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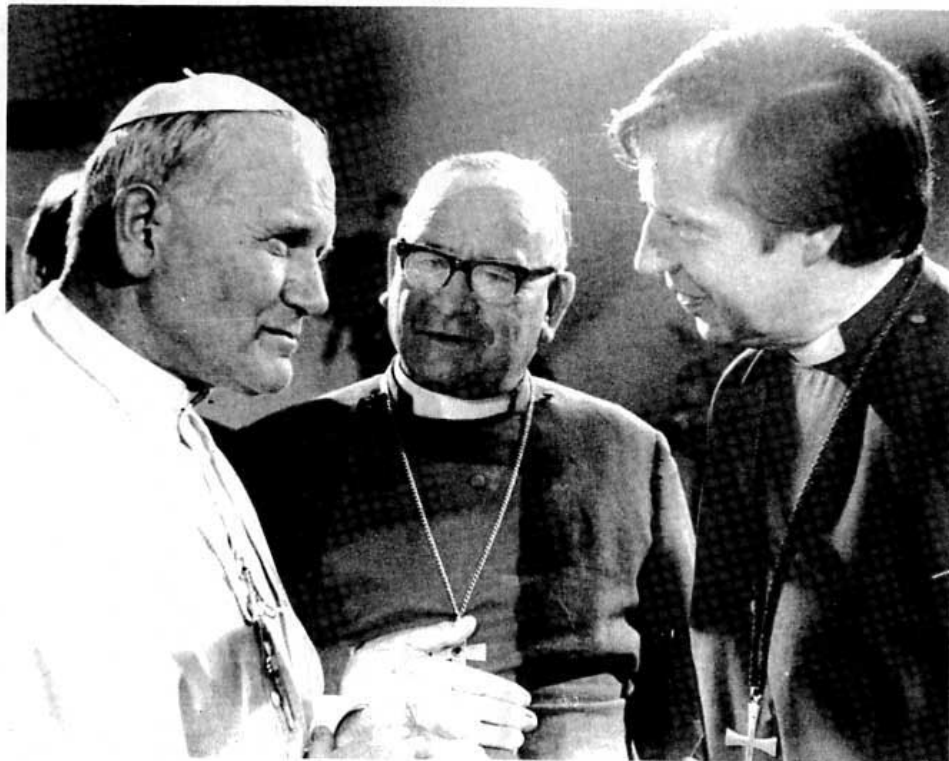
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Pope John Paul with the Chairman of the Board of Governors and the Bishop of Cork (an O.P.)

SCHOOL NOTES

Major J. T. Wheeler has officially retired after many years of valuable service to Portora, but we are glad to say that he will still be with us in a part-time capacity to teach Geometrical Drawing.

Paul Maxwell, a member of IVth Form, and son of an Old Portoran, John Maxwell, tragically lost his life in the Mountbatten murder in August. A memorial service was held in the Steele Hall, on 12th September.

The weather was so wet during the summer and the running track consequently so soft, that it was found impossible to hold the Sports, the first time that such a thing has happened in a long number of years.

It was gratifying to have the Irish Schools Championship Regatta once again allotted to Portora. The course at Killyhevin is excellent, as was the organisation of the event, and the regatta was a notable success.

Our congratulations go to the following members of staff on the birth of their babies: Mr. and Mrs. McCready, Caroline Norah Maude, born 12.4.79; Mr. and Mrs. Neill, Patrick Brian, born 13.4.79; Mr. and Mrs. Latimer, Katie Louise, born 7.4.79; Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Gareth, born 5.7.79.

Our congratulations also to Marcus Harvey on winning both a Rugby cap for Ulster and the Fermanagh Superstar competition at the Lakeland Forum.

Lt. Col. J. T. Sleator, Chairman of the C.B.I. in N.I., was the guest speaker on Speech day and Mrs. Sleator gave away the prizes. All the usual exhibitions were held, together with an "Activities" display. In the morning there was a swimming display, to take the place of Athletics, and in the afternoon a most exciting cricket match against the Leprechauns.

Our congratulations to two members of staff, R. G. McNeill and Miss E. B. Brady, upon their marriage in July.

We would like to welcome to the staff, Mr. M. T. Hulme, in charge of Activities; Mr. M. A. Todd, who teaches Biology, and Mr. W. J. Phenix (O.P.) to take Major Wheeler's place. A welcome also goes to our new "Assistants," Mlle Aussedat and Fraulein Zimmel.

We bid farewell to our Domestic Bursar, Miss Mary Gillen, who has taken up a lecturing post in Killybegs.

Peter Reilly and Trevor Stirling were awarded bursaries of £190 each by the N.I. Outward Bound Trust to help towards the cost of an Outward Bound Course in Germany in the summer holidays.

We were very glad to have a visit from a former headmaster, The Rev. D. L. Graham and Mrs. Graham, during the year.

9 girls are now comfortably settled in the Old Sanatorium under the care of Mrs. Acheson (Housemistress) and Mrs. McCready (Tutor). It is now known as The Head's House.

The School Dance was successfully revived at Christmas and another one is planned for this year.

The Department of Education have now agreed in principle to the making of a new A.V. centre and to the restoration of the gymnasium floor.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is now firmly re-established and as part of his gold award Trevor Stirling was awarded the Teacher's Certificate of the Royal Life-Saving Society. Other life-saving awards included Vaughan Parker and Paul McAlpin, who gained Distinctions.

Following on excellent 'A' level successes, 3 places at Cambridge were awarded: Trevor Stirling at Sidney Sussex to read Engineering, James West at Christ's to read Medical Science, and Peter Reilly at Christ's to read Engineering.

The Debating Society at school was revived through the enthusiasm of Michael Love and the guidance of Mr. Robertson. Neville Armstrong provided the high spot of the year by winning through to the final of the Queen's University Individual Debating Contest.

Charles Altekruze, who started his rowing at Portora, rowed for the United States of America in the World Cup at Bled, Yugoslavia in September. He is captain of the Harvard crew, and is now in training for the Olympics.

Rock-climbing once more features on the list of activities at P.R.S. and a small group of enthusiasts is making good progress.

Our congratulations go to the Rev. D. L. Graham on his 70th birthday on 4/10/79. The following telegram was sent to him: "On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Portora salutes one of its greatest sons, and one of its great Headmasters."



From left:- the Headmaster; Mrs. Acheson; Lt.-Col. J. T. Sleator, the guest speaker; Mrs. Sleator; the Chairman of the Board of Governors and Michael Pierce, head boy.

SPEECH DAY 1979

"From 'Impartial Reporter,' 31-5-'79.

It is of vital importance that the next five years are used wisely in education, says the Headmaster of Portora Royal School in Enniskillen.

Describing the recent change of Government as a "glad, confident morning again," Dr. Alan Acheson said that these years must mean evolution.

In the Headmaster's report to his first speech day, Dr. Acheson said:

"There is the danger that our understandable euphoria should become a delusion and a snare. This must not happen: 1984 will be upon us too soon. It is of vital importance that the next five years are used wisely! They must be years of evolution.

They give the province an opportunity to evolve, on sound educational grounds and by proper democratic process, a reorganised system of secondary education which even doctrinaire socialism will not dare to destroy.

In such an evolved system the voluntary schools, with their record of academic excellence, will have an assured future," he said.

FIRST PRIORITY

Dr. Acheson told the audience of pupils and parents that although this was the first priority in education for Mrs. Thatcher's Government, he was looking at two other important needs.

He went on, "One is the need to resume the flow into the grammar schools of highly qualified specialists; especially in the disciplines of mathematics and the natural sciences. The shortage of able replacements for excellent teachers now retiring, or soon to retire, is becoming critical for many schools. Early attention to this need is an imperative for the new government."

He said the other priority was for the policy-makers to take a firm grip on the administrators.

"The Government is now freezing recruitment to the Civil Service," said Dr. Acheson. "But, a new Headmaster may perhaps be forgiven for thinking that the existing Civil Service is frozen!"

"That is the evidence of our experience with the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. No application submitted thereto — and there have been several, on essential matters — has yet received a reply from the Department. The most important of all did not even receive acknowledgment — until, after a month, we rang and asked for it. This apparent discrimination against the interests of the voluntary grammar schools has, one suspects, had of late a

political motive. Here again it is imperative that the government takes serious action," he said.

PORTORA'S FUTURE

"But what of Portora's future?" asked Dr. Acheson. "We shall, in the first place, guard jealously our record of academic excellence. We have three boys in Upper Sixth with conditional offers of places at Cambridge. They are, all three, potential award winners, and I urge them to return to Portora to sit for the open scholarship.

These apart, we shall again this year see the majority of our leavers go on to university, or into the services and the professions.

Our supply of young men to all three armed services, and to the RUC, is second to none. 'Thank you for sending us such an excellent young man,' reads the recent letter of the vice-President of the R.C.B about one of last year's leavers," he continued.

Dr. Acheson promised to continue "this great tradition of Portora."

He went on, "To this end we aim to develop the entire personality of our boys, and to educate the whole man.

AVOWED POLICY

"In pursuit of that aim, it is my avowed policy not only to revive general studies in the sixth, but also to have every boy in school, dayboy and boarder, fully involved in its life — whether in team games, or outdoor pursuits, or the societies, or in the widening range of individual and group activities.

"We shall also continue to improve the face of Portora; the gym passage, the Steele Hall classrooms, the changing rooms, the estate, are all high on the priority list," he added. "We need, not least, to start planting new trees on this magnificent property. And, with the day of the public school bachelor now past, we need urgently to provide accommodation for resident married staff.

CO-EDUCATION

Dr. Acheson went on to talk about the recent change at Portora to co-education.

"There are a few parents in the audience who will have been irritated by my constant reference to 'boys,'" he said. "So, although I have generic justification, I shall now make amends. I pay tribute to the parents of our three girls: they have shown

great faith and courage. I am happy to tell them that the three will be nine in September; and that this percentage rate of expansion will continue."

"By September 1981 I intend to have 30 girl boarders, and by 1983, 45. From September the girls will live in the old sanatorium (which we shall rename more appropriately). But it will suffice for only two years, and the building of a new boarding block for girls is a matter of great urgency for us.

This development will allow us to make a fuller contribution to the need for more tourist accommodation in Fermanagh," said Dr. Acheson.

TRIBUTE

"Boarding in the 1980's is very different from what it was in the 1930's or even the 1960s. Our thinking, budgeting and planning must be up-to-date," he added.

During his report, the new headmaster paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr. Tom Garrett.

"I will say first that he did all in his power to smooth the way for my succession to his office. His

meticulous administration, and his ordered control of all school affairs were of enormous advantage to me in taking over from him.

"Mr. Garrett left Portora after five years as headmaster — the typical length now of a first headship in Headmasters' Conference Schools. In the perspective of time his achievement here will be appreciated fully. I believe it was very great.

His brief was neither an easy nor an enviable one. His faithfulness to it was never likely to make him popular. But popularity is a luxury.

ADVANCE

Mr. Garrett served Portora well; he secured the base, and left the school poised for advance. His role was a necessary one. Anything which I might be able to build in years to come, will be easier of achievement because the foundation was soundly laid by Tom Garrett," said Dr. Acheson.

For the first-time at Speech Day, The Head Boy, Michael Pierce gave a report of the school year. The chairman of the Board of Governors, Rt. Rev. R. W. Heavener, Bishop of Clogher, presided.

MAJOR J. T. WHEELER

J. T. W. is retiring this year — a paradox, of course, because 'retiring' for Jack is an impossibility. Fortunately, then, such platitudes as "We wish him many



long years to enjoy his leisure," or "The place will never be the same without him," are in his case irrelevant, for we are happy to say that Jack is going

to live nearby and to continue his valuable services to Portora in a part-time capacity. And if 'part-time' is not also paradoxical in the context of Jack's services to Portora, then there is no truth. For if ever there was anyone who, for a long number of years, worked full-time for the school and its inhabitants, that man is Jack.

A man of infinite generosity and gentleness, of unending desire to help in a great variety of ways, Jack has been 'fixing it' for Portora and Portorans for many years; the ability to refuse any request made to him was not in him: 'just leave it to me, I'll fix it' is a favourite phrase of Jack's, familiar to all of us.

Major Wheeler has been responsible for both the P.E. and the Geometrical and Engineering Drawing departments of Portora since he joined the staff in 1948. But undoubtedly his chef d'oeuvre has been the swimming-pool, built in 1956, largely through his initiative — and the changing-rooms constructed and heating system installed actually with his own hands. Since then both he and his wife have given a large part of their lives to the pool and to teaching hundreds to swim: the whole community owes them an immense debt.

The variety of Jack's services to the school is great; he commanded the Corps for about 15 years, during which time he took shooting teams to Bisley, helped to direct Outward Bound camps, and instructed cadets in the winning of 16 Gold Awards in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. He made and installed the furniture and fittings in the chapel, made and

presented the lectern in the Steele Hall, has been for years the launching steward at the Head of the River, and was involved in countless other tasks and activities, for all of which he will be remembered with gratitude and affection by many generations of Portorans. Nor should we or the public forget the excellent work he has done as Warden of the first Irish Cave Rescue team, and as area organiser of the

Royal Life-Saving Society.

A Jack of all trades and a master of many, J.T.W. deserves our gratitude in multitudinous ways, and he certainly has our affection. He and his wife have served us well for a long number of years and we hope that they will continue to do so for many more; to look at both of them, one could almost hope with confidence that it will be for ever!

OBITUARY — PAUL MAXWELL

On Bank Holiday Monday we were stunned and shattered by the tragic news of Paul Maxwell's violent death. Paul was killed by a terrorist bomb as he stood at the helm of Lord Mountbatten's yacht. Lord Louis, who was also killed, was at Paul's side. We do not need to remind you of the exploits of Lord Mountbatten, Admiral of the Fleet, and of his experiences on the oceans of the World. Many great men stood by his side in the dark days of war and afterwards, but no name will be more linked to his when history is written than that of Paul Maxwell — Lord Mountbatten's last crew man.

Paul came to Gloucester House in September 1975 from Enniskillen Model School. He quickly settled into school life and was popular with both staff and boys. In September 1977 he moved up to Portora and immediately settled into the routine of the school.

Paul was a very pleasant character, a real happy-go-lucky school boy who had many friends. He mixed easily and had a word for all. He was full of innocence and had a very mischievous look but there was no bad or evil intent in him. He had many interests in life, especially boating, and I understand his handling of Lord Mountbatten's yacht was masterly. In recent times he had expressed great interest in a sea-going career.

Another great love of his was 'Darts.' Towards the end of last school year, along with some other Fourth

Formers he had gained permission from the Headmaster to form a 'Darts Club' in school.

Over the past two years, both as his Housemaster and as Chaplain, I had come to know Paul very well. On 29th April I had presented him to the Bishop of Clogher for Confirmation. During the course of the previous two terms he had attended Confirmation Class and had proved to be a very conscientious and interested candidate.

It is hard to believe that Paul is no longer with us, and it is hard to believe that anything can be achieved by the callous murder of a young boy and a retired old gentleman who were innocently enjoying a day's fishing. Unfortunately, I fear our country will have to face further tragedies. One can understand that it is not hard to have a feeling of anger or hate, and to lay the blame on the 'other side.' But let us not be tempted to point the accusing finger of recrimination at those who differ religiously and politically from us. Let us not taint the memory of Paul's life by harbouring thoughts of blame and hate against our neighbours. Rather let us determine to honour Paul's memory by our attempts to foster a spirit of reconciliation and love in our community. That I believe is the way that Paul would have had it be.

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to his parents, his two sisters and all the family circle.

J.D.G.K.

JONATHAN LEACH

Jonathan Leach and his sister Elizabeth were killed in a tragic accident near their home in Helen's Bay during July. It is with real sadness that we record this fact, as we all remember Jonathan with affection; indeed, some of us had the pleasure of seeing him down here only shortly before his death. He was attached to the School and to the area, and on his leave from the Merchant Navy was often to be seen fishing the Fermanagh lakes and rivers, usually with some of the friends from his school days. Indeed, it was a true reflection of Jonathan's character and

popularity, that the pall-bearers at his funeral included a number of his friends from Portora.

The loss of these two fine young people is hard to bear, and we offer our very genuine and respectful sympathy to their parents and their young sister, and we share their grief. The world is much the poorer for their loss. As Rev. Dr. Dewar, father of two Old Portorans, quoted from the 2nd Book of Samuel, when giving the address at their funeral "They were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided."

CHAPEL NOTES

During the last school year we had a number of interesting and distinguished preachers at the services held in Chapel. The list of preachers included Miss Elizabeth Johnston, B.C.M.S.; Revd. N. White, C.M.S.; Revd. M. G. Mayes, U.S.P.C.; Revd. J. Dinnen, Chaplain at Q.U.B.; Capt. W. C. D. Stewart of the Church Army; Revd. I. Hall; The Very Revd. H. A. Lillie, Dean of Armagh; The Ven. F. J. L. Skuce, Archdeacon of Clogher; J. A. Pratt; G. C. Andrews, the Headmaster and the School chaplain. Our most distinguished visitor was the Rt. Revd. John Conlin, Bishop of Brandon, Canada. Bishop Conlin, an Old Portoran, gave the opening address at the School Mission, held during the Easter Term.

Once again, thanks to the enthusiasm of Mr. W. J. McBride, the Carol Service was a resounding success. The offering at the services raised £151.50 for the Save the Children Fund.

The School Mission this year was conducted by an Old Portoran, the Revd. Cecil Kerr. The Revd. Kerr, for a number of years was Chaplain at Q.U.B. before he left to set up The Christian Renewal Centre at Rostrevor. He was assisted in the running of the Mission by Dr. John Kelly, Stephen Camming and Gerry Fitzgerald. We also had a surprise visit on one of the days from another Old Portoran — Evan Bell.

We are very grateful to Mr. A. J. Beattie who conducted

the Mid-Week Lenten Services, and we thank him for the time and effort he put into preparing an interesting series of talks.

On Sunday, 29th April, the Bishop of Clogher confirmed 10 boys and 1 girl in the School Chapel.

On a number of occasions during the course of the year we attended the Cathedral Service and this appears to have been enjoyed and appreciated by all. The thanksgiving theme of the Harvest Festival and the very appropriate address given by the Revd. B. D. A. Hannon was greatly appreciated. The Remembrance Day Service was very impressive, the preacher on that occasion being the Headmaster. We hope again to attend the Cathedral for both occasions this year.

The Chapel, however, remains the focal point for school worship, but we would like to see more students and staff make use of it for private prayer and devotion. It is good to come apart from the busy world for a few minutes and kneel at the altar of the Lord.

While the Chapel is well equipped we would welcome very much the gift of an organ. Perhaps some Old Portoran will come to our rescue some day!

J.D.G.K.

BISHOP JOHN VISITS PORTORA

Many Ulstermen have gone forth to serve Church and State in far-off lands; recently the Province has had a visit from one of its most distinguished sons in this generation, the Right Reverend John Conlin, Bishop of Brandon in Canada. Bishop John, as he is affectionately known in his own Diocese, was here last June on his way to Lambeth, and this month was invited by the Primate to take part in the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, preaching at Armagh, Downpatrick and Saul. On both visits, he took advantage of the opportunity to visit his old School, Portora. When at school he had played Rugby in the First XV and rowed in the First VIII — he was in the first Irish Schoolboy crew ever to compete at Henley Royal Regatta. So in June he was naturally very interested to visit Portora Regatta, an event that did not exist in his schooldays. On March 11, he gave a most inspiring address in the School Chapel, at the opening Service of a School Mission which was directed by the Reverend Cecil Kerr — incidentally another Old Portoran. After referring to his own schooldays, Bishop John gave some details of his work in Canada — facts that made some of his hearers gasp! His Diocese, extending from the Arctic Circle to the American frontier, is about three times the area of Ireland! The problems of distance and travelling, sparse populations in the north with consequent financial difficulties, Indian tribes and language

problems (he himself speaks fluent Cree), obviously mean that to run such a Diocese so successfully demands a man of more than common gifts; which perhaps makes it ironic that a Headmaster once warned him that examination problems might prove a bar to Ordination! One who taught him, coached him and knew him well at Portora writes: "John Conlin was in many ways the best kind of schoolboy; if not academically outstanding he was as hardworking in class as he was on the Rugby field and in the Eight. I think I remember him best for his unfailing good humour and cheerfulness; if things went badly he could always be relied on for a grin and a contribution of good homely Fermanagh wit. In the strains and stresses of our first visit to Henley, a daunting experience for all of us, he was magnificent. I well recall a comment from "Minor" Freebairn, who trained the Eight at Henley, that a crew of John Conlins would be a rare delight to coach. His nickname of "Uncle John" gives a good idea of his popularity among the crew."

Now that he has found his way back to Portora we all hope that future visits will be more frequent than has been possible in the last 25 years, and with a little more leisure time than on these two recent visits, so that we may hear more of his work and experiences.

G.C.A.

CONFIRMATION



On Sunday, 29th April, 1979, the Lord Bishop of Clogher visited the school chapel for the Rite of Confirmation and to celebrate the Holy Communion.
Front row (left to right), the School Chaplain, Amanda Maguire, The Lord Bishop of Clogher, Graham Pierce, Rev. Canon R. S. Jackson (Bishop's Chaplain); Back row (left to right), David Mahony, Paul Maxwell, Jonathan Gibson, Peter Clarke, Dr. A. R. Acheson (Headmaster), Olumide Soile, Christopher McAuley, Patrick Logan, Simon Fawcett, David Wardell.

HOUSE PLAYS

ADJUDICATOR'S NOTES

The House plays provided a large and enthusiastic audience with a thoroughly entertaining evening. There were rough edges here and there in the acting, also some evidence of under-preparation in each production, which may be explained by a lack of rehearsal time. It is possible to put on a one-act play successfully with only three to four weeks rehearsal, but this requires skill and pre-rehearsal preparation on the part of the producer, dedication from the cast.

The play which won the E.A.D.S. cup for the best production did so because the producer seemed to have applied the most thought and imagination to the problems posed in staging his play without any assistance from stage directions in the script.

Staging, lighting, make-up and costume were for the most part of a high standard, as one has come to expect in the Steele Hall.

Marking was on the following basis: setting, make-up and costume, out of 20; production, 40; acting and dramatic success, 40.

ULSTER — "Michael O'Ryan gets the pension" by Percy French.

Percy French, well-known to all as the author of "The Mountains of Mourne" and "Phil the Fluther's Ball," is to-day regarded as a minor figure of the great Anglo-Irish literary tradition, his blend of humour and sentimentality being totally out of fashion in the 1970s. This was a rare opportunity to see one of his dramatic sketches, which I suspect may have been written as a vehicle for himself in the title role. French was one of the most popular entertainers of his era, and a sketch of this sort would have completed an evening's entertainment otherwise composed of songs, anecdotes and rapidly-painted pictures (not unlike the variety of talent displayed to-day by Mr. Rolf Harris).

The cast had a good setting in which to perform, there were some excellent props such as the brass weighing scales and a cash drawer that actually pinged.

Make-up was realistic, with Michael O'Ryan's being particularly good, **except** that he had a pair of boots apparently new and lovingly polished. It seemed to me the essence of the play that he should be, literally, down at heel.

Both O'Ryan and Mrs. Mulhoran strove hard with the Southern accent, too hard perhaps for full audibility. Julia, on the other hand, sensibly did not attempt it and was fully audible at all times. An actor's first duty is to be **heard**.

Movement on stage seemed meaningful so far as Julia and Mrs. M. were concerned. O'Ryan must learn that movement without motive looks stagey and should be avoided.

