

Our Adventure in Ireland



Irish Blessing

**May the roads rise to meet you,
May the winds be always
at your back,
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
in the hollow
of His hand.**

The 1995 Knight Family Calendar

Sunday, June 23, 1985 We leap the Atlantic, lighting with the morning dew on the glorious Old Sod.



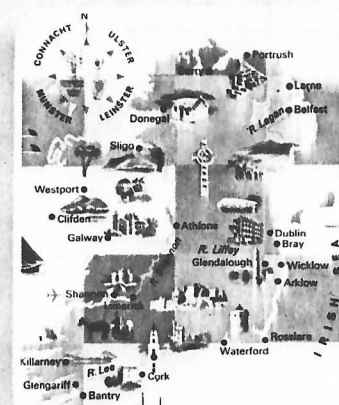
The vagabonds at the Denver airport waiting their TWA flight to New York City, and Aer Lingus from JFK to Shannon Airport. Note Mickey's distant gaze as he contemplates his first (and surely last) flight.

To visit the Knight's ancestral homeland was a dream of our marriage which took 49 years to fulfill (mostly because of Mickey's prejudice against flying...a bias forgotten soon after lifting off.) Mickey's nephew, Bill Coughlin of California, joined us for our tour. I hope you will enjoy with me some of the recollections of our wonderful adventure.

Gerri Knight, Christmas, 1994



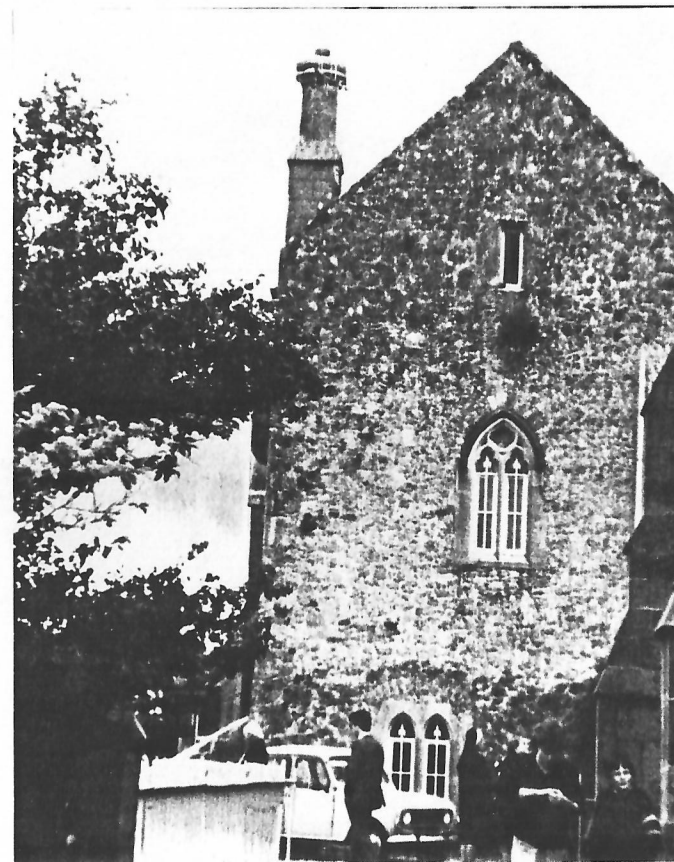
Greetings from Ireland



IRELAND covers an area of 32,524 sq. miles. Its greatest length is 302 miles and its greatest width is 189 miles, and no part is more than 70 miles from the sea. Ireland's fascination is legendary and its rich historic, literary and artistic associations have long made it a favourite resort.

Monday, June 24 We rest a few hours at our hotel at Adare to compensate for jet lag, then see the sights of Adare, Killarney and Limerick.

Craft gallery with thatched roof at Adare, perhaps Ireland's prettiest village.



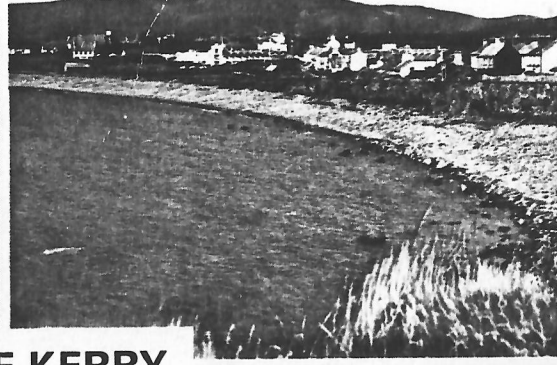
Very ancient church at Adare. I hope you can see the plants growing out of cracks in the stone wall.



