

Changing Face of Ulster

(Contributed)

Society

Ulster society has undergone a dramatic, indeed drastic change in less than two decades, and looking at the current scene from a Reformed Protestant and Orange vantage point, it has to be said that many of the changes are not for the better.

"The Troubles" have had a devastating effect on many aspects of Ulster life, and their effect cannot be minimised.

But even before the civil strife erupted on the streets of the Province in 1969, there was evidence that the old moral and spiritual values which moulded Ulster life for so many years were being eroded.

Secular inroads were being made on many fronts, not least on the attitudes to the Sabbath, and its observance.

In the 1950's, it was possible to point to Ulster as a largely churchgoing, Sabbath observing country, with little or no sporting or recreational activity on the Lord's Day.

That cannot be said to-day, and although Northern Ireland still has a higher percentage of church going people than any other part of the United Kingdom, there are disturbing signs of an increasing laxity towards the attitude to public worship on Sundays.

For the purpose of this report, the Roman Catholic population can be ignored. The Roman Catholic Church has always had an easy-going attitude towards sporting and other activities on the Sundays after mid-day, and anyone who has visited Dublin, Cork, Limerick or any of the Southern cities and towns will have abundant evidence of just how little vestige of Christian observance of the Lord's Day there is.

It is the Protestant population about which we must be concerned, and the picture is not a hopeful one.

More and more sporting activities are taking place on Sundays. Golf clubs have opened their doors for years now, and this example is being followed by cricket clubs and other organised sports.

Even in the Shankill Road, of staunchly Protestant reputation, new leisure centres are now open, and these are a counter attraction to the Sunday Schools and Church-orientated youth organisations.

Cinemas are now open in Belfast city centre, and no doubt the same trend will spread to other towns.

Then there is the alarming upsurge in the number of licensed drinking clubs in the Province. Many of these are just geared to drink, and have no other justification for their existence. They are nearly all open on Sundays, and the evidence of this can be seen by the number of drunk men, and woman, on the streets of Belfast and other towns.

With so many clubs now open, it is hardly surprising that the public house trade is now joining in the clamour for more "liberal" drinking laws, despite the fact that there are more facilities for drink in Ulster than in most other parts of the United Kingdom.

Going hand-in-hand with all this drinking and the enjoyment of sport on Sundays has been a sharp deterioration in moral standards.

A recent terrible case involving the rape of a young nurse living in a flat on the Shankill Road by a number of men underlines the tragic state of affairs.

There is nothing to be gained by turning a blind eye to the situation. Many Protestant districts, especially in Belfast and in the other urban areas, are no longer bastions of Reformed and Protestant Christianity.

There are many good, upright Christian people living in these areas, and the Churches are in the forefront of giving a lead. The Orange Order, too, has spoken out about the decline in the moral and social standards of sections of the Protestant population. But the drift into secularism continues, and this can be seen in the sharp increase in the number of civil marriages — marriages outside the blessing of the Churches — in addition to the huge number of legal separations and divorces.

It is essential that the Christian Churches, the Orange and Black Institutions, and other organisations give a fearless lead against the

evil influences which seek to undermine Ulster society.

The alternative is to allow the drift to continue, until Ulster is faced with a situation similar to that which exists in many parts of the United Kingdom.

Wales is an example which springs to mind. Thirty years ago it was still a Bible-believing country, the land of the Methodist and Baptist Chapels, and the great singing of its choirs.

To-day, much of Welsh spiritual life has disappeared, and as chapels have closed, bingo halls, social clubs and strip clubs have mushroomed.

Ulster Protestants must beware of their Province becoming the same, and there is need for a great crusade against the creeping and insidious inroads into the way-of-life enjoyed by generations of Ulster people.

There is a duty on each generation to continue the traditions handed down from the Boyne, and before that. That means positive Protestantism — a God fearing, churchgoing, and witnessing Protestantism, not a drink-besotted, blaspheming, negative Protestantism, which is incapable of doing other than mouthing mere slogans.

The Orange Order must be in the vanguard of the Christian renewal in Ulster. It cannot afford to sit on the sidelines, and it must speak out fearlessly against all evils. It must denounce the criminal and lawless elements in the Protestant population, and it must disown those who use the great Orange and Protestant heritage as a mere trotting out of slogans at certain times of the year. If others compromise their principles, and try to co-exist alongside such elements, the Orange Order must reject them, and must stand for decency. There is no other way, and by doing so it will earn the admiration and support of the legions of Ulster people who are determined to safeguard the province's mighty traditions as a mainly Christian and law abiding community.

CGM Warning on Mixed Marriages

A warning that mixed marriages involving Protestants and Roman Catholics was on the increase again in Northern Ireland, was issued by a leading Orange officer recently.

Mr. J. A. Anderson, M.B.E., J.P., county grand master of Armagh, told the members of Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1 at their annual installation dinner, that the Grand Lodge of Ireland was concerned at the evidence of increasing numbers of mixed marriages.

Mr. Anderson said that this was strange, bearing in mind the "Troubles" of the past

decade, and he said that the ecumenical movement was probably responsible, to some extent for the "worrying trend."

He said the Protestant Churches had been vigilant in the past in warning its members about the need to avoid mixed marriages, but since the ecumenical movement got under way, many churches did not speak out as often as they should about this important matter.

Orangemen, he claimed, had a clear duty to instruct anyone with whom they had influence about the need to avoid mixed marriages. There was a clear duty to try to ensure that young people were guided in the principles of the Reformed and Protestant faith.

Up Cork — in 1823!

When the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland met in the city of Cork in 1823, the proceedings lasted for two days, and were opened by the Primate of All-Ireland.

This interesting Orange titt-bit was provided by Mr. W. C. Moody, past deputy County Grand Master of Armagh, when he spoke at the installation dinner of Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1.

Mr. Moody said that the Grand Lodge on that occasion had also been attended by two Bishops of the Church of Ireland.

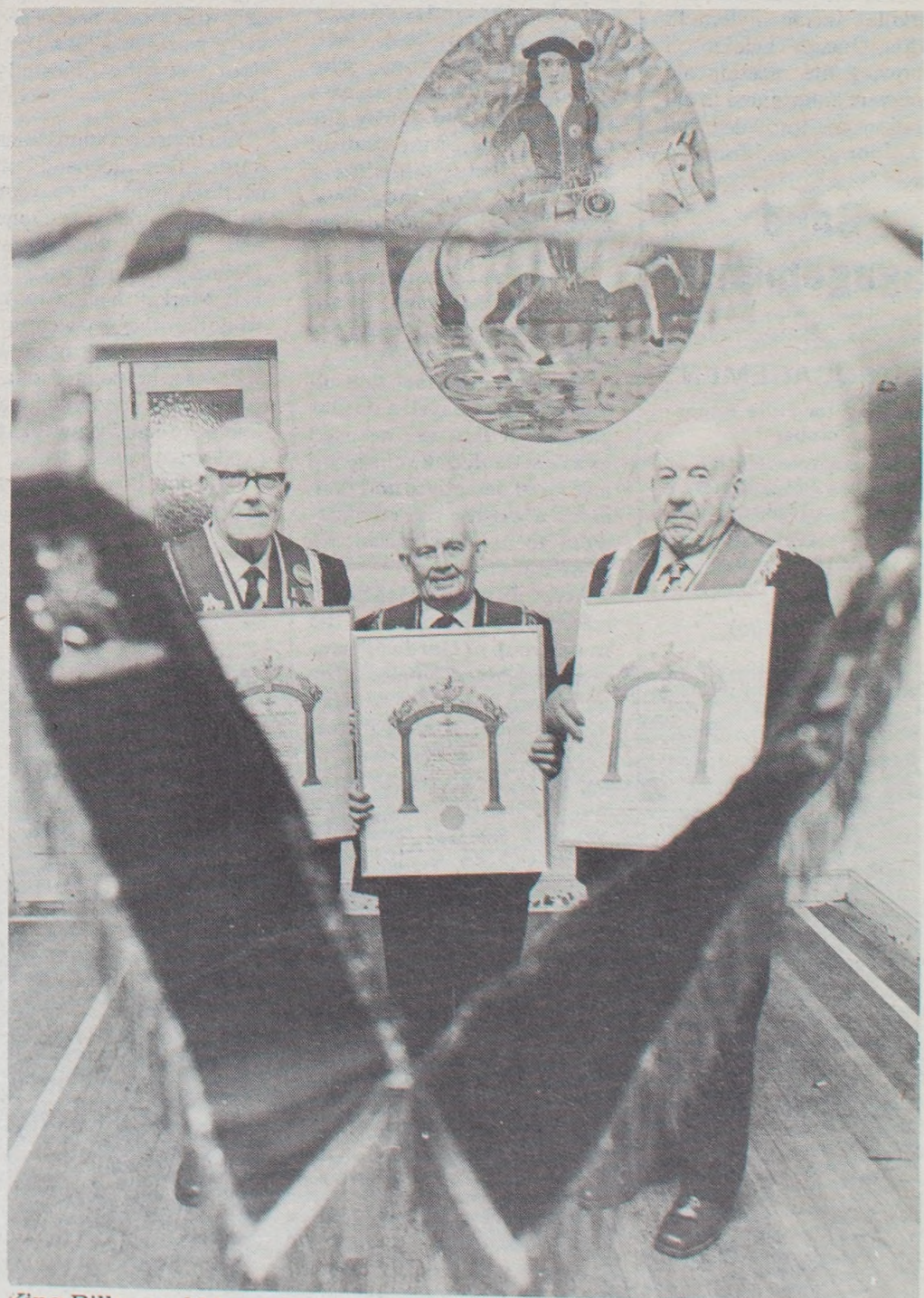
Scots Dance and Dine

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland annual dinner dance in the Town Hall, Port Glasgow, was attended by 250 Sir Knights with their wives and friends.

