



Orange STANDARD

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LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE Isaiah 62:10

Soldier's murder indictment of Government policy

THE murder of Lance-Bombardier Stephen Restorick was evil and chilling in its execution. By cold-bloodedly murdering the young soldier in Bessbrook, the IRA revealed its capacity for plumbing the depths in its ruthlessness.

Government to promise that the soldier's killers will be brought to justice, but they have to spell out how this will be done.

It is true that the security forces have been enjoying good success in their anti-terrorist activities in recent weeks and the substantial haul of arms and explosives in the Kilwilkie area of Lurgan was a notable example.

But this is acknowledged to be only the tip of the iceberg and there must be many more similar searches, and on a much larger scale if the bulk of the arms and explosives are to be found.

The murder of the young soldier also caused disturbing political ripples, and some of the sound bites coming across the media reflected the concern of Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble that Northern

Ireland people have been treated in many respects as second class citizens.

Take the cross-channel radio interview with the sorrowing parents of Stephen Restorick. The girl interviewer kept asking the grieving parents how they felt about Stephen and his parents being "Out There".

This was the description applied to Northern Ireland on a number of occasions, and it is something that has been heard in the past. As one angry Orange Standard reader said, "This is not a place, colony or an overseas station for the Army in the way that India, Egypt or Palestine once was and it is highly offensive to give that impression."

Quite true, and it is time for Ulster Protestants and loyalists to bombard the BBC with complaints when such tags are applied to

this integral part of the United Kingdom.

The radio interviewer persisted in this line of interview and asked how young soldiers felt when they were "back home" after serving "out there".

MESSAGE

It is time that mainland Britain got the message once and for all that Northern Ireland is only 400 miles from Westminster and not 4,000 miles. It is time mainland Britons were also reminded that loyal Ulstermen and women lie in

graves throughout France, Flanders, North Africa, Burma and every other theatre of war, having made the supreme sacrifice.

It is bad enough that loyal Ulstermen and women have had to endure almost 30 years of a vicious and unrelenting campaign of bombing and shooting which has caused over 3,000 lives to date, without having to endure the tag of being some form of colonists.

Northern Ireland is not a colony or a Protectorate, nor is it an area of land which can be handed over

to the Republic of Ireland by whim, by subterfuge, or as part of any "political settlement".

It is an integral part of the UK which will remain so until such time as a majority of its citizens - if ever - vote to have it transferred to the Irish Republic.

In fairness, British Governments have steadfastly adhered to that view and there is no reason to believe they will alter it and seek to push Ulster into an

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A champion of the Orange and Unionist cause

A HEADLINE from the March 1990 issue of the Orange Standard was recently used to adorn a newly painted Lambeg drum which bore a portrait of the late Harold McCusker, former MP for Upper Bann.

The drum was unveiled at a ceremony in Brownlow House, Lurgan on Saturday, December 14 and was followed by a drumming competition for the Harold McCusker Memorial Cup set up by Lurgan District LOL No.6 in 1990.

The drum was unveiled by Bro. Leslie Dowds, of Drumnavaddy, a close friend of Bro. James and Colin McCusker who had been a great help in getting the drum painted. The dedication was performed by Wor. Bro. Samuel Gardiner, Master of Lurgan District LOL No.6. Nearly

200 people came along to see the unveiling and 15 drums from all five drumming associations took part in the competition which was won by Bro. Thomas Carey.

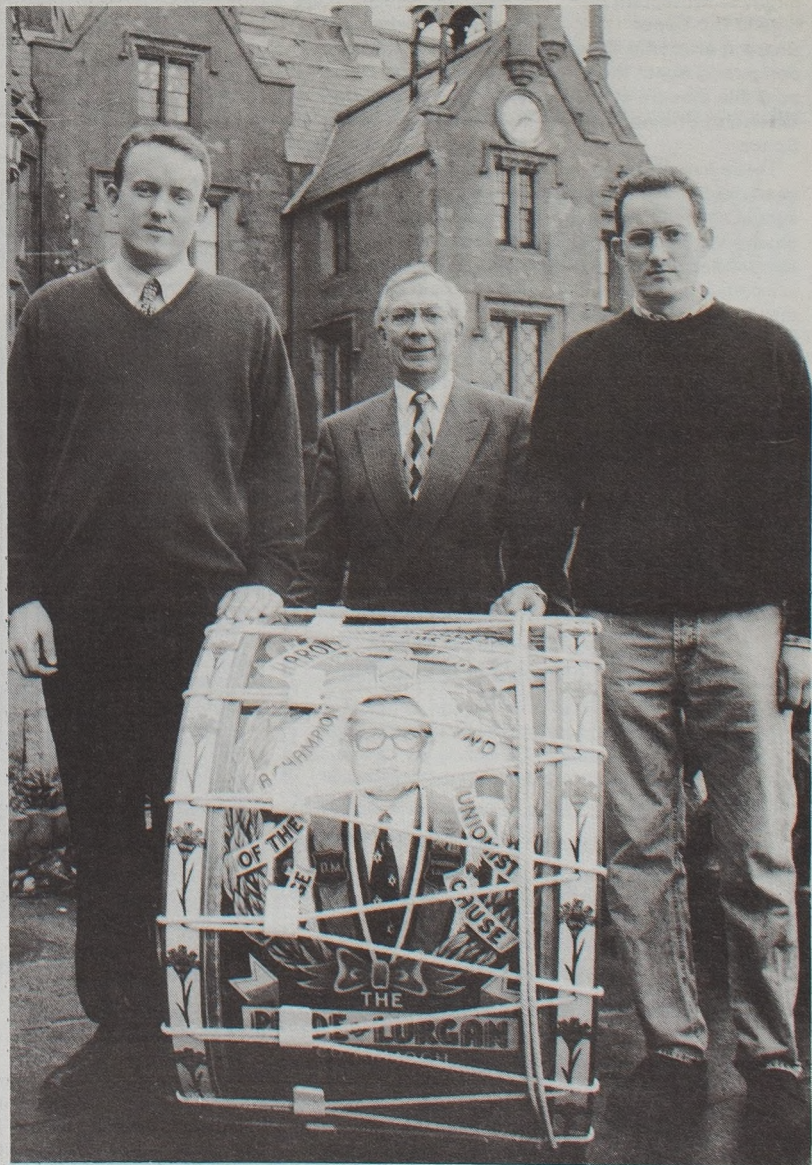
Harold McCusker joined the Orange Order at the age of 12 enrolling with JLOL 13 which sat in Gilford. At the age of 16 he moved into the senior lodge LOL 1678 McDowell Memorial Temperance, Gilford. In the autumn of 1971 he and his brother Ronald transferred to Boconnell LOL 123 which belonged to his hometown district of Lurgan. The move had been sparked by his desire to play the Lambeg drum. As a member of Boconnell he took a keen interest in the workings of the lodge holding the position of secretary from 1974 - 1977 before being elevated to the office

of Deputy Master which he held until his untimely death in 1990.

The full script on the drum reads as follows: The Late Sir Knt. & Bro. Harold McCusker MP, 1940-1990, A Champion of the Orange and Unionist Cause, The Pride of Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

Special thanks are due to everyone who attended the special day, in particular the five drumming associations. A special mention should be made of the painter, Norman Carlisle, of Sandy Row, Belfast, who has painted a magnificent portrait and whose talent knows no bounds.

Thanks also to Wor. Bro. Joe Allen, of Allen Plant Hire, who provided the much needed heating on the day. The sum of £515 was raised for the Brownlow House Restoration Fund.



Displaying the Pride of Lurgan Lambeg drum are Left to right: Bro. Colin McCusker, Sec. LOL 123; Wor. Bro. Samuel Gardiner, District Master, Lurgan and Wor. Bro. James McCusker, Master LOL 123, pictured in front of Brownlow House. Photograph: courtesy of the Lurgan Mail.

Continued from Front Page

... Indictment on Government policy

all-Ireland republic against the wishes of its majority.

But Ulster doesn't want to be looked on as being a part of a second-tier, second class, part of the United Kingdom. Its people deserve better than that, and there must be a vigorous campaign by Unionists and loyalists to educate the people in Britain, especially England and Wales that Ulster is no less British because of a short stretch of water.

It is highly insulting to Ulster people to be regarded as something less than full British citizens and have their territory described as "Out there".

It is a theme which must be nipped smartly in the bud. In a Channel Four documentary on the Troubles recently, one contributor described Northern Ireland as "Our last big

colonial problem."

Northern Ireland is not Britain's Algeria, and the Ulster people are not Pied Noirs or settlers. They have been British for centuries and have no intention of exchanging that status, however much it might please some of the London chattering class were they to do so.

Britain must restore a meaningful form of self-government to Northern Ireland and allow the Ulster people some say in their own affairs - leaving behind those who reject democracy and peaceful means of achieving political ends.

Nothing would do more to restore confidence in the Ulster people and nail the increasing lie in sections of cross-channel thinking that the Province is just another Hong Kong, only closer to 'Home'.

School concerns

THE Orange Standard recently highlighted the plight of Protestant parents in the Upper Shankill area who were concerned about the possible closure of Glencairn Primary School.

Those parents have been delighted at the measure of support they have received in their campaign against closure and there is increasing evidence that they have a strong case for having the school kept open.

Private housing is taking place off Ballygomartin Road and more housing is promised for the Glencairn estate, and when all these

houses have been completed there should be a substantial increase in the number of children.

The Belfast Education and Library Board must do everything possible to keep the school open until there can be a fair assessment of future population trends in the area.

The Orange Standard also supports the case for retaining the school crossing patrols in Belfast. It would be foolhardy and risking children's lives for the lollipop men to be made redundant. Whatever savings are to be made, it should not be in a sector which would put lives at risk.

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Aghanloo stalwarts

AGHANLOO True Blues LOL 656 installation meeting was presided over by Bro. Jack Dolan and visiting brethren from Limavady, Coleraine, Portrush, Macosquin and Garvagh as well as Londonderry attended.

The installation of officers was conducted by Bro. the Rev. David Browne, WDM, assisted by Bro. Jack Ashenhurst, Past County Grand Master of Tyrone with Bro. Ernest Clyde, DDM.

The WM, Bro. Dolan expressed congratulations to Bro. David Brewster on his appointment as a Deputy Grand Master of

Ireland.

The Master went on to say that they were delighted that Bros. Robert Douglas, Jacob Douglas and George Blair were present that evening. They had each joined the lodge on Wednesday, September 4, 1946, and he paid tribute to them for the support they had given the lodge over the last 50 years.

He then called on Bro. William Ross, MP, to present them with their 50-year membership certificates, and in doing so, Bro. Ross paid tribute to them and offered them his good wishes and sincere congratulations.

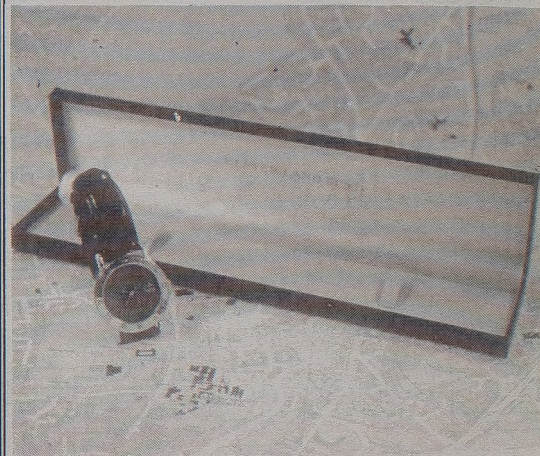
Aghanloo Orange Lodge LOL No.656 presentation of 50-year certificates to Bros. George Blair, Jacob Douglas and Robert Douglas. Also in photo: Bros. Jack Dolan, WM; William Ross, MP, who presented the certificates; Desmond Moore, Treasurer and Mervin Dolan, Secretary.



Governor in Aughnacloy

The Governor of "The Apprentice Boys of Derry Association", Wor. Bro. Alistair Simpson visited the Aughnacloy Browning Club Branch on Monday, January 20 to install the officers for 1997. He was accompanied by Bro. John Holland (Secretary of the Browning Parent Club in Londonderry). Front row, left to right: Bro. Neil Murray (President), Wor. Bro. Alistair Simpson (Governor), Bro. Trevor Stockdale (Vice-president). Back row, left to right: Bro. R.N. Givan (Chaplain), Bro. Reuben Mulligan (Secretary), Bro. John Gervis (Treasurer), Bro. John Holland (Browning Parent Club Secretary).