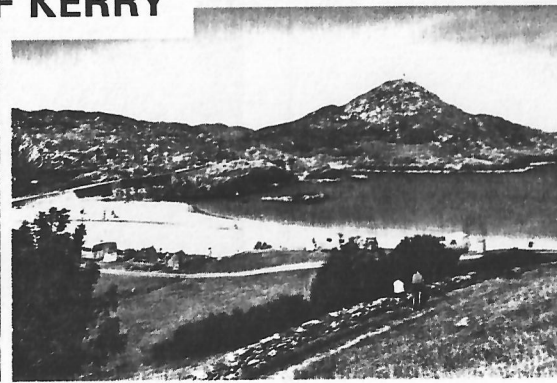
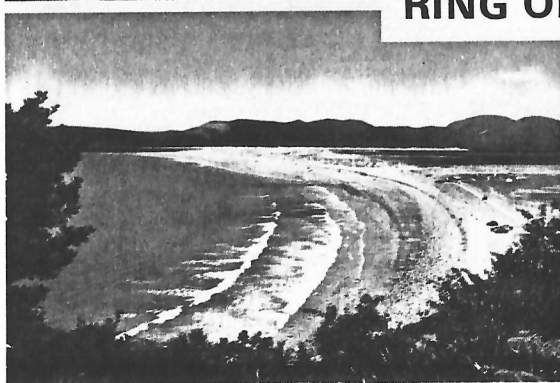
The River Shannon at Limerick

The Republic of Ireland occupies about five sixths of the island of Ireland. The British controlled the area for about 750 years, until 1921, when they made southern Ireland a dominion. The link with England ended when Ireland became a republic in 1949, although Northern Ireland remains a part of the U.K.

Tuesday, June 25 The Ring of Kerry.



RING OF KERRY



The Iveragh Peninsula stretches southwest for approximately 36 miles and has an average width of 15 miles. It contains some of the finest mountains in Ireland and the coastal strip around the peninsula carries the famous "Ring of Kerry" road. A tour of this peninsula starting from Kenmare and following the "Ring" road out to Killarney offers a magnificent panorama of Kerry's most outstanding scenery and extends for over 90 miles.

The True Story of St. Patrick. The enduring legends of St. Patrick are that he used a shamrock to explain the Trinity and that he banished all snakes from Ireland. The true story, however, survives not in his myths but in his work. Patrick was responsible for converting the people of Ireland to Christianity.

Patrick was born to a Catholic family in Britain, probably in the first half of the fifth century. At the age of 16 he was taken to Ireland by pirates and sold into slavery. The young man was sustained by his faith during his six years working as a herdsman. When Patrick escaped and returned to England, he experienced a vision of the Irish beseeching him to return to spread his faith. He recorded this call to his vocation in the 'Confessio', his spiritual autobiography and one of his two short writings that have survived.

After studying in continental European monasteries, Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary. Despite a constant threat to his life, he traveled widely, baptizing, confirming, and preaching and building churches, schools and monasteries. He succeeded in converting almost the entire population of the island. His 'Epistola' pleads the case of the Christian Irish at the hands of their British conquerors. St. Patrick's writings are appreciated for their simplicity and humility. The patron saint of Ireland, his feast day is celebrated on March 17.

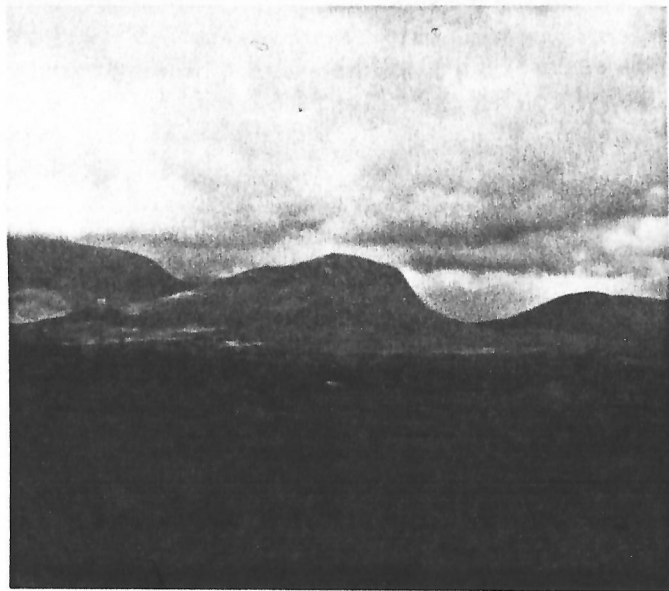
Dingle Bay. It was at the mouth of this bay where the Air India crash occurred on June 23, 1985. (We were able to keep Mickey oblivious of the breaking news of this tragedy until after our safe arrival in Ireland.)



Dunloe Gap. Was it here the Knights first learned to shovel it?

Wednesday, June 26 More of the Ring of Kerry.

