

Memories and Musings (Vol.1: July 2020)

from members and friends of the Fairview Marino Tuesday Club

A great big thank you to all who sent us your memories. They made for great reading and we enjoyed them so much. There was a wonderful variety in the topics covered — WW2, bombing, floods, snow, jobs, local shops now long gone, simple treats, childhood fears, First Communion dresses and lots more. Due to the number of memories and musings received we were unable to include all of them in this first volume. However, we plan to have another volume so if your writing was not included this time, it will be in the next issue.

Thank you again, great contributions

Keep them coming please,

Ann Ryder and Maria Cantwell

There was the big snow in 1947 which lasted forever. There was a quarry in Sundrive Road in Crumlin which froze over. The boys and girls decided to skate on the ice. The ice broke and 3 were drowned. Years later the quarry was drained and today it is a bowl with a bicycle track and a running track. The park is named Éamonn Ceannt Stadium.

The boys' school is no longer open. Boys and girls share. At one time there were close on 2000 boys and 2000 girls in our time. I left school the day I was 13 and half years old. I got a job as a messenger boy in Capel St. Like most shops the half day was Wednesday. They closed at one o'clock. My job on Saturday was to play records. This was to attract people into the shop. My wages was 15 shillings per week.

Bernard Powell

The Honeybee toffee factory still stands on very solid ground. It was a sweet factory on the Richmond Road. The siren used to go off every day when the workers went to lunch during war time. Their toffee sweets used to be lovely and sweet and one could get 5 of them for a penny before decimalisation. No wonder I have not a tooth in my head. We used to get them in the Beehive sweet shop on the Richmond Road beside O'Flaherty's auto repair premises.

Patsy Hassett

3 BOYS FEARED DROWNED IN QUARRY POND

THREE Dublin boys are believed to have been drowned near Kimmage, Dublin, yesterday afternoon, when the ice broke in a quarry pond on which they were skating. The missing boys are Anthony Burke (15), 50 Saul road, Crumlin; Edward O'Toole (7), 3 Leighlin road, Crumlin, and Michael Byrne (10), 39 Slane road, Crumlin.

The pond on which the boys were skating is off the Sundrive road, and has been frozen over for the past few days. Yesterday afternoon a number of children living in the neighbourhood were skating or playing on the pond, when the ice broke and about six boys were seen to fall into the water.

"A boy of about sixteen," he said, "rescued four of the children, and then he himself disappeared."

Thomas Mardy, 131 Leighlin road Crumlin, attempted to rescue two of the boys. He was going home from the Sundrive road cinema when his attention was attracted by a number of people running to the edge of the pond.

He saw that the ice had broken, and that two boys were in the water. Getting a life-buoy, he went out on the ice and threw it towards the boys. As he did so, the ice broke under him, and he found himself in the water also.

DISAPPEARED

He tried to swim towards the boys with the lifebuoy, but, before he could reach them, they had disappeared. He himself had to be assisted out of the water afterwards.

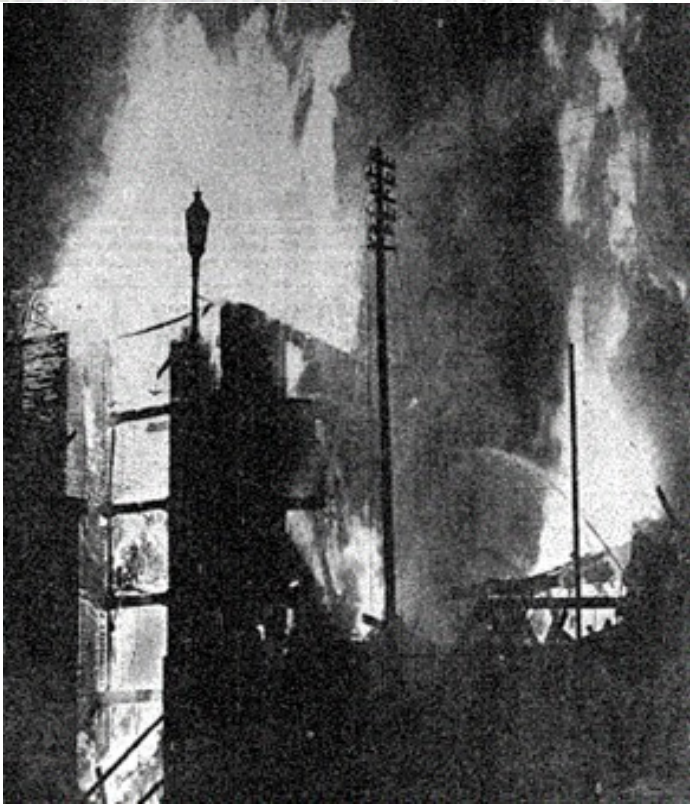
Sergeant Roche and Guards Keefe, Donnan and Lannin, from Sundrive Road Station, were on the scene shortly after the accident, and dragging operations were immediately started, but no bodies had been found up to a late hour. The pond will be dragged again this morning.