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200th Anniversary celebrated in Scotland

THE Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland held their annual Scottish lecturers conference on Saturday, January 18 in Pollokshaws Burgh Halls in Glasgow.

The meeting was

opened under the warrant of 'Sir James Rice Memorial' Royal Black District Chapter No.7, Govan, which was celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and was proud to have the honour of hosting the conference as part of the anniversary celebrations.

The WDM, Sir Knt. Alan Goody warmly welcomed the 106 Sir Knights in attendance, before handing the meeting over to the Provincial Grand Lecturer, Sir Knt. Thomas Blair, who welcomed the specially invited guests, Wor. Sir Knt. William Anderson JP,

Assistant Sovereign Grand Master; Wor. Sir Knt. Samuel Foster, Imperial Grand Lecturer and Sir Knt. and Bro. Ian Wilson, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland.

Also in attendance were Sir Knt. John Richardson, Grand Lecturer of Co. Cavan, and Sir Knt. Evans Hamilton, Deputy Grand Lecturer of Co. Antrim.

The conference then got under way with the degrees being exemplified by the Lecturers of District No.7, District No.10 and joint lecture team of District Nos. 1 and 5, who all carried out the lecture work to a very high standard indeed under the watchful eyes of Sir Knt. Foster and the Scottish Board of Examiners. Sir Knt. Foster congratulated everyone who took part in the degree work and made special mention to the team from No.7 District which consisted of Sir Knt. Thomas Blair and his two sons Sir Knts. Alan and Kenneth, saying that this could be a first within the Institution.

Before closing, the host District Chapter presented suitably inscribed Bibles to the Imperial Grand Officers, Sir Knts. William Anderson and Samuel Foster and to Sir Knt. Thomas Blair for all his past work.

After the conference, most of the Sir Knts. retired to the local Pollokshaws Orange Hall to enjoy an excellent meal.

Lifting the lid on the IRA

THE defection of Sean O'Callaghan has been one of the biggest blows to hit the Provisional IRA since the formation of that organisation. O'Callaghan by his own admission took part in the murder of at least two members of the security forces and was one of the main activists and organisers in the Provos.

As an IRA man turned informer, he wrought havoc in the ranks of the Provos by aborting many missions and thereby saving lives.

Claiming inside knowledge of how the Provos operate, he has dedicated his life to working against the IRA and exposing it to the world.

Why then has O'Callaghan not been inter-

viewed at length on BBC Northern Ireland radio or television? He has been interviewed on Newsnight, and on BBC national radio.

But one would have thought that BBC Northern Ireland would have interviewed O'Callaghan at great length by now, and given listeners an opportunity to hear O'Callaghan's chilling accounts of how the IRA operates.

One of his most devastating claims was that following a murder he and other Provos carried out in Co. Tyrone, they were allowed to stay for a week in a Roman Catholic parochial house until the heat had died down.

This is an extraordinary claim and if true, would be a dreadful reflection on certain Roman Catholic priests. Why then is O'Callaghan not being given the opportunity one of the local radio chat shows to put his case and be questioned at length?

The BBC has pulled out all

the stops to examine every aspect of post-Drumcree. It and its rival UTV have spotlighted the Harryville affair.

Is it not time now for both television channels to give their viewers, and in the case of the BBC, their listeners as well, the chance of seeing and hearing Sean O'Callaghan and deciding for themselves how valid his claims are?

Hopefully it is not going to be a case of O'Callaghan being denied this opportunity. Perhaps it is unfair to suggest this and arrangements are being made to carry an extensive interview of Sean O'Callaghan.

Let's hope that is the case and if it is not, that BBC and UTV can provide valid reasons for not interviewing this leading defector from the IRA - a man prepared to make amends for past misdeeds by telling all and trying hard to bring an end to republican terror.

Flawed report

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, in a statement on the independent Review of Parades, and Marches rejected the recommendations.

"It is regrettable that the Review Body do not appear to have listened to those who have had most experience of the organisation of parades. They have also failed to fully grasp the fact that lawful parades have not been the problem but rather the illegal activities of those groups who have sought to prevent peaceful parades.

"The concept of a parades commission is

unacceptable in that:-

• We do not need another quango in this country.

• Under the terms of the Anglo Irish Agreement the Eire Government would have the right to nominate to the Commission.

• We have no experience of government appointees reflecting the ethos and traditions of our community and we do not believe that a Commission would be independent."

"The proposed powers for the Commission appear draconian and leave the way open for further unreasonable protests against the basic principle of civil liberty," said Grand Lodge.

Wonders of the world

The Worshipful Master, officers and brethren of Tullintrain Purple Star LOL No.1969 wish to thank those lodges or brethren most sincerely, who took part in our 'Wonders of the World'

competition.

Results of the competition were as follows: 1. Mr. E. Colhoun, £100 (LOL 87); 2. LOL 21, £50; 3. Mr. A. Anderson, £25 (LOL 7). Naval LOL 673 won the lodge prize of £100.

Answers were: A. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador); B. Mount Huangshan (China); C. Redwood National Park (USA); D. Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe Border); E. Goreme National Park (Turkey); F. The Giant's Causeway (Northern Ireland); G. The Great Barrier Reef (Australia).

Annahoe general meeting

THE annual general meeting of Annahoe District Sports Committee was held in Crilly Orange and Black Hall on Thursday, January 16.

The chairman Bro. Trevor Stockdale in his address stated that 1996 was another very successful year for the Sports Committee. All events were well supported, and those who took part really enjoyed the competitive spirit, the excitement, and above all the fun, which is of paramount importance, and was the major reason why the Sports Committee came into being.

Bro. Stockdale thanked all those who organised the various events, those who officiated, and those who worked so hard behind the scenes, so that everything ran so smoothly.

Reports on the various committees were given by the following: Clay Pigeon Shoot - Raymond Hillen; Bowls Tournament - Fred Leitch; Football Tournament - W. Coote; Tug-o-War - G. Busby; It's A Knockout - Noel Erskine; Table Top Quiz - Ivan Duff.

The District Master Wor. Bro. Ian Duff conducted the election of office bearers for 1997, which resulted as follows: Chairman - G. Busby; vice-chairman - T. Stockdale; secretary - C. Sharkey; ass. sec. - W. Duff; treas. - A. Bell; ass. treas. - H. Alexander; press office - R. N. Givan.

Outstanding contribution of the Ulster-Scots

A HUGE section of the Ulster Protestant population is proud - and rightly so - of its Scottish ancestry.

The achievements of the Ulster-Scots, mostly Presbyterian, have been well researched and chronicled, and their contribution to American freedom and the development of that land have been paid fitting tribute in the excellent books of News Letter assistant editor, Billy Kennedy which have been published in recent years by Causeway Press.

The 27-year campaign against Northern Ireland's Unionist and Protestant population by the IRA, coupled with the indifference and downright hostility of successive Dublin Governments has influenced many Ulster Protestants into rejecting their Irish identity.

This is understandable, in a backs-to-the-wall situation such as Ulster has experienced, but Northern Ireland Protestants should never be ashamed of their Irish identity.

Irish Protestants and Unionists have contributed a great deal to the South and were an influence far beyond their numbers in the

years before Partition in 1921.

The expulsion of a large section of Southern Irish Protestants and Unionists has practically extinguished the Unionist aspect, but there are still over 100,000 Protestants in the Republic.

It must not be forgotten that there are two great strands of Ulster Protestantism - Scottish Planter and English Planter. There are other smaller ones of course, notably the Huguenot and Moravian elements, but it is the Scottish and English origins which run strongest.

There were more Scots than English planters and their influence has been greater. The Scots Plantation largely escaped the worst atrocities of the 1641 Rebellion due to the close proximity to Scotland and the fact that a large Scottish Presbyterian army landed in East Ulster to save the majority of their co-religionists from the fate experienced by the English Protestants in west Ulster.

MASSACRES

The English were strongest in counties Armagh, Tyrone and

Fermanagh, and large parts of Down and Londonderry. They suffered to a greater extent in the massacres of 1641 and in many areas were exterminated.

But Oliver Cromwell's victory in England and his crushing of the Irish Rebellion restored the English settlements.

The subsequent history of Ulster owed a lot to the memories of 1641 and it was the horror of the murders at the Bann in Portadown and other parts of west Ulster which resulted in tens of thousands of Protestants of English descent making for Londonderry at the time of the famous siege.

Later, it was these Protestants of English extraction who played a leading role in the formation of the Orange Order in Co. Armagh. The Orange Yeomanry which fought with the Army during the 1798 rebellion was comprised to a large extent of units from 'English' Ulster.

The achievements of the Ulster Protestants of English origin have been considerable and it was this section which produced great British generals like Alanbrooke, Alexander,

Montgomery, Dill and Templar.

The Act of Union between Britain and Ireland in 1801 began the process of assimilation of the Northern Protestants into the overall Irish context and until 1921 it is fair to say most Protestants had no hesitation in declaring their Irishness alongside their British nationality.

It has been the post-partition history, and especially since the start of the present Troubles which has alienated many Ulster Protestants, especially the Scottish majority from their Irish ties.

That's a great pity, and one of the crimes of aggressive republicanism, because there is nothing wrong with Ulster Protestants subscribing to a non-political Irish identity.

On the contrary, they can take pride in the fact that Irish Protestants have played a leading role in the affairs of the United Kingdom for centuries.

Ulstermen have served with great pride in Irish regiments of the British Army for generation, and Irish Unionism was a noble cause. Overseas, in countries like Canada and

Australia, Ulster Protestants have no difficulty in celebrating St. Patrick's Day and showing their Irishness - provided there is no political context.

Most Ulster Protestants used the added qualification of 'Northern' when admitting to their Irish identity today, but they assert themselves as Irish and proud of it - and why shouldn't they?

There is nothing to be ashamed of in being Irish - British Irish or British Northern Irish - the qualification being necessary to emphasise the political border which exists in Ireland.

But it should not be forgotten that Ireland pre-1921 was an integral and important part of one United Kingdom. Huge numbers of Irishmen and women, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, were proud to serve the Crown, and they played a great part in the development of the British Empire.

So, Ulster Protestants can be rightly proud of their Scottish, English and Irish traditions, culture and ethos - a factor which makes them arguably the most British of all the peoples of the United Kingdom.

1,000 Apprentice Boys for Killyleagh

MORE than 1,000 Apprentice Boys are expected to parade in Killyleagh, Co. Down on Easter Monday.

In what is expected to be one of the biggest ever parades held in the area, the event will be attended by Apprentice Boys from all over the Province and the guest speaker at the event will be the Rev. Hugh Ross.

A number of wreaths will also be laid at the town's War Memorial as the parade makes its way to the demonstration point nearby Shrigley.

SCHEDULED

The parade is expected to move off from the assembly field at the Quoiley Hill in time for a religious service which is scheduled to be held at the demonstration field at 11.30 a.m.

It is the first time since 1975 that the Co. Down town has hosted the annual Easter Monday Apprentice Boys parade and the organisers of the event are confident that everything will run smoothly on the day.

A spokesman for the organisers said over 1,000 Apprentice Boys are expected to march in Killyleagh with a number of visiting districts attending the event, including Belfast, Mid-Ulster, South Derry and East Tyrone, South West Ulster and other branches from Scotland and England.

"The Easter Monday parade is one of the premier events on the marching calendar and the visitors can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome in Killyleagh," he added.

Junior Orange lodges from Belfast, North Down, South and East Antrim will be on parade in Bangor on Easter Tuesday. Sixty lodges and 40 bands will take part



Bro. Bobby McFarland shows his delight on the receipt of his 50-year jewel presented to him at Gillygooley L.O.L. No. 339's annual dinner and election of officers in Gillygooley Orange Hall on Thursday, February 20, 1997. Sharing his delight are Tyrone County Grand District Secretary Robert Abernethy and W. Bro. Andrew Scott (left back) Worshipful Master of Gillygooley lodge.