Waterville



Moll's Gap. N. of Kenmare, peat bogs in foreground

Ireland Facts

<i>Official Name:</i>	Eire; Ireland
<i>Capital:</i>	Dublin
<i>Prominent Features:</i>	Coastal mountains, large bogs, and lakes.
<i>Highest Peak:</i>	Carrantuohill, 3,414 ft.
<i>Major River:</i>	Shannon
<i>People:</i>	Population (1991 est) 3,494,000; 129 persons per square mile; 57% urban, 43% rural
<i>Major Cities:</i>	Dublin (502,749) Cork (133,271) Limerick (56,279) Galway (47,104) Waterford (39,529)
<i>Major Religions:</i>	Catholic Ch. of Ireland (Anglican)
<i>Official Languages:</i>	Irish (Gaelic), first English, second
<i>Literacy:</i>	Virtually 100%
<i>Leading Universities:</i>	National University of Ireland (Dublin, Cork & Galway); University of Dublin
<i>Chief Agricultural Prod:</i>	Livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs); Crops (barley, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, oats)

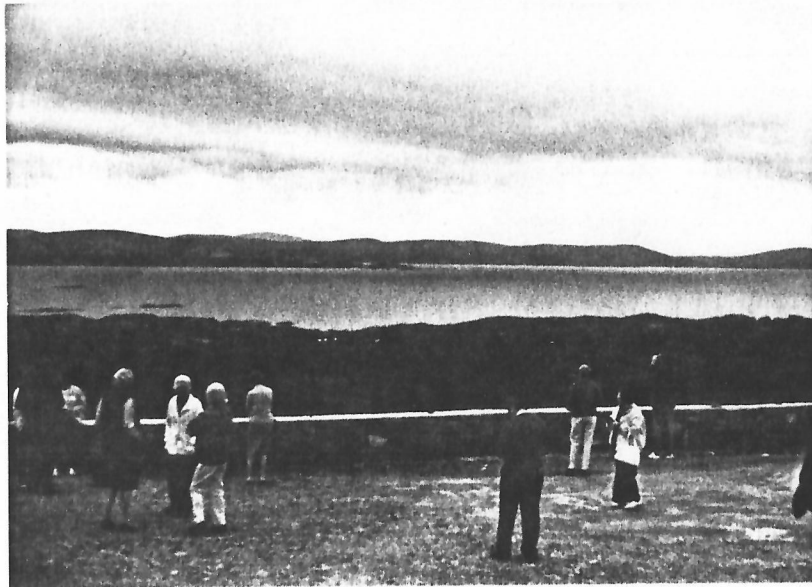
Our Ireland Adventure Tour Coach



The Gap of Dunloe. This beautiful spot on the Emerald Isle can be reached only by horseback.

Thursday, June 27 From Killarney to Cork.

Shoeshine boys climb on the tour bus at Blarney to give us a serenade (or is it an O'Serenade in Ireland?)



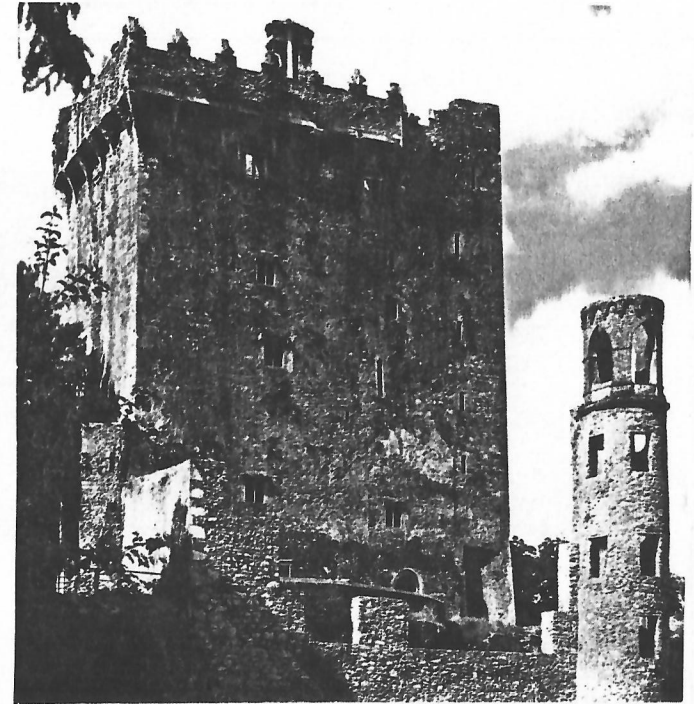
The tour group at Bantry Bay.

Cork

The second largest city in the republic, Cork is located at the head of Cork Harbor on the River Lee in southeastern Ireland. It is a major port for exporting produce and an industrial center with distilling, brewing, textile making, flour milling, bacon curing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, shipbuilding, and automobile production. Its butter market has long been famous.

The center of the old city is an island in the Lee, and its curved main street, St. Patrick's, is built over an old arm of the river, now filled in. The city long ago outgrew the island, and numerous bridges connect what are three basic sections.

Blarney Castle. Owing to being in our seventies, we refrained from kissing the Blarney Stone (nor was it necessary—of blarney the Knights are well gifted!)



Gabriel, our driver, always considerate to give us a whiff of sea breeze.

Friday, June 28 We see the ancient ruins of St. Kevin's Monastery at Glendalough.