Sir Knight Alan Lindsay, PGM, and Mrs. Lindsay led off in the Grand March, and during the meal which followed the local First Boys Brigade Company Pipe Band, current West of Scotland novice champions, provided entertainment.

Collections for the band and for Guide Dogs for the Blind realised £53 and £16 respectively.

There was a surprise visit by the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight James H. Molyneaux, M.P., who earlier had unfurled a banner for R.B.P. No. 118. Several visitors from Ulster were also present.



King Billy would have been proud of them—the three men who have served the Orange Order for 256 years. Freddie Lewis (left), John Marks (right) and William Campbell who are members of Clough LOL 1043 were this week presented with certificates for their years of devoted service. Report and pictures inside.

Photo courtesy Down Recorder

Through inadvertence last month's issue was priced on this page as 10p. It should in fact have read 15p.

RATHFRILAND DISTRICT OFFICERS INSTALLED

District Officers were honoured when the members of Rathfriland No. 3 Orange District held their postponed quarterly meeting and installation of officers in Moneygore Orange Hall.

The installation of officers for 1982 was carried out by the County Grand Master, Br. William Russell, assisted by the County Secretary, Bro. William Copeland, J.P.

After the ceremony, Bro. Alexander McCauley was presented with a collarette, jewel and Past Master's certificate, in appreciation of his services to the district during his two-year term in the office of WDM. The present-

ation was made on behalf of the District by Bro. Russell.

Bro. Russell spoke in glowing terms of his tremendous work within the district, and Bro. McCauley returned thanks for the sentiments expressed.

The highlight of the evening was the honouring of Bro. Raymond McCullough who for the past 14 years had served the District as Secretary and is presently elevated to the position of DDM. No more fitting person could have been asked to make the presentation than Bro. Copeland, who himself is the County Grand Secretary and devotes con-

siderable time and energy to the job.

Before making the presentation of a Secretary's medal and inscribed gold watch, Bro. Copeland referred to the time and energy which Bro. McCullough gave to the time-consuming position he held in No. 3 District. He was well worthy of the gifts being presented to him, Bro. Copeland added.

Bro. Copeland described Bro. McCullough as "one of the best District Secretaries in County Down."

After receiving the gifts Bro. McCullough suitably replied.

The brethren were entertained to supper by the members of LOL 574.



Bro. Alec McCauley, PDM who received his Past Master's Certificate, with seated left to right: Bro. William Copeland, County Grand Secretary, Bro. Raymond McCullough, DDM, and Bro. Billy Russell, County Grand Master. Standing left to right: Bro. H. Brown, WDM, Bro. William Young, District Treasurer, Bro. R. J. McIlroy, District Secretary and Bro. David McDowell, District Lay Chaplain.

Bowtown Officers

Dalzell Memorial L.O.L. 1951, Bowtown, held their Installation with W. Bro. J. Williams, W.D.M., Upper Ards District, No. 11, presiding, assisted by W. Bro. S. O'Brien, D.D.M.

Many of the local lodges were represented and also in attendance were brethren from both Holywood and Bangor Districts.

Installed into office for 1982 were: W. T. Morrow, W.M.; J. McCready, D.M.; T. Stratton, Sec.; W. Coey, Treasurer; A. Brown, Chaplain; J. Long, Lecturer; Committee: H. D. Mills, J. Good, G. Duff, D. Mills and J. Morrow, D. Somerville, Inside Tyler; J. Johnston, Outside Tyler.

Following the meeting all present were entertained to an installation tea provided by Mrs. J. Johnston and friends.

Band Engagements

BAND ENGAGEMENT

'Crimson Star Flute Band' Comber

Seeks engagement for Apprentice Boys, Easter Monday, and Derry Day

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Mr. Maurice Brown
9 Darragh Road, Comber
Co. Down
Tel. Comber 878935

BAND ENGAGEMENT

Reding and West quarter Protestant Boys Flute Band

Seeks engagement for 12th July 1982 Parade, anywhere in Ulster

Prepared to pay their own way to Larne Harbour

Please Contact
Mr. Walter Sedgwick
c/o Leepark Hotel
130 Boness Road,
Grangemouth, Scotland

BAND ENGAGEMENT

'Whinhall True Blues'

Band seeks engagement for 12th July 1982 Demonstration

The Band is prepared to pay their own travelling expenses to Larne Harbour

Please contact
Mrs. Lena Ferguson
32 Rawyards Avenue, Airdrie
Scotland.

Four Cleared of Orange Hall 'Arson'

Four young men have been cleared of a charge of burning down an Orange Order hall after the Special Criminal Court in Dublin had ruled that statements made by them to detectives were not admissible in evidence.

Eugene Patrick Markey (17), Phillip Duffy (19), John Murtagh (19), all from the Balieborough area and Patrick Donnery (22), of Shercock, were discharged and the charge of burning Billyhill Orange Hall was dismissed.

Ruling the contested statements inadmissible, Mr. Justice McMahon, who presided, said that in the case of Donnery and Duffy the court considered the medical evidence had established a doubt that they may have been "roughed up" during interrogation.

In the case of the other two, Markey and Murtagh, he said the medical evidence did not raise the same doubts.

However, the fact that all four cases displayed a similar pattern in that the accused had first denied the charge to one set of detectives and then made a written signed statement to another raised the same doubt.

Mr. Justice McMahon referred to the fact that the same group of Garda officers were involved in all the interviews and this also raised a doubt in the latter two cases.

The court, he said, was not concerned with whether the statements were true or not but only whether they were admissible in evidence — were they given voluntarily. The court was not satisfied and held that all four statements were inadmissible.

After prosecution counsel, Mr. Martin Kennedy, SC, told the court the State was not proposing to call any further evidence, the court discharged all four.

Prosecution counsel, Mr. Martin Kennedy, SC, told the court the four men had all made written and verbal statements admitting involvement in the arson when arrested by gardai in October. The hall, he said, which was known as 'Billyhill Orange Hall,' but was officially the Orange Order and Black

Institution Hall, was almost totally destroyed in the fire.

Mr. Kennedy said the fire was seen first by a man who lives about 150 yards away from the hall but he had to go to a neighbour's house to use the telephone to call Bailieborough and Cootehill fire-brigades to the scene. A gallon can which had been used to carry petrol was found on the floor of the burned-out building.

On their own admissions, he said, the accused men, Murtagh and Markey, went to hall on a motor-cycle. Donnery and Duffy went there in Donnery's car and both Duffy and Markey kept a look-out while the other two went up and kicked in the door of the hall.

It was, he pointed out, the prosecution contention that all four were equally guilty as they had acted in concert.

William Foy, chairman of Ballyhill Hall Committee, said

he lived about 1½ miles from the hall. The day of the fire he had been involved with other committee-members in putting new slates on the roof of the building. The hall was used for band practice, church services and meetings.

Witness said that after the fire he saw a gallon can lying in the debris.

Thomas McEvoy, Station Officer with Bailieborough Fire Brigade, said that when he and others from the brigade reached the fire scene at 1.55 a.m. the entire building was on fire. He saw one of the hall doors partially open.

Detective Sergeant Gerard Carroll of the Garda Technical Bureau, said that he took a statement from Markey at Monaghan Garda Station on October 13. They first told Markey that John Murtagh had made a written statement implicating him and the other two, and Markey agreed to make a statement.

In his statement, Markey said he had been involved in the H-blocks campaign and had suggested to Murtagh that they should burn the Billyhill Hall. They had gone to the hall on his motorcycle and met Donnery and Duffy there. Donnery and himself went to the hall with the can of petrol and Donnery sprinkled it and set it on fire.

The witness denied the defence counsel's allegation that he had "rubbed down" Markey for four or five minutes and had caught him by the hair.

The admissibility of the statements are being contested by the defence.

Markey in evidence, said that at Monaghan Garda Station he was struck across the face and punched in the back. Detectives showed him a statement signed by Murtagh and he more or less repeated it to them. He was very confused and only answered questions "Yes" and "No" that were put to him.

Derriaghy District Officers

At the installation meeting of Derriaghy District L.O.L. No. 11 held in Derriaghy Orange Hall Wor. Bro. Hutchinson W.D.M., Hillsborough District L.O.L. No. 19, assisted by Wor. Bro. Hayes, W.D.M. Magheragall District, installed the following officers.

W.D.M. J. Agnew, L.O.L. 137; D.D.M. A. Campbell, L.O.L. 498; Chaplain J. Rea, L.O.L. 986; Secretary A. Graham, L.O.L. 1046; Treasurer J. Adams, L.O.L. 137 F.C.; I. Boyd, L.O.L. 1046.