Pictures courtesy: Tyrone Constitution

Woolly-minded liberals given excessive air time

LISTENING to a BBC 'Talkback' programme recently which featured a studio audience, the writer couldn't help but notice the number of liberal-minded contributors - well-meaning people from the PACE movement, community groups and similar associations.

One would venture to suggest that in any cross-section of the Ulster population, especially outside the North Down area, such a group would form a small minority. Yet, on programmes such as this, these intellectuals tend to form a majority of contributors.

Another well represented section of the audience consisted of young Roman Catholic students, who, while sharing the general view that the paramount need was for peace, did not hesitate to put the nationalist and even republican point of view.

Indeed, one young woman angrily dismissed the Unionist case, and spoke strongly about the release of Private Lee Clegg. Then on came a Roman Catholic priest who blamed the Orange Order on all the trouble of last

summer.

Thankfully there was one young man who spoke out in defence of the Order, and there was an Englishman too who pointed out that it was not Orangemen or Unionists who had bombed Canary Wharf, Manchester or Ulster towns.

There were a number of Protestant ministers on the programme, but contrast to the Roman Catholic priest, they took a non-partisan view, and spoke in generalities.

The programme was interesting, and was well presented by David Dunseath, but as with so many radio programmes, and with the many daily contributions by specialist writers in the Belfast newspapers, they tend to adopt a neutral view to the Northern Ireland situation, or indeed a pro-nationalist viewpoint.

There are only a few contributors who make a vigorous defence of Ulster's right to be part of the United Kingdom, and who get to the kernel of the Ulster problem - the fact that a large section of the minority population in Northern Ireland is disloyal to the

State.

There was even a suggestion during the Talkback programme that there could be joint sovereignty involving the United Kingdom and Eire in this Province - a non-starter as far as Ulster Unionists are concerned.

It is time the views of the two-thirds of the Ulster population who want to remain part of the United Kingdom received fair treatment in all sections of the media - their case should receive publicity reflecting their strength in the community.

Those Unionists and Orangemen who have appeared on programmes are to be commended for their contribution and for making it clear that while the majority population wants peace, this is not inconsistent with them wanting Northern Ireland to remain a part of the Kingdom. The Republic of Ireland has no jurisdiction over this part of the Realm, and it is time the BBC and other sections of the media refrained from providing a platform for people and groups who are all too anxious to push an "Irish" as opposed to British point of view on matters affecting Northern Ireland.



Omagh District Master W. Bro. Victor Anderson (seated second from right), who was among the guests at Gillygooley L.O.L. annual dinner and election of officers, pictured with the officers of the Lodge. They are, from left, back row Wor Bros. and Bros., Brian Milliss, Gerald McFarland, Ronnie McKinley and Robbie Donald. Front row George Armstrong, Andrew Scott, and Raymond King.



W. Bro. George Armstrong (right) treasurer of Gillygooley L.O.L. No. 339 presenting a cheque on behalf of the lodge to W. Bro. Robert Cummings, District Assistant Treasurer, who received it on behalf of the Orange Order charity funds.

North Report - Roman inspired?

THE Rev. Martin Smyth, immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, has attacked the findings of the North Report on parades.

"The Secretary of State has published his request for responses to several aspects of the North report. The Women's Coalition apparently has decided what should be done as they published their own bill; although the Commission did suggest that there might/could be a time for reflection and further consultation.

"While there are helpful suggestions in the report it is rather restricted in that it concentrates on processions. It does not deal directly with the real problem in Northern Ireland. This is the failure to deal within the Public Order (NI) Order with those who unlawfully and with threats of actual violence impede

lawful processions or walks."

Bro. Smyth added: "More seriously still the Review Team departed from its remit to criticise the qualifications of members of the Orange Institution. They took exception to a commitment to oppose the errors of the Church of Rome. This appeared to be the cause of the problem of sectarianism. Amazingly with an Anglican, a Presbyterian ecumenist and a Roman Catholic there was no reference to statement 39 articles on the Westminster Confession of Faith, or to the exclusive sectarian claims of the Church of Rome. Was the Review Team following the recent ex-communication by that Church of a Bishop who challenged some of their mistaken scriptural interpretations? Were they seeking to exclude those who dared challenge Roman errors?"

A LOOK at culture and heritage was the theme of an evening recently hosted in Fourtowns Orange Hall near Larne.

Guest speaker at the event was well-known local man Bro. Ian Duffin JP, who took those present on a whirlwind tour of Irish history, reflecting on matters such as the Battle of the Boyne, the Battle of the Somme and many other events.

The address was a springboard for the setting

Evening of culture

up of a steering committee for a cultural heritage association being established in the town, and a second local historian, Dr. David Hume, gave advice on establishing an association and suggestions as to what it might consider doing.

Bro. Tom McKeever, District Master, who was elected public relations and

press officer of the group at the meeting, said that it was hoped to meet the growing interest in Ulster history and culture, with an appeal to the whole community.

"It should be noted that such similar ventures as are envisaged have proved of immense interest in many places, not just to

locals but also to visitors and tourists. Neither must one forget the educational aspect involved," said Bro. McKeever.

The meeting was the progression from an exhibition of Orange, Ulster Volunteer Force and 'D' Special material staged in First Larne Presbyterian Church Hall last September by the Orange Cultural Society, and a historical lecture subsequently delivered at Cairncastle on the history of Orangeism by Bro. Hume.



Wor. Bro. Lexy McLaren (second from right) was honoured by the members of the Order in the Sixemilecross district on his retirement after 24 years service to the District as its District Worshipful Master and District Deputy Master. He was presented with a specially commissioned oil painting by the County Grand Master W. Bro. Tom Reid. Also in the photograph are Wor. Bro. William Thompson (right) the new District Master and Wor. Bro. Ivan Clements, Deputy District Master. Wor. Bro. Lexy McLaren is a life-long member of Sixemilecross L.O.L. No. 406. - Photograph: Courtesy Tyrone Constitution.

Orange parades a 'dignified remembrance'

A LEADING Fermanagh Unionist and Orangeman has stated that the North Commission report on parades will do nothing to ease the issue this summer and in many cases may be used to "underpin every crank who wants to create discord."

Bro. Sammy Foster, speaking at the Northern Ireland Forum, said he questioned the need for the report. Although he did not doubt the integrity or the goodwill of the three members of the Commission who visited, listened, read and assessed the situation, he felt that none of them had the experience or the feel for the situation nor were they aware that "objections to loyal parades were other means of Republicanism to create chaos and destroy."

"The acceptance of this report will ensure that it becomes a weapon in the conflict, and that the conflict will be re-fuelled by it, rather than helping to bring it to an end," he said.

Bro. Foster said he was suspicious of quangos and their lacking in democratic representation and the Dublin input and influence.

He told the Forum that the Orange Institution and the Royal Black Preceptory processions were dignified, disciplined and responsible and were humble, sincere presentations of culture and belief.

"Such culture is inherent, it is part of the people, it cannot be divorced or forced from them. The demonstrations on the Twelfth of July, August and Last Saturday in August are days of festivities, presentations of pageantry, colour and musical accompaniment, days to meet and greet friends and neighbours" he continued.

"They are days of Remembrance and thanksgiving, with great solemnity, for the provision of freedom from the clutches of a despotic king. It gave all people Civil and Religious liberty. The Battle of the Boyne was a victory not just for this island but for the British Isles and Europe as a whole. We are aware that Louis XIV of France was a threat to Europe, so much so that the Pope of that era was delighted about the defeat of King James II at the Boyne. All of this is not at all triumphalist, but as I

said earlier, 'Remembrance and Thanksgiving'.

An Orange demonstration, or Orange parade coming from a church service is not a threat to residents or community. The problems are brought about by the elements of Republicanism whose sole aim is to create problems and discord within our community.

"They used community and indeed the Orange Order last year, and to date, to create further chaos and confusion. Decent citizens should not allow them to intimidate and to fertilise contention."

Bro. Foster said that members of both Institutions were loyal to the State and were not out to destroy the State. Republicanism aimed to destroy by whatever means they could, with any connivance they could muster.

Bro. Foster claimed that while physical force could not destroy the Province, it was being tried by subtle and ulterior actions and motives by the traditional enemies of Northern Ireland.

He said that if these processions took place any-

where else in the world, they would be a boost for tourism in a country.

"I consider that last year the Chief Constable or his advisers made a wrong decision, initially. He or 'they' are the people who should be surcharged for the extra costs in policing - not trying to have the blame put on someone else, aiming at the Institutions!" said Bro. Foster.

He referred to what a renowned Dublin journalist, Ruth Dudley Edwards, a member of the Roman Catholic faith, stated last summer, "You would have to work hard to be offended by a parade on the wide Garvaghey Road, for only the gable end of the Roman Catholic estates back into it".

Bro. Foster added, "I fear the North Commission Report will be used to underpin every crank who wants to create discord. I can see it being used and abused by people who simply want to create trouble. It can become an invitation for vexatious and unreasonable complaints to obstruct the legitimate expression of the Orange and Loyal culture, which does not bear malice to anyone."

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- DISTANCE NO OBJECT -

THE spate of new films with a pro-IRA and republican bias continues with 'Some Mother's Son' joining 'In the Name of the Father' and 'Michael Collins' among those currently on the circuit.

In spite of denials by producers and others in the film trade there is no doubt that republicans are delighted with the pro-IRA emphasis being shown in such films.

It was laughable to read a figure in the film world say he would be interested in producing a film with a Protestant bias, and then go on to mention the Shankill Butchers in this connection.

Such a film with this theme would have no affinity with Ulster Protestantism or Unionism and would certainly not show them in a good light. If film producers are serious about showing Ulster Protestants in a good light there is not plenty of material - the murder of the workmen at Kingsmill and Teebane, and the innocents on Bloody Friday in Belfast - or the killing of hundreds of men and women whose only 'crime' was the wearing of uniforms of the security forces, or because they were Orangemen and Unionists.

Patriotism and loyalty defiled

ULSTER Orangemen and loyalists have had abundant evidence for years that old-fashioned patriotism and loyalty count for nothing as far as large sections of mainland British opinion is concerned.

In the Britain of the 1990s there are few votes to be won for supporting people whose 'crime' is to be loyal to the Queen, the Crown, and the Union Jack.

In the multi-cultural, 'politically correct' Britain of today it is ethnic minorities who are favoured, especially by left-wing orientated groups.

These groups denigrate all that Britain stood for in the days of Empire, and their clear agenda is to undermine all the pillars of the British state.

In Britain there is a generally muted response towards the loud and well-organised left-wing groups. The recent controversial televised debate on the future of the Monarchy contained a studio with a large percentage of such people.

When a number of Belfast people had their

chance to speak during the debate and mentioned Ulster's traditional loyalty to the Crown there were howls of derision from the anti-Royalty section.

Popular television discussion meetings have often revealed similar, if less obvious groupings who tend to belittle and criticise anything which smacks of patriotism and loyalty.

When Northern Ireland has been debated, such people tend to push the united Ireland line and support such things as Troops Out and 'Peace with Justice'.

In many large British cities today it is not popular to be classed as patriotic. The promise of a new 'European' history book to be used in schools, with references to British achievements and great soldiers and statesmen omitted, doesn't suggest a dramatic change.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble recently made the valid point that Ulster people had been treated as second class citizens for years.

How true, and the sad fact is that past British

Governments pushed Northern Ireland to the background for many years, and allowed the impression to gain ground that the Province was not quite British - certainly not British in the mould of Cheltenham or Chingford, Brighton or Bournemouth.

Indeed, many mainland Britons probably regard people from Jersey or the Isle of Man as being more British than Ulster folk, even though neither of these countries are in the United Kingdom.

ATTITUDE

The Falklands War showed how unreal the British mainland attitudes towards Northern Ireland has been. The nation got itself into a real frenzy and lather over the attempt by Argentina to take over the islands with their population of a few thousand.

A mighty Task Force was despatched to the far corner of the globe to defeat the Argentinians. It was a glorious feat of British arms, and Ulster people shared in the feeling of victory.