Ulster were perhaps unlucky to draw first in the order of play as the audience had not thoroughly settled in and the cast lacked experience in "playing over" laughs.

MUNSTER — "Husbands Supplied" by Falkland L. Carey.

Be warned, farce is an art requiring a high level of skill and experience. Munster had a talented cast of players, but the producer did not exert sufficient influence to make a total success of this production. The siting of Miss Jones's desk led to masking of the entrance, for instance, and so created difficulties for all entrances and exits.

Mrs. May was played by an actor of obvious talent with a gift for timing and good use of his hands. His energy and drive kept the production moving all the time and the audience hugely enjoyed the performance.

Miss Crunch also delivered her lines with punch and has a gift for throw-away which was used to good effect. Her feminine walk deserves special mention. A close runner-up for "best supporting actor," but tended to switch off facial expression when other actors were speaking.

The Man underprojected at first, but, as he warmed up, his audibility improved. Tends to wave his hands about too much when speaking. He made good use of the downstage area but the producer gave him and Mrs. Bee an atrocious position down-stage left, at an important moment in the play.

(Note, in passing, one fact of theatrical life: when an actor does well he is praised: when he does less well, the producer is blamed).

The Old Lady, Miss Jones and Mrs. Bee lent good support in small parts which did not provide much opportunity to shine.

The superb costumes, incongruously decorating thoroughly manly figures, were a source of delight to the audience. The set was good, though not as imaginative as Ulster's.

CONNACHT — "Burglars" by David Rudkin.

This play, with parts given numbers instead of names, reads like a monologue, possibly even a poem. The lack of any characterisation, plot, or stage direction and the playing on words in the script led me to suppose (incorrectly) that it was written for radio. This total lack of form and structure provided an opportunity for the producer to stamp his own individuality on the production.

He took the imaginative decision to play the scene in almost total darkness, two of the characters being lit by spots, the remainder illuminating their own faces with hand-held torches as they spoke. In the last few minutes, the actors moved into a circle on stage right and were lit by a green light from a central point on the floor.

Thus, as there was no movement and only glimpses were caught of the actors' faces, much emphasis had to be placed on pace and variety in speech. A measure of the success achieved was that the audience, after a degree of noise and hilarity at the start of the play, ended up by listening carefully. Possibly they were trying to make sense of it.

My feeling is that the use of torches was not wholly successful, though no doubt there were practical difficulties in the way of having sufficient spots available as an alternative. The grouping round the green light was effective, and I think the original grouping should have dispersed earlier. The Song simply did not work, whether or not owing to the difficulty of pitching a note at the start of each verse.

The producer, R. J. Sternberg, showed courage and initiative in tackling this "experimental" play, and I hope that his success will spur him to tackle something more conventional in future, using the same imaginative approach.

LEINSTER — "The Avenging Phoenix" by Kenneth Billington.

This play pokes gentle fun at the jargon and extraordinary names used by authors of Science Fiction. There seems little point to it beyond that, though the playing with words and the device of confronting the author with his unruly characters kept the audience

laughing. I think they would perhaps have laughed louder if the actors had relished the dialogue more and had worked harder at their delivery of the lines.

Setting was straightforward, there should have been more light on the characters seated upstage, whose faces and make-up were worth seeing more clearly. Much of the play is carried by the Author and the Narrator. The Author had a clear, strong voice and a good sense of timing. The Narrator, perhaps under instruction to keep the pace moving, appeared to be hurrying his lines unduly. Pace is always best achieved by picking up cues quickly, not by rapid speech which can so easily become inaudible.

The First Actress, in a small part, played very well at a time when many actors think they can relax unobserved, that is when they are not speaking. How wrong they are! Without being obtrusive or obvious, he was always lending support and point to the dialogue by keeping his face and body alert and interested.

AWARDS

Best Set	Ulster
Best Supporting Actor	David Kinley (First Actress)
Best Actor (Lowe Cup)	Phil Sheridan (Mrs. May)
Best Production	R. J. Sternberg (Burglars)
(E.A.D.S. Cup)	R. T. M. Scott

ACTIVITIES

The main idea behind the development of "Activities" within the school was to produce a co-ordinated plan of things going on in Portora besides the two largest participant sports of Rugby in the first Term and a half, and rowing in the last Term and a half of the academic year.

Many of these activities, such as sailing, chess, social services, carpentry and others were already in existence, and to these have been added orienteering, rock climbing, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and canoeing. The Outdoor Pursuits type of activities has been limited to weekend activities, mainly for the Boarding community, and the "School out of Bounds" Days which have been re-instituted on one or two Sundays per term, but this year canoeing, campcraft and the basics of climbing techniques have been introduced into the games timetable for the Third and Fourth Forms.

Last academic year the after-school activities were compulsory only for the Boarding community, but this year the Day students are being asked to stay at school for one afternoon session (4.00 to 5.00 p.m.) per week also, in order to build up a strong body of participants in the activities and also to foster a tradition of participation in school events beyond

the normal run of classroom teaching, which is only one facet of a student's education.

Probably the three most ambitious Outdoor Pursuits undertakings last year were the week's Youth Hostelling Trip to the English Lake District at Easter, the weekend walking camping expedition in the Blue Stacks Mt. area of Donegal, and the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Training Expedition nearer to school in the Bronagh Mt. area of Fermanagh. However, the prize for grim determination must go to the small group of canoeists who braved the cold waters of the Lough on most Saturday mornings, especially in the months of February and March, when it was not uncommon to see large plates of ice floating by. Undoubtedly the forbidding nature of the water played a large measure in avoiding capsizes. But even this was insufficient on a Sunday afternoon outing on the Ballinamallard River in flood conditions when a nameless member of the group took a ducking!

Rock Climbing is not to everyone's liking and it has attracted only a small, but growing, group of exponents so far. Whilst Monastir Gorge is close by, it only affords a limited number of medium grade routes. More varied climbs entail a long drive to the

gritstone outcrops in Leitrim and even then a 45 minute walk up to the crag. However, once there the climbing is well worth the effort.

Orienteering of Sunday afternoons is quite popular with the younger members of the school, many of whom show a natural ability for navigation exercises — unlike two ex-members of Portora, now at Lancaster and Cambridge Universities, who seemed to lack any sense of scale and finished up two miles off the Orienteering map asking a mobile customs patrol just where are we?!"

It is hoped that the coming year will live up to its

potential, judging by last year's response. So far we have had a successful weekend expedition to the Blue Stacks Mts. led by Mr. Neill, and a School Out of Bounds Day, the prize for which must go to the canoeists who paddled 15 kms from Knockninny to School — assisted by or assisting? — Mr. Todd, the new Biology teacher, whilst on the same afternoon Mr. Phenix, who replaces Major Wheeler in the P.E. Department, took a group of 20 sailors down the Lower Lough in Minidax and a GP14 (not all in the boats at the same time, or they might have sunk!).

M.T.

ALADDIN AND THE MULTI-COLOURED BEANSTALK

Pantomime is not only for children, although we expect them to get most fun out of it, which proved to be the case in this production. But the aim is to bridge the gap between children and adults and to do it with pure entertainment. In this, this production was successful.

Costumes and sets are of extreme, and equal, importance. Both here were suitably exaggerated and impressive, in some cases almost magnificent. The final ballroom backcloth making use of simple perspective was astonishingly beautiful.

The success or otherwise of pantomime lies largely in speed and timing, and this was, on the whole, good, although undoubtedly there were moments that hung fire; but in colour and in sound our hopes were thoroughly realised; there was plenty to fill the eye and the ear, especially the latter, both of a raucous and of a melodious kind. One rather annoying failing here, however, was that the volume of music sometimes drowned the singing, especially with Widow Twankey and the rather thin voices of the villagers.

The production in general was, as usual, excellent, and congratulations are also due particularly to the choreographer, who succeeded in making some totally inexperienced dancers cope energetically and charmingly with their routines, in spite of some of them looking too solemnly at their feet and seeming to be counting their steps!

Among the cast, the Widow Twankey was outstanding in every way, showing a high sense of comedy. For those of us who are old enough to remember that fine comedian, Jimmy O'Dea, it was almost startling to see such a lifelike reincarnation, in voice, gesture, movement, sense of fun, and even in costume. In the basic essential of establishing an intimate relationship with the audience, the Widow was extremely successful. She was at the same time both outrageously vulgar and highly respectable, and

she almost carried the show. It was a pity that there were no others of comparable ability.

The Narrator was competent, often very entertaining, but he was occasionally tedious, as he seemed to lack a genuine sense of comedy.

Jack and Aladdin played their parts with verve, and Cuckoo was delightful and very well trained.

Baron Slightly did as well as his small voice and stature allowed. The Ugly Sisters looked very well and acted with great spirit, but Mopsa's strained voice was difficult to understand.

Buttons looked the part also, but was slow and made little attempt to act. Perhaps we just knew him too well!

For many the "high note" of the evening was Cinderella's emasculated singing; it was a nice performance.

Pink and Stretch were at least adequate and the slap-stick nearly came off, but was too laboured to be really funny. The Wicked Magician gave a very lively performance; he was exceedingly wicked and appealed particularly to the younger sort.

The appearance of Jeannie was very nicely done, and the Fairy Godmother's irruption was highly original, although it did not quite come off fully. Sadly, the Giant was almost unintelligible.

It is easy to make the error of comparing a school production with that which one would expect from a professional company, and, while there were several minor points and performances which one might have criticised adversely or have liked to see changed, one's eventual verdict must stand by whether the evening was enjoyable, and in this case we can safely say that we were highly entertained.

This production was a genuine revel, a pleasing display of high spirit, and everyone on the stage and off it seemed the happier for it.

Portora (1919-1927)

The Rev. D. L. Graham, very eminent Old Boy and ex-Headmaster of Portora, has been kind enough to send us some of his memories of P.R.S. in the early twenties.

As a punishment for correcting a very small error in the reminiscences of my old friend, Henry Burke, ("An Old Portoran Remembers," in Portora 1977) — a delightful article, as was also Mervyn Winslow's letter dealing with the doings of the Governors from 1891-1916 — I have been asked to write some memories of my own.

My brother and I arrived at Portora in April 1919, a year and a half after the Burke brothers. I went into the Preparatory Department (destined to grow into Gloucester House) which had been started in 1915 by Headmaster Burgess who had arrived to find the school strangely run down in numbers, only 30 to 40, even though the quality of boy remained just as high, and the Prep. was his idea to raise numbers and feed the Upper School; it is his only lasting memorial as in his two years during World War I, there was no opportunity to do more, and then in 1917 he was drowned, he was holidaying with his wife, young children and their French governess at Castlerock, Co. Antrim; the governess got into difficulties while swimming in the sea, whereupon Burgess rushed in to help her but both were drowned.

For the Prep.'s classroom and its general living-room the Headmaster had surrendered his drawing-room (now the Seale Room), and from there we regularly watched with awe the arrival of all the nine Governors (Bishop, 4 C. of I., including the tall, portly, eccentric and legendary Earl of Belmore, 3 Presbyterians, including the minister 'Thummy Jenkins' — he had 3 thumbs, — and 1 Methodist) as they arrived for Board meetings. From our position, at the bottom of the school, but overlooking the terrace, I can assure Mr. Burke that the Governors did do their work.

The Prep. occupied the two smaller dormitories at the top of the building with Prefects from the Senior School to control them; the small one at the back, "Nought Dormitory," was said to be haunted by the ghost of the boy who had been left pinioned to a chair before the fire as a test of the power to endure pain, and in his wriggles to be free had fallen in and been burned to death.

The basis for this is that back in the 1820's there actually had been such a test for new boys.

Furthermore, there was always the day in the summer-term, the anniversary of Dr. Bigg's drowning in the lake, when we waited for the sound of his carriage wheels and his horses' hooves as he drove into the school yards. From there one progressed through Dormitory 1 to also on the top floor, through the "Cube" (windowless but with a large sky-light) to "Four" next to it, downstairs to "Blue" off the Stone Hall, where we could hear the rats running up and down inside the stairs, and finally up to "Five" or "Senior Dorm" over the Dining Room. Four and Five alone had a two-bed cubicle for the Prefects in Charge, where up to 1916 or 1917 Junior Masters had been expected to sleep — a hang-over from the 19th century; the much-feared, much-loved and devoted Mickey Murfet, when he was told on his appointment that it was part of his duty, was the first man to refuse to do it.

I have most vivid recollection of the sounds of the place — the notes of the Last Post or Reveille which came every night and morning over the water from the Army (now the R.U.C.) barracks, the water-fowl on the lake, coots calling, or a swan's wings beating the water as it took off, in summer the never-ending creek-creek of the corncrakes, now probably never heard, the hum late on Saturday and Sunday nights of the out-board engines as picnic parties returned to Enniskillen, and then the morning school-bell — a damnable sound.

Our Headmaster, the Revd. E. G. Seale, had a great reputation in the South of Ireland, having been a successful Headmaster in turn of Cork Grammar School and of Kilkenny College, from which in the fashion that was even then dying out, he brought about four boys; Jesty, a great forward and captain of the XV, who then went farming in New Zealand but thanks to a knee injury played very little more rugby, A. W. Bayne, who had a brilliant career both in T.C.D. and in the Dublin Civil Service (his three sons followed him to Portora after World War II) and the Bor brothers, the elder becoming the great Max Adrian, the younger, I think, going to the bad and disappearing. He and his wife "Mag", ran the school, she being secretary, caterer and accountant, and they did a very fine job; both had experience of schools across the water, he having been Sixth Form Master at Highgate, and her sister being Headmistress of the great Scottish girls' school, St. Leonard's at St. Andrews.

We were a much simpler school in those days, smaller (under 100 when I entered in 1919 and under 140 when I left in 1927) and therefore more compact; most of the boarders came from the country or from small Irish towns, as indeed did the boys from Enniskillen and its surroundings; as always, the boarders regarded themselves as the school and "the day-dogs" as appendages on whom they tended to look down, though there was no open animosity and in the classroom or on the playing-field all were equal.

Although Vivian Mercier has gone on record that in the thirties the food was deficient, I never thought it so. Breakfast was three days porridge and three alternately of rashers or fried egg or sausages and always a boiled egg on Sundays with as much bread and butter and jam or marmalade (the latter supplied by ourselves) as we could eat. Dinner was vast roasts carved by masters at the end of 3 long tables, or stew (much disliked), but there was quantity — I remember G. V. Butler, "The Man," saying how surprised he was that Irish boys ate so much more meat than English boys — as also of potato and vegetable; these latter were not well-cooked, soggy cabbage, turnip with lumps in it, sometimes soapy potatoes; at both meals second helpings could often be got. Tea was again as much bread (great plates of thick white slices) and butter as we could eat, and we supplied our own jam, or tins of sardines, or tins of fruit or boiled eggs which we handed in beforehand with our names written on them.

We used to buy fresh eggs from Maguire, first house up Lover's Lane — at one time 5p out of my 6p a week pocket-money. We didn't expect better in those days, and I never heard anyone complaining of leaving the dining-hall hungry. It was one of the Jones brothers who for a bet ate 24 eggs at one tea-time.

Supper, during a break in prep at 8.30, was a miserable couple of biscuits and a mug of hot cocoa, or of lemonade in summer. We were healthy and full of energy though I doubt if it was an ideal diet, and my memory is of too many boys suffering from boils and "scrum-pox," as we called im-

petigo. The Tuck-shop was a wooden construction in the corner of the Stone Hall, open only after lunch, and selling only sweets and chocolate; in 1920 we boycotted Mrs. Boase, who ran it and whom we all disliked, until she reduced the cost of a bar of chocolate from 2½p to 2p in line with the price elsewhere. She and Boase, the farm-foreman, lived in the Old San (now containing the metal-workshop); later Ashe, the school-porter, lived there and Mrs. Ashe ran the Tuck-shop and, advancing with the times, offered tea and buns in her own house; I well remember the laughter that greeted the Headmaster's announcement that on half-holidays the 1st and 2nd XV's after their matches could go to the Old San and "have a roll with Mrs. Ashe," a lady of considerable age and bulk.

We made great use of the country-side; in summer all brought back bicycles and, having told the duty-master where we were going, (one companion at least was obligatory) the whole of Co. Fermanagh, south and west of the lake was ours to explore, and strong cyclists got to Ballyshannon or Bundoran; there was little or no motor-traffic, and in winter or if our bike was broken, boys thought nothing of walking to Carrickreagh or Derrygonnelly and back.

Bird's-egg collecting was general and we trespassed everywhere on land preserved or out-of-bounds along the lake-shore where we often bathed illicitly and doubtless dangerously, and in the little woods with which each hill and island seemed to be clothed; I think it was Charlie Jones (now Gen. Sir Charles) who climbed the quarry-face at Carrickreagh to reach a Kestrel's nest; I can certainly remember him stripping off and swimming out to a Swan's nest at Kinarla Lough — the result was a complaint from the Johnston (?) of Kinarla to the Headmaster about indecent nudity. It was his elder brother, Hume, who led 3 or 4 others to capture a donkey belonging to the Graan monastery and write on its back an offensive message concerning the Pope; the abbot complained to Seale, who sent the malefactors out to apologise; the abbot accepted their apology and gave them a splendid tea.

Birds' eggs were traded in, the top price being two shillings for a Great Crested Grebe, then very rare, now comparatively common; occasionally a Swan's egg would be handed to the kitchen for three or four to make their tea off it. Each summer behind the gym there would be a few cages of wild birds, Kestrel, sparrow-hawk etc., being carefully reared.

A certain number of orchards were raided on these long carefree Sundays, and the Headmaster's own trees were also at risk. Another way of spending a summer Sunday was to organise a boat-load (10-30) and then persuade a master to let himself be rowed down to Devenish for the afternoon.

We were surrounded not by playing-fields but by the Headmaster's farm, his small herd of pure-bred Friesians, his poultry, his guinea fowl (an egg would be a prize for the best exercise in his class) originally bought to get even, by their harsh cries from Kilkenny College across the R. Nore, with the Marquis's noisy pea-cocks at Kilkenny Castle, his hay fields, his vegetables — an environment familiar to most of us at home. On fine July evenings after exams we would go out to toss or turn or rake the hay.

The School was much less organised; apart from 2 or 3 weeks of athletic activity before Sports Day, and a very small Rowing Club, about 20 in number, as a storm in 1917 having blown the Boat-House roof in and smashed most of the boats, there were only rugger in both winter-terms and

cricket all summer. There was a large ball-alley where hand-ball was played, but which was also much used for 10-20 aside soccer matches with a tennis-ball, and in summer for rackets.

Bathing was a cold affair in the narrows; non-swimmers in a stony-bottomed and roped-in enclosure just beyond the Old Castle and swimmers being ferried over to the deep-water off the quay at Derrygore. The Dam has wiped all that out. Learners were also taken across and taught, like fish, on the end of a pole and rope attached to a belt round one's waist. Swimming sports took place, the long race for juniors being about 440 yards down the narrows, for seniors about 550 yards.

Rugger was the game; it was the immediate post-Lloyd era — indeed Dicky was still playing for Ireland — and he was our hero almost to sainthood; the school teams he played in with all the white Ulster Inter-Provincial jerseys had pride of place in the Old Library (now divided up into Bursar's offices) which had been the original School Room of the 1777-1781 building. (It is worth noting that the school will not have spent 200 years at the top until 1981). As a result any Portora out-half of any quality was almost automatically given his schoolboy Inter-Provincial cap by the Ulster selectors; some were well worthy of it, such as N. K. Smith — Hall, but A. O. Allan, who had tremendous speed and little else, in 1923 was a great failure, so the selectors gave up the habit. After the morning roll-call at 8.00 a.m. in the Old Library, all A set had to sprint across the terrace out to the edge of the upper field (then only comprising two small cricket areas) and back; this was thought to be good for training but resulted only in a few boys being unable to eat their breakfast; we took great pride in this sign of honour; for to cross the terrace was forbidden at all other times to everyone save the School Prefects, but the practice ceased about 1924/25. This pre-breakfast roll call was an admirable way of getting half-dressed, bleary-eyed boys downstairs or in from the Old San (built by Biggs) — of which the top floor was two dormitories; to be once shut out when the door closed entailed explanations and some small punishment, but to be twice late meant a call on Saturday night up the steep stairs to the Second Master's rooms and an automatic caning, and Tetley, a Cambridge Wrangler, always hit the same spot with precision and used a thick stick. We accepted the weals and bruises, for we knew we lived in a tough world, and I think that in fact we were a good deal tougher; cold baths in the morning in summer, cold showers in the changerooms after football, a hostile world where the masters were more cold-war enemies than friends — an outlook that persisted until 1926 when Gerald Butler came to teach and inaugurated a new era of schoolmastering. Woe betide the master who could not keep order, and I have seen an ex-Captain with an M.C. to his credit reduced to tears as we pupils moved the big table in the Old Library on our knees and pinned him to the wall.

It was under that same table that C. V. "Monkey" Griffin later Colonel-the R.E., crawled and tickled the legs of Miss Jennant, who was teaching us French; to his surprise she endured it and made no effort of avoidance, thinking, doubtless, that this would involve her in less loss of face with the rest of the class.

Tetley caned very hard, a beast but a just beast; Seale, the Headmaster always used a thin whippy cane and a back-hand stroke, out of kindness we thought, because in spite of, or perhaps because of, a club foot he had immensely powerful arms and shoulders as we could note at haymaking.

He believed that learning could be instilled at one end by beating the other, and Harry Simms, the present Primate's elder brother, and himself to be an eminent solicitor, suffered some 30 times one term for his bad Latin exercises. The other masters did not cane, but the prefects had the authority to do so and did. Until boxing was introduced about 1921 there was a good deal of bullying and we had much fighting, which gave great enjoyment to the spectators; two boys who had struck a quick chance blow, and would probably have left it at that, would be surrounded by a ring of us chanting loudly, "fight, fight, fight" and then for their honour's sake they had to fight, while the whole school looked on until one gave in, which was rare, or until time or "nix", signifying the approach of a "ganger," ended the affray; one memorable fight in the Stone Hall, and lasting the whole of the morning break, was between two Sixth Formers, Frank Beckett, elder brother of Sam and Goosey Ferguson, one of the very able family from Derrygonnelly.

Except on Sundays there was no school uniform — these were post-war years and even blazers were difficult; on Sunday the Prep. wore Eton jackets, the senior school black jackets and appropriate trousers with straw hats for all; we marched in a long crocodile to the Cathedral or the Presbyterian Church with a master bringing up the rear, quite happy to do this and not questioning it at all. The second last Sunday of term was "Half-Cock" Sunday when we wore the Straw Hats at an angle, the last Sunday was "Tramp" Sunday when we made our feet be heard on the pavement, a practice regarded as unbecoming by the masters, who, however, could not stop it, and on the way home boys leaving that term hurled their Straw Hats over the bridge into Lough Erne. On alternate Sundays in summer and for Harvest Festival in October we progressed in a rather disorderly crocodile to Rossorry, which we disliked because Archdeacon Pratt, a Governor of the School and an excellent person, used to keep an eye on us, quite ready to reprove openly any boy who might be innocently chewing a sweet or whispering to his neighbour; besides the

sermons and prayers were long and we were hot and sweaty. Otherwise on Sunday evenings the Prefects piled up the tables at the back of the Dining Room and we all sat on the benches for a full Church of Ireland evensong, the two Senior Prefects reading the lessons and the Head reading one of Abp. Temple's Repton Sermon or some such; he never preached a sermon of his own and I never discovered why he did not do so. Miss Hunt, mistress of the Prep., played the piano but occasionally boys did, for example Frank Beckett and I think, Sam Beckett also.