After a lovely supper provided by the ladies and a number of speakers Wor. Bro. H. V. Reffusse, P.D.M., D.G.M.I., presented the outgoing Wor. District Master, Wor. Bro. Alvin Parker, with a barometer on behalf of the officers and members of Derriaghy District.

Indisposed

We regret to learn of the illness of W. Bro. Edward McGuigan, Dublin who is in hospital and join in wishing him a speedy recovery to full health.



The annual Dinner Dance organised by Cumberland L.O.L. 506 Kilkeel, had a special significance when fifty year jewels were presented to several members. Special guest at the dinner in the Arkeen Hotel, Newcastle, was Bro. Billy Russell, County Grand Master, who handed over jewels to Bro. David Wilson and Bro. George Henderson. A jewel has also been awarded to Bro. Moses Annett, who was unable to attend the dinner. Bro. Russell (centre) is pictured with Bros. Wilson and Henderson after presenting them with their jewels. Extreme left and right respectively are Bro. Bobby Wilson, Cumberland W.M., and Bro. David McKnight D.M.

Derry MP Guest of Halliday's Bridge

W. Bro. William Ross, M.P. for Londonderry, was the principal guest at the annual supper of the Halliday's Bridge L.O.L. 792 held in the Parochial Hall, Moira.

He gave a thoughtful analysis of the present political state of the Province, with reflections on its history since Partition, through these troubled years and with insights into aims and attitudes, parties and Government. There was a look at the prospects for constitutional settlement in the future.

Much of the speech was reflective and interpretive as the M.P. thought of people and events whose influence on Ulster was profound. The

politicians who were paraded were too often bad rather than good influences on our society. The critique of them was fair and it included those seconded to service here as well as our local men. And the watershed events like the Civil Rights Campaign, the Fall of Stormont, the powersharing Executive and the Northern Ireland Convention were seen in the perspective of an Ulster running from one crisis to another.

Bro. Ross examined what were the alternatives in prospective schemes for constitutional arrangements between Great Britain and Northern Ireland — full integration, in

which there was no Great Britain interest, resorption of majority rule for which Great Britain had no liking; and a holding arrangement which would have given local government a realistic involvement in the administration of the Province, it had not been seriously considered in Great Britain.

There were useful things said on Unionist Unity and Unionist attitudes to the James Prior proposals as anticipated in the calculated guesses of the media. The speaker's total commitment to Unionism was equalled by his devotion to Orangeism and its hope for its good and effective influence on the Ulster of the future.

The master of ceremonies was W. Bro. Tom Campbell, P.M., and he introduced the proceedings on a solemn note by referring to the deaths in the year of a few greatly valued lodge members and friends. And to the fact that two of last year's speakers, W. Bro. the Rev. Robert Bradford, M.P., and W. Bro. Captain M. H. Armstrong, D.L., had died tragically, the one at the hands of I.R.A. murderers and the other the result of a car accident, and a good friend of the Lodge, the Rev. Robert Noble, whose sudden death had shocked the community.

Among the guests of the evening three were called on to speak — Right Wor. Bro.

Canon Ernest Long, Imperial Grand Chaplain; W. Bro. Alderman William Belshaw, Mayor of Lisburn, and W. Bro. T. Lindsay Smith, Belfast. They brought fraternal greetings to the W.M., Officers and Brethren of 792 and thanks for the excellence of the hospitality and the work of the ladies. Other speakers were W. Bro. Weir, P.M., and W. Bro. Mervyn Hall, Worshipful Master.

Bro. Tom Middleton, comedian, was comper for a very good variety programme.

The large company in the delightfully decorated and apportioned parish hall thoroughly enjoyed another Halliday's Bridge annual.

Corcrair Orange Installation

Corcrair Purple Rocket L.O.L. 339 Installation was carried out by Bro. Robert Guy, of Edenderry L.O.L. 322.

Bros. Thomas Uprichard, W.M.; Alan Milligan, D.M.; Lewis Forsythe, treasurer, were newly installed as officers of the Lodge and were congratulated by all present.

The offices of Secretary and Chaplain remain in the hands of Bro. Roger Gill and Bro. Robert Fleming, respectively.

Garvetagh Election

The election of Officers for Garvetagh Guiding Star R.B.P. No. 76 was held in Garvetagh Orange Hall on Thursday 28th January.

Officers elected were: W.M. R. Montgomery, B.E.M.; D.M. E. C. H. Young, J.P.; Chaplain J. A. Emery; Registrar W. T. Montgomery; Treasurer W. Adams; Censors D. Dunbar and John Lowry; S/Bearers J. Young and E. Robinson; Pursuivant J. Simpson.

Committee — D. Fvffe, T. McMullan, E. A. T. Young, W. Montgomery (Senior), B. Buchanan, H. Sproule and A. Young.

Sir Knight Alexander Patterson, W.M. of Whitehouse R.B.P. 699, conducted the election.

Long Service Medals in Portadown

Three members of Rehab's Total Abstinence L.O.L. No. 89 received service medals totalling over a century in Portadown Orange Hall.

Bro. George Woods received a 50 year jewel from Bro. J. G. Toal, D.D.M. of Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1; Bro. Desmond Gill, P.M., received a 25 year jewel from his son Bro. Roger Gill, secretary of L.O.L. 339, Corcrair and Bro. Ald. Alan Locke a member of Craigavon Borough Council also received a 25 year jewel from Bro. John Brownlee Dist. Treasurer.

All three were congratulated on their long service and wished many more happy years members of the Institution.

Three members of Rehab's Total Abstinence L.O.L. No. 89, Portadown, received long service membership badges at a ceremony in Carleton Street Orange Hall. Pictured, from left, Mr. Desmond Gill, 25 years badge, Mr. George Woods, receiving a 50-year medal from Mr. John Toal, deputy district master, Portadown, and Mr. Alan Locke, 25 years badge. Photo: "Portadown News and Craigavon Times."

'SENSITIVITY AND SUFFERING'

What was a neglected subject for years has become of peculiar importance now, the final suffering and dying.

The present day honesty with fatal illness has encouraged attitudes to suffering which give help to those who are often courageously and selflessly facing the fearful reality of terminal illness.

The medical and nursing care in hospital, nursing home and hospice is so sensitive that it shows the caring profession at its most kind.

It is a fact of life that many sick people accept the inevitability of their dying with patience, fortitude and without fear. Their living with death, for they feel its tightening grasp on them, and their ability to live on in spite of the restrictions of suffering and immobility, and with a quality of happiness, is a lesson for us and an indictment of us. The lesson is that life should be lived to the last.

Even in the extremities of pain and weakness the sick can contribute to the lives of others. It is not a unique admission to hear those who care for the terminally ill speak of their indebtedness to their patients for mental and spiritual insights.

Nature has its way of persuading people to accept what cannot be avoided and having done it to make something worthwhile of it. The principle makes it easier for those who have to advise the sick person that he is suffering from an insurable disease. Bad news is unlikely to have the traumatic effect on a patient which might have been anticipated.

Those who have been faced with the question to tell or not to

tell have frequently discovered that nature was a prior informant. The information when it was given was only a confirmation of something already believed.

F. W. Boreham, the New Zealand essayist, put words to the thought, "Nature breaks the news to us very gently; she lays the burden, little by little, upon one's shoulders; and the thing that once was dreaded as insupportable we eventually endure with a smile."

The indictment is that most people are not thankful enough for good health and make less use of it then they should. They complain about little inconveniences and moan when some inconsequential matter displeases them. They live well within their capacity and never try to tap their potential. To be made to realise that life is to be used better, and to have the lesson taught by someone from whom life is slipping fast, should be an unforgettable one. It should change attitudes and make for a more sensible attitude to life.

The whole matter of dying and death, bereavement and loss, is exercising the minds of people in days of sudden death by disease, accident, natural catastrophe and the terrorist's gun and bomb.

Many people are well acquainted with experiences which are shattering, numbing and horrifying in their effects on them. They live on but life can never be the same since their loved ones left them. What they have to do is to adapt and quickly to the changes bereavement brings. The effects of loss must be so tempered that while memory remains effective living goes

on. Perhaps the most tragic people in society are those who let their grief destroy them. A genuine faith in God lifts us above the bitterness of bereavement. A sense of the presence of Christ takes away unbearable loneliness even when we are most alone.

Sympathy is often silent. Encouragement has no words, "it is no time for words when the wounds are fresh and bleeding; no time for homilies when the lightning shaft has smitten, and the man lies stunned and smitten. Then let the comforter be silent, let him sustain by his presence, not by his preaching; by his sympathetic silence not by his speech." (G. C. Lorimer).

The sensitive friend will be reluctant to speak. He will be available to encourage the acceptance of responsibilities which remain with the living whatever the pressures and losses of life.

A compensation of nature is that the old are cushioned from the worst effects of bereavement. Age brings a stoical acceptance of life's inevitables, among them the deaths of loved ones. Without this circumstance old age would be a horror. Nature deadens "the sensibilities of age to the consciousness of poignant bereavement."