But nothing like the same decisiveness has been demonstrated by British Governments during the past 27 years in dealing with the IRA and terrorists in Northern Ireland. Instead, the British Army, the most efficient army in the free world, has had to do a 'policing' job with one arm tied behind its back.

The reason - Ulster loyalists were perceived as being 'not quite' British in the sense of the English, Scots or Welsh.

It is time for this impression to be corrected and remedied, and time for Ulster to be recognised for what it is - an integral and most loyal part of the United Kingdom.

There has been an increased effort by Unionists at Westminster to get this message across, and the Orange Order is playing its part. Orange parades in London and other parts of England will have an increasing representation from Ulster, and no doubt the brethren will not be backward in putting the message across that this Province has a huge British majority.

There is nothing to be ashamed of in being an Ulster loyalist, and that term is not used in a partisan or party sense. It covers every citizen of Northern Ireland, Protestant or Roman Catholic, whose allegiance and loyalty is to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It is time to assert that fact and not be mealy-mouthed about it. Northern Ireland has had enough of the treatment of being accorded second-class status and its people must stand up and be counted and argue their point with vigour and confidence.

Many of those who belittle the Province on the mainland are only first or second generation Britons, often with little knowledge of the part Northern Ireland played in two World Wars.

It is time to change that and Unionists and Orangemen should be in the forefront of the campaign to bring home to the British public that Ulster people are no longer content to be looked on as "Paddies" or a hybrid British-Irish race.

ANN Leslie, the distinguished Daily Mail columnist whose articles on the war in Bosnia made such compelling reading, recently visited Belfast.

Her articles on republican beatings and on how the IRA dominate huge estates in West Belfast should be compulsory reading for all wanting to know the truth about what has been happening in Northern Ireland during the past few years.

The ferocity of the attacks on young people and of the injuries inflicted

She compared the neat, manicured-lawns estates of Roman Catholic West Belfast with the well-heeled suburbs of outer London and Home Counties.

This is a fact which is all too often downplayed and Ann Leslie has performed a public service in spotlighting it. Since the early 1970s Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland have been provided with state-of-the-art housing. Millions and millions of pounds have been spent in providing lavish new housing estates and it has transformed the fact of Roman Catholic and

lems which need attended, but the cutbacks in Government budgets and funding has meant that these districts have to wait.

And due to pressure from the Roman Catholic Church there was a very high put back of housing in the nationalist areas - nine out of 10 houses in many cases, compared to three or four out of 10 in Protestant districts.

Promises were not kept that Protestants moved to towns and estates on the perimeter of Belfast would be moved back to the Shankill and other districts

Effective security of the 'B' Specials

THE Ulster Government responsible for law and order in the Province following the establishment of Northern Ireland in the aftermath of partition in 1921 was decisive and successful in its security policies.

Contrary to what some apologists for the ineffective security measures used during the past 27 years - measures which only succeeded in containing the violence and not ending it - Ulster governments were able to defeat previous IRA insurrections by using measures which got to the kernel of the problem.

Internment was one of the most decisive measures introduced during the 1920-22 period and similar measures brought an end to the IRA campaign of 1956-62.

The Ulster Special Constabulary was another key factor and it was the Specials - A, B and C class - who defeated the 1920s terrorism, as did the 'B' Specials alongside the RUC in the 1956-62 campaign.

Again, contrary to present-day propaganda the severe but successful methods used by the Ulster Government during the 1920s were used against both nationalist and unionist gunmen and extremists.

One of the vociferous arguments used against internment has been the republican-fanned propaganda campaign which argued that this weapon was only used against nationalists and Roman Catholics.

That was not the case. Recently a number of hitherto closed files in the Public Records Office in Belfast were released for inspection by the general public.

Many of these files relate to the internment period of the 1920s and anyone who goes along to the Public Records Office in Balmoral Avenue and inspects these files will find that internment was used against

both Nationalist and Unionist activists.

The names and addresses are all there, along with the crimes of which they were suspected. The Unionist Government of the day did not hesitate to intern extremists from the unionist and Protestant population, especially in Belfast, who were known to be involved in unlawful violence and other activities.

The large majority of those interned in camps and in the prison ship Argenta were nationalists and republicans, but there was a sizeable minority of unionist extremists and they received no more favours than did the IRA internees.

The Troubles resulted in the loss of some 250 lives, a considerable loss, but nothing compared to the 3,000-plus who have died in the current disturbances since 1969.

By the end of 1922 the Ulster Government had the IRA campaign well nigh beaten, normally was gradually restored, and by 1925 the last of the internees had been released.

Curfew and martial law were used in Northern Ireland at the heights of the Troubles and these were also very effective.

By 1925 the Special Constabulary had been reduced to one class - the part-time 'B' Specials. The 'C' class had been abolished and the 'A' Specials absorbed into the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Tough measures were needed and tough measures were used, but the result was that the huge law-abiding section of the population was protected from the activities and excesses of the extremists.

There is surely a lesson to be derived from history - if people and more especially, Governments are prepared to listen and then act.

Government props up evil

on them make horrific reading. These are the images of republican-dominated estates and districts which only occasionally make the headlines. They are going on all the time, and they expose the utter hypocrisy of Sinn Fein whose spokesmen wear smart suits, meet visiting American politicians and talk about the 'peace process'.

And Ann Leslie in one of her articles spelled out the fact that British Government money pumped into nationalist areas of Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland has produced the best housing in Europe.

nationalist areas.

Belfast, Londonderry, and all other cities and towns have magnificent housing in nationalist areas - housing which would make the people who live in working class areas of Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and other places highly envious.

Protestant areas have not fared anything like as well, and it is only in the past decade that loyalist districts of Belfast have begun to catch up. East Belfast, the Shankill, Alliance, Shore Road, the 'Village' and other areas have urgent housing prob-

lems which need attended, but the cutbacks in Government budgets and funding has meant that these districts have to wait.

Just imagine the uproar there would have been in nationalist areas like the Falls if it had experienced this sort of treatment.

Housing is a key area - perhaps the most important factor in the Northern Ireland struggle over territory - and any impartial survey must surely prove that Roman Catholics have fared better than Protestants in regard to public housing in the past 25 years.

Orangemen beware ! the man from ECONI is watching you !

by Rev. Robert K. McEvoy

One of the trustees of ECONI, David McMillan, a Baptist pastor, has written an offensive and inaccurate article suggesting that evangelists normally desert Northern Ireland during the Twelfth holidays, but that this year they should desist from the practice, and instead remain behind to monitor the behaviour of Orangemen.

This heavily patronising article in the latest edition of 'Lion and Lamb', the news-sheet of ECONI (The Evangelical Contribution on Northern Ireland) was sent out to ministers and others on their mailing list. Entitled "Wish you were Here", Mr. McMillan asserts in his article that, "It had long been the tradition for many evangelists to get 'off-side' over the Twelfth".

Pointing out that ECONI members had learned that relationships. He needed to be built with the Roman Catholic community, and had set out to improve such relationships, he confesses that in the past he has not felt the need to build such relationships with members of the loyal institutions. The reasoning behind this strange, one-sided omission, according to Mr. McMillan, is the abhorrence with which he views the association of the gospel with the Ulster Protestant/Ulster culture. Mr. McMillan claims that in order to remedy his earlier omission, he has made recent returns to old pilgrimages of bonfires and fields, and found there "Drunkenness, profanity and the sheer primal resonance of the fire and the drum". He further insists that pastors need to remain in their pulpits over the Twelfth period, at a time when' he claims, "Our community could potentially be most disorientated and traumatised".

Recognising that ECONI have built barriers between themselves and the Loyal institutions in the past, Mr. McMillan proposes to his readers a series of suggestions for practical involvement over the holiday period. These include:

- * Concerned Christians being at demonstrations to observe, and report back to Orange members what they have seen and heard. It would seem that what they are looking for, bearing in mind the tenor of the whole article, is activity of a profane or offensive nature.
- * Seeking to understand the objections of 'residents' groups' and monitoring the behaviour of demonstrators. Orangemen and bands.
- * Reporting back to the ECONI office of all parades, especially the content of speeches and material available at demonstrations.
- * Organising prayer meetings.

At first glance these might seem reasonable and harmless proposals. But why are ECONI interested in Orangeism? Who are ECONI ? What is their agenda, and why is their basic understanding of the Orange Order and Protestant culture based on such entirely false premises?

The ECONI trust was formed in 1994, but had been active for quite some time before attaining trust status. They run a series of seminars, which explore the situation in Northern Ireland, and provide resources for churches on involvement with current affairs. Most of these seminars reflect Mr. McMillan's self confessed abhorrence of the Gospel set in a Protestant context. Their first pronouncement on the Ulster situation was contained in a booklet entitled 'For God and His Glory Alone'. This booklet was signed by some 200 leading Evangelicals most of who simply longed for a new, broadly Biblical analysis of the Ulster problem. Many of these signatories were disappointed, while others rejected the group's analysis, which seemed to perpetrate the myth of Protestant Guilt and Catholic Grievance and many of the original signatories no longer have any connection with ECONI.

ECUMMENICAL

Since then, ECONI have developed into a thoroughly ecumenical body. Most of the ECONI steering committee and trustees are heavily involved in ecumenical activities, including joint worship with Roman Catholic and Catholic Charismatics. The ECONI Director, David Porter was for a time a cross-community co-ordinator of Belfast YMCA, a body which in its ecumenical zeal banned the Evangelical Protestant Society from using their hall for meetings.

The Evangelical credentials of ECONI were recently challenged by Mr. Cecil Andrews of 'Take Heed Publications', whose booklet 'The Evangelicals of ECONI' gives the lie to their supposedly 'Evangelical' status, and names members of ECONI as being out and out ecumenists. To my knowledge, the claims made by Mr. Andrews' booklet have never been refuted by ECONI.

ECONI's ecumenical and liberal leanings are perpetuated in Mr. McMillan's article. Again he does disservice to Protestantism and to Biblical evangelicals. Implicit in Mr. McMillan's article is the presupposition that evangelicals cannot also be Orangemen, and that the Orange Order is not a fit place for Christians to be. Whilst I would accept that some Evangelical pastors do teach that born-again Christians should depart from the Orders, this is not, nor never has been, universally the case. The Orange Order, in principle and in belief is a truly evangelical and Christian organisation. Its statements of faith, as declared in the booklet, 'Here We Stand, A Brief Outline of Orange Principle' and the published 'Qualifications of an Orangeman' are broadly in line with the 39 Articles of the Anglican Communion and the Westminster Confession of faith. Of course there are a large number of men and women within the orders who are not committed Christians, but surely this is no different than the membership of some mainstream churches, from which most of these members are drawn, and I am sure that ECONI would hesitate to criticise churches, when some of their more 'normal' members let them down. Of course this large membership of nominal Protestants causes us problems when some stoop to profanity or excess of alcohol, but it also offers us endless opportunities for evangelism.

The real question is, "Do we see such people as lepers to be avoided, or as sinners who need to be saved?" In recent years, evangelical Orangemen have maintained a steady witness for Christ throughout our orders. We have held prayer meetings, conducted gospel campaigns,

and evangelised at Orange services and at demonstrations, all with the blessings of our institutions, which have the evangelical faith at their heart.

The ECONI 'monitors' will be welcome at our demonstrations this year, as will thousands of others, who will have a good day, and will listen to resolutions which express our loyalty to our British nation, our Sovereign and, of most importance, our evangelical faith. They will see thousands of respectable Orange Brethren who are pillars of their communities. Men who are not bigots, but businessmen, farmers, employers, workers, the cream of Ulster society.

Men whose Orange halls have been targeted by the lawless element in society, yet who often willingly give permission for those very halls to be the venue for church meetings, Sunday schools, gospel crusades and children's meetings. Men whose loyalty to the Protestant faith has made them the target of a biased media, and who have suffered at the hands of Republican terror. Men who are part of an organisation that extends across Ireland and to many other countries of the world.

What will these 'monitors' include in their reports? Will it be the dignified procession of Protestant men and women, who only demand the right to be treated as equals in their own country? Or will it be yet another biased concentration on elements outside the control of the Orange marshalls and upon the tiny minority who every year let us down? ECONI's reaction and response will indicate to us conclusively whether they are true and truthful evangelicals or just another organisation composed of anti-Orange hostile ecumenists.