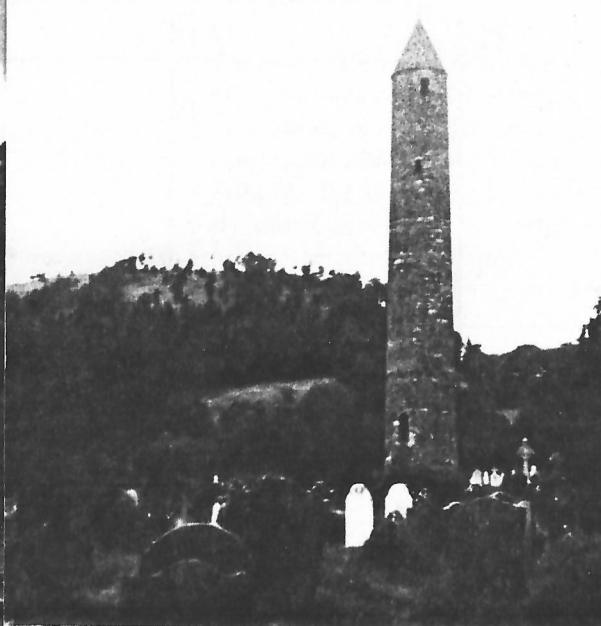
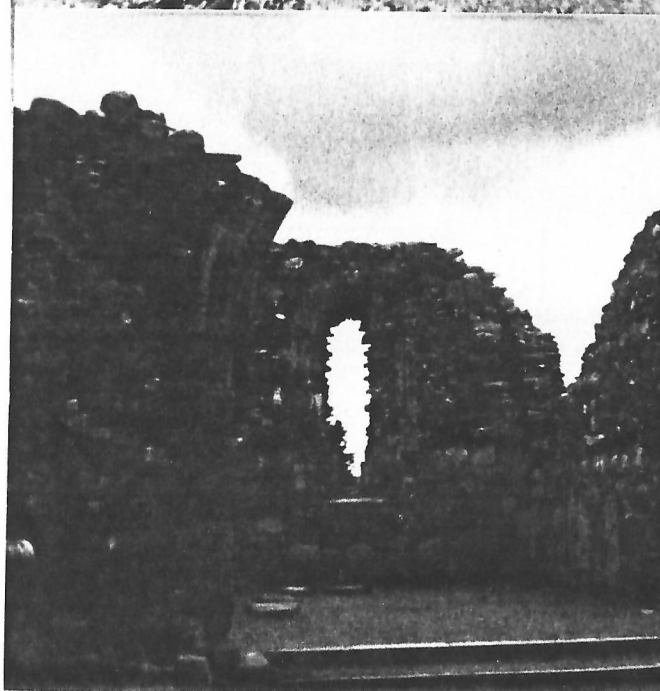


These magnificent relics probably date back to the 8th century.

It is said there were seven churches in the monastic community, including the cathedral (lower left), and St. Kevin's Kitchen, upper left.

The round tower (below) and the cemetery (lower right) are well preserved.

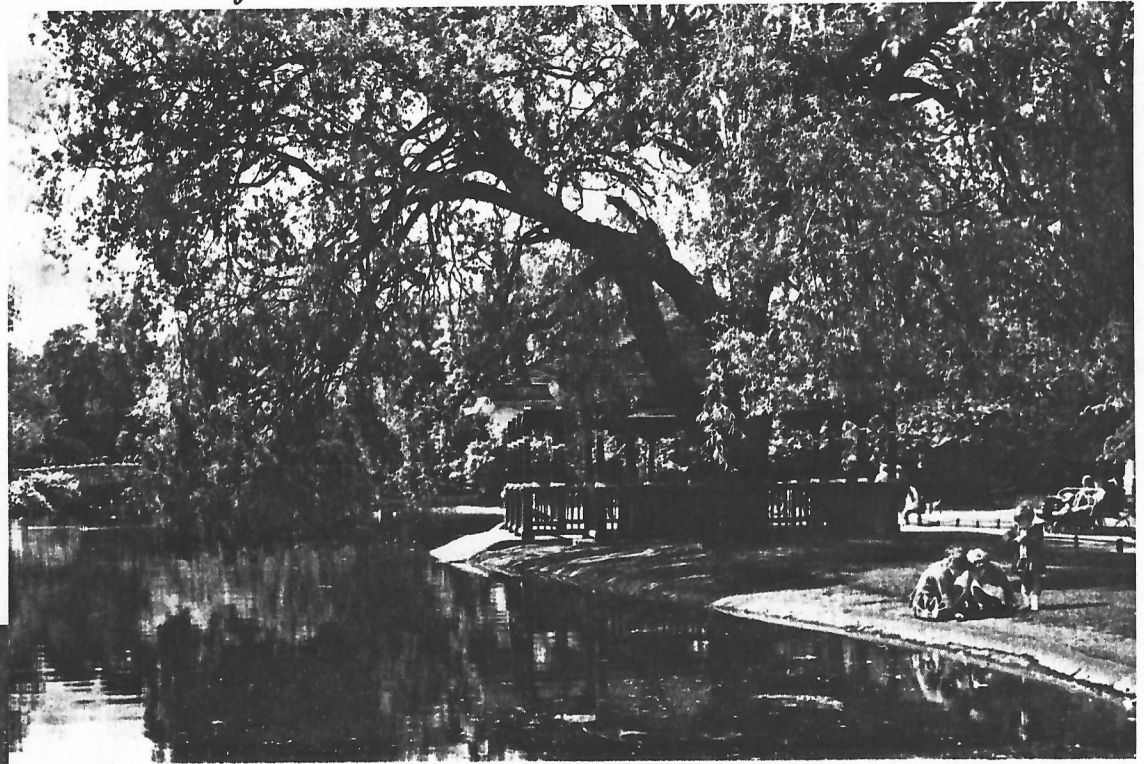
By encircling St. Kevin's Cross, Mick gets his wish!