Boreham quoted a poem,



By S. E. LONG

"The Blunted Edge" as he thought of an old man whose reactions to bereavement surprised his family until they saw that it was nature's way. "Ah, you remember how he loved our mother! And yet, last summer, after she had died He never seemed to take it hard at all, He seemed too much resigned, too much himself. It would have killed him twenty years ago!" And when his favourite sister died they hear him say: "... so Adelaide is dead! Well, she was restless — go and go she must First to this place then to that place, till at last She settled in Nevada, As for me Here I am still, and I shall count my hundred Well, well, well, well, so Adelaide is dead."



CITY OF DURHAM LOL 265

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STANDARD BEARER

Quest For Unity Among Unionists

One of the political phenomena which has emerged in recent years has been the rise in the temperature of the so-called Democratic Unionist Party, headed by the Reverend Ian Richard Kyle Paisley.

In a democratic society it is open to any group of people to form political parties and to propagate their aims and objectives.

What irks the Ulster Unionism Party membership has been the arrogance with which certain DUP spokesman and henchmen concentrate their energies in denouncing the Ulster Unionists and traducing them as a party on each and every occasion on which they give utterance.

No-one claims that the Ulster Unionist Party is blameless or that it is not open to criticism, but it is above all a party within which diversity of views can be expressed without fear of expulsion by some sanhedrin.

How many former members,

of the DUP have been "shown the door" once they transgressed from the paths of DUP virtue? We do not need to name them but they are today among the ranks of the disillusioned and dissatisfied with their particular brand of political outlook. Some, indeed, have found their way out, thus obeying the oft-mentioned maxim so beloved of the Paisley faction "Come out from among them," and retraced their steps towards the door which leads them back to orthodoxy in both politics and religion.

I mention all this because just as I write there is what seems to be a spate of nominations from one brand of fragmented Unionism to another for the seat at Westminster vacated by the murdered South Belfast Official Unionist M.P., the Reverend Robert Bradford.

Today (February 16) there is a report that the Unionist vote could be split three, possibly four ways. Some honour

indeed to the memory of Robert Bradford. And the Reverend Willie McCrea from Magherafelt is put forward as "the one person who comes closest in political outlook to the late Mr. Bradford."

What effrontery! What impertinence! What a way to disdain the Official Unionist candidate the Reverend W. Martin Smyth! Mr. Smyth polled more than 17,000 votes in this area in the election to the Convention. He is a Belfast man by birth and upbringing, the leader at one stage of World Orangeism, presently and for the past nine years head of the Orange Institution in Ireland and an exceedingly active Unionist figurehead in Glengall Street Headquarters. A world traveller for Loyalty.

Such qualifications for replacement at Westminster of the late Mr. Bradford would seem to count but little in the eyes of the whiter than white Democratic Unionist Party. It is sheer impertinence and a

denial of truth to suggest that the DUP are out to unite Unionists at this or any other time. Who, one may dare to ask, caused the disunity in Unionists ranks? It is a good question, and if the DUP have not got a reasonable answer then the Loyalists of South Belfast may well give it when they go to the polls to elect Mr. Bradford's successor.

The greatest danger facing Northern Ireland as part and parcel of the United Kingdom today is not that there is division within the Unionist family but that Ulster could be in the process of being taken over by the little men, the voluble Lilliputians of this decade.

South Belfast at this precise moment is a striking example of what is happening. There the fate of Ulster is on the brink. The electorate would do well to make known that they will not be pushed over the edge into a precipice beyond which they and the rest of the Province might not have the means or the will even to attempt an escape.

Ulster Political Patterns'

The lack of confidence in the political patterns in the Province has affected life here very considerably and the feelings of unease have influenced the thinking of people everywhere else.

Other nationals have a common perception of Ulster. They see it as a contrary place, a playground for petty minded politicians and narrow minded preachers whose most noticeable characteristic is their disagreeableness. Not compassion but competition is common practice. They find this situation incredible, for no country can make progress without a citizens' intention to produce a community in which co-operation and accommodation are acceptable attitudes.

Their philosophy of separateness, a kind of voluntary apartheid, is a stupidity to people who have found it possible to make a nation out of people of many nations, races, colours and with differences in creeds and cultures.

They find it incomprehensible that people who can be most pleasant, helpful, witty and talented in so many ways are only good company when they find their company agreeable to them. Acceptability has to do with loyalties, subjects in conversation and whether they are prepared to listen to opinions contrary to their own.

It is a trait of the Ulster character to be reluctant to give

time and thought to views different to one's own, especially on religion and politics. This defensive attitude has puzzled observers of the Ulster scene and persuaded them that such recalcitrance is a prime cause of the antagonisms here.

Few would question the submission that effort must be made by Ulster folk of whatever persuasion to understand better their fellow citizens if progress is to be made towards a lasting settlement in the Province. The one qualification should be that sharing of views must be of free choice and by free people. Those who are tied to philosophies of violence and terrorism have forfeited their right to rational discussion with responsible citizens.

Perhaps the one thing on which all good citizens agree is that Ulster must be brought to peace and prosperity by whatever means are necessary to produce these ends. The big questions of principle and loyalty must not lose their potency in any accommodation to peace, but that is not going to happen when these are held with courage and conviction, and with sensitivity to the different aims and aspirations of others. Such an approach is so patently sane that general acceptance of it would change the position here and for the better and permanently.

East Germany to Remember

One of my abiding memories is of a visit to West Germany some years ago. On that occasion I was able to assess something of the strength and vitality of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, the Church founded by the great Reformer nearly five centuries ago.

Against this background of personal experience I was interested the other day to read of the plans which are being made to mark next year the 500th anniversary of the birth of Luther.

These preparations are going on, not in West Germany, but in East



Portrait by Cranach, in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Germany, behind the "Iron Curtain."

Erich Honecker, Communist Party Leader, has stated he personally would oversee preparations for the observance. Protestants in East Germany number 8 million in a population of 17 million; Roman

Martin Luther

Catholics number 1.2 million. Protestants have opposed military indoctrination and say special prayers for peace in all their church services.

A special project is underway at Wittenberg, where Luther began the Reformation. While the Government pays

part of the bill for the restoration work — about one million dollars this year — much larger amounts are being donated by West Germans. West German Protestants have agreed to pay about half of the nearly thirty million dollars programme.

More than 4,000 Protestant ministers and 1,200 Roman Catholic priests have active congregations in East Germany. Both run institutions, including 82 hospitals, and hundreds of homes for the aged, the disabled, and children.

A number of Orange Lodges in Ireland bear the title "Luther."

Reflections on 26-Co. Election

By the time this gets into print the political destiny of the Republic of the 26 Counties will have been sealed for the next five years, or maybe another seven months as has just happened.

Seldom has an election contest in the South been fought with such tenacity, culminating in a personal T.V. and radio confrontation between the two main party leaders, Dr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Charles J. Haughey.

Radio and TV as well as newspaper election coverage reached a new pitch of intensity, against a background of what some commentators

claim is the virtual bankruptcy of the country. Some of those interviewed went so far as to say that they would not vote as both sets of politicians reduced the "nation" to a parlous position.

Each main party, Labour included, and the sprinkling of independent candidates who were nominated had a fortnight of accusing one another with a monotony that belied the actual state of the finances of the country and giving little evidence that any of them has the capacity to pull the Republic out of the economic thraldom which exists.

For some obscure reason,

though we could guess, we have heard only the slightest reference to the sacred "Fourth Green Field" (Northern Ireland) during the contest. It seems that so serious are the immediate local issues, the bread and butter topics, and the tax on children's shoes, that Ulster's final incorporation in an all-Ireland nation is of no relevant importance just now. Events and conditions are slowly catching up!

Writing days ahead of the actual election it appears that the voice of Protestantism in the Dublin Parliament will be all but extinct. There are around 80,000 Protestants in

the Republic and they deserve and should engage in seeing that they have a spokesman or two in Leinster House. No-one can assert that the Protestants have not the men and women with the ability and intelligence to stand for the Dail.

We must ask, therefore, why their voice is so silent on this occasion and in the numbers that they ought to command?

By their inactivity they underline the insistence of the Roman Catholic population in Northern Ireland where there is, as alleged so much discrimination, in ensuring that at each and every election they are more than adequately represented at the polls.

19 Years Service as Treasurer

On Wednesday February 2, at the quarterly meeting of Upper Ards District LOL No. 11, County Down, held in Carrowdore LOL 1058 Orange Hall the installation of District officers was conducted by W. Bro. Elliott Young WDM No. 4 District, assisted by W. Bros A. McKee, D. Cargo, J. Young and F. McNeily, all from No. 4 District.

Prior to the installation W. Bro. F. Tremlette paid tribute to the brethren of the District for the full support given to him during his nineteen years as District treasurer. In reply W. Bro. J. Williams thanked W. Bro. Tremlette for his unstinting work for the District during his long term of office. This was passed by an acclamation of appreciation by the brethren present.

