

duced in January '87, June 37 and September '88, but the ranted constitution was not available to members of the association.

The decision of the national council on the proposal for the disciplinary action under rule required a two-thirds majority. It is understood that no vote of the council was taken at Tuesday's meeting.

Mr Wall is a former Limerick county secretary and former

Mr Bertie Wall is believed to be the first member of the association in the province expelled from the association and this could have serious repercussions for the organisation in the county.

IFA in Limerick has been divided for some time over other farmer issues and the fear in the county this week was that this development could worsen that rift.

### CITY DISTRICT NOTES

#### Ballyneety

Drombhanna I.C.A. will hold a Halloween Disco in the Court-house, Ballyneety, on Monday next. Under twelve will be catered for from 7.00 to 8.30 and under eighteens from 8.45 to 11.45. Fancy dress is optional. Sympathy is extended to the relatives of Mrs. Christina McDonnell, Milltown, Ballysion, who died last weekend.

#### Parteen/Meelick

All roads led to Parteen th. weekend for the first ever family festival, which will open in the village this Friday night, at 7.30 p.m., with athletics, scout and games parade and music. On Saturday there will be rugby, camogie, pitch and putt, and a model aeroplane display. Sunday, 7-10, table tennis, ladies Gaelic football, car treasure hunt, table tennis, knitting competition and flower arrangement, a bazaar at the Community Hall at 2 p.m. On Monday there will be cycling, G.A.A., 7-a-side soccer, football and hurling, golden oldies, poc fada, clay pigeon shoot, fancy dress, disco for under 12's from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and a disco for 12 to 17's from 8-10.

A full time table and details of the order of events is posted in all business establishments in the parish.

Several thousand bales of hay and straw were destroyed in the hay burn fire at Kesh, Meelick/Meelick on the lands of Mr. D. V. Murphy at the weekend.

Units of Limerick Fire Brigade brought the blaze under control, but at the contents were destroyed and buildings were badly damaged.

Gardai at Ardacrusha are investigating the incident which is understood to have been malicious.

The death occurred recently after a long illness of Mrs. Margaret Cantillon, Lower Meelick, at Ennis Hospital.

#### Castletroy

A group of young Venturers from Wexford visited the Plasey area last week where they were guests of the local Boy Scouts. They spend the week-end exploring and canoeing on the river at the Clare Glens.

Amongst the recent recipients of Certificates of Appreciation from the Minister for Justice were Sohaila and Eskander Moghaddam of Avignon, Millford Grange, Castletroy.

A special concelerated students Mass for the opening N.H.E./Thomond Academic year was held last week in Our Lady Help of Christians, Millford. The concelebrants were Fr. Gerry Myers, S.D.B., College Chaplain; Fr. Jim O'Brien and Fr. Michael Cullane. Vicar Patrick Harvey was also in attendance. Pat Cashel, assistant registrar at the college, read the list of deceased members. There was a very large congregation comprising college staff, students and parishioners, present.

The news of the sudden and unexpected death of Paddy Pond, Annacotty, last week evoked widespread sympathy throughout a community where he was very popular. Paddy was one of the founder members of Annacotty A.F.C.

Whilst the recent bad weather caused problems in other areas, the Castletroy area escaped serious flooding in spite of the nearby Shannon being in spate after the heavy rains.

Winners of the first prize of £50 at the weekly music drive held in Monaleen G.A.A. Hall last Thursday night were Messrs Moran and Mulcahy of Monaleen Road.

In the new county u-17 hurling league, which has just got underway, Monaleen got off to a great start when they defeated St. Patrick's by 5 points, last Saturday, at Monaleen.

A great night was enjoyed by all at the community centre when the official opening took place.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Jimmy Carmody, whose death took place in England on Saturday last.

#### Cratloe

Cratloe I.C.A. celebrated twenty one years of I.C.A. in Cratloe recently. To mark the occasion a function was held at the Community Hall starting with Mass followed by a meal and entertainment by the Kilkishen Wren Boys.



The survivors: Collins, Lenihan, Haughey.

NO OUTGOING Irish government has been returned to power since 1969.

The election of that year brought Fianna Fail back for a third successive term. The party had been in power since 1957, and they were to continue in power until 1973. Those were stable times in the South.