We were a simple society, not questioning authority, though, like any Irish boys, trying to circumvent it, and accepting the appointed rules of our life at school — a rough masculine society, very deficient in the Arts or in the softer virtues. In the cathedral we gaped at the Enniskillen Girls' School boarders and some interested, and interesting, day-girls who sat in the opposite gallery to us, some of us making faces or sheep's eyes at them; very very occasionally a group of boys met a group of girls to walk along the road in embarrassed conversation on a Sunday afternoon; when I was 16 or 17 I had two mild but intensely felt love-affairs with the sisters of my two fellow front-row forwards who were both day-boys and to whose home I might be invited twice a term for tea. That was all.

We were intensely loyal, West Britons and all, and cheered lustily when the last Viceroy, F. M. the Viscount French of Ypres, visited the school in 1921 accompanied by Sir James (later Viscount) Craigavon, and when the Primate from Armagh opened the New San (now the girls' dormitories) as a War Memorial; with equal enthusiasm we Southerners after 1922 found an Irish Tricolour to march behind to our private "Ulster v the Free State" rugby match on St. Patrick's Day. This was perhaps encouraged by Seale, whose aim was to give us a truly liberal education and outlook, and I think he succeeded.

I enjoyed all of it — there were bad moments — and look back on my schooldays as a time of great freedom and happiness.

D.L.G.

SOCIAL SERVICES 1978-79

Although a small group, by enthusiasm and dedication we have achieved much this year. As a unit, chaired most competently by Neville Armstrong, we have been represented in the Schools 'Youth Together' community movement, and as a Portora group we have made regular visits to Coleshill Old Folks' Home and the County Hospital. On a more personal level, we have visited individuals in need within the town of Enniskillen. Mandy Maguire and Neville Armstrong have also read for the "Talking Newspaper," an expanding new means of preparing news cassettes for the blind people of County Fermanagh. We have also been active in fund-raising, our spur for which has been the "International Year of The Child," and as a result we presented twenty pounds to the "Save The Children Fund." Our goal for 1979-1980 is to support "Combat Cancer" and once again to be of service to those in need.

E.McN.

A CALL

She did not call me by name,
Not by the name my mother gave me.
She called me by another name,
A word
That I have not heard before —
Yet I knew that she meant me.

"Will you come under the beech tree beside the cemetery?"
I know no beech tree beside the cemetery.
Yet there may be one,
And I will go.
"Perhaps a revelation awaits me," I thought.

Have they discovered the coloured cowrie?
Or perhaps they have found the lost wanderer.
So I went towards her. And there
She stood still beneath a beech tree,
But spoke not a word.

O.O.S.

GLOUCESTER HOUSE NOTES

For the first time in many years we have had some major changes in the teaching staff. The Reverend T. E. B. Benson retired at the end of last term after twenty-three years in Portora and Gloucester House. His contributions in so many ways over this long period were highly appreciated by staff and children. We wish him a long and happy retirement and hope to see him and Mrs. Benson at the school on many future occasions. Our best wishes for a long and happy retirement go also to Major A. J. E. Cummins who was with us for seven years and successfully introduced the teaching of Modern Mathematics. Mrs. R. W. Latimer joined the staff in 1976 to take over the demanding task of looking after Form I. We thank her for all the care and interest she has given to the children and wish her every happiness in her family life, now that she has resigned in order to look after her daughter, Katie Louise, born on April 7th.

We welcome three new members to the Common Room. Mrs. G. C. Spence, University of Waterloo, Canada, and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, is in charge of music and also teaches some French. While we sincerely thank Mr. McBride for holding the fort since Mr. Miller left, we are very pleased to have our own full-time music teacher, and Mrs. Spence has already shown her determination to rebuild the Gloucester House choir and orchestra. Mr. M. T. Green, of Liverpool University, comes to us from Bow School, Durham, and is teaching English and Religious Education. Mr. Green, who has many years of experience in English preparatory schools, is settling in happily to the Irish way of life. Mr. D. P. C. Hamilton, from Stranmillis College and Queen's University, is in charge of Science. He and Mrs. Hamilton are happily settled in their newly decorated flat in Lakeview. As an ex-King's Scholars rugby player, his skills and enthusiasm are already apparent.

We welcome also the Reverend J. D. G. Kingston who has taken over as Chaplain of Gloucester House as well as Portora.

Mr. Latimer is to be congratulated on his appointment as Second Master.

We were privileged to have Captain Desmond Stewart, C.B.E., as our Guest of Honour on Speech Day. The afternoon programme was of a different pattern from previous years; Sports Day and a Pony Club display proved to be more popular than the usual concert on a warm summer's day.

Miss G. A. Herdman-Grant and Mrs. J. Sutherland have been appointed full-time teachers for our two junior forms.

Boarding numbers are increasing and so is the number of girls in the school — we now have twenty-two.

Results in both rugby and soccer were again outstanding, with nearly all of the matches won. Cricket was almost impossible owing to the weather; for the first time ever we were unable to play a single school match on our own pitch. Prospects for rugby and soccer this season are not so encouraging, but there are signs of improvement.

The Pony Club has gone forward by leaps and bounds (if that's an appropriate phrase). We would like to thank Mr. Poupart and his assistants Mrs. Neill, David Wardell and Mark Brooks, who have put an enormous amount of time and expertise into the Club. Lessons are offered almost every day and the children are now members of the local pony club so that they can take official tests — we have even won our first rosette.

The school play was 'The Pied Pier of Hamelin'. Mrs. Benson commended it highly in our magazine and praised young actors Brian Gilmer, Simon Lindner and Sandra Watson. Mr. Eamonn Bradley adjudicated the House Plays and awarded the Shield to Erne and the Best Actor's Cup to Mark Corrigan.

Another ski trip was much enjoyed and Mr. Blair is already organising this year's trip to Folgaria in Northern Italy.

THE BROADCASTING YEAR

In October, 1978, the school got a new colour television and so the pupils were for the first time able to choose their viewing carefully, where formerly the only set available picked up BBC 1 only. Over the past year I have kept a record of what the boarders watch on TV and listen to on their radios.

The most popular programme on TV, although necessarily with a small audience, was "Top of the Pops," with an average of 20 viewers. "The Two Ronnies" was very popular in the spring and had up to 40 people watching it. A small audience of about 10 would, every Sunday, watch "World About Us" and "Face the Music," and favourite programmes, with about 20 viewers, were "Match of the

Day," "Scene Around Six," "Grandstand," "That's Life" and "The Old Grey Whistle Test."

Radio programmes are much more popular than television, but you may be surprised to note that Radio 4 has more listeners than Radio 1, with "Week-ending" and "World Tonight" having an audience of about 20. The most popular programme is the "Top 40" on Sunday evenings, with an average audience of 70. Before school, radios were turned to either Radio 1 or Radio 2 until May, when RTE opened up a new pop station which has now become the most popular listening in Portora.

It has been a most enjoyable year's broadcasting and I look forward to another good year. M.B.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Mr. Winslow takes exception to my statement "that some of the Governors in 1917 had graduated through the Board of Guardians or the County Council."

On second thought, it would have been better for the School if they had, they would have had some practical business sense!

The burden of my strictures was that the buildings had a run-down appearance, and that the laboratory equipment was antiquated.

I well remember the frequent visits of the Rectors of Enniskillen and Rossorry to the changing-room, discussing how the out-of-date ablution equipment could be improved.

The junior boys had to wash in cold water, as the hot was reserved for the senior boys, under penalties if used by the Junior boys.

An ordinary working plumber could have told the Rev gentlemen, in ten minutes, that what was needed was a larger boiler and storage tank.

However, nothing was done during my stay at the School.

Perhaps the Rev. Seale and his wife had put this item at the end of the backlog of matters for the Board to attend to.

The minute of the 30th October, 1913 is a gem of callous irresponsibility.

"(1) That the resident masters be requested to agree to an abatement of 20% in their present salaries.

(11) that in the event of any Master refusing to agree to have abatement the Secretary be authorised to give him the usual half term's notice."

No doubt the Lord Bishop (salary £4,000 p.a.) when he said his prayers that night, thanked Almighty God for his guidance to himself, his fellow clergy and lay members of the board in coming to such an inhuman decision, to reduce the salaries of the unfortunate defenceless masters (already underpaid by 20% on pain of instant dismissal).

No doubt the masters (who had no alternative but to accept this reduction in salary) being Christian Gentlemen (unlike the Rev. Governors) accepted this insult to their dedicated profession, without visiting any feeling of resentment on the pupils taught to them.

It is not to be wondered at, that masters formed militant Associations and Unions to defend their profession against the tyranny of well heeled Boards of Governors and School Committees.

A short time after I left the School a well known local roue was appointed to the Board (see Impartial

Reporter, 50 years ago), believe it or not, to represent one of the Churches in County Fermanagh.

He was no credit to the persons who nominated him or to the Board of Governors who accepted him.

On another occasion, when the supply of special pasteurized milk supplied for the boarders was increased in price, the then Board adjusted the matter by reducing the amount supplied to the School.

The good attendances at board meetings is possibly due to the free lunch provided prior to starting their deliberations!

It can be noticed that at least three of the Governors were also on the board of the Vaughan Charity School at Kesh, which was the object of an administration scandal (shewn up by the paper, "Truth") which was hushed up, due to the prominent persons on the Committee.

It is well known that the Rev. Steele, a former headmaster, impoverished himself in building the Steele Hall, largely at his own expense; he got little assistance from the then Governors or the County Fermanagh Landed Lords and Gentry for whose benefit and that of their tenants the School was founded. The land owners were more occupied in building extravagant houses and Castles as status symbols in excess of the economic background of the County.

The irresponsible attitude above mentioned shewed the lack of interest some of the Fermanagh people had in the School.

However, all is well that ends well; the School has now 16 Governors (under the new Scheme); as these are drawn from a wider public sphere of well known business men, the future progress of the School under their guidance and that of the new Head Master is assured, so floreat Portora!

HENRY A. BURKE.

21 Hyde Park,
Dalkey,
Co. Dublin,
14th August, 1979

Dear Sir,

In the 1978 Portora, Douglas Graham records that in a letter to Vivian Mercier, Sam Beckett assured him "that he had never contributed to the school magazine while at Portora." In fact, to my knowledge, he did in one instance in collaboration with Geoffrey Thompson. Between the two of them they produced an amusing account of the discovery of a prehistoric toothmug by an imaginary archaeologist. I was with them when they were writing the article and it appeared in "Portora" in the school year 1922-23.

probably at Easter or in the summer, over the initials, B.A.T., Beckett and Thompson.

Another point from Douglas Graham's letter. Ernest Breul (known as Mutt) was of German origin but educated in England. He had a degree from Cambridge where, I believe, his father was a don. He taught English and French and was a good teacher when his classes gave him an opportunity of being heard, which was not often.

The note on Gerry Stewart by G.C.A. was of much interest to me as we were friends at Portora and in

College. He came to Portora from Cork, and later his parents moved to Dublin. He was one of the four Old Portorans who won Foundation Scholarships at Trinity College, Dublin in 1926, the largest number of Old Portorans to do so in any one year. Sam Beckett was one of the four. It is worthy of note that all four represented Dublin University at some form of sport, which no other scholar that year did. Yours etc,

T. R. F. COX
(1921-24)

THE LAND OF FEAR AND TREMBLING

Yesterday and tomorrow, in the land of fear and trembling there lived several large dragons, and like all other dragons they breathed out fire and smoke. Everyone was afraid of the dragons, simply everyone! But mostly the cats and dogs, because there were only cats and dogs, and dragons, in the land of fear and trembling. Yesterday and tomorrow everyone is afraid and trembling but it wasn't always like this. I'll tell you what happened.

Long, long, ago to-day there were several small dragons and later, later to-day, they grew up to become several very large dragons and they were jealous of each other. Very soon they were rushing round the countryside fighting each other in very bloody battles. So large were they, that their stamping made the ground tremble, and so noisy were they, that the cats and dogs grew afraid. Now after they had been fighting, the dragons' (lovely) shiny scales were always covered in blood and needed cleaning. But the giant dragons could not clean them nor, however, could they stand being dirty (especially with blood) because-because well! I'll tell you that in a minute—What were the dragons to do? This is what they decided.

Each dragon had his own piece of land on which lived either cats or dogs, (never both, for while they got on all right now there always seemed to have been some bad-feeling between cats and dogs) and the dragons discovered that only the tears of the cats and dogs would clean their scales. So the dragons made the cats fight the dogs, and of course some were killed, and naturally there were many tears shed and these all had to be collected and used to clean the dragon's scales.

This went on for a long time and the cats and dogs grew to hate each other and many were killed. Now you might ask why did the cats and dogs not join together to fight the dragons? "Well," the cats and dogs would answer, "cats and dogs have never joined forces, we have always fought each other." This of course the dragons knew and were very content.

Soon one especially large and noisy dragon, who used the tears of dogs to clean his scales, became more and more powerful, killing other dog dragons and stealing their dogs. He soon had so many dogs that he could have his scales cleaned twice-a-day. If you are wondering why such a powerful dragon wanted so desperately to appear clean, there are two reasons.

Number One is that the dogs were not really very bad or evil animals, no more so than the cats, just rather stupid and easily led. The dragon had to tell them stories about how

dirty the cats were, and how the cats would attack and kill the dogs, and if they won, make the dogs live just as they did and do everything as cats do. For this reason the dragon insisted that they should all be clean, especially him, their leader, if they were to respect him.

The second reason why such a large, powerful dragon insisted on appearing clean was because he believed in God, and was afraid God would hold him responsible for the deaths of many cats and dogs. He did not want to have any blood on his scales.

Yesterday and to-morrow God sent down an angel to solve the suffering in the land of fear and trembling, but the angel reported back that he could not find any answer. So God sent down Moses, who also tried to solve the problem, but couldn't. Even Solomon failed. They all came back to heaven and God called a meeting to discuss their findings and after much discussion they had arrived at no solution. God said: "If only the cats and dogs would show some initiative and try to help themselves! Then I might be able to help them."

In the land of fear and trembling some cats and dogs who were tired of fighting were discussing how they might solve the problem. They were all puzzled until one dog with them, cuts in a circle round his head and a gash in his side and limping on all four feet, suggested, "God helps those that help themselves, so why don't we at least make a start? It won't solve everything at once, but it will be a beginning. Remember God helps those who help themselves. Let's help ourselves." So they did.

And if God's listening, I hope he helps too.

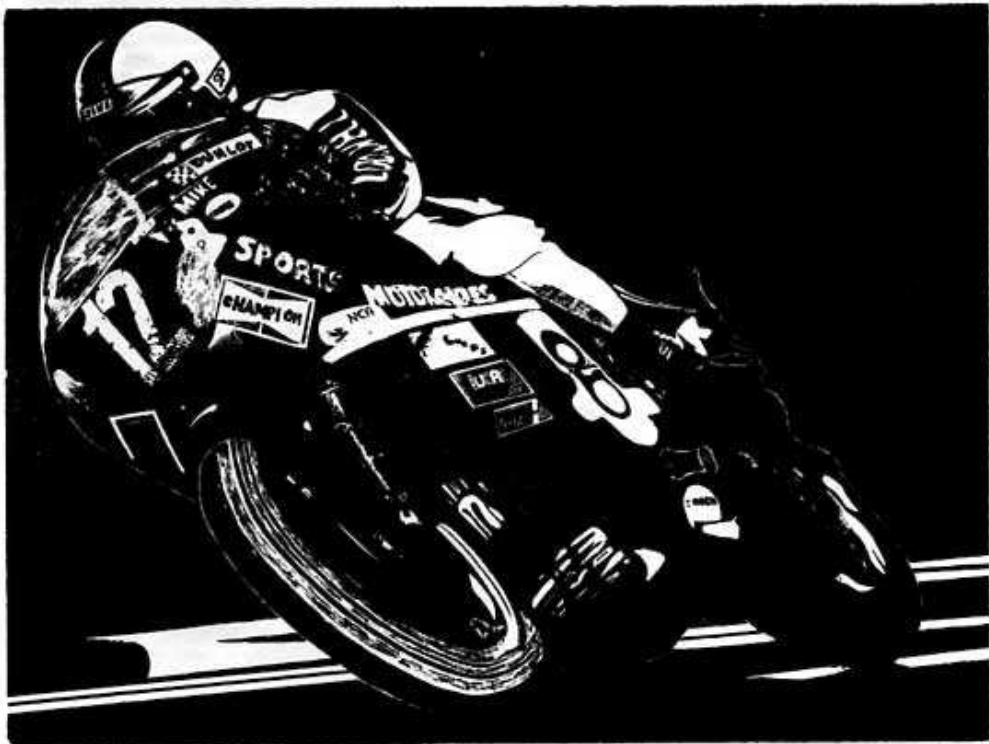
DAMNATION

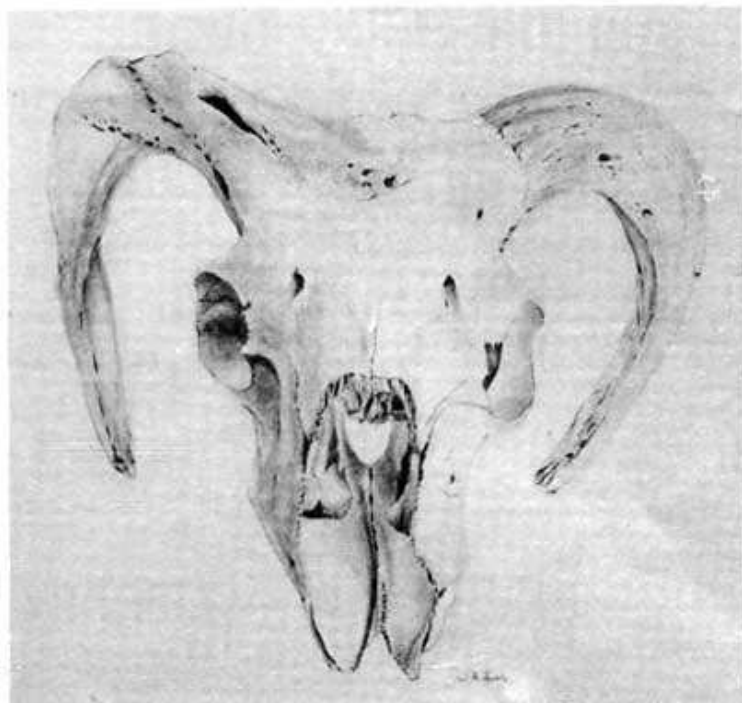
Come walk with me in Hell tonight, my friend,
Amidst the fires of Guilt's relentless rage.
To my weak mind your sturdy shoulder lend,
For Pain has racked my soul like Time's foul age.
Let not my happy countenance betray
The fear and loneliness which lie below;
Where tyrant Shame, whose buring eyes survey,
Rules there with Grief, the messenger of Woe.
I would that I could tell what cruel fate
Has given birth to torment deep within;
But words will never serve to illustrate,
How Satan claims the life enslaved by Sin.
But stay, my friend, and share with me this Hell.
Why flee? I know it shall be yours as well.

K.S.



*From
The
Art
Exhibition*





THE SKIING TRIP

Memories of this year's ski trip to Aprica are bound to be a good deal dominated by the journeys between Ireland and Italy. It is a pity that good skiing snow is a long way from Enniskillen; to reach such snow one must spend either much time or much money (and ironically a trip to the artificial ski slope at Craigavon in preparation for the Italian trip had to be called off — because of snow).

The journeys out to and back from Italy, then, had their exciting, their tedious and their entertaining moments. One remembers a rear tyre bursting on our coach at 70 mph and 4 o'clock in the morning on the M1, four strong members of the Lower Sixth heaving baggage out of the boot only to find that the jack was missing, police messages to Gatwick to hold our plane (we were, after all, half its passengers). One remembers another coach crawling up a tortuous alpine road, its front bumper over-hanging 1,000 foot drops on left hand corners. Even more, perhaps, one remembers the return journey down the same road, but this time in the early morning with snow falling and a slippery carpet beneath our wheels. There was also the chase across northern Italy from Milan to Turin to try to find our return plane among the blizzards. And through it all there was Mr. Hort cashing pocket-money cheques in different currencies and infinite tight-lipped impatience, Mr. Blair smiling beatifically with wads of tickets in one hand and a cine camera in the other, and "Fergus" keeping up a running battle with those who consumed more Coke than the coach consumed fuel, and consequently screamed for stops at every service area between Carlisle and Chiswick.

But the object of all this dashing about Europe was the skiing and at Aprica the skiing fully compensated for the hardships of the journeys. The sun shone on soaring peaks, numerous lifts operated from the village itself to a height of over 8,000 feet, snow sparkled (at first, and then turned to very hard ice), instructors cajoled, bullied and laughed us into attempting precipitous slopes. Boots that had tortured ankles for the first couple of days became bearable and finally almost comfortable. John Wallace whizzed past, through and over every obstacle (including the present writer); David Hutchinson completed three and a half somersaults and never stopped talking throughout; John Ritchie was more circumspect and cautious; the Blairs led the Advanced Group down cliff-like slopes with considerable aplomb, if also with some internal trepidation. Mr. Hort broke a rib — taking photographs — an achievement of which he seemed to be considerably proud.

It must be admitted that our instructors achieved near-miracles during the six days that we were at their

mercy. People who had been reduced to giggling incompetence on the first day when required to do no more than stand still on two apparently uncontrollable planks of fibre-glass were, on the last day, executing parallel turns with massive bravado (but rather less skill). Meanwhile our courier, Andrew, bobbed up smiling amid a welter of petty organisational details; the success of the week owed more to him than to any other single person.

And it was a success. The sheer exhilaration of skiing, the glorious weather, the excitement of being in a foreign country, the spectacular views, the trudge back through the village in the evening, sore but somehow satisfied, all these, and more, are happy memories. Let's hope that the ski trip next January provides as much enjoyment.

R.W.L.H.

LIBRARY

There are two main properties of a library — it acts as an ordered storehouse of information, and it provides a quiet, comfortable environment for study. Our aim in the library here is no different, and any unsociable act undermines the whole concept of a library. The line between order and chaos is a very thin one and this is especially true in a library. Chaos often prevails after lunch when half of the occupants use the library as a haven from the bad weather. This is simply not fair. We love to see you in the library but if you choose to come in, please use it as a library.

We thank the following 'Friends of the Library' who have given us gifts:

Mr. M. Ruddle: 'A taste for Adventure.'
Mr. I. Murdock: 'Rund Um Geroldseck Country'
W. Elliott: Guide to British Birds.
E. C. M. Mounter: Birds.
Mr. M. W. Winslow: Various titles.
Mr. G. C. Andrews: Paperbacks in French.
J. A. Arnold: The Larousse Encyclopedia of Music.
H. K. Simpson: The illustrated history of the Third Reich.
G. N. Phillips: Hitler's Propaganda Machine. Pictorial History of World War II. A Night to Remember.
Mr. W. J. McBride: Paperbacks.
Dr. W. M. Gilfillan: Paperbacks.
R. M. Leonard: Paperbacks.

We thank M. J. Love and G. N. Phillips for giving the library so much of their time last year and we wish them well in the future. We appreciate the willing help this year of E. R. Geddes, L. J. C. McKinstry, E. W. Aiken, D. S. McIlpatrick, D. J. T. McNamara, R. A. Boles, P. E. Robinson, A. G. Speer, D. M. N. Broadhurst, T. G. L. Pierce, T. V. G. Shillington, S. P. Lorimer P. G. Lyness and W. P. H. Trimble.

H.T.I.G., J.A.P., D.P.C.C.K.