The officers installed were: WDM J. Williams; DDM S. O'Brien; Secretary J. Crockett; Treasurer D. Stewart; Lav. Chaplain G. Campbell;

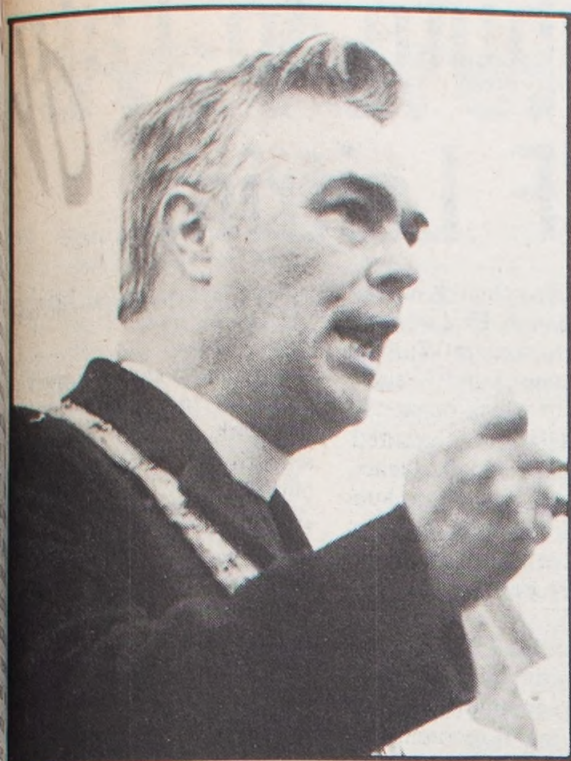
Lecturer J. Long; Deputy Lecturer J. Keenan; Committee R. McWatters, J. Gordon, D. Robinson, J. Starton and B. McKeag; Inside Tyler J. Erskine; County Rep V. Harrison.

Following the meeting a very much appreciated tea was supplied by the Ladies Committee of the host lodge, Sons of William LOL 1058, Carrowdore.

POETRY

The Poem "Peace Between Faith's" By James Annett (Jnr) is to appear in the book "Easter Anthology" to be published by Regency Press (London and New York) Ltd on the 17th March 1982. See also "Castlereagh Courier" 4/2/82 page 18.

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The Grand Master for Westminster

the cause with greater commitment and none with more sincerity and determination. And he has managed to maintain a sane and logical approach to things, refusing to be caught up in the extravagances of speech and action which have characterised other politically orientated men and women.

A man of integrity and intelligence, physically strong and mobile he should make a very good parliamentarian. He has the additional advantage of being close to people in every strata of our society. He has an easy, natural, rapport with Ulster folk generally and his experiences of rural and urban living is an advantage to a parliamentary representative.

His nomination which followed the naming of candidates by other political parties, angered the Democratic Unionist Party. It wanted an "agreed" unionist candidate and quoted the expressed wishes of Mrs. Norah Bradford for such a person. But as the seat had been held by a UUP man that party had a duty to contest it in line with ordinary parliamentary practice. The strong vote for Bro. Smyth means that as he would have been the UUP nominee the DUP are in the position now that would have pertained had consultations taken place, either agree on Martin Smyth or disagree and fight the seat.

There are two major unionist parties now and the parties must be allowed to make their own decisions without negotiation one with the other if that is seen to be necessary. Recriminations about Unionist divisiveness is misplaced where there is so much evidence that parties please themselves when they see a chance to win an election.

There was no unity problem when the DUP displaced UUP in North and East Belfast in the General Election. We can see reason for advocating joint party commitment on occasion and when a solid unionist front is essential. We see none for objecting to a candidate whose credentials are impeccable and whose stance has been thoroughly unionist all the way. Bro. Smyth has intimated his intention to resign as minister of Alexandra Presbyterian Church, Belfast, if elected to parliament, for said he, "I wouldn't try to do two full time jobs" or words to that effect.

The writ for the by-election was moved on 10 February and the election is on March 4.

The Imperial Grand Master and Grand Master of Ireland, Most Wor Bro. the Rev. W. Martin Smyth, has been chosen as the Ulster Unionist Party's candidate for Belfast South to contest the by-election occasioned by the murder of Wor Bro the Rev. Robert Bradford.

From the moment that the Grand Master submitted his name to the South Belfast Constituency Association it was anticipated that he would be the selected candidate. His record of work for the Unionist cause and the UUP with his consistent stand for the Union and the fact that he was front-runner in the constituency for the Northern Ireland Convention elections gave him a head start over the other applicants for the nomination.

Apart from his fine record as a peculiarly courageous and industrious Orange leader Bro. Smyth has been a much used apologist for Unionism in Ireland and Great Britain, Canada and America, Australia and New Zealand. He has been a conference spokesman in Europe and a broadcaster in all these countries. His willingness to plead the Unionist cause has taken him to places and to meet people whose attitudes were unsympathetic, and sometimes openly antagonistic to his Unionism.

The fact that he earned the respect of such people for his personal courage and commitment, and his ability to argue his case urgently and with sensitivity made him an asset of considerable worth to his party and the Province. Few Unionists have served

Unionist Apologists Carry The Message

Ian Paisley in Toronto and Mrs. Paisley, Mrs. Bradford, John Taylor and Peter Robinson in several cities in the USA used radio, television, press, pulpit and platform to tell again the Ulster story to Ulster Unionists to those parts of the world. The media coverage, especially of Dr. Paisley beamed from Canada to America was large in volume, and effective in compelling Canadians and Americans to listen to the other side of something which has too often had an Irish republican favour.

Mrs. Bradford was a most impressive contributor to the Irish debate on that initial breakfast programme on television. While references were made to the progress of the speakers geographically, after the first few days they were fleeting and short on information.

While it will take time to assess the value of the exercise, and it would appear this project was better planned than most of those which had gone before, there seems some reason for hope that IRA propaganda will no longer draw from some Americans their sympathy and their cash. Sympathy for convicted criminals was one thing but when their money is used for murder that is something else and they become accessories before the fact. If these

Unionists brought about a change in attitudes and actions the journey was worthwhile.

There is always the chance, however, that the project will have the same fate as its predecessors, a number of people are influenced permanently but very many among those who showed an interest will have lost it very quickly. There is nothing strange about that, certainly not in America, where problems appear to be as many as people and violence is endemic. The attempt to make Americans aware of the truth about Ulster is an essential one. There will always be need to put them right and to ensure that the Canadians, too, know the score. But it is a permanent job and it is done best when Americans and Canadians, knowing the truth themselves, go to the trouble to tell it to their fellow citizens.

There must be continuous communication from here to over there. It must be so relevant that those who sympathise with the Unionist cause will not be made to look foolish by material which is poor in quality and short on information. Whatever may be done by Ulster apologists who visit in North America there is a large place for material which can be read, heard and used by people whose intentions are honourable and helpful to our Unionist case.

The little which has been done in communication of the kind has been insufficient for the task. It is the case that written material would be received gladly. The republican use of literature has been a factor of such consequence in their propaganda that the Unionists have been left out of sight. Literature must be a priority in the future.

The Kincora Scandal

The Kincora House scandal has been front page news since the trial and imprisonment of members of the staff of this East Belfast home for boys in care. Their homosexual ill treatment of their charges earned for them stiff jail sentences. The enquiry into the case is expected to uncover a more serious situation involving a number of people other than those sentenced and to shock us further. There is likely to be parliamentary granted immunity from threat of prosecution for slander for witnesses at the inquiry.

De Lorean Future

The De Lorean affair remains a talking point on the media and at Westminster and a worry to those involved in the cutback in employment which had to be the management's response to their financial crisis. It will take the inquiry which has been set up to look into the state of the business, for what has happened is a puzzle to even those involved in it. It seems that the real trouble was caused by an American situation, weather and inflation wise, the like of which has not been known for a hundred years.

In spite of the pessimistic prognostications there is evidence that the car has been well received in the United States and some 4,000 of them have been sold out of the original 7,000 produced. This seems to give credibility to Mr. De Lorean's contention that the car is a seller and in a more normal America will find a niche for itself.

The contentions among the parties involved have been unfortunate. The personal recriminations against De Lorean himself in the Westminster debate on the crisis was an unhappy affair. The recriminations of the workers are the reactions of people worried about losing their jobs and in ignorance of what is happening to them. The Government's attitude to the firm has been defended, and condemned. The state's 80 million pounds investment has been seen as at the limit of their commitment and the sum as enough to have ensured the success of the concern had management been better and circumstances in the market been less cruel. The submission has been questioned and the management/trade union complaint is that the enterprise has never been properly financed.

The statement by Michael Foot on his February 1 visit to Northern Ireland that a Labour government would support De Lorean if the enquiry confirms the opinion that the firm can be a viable proposition was an encouragement to the workers. Whatever is needed must be added to make the firm successful if the inquiry finds for its continuance.

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OBITUARIES

Wor. Bro. Captain Michael Armstrong, B.L., D.L.



The death of Bro. Capt. Michael Armstrong on January 26 two weeks after a motoring accident while he was on his way to an Ulster Unionist Party representatives meeting with the Secretary of State, Mr. James Prior, has shocked and saddened his many friends and admirers in the Orange Institution and throughout the Province.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Mrs. Armstrong — so close in every way to her husband — and the family in their bereavement.

