovern, an ex-officer of the

Association has been active for the past few years, ensuring that the children of the estate are put safely aboard the school bus each morning. In hail, rain or snow, Betty, can be seen each morning lining up the children, helping them cross the road etc., - and all voluntarily!! Perhaps the Corporation might be good enough to employ Betty as a Lollipop woman. Its the least they can do for her and the children of the area.

**CAIRNS DRIVE BRANCH** The Cairns Drive branch of NATO are now preparing to hold their first Annual General Meeting at the end of November. The committee can be quite proud of their activities so far. Since our last issue, they have cleaned up, and erected Goal posts in their play field near the cemetery.

They have also commenced a weekly collection of subscriptions in the Estate and shortly hope to provide the local under-14 football team with a set of jerseys and shorts. In fact the young people themselves have not been found lacking in initiative - last month they held a sale-of-work and managed to raise enough money to buy themselves a few leather footballs!!

The NATO committee are still waiting for the Corporation to surface the passage-way onto Pearse Road and erect a safety barrier at the end of it. Place names have also to be erected in the Estate.

**CRANMORE ESTATE BRANCH** The Cranmore Estate Branch of NATO will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the end of October and are hoping for a large attendance. Tenants in the estate are at present being visited by committee members so as to ascertain their attitude regarding the recent announcement of the Corporation concerning the provision of chimneys and fireplaces in the estate.

**NOTE:** In our article on the founding of the NATO Area Council in the last edition of the "Star," the name of Mr. Dossie Fallon, a member of the Council, was misprinted. Our apologies to Mr. Fallon.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER contd., from page

- Sligo Motor Co. Store and Office accommodation at Ballinode
- S. Higgons Erection of Store at Ballinode
- A. Grey Erection of dwelling at Knocknaganny
- I. Cavanagh Erection of garage at 38 Martin Savage Terrace Sligo

**Title:** Sligo Star, Vol. 1, No. 3

**Organisation:** Connolly Youth Movement

**Date:** 1976

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