True, television had shaken the cobwebs from the country to some extent, and the Programmes for Economic Recovery had charted the country's entry into modern industrial and trading thinking. But there were no major upheavals in the 26 counties. Fianna Fail had easily managed to weather the resignations of Taoiseach of both Eamon de Valera and Sean Lemass, and were content to operate under the tacit encouragement of Jack Lynch.

#### The young ones

It was a time for young men. Looking back from the 1988 standpoint, it may not seem so, as only Charles Haughey and Brian Lenihan had been members of the Cabinet pre-1969 and still survive in that capacity today. But other ministers went on to other things.

Erskine Childers and, latterly, Dr Patrick Hillery achieved the Presidency (Mr Childers' election in 1973 being the last time the people had the opportunity to vote on the subject). Dr Hillery also having been Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities, and Mr Sean Flanagan became a respected MEP. During the life of that 18th Dail, Deputy James Collins of Abbeyfeale, who had represented Limerick West since 1948, died. The 1967 by-election which resulted saw the easy entry into Leinster House of his second son, Gerard.

Gerard had been very much a political child. He had accompanied his father, whom he revered, to political outings. He had risen within the students union and established Fianna Fail in UCD. For two years before becoming a TD, he was assistant general secretary of Fianna Fail, effectively in charge of the modern party management techniques which were being introduced at that time. He had also spent some time as a vocational teacher.

With such a background, it was hardly surprising that, after the victory in the 1969 election, his talents should have been recognised by Mr Lynch. Gerard Collins became Parliamentary Secretary (Minister of State) to George Colley at the Departments of Industry and Commerce and An Gaeltacht.

He was younger and more active than his then running-mate, Donnchadh O Briain, who had formerly been Government Chief Whip under Mr de Valera, and who was generally associated with the less outward-looking Ireland which time and Government policy were in the process of dismantling. But Mr Collins had not long to wait before full Cabinet rank was thrust upon him. The Arms Crisis of May 1970 precipitated the departure of three Cabinet members; two (Mr Haughey and Mr Neil Blaney) by dismissal, and one, Mr Kevin Boland, resigned on principle — a fourth, Mr Michael Moran, had resigned two days earlier on health grounds.

The fringes of the Northern question had finally and dramatically come South.

It was into this revamped Cabinet that Mr Collins, along with Desmond O'Malley, Bobby Molloy and Gerry Cronin, was drafted. Mr Collins was given the position of Minister for Posts and Telegraphs as a serene backwater job at the time as a serene backwater job, normally enjoyed by dignified elder statesmen (although Mr Blaney had held it as early as 1957). But the 1970-1973 Government members were living in stirring times, and learning to deal with unknown situations as they went along; among Mr Collins' tasks was the administration of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act 1961.

Under this, Mr Collins firstly invoked the provisions and later applied its full rigours in sacking the RTE Authority (retaining only its outgoing chairman, Dr Donal O'Morain) for broadcasting words believed to be those of a person prohibited. In a corollary, for refusing to confirm or deny to a court the identity of the individual concerned, journalist Kevin O'Kelly served two days in jail for contempt. But those times were developmental also.

As Minister for P.T., Mr Collins was charged with the responsibility for improving the nation's inefficient telecommunications network, and laid the groundwork for modernisation. Industrial promotion groups, and individual industrialists, complained bitterly that success in modern trade depended on an effective communications network. Mr Collins was at the department's headquarters in the GPO in 1973, the time of Ireland's accession to the EC, and many valuable lessons were learned from our eight partners in the communications field.

But the 1973 election saw the Cosgrave Coalition take power. This allowed Fianna Fail to regroup and

# Gerry Collins' 21 years of political craft

**ON FRIDAY, November 4th, An Taoiseach, Mr Haughey will join Limerick West Fianna Fail to celebrate 21 years of public life of the Minister for Justice, Mr Collins. A lavish celebration is being organised for that evening at the Devon Hotel, Templeglantine. Martin Byrnes looks back over Mr Collins' career.**

years on the front bench, he was now among the few deputies without whom it would be unthinkable that a Fianna Fail administration could exist.

An administration which does not require to keep an eye on the formal opposition may, at times, spawn an internal opposition. Politics, as with nature, abhors a vacuum. Charles Haughey loyally served as Minister for Health, having been rehabilitated to the upper party ranks following years on the backbenches. He served as the focus for those who would wish to see a change. The days of Jack Lynch as Taoiseach were numbered, even if few outside the upper levels of the party knew that.