It is a peculiarly difficult thing to write an adequate appreciation of a man whose influence was so far-reaching in church and state that most of us saw him in only a facet or two of his wide activity. To see him and the whole range of his interests demands a valuation of a man who was always incisive in his thinking, analytical in his examination of suggestions and situations and most perceptive in his reading of cases. This last because his training in the law had made such an impression on him that he treated even apparently trivial things with respect and the patently serious with a care born of a legal awareness of the need to understand fully the matter in hand.

He was never boisterous, abrasive or impolite whatever the subject, circumstance or provocation. He had the ability

to present his case with clarity and a humility which made his opinions suggestions rather than propositions. But because when he spoke people listened; his carefully thought through opinions were often accepted as sound sense and the proper way to proceed.

His importance to the Institution could not be over-valued. His work in his own County of Armagh had earned him the respect of all his brethren. His contribution to the Central Committee, Grand Committee and Grand Lodge was invaluable. As the first occupant of the post of honorary legal assessor to the Grand Master his expert opinion was of benefit, not only to the Grand Master, but to Grand Lodge in many ways. And he was always so kindly that no-one was embarrassed when approaching him for advice.

As an expert on the politics of Ulster and a learned professional in security his submissions on the subject were always sane and sensitive to the needs of his country and the safety and security of its citizens. His membership of the

Northern Ireland Convention and his thoughtful contributions to its deliberations made people of other political affiliations respectful of a superior political intelligence. Whilst he was a farmer by trade and inclination he had the capacity to fill any number of roles in our society.

His U.U.P. membership made him a deeply committed and greatly respected party man. His key position in the Party was testimony to his value to it.

Michael Armstrong's interest in and enthusiasm for the Church of Ireland made him a devout and devoted churchman with strong Protestant and Evangelical leanings. He served his church at parish, diocesan and national levels. He was a member of the very important Role of the Church Committee and of the General Synod.

One cannot attempt to appreciate the work and worth of such a gifted and committed brother without adding the essential rider that Michael Armstrong was a most avid and discerning, reader and researcher. His wide reading was always an asset to his thinking and a reminder that studies in the thoughts and attitudes of others are essential to the better understanding of man and his aims and aspirations in the world.

This loss to the Orange Institution is a most grievous one, and yet we are thankful for the many good things he taught us, the friendship he gave us and the good ways he led us. Our memories of him are entirely good ones.

Church Tribute to Late CGM OF Leitrim

One of the outstanding personalities of the Orange Institution, Rt. Wor. Bro. William Spotten, Co. Grand Master of the Co. Grand Orange Lodge of Leitrim, died recently at an advanced age.

A tribute to his memory was paid by a very large number of Orangemen and friends who attended a memorial service in Killegar Parish Church on February 14.

So large was the attendance that extra seating had to be provided.

The Service was conducted by Bro. George Browne, Deputy Co. Grand Master, a lay reader in the Church of Ireland, assisted by Bro. Rev. Mr. Steed, local Methodist minister. The lessons were read by Rt. Wor. Bro. J. A. Anderson, M.B.E., J.P., Co. Grand Master of the Co. Armagh Grand Orange Lodge.

Among those present was Bro. Revd. Roycroft, rector of Drung, Co. Cavan.

A very substantial collection was taken up to erect a memorial tablet in the church to Bro. Spotten.

Members of the family of the late Bro. Spotten were in the congregation.

The address was delivered by W. Bro. Very Revd. R. C. H. Turkington, M.A., Dean of

Kilmore and rector of Kilmore Cathedral parish. He said they were met to honour William Spotten's memory and to salute the things for which he stood.

God in His mercy granted him a long life, said the Dean. Bro. Spotten, it was hard to believe, joined the Orange Order before many of those present were born — on 12th July, 1913.

"For nearly 70 years he upheld the principles to which he had been committed and in 1975, as a small recompense for his devotion, he was elected Grand Master of his native County.

"In his church there were few offices which he did not hold over the years, and to his latest breath he could be claimed as one of her most devoted souls.

"There is no doubt about it that today, more than ever before, we need people who are willing to add to the world's store of happiness and goodness, people who are out to make the world a better place than they found it.

"I am convinced," said the Dean "that William Spotten did just that and if we, members of the Orange Order or members of our church can take a leaf out of his book of life that

is the kind of leaf he would have us take."

The Dean said we must go about this task as Bro. Spotten did with a quiet unobtrusive sincerity. In the councils of the church and of the Order great respect was shown to the opinions of their late brother because those who were acquainted with him knew that he had weighed his words and that nothing of a frivolous nature would be heard from him.

It was no false friendship that Bro. Spotten offered to the people around him; as a sincere man he was out to use his friendship in helping others to be better than they might have been. The world contained too few such people, and they could ill afford to lose men like William Spotten but they thanked God for the example he had been to all who knew him.

The Dean added: "Let us, whether members of the Orange Order or not, keep faith with our fellowmen and God. We can do it by keeping alive within us and making real wherever possible those ideals of duty, honour, endeavour and friendship which were so marked a feature of the character of William Spotten."

HERBERT WHITTEN — Man of the People

The Orange Order in general, and Portadown District L.O.L. No. 1 in particular, suffered serious loss through the passing of its District Master, Mr. Herbert Whitten, J.P.

Mr. Whitten, who had been District Master for almost 20 years, and who also held the office of District Master of the Portadown Royal Black District Chapter, was a man of unwavering principles.

For two decades he had guided the affairs of what is one of the strongest and largest districts in Ireland, and it is a testimony to his stewardship that he has handed on a strong and thriving district of 33 lodges, each single one of which had experienced his sound advice down the years.

Mr. Whitten's outstanding service to Unionism and to civic life in Portadown and Craigavon for many years, has been well documented. He was a former Mayor of Craigavon, having been elected to Portadown Borough Council before the re-organisation of local government brought about the amalgamation of the "Hub of the North" with its neighbour Lurgan, under the umbrella of Craigavon.

He entered politics in the late 1960's, feeling that the Protestant and loyalist cause demanded a sacrifice of time and talents on the part of leaders in the loyal institutions.

Mr. Whitten served as MP for Central Armagh in the Stormont Government, and he was also elected as an Official Unionist to the Assembly.

In church life, he was a very active member of Armagh Road Presbyterian Church throughout his life.



But it is in the annals of the Orange and Black Institutions in County Armagh that Mr. Whitten will long be remembered.

His tremendous and tireless efforts on behalf of the Orange Order amounted to a labour of love. Almost every night saw him busily engaged in Carleton Street Orange Hall, which is the largest hall in a district which has almost 2,000 members.

Mr. Whitten knew almost all those 2,000 Orangemen by name, and he took a keen interest in the work of each of the 33 lodges and 21 Black Preceptories in Portadown.

Following in the footsteps of renowned Portadown Orange leaders like Mr. David Rock, Dr. George Dougan and Mr. R. J. Magowan, it was a tradition which many men would have found hard to emulate. It is a

measure of Mr. Whitten's success that he not only succeeded, but even surpassed the efforts of many of his predecessors in office.

Almost to the last, he was working day and night for the cause of Protestantism and Orangeism. He was on call, night and day, and the path to his door was well trodden as hundreds of weekly callers came to him with problems on a wide range of issues.

They all received a fair and sympathetic hearing, and Mr. Whitten, in his capacity as a Borough Councillor, never failed to spotlight the needs of those who had elected him to office. It is a tribute to his work that he invariably topped the poll in Craigavon and Portadown council elections, with massive majorities.

Every "Twelfth" and

"Thirteenth" night, following the Orange and Scarva Day demonstrations, he made it his business to call in on as many lodge and preceptory dinners and functions as possible. He not only called in on town Orange halls but travelled the country roads to all the many halls dotted around the immediate countryside.

Mr. Whitten had eagerly looked forward to Portadown hosting the County Armagh demonstration in 1982, but it was not to be that he would be spared to preside over this gathering.

One project which he did live to see, was the return of the Belfast Royal Black Preceptories for their August demonstration in Portadown in 1980 — the first time in 21 years that the event was held there.

It was a tremendous success, and Mr. Whitten was responsible for a great deal of the arrangements — a fact recognised when Belfast officers travelled to Portadown to make a presentation to him to mark the event.

Despite his great talents and expertise, "Herbie" Whitten was a humble man — a man of the people.

He loved the ordinary people of Portadown, and one of his greatest pleasures in recent years was to see the restoration and redevelopment of Park Road begin — the street facing the town's public park and in which he lived for many years.

Like many Ulster people, Mr. Whitten suffered as a result of the "Troubles," losing his brother Walker, who fell a victim of the guns of the

Provisional IRA. That attack was believed to have been meant for Mr. Whitten as well as his brother, who was also a stalwart in Portadown Orange circles.

Despite his loss, and the manner in which it had happened, Mr. Herbert Whitten was never bitter, and never uttered words of hatred or anger.

He epitomised all that is best in Orangeism, and truly his passing has signalled the end of an era for the Order in the district which he served so faithfully.

The brethren of all the Inst. districts share with those in Portadown, the sadness at his passing, and convey to his widow and family sincere condolence in their bereavement.