DEBATING SOCIETY REPORT 1978-79

During the year we had a total of five debates within the school community, including a House Debating Competition. In addition to this, the Society took part in five Debating Competitions, in which we achieved a reasonable degree of success, for the first year. David Brady was deservedly awarded a prize as best speaker at the Junior Rotary Club Debate, and Neville Armstrong was narrowly defeated in the final of the Queen's University Individual Speaker competition, after convincingly winning his previous rounds.

The junior members of the Society gained a great deal of valuable experience during the year, and seem likely to put this experience to good use in the near future; David Brady especially seems to have a successful future in debating ahead of him, and several others also showed considerable potential.

The House competition showed the speakers involved to have no small amount of skill, and it has been decided that this will become an annual event. To this end, a cup has been donated in order to add incentive to the competition. This year, Connaught won the Debate, which was chaired by Mr. Robertson and adjudicated by Mr. Noble, Mr. Barbour, and Dr. Acheson. The final points were as follows:

Connaught 102 points.
Munster 101 points.
Leinster 96 points.
Ulster 91½ points.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Robertson, not only for acting as Chairman throughout the year, but also for drawing teams and supporters to the various competitions throughout the Province; in addition, I would like to thank Leo McKinstry, who generously took the minutes for the two debates that I unfortunately missed.

All in all, we had a reasonably rewarding and successful year, and it seems that great things lie in store for the Society in the years to come.

M.L.

It should be added that the donor of the Debating Society Cup is Michael Love himself. It is entirely fitting that his name should be on this cup, for it is his enthusiasm and determination which has revitalised the society. The society is very grateful to Michael for all his work, and for his most generous gift.

D.S.R.

The new Committee have drawn up a programme of events for the academic year. The first debate of the term is on the motion "This House considers that history is bunk." It is hoped to follow this with an "Any Questions" evening, with a panel of experts specially flown in from places as far apart as the Common Room and Ballinamallard.

Other evenings will include a junior debate, the inter-house debating competition and competitive debates against other schools.

THE MODEL CLUB

This year the Portora Model Club has been restarted; it aims to cater for all forms of modelling. These range from the inexpensive, plastic "Airfix" models, through Balsa "free-flight" where endurance is the aim, to the popular "control-line" aeroplanes and up to the initially expensive world of the ultimate in modelling, the radio-controlled boats, planes, and cars that are so popular in England and abroad. The club would prefer members to model in "balsa-based" models, but we will accept some "plastic" modellers.

The school library has a small collection of books on various aspects of modelling and it is a good idea to read these before and during buying and building models. Magazines are also a good idea as they tell you what the hobby is all about and also give many hints on making the hobby easier and safer; I can recommend "Aeromodeller" and "Radio Modeller"; these may be ordered through Hall's.

If models cannot be obtained by members I may be able to get them in Belfast, but I would recommend that models are bought personally; remember to start on something simple and try to get advice from someone who knows about the subject.

As the club has only just started there are few members, but these include: C. Berordi, J. R. Tougher, P. Trimble, S. Scott, C. McAuley and D. Wardell. Modelling will probably be in Room X on Wednesday afternoons.

I will gladly try to answer any queries about starting or buying a model.

D. J. D. N.

LOOKALIKES

(For or against, plastic surgery)

Lift up your face,
Straighten your nose.

We can change you,
To the stereotype you want to be.

You can have anything,
We can use clichés,
Predictable words and features.
No more 'If I was,' 'But only for...'
Why can I look alike?
No more looking in the mirror,
And waiting for the day
When being ugly is in fashion.

Look at the handicapped
And the distorted;
Watch the cripple laugh,
And his father cries
'If only he wasn't alive.'

D.B.

THE TOWN SQUARE

I'll never know why I started to follow the man, but I did. Perhaps at first it was just that I was going for a walk in the same direction, but then I found it amusing. He seemed to notice at once that I was following him, and he tried to shake me off by varying his pace, but I did the same. The more he tried to escape me, the more surely I followed. Then he stopped, and I stopped too, keeping my distance, yet that was the only moment at which I really saw his face, a sad face, hunted-looking, and almost appearing to be asking me to deliver him.

I was about to do so, to turn and go away, when I suddenly noticed that I was not alone in besieging him, that people were beginning to gather. The two or three who were nearest to me seemed to be staring at the man, and then they turned to look at me, as if they were waiting for a signal, some move from me.

The man saw what was happening and he looked at me imploringly; I felt that the situation contained some hidden danger and I would have liked to withdraw, but somehow I felt impelled to stay, just as I had felt impelled to follow him a little earlier. He had stopped near one of the corners of a small square and now that he saw the people in front of him increasing in numbers, he began to turn to one side and then the other, as if looking for a means of escape. It was an odd crowd, mostly men I thought, who had gathered before him, and they seemed to have an air of stupidity or stubbornness as well as of expectancy.

More and more people were arriving in the square and they all came over and joined the crowd; automatically, they seemed to become part of the whole and, automatically, as soon as they saw the man besieged there, they turned against him, they recognised the struggle between an individual and all the others. At first, nothing at all happened; the man continued to glance furtively for a way of escape, the crowd remained apathetic. But then a word began to spread; I could see it running over the crowd like a sudden breeze over a field of corn, and then it came in my direction, and I knew, as all the others knew, that a little girl had been molested by the man, a little girl of seven. We even learnt the horrible details, which were added to, ever more horrible, every minute.

Soon the crowd started slowly to advance upon the man, and just before I was left on the outer fringes of the circle, I saw him look at me and shout. I could not hear what he said, whether he was asking for help or cursing me, as the uproar was now too great. But I found myself caught up in the inexorable single-mindedness of the crowd and I was compelled to stay and watch the spectacle.

They started to hit him, slowly, one after another, as if they were performing a public duty; there was no apparent anger. Each one awaited his or her turn, then advanced, struck, and walked on. I almost felt tempted myself to join in, but the man had now fallen to the ground and I could not see him, and even if I had succumbed to the temptation I would probably not have got there in time to hit him while he was still alive. In another moment all the noise suddenly ceased and I knew the man was dead.

He was laid out now, inert, but some of the crowd advanced with deliberation and kicked him. Then there seemed to be for the first time a clear realisation of the situation and we all fell back three or four paces; there was a kind of questioning in our looks as we glanced at each other

instead of staring at the man; nobody seemed sure of himself; I for one, although I had undoubtedly been present in the square, could not say precisely what had happened.

Even when questioned by the police, who soon arrived, I was not quite certain why I was there. The sergeant, very sure of himself, asked us who had struck the first blow and why he had done so, and no one, of course, answered him. So the sergeant started forming his own theories. "He was a political adversary, or perhaps a terrorist," he said, but he found no confirmation at all for this. "Well, then, he had stolen something; you caught him while he was stealing a car, one of you started beating and then the others all joined in." But the crowd only muttered sullenly, as if offended by the suggestion.

"You don't just kill a man for nothing — there must have been a motive." It was a ridiculous situation, none of us knew what to do or say. Then someone muttered about the little girl who had been molested — there is always a little girl when such things happen.

"What little girl? No little girl has been molested in this town." We were all painfully uncomfortable, and the sergeant was getting no nearer to an acceptable theory, when a woman pushed forward and knelt beside the man and took him in her arms. "Are you his wife, or his mistress?" asked the sergeant. "I tried to make him stay with me, but he wouldn't, he left," she said. The sergeant was now smiling and we all felt quick relief. "Ah, he said, 'he had abandoned you. Maybe you were the little girl molested?'" We had to laugh, she was no little girl. "And you wanted your revenge."

What the woman said was now of no importance. The mystery had been solved, we had a culprit. Someone said with feeling: "Women are capable of anything," as we turned away slowly, leaving the woman alone with the sergeant and the man.

THE MESH

We have come to the crossroads
And I must either leave or go with you,
I linger over the choice,
Racked by the pain of my doubt;
But in your eyes I think I see
The road that I must take.

Now, if you walk from the silent stone bridge
As far as the first crossroads, and stand there,
Do you feel that painful inability to decide?
Three times I have been halted there,
And forced to whisper 'O Christ, protect.'
Not knowing whether my pain is for myself
Or for some other unhappy spirit.

Once it came by a great whiplash without sound,
Once by a searing shock to my ribs,
Like a phantom dagger shuddering into my side,
Once it was like a torch flame exploding,
Into blinding light in my face.
Three times, always at that first crossroads,
N-er altogether the same, but with one effect,
I am still entangled in the mesh of indecision.

THE HIDDEN GIANT

The year is 1994. A great change is coming over our mother earth — both polar ice-caps have begun to melt, so causing a large percentage of the world's population to seek refuge on Alpha, a superbly designed and constructed city on the moon. On surveying this sanctuary, one's first impression is of a multi-legged insect; the central dome resembles the body and the branching out corridors the insect's legs. The base is man's last hope to enable him to start a new and better world after the threatening floods have subsided.

I shall stop here, because the story I am going to tell is not one of man's yearning to return to his true home, but of the men that have remained; the scientists, and one scientist in particular, Jud Morgan.

Morgan has for many years been studying and making records of the erratic movements of the North Polar Ice-cap. It was less than week ago when he and his team discovered a large volcano-like hole right at the Pole. This mysterious hole was uncovered after a week of blizzards during which they were not able to move out of their large Terramodule (a dome-shaped craft "anchored" in one place by the lines of magnetism running from one Pole to another). After the blizzards, Morgan, four members of his team, and Rog, a humanoid android, set out. They travelled in a craft of an unusual design. Its body lay at the apex of three long legs, each of which ended in a large metal "spoon." These spoons enabled the ship to land safely on snow or ice. A transparent plastic dome covered the flier, allowing a full circle of vision. When Morgan spotted the foreboding hole rising out of the floods he immediately contacted base and asked if any strange readings had come in. There were some during the snow-storm, the flood level had dropped sharply, leaving this once snow-covered volcano towering above the waters. Statistics about dimensions and approximate age were made during the next few days, and then Morgan decided to lead an expedition to the bottom of the dead giant.

The trek to the bottom was long and tedious, but when they finally did reach their destination they discovered that the volcano had numerous small caves dotted along its lower slopes. The team searched the caves for days, finding nothing very important, but then about a week and a half after their first penetration they came across something remarkable.

Geoffrey Hooper, an old friend of Morgan's, had by chance focused his head-light on a small crack in one of the lower caves. There, beyond the crack was a huddling figure, huddled the way it had done at its moment of death.

Morgan and Hooper immediately began to free the half-buried figure from its long prison. The task was made more difficult by the hard rock that stood between them and the ancient prisoner.

After a while they uncovered an arm and a hand. The hand had a curious double palm. From each palm protruded four opposed fingers. They were without nails.

"It's not human," declared Morgan. He turned round to Rog and tapped in a question. The answer was mechanical and toneless.

"On the Continent of Antarctica, before the ice came, evolution may have followed a path of its own. Being isolated, it may have developed special life forms, as Australia did. They would all have been wiped out when the snows fell."

Hooper paid little attention to the robot's answers, and continued cutting and shovelling his way through the rock and soil. Finally the whole body was uncovered and both men lifted it out carefully. Two great protruding eyes stared up at them, balanced over a thin cat's mouth. The skin was mottled like a frog's, although that could have been an effect of dirt and age. The effect was less horrific than totally alien.

They took in more details. Withered eyelids were drawn to either side of the staring eyes. Hooper, pointed to them.

"No man or beast has ever been born with eyes that do not close with a vertical movement. Whatever we've found, this creature is not of Earth, Jud."

All of a sudden the corpse sprang up and took off out of the cave.

"Rog, get after it and catch it!" screamed Morgan. When they emerged from the cave they saw Rog entangled with the creature, but it looked as if it had caught Rog. The robot stood still, not uttering a word.

"Can you hear me, Rog?" asked Morgan, "Are you o.k.?"

The robot made no answer; it continued to stand transfixed. Morgan undid his jacket, drew his revolver, and advanced. He was within a few paces of the robot when it spoke.

"The thing is not alive. It is a machine-like myself. Now that it understands that we are rational beings, it will speak with us."

"How does it know English?" questioned Hooper.

"It learnt it from me," replied the robot, "The process took it about fifteen milliseconds."

"Where do you come from?" asked Morgan obviously.

"From Venus. The people of Venus made androids of their own likeness, to help them build and organise a world. When civilisation was young, there came a Heat Age. We built craft to carry the Venusians and ourselves from our rapidly heating planet. For the first time we were confronted with the mystery of space. We landed on Earth and settled at the temperate North Pole, a pleasantly mountainous region stocked with spruce forests that swept down to the sea, and teeming with game, mainly deer of many kind. We aliens did not realise when the Ice Age was coming, we merely thought it usual on Earth. Then the blizzards came, and grew in strength and anger, until there was an everlasting winter. This buried our masters and ourselves."

Jud Morgan nodded, unhooked his radio and said calmly: "Hello, Morgan expedition, we've got something that might interest the rest of you . . ."

H.T.I.G.

SCRIPTURE UNION

Throughout the year the Scripture Union continued to hold weekly meetings in the school chapel. Although we were able to offer a widely varied programme, the numbers attending were less encouraging than in previous years. We sincerely hope that this year the attendance will be improved, and that this will be taken as an invitation to all those who are interested to attend. They will, we think, find it a rewarding experience.

AGONY OF AN ACTOR

It was three o'clock in the afternoon. The theatre was now empty and the stage bare, but in about four hours the place would be full of activities, with an audience waiting eagerly for the evening's performance. The theatre was of oriental design, with draperies of crimson. Gilded heads of elephants smiled down upon the stage and the panels on the ceiling depicted Indian youths playing gentle music. The front of the balcony was of rich ornate plasterwork and the boxes on either side were decorated with beautifully carved columns and statuettes.

But below this scene of wealth and richness were the orchestra's changing rooms and prop rooms. In the latter was a sea of equipment, much of it covered with a thick layer of dust. There was a moth-eaten ass's head from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," a cow's costume, very threadbare, from the pantomime, some massive crinoline dresses, backcloths, with their paint now faded through years of wear, draped over piles of furniture, a poop deck from "H.M.S. Pinafore" covered in cobwebs and packed with woodworm, and stacks of other props from performances of the past.

Between the masses of forgotten props walked a sad figure. He had only one arm and the empty sleeve of the other was turned inside his jacket. He also had a wooden leg, which stood out straight and still whenever he walked, and made a hideous creaking noise. The man always had to make a great effort to get up and always groaned as he did so. His face was marred by a deep, livid scar right down his left cheek and the skin on the rest of his face was pale and badly burned in several places. His eyes were deep and sunken and his thin lips, when opened, showed a mouth with many missing teeth. His hair was dark and grey and his whole head resembled a battered skull.

His tale was a piteous one. Years ago he had been a fine actor, and was highly acclaimed, usually playing dignified or chivalrous parts. But one fateful night there had been a fire at his home and he had been horribly burnt and barely escaped with his life. And now he wandered around the city, a lonely and forgotten figure dressed in a shabby black tailcoat.

He moved aimlessly around the theatre and went up to the seats in the gods, looking down from that high point on the stage, the scene of many former triumphs for him. He looked into the dressing-rooms, and remembered the sense of exhilaration he used to feel after a performance. Then he caught sight of his scarred face in the mirror. Life had become a burden for him, and no longer could he derive any enjoyment from it. He covered his face with his hand and uttered a long shout of agony and sorrow. His heart was filled with bitterness.

His thoughts moved on to the evening's performance, in which the woman he loved was playing. But since his accident he could no longer bring himself to go and talk to her. He so dearly loved her and every night he went to see her perform. He could not go on like this forever, eternally wanting her, but never able to meet her. What was the use of it anyway? He was in a state of acute depression and a torment of anger and love raged inside him.

Time wore on and the theatre began to fill with people. Respectable gentlemen, dressed in top hats and tails, and elderly ladies in furs, took their places in the boxes. Then, at precisely eight o'clock, the laughter and talking died down

as the orchestra took up their overture with vigour. Silence reigned throughout the theatre as the rich velvet curtain went up and the opera started. Soon the audience were clapping the end of the first Act. They became more and more enthusiastic as the performance went on, and a young female singer captured their hearts. She sang beautifully and moved everyone watching with different emotions — happiness, sorrow, memories or joy. In the closing scene, when she has found her lover dead, she sang so pitifully that several of the audience were moved to tears. And when she took her bow, roses and flowers showered onto the stage; a wave of enthusiasm swept through the balcony, stalls and boxes, with cries of "Encore! Encore!" rising from every point of the theatre.

The clapping and cheering lasted a full three minutes, but for one desolate figure at the back, it was too much. He was overcome by joy, as he loved the beautiful singer more than ever before, but he was conquered by grief, as he could never speak to her. He limped out of the theatre.

He made his way towards the bridge opposite the building's grand facade, and after a moment's hesitation, leapt into the river, giving up his life, which had been so burdensome to him, in its muddy water. L.McK.

DEATH

I look out at the black night outside,
Where all seems still, deathly still.
I see nothing, just darkness and emptiness,
The silence is total, overpowering.
And I feel myself being pulled into it.
I fight, vainly and terrified, for a moment,
And then I am released.
I force my eyes away from it,
But still the silence is present all the time.
I look into the fire, its contrasting brightness,
Hurting my eyes.
But soon, accustomed, I stare, wide-eyed,
And a face appears in the red-hot embers.
It transfixes me, I cannot move,
Amazed at its radiance and beauty.
I can see nothing else.
It forces me slowly, painfully,
Into the dark and bottomless chasm,
My resistance totally drained by it.
Nothing matters now, it's no good.
Slowly the brightness around me lessens,
And the face, brighter than ever, smiles,
A tortuous smile, and it terrifies me.
I try to move away, to scream for help,
But no cry comes, and I feel myself enmeshed.
It pulls me further and further into the chasm.
Ever smiling, nearer it comes, bigger and bigger.
I fall, totally helpless, further into its power.
Ever smiling; then it stops, and disappears,
And I, too, stop falling and am still.
All that remains is the darkness. And the silence.

EASTER IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

We got up at 6 a.m. on the Saturday term ended, only to find that no breakfast had been prepared for us. Stopping only to drag John Richardson from his bed, we reached Larnes despite our hunger and thirst, and thanks to the skilful driving of Mr. Hulme in the mini-bus.

The crossing and the rest of the journey were uneventful. On the first day we decided to climb Skiddaw, but unfortunately we had to give up only a short distance from the summit because of the blizzard condition; only for John Richardson being caught in mid-flight by Ashley Taggart, he would have been blown away! So we retreated to the comfort of Keswick.

On the next night, which was spent at Helvellyn Youth Hostel, it snowed deeply, and on Monday we could do no more than climb up to a col below Helvellyn. That night was

spent at Windermere Youth Hostel where the chief feature was the spirit and determination with which Guy Handley, abetted by Alistair Drennan and Simon Baird, offered help to every Girl Guide west of Leeds!

The next day we were able to reach the wind-swept summit of Great Gable, and the following night proved to us that Barrowdale could truly boast of being the wettest place in Great Britain (taking over from Fermanagh!).

On Wednesday, after testing the navigational skills of Messrs. Storrs and Armstrong, we went to Ambleside and Coniston for cups of tea and Kendal mint-cake. On the last day we climbed the Langdale Pikes, and on the way down the sun came out and we were able to see for the first time in the week where we had been climbing! Nevertheless, the week was enjoyable and well worth while. D.P.

CAREERS

'A' Levels

Life has changed quite dramatically since the beginning of this century and the opportunities open to young people on leaving school are now numerous. The old determining factors of birth, money, social status carry little weight. Other factors are now much more important and can be summarised as follows: —

1. Education is now widespread and available for all. There is a free choice of career with equal opportunity for all.

2. In an increasingly sophisticated society career opportunities are abundant.

3. Ability, qualifications, character and personality are now the deciding factors.

This trend has obviously put much greater emphasis on the attainment of 'A' levels. It means that 'A' levels are much more crucial than they were even ten years ago. Without 'A' levels very many opportunities will remain unattainable. Many employers, quite understandably, take the view that the best posts should go to the best qualified, and so your 'A' levels will bring within reach a range of careers not open to those with lesser qualifications.

Of course, an 'A' level in any particular subject is not going to make anyone an expert — quite often an 'A' level will have no immediate practical value. 'A' levels will not qualify you to build bridges, to design space craft or to run an accountants business. They will however open the door to further education and to professional training for many occupations. They are a very good indication of your future potential — they are a means whereby Universities and Colleges, and employers can choose those in whom they are prepared to invest their money and their time. Therefore, their importance cannot be stressed enough. A broad range of opportunities and a wide variety of choice are the privileges and the rewards for those who study consistently and conscientiously in the Sixth Form and are successful in their 'A' levels.

J. D. G. K.

Good Advice

In a day and age when much lip service is paid to counselling and guidance in school and in the community, and when men pride themselves in their up-to-date techniques, it is perhaps wise to remind ourselves of some very good advice written many centuries ago and found in the Book of Ecclesiasticus (ch 37 v 7-16): —

"Every counsellor says his own advice is best, but some have their own advantage in view.

Beware of the man who offers advice, and find out beforehand where his interest lies.

His advice will be weighted in his own favour, and may tip the scales against you.

He may say, "Your word is clear," and stand aside to see what happens.

Do not consult a man who is suspicious of you, or reveal your intentions to those who envy you.

Never consult a woman about her rival, or a coward about war,

a merchant about a bargain, or a buyer about a sale,

a skinflint about gratitude,

or a hard-hearted man about a kind action, an idler about work of any sort,

a casual labourer about finishing the job, or a lazy servant about an exacting task —

do not turn to them for any advice. Rely rather on a god fearing man,

whom you know to be a keeper of the commandments, whose interests are like your own,

who will sympathise if you have a set back. But also trust your own judgment,

for it is your most reliable counsellor. A man's own mind has sometimes a way of telling him more

than seven watchmen posted high on a tower. But above all pray to the Most High,

to keep you on the straight road of truth. Every undertaking begins in discussion,

and consultation precedes every action."

J. D. G. K.

PHYSICS

We publish below an article on Physics written by George Harvey with help from The Institute of Physics and published in the magazine 'School Leaver.' We hope that all those who are studying the sciences will read the article carefully, noting the opportunities that are available and that they will fully understand and appreciate the value of studying the subject conscientiously with a view to their future careers.

It is the variety of jobs open to the physicist that persuades many to continue with their physics education and try for a further qualification after leaving school. Just consider this list:

1. Education.

Teaching in schools, colleges, universities, polytechnics.

2. Publishing:

A Physicist who is interested in writing and has the ability to communicate may move into fields such as technical writing, scientific journalism, publishing or library and information work. After all, most manufacturers need leaflets and brochures advertising and informing potential customers about their products, and most manufactured products need an instruction manual to help the user to operate the machine. The complexity of many modern instruments means that sales representatives must necessarily have a good command of the science underlying the operation of the equipment on offer.

Communication skills are essential for scientific journalism — whether in reporting new developments, conference proceedings, etc., or the editing and publishing of scientific journals or books.

No scientist can possibly keep up-to-date with all the relevant literature in his/her field without the help of a specialist in information work. A Physicist who is interested in the dissemination and retrieval of information can help research scientists in his establishment by preparing abstracts or précis of relevant articles, or by developing a computerised storage and retrieval system of articles and literature as a back-up for other research interests.

3. Industry:

This area is seemingly endless. You may find yourself working in Oil, Engineering, Computing, Aerospace, Food, the Chemical Industry, the Building and Construction Industry and so on. To deal adequately with this section would require a book in itself. Physics is a tool essential to a wide number of industries. Industry employs around 40% of the qualified physicists within the U.K.

