

by E.C.

Jack Costelloe Talks About Granny's Intentions and the Pop Scene

FROM A JACK TO A KING

FOR FOUR years now Granny's Intentions have delighted and thrilled millions of teenage pop fans in five countries...

Granny's Intentions were formed in Limerick in 1965, and this week the Limerick Chronicle had an exclusive interview with bass guitarist Jack Costelloe (20), a founder member of the group.

Limerick Chronicle: At what age did you learn to play the guitar?

Jack: A relation, Tom Noonan, gave me lessons at the age of 16, and after a few weeks I was competent enough to impart the knowledge that I had accumulated to some of my friends in the Janesboro' area.

L.C.: I have heard it said, Jack, that you left studies at C.B.S., Sexton Street, to join Granny's Intentions as a professional. Have you any regrets?

Jack: None whatsoever. True, I left school only a few months before I was due to sit for the Leaving Cert. But, I am convinced I made a wise decision in opting for the pop business when the opportunity presented itself.

L.C.: Did you honestly believe when you joined Granny's Intentions that you would really make the big time?

Jack: To be quite frank, no. We were lucky to earn sufficient money in our first year together to enable us to take on a tour abroad from which we gathered a wealth of experience and know-how.

L.C.: What does it feel like to be a member of a successful group?

Jack: Most times it is great, but you can dismiss the thought that our life is all glamour. We are only human, and like all other groups and showbands, etc., we, too, have our sorrows.

L.C.: How do Limerick audiences compare with those elsewhere?

Jack: Just fabulous. They are, however, rather reluctant to applaud at the end of performances.

L.C.: How long do you expect Granny's Intentions to stay in business?

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Jack Costelloe of Granny's Intentions.

members of pop groups allow their hair to go uncared for so long a period? Does it not make people disrespect you?

L.C.: Do you ever feel bored? Jack: Who doesn't, at times? It can be very boring playing to an unappreciative audience (thank goodness we do not get many of them); Audience reaction means a lot to us.

L.C.: Do you meet many Limerick people on your travels? Jack: Certainly. Only a couple of weeks ago we dined with Dermot Harris—a brother to Richard—in London. Very often in England we have Limerick people come back stage to meet us.

L.C.: What has been the most exciting engagement that Granny's Intentions have played to date?

Jack: Well for me it was our show at the Saville Theatre in London, where we were invited to play by the late Brian Epstein.

Influence

L.C.: Do you believe that pop groups can influence our youth?

Jack: Quite definitely. Just take the Beatles. Ways of dress have changed in recent years, and this can be apportioned somewhat to groups such as ours. Then, there were the protest songs which were cut on disc. You cannot deny that they have helped the anti-war movement.

L.C.: I often nowadays see hear of drugs being peddled in some clubs that groups perform in. Can you throw some light on the subject?

Jack: Unfortunately, some of the stories you hear are true. We saw drugs being passed in England, and indeed, were offered some for a nominal charge. We declined the offer. It is only to be expected that you will have a certain amount of drug peddling in this country too, but on a very small scale.

L.C.: Have you got a musical background, Jack?

Jack: Not really. Oh yes, I almost forgot. Did you know that my father wrote "Sean South of Garryowen"? My younger brother, Gerard, is now guitarist with a local pop group.

L.C.: How many records have the Intentions made, and which has been your best seller?

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SOCCER PERSON OF THE WEEK



Nesson O'Flynn (Northend Utd.)

Sixteen-year-old Nesson O'Flynn has the distinction of being the youngest administrator in local schoolboys' soccer. Nesson, a native of Cork, has been a football enthusiast since he first learned to kick a ball, but it was only late last year that he took an active role in club affairs...

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LOCAL INTERVIEWS Miss Mary Worster, Chief Nursing Officer, will interview candidates at the following centre early in the year.

LIMERICK SCHOOLS AND CONVENTS in this area who like to see slides of this group of hospitals, a career talk on nursing, can be visited by Miss Mary Worster, Chief Nursing Officer, and Personnel Officer.

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Leeds 'A' Group Hospital Management Committee

such big cities as Frankfurt and Stuttgart.

The English are a little more conservative. Perhaps it is because they have become too accustomed to the pop world. Yet, we look upon England as being our second home, and indeed, we play more often across the water than we do here.

Money

L.C.: Is it true that there is no limit to the earnings of a successful group? and do you think they deserve the fees that they command?

Jack: Yes. Just take Tom Jones. He is under contract to make over thirteen million pounds in the next few years. It can be much the same with groups and showbands. The answer to the second part of your question is, that groups and showbands are fully deserving of the fees they demand.

L.C.: How long hours, have little or no home life, and it must be remembered that we can be at the top only for a few years. We must feel secure and provide for the future.

L.C.: What is Granny's Intentions fee for one night?

Jack: It varies really, but you could say approx. £180. Out of that we have to meet expenses. Fifteen per cent of our fees goes to management. We have travel and hotel expenses, must pay for advertising and have to put something in reserve for new equipment and clothing. In all, we have a payroll of seven, and play approx. four nights each week.

L.C.: Is there great rivalry between groups?

Jack: Yes, but I must say there is a much healthier rivalry in England where groups sit down together and discuss their problems and offer advice to each other. I make no bones in saying that there is a lot of unnecessary enmity between groups in Ireland, and this can do the business only harm.

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L.C.: Is there any Irish group that you think can make the International Charts?

Jack: I can foresee a highly promising future for the Orange Machine. They have the potential to do well. As for ourselves, well I am confident that we can make a really big breakthrough real soon. Our highest placing in the British Charts to date has been 64th, which is not bad, considering that only one other Irish group—THEM—have made the charts before.

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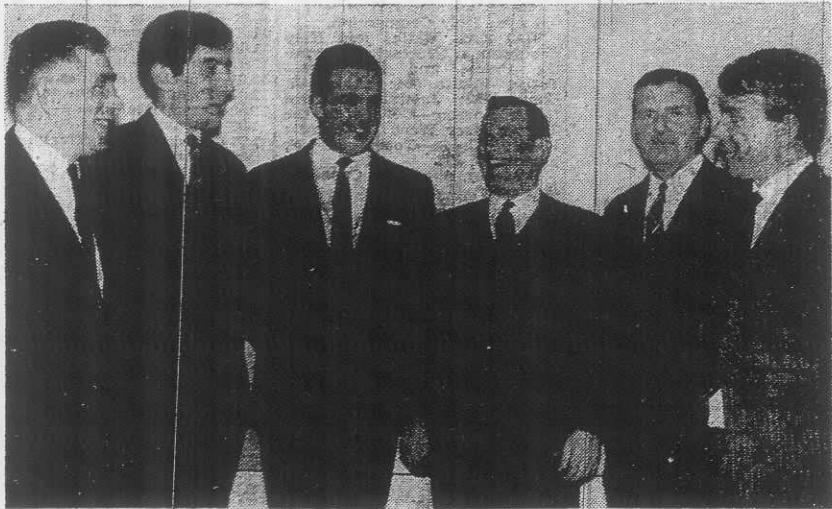
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Pictured in the Shannon Arms Hotel at the first annual dinner of Limerick Licensed Traders' Golfing Society are, from left: Messrs. Steve Foley, Treasurer; Denis O'Malley, Secretary; Jack Bourke, Mayor of Limerick; John Jennings, Captain; Paddy Reid, President, and Frank Geraghty, Vice-President.

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