

Helen Buckley's LEISURE PAGE

# THE CAIRDS

**T**HERE is one rather unusual factor surrounding the new Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick, Dr. D. A. R. Caird. It is something, indeed, which he alone, of his thirteen Irish episcopal colleagues possesses: an American wife.

"But," said the bishop, assuring me that there was nothing unusual in that, "we have all sorts of wives, you know." And perhaps his own term "all sorts" is the best way to describe the Rev. Donald Caird's early academic pre-marriage years.

Born in Dublin in 1925 (no hesitancy about age disclosure), he attended Wesley College from 1935 to 1944; spent from 1944 to 1950 in T.C.D., where he gained many prizes, was elected a scholar of philosophy and was made a first-class moderator and a senior exhibitor.

In 1950 he was ordained curate for St. Mark's, Belfast, and from 1954 to 1957 occupied the position of Master of Portora Royal School, Enniskillen.

Following this he took up the position of lecturer in Philosophy at St. David's University of Wales and in 1960 returned to the South of Ireland to Rathmichael Parish, Dublin.

While in Dublin Dr. Caird held the position of departmental lecturer in philosophy in T.C.D., took his M.A. and B.D. from T.C.D., became a supervisor with the Department of Education and found time to fulfil the duties emanating from his position as Assistant Master at Columba's College.

During the same period he was lecturing on the philosophy of religion at the Divinity Hostel.

Then last year, Dr. Caird was created Dean of Ossory,

and went to live in Kilkenny, where the deanery, like most aspects of that city, is rather beautiful, and with the cathedral is situated in a close.

Though both Cairds admit that they were just beginning to settle down in Kilkenny, they seem very adequately content with the thought of living in Limerick.

Like Dr. Wyse-Jackson, Dr. Caird is an enthusiastic Irish scholar, and through his interest in the language, is acquainted with at least one part of his episcopal region: the Kerry Gaeltacht.

"I haven't been very much in Limerick," he told me, "but I used to spend my holidays during my childhood on the Biscuits. A few weeks ago I met Kraiger for the first time in twenty-seven years. I'm very glad to be back in the

Jackson, is, he says, limited to what he had gleaned of his reputation. He himself, however, intends to follow the general campaign path that Dr. Wyse-Jackson has forged here.

Bishop Caird: "I am not an artist nor, indeed, am I a poet—yet, I am limited to the extent that I cannot follow entirely in Dr. Wyse-Jackson's footsteps, at least not as an artist, but I intend to carry on in his general footsteps."

His present role in Limerick, Dr. Caird says, "involves trying to get organised."

Bishop Caird, due to his knowledge of Irish, is a member of Comhaltas, a Gaelic League group. He is also interested in swimming, rugby and sport generally.

His wife, Nancy, is also a sporting person. She was born in Nevada, brought up

in the '30s), that Nancy should have a hunting holiday here.

"So," said Mrs. Caird, "I came over here and stayed with a friend I had met through friends in San Francisco, and my friend introduced me to Donald."

Mrs. Caird completed her Irish trip with a year's jaunt around Europe, and got married in America in January, 1963. She then returned with her husband to live in Rathmichael.

The sudden transition from American to Irish everyday life was not as great for Mrs. Caird as might have been expected.

She said: "I didn't find living in Ireland permanently such a big difference—having lived in Rathmichael before."

When the Cairds moved to Kilkenny, Mrs. Caird was again adaptable and says she is now sad to leave it. However, from the little she has seen of Limerick she is pleased and her adaptability looks like coming through again.

"I am," she said, "very much looking forward to settling in here. When I was in Kilkenny I was very impressed with the social services set up there by Dr. Birch. I worked with them there doing meals on wheels and hope to do these things here, too."

"I am certainly anxious to get out and meet the community at large. However, generally I prefer to stay as much as possible in the background; I do not care for things like public speaking."

The Cairds have two children, Anne (3) and John (2). Anne attended the ceremonies surrounding the consecration of her father, examined his robes, studied the awesome procedure and came up with a rather perplexing question: "If Daddy is a bishop... is he still Daddy?"

The nice thing about Bishop Caird is that he shows every tendency of remaining so, not just to his own children, but (with the qualities embodied in the title) to the community at large.

## QUOTE

If Daddy is a bishop... is he still Daddy?

Kerry area, where I spent so many happy days. There I knew Peg Sayers and Sean a'Chota.

His appointment as Bishop of Limerick came as "a complete surprise" to Dr. Caird.

"I only heard of it," he said, "about ten minutes before it was on the news. I did know, of course, that my name had been before the electors but I had no idea that there would be this outcome."

Compared to many other Irish dioceses, the diocese of Limerick (Limerick and Kerry combined) has relatively few Church of Ireland members. The actual number is about 3,000, compared to the 35,000 members in the diocese of Connor.

"We are," said Bishop Caird, "a very, very small and minute body of people—but we are great people."

Bishop Caird's knowledge of his predecessor, Dr. Wyse-

completed in America and finds little difference in pace between her home town and the life in an Irish parsonage. "I find living in a rectory as hectic as any job in America. I love it very much."

As a child, Nancy attended school in Nevada and later in San Francisco when her parents went to live there. From there she went to Rosemary Hall, a boarding school in Connecticut, and continued on to college in Pittsburg, where she did two years in general studies. Two years after this she graduated from Columbia University, New York, with a B.Sc. in physical therapy and went to work in a Boston hospital, where she remained until 1960.

That was the year she came to Ireland. In between changing jobs her mother suggested (on the basis of a holiday she herself had spent in Ireland



Bishop and Mrs. Caird with their daughter, Anne.

On the fringe of full-time acting

SQUAT, ugly busy... appears on with legs wide a pot stick stuck them like a w broomstick... endearing scrip tion of the Molly Brady be by Geraldine (Tarry Flynn.

Geraldine, who ing with the Col when, she was simply: "I'm tryi get an animal voi regarded the otli ments she did not

Last summer s ployed by Gemini during their ten- here. She helpe props and stage as well as playi "The Field," "The "Juno and the Pe

Rehearsal for took place durin which meant tea took her three-w holiday from Sha pment (with works) in days could be pres- quently, she has holiday proper th- enthusiasm, howe theatre overcome chant she may b leisure.

Through the Int College Players, themselves a group, and her Gemini, Geraldine of becoming a fu- sional actress been a thought.

# Professionalism

JIM QUEALLY, actor,

LEFT THE DADDY

Jim Queally: "Sometimes on the way out you feel, 'oh God.'"