4. Research:

The research councils are government sponsored bodies whose primary function is to encourage and support national research in science and technology. They provide grants for research projects in universities and they also have a number of research establishments of their own.

5. Telecommunications:

The two major employers in this area are the BBC and the Post Office.

6. Medical Physics:

Has developed greatly in recent years. For example you might be working with electronic equipment to study the patterns of electrical activity in the brain (electroencephalography) or the heart (electrocardiography).

7. Computing: 8. Meteorology: 9. Archaeology:

Involvement with methods of dating archaeological material is just one aspect.

10. Energy:

We must first accept that the only current sources of energy which will meet our present and future needs are coal, oil, gas and nuclear materials. It is therefore vital that we use these in the most efficient manner possible. There is scope for improvement in the way in which we use these valuable resources, so you may well find yourself engaged in efforts to find more efficient methods of energy production, transmission and use of these materials. In some areas it may prove possible to make use of other energy sources, so you may find yourself applying your knowledge of solid-state electronics and optics to make more efficient cells for converting solar energy. You could investigate ways of using tidal or wind power, or of harnessing the power of the waves.

The list could go on and on, but at least this has tried to give some idea of the scope available for the qualified physicist.

The Educational sector remains a major employer of physicists; many of those qualified in physics spend much of their time in teaching at one level or another. The emphasis is predominantly in secondary and tertiary education, but more attention is now being paid to the need for science teaching in primary schools.

Qualifications

ONC in sciences — A two-year day release and evening course covering basic physics, basic chemistry and basic mathematics in both years, with some specialisation in one of these in the second year.

OND in sciences — A two-year full-time course in physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology and an optional subject. In the second year, two of the subjects are studied as major subjects and two as minor.

TEC Qualifications — A variety of courses administered by the Technician Education Council.

HNC in applied physics — A two-year day release and evening course in physics, applied physics, mathematics and general studies.

HND in applied physics — Both two-year full-time or three-year sandwich courses are available. The subjects studied are physics, applied physics, mathematics, related fields of study and general studies.

BSc Honours/BSc General — Normally a 3-year full-time course, providing a balanced study of physics and other appropriate subjects, mathematics being invariably included.

Sandwich Degrees — Sandwich degree courses follow either a two-year university, one-year industry, one-year university pattern or an alternating pattern of six months in industry, six months in university.

Graduate Examination — Courses for the Graduateship Examination of The Institute of Physics require either one year's full-time or two years' part-time study following the award of one of a range of qualifications. This qualification is widely recognised as the equivalent to an honours degree in physics.

MSc — Usually either a one-year full-time or two-year part-time course. Normally a research degree taking about 3 years full-time study.

What sort of training might you receive? Any physics qualification is a marvellous training in analytical reasoning and relating theory to practical experiments. And of course at the end of your studying your numeracy should have improved, too.

FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

"Dickie Henderson (L 1936-40) is one of the most experienced hydro-electric construction engineers in the world today. After a number of years in Canada, working mostly on the design and construction of paper mills, he spent 10 years in Pakistan on a hydro-electric project. Now Mr. Henderson lives in Brazil and is at present engaged, in the interior of Brazil, on what is probably the biggest hydro-electric scheme ever undertaken." IMPARTIAL REPORTER.

"George Emo (M 1963-70), who obtained a PhD in Geology from Trinity College, Dublin, after taking an honours degree in Geology at Manchester University, is at present working for an American mineral exploration company in Limerick. He has carried out research on rock formations in Clare and Galway which has been recognised and published by the Royal Irish Academy." IMPARTIAL REPORTER.

"Tim McNeill (M 1962-67), after serving with Guinness for four years in the Cameroons, is now director of Guinness Hong-Kong, where the sales of stout are increasing rapidly, in spite of competition from more than 50 beers, some of which come from China and America. Sales are helped by a belief in some quarters that Guinness is an aphrodisiac, and babies should be washed in it to give them vitality!"

Tim is also secretary of the St. Patrick's Society, which has 250 members, twice-weekly social functions and a Ball in the Hilton Hotel on March 17th. IRISH TIMES.

"In the game against the All Blacks, the North of Scotland breakaway, Tony Ingle-Finch, (L 1966-72) did his reputation no harm at all. A man of many clubs and about as many countries, Ingle-Finch was born in Falmouth, educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, and has played for Boroughmuir, Highland, North of Ireland, Edinburgh, and the North Midlands." SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 3.12.78

"Founded by St. Molaise in the 6th century, Devenish was on the pilgrim's route to St. Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg. The round tower, the best masoned one in Ireland, has a singular feature, the human mask over each of the four top windows. These were drawn in detail by Wakeman early in the last century and he was assisted in his task by a young Portora schoolboy, William Wilde, who later became famous as an antiquary, a medical man, and the father of Oscar Wilde.

"St. Molaise is remembered, among other things, for delivering judgement on Columcille; after the Battle of the Books he ordered that he should deliver as many souls from punishment as had been led to destruction in the battle. He also advised him to remain in perpetual exile from Ireland. So Iona followed, and the whole Irish missionary movement." IRISH TIMES 17.10.78.

"Young Beckett was sent to Portora, which he does not seem to have liked much in spite of being a star bowler there. He went to Trinity in 1923 and seemed set for a brilliant life there until he went as 'lecteur' for the years 1928-30 at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. That was the end of Trinity and Dublin for the clever young student; he finally

settled in Paris in 1937, and he is there yet. His biography by Deirdre Bair shows him to be an intensely shy and vulnerable man, with a kind heart, possessed of great honesty and firmness of purpose; a good friend and no one's enemy. One must salute an artist who has made so many sacrifices for what he believes to be the truth in him; he has never compromised." IRISH TIMES 16.9.79

"The Fermanagh Mile, sponsored by John J. Sloan & Sons Ltd attracted entries from all over the North-West of Ireland. It was run during Enniskillen Festival Week at Fermanagh Lakeland Forum's outdoor track. The winner was Marcus Harvey of Portora Royal School, who earlier this year won the 'Superstar' competition. The runner-up was William Cooper, Liam McDermott of North Leitrim was third and John Hunter of the Queen's Dragoon Regiment was fourth. The Fermanagh Mile Shield and prizes were presented by Malcolm Sloan (L 1960-70)" IMPARTIAL REPORTER.

SATURDAY NIGHT IN THE CITY

The first houses of the cinemas empty, just as
The class-different audience for the theatre begins to arrive.

The stalls, fur-coated, are there just so as to say they've been;
The jeans and sweat-shirts go to observe, discuss — and chew.

In the foyer the former go through the coat routine,
And check for chocolates, cigarettes and spectacles.

Behind the steamy glass two doors away, a few hard men
Devour their fish and chips and taunt the waitresses.

Along the street the smooth professionals in Fiats
Take golden girls to parties in the suburbs.

Another kind are heading for the park
In beat-up vans — and love among the spanners.

The bus-queues huddle patient, sickly in orange light;
A lonely drunk wheels into them, begging their pardons.

A gang of denimed teenagers straggles past,
Searching for some enterprise that costs them nothing.

The spangled rhythm of the city beats
A similar pattern, night after Saturday night.

From my bus home, in a corner I see
A man bleeding after a brawl. Wheels. Engines.

A baby screams with toothache. I shut my ears and eyes
And wait impatiently for the silence after entertainment.

THE PRODIGAL SON

It was a cold, wet and windy evening in November, out in the wilds of the Scottish Highlands, when a lonely gentleman appeared at the door of Kathy MacDonald's old house on the hill. The year was 1878, and the date, 24th November, exactly 10 years to the very day since Mrs. MacDonald's only son had left home.

The old lady who opened the door to allow the gentlemen in, was dressed in an old tweed skirt and a very heavy woollen sweater, with a purple shawl draped around her neck. Once inside, she inquired about the visit of this unknown man, who was a stranger in these parts. He replied that he had a long story to tell her.

"Then it's best we sit down," said Mrs. MacDonald. She directed the man over towards the large armchair next to the turf fire, burning vigorously in the corner of the room. The room was lit only by candles, of which there were very few, and the old widow had to screw her eyes up in order to obtain a better view of the man's facial appearance. When he had come into the light of the fire, the old woman gasped in horror. She had seen the face before. "Could it be? No, surely not. Had her son returned?" She could see the likeness between this young man and her almost forgotten son. It suddenly dawned on her that it was on this night, exactly ten years ago, her son had left the house in a hurry. Three men had come and taken him away without explanation. He did not even have time to gather up his belongings. The four of them left on a coach, bound westwards, and Mrs. MacDonald had never seen her son again.

What had happened in those ten years: young Jimmy MacDonald was not going to tell his mother. The fact was that Jimmy had been escorted by boat to Ireland. There, he met his father, who had supposedly been drowned at sea a number of years before while returning to Scotland. It took Jimmy by complete surprise. He, like everyone else, had believed the report of his father's death. But why had his father not returned? What was the reason for his staying in Ireland?

Jimmy's father was called Patrick, and he had a number of relations in Ireland. During the 1840's, these relatives headed a group of republicans engaged in a revolt against British rule in Ireland. Patrick MacDonald had gone over to Ireland to help them in their fight. Twenty years later, few of his relations remained alive, and the movement was losing both initiative and support. It was then that Patrick had sent some of his followers to bring Jimmy over to Ireland to help him. There was a special job which had to be done: an assassination. Jimmy, contrary to his will, was assigned to do this job.

A year later, the assassination took place, and shortly afterwards, Jimmy's father was imprisoned and eventually executed for it. Jimmy thought it wise to leave Ireland, and so he escaped a few days later.

Now, ten years older, Jimmy had returned to his mother. He began telling his mother a false story, not admitting who he was, but the more Mrs. MacDonald looked at him, the more she was convinced that he was her son. Jimmy could hold on no longer, and finally came out with the truth; that he was who she thought. The old woman was over come and cried with joy. She asked questions about where he had gone, but the answers she

received were fictitious. Jimmy remained loyal to his father and kept his promise never to tell of the happenings of those ten years or that he had been with his father. It did not matter now; a missing son had come home. P.E.G.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society continues to flourish under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robertson. This year the Society was visited by three noteworthy speakers. Mr. Hugh Dixon, of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, spoke on "Buildings and architecture in County Fermanagh." This lecture was extremely well illustrated with slides. At the end, Mr. Nixon had a quiz on buildings in Ulster, which was won by C. D. C. Armstrong, who displayed remarkable knowledge for one so young.

In the Easter term, Dr. Kenneth Ward of the N.U.U. delivered a lecture on "Propaganda". He illustrated this with political posters taken from the 1920's and 1930's, and with inter-war newsreel material. Finally, the Society was visited by James White T.D. Mr. White is an Old Portoran. He related his days at Portora, and described the school as he remembered it then. Mr. White went on to describe how he became interested in politics, and the life and work of a Dublin T.D.

As usual, all these meetings were well attended, and the Historical Society continues to be one of the main centres of cultural life in the school.

M. H. P.

The programme for the 1979-1980 season of meetings has now been completed. It includes perhaps the most distinguished list of guest speakers since the Society was inaugurated twelve years ago.

In the Christmas Term, the Society is to be visited by The Right Hon. J. Enoch Powell P.C., M.P. in September. The visitors for November are Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald and Mr. Hugh Leonard. Mr. Leonard has a new play appearing in the Dublin Theatre Festival in October. It is hoped that a party will go down to see this play before the playwright visits Portora.

THE GATEWAY CLUB

Another year has passed in which members of the sixth form have been actively involved in helping Mrs. Robertson at the Gateway Club meetings in Enniskillen. This is a society for mentally handicapped people who live in the area.

Once a fortnight this group of mentally handicapped people aged between 14 and 45 years old, and all with varying degrees of mental disability, come together and enjoy two hours of fun. They derive immense satisfaction from doing simple things that we take for granted. A typical evening might include watching cartoons, dancing to music, playing simple board games. The evening ends with tea and biscuits, followed by songs from individual members.

Those who have attended these meetings in the past year have enjoyed the company of members like Liam and Eugene, not forgetting Carmel, who sings Tulips of Amsterdam so well. The Portora boys who have helped regularly at these meetings are A. Hicks, K. Corrigan, S. Wilson, G. Sharma, B. Dunlop and P. Moss.

S. B. W.



MUSIC NOTES

The highlight of the Christmas Term was our Service of the Nine Lessons and Carols held in the Cathedral on the last day of term. This again proved to be a successful event and one in which the school can take pride, being as it were, on show to the general public.

The choir-stalls in the Cathedral hold fifty singers but with a little rearranging, we were able to accommodate 120 boys — surely a record for this occasion?

Musically, there were many highpoints in the service. The opening procession was exceptionally tidy and well ordered, and the solo verse of 'Once in Royal' David's City' excellently rendered by a treble from G.H. Other moments which stood out were the lusty singing in 'Good King Wenceslas,' the quiet, simplicity of 'Away in a Manger,' and the blowy brass in 'Tres Magi de Gentibus' The new cymbals (2 feet in diameter) were well and truly broken in by Michael Moore, whose skilful ad-libbing enhanced many of the carols. We were delighted to welcome Jonathan Kille back as conductor for the congregational carols and he also took the burden of some of the organ work from Mr. McBride's shoulders. The general consensus was that this was a fitting climax to the term.

Brass Ensemble

As well as preparing for the Carol Service, some of the members took time off to play in the school pantomime, and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. To be able to accompany musically the antics of Messrs. Robertson, Noble and Pratt was an experience well worth repeating. The music ranged from 'Mars, the bringer of War,' to 'Star Wars' and the 'Pink Panther.' The overtures were fun to play, but Stirling should be made aware that an interval usually lasts at most 10 minutes and not 30. We have heard, from a reliable source, that he was gainfully employed during the period.

Celebrity Recital

Half-way through the Summer Term we were delighted to welcome three musicians from England making their first appearance in Ireland. They were James Firth, piano; Alan Watkinson, tenor; and Michael Broome, baritone. All three are well known in the north of England, and presented a delightful programme of songs and instrumental items. The evening covered a wide range of material, from early songs by Purcell, through Mozart and Beethoven to Vaughan-Williams and Michael Head. In all the solo songs, the artistry of the performers shone through, particularly in items such as 'Linden Lea' and 'Lavender Pond.' We also had the pleasure of an operatic section, with such gems as 'Your Tiny Hand is Frozen' and the duet from 'The Pearlfishers.' All in all, an excellent evening's entertainment and well worth a second visit. As we go to Press we are awaiting the arrival of the Netherlands Saxophone Quartet, the Esterhazy Trio, and Genesis (not the Genesis this is Mary McKee and Co., but equally interesting!).

The Summer Concert

This was the most varied and successful of all the summer term concerts in recent years. In addition to the Brass Ensemble, there were solos, both choral and instrumental, and a small choral group of excellent singers, imported from the town by W. Mc B. The Brass items came

from the Baroque Era, and were performed with an excellence of tone and skill that has not been heard for some time. Notable among these pieces was Zingarelli's Adagio and Allegro, Gabrieli's Carzona and Susato's La Mourisque.

Trevor Stirling's clarinet solos, including the Adagio from Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, were excellently played.

The chamber group's performances of Brian Boró's March and Annie's Song were delightful. Perhaps the most exciting moment was the final item — a demonstration of the intricate art of Campanology by Staff Volunteers — Pratt, Smith, Northridge and Neill. As is well-known, the latter are not renowned for their musical ability, though Mr. Smith does play an anvil, and Mr. McBride deserves the utmost credit for turning such an unruly and motley collection of talent into a harmonious group — albeit for two pieces. Their repertoire may be limited but they did perform in 4 (or was it 5) part harmony!

The nastiest comment after one of the clarinet solos came from a member of the audience, who said, "Now I know what the proverb means — It's an ill-wind that nobody blows any good."

TENNIS

This was, on the whole, a disappointing season. We entered only a Senior team for the Schools' Cup, and we had great hopes of doing well, as the team was showing much promise. Unfortunately the playing of the Cup coincided with the teachers' strike in May, and all our Cup matches but one were cancelled. In the one match that we did play, we travelled to Friends' School, Lisburn, and a very close contest finished at 3 matches each, but victory went to Friends' by 45 games to 41.

Later in the term we played Coleraine A.I. in a friendly and won by 4 matches to 2 — a very pleasing result. As usual, our last match was a very enjoyable one against the Old Boys, won fairly easily by the latter.

This year it is hoped to see more enthusiasm from Intermediates and Juniors. Now that we have so many girls in the school, there might soon be a possibility of a girls' team, too; we look forward to it. The Senior Championship was won by Marcus Harvey, who beat Paul Morrow in a very close final 8-6, 5-7, 6-3.

C.C.F. NOTES

The annual camp was at Cultybraggan in Perthshire, which is famous for its role as a P.O.W. camp during the last war. More recently it has been used as location for the film "The McKenzie Break."

The camp included some adventure training and a watermanship course, and, of course shooting and radio work. We were visited by Lt.-Col M. Scott, who got a good score on the range in spite of badly jamming S.C.R.'s.

We would like to thank Lt. Blair and 2nd Lt. Boles, as well as S/Sgt. Tymon and Sgt. Breen, for their help, which resulted in a very smoothly run camp.

21 YEARS AT THE TOP (Part 2)

On February 25th, 1971, I read a paper, on behalf of the Mathematics Department, to the other members of the Staff. I made a prediction then which is explained in a paragraph of that script. I quote:—

"There was a time when the number of 'A' level entries from this Department was usually equal to the sum of all the other 'A' level entries added together. There was also a time when a failure in Mathematics at either O or A level in Portora was very rare indeed. In 1961 the Impartial Reporter printed, "100% success in Mathematics in Portora Royal School." Alas, those good days are over. We are now faced with an increasing failure rate. There will be 20% failure, at least, at O level next June (1971), and 25% next year. This failure rate will be as high as 30% when our present 3rd Form reach G.C.E. standard' It was so.

At that time the profession of Mathematics teachers was obsessed by the New Mathematics, as it was then called. Drastic alterations had been made in the teaching of the subject in primary, secondary and grammar schools. The O level syllabi of Examination Boards had been changed. "Half of it was not new at all, and half of it was not Mathematics." These are the words of a Professor from the New University of Ulster who came to speak to the grammar school teachers of Mathematics meeting, whose purpose was school teachers of Mathematics of Co. Fermanagh in 1969. (Only 8 grammar school teachers turned up at this meeting, whose purpose was to establish a liaison between school and University).

It is my belief that many undedicated Mathematics teachers had become bored with traditional teaching, and so they were easy prey to educationalists who decided that there must be a 'Big Change.' Happily, the Cambridge Examinations Syndicate offered a Mathematics syllabus C at O level which was adopted by Portora and which seemed to steer a middle course, with corresponding Mathematics B and Further Maths at A level.

I have always felt that Mathematics is probably the most central educational discipline in modern society. A few mathematical equations written on paper in 1870 by James Clerk Maxwell, relating to the behaviour of electricity and magnetism, led to the great Television industry which gives employment to thousands of people, and serves millions of others who own radio and T.V. sets. Without Mathematics we should not be able to listen to an orchestra playing 1000 miles away, and we should not have seen live pictures of men walking on the Moon.

In 1978, I retired. In 1979 I retired again, this time from a well known girls' Grammar School. Having forgotten what it was like to teach girls after 21 years of teaching boys, I was surprised to find that it was almost a different profession. It would be interesting to find out what co-education will be like in Portora in the 1980's. I shall have to rely on my teaching friends to let me know.

E.M.B.

THE KEG OF BUTTER

He watched the woman as she hurried across the road, her brown package held tightly in both hands. He waited nervously, wishing that she would not come to his shop. The boy was only new and it was a difficult job for him to run the shop by himself, especially as he had to do the rationing. Some people did not like the rationing and made rude remarks or pretended to steal things or tried to trick him.

He turned to the wireless and snapped it off angrily. The immediate silence rather scared him and the sudden tinkling of the bell above the door made his heart leap.

She walked slowly, daintily, on shoes which had not been polished for a long time. He noticed the worn patches on her long coat and how she tried to arrange her arms so that he would not see. The lady placed her package on the counter.

"I wonder," she said, and he noticed that she had an English accent. "I wonder if you would do me a favour."

He saw her hands seemed to tremble slightly, hovering above the brown paper. He looked at her and his eyes questioned.

"Um, I have here some butter, quite a lot, as you can see," she smiled a little on the last few words, "but the rats have chewed it a little about the corners and I was wondering if well, if you would just well just exchange it, put it into shape and give it to someone else; after all, what they don't know can't hurt them."

He did not answer her but picked up the neat parcel and carried it clumsily in one hand to the room behind. Looking out through the small hatch, he could see clearly her face. It was aristocratic, he thought, but he noticed how there were

many crinkles in her upper lip, like the remains of a stage moustache, little dark lines radiating from each nostril, and on the corners of her eyes, the same thing. She had high cheekbones, but he could not see the colour which should have been there. Her nose was pointed at the tip and shone white in the dim shop. Her teeth were even — he could imagine that she had a lovely smile — but now there was a tinge of yellow and he knew that she must have the faded fustiness which seemed to come with old age. The lady's hair was rather more grey than silver and an ugly hair-net held it down, not quite concealing a tiny pearl ear-ring which seemed to beg him to understand.

He stooped, plunging the wide knife into the barrel of butter; as he lifted it up, heavy with its golden load, his eyes glanced at the rat-chewed slab lying beside him. He stopped and left the knife standing upright like a tombstone. Smiling, he carefully smoothed out the marks and filled the holes with fresh butter, then cut a nice piece of brown paper and wrapped up the butter as carefully as if it were a Christmas present.

The woman smiled feebly as he handed over the clean block. He said: "You're right, you know, what they don't know can't hurt them."

The door-bell tinkled and he quickly switched on the wireless; some woman droned out a French-style love-song and a strong weather-beaten labourer entered, holding a ration card.

R.J.S.

SUPERSTARS



Fermanagh's Sporting Superstar, Marcus Harvey, from Portora (centre), with Alan Bates (left) who finished second, and Gardiner Kee, also from Portora, who was third.

The Fermanagh Superstar competition ended with a "cliff-hanger" final in Fermanagh Lakeland Forum. A win by Portora boy, Marcus Harvey over last year's joint winner, Alan Bates in the very last event, the obstacle course, and gave him the necessary points to become outright winner of the competition.

Alan Bates finished second, and Gardiner Kee, also from Portora, finished third. Mr. Patrick Flanagan, a member of Fermanagh District Council, distributed the prizes in front of a large crowd in the main hall.

Marcus is an Irish and Ulster schoolboy rugby cap.

The Superstar competition in Fermanagh has now become firmly established as a top event. Sponsors have poured money into "Superstars," and the organisers are already thinking about making next year's event an even bigger one, possibly with top sportsmen from all over the province competing.

BADMINTON

Badminton was revived last winter and it was most encouraging to find so much enthusiasm, particularly among day-boys. There were regular games in the gym, and occasionally in the Forum, and soon a team was formed, under the captaincy of Andrew Fallis. Quite a large number of games were played during the season and the team had a fair measure of success, winning about half the matches, and a great deal of enjoyment. The highlight was probably the game against the Old Portorans, played in the Forum. It is much to be hoped that the game will be continued this winter with as much enthusiasm and skill as was shown last season. The team was: Andrew Fallis (capt), Marcus Harvey, Kingsley Armstrong, Alan Morton, Colin Parkinson and Raymond Thompson.

NIGHT VIGIL

The whole night I sat,
Crouching, beside
One of our men
Who was butchered.
His bared teeth were
Clenched in a ghastly grin
At the full moon,
And the spread fingers seemed
To reach towards life.