Saturday, June 29 - Monday, July 1 Beautiful and Historic Dublin . . .

The capital and largest city of Ireland, Dublin is but 44 square miles in area but is rich in cultural achievements. It is the political, economic, and cultural center of Ireland.

The River Liffey divides the city in half. Its dark waters, known in Irish as dubh linn, gave the city its name. Some of the city's most notable buildings face the river. The Four Courts, seat of Ireland's judiciary, and the Custom House are excellent examples of Dublin's late 18th century architecture. Both buildings were damaged heavily during the civil war but have been restored. South of the river is Dublin Castle, which was begun in 1204 and almost totally rebuilt in Georgian style in the 18th century. The castle was the seat of English authority in Ireland until 1922. Today it is the site of the inaugurations of Ireland's presidents. Near the castle are Christ Church and St. Patrick's, Dublin's two Protestant cathedrals. Both date from Dublin's earliest days as a Viking settlement. They were extensively rebuilt by the Anglo-Norman invaders of the late 12th and early 13th centuries and were again rebuilt in the 19th century. Today Parliament meets in Leinster House, an 18th century mansion through which came to be the model for the design of the White House in Washington, D.C.



St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland.

Photo: E. Ludwig, John Hinde Studios.



Dublin City by night, Ireland.

Photo: D. Noble, John Hinde Studios.

Maritime trade has always been one of Dublin's most important activities, as Ireland's largest port and major exporter. It is also the largest manufacturing city in the country, primarily engaged in light manufacture. The city's most famous business is the Guinness Brewery, founded in 1759 and one of Ireland's largest employers and exporters.

Dublin has an illustrious educational and cultural past. Trinity College, or University of Dublin, founded in 1591, graduated authors Jonathon Swift, Oliver Goldsmith and Oscar Wilde, and British statesman Edmund Burke. Dublin was the site of the premier of Handel's 'Messiah' in 1742. The Irish Academy of Letters was founded in 1932 by William Butler Yeats and George Bernard Shaw, two Dublin literary giants. Other famous literary figures include James Joyce and Samuel Beckett.

The city played a leading role in reviving Irish language and literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Especially noteworthy was the opening of the Abbey Theatre in 1904. Museums include the National Museum, the National Gallery of Ireland, and the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art. North of the river and west of the city center is Phoenix Park, nearly 2,000 acres with a zoo and racetrack.

More of the Sights of Dublin City . . .



Grafton Street, Dublin, Ireland.

Photo: P. O'Toole, John Hinde Studios.

IRISH COFFEE

*The most delectable drink that
has ever crossed the palate*

INGREDIENTS

CREAM—*rich as an Irish brogue*

COFFEE—*strong as a friendly hand*

SUGAR—*sweet as the tongue of a rogue*

WHISKEY—*smooth as the wit of the land*

PREPARATION

Heat a stemmed whiskey goblet. Pour in one jigger of Irish whiskey, the only whiskey with the smooth taste and full body needed. Add three cubes of sugar. Fill goblet with strong black coffee to within one inch of the brim. Stir to dissolve sugar. Top off to brim with whipped cream slightly aerated, so that the cream floats on top.

Do not stir after adding cream, as the true flavour is obtained by drinking the hot coffee and Irish whiskey through the cream.

SLAINTE

(GOOD HEALTH!)

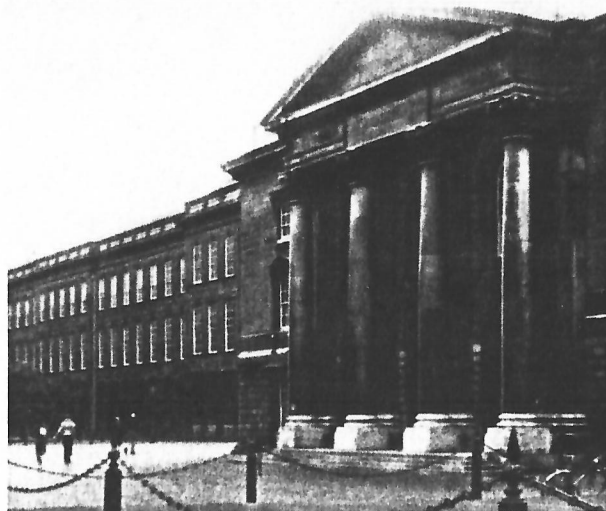
Health and long life to you,

Land without rent to you,

A child every year to you,

And may you die in Ireland.