As Orangemen, we too should follow some practical suggestions this holiday season. We should ourselves watch out for anyone who might break the strict codes laid down by our institutions and report them to persons in authority within our organisations. We should see to it that our parades are dignified, with a festive atmosphere that all can enjoy, a true celebration of non-threatening Protestant culture. We too should surround our parades, demonstrations and services with prayer, a prayer that God's name and cause will be given honour in everything that we say and do as Orangemen.

*** Robert McEvoy is the co-ordinator of Studies for the Elim Church Pastoral Training Programme in Northern Ireland. He is a member of L.O.L. No. 71 (Moir Yeomanry), R.B.P. No. 990 (Tullymore Truth Defenders) and District Chaplain of Largymore Royal Black District Chapter No. 9**

Evil of boycott

The word boycott is one of the ugliest in the English language. It arises from a nasty incident during the Land War in Ireland during the last century when tenants of Captain Boycott, a landlord in the West of Ireland refused to cooperate with him, or to gather in the harvest on his lands.

This task incidentally was performed by Orange volunteer farm workers from Cavan and Monaghan, who had a police escort while doing the job.

These days the word boycott is still in active use, and it has certainly applied in recent months to what has happened in counties Tyrone, Fermanagh and Londonderry as Roman Catholics have withdrawn their trade from Protestant-owned shops and businesses in towns like

Bellaghy, Enniskillen and Pomeroy.

A number of Protestant businessmen have had to close their premises and the boycott is still biting hard.

The media, apart from a few initial stories, have been very quiet recently about the continuing boycott. Roman Catholic church leaders have also been largely quiet as far as denouncing this practice.

However, when some leaflets were recently circulated in Ballynateigh in the Upper Ormeau Road of Belfast, allegedly calling on Roman Catholic shops to be boycotted there was a vociferous and vigorous response from Protestant ministers and community leaders who joined with the local SDLP and nationalist leaders in condemning it.

Not much evidence of actual boycotting taking

place in Ballynateigh was produced, but it still resulted in radio and television interviews.

Once again the media has been slow to show the same determination in putting the spotlight on real and proven boycotting of Protestant business premises taking place in rural towns and villages.

Men have had to stop trading in villages where they and their ancestors had been in business for generations - yet it has largely gone unnoticed. Sadly, ethnic cleansing of Protestants in Ulster doesn't get anything like the same sympathetic coverage as that of Roman Catholics, and it is hardly surprising that there is a feeling of discontent among many Orangemen, Unionists and Protestants over the treatment their plight tends to receive from sections of the media.

The Media : Friend or Foe?

TO many in our Institution the title above represents the only options in defining the relationship between ourselves and the media. Indeed it has to be said that in the majority of cases we think of the media as a foe which exists only to present a "bad" picture of the Orange Order. Given recent events and the need to put our point of view across it is time that we as a body thought of the media in a different light.

The media can be thought of as a tool. In the hands of someone who knows how to use it the result can be a work of clarity and purpose. Used by someone who neglects the tools they have been given, the result is often a self-inflicted wound. It is time to become skilled in the art of communications, between ourselves and society at large, in order to use the

resources that are available to us.

At the highest level we must learn that a press conference is not called for the benefit of the press. It is called to promote a statement of position or highlight an important event and if controlled properly then the issue for which the conference has been called will be the message that is communicated through the media. Any other message carried from the press conference by the media is a self-inflicted wound.

We have all watched on television or read in the papers as the republican view point is put across on many issues without adequate rebuttal from ourselves. We have on occasion blamed the media for promoting a republican slant on issues. What we must ask ourselves is how often this is due to an underlying republican bias

and how often it is due to the fact that reporters are treated in a hostile manner by ourselves. How often have camera men been told to clear off only to re-appear amongst republican protesters. How often have we refused to allow anyone to talk to the press only to have the same reporter appear on TV later that evening talking to a 'poor defenceless' resident who can't buy a loaf on the Twelfth. Reporters whether in print, on radio, or on TV have to submit articles or interviews. If we drive them away they will get a story somewhere.

There is no doubt that we as an Institution will come under attack throughout 1997. How strong we are at the end of 1997 will depend on our ability to use all the resources at our disposal and our ability to reduce the number of self-inflicted wounds.

Comment - Comment - Com

Flawed report which will make matters worse

THE publication of the North Commission's Report on parades in Northern Ireland with its suggestions on how the problem of disputed marches could be addressed has had its to-be-expected responses. The media provided opportunities for expressing reactions from parties and groups and individuals also aired their views. The reactions were predictable. The unionists showed the report no favour and the nationalists, while more welcoming of it, were less than enthusiastic about some of its proposals and provisions. And as usual in our society there are those who are indifferent to all contentious issues out of boredom with perennial problems or from the fatalism which comes with the belief that nothing they can say or do will affect the outcome of disputes or change the attitudes of disputants. The one thing desired by the very great number of people is a state of affairs in which confrontation is unnecessary and people can pursue their legitimate political and religious aims and aspirations without let or hindrance. The reality remains, though, that the tensions which show in our society have a permanence which makes the prospect of agreement on controversial matters remote in the extreme. And yet we must hope that what appears permanent now will be replaced with a more rational, magnanimous and agreeable neighbourliness which must be the characteristic of a well-ordered society. To the charges against us as Orangemen that we are main contributors to the unrest in the Province we have a good defence. By word and deed, in spite of much provocation we have been circumspect in our dealings with other people and the problems which beset them and us in a situation in which we are all the victims of wrong and evil doing. Attitudes and actions which are exceedingly hurtful of so much that is good in this country. The polarisation of the community has been perpetuated and accentuated in policies and practices which have fostered suspicion and mistrust among people who would not want to be at enmity with those with whom they share this small geographical area. Orangemen have not been shown by the media to be the moderating force it is and that has meant that both here and elsewhere the impression is given of a single-minded, obstructive organisation, steeped in the past and without relevance in the future. The picture of us is so repelling that even those who would claim to be fair-minded are persuaded of the truth of what is untrue. We do not deny that there have been occasions when some members have brought discredit on us but we were quick to condemn them. Regrettably, but apparently inevitably, the misconduct received a publicity denied to the Institution for regretting and condemning it. This means that those who speak for the Order have to be skilled com-

municators well able to argue the cause of Orangeism in often unsympathetic company. We are admitting a reality when we concede that we and unionists generally have never been as professional in our use of the media as those who have spoken against us and the beliefs, principles and cultural norms for which we stand. It is late in the day but not too late to encourage those of our number who perform well on the media that they continue to speak for us intelligibly, accurately, positively and persuasively. They will be needed especially in those post-Commission

Report days when matters of crucial importance to us in this country are in dispute. Alternatively, we should discourage those who are persuaded to speak when to be silent would be the more effective response. Unless we have something worth saying and the ability to say it, better to say nothing. We have deliberately avoided an analysis of the North Commission Report or a dissection of bits and pieces that please or displease us. We leave that surgical exercise to those in the Grand Lodge of Ireland who will have the responsibility of publishing the Institution's response to it. The press has provided easy access to the main text of the report in the wake of its publication. It is an imperative on us to read it for ourselves and to reach our own conclusions on it. Our knowledge of this document should not be confined to the comments which favour its findings or those which do not.

SPLITTING THE VOTE

We deplore the possibility of party decisions which would split the unionist vote in certain constituencies in the near at hand General Election. There can be no justification for providing an opportunity to non-unionists to take a seat unavailable to them without a unionist split vote. It seems to us that party differences are not of the kind that demand competition when there is agreement on the fundamentals of unionism, the maintenance of the British connection. In constituencies where there is no risk of loss to non-unionists, parties may be expected to compete for the votes of the people on their different manifestoes. The Orange Institution does not now publish a preference for a party or a politician with the intention of influencing voters. Our one hope is that we will get the best equipped people to represent us and Northern Ireland in Parliament.

CAN LABOUR BE TRUSTED?

The General Election, only a few weeks away has most of us wondering what the future

holds for us as citizens of the United Kingdom. Will the new government be Conservative or Labour, to give us a continuance of Tory rule or new experience with New Labour? The polls have been saying for some time that the result of the election is a foregone conclusion with only the extent of the Labour Party's strength in parliament in doubt. But the 1992 General Election put egg on the faces of pollsters who were of one mind in prophesying a victory for Labour

when the result was a win for the Tories with Mr. Major as the main victor. Their threat of Labour's tax penalties changed the minds of many and some of them in the polling booths. While the Tory record on tax has been a contradiction of its promises in 1992 it remains the case that the party's philosophy is to spend in response to need and the money can only come from taxes of one kind or another. The extent of that suspicion and distrust of Labour will have its effect on the result of the General Election. The coming closer together of Conservative and New Labour policies in several fields has made differentiation in them difficult. But the parties have been highlighting those things in which there is a claimed-to-be chasm between them. How successful they are in convincing the electorate of the advantages of voting for the one rather than the other is the question which will be answered on polling day. It would appear that the United Kingdom relationship with Europe will be a crucial issue. The status of the Conservative government is not high in the Province for neither community is happy with the present state of affairs. Even those who readily pay compliment to John Major for his efforts to bring peace to the country and for his exceptional commitment to Northern Ireland as a prime priority in his administration are not pleased with things as they are, uncertain and dangerous. We are wondering then, as a concern special to us, what difference a change from Tory to New Labour if it comes would make here. The bipartisan approach hitherto has ensured a working arrangement which gave us attitudes and responses as though from one source. Whether that will continue if party roles are reversed, remains to be seen. The one thing certain is that we have to accept who comes to us and to do our utmost to get a fair and just treatment from those with whom we must deal. We may hope that the change in personnel in the Northern Ireland Office whatever party is in power will help bring about a proper understanding of our problems and what has to be done to resolve them. Agreement, in the final analysis has to be by the people of the Province, for they only can produce the peace by consent to live peaceably together, which is the final solution.

20 years service

THE service given to Larne Harbour LOL 766 by lodge secretary Bro. John Parker was recognised at the recent installation of the lodge.

Bro. Parker has held the post of secretary for over 20 years and to mark his commitment, a long service medal was presented on behalf of LOL 766 by his father, Bro. Sam Parker.

The event was held in Victoria Orange Hall, Larne, and those installed for 1996-7 were: Bros. R. Saunders, WM; S. McMaster, DM; U. Parker, Lay Chaplain; J. Parker, Secretary; M. Gilbert, Treasurer; M. Adams and S. Parker, lecturers; J. Moore, Tyler; committee members: A. Reid, E. Johnston, H. Gregg, H. Higgins, A. Ferguson.

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McKinley Memorial LOL No.1539, Enniskillen, has unfurled a new banner. The banner was unfurled by Wor. Bro. Austen Stinson, District Master of Enniskillen District No.5 and a Past Master of McKinley Memorial LOL 1539.

The banner was dedicated by Rev. Bro. Brian Courtney, Precentor of Saint Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen. The speaker

Remembering gallantry in Enniskillen

on the night was the Assistant Grand Master of Ireland, Wor. Bro. Jeffrey Donaldson. Churchill Silver Band led the praise during the service.

Other bands which attended the parade were Enniskillen Pipe Band, Pride of Erne Flute Band,

Lisbellaw Accordion Band and Ballinamallard Accordion Band. Approximately 80 Orange brethren also took part in the parade.

The banner dedication took place adjacent to Enniskillen Castle where the Inniskillings, of whom

Private McKinley was a member, were raised. McKinley is said to have been prominent in aiding King William's safe passage across the Boyne and from whom we take our name. On the day of the dedication of the banner there was a re-enactment

of the battle of Enniskillen Castle by period dress enthusiasts who finished off with a volley of shots from black powder muskets to start our dedication service.

It has been over 40 years since the last lodge banner was unfurled. The new banner depicts the "Watergate" towers of Enniskillen Castle and inset pictures of King William and Private McKinley.

Just how Protestant is Ulster?

JUST how Protestant is modern day Ulster? It's a thought-provoking question which opens up a whole field of thought and the writer believes it is a bonafide question

based on the evidence all round which suggests that Northern Ireland is far from being the God-fearing Protestant orientated society it was, not so many years ago.