While I cowered, terrified,
My thoughts kept turning
Inexorably to love.

ORCHIDS IN FERMANAGH

Of all the many and varied species of plants, probably the orchid family excites most interest among both the lay person and botanist alike. Everyone has seen pictures of the fabulous orchids of the tropical rain forests, and heard of the enormous prices fetched by these flowers in exclusive London florists' shops.

Fortunately we do not have to travel very far to see our local representatives of the orchid family. Three different species grow in the writer's garden, which is largely a reflection on the infrequency with which he mows his grass! As it may require up to fifteen years for an orchid to grow from seed to flower, the plants obviously require a very undisturbed habitat and one does not have to be very observant to see that there is plenty of that in Fermanagh. We have the untilled limestone pastures above Derrygonnelly, the sandstone scarp and acid bogland in the south-west of the county, endless waterlogged fields around the many lakes, to say nothing of the shore and 365 islands of Lough Erne.

The Early Purple Orchid is the first one to appear each spring and it may be found growing under almost any hedgebank from early April onwards. During the summer both the Heath Spotted Orchid and the Common Spotted Orchid are abundant in the county, and the fields on top of Knockmore are filled with tens of thousands of these mauve-coloured plants. The sweet-smelling fragrant Orchid is very common, growing in the gravel beside the roads in Lough Navar Forest Park while there is an area near Topped Mountain where the author found several hundred Greater Butterfly Orchids last July. Fermanagh is one of the few places in Ireland where the Broad-leaved Helleborine is found in any number and many grow by the lakeside paths at Carrickreagh. In contrast, its near relative, the Marsh Helleborine, has only been found in one place in the county. Similarly, Twayblade is frequent in very many places, while its delicate cousin, the Lesser Twayblade, occurs only rarely, growing in the moss under tall tufts of heather. It is a real feat to spot some of the green or white orchids as they blend so well with their surroundings and some are very rare indeed. *Pseudorchis Albida* is such an orchid, but it can be found on top of Belmore if one looks very carefully.

Why not keep your eyes open and among other things you might have the good fortune to find that extraordinary plant, the Bee Orchid, which has been recorded on the islands of Lower Lough Erne?

STAMP CLUB

The Stamp Club has given a few keen philatelists the opportunity of spending an hour a week reorganising their stamp collections, and adding to them by means of the Swap Shop. New members will be welcomed, especially those who are only starting; the more members there are, the more opportunity there is for improving your knowledge and your collection.

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS June 13th, 1979.

Senior Front Crawl — 1. B. Corrigan (C), 2. S. Wilson (M), 3. J. Preston (U).

Senior Back-Stroke — 1. B. Corrigan (C), 2. K. Corrigan (C), 3. S. Stekruse (M).

Senior 100 yds Breast-Stroke — 1. P. Sheridan (M); 2. B. Corrigan (C).

Senior 50 yds. Breast-Stroke — 1. M. Pierce (C), 2. P. Sheridan (M), 3. B. Corrigan (C).

Intermediate Back-Stroke — 1. A. Corrigan (C), 2. D. Corrigan (C), 3. L. Ross (L).

Intermediate 100 yds. Breast-Stroke — 1. D. Corrigan (C), 2. Scott (U).

Intermediate 50 yds. Breast-Stroke — 1. D. Corrigan (C), 2. A. Corrigan (C).

Intermediate 50 yds. Front Crawl — 1. A. Corrigan (C), 2. D. Corrigan (C), 3. M. Welsh (C).

Intermediate 100 yds. Front Crawl — 1. A. Corrigan (C), 2. D. Corrigan (C).

Junior Breast-Stroke — 1. P. Dowling (L), 2. I. Pierce (C), 3. G. Roy (M).

Junior Front Crawl — 1. Logan (U), 2. D. Mahony (M), 3. I. Pierce (C).

Junior Back-Stroke — 1. P. Dowling (L), 2. I. Pierce (C), 3. I. Logan (U).

Inter-House Free-Style Relay — 1. Connacht, 2. Munster, 3. Leinster.

Inter-House Medley Relay — 1. Connacht, 2. Munster, 3. Leinster.

House Championship

1st Connacht, 76 pts. 2nd Munster, 32 pts.
3rd Leinster, 19 pts. 4th Ulster, 12 pts.

Individual Championship

Senior : B. Corrigan (C).

Intermediate : D. Corrigan (C).

Junior : I. Pierce (C).

P. Downey (L).

Royal Life-Saving Awards were presented to : Teacher Instructor and Bronze Medallion, Trevor Stirling; Distinction Award : Paul McAlpin, Vaughan Parker; Award of Merit : Kingsley Armstrong, Amanda Maguire; Bronze Medallion : John Wilson, Shaun Altekruise.

Some Musical quotations from *Portora Concern 1979*

"Music was invented to deceive and delude mankind" — Ephorus, 4 B.C.

"I know only two tunes — one of them is Yankee Doodle the other one isn't — Ulysses S. Grant.

"She was a town and country soprano of the kind used for augmenting grief at funerals."

"Is the piano a musical instrument?" — George Bernard Shaw.

"Beethoven sounds to me like the upsetting of a bag of nails, with here and there a dropped hammer also" — John Ruskin.

"Wagner's music is better than it sounds."

"I think popular music is one of the few things in the twentieth century, that has made giant strides in reverse" — Bing Crosby.

"A German singer? I should as soon expect to get pleasure from the neighing of my horse"

"Opera is where the guy gets stabbed in the back, and instead of bleeding, he sings."

1979 HEAD OF THE RIVER

The annual Head of the River race was held on Saturday, March 10th, over the four mile downstream course to Portora boathouse. There were 52 crews entered, a sufficient number to keep the marshals and timekeepers on their toes. The weather was calm, a great relief in view of the gales which had prevailed for the preceding few days. As the crews launched, the weather was dry and warm, a factor which unfortunately did not prevent the premier crew entered from delaying its arrival at the start most unsportingly.

However, under the directions of Major Wheeler, who has marshalled the crews at the start since the event was inaugurated, all crews got off to a good start. Neptune were the favourites to retain the senior trophy, but they achieved this by the margin of only 1½ seconds after a tremendous battle with Queen's. Neptune also won the senior 1V's event, thus making their annual expedition to Lough Erne thoroughly worthwhile. C.A.I. won the junior event by a narrow margin from M.C.B. who were going well at that stage of the season. Queen's won the novice V111's and the Ladies 1V's. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Aiken at the conclusion of the race. Particular credit is due to Dr. Gilfillan and his team for immaculate and very speedy calculation of the results — no easy task as 52 crews come hurtling over the finishing line.

31	Commercial 2 4	22.32.6	21
32	DUBC 3 4	22.25.3	18
33	UCG 2 4	22.39.9	23
34	Bann 2 4	23.39.4	32
35	BRC 3 4	23.10.3	28
36	DUBC 4 4	22.29.9	20
37	LVBC 2 4	24.24.4	36
38	Neptune 5 4	—	—
39	QUB 3 4	25.33.5	40
40	UCBC 1 4	23.10.9	29
41	Tribesmen 2 4	22.32.9	22
42	UCBC 2 4	26.19.2	44
43	DUBC 5 4	25.45.3	42
44	CAI 3 4	25.00.9	37
45	RBAI 2 4	27.13.4	47
46	DUBC 6 D Sc	25.42.6	41
47	DUBC 7 Sc	25.52.0	43
48	QULBC 1 L4	25.27.7	39
49	DULBC 2 L4	26.23.8	45
50	MCBLBC L4	27.34.8	48
51	UCGLBC L4	26.34.9	46
52	DULBC 3 L4	28.28.2	49

FINAL RESULTS

No	Crew	Time	
1	Neptune 1 S8	19.31.3	1
2	QUB 1 S8	19.32.8	2
3	UCG 1 S8	20.00.3	5
4	St. Josephs J8	23.49.5	33
5	DUBC 1 S8	19.42.6	3
6	CAI 1 J8	20.24.3	6
7	LEBC S8	—	—
8	BRC 1 S8	19.57.4	4
9	MCB 1 J8	20.36.4	8
10	Old Contem. S8	23.15.7	30
11	Neptune 2 S8	21.03.6	10
12	KHBC 1 J8	21.26.5	15
13	PRS 1 S8	21.17.3	13
14	Commercial 1 S8	20.33.3	7
15	Bann 1 J8	25.06.8	38
16	LVBC 1 S8	23.26.3	31
17	DUBC 2 N8	22.08.8	17
18	QUB 2 N8	22.07.8	16
19	Colaiste Ign. J8	20.44.0	9
20	Neptune 3 J8	22.40.3	24
21	RBAI 1 J8	23.07.4	27
22	BRC 2 J8	21.04.7	11
23	CAI 2 J8	21.23.6	14
24	MCB 2 J8	22.29.1	19
25	KHBC 2 J8	24.18.2	35
26	PRS 2 J8	22.58.6	26
27	MCB 3 J8	24.03.4	34
28	PRS 3 J8	22.51.9	25
29	DULBC 1 L8	29.20.4	50
30	Neptune 4 4	21.10.9	12

BOAT CLUB REPORT 1979

The Boat Club enjoyed a moderately successful season in 1979. After the Championship successes and international honours of recent years, the victories recorded were more modest, but nonetheless enjoyable. The 1st V111, under Brian Corrigan's captaincy won several trophies, and held their own in senior class competition.

The greatest win of the season was that recorded by the Junior C (Colts) V111 in regaining the Craig Cup. A full report of this, and the fortunes of all Portora crews follows. Major features of the Portora, and indeed the Irish, rowing calendar continue to be the Head of the River in March, and the Junior Championship Regatta at Killyhevlin in June. It is a matter of much pleasure that both these events enjoy strong support in all four Provinces.

Finally before the detailed reports, the Boat Club would like to record its deep appreciation of all the work done by Major J. T. Wheeler over the years. An enthusiastic and tireless task master in the gymnasium, a firm but tactful marshal at Heads of the River and Regattas, Major Wheeler has been a tremendous source of strength to the Boat Club over many, many years. Generations of Portorans and visitors to Portora will remember his work with affection and deep gratitude. At the Portora Regatta on June 29th, Major Wheeler was presented with a specially engraved cut glass tankard, a symbol of the deep regard in which he is held. Major and Mrs. Wheeler will be most welcome guests in all future years, and the Boat Club would like to take this opportunity to wish them many years of further happiness together.

1979 REGATTA

For the second successive year, Portora Boat Club was asked by the Amateur Rowing Union to host the Junior Championship events. This is a considerable honour, not merely for the school, but for Ulster. Portora is indeed fortunate to have an international class 1,500 metre course available at Killyhevlin, and a team of organisers to match the demands of a Championship Regatta.

The Championships were held on Friday and Saturday, June 29th and 30th. The other junior class events were all held on the Saturday. The weather, for the first time for many years, was decidedly unkind. It rained continuously for the larger part of both days. However, it is a remarkable feature of the Killyhevlin course that, however poor the weather, the course remains rowable. The spirits of the spectators were revived by the Ballyreagh Silver Band which played on the lawns on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. H. E. Pierce very kindly presented the prizes at the conclusion of the Regatta.

The results on Friday were:

Junior Championship IV's: 1st, Neptune/Commercial, canvas; 2nd, Neptune, 1½/1; 3rd, King's Hospital, 2½/1; 4th M.C.B.

Championship Sculls: 1st B.R.C. (Stevens) 4/1; 2nd, M.C.B.; 3rd, C.A.I.; 4th, K.H.B.C.

The results on Saturday were:

Junior B VIII's: 1st, Clonmel, 2/1; 2nd, Portora, 4/1; 3rd, St. Michael's.

Championship Pairs: 1st, Neptune, 5/1; 2nd, K.H.B.C.; 3rd, C.A.I.

Championship Double Sculls: 1st, C.A.I., 2/1; 2nd, B.R.C., 1/1; 3rd, Clonmel, 4/1; 4th, M.C.B.

Junior C VIII's: 1st, M.C.B. and Neptune — Dead heat; 3rd, Marist College; 4th, Colaiste Iognaid.

Championship VIII's: 1st, St. Michael's, ¼/1; 2nd, M.C.B., 1/1; 3rd, Colaiste Iognaid/Portora; 4th, Neptune.

Junior B IV's: 1st, St. Michael's, ¼/1; 2nd, M.C.B., 1/1; 3rd, Portora; 4th, C.A.I.

Junior C IV's: 1st, Clonmel, ½/1; 2nd, Neptune, 2/1; 3rd, Bann, 1/1; 4th, M.C.B.

Junior D IV's: 1st, C.A.I., 1/1; 2nd, Clonmel, 1/3/1; 3rd, M.C.B.; 4th, Portora.

Junior D VIII's: 1st, C.A.I., 1/1; 2nd, Marist, canvas; 3rd, Portora, 3/1; 4th, M.C.B.

Junior B Sculls: 1st, Neptune, 2/1; 2nd, Portora, 1/1; 3rd, M.C.B.

Portora Regatta Committee would like to express its thanks to the 4th Co. Fermanagh Battalion U.D.R. for a very comprehensive system of radio communications; to the R.U.C. for controlling river traffic; to the Fermanagh District Council for sponsoring the band; and to innumerable Governors and parents for the loan of boats and cruisers. Their help is not merely greatly appreciated, it is invaluable; without their willing co-operation the Regatta could not take place.

FIRST AND SECOND VIII's

These crews trained regularly one day a week during the Rugby season but more frequently as the Erne 'Head' approached on 10th March. In this event, both crews acquitted

themselves quite well to finish 13th and 26th. Two weeks later the first eight travelled to Derry for the Foyle H.O.R. only to have the event cancelled as they sat on the start amid the rolling waves.

Returning early at the beginning of the Summer Term, the first eight got in a lot of useful mileage in a short space of time.

As several of the crew were over the age for Juniors (i.e. Schoolboys) the first VIII rowed in the Senior B event at Queen's Regatta on 5th May but finished several lengths behind U.C.G and Dublin Commercial. The Senior C event at Trinity Regatta was the next race and here the crew was defeated by Limerick B.C. who went on to win the final, only to be disqualified for a steering infringement.

In the Wray Cup race at Coleraine Regatta on 2nd June the first eight rowed an exciting race to finish just under a length behind C.A.I. Later in the day the Portora crew won the Senior C event by beating both a Queen's and a Coleraine crew. The second VIII lost the final of the Junior B eights to Belfast R.C.

Conditions were perfect for Athlone Regatta and here Portora 1st VIII were just over a length behind the same Limerick crew who had defeated them at Trinity, while the second VIII finished behind Clonmel but ahead of Marist in the Junior B eights. At Craigavon Regatta on 23rd June, Michael Harris won the novice sculls, the first VIII won the Open B eights, and a IV from the same crew won the Senior C IV event.

A four from the first and second eights rowed with great skill in the championship event at Portora Regatta and almost reached the final, while a composite Portora/St Ignatius VIII finished third in the championship eights event. Members of the second eight competed in both the Junior B eights and fours while John Armstrong raced in the Junior B sculls.

The first VIII was D.P.C.C. Kidd (Bow); D. W. Kinley (2); A. C. P. Sheridan (3); B. D. H. Dunlop (4); J. F. M. Aiken (5); B. F. N. Corrigan (6); D. A. R. Houston (7); N. W. M. P. Harris (Stroke); N. Tougher (Cox).

The second VIII was D. Armstrong, A. Hicks, S. B. Wilson, S. Baird, J. A. Armstrong, D. P. Corrigan, P. J. Reilly, C. R. L. McCrory, J. S. Richardson.

Senior Colours were awarded or reawarded to J. F. M. Aiken, B. F. M. Corrigan and M. W. M. P. Harris while Junior Colours were awarded to D. P. C. C. Kidd, D. W. Kinley, A. C. P. Sheridan, B. D. H. Dunlop, D. A. R. Houston, C. R. L. McCrory, D. P. Corrigan. N. Tougher was reawarded his cox's cap.

D. P. C. C. Kidd is the captain for the coming season and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful year.

COLT'S VIII 1978/79

The under-sixteen squad set itself two ambitious yet attainable objectives at the beginning of the winter's training: to win the Craig Cup and to be the fastest Junior C crew on Irish waters at the end of the schools' rowing season.

Fully aware of the very high standards required at this level, a squad of eleven commenced a lengthy period of structured and progressive winter-training, both on land and water. By February it was clear that the boat was beginning to move well as a result of emphasis being placed on the key areas of technique, stamina and strength, all of which are developing well through long periods of "steady-state" paddling and "fartlek" land sessions.

The Erne H.O.R. was the first competitive event of the year. Here the crew performed very creditably and finished 25th out of a total of 52 crews of all grades. But for a very unfortunate incident at the West Bridge where a Bann crew obstructed progress, necessitating the crew to come to a complete standstill, the time would certainly have come close to a Colt's record.

Some measure of the degree of dedication of the crew was evident from the serious manner in which these young athletes trained throughout the Easter vacation. It was rumoured that Jonathan Anderson's mother 'caught the bug' and was seen pacing her son's runs on a bicycle!

Crew selection at this stage began in earnest and competition for places was keen, especially when Michael Osborne returned to full fitness.

Queens' Regatta at Castlewellan was a disappointment. Hopes had been reasonably high for a good performance. However, Portora rowed a scrappy race, shortened strokes alarmingly and never achieved anything like a reasonable rhythm. Consequently we finished four lengths behind M.C.B., Bann R.C. and a very efficient crew from Neptune R.C., Dublin.

A race like this at the beginning of the season can either 'make or break' a crew of this age and experience. However, we were determined to treat the experience as a learning exercise and two weeks later at Trinity Regatta the crew began to show evidence of a rapid improvement and were capable of putting good performances in practice into the racing situation. In the first round, against Neptune R.C., Portora were drawn on what was a very unfavourable South station. We held a lead of a few feet for the first quarter of the race and then performed a well-executed "holding" exercise on the outside of a long bend. Stroke David Storrs showed great resilience and skill at this stage and brought his crew out of the bend still level. However the stamina-sapping effect of the bend took its toll and although Storrs responded to Neptune's final spurt the crew had little left and Neptune, eventual convincing winners of the event, won by 1/3 of a length. This was a most encouraging performance which had reduced a four-length deficit in two weeks.

At this crucial stage the crew lost stroke, David Storrs, who underwent an emergency ear operation. Michael Osborne moved from Four to Stroke and his place was very competently filled by stalwart Simon Baird, who in many respects was unfortunate not to have secured a permanent seat.

At Coleraine Regatta we drew a 'bye' to the final and lined up against Bann R.C., who earlier had scored a convincing win over Methody. The race was a thriller, with both crews very evenly matched. Portora, superbly stroked by Osborne, full of fight and determination, spurred magnificently at Bann Boathouse to win by three feet.

Athlone Regatta two weeks later saw the crew unchanged; Storrs, not fully fit, was omitted. We were drawn against our old rivals Neptune R.C. and Fermoy B.C., and were unlucky to get a bad start. Thereafter we had serious steering problems, lost touch and failed to cut Neptune's lead of 1 1/2 lengths, but crossed the line two lengths ahead of Fermoy B.C.

Nothing at this stage was more important than winning the Craig Cup at Craigavon, a feat not achieved by Portora for some five years. Storrs valiantly fought his way back to full fitness, took his place at Six, with Guy Handly moving to Four. Osborne had been performing consistently well at Stroke and it was decided that he should remain there.

The Craig Cup, rowed at Craigavon in beautiful sunshine, was a classic. Lining up were M.C.B., Bann and Portora. All crews started well and the lead alternated between all three. Portora tried to take the initiative all the way with well timed spurts, all of which drew devastating responses from Bann and Methody. With 250 metres left Portora were down by half a length to the two other crews, but the superbly fit Osborne dug deep into his reserves and calling for a final surge raised the rating magnificently; the crew responded with tremendous power and control to snatch a most memorable victory by a canvas from Bann, with M.C.B. a further three feet behind.

The following week was Portora Regatta. In retrospect the crew had reached a physical and mental peak for the Craig Cup and needed longer to wind down — "reculer pour mieux sauter" — before peaking again. Consequently our race against Marist Athlone and St. Ignatius's Galway, was a tough assignment. With a hundred metres left Portora had nothing to offer for a sustained final spurt and lost by 1 1/2 lengths. It was some consolation that in the final M.C.B., whom we had defeated the previous week, dead-heated with Neptune to tie for first place.

It was a season, therefore, where our objectives were in part realised: we won the Craig Cup and although we failed to win at Portora Regatta, we were on our day among the fastest crews in Ireland at his level. On a personal level it was a highly rewarding and enjoyable season for the squad and coach alike.

Colts colours were awarded to the following for 1978-79: — A. Corrigan, M. Hewitt, S. Baird, J. Anderson, G. Handley, L. Ross, D. Storrs, M. Welsh, M. Osborne, A. Drennan.

T.G.N.

CADET (JUNIOR D) V111

A very large entry into the Boat Club this year provided plenty of excitement, and many coaching problems. During the summer term, two Junior D V111's were seen practising, and both these crews competed at Portora Regatta. The better of the two crews also competed at three other events. Their record is as follows.

At Coleraine Regatta, the crew enjoyed their first ever race against another Club. In the first round, they defeated the C.A.I. 'B' crew by 3 lengths. The crew lost the final of this event to the Coleraine 'A' Crew after a very good race. At Athlone Regatta, Portora again lost to the same C.A.I. Crew, but the gap was closing.

At Craigavon Regatta, the crew came 3rd to C.A.I. and M.C.B., beating a second C.A.I. crew into fourth place. Portora Regatta was the climax of the season. For the first time, a IV was entered, and performed reasonably well in holding the other crews to respectable margins. In the eights, the crew came second in their heat to Athlone. In the final of this event, the crew came second equal with Athlone, C.A.I. winning, and M.C.B. coming in last. It was the best performance by the crew that season. There are a number of very promising oarsmen in the squad who, given a little more experience, should be able to do very well in future years.

The 'A' crew was: Stroke P. Dowling, 7 T. J. Morrow, 6 J. C. McAuley, 5 C. Eakin, 4 J. Gibson, 3 P. J. Clarke, 2 R. Cooper, Bow C. Welsh, Sub C. Berardi, Cox D. G. Mahony.

ROWING AT PORTORA

I came to Portora as a boarder last September. My only experience of boats was messing about in a dinghy in Clew Bay, Co. Mayo, where I live. Rowing started about a week after the beginning of term. I am useless at games, so I decided to row. The beginners started in sculls, so I got bronchitis and missed that. This meant that I could only watch from the bank. This was very worthwhile, as somebody usually fell in.

Then there came tubbing. Tubbing is great fun, especially if you're not rowing. One time I was steering one tub, and our coach was steering the other. We had been out for about an hour when the coach decided to stand up to show the oarsmen more clearly what they were doing wrong. The next thing I saw was our respected coach going head first into Lough Erne, saying "bother," or words to that effect.

After clambering out of the lake, our coach sat me in a tub for two more months. He then decided to risk an eight. I had to row. Whether I was a bad oarsman, or that particular clinker of eight didn't like me, I don't know. But every time I went out, I either bust up my finger on the saxboard, or my seat came off, or I got soaked to the skin by the man behind me, or I lost my oar. So eventually I gave this up, and started coxing.

Coxing proved to be much worse than rowing. You get the blame for anything and everything, like the time I just forgot to shout "Easy oars" coming into the landing-stage. But my best experience was coming round a bend at our Head of the River and ramming the Trinity novice V111. I shudder to think how I escaped. All in all, a cox's life is not a happy one!

D.G.M.