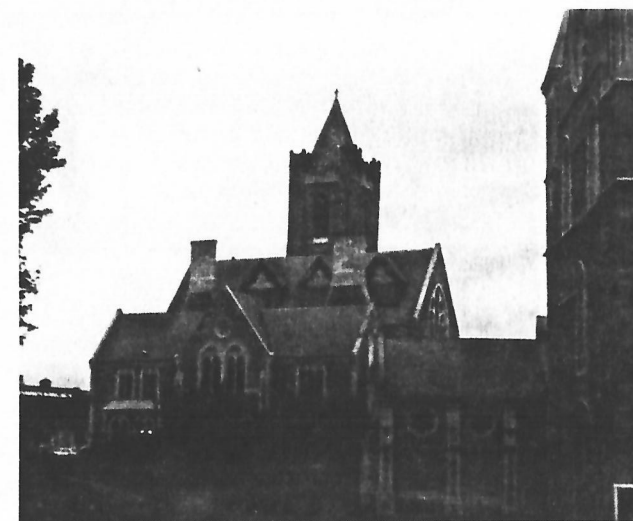
(Old Irish Toast)



Trinity College

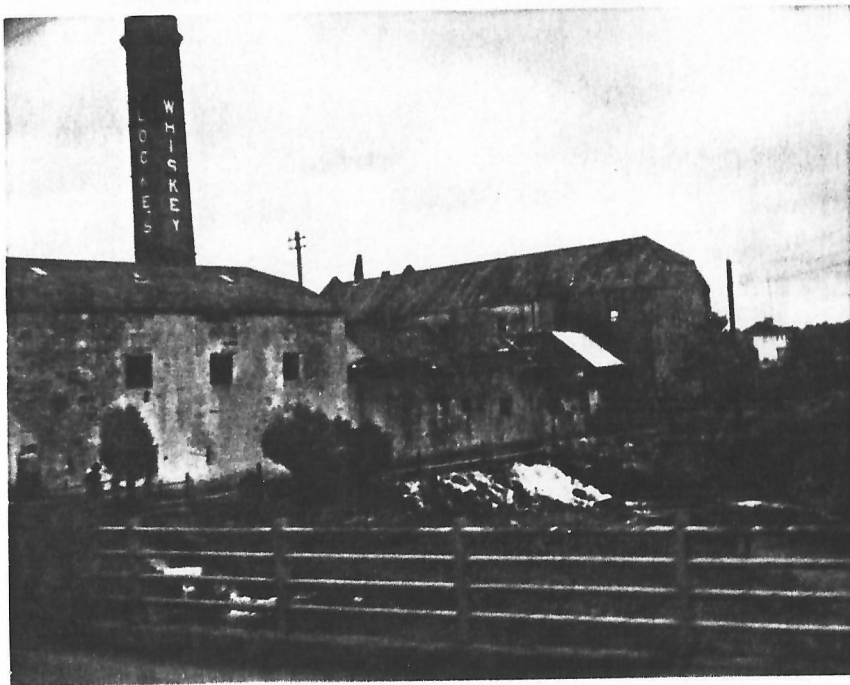


Gate at Dublin Castle

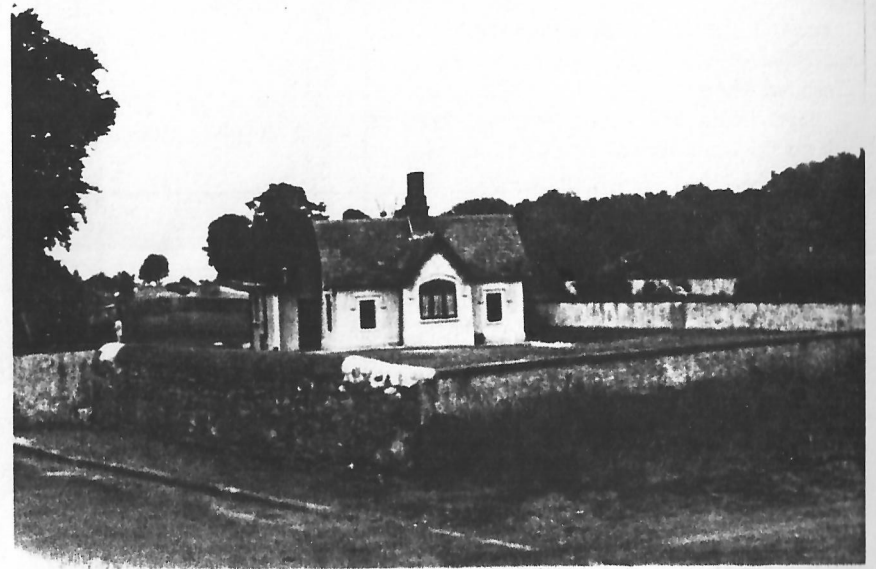


Christ Church

Tuesday, July 2 West of Dublin, Leixlid. Athalone and Ballinasloe



Kilbeggan. Waterfall and whiskey distillery, just out of Dublin



Farmhouse at the village of Leixlid.