A few years ago a Canadian contributor to the 'Orange Standard' told of having visited Belfast and other parts of the Province for the first time since the

late 1930s when he emigrated.

He said one of the things which struck him most was the tremendous increase in materialism and secularism - a trend not apparent to many Ulster people.

Oh yes, he wrote, the Protestant churches were still very well attended - better attended than those in Canada - and the Church still played a big part in peoples' lives.

But he had noticed the difference between the intensity and deep commitment of working class people to the Protestant faith in the Ulster he had left behind in the 1930s, and

what he found in the late 1980s.

In conversation with people, especially men, in the greater Shankill area, he found that church and especially churchgoing did not have great relevance. There was a lot of talk about loyalism, and of people being 'Prods', but few of his acquaintances knew much about the great principles of the Reformed Faith.

Theirs was very much a political form of Protestantism which bore little or no relation to that which had pertained in the Shankill and other parts of Belfast - and no doubt urban Ulster as a whole - in the 1920s and 30s.

Some years ago the writer spoke to one of the surviving members of the 36th (Ulster) Division who recalled the deep religious feelings which had existed among the young men who went over the top at the Somme.

"Most had Bibles or New Testaments given to them by their mothers, sisters or sweethearts. They read their Bibles regularly, and many of them were deeply committed Christians," he said.

This man had been in the Ulster Volunteer Force of Carson's day, and he was almost in despair as he compared the religious intensity of the UVF men of the 1912-14 period with the attitudes of the modern-day organisation of that name.

For the UVF of Carson's time to have had the slight-

est association with extortion, drinking clubs, or intimidation of any sort would have been unthinkable and anathema to the God-fearing men of the Force.

"Many were Orangemen and Unionists, but above all they were followers of the Lord Jesus Christ," he said. He compared Carson's Army with the New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell which won the English Civil War for Parliament.

Cromwell's Puritans had been deeply religious and pious in their observance of the Protestantism of that time. Their cause was basic and close to grass roots and it was this belief that carried them to victory against the armies of King Charles the First.

The slogan 'For God and Ulster' really was a meaningful one in 1912-14. The young men had a religious fervour which is sadly lacking in so many of their counterparts in today's Northern Ireland.

The qualities which moulded the men of 1912-14 provided the British Army and Lord Kitchener with one of the finest divisions ever to leave these islands.

Northern Ireland, as that Canadian visitor declared, needs the same Christian commitment today if it is to survive and to play its full part in the life of the British nation.

Ulster's salvation will not be found in drinking clubs, in romper rooms or in any form of illegal activity.

Force and 36th (Ulster) Division.

Ulster needs a religious revival which will inspire the same sort of deep convictions to carry this Province to victory over the IRA and the evils of terrorism.

Secularism and materialism are enemies of Ulster Protestantism and the use of proud slogans and patriotic verses does not disguise that fact.



Annahoe R.A.P.C

The County Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Allan Rainey was the guest of honour at the Annahoe District Royal Arch Purple Chapter meeting in Crilly Orange and Black Hall, (kindly granted), on Saturday, January 25 to install the newly elected officers for 1997. Front row, left to right: Bro. Cecil Beatty (District Master), Rt. Wor. Bro. Allan Rainey (County Grand Master), Bro. Trevor Erskine (Deputy District Master). Back row, left to right: Bro. Paul Potter (Registrar), Bro. Winston Duff (Treasurer), Bro. Andrew Condy (Lay Chaplain).

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Protestant education in the South

PROTESTANTS in Eire may be few in number compared to their co-religionists in Northern Ireland but in at least one respect they have made a great financial sacrifice to safeguard the ethos of their Reformed Faith.

This is in regard to the important area of education, and thanks to the willingness of Protestant parents and the general Protestant population to dip deeply into their pockets, most children of that faith attend schools under the control or management of Protestant churches.

There are 26 second-level schools under Protestant management in the Republic and many more primary schools. Because of the thinly spread Protestant population in many parts of the South and West, pupils often have to travel long journeys to attend such a school but this is mainly achieved.

At a recent conference in Dublin, David Meredith, explained how the grants system worked, and in referring to the Protestant Churches interest in education, he said that they have a specific responsibility to ensure the Christian nurture of the children of their community according to their own doctrines and traditions.

"The Churches will facilitate the choice of the vast majority of Protestant parents to have their children educated within a value system of their choice," he said.

Expressing concern about the danger of the secularisation of education, Mr. Meredith said that in his view the

majority of Irish people do not want to go in that direction.

It's not easy for Protestants to provide schools for their children. The same meeting was told that the block State grant was insufficient and there is no such thing as free secondary education for Protestant pupils whose parents are both working. They often have to pay considerable amounts in fees, transport and other costs, particularly where they have three or four children at boarding school.

Full marks to Southern Protestants, many of them in the border counties with Orange connections, for the considerable sacrifice they have made in the education field.

In Northern Ireland, many thinking Protestants must reflect on the mistake made by their churches in the early 1930s when they agreed to transfer the vast majority of their schools to the State.

CAMPAIGN

The Orange Order, supported by clergy and ministers in some churches, fought a strong campaign to keep the schools under Protestant control but lost the battle - and Northern Ireland Protestants have been paying a heavy price.

Those who campaigned to have the schools transferred to State control argued that a 'Protestant Parliament for a Protestant People' would ensure that State-controlled schools would continue to have a dominant Protestant ethos.

Those who opposed it argued that there was no guarantee that future Northern Ireland Governments would continue to look favourably on the Protestant ethos and that the time might come when teachers could be appointed to Protestant schools who would not be ardent members of the Reformed Faith.

Those who were vehement in their opposition to the transfer of the schools have been vindicated. Since the Second World War the Protestant ethos has been greatly diluted and in an increasingly secular Northern Ireland many State schools no longer have a dominant Protestant Reformed ethos.

Recently, managements of State schools have complained bitterly at how the Government has been favouring the integrated schools and the voluntary schools (mostly Roman Catholic) at the expense of the State sector.

The Church of Ireland still has several primary schools under its control, and the Free Presbyterian Church has been opening a number of independent schools.

The time may come when Protestant churches and people may have to consider following the example of their co-religionists in the Republic if they are to have schools which respect the Protestant tradition.

Protestant parents in the Republic seeking a grant should write to Protestant Aid, 74 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4, for an application form.

Standing firm for the cause

ORANGEMEN are no more immune to the pressures and tensions of what takes place in Northern Ireland than any other section of the population.

They have the same worries and anxieties as they watch events unfolding and of course the Order and its members have been caught up in a leading role during the past few years since Sinn Fein-IRA targeted Orange, Black and Apprentice Boys parades to raise the temperatures.

The vast majority of Orange brethren have

maintained a highly disciplined stance and have not deviated from the high standards demanded of them, even in the face of great provocation.

It is absolutely vital that this continues to be the case and as the year progresses, members of the Loyal Orange Institution and Royal Black Institution maintain their discipline and good conduct.

They must also keep to the forefront at all times the qualifications of an Orangeman. They must also remember that the

Order stands firmly for Civil and Religious liberties for all, attained through the Glorious Revolution and Act of Settlement.

The enemies of the Order seek at all times to present Orangeism as a negative and bigoted organisation, and they must not be given ammunition in support of their case.

That is why the Grand Master and other leaders took such a firm stand on the Harryville Church protest issue. The Order's case for the annual peaceful church parade at Dunloy is unquestionably a legitimate and valid one and all fair-minded people would accept this.

It is easy to understand the anger and frustration of many Protestants and loyalists over the Dunloy issue, but to link it to preventing Roman Catholics from attending Mass at Harryville was wrong and self-defeating.

CONDUCT

It is wrong because the Order does not sanction such conduct, and it is wrong because it allows the enemies of Ulster and Orangeism to present their case against loyalty to the outside world as a force for bigotry.

Civil and religious liberty means just that and it is the reason why Ulster people cling to their British identity and membership of the United Kingdom. There are things in British life and

society which are not in accord with the standards expected in Ulster, but for all that the overwhelming majority of Ulster people prefer to remain British.

They look to the South and still see a country which is governed in large measure by the ethics and ethos of the majority Roman Catholic Church. Eire still remains a theocracy, and Northern Ireland, through membership of the UK is a country where people whether Protestant, Roman Catholic, Hindu, Moslem, Jewish, or no religion at all can practice their beliefs - or unbeliefs.

The Orange Order stands for the Protestant faith and loyalty to the Crown, but it also stands for the rights of all others to exercise their freedom and conscience, under the law, and there can be departure from these standards. It is binding on all Orangemen to support their own qualifications and rules, and there can be no equivocation on this vital aspect.

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Parade frenzy

SECTIONS of the Ulster news media have been whipping themselves into a frenzy - and no doubt many of their readers and viewers as well - by hyping up the parade issue, especially the Drumcree church parade months before the event is due to take place.

The vast majority of people hope and pray that a solution will be found to the parade controversy, and this includes Orangemen at every level of the Institution.

The Grand Master, Bro. Robert Saulters, and

lies on the Orange and Black side, and that the opponents of parades are all sweet reason.

Not so, and there is no need to catalogue the history of well-orchestrated demonstrations held by republicans to demonise parades and raise feelings to fever pitch. These are well documented and any fair minded person would accept this fact.

That is in the past, however, and the Orange and Black Institutions are prepared to meet with democratically elected politicians committed to peaceful res-



The Orange parade has passed along Garvaghy Road and that leads to an orgy of destruction as Sinn Fein supporters burn vehicles.

brethren throughout the Order are working hard at trying to come up with solutions which will ensure that the parades pass over peacefully.

But every side involved in the issue must be prepared to work as hard and also to face up to realities. Orange parades are not held to cause offence or provoke, and this applies especially to traditional church parades.

Listening to the argument as presented in the media it would be easy to imagine that all the fault

of disputes to try and find common ground and avoid any of the tensions and trouble of the past two years.

But it will require commonsense, goodwill and realistic attitudes to achieve this and Orange leaders will be working hard with other well-intentioned people to try and reach a solution to these issues - hopefully they will find a positive response from political and community leaders from the nationalist and Roman Catholic areas involved.

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Revival for Fountain

SOME months ago we reported on moves being made to boost morale in the Fountain estate - last bastion of Protestantism on Londonderry's west bank.

Happily, things have been looking up again for the famous Fountain, and a recent two-page article in the News Letter, the Northern Ireland morning newspaper, proved how successful this has been.

Work has started on a new housing scheme for the elderly, the new Primary School officially opened by HRH the Prince of Wales last year is bustling at the seams, and young families have been making inquiries about getting houses in the Fountain.

Other projects are in the pipeline including community facilities, some based in former church halls.

The revival of the Fountain has been a real

success story and a lot of the credit must go to Bro. Alistair Simpson, who lives in the estate. Bro.

Simpson, who played such a leading role and earned worldwide praise for helping to solve the Apprentice Boys parade last August, has worked diligently in the cause of the Fountain's revival.

Local community groups like the Wapping have also worked very hard and of course the Loyal Orders have played their part.

But if things are moving nicely for the Fountain, there is still discontent in Londonderry generally about the amount of financial assistance being given to Protestant community projects.

The 'Londonderry Sentinel' recently reported that Protestant community leaders may resign from partnership boards in the city because they believe their community's voice is not being given a fair hear-

ing, according to the Ulster Community Action Network.

The network's chairman, David Nicholl, said there was increasing concern that an imbalance in representation was allowing nationalists to seize the largest portion of funding initiatives.

Mr. Nicholl said there was no doubt in their minds that Protestants were being largely excluded from the process, and that some Protestants were on the boards simply as tokens.

"We are discussing the option - as the Protestant voice is not being heard, and it seems there is no future for Protestants in this city - of asking a number of representatives to withdraw from the District and City Partnership Boards," he said.

Mr. Nicholl said they were not prepared to be used as tokens, and must be treated as equals.



Boost for charity

THE Worshipful Master of Kilmore Church Defenders LOL No.237, Bro. Raymond Flannigan is seen here making a cheque presentation of £1,300 to Anne Walker, a director of Multiple Sclerosis.