The quarry pond is said to be over 100 feet deep, and about two years ago a boy was drowned there in similar circumstances.

During the recent spell of frost the children of the neighbourhood have been warned off the pond by the Guards on several occasions.



FLAMES LIGHT UP CITY SKYLINE



I was married in August 1961 to Brendan the love of my life. When we got married we got our house on the road beside my mam and dad (Russell Avenue). They lived on Fitzroy Avenue.

While staying with my mam and dad one night there was a huge explosion. All the people were running down Fitzroy Avenue towards Jones' Road. There was a flour mill on the hill opposite Croke Park and it was the mill that had blown up. It was very frightening. There is a hotel there now. I also remember air raid shelters on Jones' Road and gas masks.

Ann O'Connor

A time of uncertainty and anxiety. When I was young my dad was active in the Royal Navy (2nd World War). My dad was a Chief Petty Officer. Our mam (Ellen) was looking after a young family and was anxious every day as to what was happening in the war and all the news of bombings at sea. A local blacksmith, 'Jack the Smith', called each day with the paper *The Cork Examiner*, with news of the war. This was a time of worry and anxiety. Thank God my dad came home after the war. He died at 86.

Andrew Coleman

Lockdown March 2020. Cold and miserable. Looking into the garden it looked so desolate. No colour, no flowers blooming — then spring plants started blooming. Everything brightens up and you get that feeling everything is getting better. Looking out my kitchen window the trees in the circle look beautiful. The chestnut trees are like Christmas with their beautiful blooms. They bring joy to the heart.

Marie Grennell



I am 91 years old in May and I do not feel lonely. I have wonderful memories to go back to. I was a waitress in the Gresham Hotel for 36 years. It was wonderful. I met the cream of society—Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Wilding, Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Betty Hutton. Also groups of golfers from all over the world. Some brought their own pianist so there were always parties when they arrived back at the hotel. I looked after the bar for them in a special room (also very generous-SMILE).
Marie Bannim



Fairview Floods 1954—My eldest daughter was 2 weeks old. My mother who was on her way home from work had to stay in North Strand with a friend. In Fairview there was a hall door at Edge's shop where Billy Barry and her family lived. Her husband and four children had to be rescued and went to stay with her sister in Declan's Road.



North Strand Bombing 1941—John McNamara was the clerk in Marino Church. He lived on the North Strand. He got on his bike and rode to Marino to see if the Church was damaged. Thank God all was ok.
Betty Lee

I was born and reared beside Croke Park. Only 4 doors separated us from the big green gates at the bottom of Hill 16. In our little cul de sac, several neighbours still occupied the same homes where they lived on that awful day in November 1920 (Bloody Sunday, Croke Park). They told and re-told the story of the arrival of the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries and the horrors that followed on from that.

When I heard there was to be a big State celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rising I began to look forward to it with great expectations. I had it all planned. *Easter Sunday*—the big parade and the flyover from the Air Corp at the G.P.O. *Easter Monday*—we could walk to Liberty Hall and perhaps with the promise of a picnic in Stephen's Green and more ice-cream, we might manage the College of Surgeons. *Day 3* was Moore St. - Moore Lane and Church St. and home by the Four Courts. I knew I could talk my husband into driving us around in the early evening to the faraway places—Boland's Mills, Mount St. Bridge, Jacobs, Dublin Castle, the South Dublin Union (St. Kevin's Hospital), Kilmainham and on to Arbour Hill. Home then, to sit and watch the re-enactment of the Rising on RTE. This was to be the crowning glory of the week.

Of the many who fought for Irish freedom during 1916 the following are past pupils of St Joseph's Fairview:

Seán Connolly - Seán Ó Conaile, 108, Philipsburgh Avenue.
 Frank Henderson - Proinsias Mac Ionraic - 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview.
 Leo Henderson - Leonshan (Leon) Mac Eanruig - 5, Windsor Villas, Fairview.
 John Murphy - Seán Ó Murchú - Kilmore Cottages, Artane, Co. Dublin.
 Joseph Itacken - Seosamh Ó Itreacain - 106, St Lawrence Road, Clontarf
 David Thomas Golden - Daithí Tomás Ó Góilidhe - 152, Richmond Road
 Thomas W. Pugh - 9, Charleville Mall, North Strand.
 John Lynch - Seán Ó Loinsigh - 25, Annesley Place, North Strand.
 William Lynch - Liam Ó Loinsigh - 1, Nixon Street, North Wall, Dublin.
 Peadar Kearney - Peadar Ó Cearnaigh - 68, Lower Dorset Street.
 Thomas Wheatley - 251, Richmond Road, Drumcondra.
 (Michael) Conway McGinn - Strandville Avenue, North Strand.
 Christopher Ring - Criosóir Ó Rinn - 5, Sackville Gardens, Dublin.
 Patrick Ring - Padraig Ó Rinn - 6, Sackville Gardens, Dublin.
 William Ring - Liam Ó Rinn - 4, Sackville Gardens, Dublin.
 Leo Ring - León Ó Rinn - 9, Charleville Mall, North Strand, Dublin.
 Joseph Ring - Seosamh Ó Rinn - 17, Clonmore Terrace, Dublin.
 Thomas O'Reilly - Tomás Ó Raghallaigh - St Michael's Hill, Dublin
 John O'Brien - Seán Ó Briain - 487, North Circular Road, Dublin.
 Charles Saurin - Cathal de Sabhrann - The Cottage, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf.
 Herbert Conroy - Hóireabard Ó Conraoi - 4, Marino Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin.
 John Newman - Seán Newman - Marino Lodge, Fairview, Dublin.
 James Fox - Séamus Mac an tSionnaigh - 4, Russell Heights, Church Road, East Wall
 Charles Rossiter - Cathal Rosaiter - 2, Sallypark Cottages, Philipsburgh Avenue.
 Joseph Callen - Seosamh O'Cathlain
 Samuel Ellis - 191 Richmond Road
 Charles Purcell - 36 Ballybough Road

On Easter Saturday night the baby coughed and cried through the long hours and with the first glorious light of Easter morning, I realised my plans were in ruins. His flushed and spotty face told its own story — he had the measles. I knew well what was in store for a week — blinds, curtains drawn, deep shade at all times.
Ann Ryder



Thinking about the big snow in 1947 things were very scarce due to the war. I remember my parents breaking up wooden chairs to use in the range to keep us warm as the turf was very wet to use.

Maura McCabe

We lived in Shelmartin Avenue and four doors up from us lived a family by the name of Ross. They were Jews. A lovely family. Their son Ivor was a member of the F.C.A. First Aid and he was the first person on the site when the bombs (North Strand 1941) went off and he was presented with a medal. The roofs of the houses shook when the bombs blew.



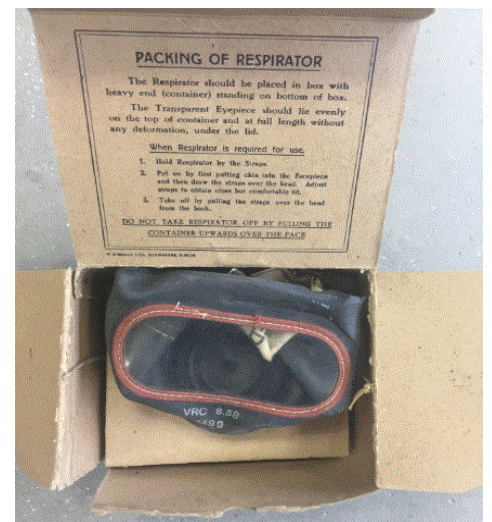
I remember the shelters as well —long, gloomy, cement boxes on the road, no lights, narrow entrances. I can remember when they broke them down. They used the big iron ball to smash them. I still have the docketts that were issued for gasmasks with our names on them—to be used if we had to go down the country for safety. Also some ration coupons for clothes.

Laurie Grennell



I remember hearing the German planes going over at night to bomb Belfast and seeing the explosions light up the sky when our army was firing at them. At that time, I was living near the Phoenix Park when a bomb fell near the dog pond. My school friend lived in one of the lodges. Thankfully they escaped injury. I was very scared. We had an air raid shelter on our road and we played in it. I remember the gasmasks and we played with them too.

Maura McCabe



I came from a large family of 3 boys and 7 girls. I'm the last of the clan. My mother made a ginger cake every Sunday in the roasting dish and it was cut up into 12 squares one for each of us. That was our treat for the week. No such thing as biscuits and how we all looked forward to our treat.



We got great wear out of our Communion dresses. We wore them every week during the month of May. There was always a procession round the roads of Marino every Sunday and the dress was handed down from the eldest. We were born on South Lotts Road and I'm living in Marino about 82 years. What a lovely place to live in. Slán.

Theresa O'Connor

I was 7 years old in 1941. I remember waking up the morning of the bombing and seeing my mother and all the neighbours outside chatting. Later, Mom said a bomb had fallen on the North Strand which wasn't far away. My brother was in the ARF and he distributed gas masks to all the families. He wasn't alone. A lot of the men were involved. We had great fun in the family trying the gas masks on. There were plots in the circle and also an air raid shelter. We weren't allowed to play in it but there was a water tank in our green and when it was empty we climbed into it. There was also rationing which lasted a while after the war.