Modern home near Ballinasloe.

Ireland's Counties

<u>Province</u>	<u>Counties</u>
<i>Connaught</i>	Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo
<i>Leinster</i>	Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laoighis, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow
<i>Munster</i>	Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary North Riding, Tipperary South Riding, Waterford
<i>Ulster (part)</i>	Cavan, Donegal, Monaghan
<i>County Boroughs</i>	Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford



Cathedral at Athlone.

Wednesday, July 3 County Galway



Ambrose Joyce (l), prop. and manager of the Connemara Marble Industries, with our driver, Gabriel Courtney.



Very fine Celtic commemorative crystal.



Mick takes time to smell a beautiful orange rose.

CONNEMARA MARBLE INDUSTRIES LTD.

MOYCULLEN, CO. GALWAY

QUARRY OWNERS — MERCHANTS
Manufacturers of Connemara Marble Jewellery
and Gift Items

White, Green and Black Marble Chippings
and White Marble Sand

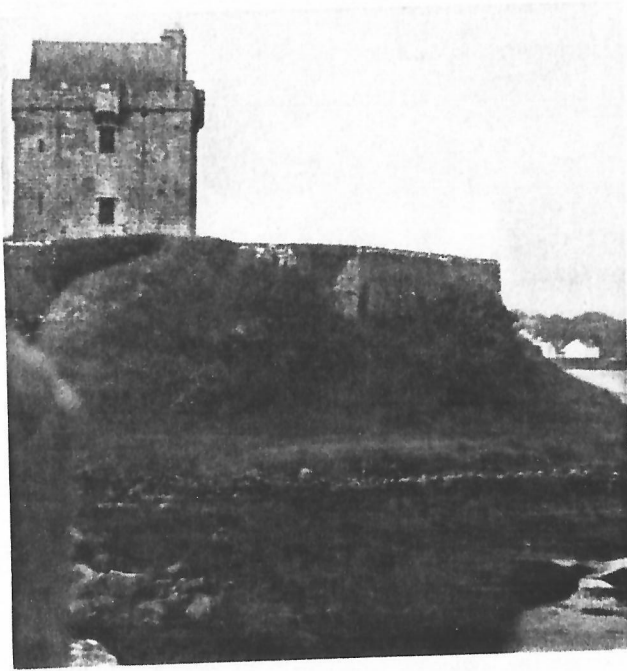
Ambrose Joyce, Managing Director
Telephone: Galway 85102

Our
first
view of
Galway
Bay

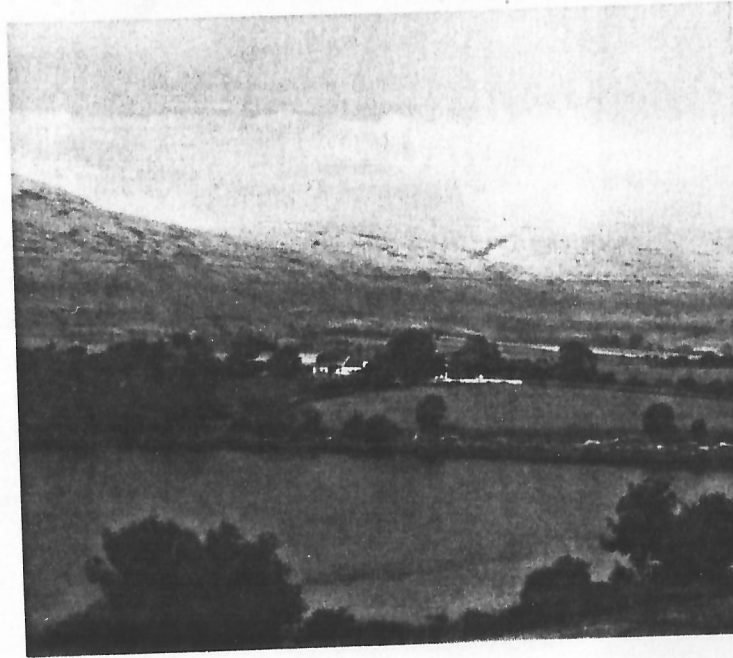


Marble is an important industry in the county.

Thursday, July 4 Counties Galway, Mayo and Clare



Dunguaire Castle, County Galway



County Clare. These barren hills are called "the burren".

Many people have left Ireland to live elsewhere during the last century because of rural overpopulation, few jobs, and poor harvests of potatoes, by far the most important crop. The population of the island decreased steadily from about 8,200,000 in 1841 to 4,200,000 in 1961. Today, as a result of the vast migrations, more Irish live outside Ireland than in it. More than 4,700,000 people migrated to the United States since 1820. Large numbers of Irish also live in Great Britain and in most of the Commonwealth countries, notably Canada and Australia.