The function took place at a children's Christmas party in Kilmore Orange Hall near Lurgan just before Christmas when over 60 children attended.

The proceeds were raised at a private wedding anniversary party in the hall on a previous evening which raised £1,050, the total balance being made up by the members of Kilmore lodge who donated another £250.

This was after an arson attack on the hall two days

previous when republican elements attempted to burn the hall to the ground for the second time - the last being in July 1991. Extensive scorch damage was caused to the kitchen area when petrol was poured in through a ventilator and set alight, but thanks to a lot of hard work by members and their wives and friends, the place was cleaned up enough for the wedding party to take place.

Other functions at the hall were not affected - dance classes every Friday evening from 7.30 to 10 p.m.; a children's Christmas party; a New Year's Eve dinner party and also the usual Orange and Black meetings.

It's good to talk

THAT'S what the British Telecom add says and the members of King William's Defenders LOL No.127 in Portadown would certainly agree. Back in the spring they ran a flower arranging

and display evening in Carleton Street Orange Hall hosted by Mrs. Linda Lyons.

The event proved to be such a success that the members decided to hold another evening just before Christmas entitled "Season's Greetings".

There was just one problem. Carleton Street Orange Hall does not have a PA system, and some of the guests at the previous event had said they had difficulty in hearing, especially at the back of the hall.

Then up steps LOL No.127's "Jim'll fix it" in the shape of Bro. Robert Oliver. Bro. Oliver who runs his own TV aerial and satellite installation business was able to provide the latest PA system connected to a radio microphone.

This enabled Mrs. Lyons to demonstrate her flower arranging, leaving her hands free to create the various displays.

The officers and members of LOL No.127 would like to express their gratitude to Bro. Oliver for his assistance on this occasion.

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What family values?

OUR Government has talked in the past about restoring family values and of strengthening the family.

So much for promises. The reality is entirely different, and action taken by the Government has mitigated against the traditional concept of family life.

In a nation where Sunday School attendances have fallen from millions in the 1950s to a few hundred thousand today, the Government has allowed all sorts of inroads on the Sabbath - more drinking and sport and has relaxed laws on juveniles and young people being on licensed premises.

As for gambling, it has become a national pastime thanks to Government encouragement. The introduction of a National Lottery has diverted enormous sums of money from a whole range of worthy causes and charities.

Many of these charitable causes are having to beg for funds because of the alarming drop in the number of people supporting them.

Not content with allowing a weekly National Lottery the Government has now allowed the introduction of a Wednesday midweek lottery. This will impoverish families even more and cause an increase in misery and hardship associated with gambling.

It is reported that some Cabinet Ministers are beginning to have misgivings about the extension of the lottery. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating and those concerned with the moral and spiritual health of the nation will wait on action

before allocating praise.

Northern Ireland by every criteria and according to every reliable source is by far the poorest region of the UK. Yet, families already struggling to make ends meet, are facing the increased temptation caused by the lottery.

Just look at the queues at petrol filling stations and shops selling lottery tickets and scratch cards. Many of those purchasing tickets are obviously far from affluent, but they find the money from somewhere to feed this habit.

Strangely, many left-wing groups and organisations so quick to make noises about Ulster's impoverished communities have been mainly silent about the huge increase in gambling and the extension of same. They are not usually so quiet and it makes one wonder why they are so slow to lambast the Government on this issue.

But whatever the causes, Ulster and especially its poorer sections of the population are paying a heavy price for the huge extension of gambling.

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Slanted propaganda portrays false picture

THE airwaves these days and columns of some daily newspapers are jammed and crammed with all sorts of slanted stories presenting Northern Ireland and in particular the Unionist community in the worst possible light.

Our Government is pilloried and vilified on a whole range of topics ranging from Bloody Sunday to Private Lee Clegg's release. And Drumcree too gets its daily airing with the Orange stand-off being blamed for divisions and tensions in this Province.

There's hardly a mention from such commentators or feature writers about Bloody Friday, Teebane, Tullyvallen Orange Hall, Kingsmill, or all the other many atrocities committed against the innocent law-abiding people of this Province.

Bloody Sunday was a controversial event, and there has to be sympathy for the families of those who were killed on that awful day.

But at least it has been ventilated and examined from every angle and 25 years later books are still being written and calls for fresh inquiries are on many lips.

What about Bloody Friday? That awful day, in case people have forgotten was the day in 1972 when the IRA unleashed an evil bombing spree in central Belfast which claimed the lives of about a dozen innocent people and injured many more.

Pictures linger in the memory of the mangled remains of a poor worker being scraped off the footpath and put into plastic bags.

More recently, Teebane crossroads in Co. Tyrone was where innocent Protestant workmen were blown up in an explosion - a foul and evil deed.

Kingsmill was the place in South Armagh where 10

Protestant workmen were murdered in cold blood, and of course Tullyvallen Orange Hall was the scene of the murder of five Orangemen.

The list of atrocities and murders of loyal Ulster people by the IRA and other republican organisations is horrendous and stupefying.

Yet, this slaughter of the innocents doesn't attract the attention of American film makers, nor does it persuade left-wing agitators to write books exposing the evil of the terrorists.

People often forget that Northern Ireland and its position within the United Kingdom is not only under attack from the bombers and the gunmen. It is also under a lethal propaganda attack - a campaign just as deadly and effective as the physical force struggle.

MACHINE

Republicans possess a highly efficient propaganda machine and it churns out daily propaganda 'horror' stories vilifying Northern Ireland and its Unionist population.

Few Ulster people except moderates who bend over backwards to try and see the IRA-Sinn Fein case are fooled.

But a certain amount of the lies do stick, and especially in mainland Britain, the Continent and North America. Gullible cinema audiences fall for the anti-British films now swamping the film world.

Many radio listeners no doubt blame the Orangemen and Unionists for the tense situation in the Province, conveniently overlooking the infinitely worse crimes perpetrated on this community during the past 27 years by those seeking to end the British connection.

Billions of pounds have been spent during that time by Governments paying for compensation caused by bombs and bullets - damage on a vast scale committed in

Northern Ireland and mainland Britain.

Yet the republicans still enjoy a 'good Press' in many quarters, and are presented in a romantic light. Apologists for the IRA present them as 'freedom fighters' and blame their excesses on alleged discrimination against nationalists.

To a certain extent Northern Ireland people - the silent majority - have allowed this situation to continue, and in fact to grow as time distorts the real facts of many events.

While republicans continue to publicise events they perceive to be crimes committed against them by the British or the Unionists, the majority community have buried their dead, and swept the crimes which caused such misery under the carpet.

Take Bloody Friday as an example. This was one of the most dreadful crimes committed by the IRA, but how many people outside those families who suffered give it a thought.

Or what about La Mon House, or the Abercorn, or even the recent Shankill bomb atrocity. These do not get anything like the publicity that crimes carried out against the nationalist population receive.

It is understandable that most people want to get on with their lives, and to try and put the memory of such awful events behind them.

But that's not the mentality of republicans, and unless the majority community remember the atrocities committed against them, and remind the world of them, the danger is that with the passing of time a belief fanned by pro-republican writers and broadcasters will gather steam that it is only the minority population which has suffered.

In the interests of fair play and a balanced history it is essential that the entire story is told, and that those who died for no other crime other than they were loyal Ulster citizens of the United Kingdom should not be forgotten, nor their murders exorcised from the public mind.

'The Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley'

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Trilogy on the Ulster-Scots

TANDRAGEE journalist/author Billy Kennedy is planning a trilogy of books on the Ulster-Scots migration to the American frontier during the 18th century.

Billy, the assistant editor of the News Letter, is in the United States this month for a fortnight's research for his third book, The Scots-Irish in the Carolinas, due to be published next autumn. His first two books, The Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee (published in 1995), and the Scots-Irish in the Shenandoah Valley (published in 1996), have been best-sellers in Northern Ireland and in the United States. The books are published by Causeway Press and Ambassador Productions.

The intensive research will be concentrated in various cities and towns in South Carolina and North Carolina, where Billy Kennedy will meet members of historical and genealogy societies, university department heads and local people with family connections to the early pioneering families from Ulster.

On March 4, he will be a

guest speaker at the unveiling of a memorial tablet to the first Ulster settlers, who founded the township of Boonesborough in South Carolina. Former US President Jimmy Carter, who grew up in nearby Georgia, has been invited to attend this event.

Qualification for residency in Boonesborough in the 18th century/early 19th century was that one was a Protestant, in good standing.

During this latest American visit, Billy Kennedy will also conduct three public lectures in East Tennessee: to the history society in Chattanooga, Tennessee's fourth largest city; to Rotary Club members in Morristown and to staff and graduates at the University of East Tennessee in Johnson City. Morristown is where Davy Crockett's father ran a tavern in the latter part of the 18th century.

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Bowls in Strabane

THE first bowls tournament for the Diamond Memorial Perpetual Shield, inaugurated by Strabane District Lodge No.14, took place in Cullion Orange Hall when 60 pairs competed in a very friendly atmosphere.

The winners were Miss Gail Nelson and Bro. Wm. Nelson, representing Barron LOL 627. Runners-up were Joe Hall and Bro. J. Given, Bready LOL 334. The other semi-finalists

were both from Cullion LOL 636: Ruby Hamilton and Bro. Bob Deans; and Stanley Gardiner and Bro John Fulton.

The District Master, Bro. Mitchell Cummings, presented the shield and trophies and congratulated the winners and all the competitors. He thanked all who had assisted with the organising and running of the event.



Some of the competitors from Cullion LOL No.636, front, from left: Evelyn Gardiner, Nellie Rutherford, Dinah McClintock, Gretta Dixon, Sadie Scrulett, Ruby Hamilton, Annie Vepfert, Florrie Vepfert, Moira Deans and Andy Deans. Back, from left: Stanley Gardiner, Bob Deans, Joyce Vepfert, John Fulton and Jacky Deans.



Finalists in the Strabane bowls tournament, seated: Bro. W. Doherty, Donemana LOL 503. Ladies, from left: Mrs. Ruby Hamilton and Miss Gail Nelson (winner). Back, from left: Bros. J. Fulton, R. Deans, J. Given, J. Hall, H. Cummings WDM, Wm. Nelson (winner) and S. Gardiner.



Some members of the organising committee, all from Cullion LOL No.636, from left: Bros. J. Deans, I. Henderson, S. Deans, R. Deans and J. Fulton.

Roman Catholic, not Catholic

MANY Protestants, especially members of the Church of Ireland, find it deeply annoying and even offensive that BBC and UTV commentators, as well as many journalists use the word 'Catholic' to describe one branch of the Catholic church - those who give their allegiance to the Bishop of Rome.

It is inaccurate and misleading for commentators to use this term. Protestants, especially Anglicans and Methodists, are proud of their Catholicism. The Protestant Churches are both Catholic and Reformed, which makes them unique in Christendom.

Many readers have written to newspapers or phoned the BBC to correct them on this point but still the media continues to use the word Catholic when dealing specifically with people of the Roman Catholic faith.

Ten years in the chair

TRIBUTES have been paid to Bro. David McCullough, the outgoing Worshipful District Master of Markethill District LOL No.10 who has served in this office for the past 10 years.

Bro. McCullough was the longest serving WDM in the County Grand Lodge of Armagh.

The tributes were led by the County Grand Master, Wor. Bro. Denis J. Watson, who referred to Wor. Bro. McCullough's principled leadership and the high esteem in which he was held by his brethren.

The County Grand Secretary, Bro. Stephen McLoughlin, also thanked Bro. McCullough for his dedication and mentioned his work with the Junior Order, as he retains the

post of WDM of Mid-Ulster Junior LOL District No.3.

The new WDM, Wor. Bro. Robert Hamilton, acknowledged that he had a hard act to follow, but promised to do all he could to keep up the high standards which Bro. McCullough had set.

District Secretary, Bro. Roger Gardiner, thanked Bro. McCullough for all the help and co-operation he had received, and referred to his sense of humour which came through all the time at meetings.

The new Deputy District Master, Bro. Spiers Black added his thanks and stated that with Bro. McCullough becoming chairman of committee, the District Lodge would still benefit from his experience and wise counsel.