COLERAINE 24 HOUR RACE

From a spectators' point of view the race was a bit of a non-event as it was over a course of about a mile, with boats sailing the same course for the whole 24 hours.

However, for the sailors it was a very challenging event with winds varying from strong and steady at the start of the race to no wind at all in the early hours of Sunday morning. In fact, with no wind and a strong outgoing tide, many boats found themselves going backwards at times, resulting in boats anchoring or purposely running aground. The more sensible of us, however, were sound asleep whilst these manoeuvres were taking place.

The wind during the daylight hours of Sunday morning picked up, but at no time reached the strength of the wind of the Saturday afternoon. By then, though, the placings were well established. In fact, the school boat improved its positioning more by tactical manoeuvres involving other boats colliding with it when it had right of way, than by actually overtaking anything — or so it seemed to me.

GOLF REPORT

For the first time in a number of years, golf was seen to gain noticeable recognition, with a number of boys being involved in both internal and external competitions.

Owing to bad weather and limited hours of daylight, there was little activity in the winter term. Mr. Robertson kept interest alive by providing for golf in the Forum each Wednesday evening.

However, after the Christmas holiday break our golfers were able to enjoy much outdoor competitive action.

A spring term match-play competition was won by David Humphreys (Handicap 8) who beat Gary Elliott (Handicap 20) in the final. Twelve boys took part.

This competition was nevertheless over-shadowed by the more prestigious tournament for the golf trophy presented to the school by David Humphreys. A field of twenty-two competitors were involved in the competition, which again took a match-play (i.e., Knock-out) format. The eventual winner was Jonathan Woods (21) who beat Owen Espley (12) in the final.

Several boys were also involved in inter-schools competitions. On April 20th, a team of three boys — D. Humphreys (8), M. Warren (11), and O. Espley (12) — represented the school at Dungannon Golf Club in an Ulster qualifying section of the National "Aer Lingus" Schools' Championship. We occupied a respectable final position in a field of eighteen teams with an aggregate of 270. However, our team did not have the potential to do much better at this level.

On April 27th, a team of four boys — M. Warren (11), O. Espley (12), C. McAuley (12) and G. Elliott (20) — represented the school at Lurgan Golf Club in the Ulster Schools' Golf Championship. Again our team occupied a respectable position in a large field which included the golfing elite of Methody, Bangor G.S., Coleraine A.I., Campbell College and Abbey C.B.S., Newry.

Our performances in both of these Inter-schools tournaments show much promise for the future and it is hoped that the younger players within the school will be encouraged to bring golfing recognition to Portora in future years.

The school year was completed with a staff versus boys match on Tuesday, 26th June, which finished with the honours shared at one match each.

A number of trips to the Donegal Golf Club, Murvagh, were made at week-ends during the spring term, and the encouragement and interest of a number of members of staff in the revival of golf is appreciated. Special thanks are due to the Headmaster, Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Robertson for their involvement.

D.H.

CRICKET REPORT

FIRST XI

Despite atrocious weather conditions, a series of indifferent wickets and a lack of experience, the 1st XI had a very satisfactory and enjoyable season.

The side was captained by Ashley Arnold, a regular in the side for the past three seasons, and his wealth of experience was of considerable help to the side. He invariably won the toss, although it is questionable whether he always made the right decision. Undoubtedly he led by example and was a genuine all rounder. His haul of wickets was 30, at a cost of just over 8 runs each, and with the bat he contributed over 100 runs including an aggressive half century against Omagh.

The vice-captain's role went to the next most experienced member, Keith Simpson. In general, one feels that he did not fully show his true skill with the bat yet his innings of 45 against the Leprechauns (which almost won us the match) brought him the highest praise from many knowledgeable sources. As a fielder he became progressively better, helped by his own quick thinking.

Two other regular members of the side leaving this year are Michael Moore and Brian McConkey. The former, known to all as 'Fred', showed an attitude towards the game that would have been a credit to any cricketer. No one was keener to play a game of cricket and the top score against Armagh was a fitting climax to his career. The latter, known to all as 'Barney' will not be forgotten either. He was a very strong hitter and played some excellent innings. As a bowler he had the extraordinary knack of getting the wickets, despite the fact that he was not the best bowler Portora might have turned out over the years!

To those that are learning we wish every success for the future and implore them to keep the game up.

Looking to the future, Portora's cricket prospects are very healthy. This season saw many 5th Formers get the chance to show their paces and they invariably took it. Trevor Elliott stands out, and with more confidence he will become increasingly better. His 6 wickets in the Leprechauns match must be his own personal high note of the season, but with the bat as well he rarely failed.

Other bright prospects include Martin Warren, Peter Gamble, Richard Clingan, Nigel Heslip, Leo McKinstry and Ronnie Balfour. The necessary coaching is now required to give these people an improved standard and better techniques.

The Lower Sixth also provided the side with quite a bit of talent. Early in the season we had the services of Edmund Herron, who was indeed a most capable batsman. Phillip Moss also invariably showed his capabilities, though his attitude must improve if his performances are to do likewise.

The two outstanding members from the Lower Sixth were Mark Veitch and Marcus Harvey, both stalwarts of the team. Both contributed in every department of the game and have excellent potential. Marcus continually showed his all-round sporting abilities. His batting was of a high standard and his fielding was quite superb. On the bowling front he still has a lot to learn, but he certainly improved immeasurably this season from last season.

Mark too had a very good season and was always keen to take any responsibilities placed upon him. He is a very aggressive batsman, perhaps too aggressive, but he in-

variably gets runs. He is also a tricky spin bowler, moving the ball either way. He must learn, though, to control his length a little better.

After the School's cricket season was over, some members of the side continued to play the game. Mark Veitch played for the Enniskillen Club and enjoyed a tour to Dublin with them. His contributions were of a high standard and his runs total was very high.

Ashley Arnold has indeed the distinction of being the first Portora boy to play for the Western Counties side in Senior League Cricket. In the two matches he played in (both victories) he returned the bowling figures of 3 for 25 and 3 for 11 respectively and certainly showed that he merited his place.

J. A. A.

Foyle and Londonderry College

A highly inexperienced 1st XI travelled to Derry and lost to Foyle by seven wickets.

Right from the start of play Portora, who won the toss and opted to bat on a wet and inconsistent wicket, looked bound for defeat.

In the first over of play, Millar struck, to break an unproductive opening partnership when Gamble was caught behind for 0. Herron soon followed for 1, leaving Arnold and Harvey at the crease. A temporary revival came to an abrupt end, when first Harvey and then Arnold were dismissed for 7 and 12 respectively, to leave the visitors struggling on 26 for 4. With the departure of Arnold, Portora's hopes of a respectable score seemed doomed, for the rest of the batsmen excepting Elliott, lacked the required confidence and came and went fairly quickly. In the final over before lunch the last wicket went down, when Northridge fell for 2, the score having plodded along to a paltry 44.

As expected, the meagre target for victory proved few problems for the experienced Foyle batsmen. They made the required runs in a little under two hours for the loss of 3 wickets and but for the accurate Portora bowling would have done so much faster, because the fielding became increasingly lethargic as the score moved on. In this match there were few encouraging signs for Portora, except the performance of Leo McKinstry, who playing his first First XI game, took 2 for 2.

P.R.S.: 44 for 10

Foyle: 46 for 3.

Friends' School

For the second consecutive week Portora failed to come to terms with superior opposition. Friends fielded a side which, although not as strong as in previous years, was useful in all aspects of play.

The Lisburn school batted first on a damp wicket and got off to a useful start through Irish schoolboy Kirkwood and Thompson, before the latter was l.b.w. to Harvey for 10. With the batsmen dominating proceedings Friends moved forward inexorably and despite a useful spell from McKinstry and Veitch managed a solid 126 for 9 wickets in their 40 overs.

Following the disappointment of last week's failure Portora seemed over anxious and wickets were carelessly thrown away as batsmen hit out in an effort to score quick runs. Only Herron played any sort of cool head, scoring 21. Varying their useful battery of bowlers well, Friends never allowed Portora to get in sight of victory and the last wicket fell with the score at 62.

Friends: 126 for 9.
P.R.S.: 62 all out.

R.B.A.I.

Portora travelled to Osborne Park and played out a fairly drab draw with R.B.A.I. on Saturday. Batting on a damp sticky wicket, the home side were saved from humiliation by two tail-end batsmen who put on 25 for the 9th wicket following a total collapse by the middle-order batsmen. In a tidy all-round bowling performance by Portora Ashley Arnold stood out as particularly praise-worthy as he picked up 6 valuable wickets in Inst's total of 93.

In reply, Portora, for the third week, failed to come to terms with the bowling and in the end can consider themselves lucky to gain a draw. In a total of 52 for 8 only Harvey shone, hitting 20 in a pleasant knock which took just 20 minutes.

R.B.A.I.: 93 all out.
P.R.S.: 52 for 8.

St. Columba's College

What must be one of the youngest sides ever to represent Portora at First XI level, achieved an excellent if somewhat surprising victory over a previously unbeaten St. Columba's team.

Fielding a side which boasted no fewer than 5 provincial trialists, St. Columba's batted first, in poor conditions which very much favoured the bowling side. In the fourth over Arnold grabbed the first wicket, to begin a spell of great personal satisfaction for the team captain. In an unbroken run of 15 overs he took four vital wickets at a cost of only 12 runs as Portora limited their opponents to 83 for 8 in their two allocated hours. On a day when a biting wind made fielders feel miserable everyone made a great effort in limiting a side which had prior to this topped the 150 mark in 6 matches out of 6.

Determined to gain a first victory of the season Portora settled quickly, after losing Arnold and Gamble early on. Harvey, batting smoothly, threatened, along with Veitch, to sew up the match, but the latter played an uncharacteristic shot on 18 to be caught, leaving the score 56 for 3. The home side now looked likely to reach their target comfortably, having time and wickets in hand, and although they suffered temporary setbacks in losing Simpson and Heslip, before the close, they eventually passed the opposition's score to gain a first encouraging win of the season.

St. Columba's: 83 for 8.
P.R.S.: 85 for 5.

Leprechauns

It is some years since Portora came within striking distance of a Leprechauns side, but it is a very long time since they felt so genuinely disappointed by losing when

victory was in sight. That is what happened on Speech Day in a tingling match which Portora lost by 1 run. In a devastating spell after lunch Trevor Elliott, aided by some excellent fielding, ripped through this highly experienced batting line-up to bring them from 60 without loss to 78 all out. Elliott picked up 6 wickets for 13 runs as the collapse went on, and Harvey and Arnold grabbed two wickets each.

Particularly pleasing throughout the Leprechauns' innings was the alertness and determination of the fielders, which was exemplified by an excellent diving catch by Moore at mid-wicket.

Portora began their innings in disastrous style, losing 3 wickets before the score reached double-figures. Then Trevor Elliott fell with the score on 12 to leave the School with a seemingly hopeless task. His departure brought Heslip to the crease, alongside Simpson, and Portora began slowly but surely to move forward. Simpson, in peak form, began hitting the ball with confidence and running well with his partner. They reached 39 before Heslip was run out for 6, following their only misunderstanding.

At this stage Simpson was oozing with confidence and the only problem was that he might run out of partners. In a memorable knock, he hit 43 whilst watching partners came and went with monotonous regularity until the score reached 77 for 9. Sadly it was here that Simpson made the only mistake of his innings as he stepped away from a good ball, and was bowled at the end of a splendid innings which included 3 sixes and 2 fours.

So the Leprechauns won by 1 run in the end. Perhaps the biggest let-down was the batting where one other batsman hitting form could have eased the pressure on Simpson sufficiently to have allowed him to hit the winning runs.

Leprechauns: 78 all out.
P.R.S.: 77 all out.

Campbell College

Following the mammoth exertions of the previous day, Portora appeared to be suffering something of a hangover when they took the field against Campbell.

Batting first, Portora struggled throughout against a mediocre attack and crumbled to 46 all out, 25 of which came from Harvey, who batted with rather more care than his team-mates.

Campbell, set a mere 47 to win, made light work of their task. In general the Portora fielding was good, illustrated by 3 run outs, but against experienced batsmen and with little to bowl at, the task was too much, and they picked up only 4 wickets before defeat came.

P.R.S.: 46 all out.
Campbell: 47 for 4.

Strabane High School McCullagh Cup

On a rain-soaked wicket Portora lost a drab match, on a day when nothing seemed to go right. Strabane, batting first, amassed 100 runs in a little under their full quota of overs. The visitors' attack lacked penetration throughout and it was only thanks to a miraculous spell of spin bowling by an unrecognised bowler that prevented Strabane from scoring a land-slide total, which at one time they threatened to do. Barney McConkey, coming on as fourth change bowler, took

5 wickets in five overs at a cost of a mere 6 runs, to bring Strabane from a comfortable 80 for 3 to 100 all out.

In reply Portora could only manage 30 in 17 overs in an innings marred by 4 disastrous run-outs. No player could manage double figures against bowlers who offered nothing more than a good line and length throughout. In general it was a disappointing day which will be conveniently forgotten by all.

Strabane: 100 for 10 all out.
P.R.S.: 30 for 10 all out.

North Fermanagh C.C.

Portora gave Fermanagh champions Kesh, a real shock in Enniskillen on Saturday. Portora, having won the toss, opted to bat on a wicket which proved full of runs.

In a splendid team performance in which the calling between batsmen was excellent, a number of individuals were worthy of particular praise. Openers McConkey and Veitch got off to a shaky start, and it was not long before the former was dismissed for 5 somewhat fortuitous runs. However, Elliott and Veitch set about building up a respectable total before Veitch was l.b.w. to Wilson for an excellent 26. Elliott was next to go, for 28, after a good innings of controlled aggression which had helped the score to 52 for 3. As ever Arnold, running superbly between the wickets, scored a respectable 15, while Simpson scored 10 lightning runs, with Martin Warren adding a further 10 to leave the final total 108 all out, a note-worthy achievement against such an accomplished side.

In reply Kerr and McFarland put on a steady 47 for the first wicket. All credit must be given to bowlers Arnold and Elliott who sent the ball down with an excellent degree of accuracy which limited the batsmen to a little over 2 runs per over and gave Portora a stronger position at the half-way stage in the innings. However, Kesh proved far from beaten, and slowly, with plenty of batting remaining, they began to turn the tide their way. In the meantime Arnold and change bowler Veitch had picked up three useful wickets before Stewart came to the crease alongside Noble to play the crucial innings. His quick-fire 18 left Kesh needing only 10 to secure victory, with four overs remaining.

Even with defeat staring them in the face, the school side refused to lie down, fielding with grit and a will to attack the ball. Sadly though Kesh squeezed home with a little over one over to spare and for the loss of 7 wickets.

P.R.S.: 108 for 10 all out.
Kesh: 109 for 7.

Enniskillen C.C.

Although batting safely at Derrychara the Portora side lacked any real drive and managed 98 for the loss of 7 wickets in their full quota of overs. On a concrete wicket which provided little movement for the bowlers the school batted first, and got off to a good start, thanks to an exciting 19 from Veitch and a workmanlike 10 from Simpson. In an innings similar to that of Veitch, Harvey knocked up an exciting 18 before falling to the accurate Geoff Allister. Harvey's departure left Gamble and Clingan at the crease, batting intelligently for 13 and an unbeaten 12 respectively.

Only Northridge remained with the determination to push on the score and in the last two overs he scored 7 not out as the final score became 98 for 7.

Deprived of both Elliott and Arnold, the Portora attack looked sorely lacking in penetration and Enniskillen took only 24 overs to make the required total for the loss of only 2 wickets. Northridge bowled accurately throughout and was rewarded with the wicket of Byrne, but he was not backed by his fellows who lacked consistency and verve. Colin Gibson finally hit the winning run with his score on 47 to complete a disappointing match for Portora.

P.R.S.: 98 for 7.
Enniskillen: 99 for 2.

Omagh C.C.

Portora fielded a slightly under-strength eleven for their final match in the Hamilton Trophy, and in a thrilling encounter acquitted themselves admirably.

The visitors batted first on a wicket which throughout the day yielded more than 250 runs, and were soon in trouble when Veitch uncharacteristically fell for 2. However, after this early setback Portora rarely looked troubled again, and with Warren and Gamble batting intelligently the score moved to a comfortable 35 before Gamble was bowled by Logan for 14.

The fifty came up for the loss of only 3 wickets, with Warren and Harvey at the crease, a partnership which lasted until Warren lost his wicket for a solid and level-headed 22. Arnold was next to the wicket and settled down to play an excellent innings. Hitting the ball with a vengeance, and running briskly between the wickets, Arnold took only 45 minutes to score a flamboyant half century which included a six and five fours before finally being bowled for 53. In the meantime Harvey, greatly overshadowed by his captain, had scored an excellent 18 which was invaluable in moving the score on to 90 for 5 before he was out. At the close of their 40-over limit Portora had scored 150 for the loss of 9 wickets with tail enders Hewitt and Northridge knocking up 22 very brisk runs in the final four overs.

In reply Omagh, after an early setback losing Loane to Arnold for 4, settled to their task well, with an ex-Ireland batsman hitting a confident 33. He had been joined by Smith, with the total on 34 and as they moved the score on to 75 they threatened to swing the match Omagh's way with a display of aggressive, controlled batting. However, the ever-consistent Arnold struck again, bowling Donaghy for his third wicket in a fine spell of 19 overs in which he conceded only 38 runs whilst picking up 5 valuable wickets.

With only 13 runs required and 1 wicket in hand Smith looked as if he would secure an Omagh victory; however, having run a single, he called for a second and was run out for 67, as a result of some lovely work in the field from Veitch. The next ball Harvey bowled the last batsman to secure a well-deserved win for the school by a margin of 13 runs.

P.R.S.: 150 for 9.
Omagh: 137 all out.

North Fermanagh 'B'

Portora's hopes of staking a genuine claim to the Art-Green Cup, petered out rather miserably at Kesh as they were skittled out for a meagre 26 by the home

side. Playing on a concrete wicket for the first time, Portora failed to come to terms with it, and only Veitch offered any real resistance, scoring a stubborn 7 before being unluckily caught off Delap. No one else showed any real grit and the final wicket fell in the 19th over, leaving Kesh a relatively simple task of making 27 in 20 overs.

Only Harvey really troubled the Kesh batsmen, as he generated a ferocious pace off the matting surface, and he deservedly finished with 1 for 4 in five overs. Alongside Harvey, Trevor Elliott, in the absence of Arnold, tried hard and picked up the wicket of Noble. The winning run came from Delap in the 12th over, for the loss of two wickets.

In an evening of disappointment and frustration for Portora, a superb catch by Simpson, who covered a lot of ground to get to it, stood out as the only bright moment.

P.R.S.: 26 all out.
North Fermanagh 'B': 27 for 2.

Foyle and Londonderry College

For their last match of the season the 1st XI entertained a very strong Foyle and Londonderry College side. It was a side including both the Ulster Schools openers and indeed it was they who laid a very strong foundation for their innings which closed at 165 for 8. For our side the bowling honours must again go to Ashley Arnold, who bowled over 20 overs and took 3 hard-earned wickets.

One excellent catch by George McConkey was worthy of note.

Sadly, Portora's reply began badly with openers Warren and Veitch quickly back to the pavilion. However, some staunch middle-order and tail-end batting brought respectability to our total, which closed at 119 for 9. Notable contributions came from Marcus Harvey, George McConkey and Ashley Arnold. The role played by 'colt' Ronald Balfour must also not be forgotten. In his first match for the 1st XI he showed both courage and technique and is another bright prospect for the future.

Foyle & Londonderry College: 161 for 8 dec.
P.R.S.: 117 for 9.

UNDER 15 CRICKET

This year's Under 15 showed great promise, and contained a number of players who will have much to contribute to Portora cricket in years to come. Under the captaincy of E. W. Kettle they only lost one match in a rain-affected Stirling League, playing against local Under-16 teams.

One depressing feature of their play, however, was their lack of team spirit, shown by bickering among players on the field. We trust this was only a passing phase.

Midweek XI

The Midweek Eleven had an enjoyable season, which was rather less successful in results than it perhaps should have been. On the whole, schoolboys find the 20-Over Evening games quite a difficult style of cricket. Our Elevens usually lack the sheer physical strength which is needed to score runs quickly, while our opponents can hammer the bad ball with greater force. The policy this year was to use as few as possible of the First Eleven cricketers, and as we were fortunate in having quite a number of seniors who were keenly interested in cricket at this level, we did not feel any great need to draw on the Firsts. However, we were very grateful for those who gave us the benefit of their superior talents.

The Midweek XI functioned under a sort of joint captaincy, by Cary Gawley and Mark Veitch. The batting was usually sound, but too slow, so that we lost several games that, under a different system, might have been wins or draws. It must be remembered that, in 20-over matches, wily opponents will not seek to remove a defensive batsman, but will simply pin him down unless for as many overs as possible. Batsmen therefore have always to watch the development of the game as a whole; and have to exercise nice judgment at times whether to throw their wicket away in an effort to accelerate, or to stay at the wicket, in case too many batsmen get out too soon. Our bowling was usually quite tight, and in several lost games we captured more wickets than we lost; and our fielders who in this type of game are all important, were individually very good, but lacked a little of the skills of field-placing, which experienced opponents know so well.

Of the ten matches played, four were won, and six were lost, not a distinguished record but not too bad. More important, the Eleven enjoyed its cricket, learned a little from experienced opponents, co-operated to the full on the field, and developed an excellent team spirit.

House Matches

As so often in recent years, the House matches produced some excellent cricket and some tight finishes. In the first round, Leinster disposed of Ulster quite easily; but Munster had to survive the early loss of their two stars, Harvey and Simpson, before Stevenson, a "casual cricketer", and Balfour, a Third-Former, steered them to victory.

In the final, it was captaincy, really, that won the day; with Ashley Arnold, the School Captain, bringing Leinster home by four runs, in a very hard-fought game, in which every ball of the sixty overs was bowled, and every one of the twenty wickets fell. Munster had some compensation in the Junior House Matches, for their very strong team overpowered opponents who had not much depth in batting.

RUGBY REPORT

The season started on a pleasing note as a very much understrength side got a last minute try to beat Foyle College by 4-3. Two away games with M.C.B. and Campbell College both resulted in defeat, but, more important, they emphasised that a mobile but physically small set of forwards was going to have a lot of trouble securing enough clean possession for a talented backline to dominate. When the pack did win good ball, as in the Omagh match, the backline was able to show its true colours by scoring 4 tries and generally displaying a real desire to run the ball when at all possible.

Until the end of the Christmas term, some thirty players were used before a settled side materialised. This may explain, to some extent, the erratic form throughout the Christmas term, when it was never really possible to see the side firing on all cylinders. Against Wesley College the pack excelled in the forward battle only for the backs to waste possession, while against Dungannon the forwards were too slow to the break-down.

A very severe winter meant that many games were called off around Christmas; however after a rousing performance against a strong Portadown side and the first away victory of the season, over Limavady, things began to look up.

The Cup draw had paired us away with Dalriada G.S. and although match practice was hampered by the weather, fitness was maintained and morale was higher than at any previous time throughout the season. The Cup date was fixed for Wednesday, 17th January. The team travelled to Portrush on the Tuesday, staying overnight in the Dalriada Guest House. Next day the game itself was keenly contested and a first half penalty by Gardner Kee proved enough to earn Portora a well deserved draw.

All was set for the replay in Enniskillen on the following Wednesday. In between, a squad of 18 spent an enjoyable week-end in Dublin taking in the Ireland-France International and 2 games, with Catholic University School and St. Columba's.