On August 21, 1879, Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John, with the Altar, the Lamb and the Cross, appeared at the Church Gable in Knock in a blaze of heavenly light. A Diocesan Commission accepted the evidence as "trustworthy and satisfactory". Many pilgrims visit the shrine annually.



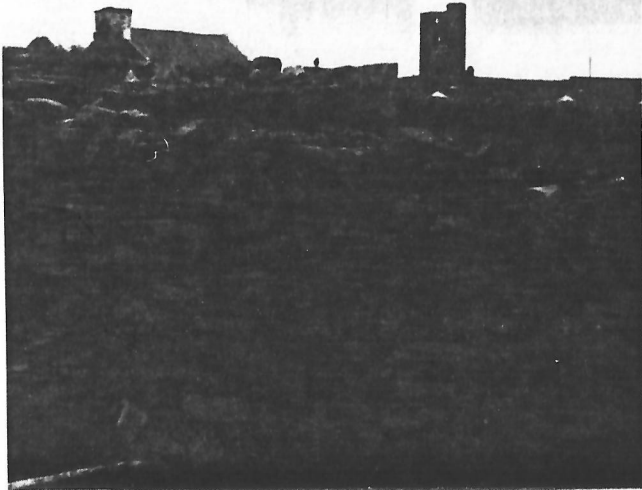
Reproduction of the Apparition seen by numerous villagers in Knock in 1979.



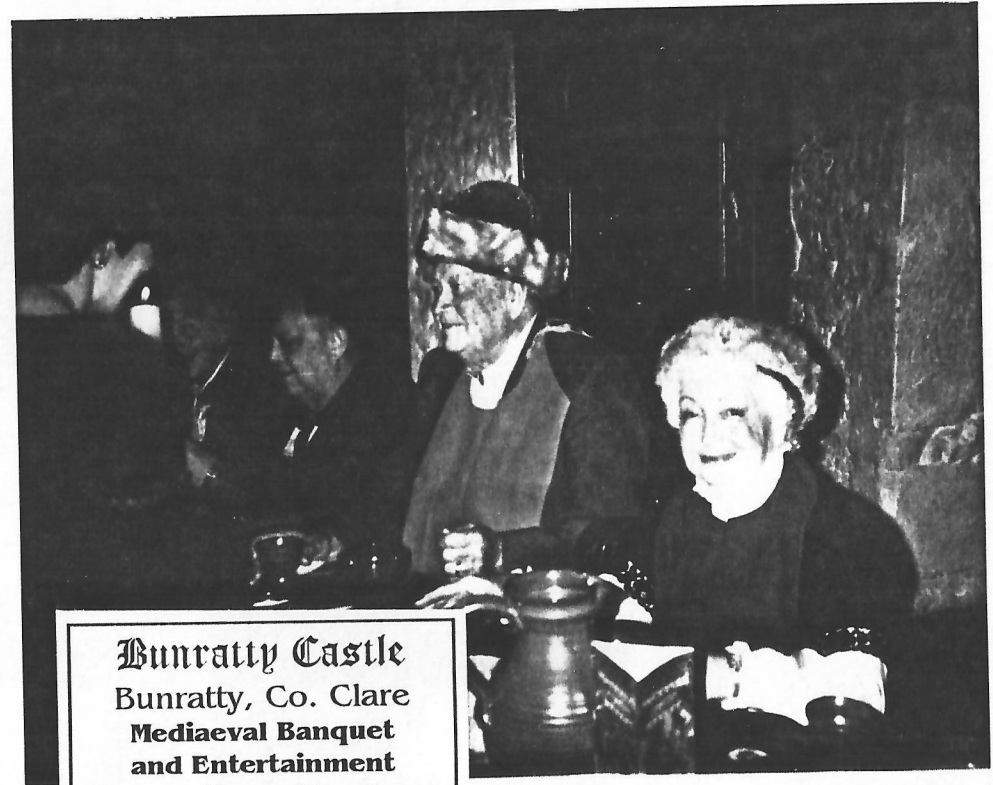
This sculptured golden rose was presented by Pope John Paul II at the dedication of the basilica in 1979.

Friday, July 5, 1985

Scenes of County Clare . . .



*. . . and the Crowning Moment of
our adventure in Ireland.*



**Bunratty Castle
Bunratty, Co. Clare
Mediaeval Banquet
and Entertainment**

*The magnificent 15th Century
Castle of Bunratty is situated on the
Limerick/Shannon/Galway Road, 8
miles from Limerick City.*

*It was a wonderful surprise when Mickey and I were crowned the
Lord and Lady of Bunratty Castle at the Mediaeval Banquet. Note
Lord Michael's elevated position at the table...a loyal democrat in
America, he filled his monarchy with grace and dignity, and wore a
wee bit of an Irish smirk. No subject was allowed to partake of a
dish until the Lord had the first taste. The memorable event
happened to coincide with Mickey's 79th birthday, and we're sure
our tour guide helped to arrange the honor.*