Veterans Honoured

Two members of Tullymacan LOL 110 were presented with 50 year jewels at their recent lodge meeting. They were Bros. Stanley Teggart and James Gordon. The jewels were presented by Co. Grand Master Bro. Sandy Anderson. Bros. John Bell, Gordon Cartmill and Leslie Meredith were elected as the Lodge Worshipful Master, Deputy Master and Secretary respectively. Included in the picture are Bros. Billy McClelland and James Clayton, Worshipful Master and Secretary of Tandragee District. Photo courtesy Ulster Gazette.



MIXED MARRIAGES

By S.E. Long

Continued from February issue

The International Consultation on Mixed Marriage held in Dublin in September 1974 interprets it differently. The point was made there that, "It is insufficiently recognised that priests in applying for a dispensation and bishops in granting one no longer need to have any moral certainty that the children will be reared as Roman Catholics. If the One Church of Christ also exists in other churches besides the Roman Catholic Church a decision to bring the children up in a non-Roman Catholic Church can be seen as fulfilling the Roman Catholic's obligation in divine law to do all he can to hand on his faith to his children and to have them brought up in the Church."

FULFILMENT BY GOD'S LAW

The contention here is that because the Roman Catholic Church at Vatican Two recognised non-Roman churches to be in some sense part of the Catholic Christian Church, God's law is fulfilled when the young people are brought up in these churches.

G.R. Dunstan, "Beyond Tolerance: The Challenge of Mixed Marriage," writing in a review of the book of the title which contained the Dublin Consultation papers said, "Churchmen can so easily deceive themselves by the language which they habitually use. To speak of the problem of mixed marriages is to misconceive the problem. The true problem is that of the divided church, the mixed marriage is simply the arena into which the problem thrusts itself. Guilt is then projected on the area of nuisance, the marriage."

The German Roman Catholic bishops have said, "The Catholic Christian is obliged to do all he can to hand on the faith which he recognises as true, as well as membership of his church to his children. But since the education of the children is always the task for both parents, and since one must not force either one of them to act against his conscience, this duty means doing all that is possible in the concrete situation, acting in the way which seems best in conscience."

The Roman Bishops of England and Wales add this, the promise is "a sincere and deliberate undertaking to do all in one's power, that is to say, all one can do in the actual

circumstance of the marriage... the legal requirement now stops short of the assertion that the Catholic baptism and education of the children will be achieved."

But there are confusing anomalies on this subject. A Canadian Roman Catholic priest is able to write that in his country "Marriage in Protestant and Catholic churches performed by celebrating Protestant — Catholic clergy are becoming common." The Toronto Star, 13 February 1971, explains, "Ecumenical marriages began in Canada in the summer of 1966. Archbishop (now Cardinal) Flahiff, of Winnipeg, was the first to approve of such a marriage taking place in a non-Roman Catholic Church. Today ecumenical marriages are recommended whenever both partners are strongly committed to their church. The pastor of the 'host church' receives the marriage vows, but the couple usually draws up the wedding ceremony from the official marriage liturgies of both churches."

In Alsace-Lorraine the Roman and Lutheran churches have allowed inter-communication in exceptional circumstances such as mixed marriages and ecumenical happenings.

BRITISH APPROACHES

Because the Pope left it to the various Episcopal Conferences to decide on the precise form of the promise to be asked from the Roman Catholic, and indeed on the conditions under which dispensation from the impediments or the canonical form could be given, it is impossible to give a simple statement of the present conditions attaching to mixed marriages everywhere. To find out what is the official position in a particular country it is necessary to go to the directories or other statements issued by these conferences after the motu proprio came out.

The English and Welsh bishops published a lengthy 'Directory Concerning Mixed Marriages' which includes the full text of the motu proprio with the bishop's comments and directions. The very much shorter and less detailed statements of the Irish and Scottish bishops were published respectively in the Roman Catholic papers "The Furrow" and "The Tablet" in 1970. The Irish position was

also explained in a "Directory on Ecumenism in Ireland," 1976.

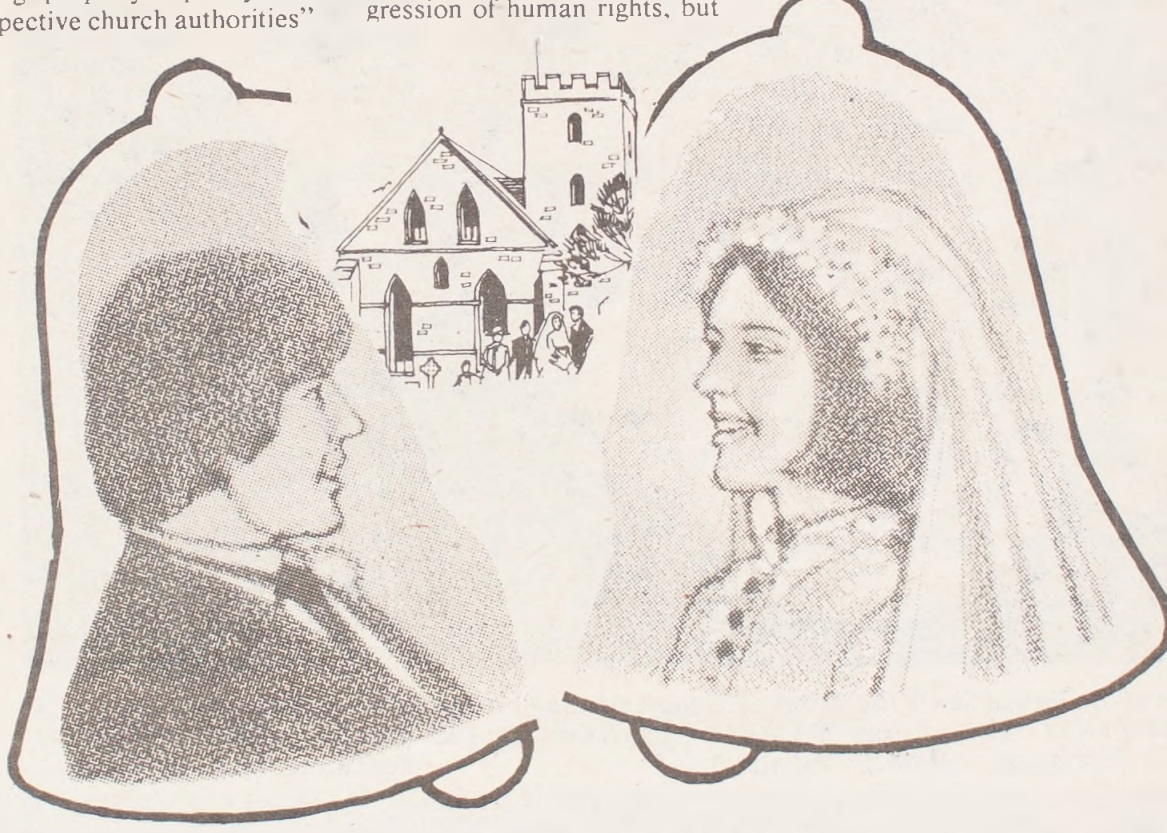
A useful comparison of episcopal statements is given in "One in Christ" vii 2-3 (1971) 216-235. It shows that there are very significant variations in the attitudes of the several hierarchies. And it appears that England and Wales are less liberal than other European countries while Scotland and Ireland lag behind everybody.

The motu proprio of Pope Paul 6 has things to say about partners in a mixed marriage being "properly helped by their respective church authorities"

honesty of the convictions of either participant must not be questioned, much less ignored.

PROTESTANT AWARENESS

The Protestant partner in a proposed mixed marriage must be made aware that such a wedding can take place legally in a Protestant church and be valid before God. The demand of the Roman Church for a promise from one of the partners to have the children of the union brought up as Roman Catholics against the wishes of the other partner is a transgression of human rights, but



and on marriages between baptised persons," since such a marriage is a true sacrament (there is) a certain communion of spiritual benefits which is lacking in a marriage entered into by a baptised person and one who is not baptised." The English and Welsh bishops in their commentary add, "With the Holy Father, we are anxious to emphasise the fellowship of all the baptised. Whatever our regrettable divisions, we have this fundamental ground of unity and enjoy together the spiritual benefits that flow from it."

The liberal Roman Catholics stress the responsibility of husband and wife together in the upbringing of their children, and a promise made by the Roman Catholic partner is not meant to press the Protestant to act against his conscience. There must be no coercion on the other party to become a Roman Catholic. His beliefs must be respected. Marriage is to be seen as a partnership and its responsibilities shared. The

more to the point it is a cause of division between husband and wife and a means of permanent tension in the family.

The decision on the upbringing and education of children should be a parental one. There should be no intimidation by the church which would reduce the liberties of husband and wife. They have shared responsibilities and they must agree on the rearing of their children without interference.

The Anglican — Roman Catholic commission on marriage recommended that the wedding of an Anglican and Roman Catholic should be regarded as valid and lawful when it takes place before a minister of either church and that instead of the present promise, the Roman Catholic priest could give an assurance to his bishop that he has reminded the Roman Catholic partner of his obligations to any children of the marriage and is satisfied that the non-Roman

Catholic partner is aware of these obligations.