Anna Henry



RAIN HINDERS ALL-OUT HARVEST EFFORT

WHAT HAD PROMISED TO BE THE GREATEST EFFORT YET MADE TO SAVE THE HARVEST WAS FRUSTRATED IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY YESTERDAY BY HEAVY RAIN, WHICH MADE OPERATIONS IMPOSSIBLE. THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS WHO REPORTED FOR DUTY HAD TO "BE TOWN-VEG" AT 11 A.M.

Expressing his disappointment at the bad weather, Mr. D. Twomey, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, who visited the Dublin Central Bureau yesterday, called for an ever-ready organisation by city firms to take advantage of fine weather.

A statement from the bureau says that unless measures can be taken at once to overcome the arrears, the loss of food will be catastrophic.

"The week beginning now may well determine whether the harvest battle is won or lost," declares the statement.

The Tower Bar
HENRY STREET
will be closed all day
to-morrow, Sunday,
to allow the Staff to
help with the harvest

All Ready for Record Effort To Save Crops

THE organisers of the "Save the Harvest" drive are preparing for a record number of volunteers this week-end.

The Football League of Ireland management committee last night decided to postpone the four City Cup matches arranged for to-day and to-morrow.

The G.A.A. All-Ireland Football Final at Croke Park is also off.

Many golf clubs, including Milltown and Malahide, have cancelled week-end games and urged their members to join the harvest "army."

SET-BACK

Thursday night's heavy rain was a severe set-back to harvesting operations, and hundreds of volunteers who reported at the bureau's waterlogged condition, owing to the officials said that the rain made more volunteers more than ever necessary now.

1946 was the year the government asked for volunteers to help farmers save the harvest after weeks of rain and flooding. I volunteered with my brother Paddy, his future wife Una and thousands of other volunteers. We went on Army trucks that were lined up on Parnell Square. We were given a packed lunch for our journey and taken to a farm not far from Dublin.

I was wearing a skirt and shoes like the other women. When our shoes started sinking into the fields and the mice started running around our ankles we soon realised our mistake. We spent a lot of time running from the mice in case they ran up our legs and under our skirts. Nevertheless, we managed to get some work done before the farmer's wife brought us into the kitchen for a hot lunch of man size proportions. We had a huge plate of steaming hot bacon with cabbage and potatoes. This was a feast to our eyes.

When we were leaving the farmer's wife provided sandwiches for the journey home. I recall the farmer offering some money for our day's work but my brother wouldn't hear of taking any money when the farmers were struggling. The Army trucks were lined up waiting to take us home. Although we were exhausted with shoes only fit for the bin we were happy that we had been able to help in some way at a time of crisis for our farmers and our country.

Alice Glover

BACK TO THE LAND

Voluntary harvest workers queue outside the recruiting centre at Parnell Square, Dublin. Dr. Ryan, Minister for Agriculture; Mr. P. Bourke, T.D.; Mr. J. O'Connor and Dr. Bouchier-Hayes watch from the sidewalk (on left).



We hope you enjoyed this first selection of memories and thoughts from our members and friends.

We are so grateful to everyone who took the trouble to write in and share their memories and thoughts with us. We hope it will encourage more of you to write to us. And even if you have sent in something before we would be delighted to have a second contribution or indeed as many as you want to send in. Please don't worry about your writing or spelling etc. If you prefer not to write, you can get in contact with us and tell your story or thoughts to a volunteer who will then write it out. You could also ask a family member or friend to do this. We welcome all your contributions and look forward to getting them for a second volume.

Keep Safe

Keep Well

Keep Smiling

Ann Ryder and Maria Cantwell on behalf of the Tuesday Club Committee

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Other topics which you might have thoughts on – these are just some ideas...

Arrival of first TV in your home and then later when the “pipe” came and you could get programmes from the U.K.

Jobs - your first job, your co-workers, travelling to work?

Women at home - the work they did, the different roles of men and women?

Hobbies/interests– how did you like to spend your free time?

Music, Dances and Romances – what music did you like, where did you dance? And we would definitely like to hear about your romances – good, bad and unrequited!

Religious - missions, retreats, solidarities, May processions, novenas?

Shopping - shops, going in to town, the regular items you bought, the special items?

School - mitching from school, boxing an orchard, your teachers, your fellow pupils?

We would like to thank Ann Ryder and Maria Cantwell for their valuable work over the last few months in encouraging and supporting our members and friends to write about their memories and thoughts. We hope to continue this project given the enthusiastic response it has received. We would also like to thank Mary Hennessey for sourcing the images accompanying the pieces and Bernadette Brady for putting the document together for printing. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the on-going support we get from all our volunteers and to the Croke Park Community Fund for their donation towards printing costs.

Anne Forde on behalf of the Fairview Marino Tuesday Club Management Committee