Mr Collins was now recognised as a master of political tactics, capable of seeing the longer view and eschewing short term expediency. His seat in Limerick West was safe as was his position in any FF cabinet.

It had been hoped by many that Mr George Colley would slip quietly into the top slot after Mr Lynch stepped down. Things did not turn out like that. In fact, so expected was Colley's victory that one respected commentator referred to the new Taoiseach as "Mr Colley" at Mr Haughey's press conference immediately after the election.

But Mr Collins was continued in his Justice portfolio by Mr Haughey. It was suggested at the time that doing so had a soothing effect, and demonstrated an element of continuity between two administrations.

Mr Haughey, as Taoiseach, has proven himself to be every bit as tough on security as had been any of his predecessors. In 1979, however, there were those who, through no fault of his own, Mr Collins, ascribed to him an ambiguity on the subject which the passage of time has since proven to be false.

Briefly out of office, Mr Collins became Minister for Foreign Affairs in the short lived March-December 1982 minority Government. In that capacity, he was considered to be excellent, especially in relation to Anglo-Irish matters. As a former Justice Minister, he had had an ongoing and detailed knowledge of the security aspects of the job. And then, as now, the British preoccupation appeared to be with the security rather than the political aspects of the situation.

The early eighties were a difficult time for Fianna Fail, as it underwent a painful and public reassessment of itself and of its people. Desmond O'Malley and Martin O'Donoghue had gone. One of the most lasting images of Mr Collins as a peacemaker is that of Mr Collins' last minute appeal to Mr O'Malley in the courtyard of Government Buildings, urging a final attempt at reconciliation. He was prepared to take the leadership, it was stated at the time, but as the situation did not arise, he continued on as he was.

His concentration on his constituency kept the party's and his personal support high. The national collection was always at the top of the national list. And he was able to lend his experience to the New Ireland Forum: the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which followed it, was opposed by him and some of the flaws which he pointed to at the time are seen by many to have come to pass by now.

Back in office, he is again in Justice, but his experience has meant that, during the illness of Mr Lenihan, he has acted as chairman, with Mr King, of the Anglo-Irish Conference.

There have been problems in the operation of the Gardaí, however, Mr Collins is perceived as an efficient Minister, arguing in Cabinet for his Department. He has obtained additional resources for the Gardaí, and has presided over a significant management improvement of the force. Further plans, announced last week, will see the management of the force develop yet again.

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#### Home on The Hill

He is married to Hilary Tutton, also a former vocational teacher. Their home, at The Hill, Abbeyfeale, is on an excellent site, overlooking the valley of the Feale.

Now just past his 50th birthday, Gerard Collins has developed a mellowness of style, while never letting up on his work ethic. He obtains advice from a wide circle of people, both within his constituency and at national level.

He is to be honoured by the party in Limerick West on Friday, November 4. The Taoiseach has undertaken to attend. Mr Haughey will see a sight which will prove that the party is as loyal to Mr Collins as he has been to them over 21 years.



Mellowing.

seats. Mr Collins was again elevated to Cabinet rank. In fact, after only seven

ackie, 96.

Christmas day will be mild, he says. "Have you ever seen one that wasn't?", he asks. After that "it'll be rough".

The present plethora of hurricanes and typhoons sweeping the Caribbean and the Pacific are a mystery to him but no cause of alarm. "When you live in this age, you've seen it all," he says philosophically.

He is more concerned with what he describes as the growing "selfishness" of the country and the way old people are treated. "The country is worse now than in all my 96 years," he declares.

Now only four years off the century, he carries on, taking his cues from nature,

threaten again at 11. Temperatures, its to stormy clares. of a wet were first saw the red ber- "Haven't pe?," he the birds have to

Bringing home the winter's firewood: Mr Corbett (96) and his bike.

and with the help of a few good neighbours. But the signs by which he has learned to survive have become dimmed.

A victim of cataracts, he applied three years ago at Scariff clinic for a pair of glasses on his medical card. He is still waiting, at 96, for his first pair of glasses.

# spector carnage

ve caused all that havoc. It was like rattlesnake, the worst slaughter I've ever seen," he said.

"I thought people were a bit more leucated now and kept in their dogs' night".

The victim, Mr Kieily, said that much of the injured sheep were in ch a bad state now that he may have some of them put down, even in all had been ravaged. He