The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic partner in a mixed marriage has often dictated what happened in it, but the Protestant influence has been considerable too. It remains a matter of distaste and disgrace that even a bad Protestant should marry a Roman Catholic. Nothing worse could happen to some parents whose religion is important to them. And the inherited antagonisms to Roman Catholicism of people who have little or no religion makes their position little different.

The pressures of faith and conscience on earnest Protestant Christians causes unhappiness which is sometimes permanent, and an indelible barrier cutting off communication between parents and children, members of families, friend and friend. The effects on non-believers can be equally traumatic.

It is remarkable when a mixed marriage works to the extent that the partners manage to adapt to the situation so that they can live and let live in a shared religious arrangement. This kind of thought through relationship has brought a new dimension to interfaith marriages to make the improbable workable for some people.

The church has a concern for



mixed marriage couples to help them to make their partnership a fulfilling one.

The church has a responsibility to encourage its members, and any others who will listen to it, to seriously consider what is involved in marriage. To be very concerned about the acceptance of a partner, not to be rushed into quick decisions and to be most discreet in entering into relationships. Some questions often left till later should be asked quickly and while there is time to break a relationship without causing or feeling hurt.

PRECAUTIONS

More emphasis should be placed on compatibility, and interests in common, than physical attraction, on respect than on love.

Because marriage is a uniquely serious business every precaution should be

taken to ensure its success. To say this is to utter a platitude. People are not always rational at this very important time in their lives, when cold logic would be helpful. So many things affect them that feelings are more important than facts and dreams than realities.

Nevertheless there is a responsibility on the church to advise young people in a subject where opinions are neither sought nor welcome.

In the mid-sixties Dr. Kenneth Milne, Dublin, when questioned about the position of Protestants in the Republic said: "I object to the Ne Temere, not because it affects us numerically, but because it strikes at the very root of family life. I would almost go as far as to suggest that it is contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the basic human rights." (quoted in "The Changing Face of Catholic Ireland" edited by Desmond Fennell).

What was most upsetting to Southern Protestants was "the apparent capriciousness of the Roman Catholic bureaucratic machine — the fact that although the circumstances appear identical, Differences between dioceses seem important here." (Fennell 59).

In the Republic of Ireland the Protestant church authorities are so opposed to mixed marriages that they organise social functions for their own people. "This sets up barriers to the integration of the two communities in Ireland." The future of the Protestant churches' witness there compels opposition to mixed marriages. Efforts must always be made to encourage young Protestants to marry their own kind.

The discouragement of mixed marriages must be the policy of the Protestant churches while there remains inter-church tension and division because of them. There have been too many cases of disappointment and disaffection when the marriages were under pressure, and especially in cases where the Roman Catholic partner tried to implement a promise of intention to convert his spouse to Roman Catholicism.

James Kavanaugh in "Modern Priest Looks At H Outdated Church" has a number of harrowing case histories of people hounded by their over-zealous partners and clergy like himself inflexible in their application of church law, some to divorce others to such distaste of home family and religion that their lives were destroyed. The insensitive attitude of his church to mixed marriages was one of the reasons which caused him to seek release from his priesthood.



To be continued in April issue

Pope's Visit is 'Pastoral'

Says Foreign Office

an assurance that the Pope's visit to England and Ireland in May is a pastoral visit to the Roman Catholic community has come from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

is contained in a letter to the Hon. Bro. Walter Williams, Grand Secretary Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland who presented it to the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher in the following terms:

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has heard with surprise and concern the announcement of the upgrading of the British Representative to the Vatican to the rank of Ambassador.

Surprise at the timing of the upgrade of status, for it claims the relationship between the United Kingdom and the

Roman Catholic Church, is closer than it has been since the Reformation and that it should be marked by such an appointment on the eve of the Pope's visit to Great Britain. We deny that submission.

"We are also concerned that the feeling of British Protestants have been so little considered, that a decision distasteful to them was taken regardless of their representations and demonstrations against the Papal Visit, and the evidence that they are as suspicious as their forefathers were of the attitudes and aspirations of the Church of Rome.

"The efforts of the Roman Catholic Church Authorities, the accommodation of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Govern-

ment, to make the Pope's Visit as big an event as possible, and to involve all the citizens in making a denominational matter into a national affair is at once insensitive and provocative. The whole affair promises to be more hurtful than helpful in these days of political and economical tension and despair, and unnecessary diversion from reality."

Mr. D. A. S. Gladstone, Western European Department, under date February 2 replied as follows:

"I have been asked to reply to your letter of 22 January to the Prime Minister in which you expressed concern at the decision to establish full diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the Holy See.

"The up-grading of relations

is a purely diplomatic matter. The change was made because the previous level of relations was an anomaly, based on historic considerations which have long lost their political significance. Furthermore, the Pope has influence in several areas of the world where important British interests are at stake and, in raising the status of their representative to Ambassadorial level, Her Majesty's Government are simply recognising that fact.

"There was no connection between that decision and the Pope's forthcoming visit to Britain. You may rest assured that this remains, as it has always been, a pastoral visit to the Roman Catholic community in Britain.

"There has been no attempt by HM Government to alter the nature of the visit and government involvement in arrangements for it has been minimal. As for the extent to which people in this country become involved in the visit, I am sure you will agree that this must remain a matter for the individual."

Worshipful Master's Wife Entertains Lodge to Supper

At the installation of officers in connection with Aughlish Heroes L.O.L. No. 74, Scarva, the new W.M. and D.M., Bros. George Patton and Eric Hammond, were congratulated on being amongst the youngest in the Tandragee District and further afield to hold these offices.

At the outset the chair was occupied by Bro. George Hammond, W.M., with Bro. J. C. Bingham, P.M., in the vice-chair, and the former extended a warm welcome to all who had come along on such a wintry night, with special reference to the visitors.

Bro. T. W. Bell, P.M., of Aghagallon L.O.L., who is also affiliated to Mullaghboy L.O.L., Cootehill District, Co. Cavan, and is a Grand Lecturer in that county, was invited to conduct the installation, assisted by Bro. Ken Wilson, District Treasurer of Tandragee District L.O.L., with Bro. T. Fegan, W.D.M. of Loughbrickland District L.O.L., introducing the officers for installation.

In addition to the new W.M. and D.M., already mentioned, the following were installed — Bros. George Hammond, P.M., chaplain: Herbert R. Plunkett, P.M., Secretary, S. Hammond, treasurer, J. C. Bingham, P.M., foreman of committee, Henry Plunkett, committee member, and Fred Mills, tyler.

The new W.M. warmly thanked the installing officers for the able way in which they

had carried out their duties, also the Lodge for the confidence they had reposed in him, assuring them that he would endeavour to maintain the great principles handed down by those who had gone before.

Bro. Patton's remarks were heartily endorsed by Bro. Eric Hammond.

Several brethren joined in expressing congratulations and good wishes to the newly installed, assuring them of full co-operation and support.

Subsequently the meeting adjourned to the home of Mrs. Patton in Scarva, where she had a sumptuous repast laid on. A vote of thanks to her was passed on the motion of Bro. Eric Hammond, seconded by Bro. H. R. Plunkett, D.D.M. of Tandragee District L.O.L., who presented the outgoing W.M. with a handsome framed Past Master's certificate. The latter assured the Lodge that this would be greatly cherished.

Lisleen Officers

Lisleen R.B.P. No. 191 annual election of officers was held in Ardbarron Orange Hall.

Sir Knight James Emery, Castleberg District Chaplain conducted the election which resulted: W.M., J. I. Lowry; D.M., I. Crilly; Chaplain, R. C. Verner; Register, R. Monteith; Treasurer, W. McKane; Pursuivant, J. Young; Lecturers, W. G. Sproule and L. Cather.



Seventy-six year-old Freddie Lewis beats the drum of Clough Orange Lodge which he joined in 1923. He is assisted by William Campbell (right) as John Marks (left) looks on. Included is Charlie Watson the WM of Clough Lodge and S. J. Ferguson, DM of No. 2 district.

Photo courtesy Down Recorder

256 Years of Service to Order

Four veteran Orangemen who have served the order for a total of 256 years were this week honoured for their dedication.

At a special meeting on Tuesday night, Clough LOL number 1043 presented framed certificates to 83 year old William Campbell and septuagenarians John Marks and Freddy Lewis. The other award winner — 90 year old Jim Fraser, who has been a member of the Lodge for 71 years — was unable to attend.

And at the ceremony, the three men recalled their long history with the Orange Order.

William Campbell, who joined the order in 1917 when he was 15, remembers that the lodges were a good deal larger then, for entertainment was limited and often there was nowhere else to go.

Despite their advancing years, both he and 78 year old John Marks, who joined the order in 1924, still manage to make it to the traditional Twelfth of July parades every year.

Seventy-six year old Freddy Lewis, an Orangeman at Clough since 1923, said that over the years there has been very little change in the lodge, except that now they have a large hall for meetings that were previously held in a small room.

All three men said that they enjoyed every meeting, as it gave them a chance to meet their friends.

The certificates were presented by the Worshipful District Master of number two District, Mr. S.J. Ferguson.



The three members of Clough LOL 1043 who received certificates to mark outstanding service this week. Included are County Lodge officials and members of the Clough Lodge.

Photo courtesy Down Recorder