On Friday, a weakened side went down heavily to C.U.S. by 20 points to nil. Saturday morning saw us play old rivals, St. Columba's. This was treated as the dress rehearsal for the Cup replay and was probably our best performance of the season. The forwards supplied plenty of clean ball which the backs thrived on, and in the end used to produce a brilliant winning try which began inside our 22.

Without going overboard with recent form, confidence was high and the replay with Dalriada keenly awaited. Despite trailing 4-nil at half-time, a penalty by Kee cut the deficit to a mere point. In the last quarter, intense Portora pressure was just not turned into the necessary points as numerous penalties went wide. Then in the last minute winger Rooney sped over in the corner to make the result: Portora 7, Dalriada 4. In the second round we were drawn against the holders, Bangor Grammar School, whose huge pack won 80% plus of the possession in a rather one-sided game and ran out easy winners by 32-nil. It was unfortunate that just as things began to click we met such formidable opposition. Nevertheless the season did end on a happier note as in the Ulster Sevens we beat Limavady 10-8, Wallace H. School 22-0, and Down H. School 8-4 before going down 18-10 to the holders, Regent House, in the semi-final.

My thanks to the secretary, Adrian Stevenson, for the

above account and for the efficient way he carried out the various tasks assigned to him. It has indeed been a frustrating season weatherwise. On the field the lasting memory is of two hard but sporting contests with Dalriada, and a good sevens performance. As always, we look forward to next season, and with a good nucleus of this year's squad coming back, we have reason for hope.

Congratulations to Marcus Harvey on his Ulster Cap against Munster and to Gardner Kee on his out-half display for Ulster South Country in their win over Connacht. Next season this fixture is billed for Enniskillen, so we hope for some Portora representation.

These notes would not be complete without reference to Major Wheeler's contribution to the Rugby Club over the years. Many a player can testify to the fitness training received in the gym. Major Wheeler believed in the old adage that a player had to be fit and strong to play the game and he certainly got this message across in a practical way. I would like to add my own personal thanks for his valuable help over the past decade.

THE FIRST XV

W. G. McCONKEY (full-back). He filled the position very competently, displaying courage in fielding and tackling. His touch kicking under pressure was a weakness and this tended to undermine his judgement of when to counter-attack by running or kicking.

K. A. ROONEY (wing). Fast and strong with the ball in his hands. His saving tackle in the first Dalriada match and his winning try in the replay (both in injury time!), plus his Sevens tries, were the highlights of his season.

R. L. THOMPSON (centre). Sometimes prone to get caught in possession, fairly reliable in defence and a good mover of the ball.

R. M. HARVEY (centre). He made the most of any opportunity to attack and create the overlap. His defence has been a strong point in his game this season.

A. H. STEVENSON (wing). He has played with more confidence in attack and defence this year and was a useful scrum-half on the Sevens team.

J. G. KEE (out-half). A player of flair, whose judgement of the correct option to take should improve with experience at a higher level.

M. G. VEITCH (scrum-half). He always made the best use of any possession and showed remarkable resilience and courage throughout the season.

A. R. DICKIE (loose-head prop). Versatile, he has operated in all three positions in the front row. Particularly good at cleaning up loose ball situations.

J. R. DARLING (hooker). In the scrums he has been reliable on his own put in. His support play and general work rate are very promising.

R. P. SHAW (tight-head prop and captain). He had an unfortunate spate of injuries for the first half of the season. He has led by example and kept good control in pressure situations. Strong in the tight and constructive in the open, and a real enthusiast for the game.

B. F. CORRIGAN (lock). Lack of commitment meant his contribution was only minimal.

E. M. HERRON (lock). Lacking experience at this level, he was just beginning to learn to use his weight and strength when the season ended.

S. E. McFADDEN (wing-forward). His support running in attack is good and he can cover well, but he must go in lower to get more involved in rucks and mauls.

M. E. OSBORNE (wing-forward). A young player with a lot of commitment, fast to the break-down of play and effective when he gets there.

D. W. KINLEY (No. 8). He started the season with good performances, but lost form. Better displays in the Cup and Sevens games suggest that he should be a force next season.

D. G. POPPER (wing-forward). Another young player improving all the time. The experience gained in the Cup and Tour games should benefit him next season.

Senior colours are awarded to — A. R. Dickie, R. M. Harvey, J. G. Kee, W. G. McConkey, R. P. Shaw, A. H. Stevenson.

Junior colours are awarded to — B. F. Corrigan, J. R. Darling, E. M. Herron, R. K. Hewitt, D. W. Kinley, S. E. McFadden, M. E. Osborne, D. G. Popper, K. A. Rooney, R. L. Thompson, M. G. Veitch.

T.A.E.

2nd XV

This season all the 2nd XV's rugby was played during the Christmas term; as a direct consequence of this the team's playing record is poor. They did not start winning, or show that they could win, until the end of November. The reason is simple — it took that length of time to build a settled and competent squad.

Once that was achieved the team looked to future matches with confidence and everyone trained and practised with energy and enthusiasm, the ultimate goal being the 2nd XV competition in March.

However, we did not reckon with the abnormally bad weather, as match after match was cancelled. The team continued to train despite the weather — usually on the Parade Ground, which had first to be cleared of snow and ice. The motivation for all this activity was the 2nd XV competition. In the end, that too had to be abandoned — not because of the weather, but because too many members of the team had to train for the Head of the River.

The following were members of the squad :

D. A. A. Northridge, I. D. Miller, W. A. Swan, C. R. L. McGrory, T. S. Preston, B. D. H. Dunlop, P. D. Watson, R. K. Hewitt (captain), J. W. Woods, R. J. Clingen, K. Corrigan, G. M. Wallace, D. P. Corrigan, A. C. P. Sheridan, T. W. Elliott, R. J. Sternberg, A. J. Taggart, M. F. Moore, H. K. Simpson, E. M. Herron, G. G. Boyd.

Foyle H. 6-16.
M.C.B. A. 3-18.
Campbell A. 0-40.
Omagh H. 32-0.
Sullivan H. 4-9.

R.S.D. A. 24-0.
Portadown H. 3-4.
C.A.I. A. 7-54.
Sligo H. 0-3.
Limavady A. 30-4.
R.B.A.I. H. 3-12.

3rd XV Rugby Report 1978/79

The 3rd XV had a most enjoyable season. A regular squad of 25 to 30 players trained twice a week in a spirit of cheerful and relaxed enthusiasm. The Captain for the season was M. H. Pierce, a veteran of B set rugby, one well versed in the ethos of 3rd XV tactics. His keenness and spirit were largely responsible for maintaining the team morale and the turn-out at practices.

The first match of the season saw the team off to a very good start, defeating Foyle College by the margin of a drop goal. The second match, against Methody, was conceded by 30 points, but this margin conceals the fact that Portora had only 14 men for most of the match. The team defeated Portadown College by the very high score 56-8 in a home match which saw the backs enjoying a field day.

Team members: — M. H. Pierce, J. W. Woods, N. F. J. West, K. V. Corrigan, E. M. Herron, F. M. G. Sinton, P. A. McAlpin, D. A. R. Houston, R. J. Sternberg, M. J. Love, G. M. Wallace, B. D. H. Dunlop, A. V. Parker, H. T. I. Guy, S. B. Wilson, M. W. M. P. Harris, N. C. Tougher.

MED. XV 1978/79

This season was not as successful as one might have expected when the number of talented players in the age group is considered. Fifteen games were played and only four were won.

Problems arose from many sources. The weather caused the cancellation of many fixtures as well as practices. Many of the team, though able players, were lacking in weight and on several occasions the team found themselves playing against much heavier teams, with whom they could not compete. Problems also arose with poor attendance at practices, with there rarely being enough for a proper practice match, which left those who did turn out with very little experience.

Players worthy of mention are as follows: — Spence, Anderson, Welsh, Storrs, Hewitt, Handley, Corrigan (capt), Baird, Fawcett, Armstrong D. W., Drennan, Ross and Roy. Finally, special thanks must go to James Neill, Rory Tougher and Charles Mark, who turned out regularly to give help despite not being selected for the team.

UNDER 14 XV 1978/79

Success, while frequently striven for, is not always achieved. The Under 14 XV this year could claim, with some justification, to have done both.

There were many good players who worked hard to produce strong teams, and much enjoyable rugby. There was stiff competition to earn a place on the side. J. Gibson as captain was an inspiration in his forward play. T. Noble, until retiring because of injury, played hard among the pack. The determination of D. Graham stood him in good stead where his skill failed. In the backs, E. Kettle ran resolutely

and scored many of the teams' tries. C. Eakin showed some useful potential, and the Moore-Roy combination was a strength behind the scrum. Others, unmentioned, also contributed valuably to the team.

In the striving, weaknesses became apparent: reluctant tackling, and a tendency to individualism (or was it idleness and reluctance in support?) These and other failings can, however, be remedied with time, practice and individual determination to improve.

And we did achieve. Of the twelve matches we played, we won eight. Notable successes include those against M.C.B., R.B.A. L. and against Campbell College early in the season. (We acceded to the latter's request for a return match and were deservedly beaten).

P W D L PF PA
12 8 0 4 222 79

Those who played frequently include: — M. Clarke, I. Clingan, R. Cooper, C. Eakin, G. Elliott, A. Evans, J. Gibson, D M. J. Graham, D. Hassard, I. Jess, E. Kettyle, A. Keys, C. McAuley, S. Moore, K. Noble, T. Noble, G. Roy and G. Sweeney.

A squad of nine players took part in a Campbell College 'Sevens' Competition. We went to Belfast, we saw much good rugby, but here we had no success. The squad was: — R. Cooper, C. Eakin, J. Gibson, E. Kettyle, A. Keys, C. McAuley, S. Moore, G. Roy, G. Sweeney.

Overall, a season of useful work and training, considerable enthusiasm, and no little success — and pleasure.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

	Sen. Rugby	Jun. Rugby	Cross Country	Squash	Swimming	Sculling	Rowing	Sen. Cricket	Jun. Cricket	Tennis	Sailing	Athletics	Totals
Ulster	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Munster	2	1	1	1	-	1	5	2	1	2	-	-	16
Leinster	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	8
Connacht	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8

CROSS COUNTRY

	ULSTER	LEINSTER	MUNSTER	CONNACHT
Junior	Cooper R. W. 5 Gibson J. A. 2 Moore S. J. 4 Logan P. 3 <hr/> 14	Dowling J.E.P. 9 Coates W.G. 11 Breen H.W. 1 Smith S.R. 10 <hr/> 31	Eakin C.H. 12 Jess I. G. 8 Beatty R.W. 6 Deering C.D. 7 <hr/> 33	No Team
	1. H. W. Breen	2. J. A. Gibson	3. P. Logan	10m 58s.
Intermediate	Brown R.L. 13 Elliott T.W. 4 Spence C.R. 6 Vaughan S.S. 10 <hr/> 33	Ross W. L. 18 Watson P.D. 1 Miller I.D. 8 McClellan W.J. 7 <hr/> 34	Darling M.A. 3 Skuce J.L. 16 Dunlop B.D.H. 2 Brown J.D.G. 9 <hr/> 30	Corrigan D.P. 15 Nixon J.D.F. 14 Welsh J.C. 5 Ewing L.J. 12 <hr/> 46
	1. P. D. Watson	2. B. D. H. Dunlop	3. M. A. Darling	16m 58s.
Senior	Armstrong K. 11 Breadon R.L. 6 Fleming F.A. 2 Preston T.S. 7 <hr/> 26	Arnold J.A. 14 Fallis A.D. 17 Kinley D.W. 6 Kidd D.P.C.C.' 18 <hr/> 55	Harvey R.M. 1 McConkey W.G. 4 Weir D.H. 3 Altekruse S.F. 8 <hr/> 16	Hewitt R.H. 5 Kee J.G. 10 West N.F.J. 16 Noble G. 22 <hr/> 53
	1. R.M. Harvey	2. F.A. Fleming	3. D.H. Weir	18m 05s.
	1. Ulster 73	2. Munster 79	3. Leinster 120	

FILM SOCIETY

Unfortunately, owing to strikes by transport workers, our film season was well and truly disrupted. However, we did manage to obtain some films during the year. Of these, the most popular seemed to be the violent ones, such as "Raid on Entebbe," with Charles Bronson, "Marathon Man" with Laurence Olivier, and "Jaws."

In lighter vein, "The Belstone Fox," "Airport" and "Carry On England," were enjoyed — although Warren considered the whole season to be very "B.B.C.'ish" — full of repeats.

About the films which did not arrive, the most disappointment was expressed by Mr. Smith who had been looking forward to "Gold" (to remind him of his South African holiday), and Mr. Poupert, who really wanted to see "Zulu" again, to remind him of the days when Britain was great. We did at least manage to procure "Romeo and Juliet" and Mr. Hort showed it eighteen times in the one week.

This year's season promises to be just as exciting as the last one.

FILM QUIZ

1. "It started this way" — What well-known films began with these scenes?

- (a) A fat man listens to a scratchy gramophone in a room in Istanbul.
- (b) A fort full of dead men is found in the Sahara.
- (c) At a one-horse desert town, a one-armed stranger gets off the train.
- (d) A ship is torpedoed and the survivors, clinging to a life-raft, relive their recent lives.

2. John Wayne

In what film did he

- (i) Consult a doctor played by James Stewart?
- (ii) Play Genghis Khan?
- (iii) Succumb to a giant squid?
- (IV) Play a centurion?
- (V) Chase communists in Hawaii?
- (VI) Have Dean Martin for a brother?

(VII) Play Davy Crockett?

(VIII) Utter his famous line "Fill your hand, you son-of-a-bitch?"

3. Unlikely Behaviour

In what film did

- (i) Peter O'Toole drive a go-cart?
- (ii) Omar Sharif get shot by Peter O'Toole?
- (iii) Richard Burton portray the "Man Who Could Create Catastrophe"?
- (IV) Charlton Heston expire while strapped to a horse?
- (V) Steve McQueen leap over ditches in a motor-bike?
- (VI) Charlton Heston part the Red Sea?
- (VII) Anthony Quinn hide one million bottles of wine?

4. Humble Beginnings

Which stars made their names in the following roles

- (i) An oriental potentate with many children?
 - (ii) A hired assassin named Raven?
 - (iii) Laurence of Arabia?
 - (IV) The Ringo Kid in 'Stagecoach'?
 - (V) The man with no name in 'A Fistful of Dollars'?
5. Anatomy.

Complete these film titles by adding one word describing a portion of human or animal anatomy.

- (1) Belles on their
- (2) Big Brown
- (3) Tom
- (4) The of Marble
- (5) of the Ripper
- (6) of the Cat
- (7) The Mummy s

OLD PORTORA NEWS AND NOTES

All Old Portorans will wish to extend their deepest sympathy to John Maxwell, whose son Paul, a boy at the School, was killed by the I.R.A. bomb that also killed Earl Mountbatten on August 27.

A circular was sent out in April to all members of the O.P.U. whose address in the Members' List was given as County Fermanagh; no less than ten were returned by the Post Office as "Gone away" or "Not known." If anyone is in touch with any of them, would he please ask them to communicate their present addresses to the Secretary. They are N. H. Cruikshank, A. H. Deering, D. A. A. Devers, R. J. Finlay, T. R. J. Irvine, S. Battson, J. M. Jones, R. D. Moore, W. R. Tucker and R. L. Winslow.

The B.B.C. is taking notice of Portora. On March 10 the School featured in "Up Country", when the Headmaster, Mr. D. S. Robertson and Mr. G. C. Andrews were speakers, and Mandy Maguire and Nick Tougher, cox of the First VIII, were interviewed. In "Personally Speaking" the interviewee on April 24, was Alan Tyndall (C 1953-60), on May 19, Mr. Andrews, on July 16 the Reverend Cecil Kerr and on August 29, John Gorman.

At the Fermanagh Harriers Point-to-Point on April 11 the Sean Graham Qualifyer was won by Mr. Archie Watson's "Royal Portora."

D. C. BLAIR has had an Exhibition in Enniskillen of Theatre Designs, Paintings and Drawings.

J. M. CREERY (U 1961-66) is still running, and ranked in the "Top 10" in the Marathon in Canada, was Canadian Champion over 5000 and 10,000 metres, and represented Canada in Cross-Country.

R. D. G. CREERY (U 1931-38) father of the above, has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Health as a member of the South Western Regional Health Authority (England).

IAN ELLIS (L 1963-70) has been appointed Curate of St. Columba's Church, Portadown, where a contemporary of his, M. P. Roemmele, also served as Curate some years ago.

JOHN GORMAN has been appointed Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Authority.

RICHARD HARKNESS (M 1963-74) is now Assistant Land Agent at Raby Castle, Co. Durham, the estate of Lord Barnard, where he would be glad to welcome any passing O.P's.

R. R. GETHIN (L 1944-49) writes from Nairobi to say that he has recently met C. H. C. de Montfort (M 1940-48) who is now working as a tea-broker in Mombasa.

G. H. HENDERSON (U 1951-60) has become Computer Policy Manager to head the newly created British Gas computer policy group in London.

W. J. JOHNSTON (M 1933-37) has just retired as Town Clerk of Belfast.

ARTHUR IRVINE, now Warden in charge of Strangford Lough Wild Life reserves, is to be congratulated on the M.B.E. awarded to him in the 1979 Queen's Birthday Honours.

A. W. B. JACOB (C 1949-56) is Professor of Geophysics at the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (School of Cosmic Physics). He was in America earlier in 1979.

JULIAN KULSKI (U 1946-7) now Professor of Architecture in Washington, has published his autobiography, "Dying we Live," up to but unfortunately not yet including his years at Portora, where he wrote the early chapters — in Polish.

R. A. LAIRD (L 1939-43) has been nominated Leitrim Man of the Year.

M. LANGHAMMER has been awarded a II-1 Honours degree in History and Politics at Leeds University.

W. B. J. TOUGHER (L 1941-48) has been elected a Fellow of the British Institute of Management, a rare distinction accorded to only about six men in the whole of Ireland.

C. RUTLEDGE (M 1967-74) has been awarded a B. V. Sc. with honours from Bristol University, where he is now a Junior Fellow in Veterinary Medicine.

A. M. McCABE (M 1957-64) holds the post of Principal Lecturer in Environmental Science at The Ulster Polytechnic. He was a member of the Norwich University Geological expedition to Spitzbergen during July and August 1979.

DR. R. J. S. WILSON (M 1926-33) has been elected a Fellow of The Royal College of General Practitioners, an honour which, as far as is known, he is the first Old Portoran to receive. His son David has been appointed to the Trustee Savings Bank.

A. N. START (L 1966-67) has been appointed Superintendent of eight of the National Parks in the Northern Section of Australia — an area of well over 1,000,000 hectares.

DAVID DEWAR (U1964-68) has obtained a 2:1 in History and Political Science at T.C.D. and has joined the staff at Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, where he is also a House Tutor.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the Old Portoran Union were held on January 19, 1979 in the University Club, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. The outgoing President, the Very Rev. G. F. Good, presided at the meeting, attended by about 20 members. There were approximately 50 members and guests at the Dinner, at which the new President, Mr. F. L. Jacob, presided. The A. G. M. and Dinner for 1980 will be held at Portora on Friday, March 7, and those intending to dine will find in this Magazine a form to be returned to the Secretary. It is intended to propose Mr. R. Meara (1911-16) as the new President; Mr. Meara was a founder and one-time President of the London Branch O.P.U. It is proposed to invite lady guests to the 1980 Dinner.

Two other O.P.U. functions proposed for 1979 had to be abandoned for lack of support: a week-end at Portora for one of the older vintages of O.P's., and a Dinner for Fermanagh members.

For reason or reasons unknown, only 15 leavers joined the O.P.U. in 1979, as against some 50 in 1978; in cases where this was an oversight the Secretary will be glad to receive Life Subscriptions (£15) at his home address, "Nuits St. Georges," Lisbellaw.

The Secretary of the O.P.U. now has an outside bell fitted to his telephone, so that he can hear calls from his garden. Will callers please note however that if he is in the garden it takes him a little time to sprint up to his house, kick off his wellies, and get to the receiver: frequently in recent months the bell has stopped ringing just as he reached the instrument. His number is Lisbellaw 248.

At the 1978 A.G.M. it was proposed, in view of the financial position of the O.P.U. due to increased costs of printing and postage, that members who had acquired Life Membership at the very low subscriptions prevailing up to about 1970, should be invited to make a once-for-all voluntary subscription of £5. The following members responded to this suggestion, and the Committee wishes to express its appreciation. R. O. Anderson. T. J. Andrew. L. S. Breadon. L. R. Carew. S. C. Corry. J. M. Creery. R. D. G. Creery. R. W. Duncan. R. R. A. Eadie. Dr. W. R. N. Galbraith. Dr. B. L. S. Gallagher. A. W. Gethin. R. R. Gethin. Rev. D. L. Graham. D. P. Hanna. G. G. L. Henderson. Dr. H. R. B. Jack. F. L. Jacob. W. J. Johnston. Gen. Sir Charles Jones. J. T. McFarland. D. J. McWilliam. A. C. Maguire. H. C. I. Moore. S. Musgrave. R. H. J. Neill. R. G. Nelson. W. S. Osborne. H. Pick. Rt. Rev. Dr. S. G. Poyntz. T. H. B. Quin. G. P. G. Robinson. C. M. O'H. Seale. P. J. Simpson. F. D. Speidel. G. P. Stewart. D. E. Swan. C. N. Thompson. H. F. O'B. Traill. P. Troughton. R. D. G. Turbett. P. T. W. Vance. W. F. Wilson.

Further contributions will be welcomed and acknowledged in a future issue.

DEATHS

THE REV. CANON E. M. BATEMAN (1899-1905) died in Dublin on 8 April, 1979, aged 92. He was one of the last surviving pupils of Dr. Biggs.

DR. W. D. SWAN, of Sutton Bonington, Leicestershire, died on October 29, 1978.

JONATHAN R. LEACH (U 1966-74) tragically killed with his sister in a motorcycle accident on July 14, 1979.

ENGAGEMENTS

J. G. D. WHITE (L 1964-70) to Miss Diane Cooper, of Peru.

MARRIAGES

A. P. CARRUTH (M 1962-71) in France, July 7, 1979.

L. D. McKEE (M 1963-7) to Mlle Sophie Hoquet, in France, June 23, 1979.

C. RUTLEDGE (M 1967-74) to Miss Lynne Davies, of Coleford, Glos., on 8 September, 1979.

BIRTHS

G. V. DROUGHT (C 1946-51) To Jill and Geoffrey, a son Patrick James, on 29 January 1979.

P. McC. LITTLE (M 1960-67) To Peter and Melanie (nee Moore) a son, Graham, on 12 April, 1978.

M. S. McNEILL (M 1967-70) To Michael and Pam (nee Burnside) a son, Rory, on June 10, 1979.

J. C. M. STOKOE (L 1952-59) To Jeremy and Rosemary, a second son, Stuart, in Melbourne, on March 18, 1979.

G. P. G. RICHARDSON (U 1949-57) To Guy and Mary (nee Brunt) a son, Jeremy, born at Winchester General Hospital on 5 December, 1978.

S. J. SWITZER (U 1955-65) to Stephen and Pauline, a son, Andrew John on June 23rd, 1979.



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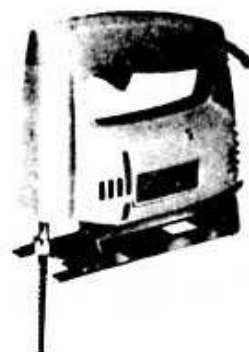
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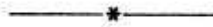
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