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Many Orange and loyalist families have enrolled in these credit unions and have found how helpful and advantageous they can be when it comes to obtaining goods and other items.

Many loyalists invest their money as a means of supporting a movement which is playing an increased role in helping the Protestant community, and most unions report growing memberships and investment of funds.

One such organisation is the Carleton Credit Union Ltd, situated as the name would suggest in the Portadown street which contains the headquarters Orange Hall in that town.

Carleton Credit Union recently held its annual meeting and when reports submitted showed a steady rate of progress has been maintained, reflecting the number of new members and the amount of savings people had invested.

Following recent discussions with their accountant it was agreed that the credit unions were now in a position to pay a dividend to shareholders.

The accountant asked all members to leave their pass book in the office to have their book adjusted accordingly.

Bro. Harold Gracey, Portadown District Master thanked all those who had helped in getting the credit union up and running and wished them continued success in the future. He stressed the importance of credit unions within today's society and trusted everyone would continue to use the facility available to them.

Bro. Gracey then conducted the election of officers which resulted: Chairperson, E. Patterson; vice-chairperson, J. Henderson; treasurer, S. Thompson; assistant treasurer, S. Mann; auditor, M. Gillespie; secretary, J. Carrick.

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Diluting our British symbols



Rt. Wor. Bro. Denis Watson, County Grand Master of Armagh, presents a Past Master's jewel and certificate to Wor. Bro. David McCullough, outgoing Worshipful District Master of Markethill.



Pictured at Markethill District LOL meeting are, back row, left to right, Bros. J.im Reaney, district treasurer; Roger Gardiner, district secretary; S. Black, DDM, and D. Alexander, district lay chaplain. Front: Bros. Stephen McLoughlin, County Grand Sec.; R. Hamilton, WDM; D. McCullough, outgoing WDM and Denis Watson, County Grand Master.



Wor. Bro. David McCullough, outgoing District Master, presents Bro. William Anderson, WM of LOL No.479 with a watch in recognition of his years of service as Superintendent of Markethill Junior LOL No.75.

ONE by one the symbols which have meant so much to loyal Ulster people down the years – symbols linking this Province to the rest of the United Kingdom – are disappearing.

The British identity is being eroded, ever so slowly in many ways, but steadily all the same. Going hand in hand with this is the relentless march of foisting an Irish identity on the people of Northern Ireland.

The change in the oath taken by jurors at trials for instance is one example of a small but significant change. A few weeks ago the writer had occasion to be in a courtroom where a trial was about to begin.

Jurors were sworn in to hear the case, not in the majestic and solemn words of promising to bring in a true verdict "before our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the prisoner at the bar" but a much diluted version with the reference to the Sovereign removed.

Everyone has heard of the ending of the National Anthem at graduation ceremonies at Queen's University – a step taken to appease a rebellious and vociferous minority who had displayed their crass ignorance by sitting when the Anthem was being played.

The Eire tricolour of course enjoys immunity as it flies over large tracts of Ulster territory today. Republican 'war memorials' are erected without planning permission, and of course the Union Jack is being taken down at various places, in a bid to appease the unappeasable.

When steps are taken to replace a memorial to a Protestant stalwart, the Rev. Hugh Hanna, blown off its pedestal in Carlisle Circus by a bomb, there are howls of 'outrage' from predictable nationalist quarters.

Where and when will it end? Only when enough of the middle ground unionist

population, the 'silent' majority who have tolerated the destruction of their Province and its way of life are prepared to say that enough is enough.

These people have remained mute, or been highly critical of the Loyal Orders when they have taken a firm stand on issues. They have preferred to criticise Unionist, Orange and Protestant clergymen who have strong views, instead of pointing the finger at where the blame really lies – at militant republicanism which seeks the destruction of British Ulster, and its cohorts and fellow travellers who knowingly or unknowingly play the provo game by condemning all things Protestant and British and ignoring Roman Catholic and republican bigotry and oppression when it occurs.

Drumcree and Harryville. Oh yes, such people will shout with great indignation that something should be done. But when it comes to the boycotting of Protestant

businessmen in Fermanagh, Tyrone or Londonderry such people are silent. They also refuse to equate the intolerance shown to Orangemen wishing to walk to or from church along Garvaghy Road, Ormeau Road or in Dunloy with the alleged intolerance shown to Roman Catholics at Harryville or other places.

Unionists and Orangemen have fought a rearguard action to prevent the dilution of Ulster's British identity, and will continue to do so. But it is time that large sections of the comfortable suburban middle-classes who have done quite nicely out of Ulster's membership of the United Kingdom, stood up and were counted.

When 'moderate' Ulster has the courage to tell Dublin, the Pan-Nationalist Front and militant republicanism that nothing more can be given, then Northern Ireland will start to regain confidence and will have its position within the UK cemented.

New licensing laws an intrusion

NORTHERN Ireland still has a special Christian ethos, in spite of the inroads made by secularism and materialism in the past 30 years.

In contrast with the rest of the United Kingdom, churches in the Province still have large congregations and the evangelical presence is stronger here than anywhere else.

Bearing this in mind, the Government has been displaying a disappointingly aloof and insensitive attitude towards cherished principles and ideals in Northern Ireland.

An example of this is the decision to allow more drinking time in the Province on Sunday. The Sunday afternoon 'break' is being abolished and most other constraints on drinking on the Lord's Day being scrapped – including the opening of off-licences.

Off-licences are often the source of much trouble in the Province, especially as regards teenage and under-age drinking is concerned. A walk around the streets of any large provincial town, especially at weekend will reveal the extent of the problem caused by abuses of the drinking laws.

Now there is the probability of this being witnessed on Sundays, and it really is intolerable when one considers that churchgoers already have to cope with public houses being opened in the vicinity of places of worship.

Since the abolition of Stormont and the introduc-

tion of Direct Rule, successive British Governments have shown little or no appreciation of the feelings of the Protestant Ulster population in such matters. It underlines the need for a Belfast-based Parliament or Forum which can implement the wishes of the majority of citizens in this Province.

The Government has been far less inclined to ignore the feelings of Roman Catholics. Examples of this are the recognition shown to bodies which represent Roman Catholic Maintained Schools, and the decision to exclude Northern Ireland from the Abortion Act of

1967.

Now the vast majority of Protestants share the objection to abortion which exists in the Roman Catholic community and no Parliament would have imposed this on a population so minded.

But if abortion is repugnant to the overwhelming majority of both communities in Northern Ireland, why should this be respected, and not the wishes of Protestants as far as Sunday drinking is con-

cerned?

Perhaps evangelical Christians are to blame to some extent as they have not stood up in the past and let Governments know their feelings. Roman Catholics in comparison are never reluctant or backward in getting their views across, so it is time the Protestant churches did likewise, putting the views of their members in a more forceful manner.

They would certainly get more respect from Governments if they did this and proved there is a strong moral majority in this Province.

The victorious Lisgenny team, winners of the Annahoe District Clay Pigeon Shoot on New Year's Day. Left to right: Bros. Ivan Duff (District Master), James Taggart, Malcolm Lewis and Leslie Hadden.



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Eire's vanishing Protestants

ONE of the most illuminating experiences the writer had in recent years was to attend a public meeting at which the main speaker was Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the former Eire Minister, who is credited with persuading Margaret Thatcher to sign the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985, writes an Orange Standard representative.

Dr. FitzGerald, an articulate man with a warm, outgoing personality answered most questions put by members of the audience without hesitation.

With one exception - a question put forcibly by a former resident of the 26 counties who wanted to know his views on the "vanishing Protestants" - those who had fled the new Irish Free State in the years immediately following Partition.

Dr. FitzGerald was flummoxed for a few seconds and then he proceeded to put forward a range of reasons which did not satisfy everyone - certainly not the ex-County Cavan man.

The main reasons, according to Dr. FitzGerald, were the withdrawal of the British military and civil service apparatus, along with a few other irrelevant factors.

The answers certainly did not satisfy the former resident of Cavan who made it clear to Dr. FitzGerald he was not happy at the prospect of being forced to move for reasons of religious persecution for the second time.

The man had been a child when his family fled from Cavan, but he made it clear the reasons had applied to tens of thousands of families who had not found the new Irish State a most welcoming prospect.

His father had been an Orangeman, and a known Unionist and that was enough to forfeit his right to stay in Cavan. They became refugees and fled to Portadown for sanctuary.

Sadly, in spite of Dr. FitzGerald's protestations and the excuses given by his fellow countrymen, the 'ethnic cleansing' of Eire's Southern Protestants was real and it left those who were left vulnerable to the pressures of a Gaelic

Roman Catholic-dominated State.

In the years between 1911 and 1926 the Protestant population of what is now the Republic of Ireland dropped from 350,000 to about 150,000. That was a drop which could not be explained away by the withdrawal of British forces and civil servants.

The Protestant population had been fairly substantial and well represented throughout the South in the years before Partition.

Gordon Lucy's excellent book giving details of the General Election of 1918 showed that Unionists were able to take 50 per cent of the vote in the Rathmines area of South Dublin, and polled very highly in Wicklow, County Dublin and South Dublin.

Protestants were also very strong in counties Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal, and other counties. The Orange Order had flourishing lodges in these and other parts of the South.

The republican terror campaign and the intimidation decimated the Southern Protestant and Unionist population and has been the main reason for the erosion of a Unionist ethos in the Republic.

EVENT

Armistice Day was once a big event in the South, and poppies were worn by thousands in Dublin and other cities. The Armistice Day ceremony once attracted over 10,000 people to the ceremony, but all this was changed when republican mobs attacked ex-servicemen and their families in the early 1930s.

An inoffensive Protestant businessman called Armstrong who displayed poppies in his window in Dublin was murdered, and such was the pressures on those daring to display the emblem which represented the sacrifice of so many Irishmen that it all but vanished from the South.

The former Orange headquarters in the Fowler Hall in Dublin were seized by IRA irregulars during the Civil War

and most of the documents destroyed.

In Co. Cork Protestants known to be loyal to the British were taken to the side of the road and shot. In Bray and other large towns, businessmen who had been loyal citizens were driven from their homes and business establishments - many of them going to Northern Ireland and other places as refugees.

Unionist and Conservative MPs vividly described the plight of the Distressed Southern Unionists in speeches in the Commons in 1921 and 1922. They spoke of whole families being destitute and unable to find work and accommodation.

It was a sorry tale and one that Southern apologists have since tried to gloss over and pretend did not happen. But happen it did and some of those still living, or their descendants can testify to the true facts of what happened to Southern Ireland Unionists, Orangemen and loyalists in those terrible times.

In the interests of justice and history, the plight of the Southern Irish Unionists must never be allowed to be forgotten. A people who had contributed so much to the building of society and were among the most progressive sections of the population were driven from Ireland for no other reason than their religion and their loyalty to what had been the legal and lawful Government of Ireland.

The Liberal Government of Britain did not emerge with much credit either, because it betrayed those who had given so much for King and Country and Crown.

Is it any wonder that their descendants today feel any more confident about the fate Northern Ireland would experience were it ever to be incorporated into an all-Ireland Republic against the wishes of its people?

Northern Ireland's Protestants who cherish their British identity - an identity won and held at considerable cost - will not bow to the wishes of those who would crush the last vestigages of Britishness in this island and consign Ulster Protestants to the same fate as their co-religionists in the South in the years just after Partition.



**Glogher
Valley
brethren**

At a meeting of Annahoe District LOL No.6 held in Crilly Orange and Black Hall, on Saturday, January 25, the Tyrone County Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Tom Reid installed the newly elected officers for 1997. Left to right: Bros. R.N. Givan (Secretary), Ivan Duff (District Master), Stephen Somerville (District Lay Chaplain) and Harold Erskine (District Treasurer).

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BRO. WILLIAM JOHN BUICK (1913-1996)

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Assistant District Chaplain No.3 District LOL
Lay Chaplain City of Belfast Loyal Orange Widows Fund
Past Master and Lecturer Christian Crusaders RAPC 1339
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Commonwealth
Past President Apprentice Boys of Derry Sandy Row Branch
Active Member Willowfield Unionist Association

William or Billy Buick as he was known practically throughout the world joined Christian Crusaders LOL 1339 in July 1936 when the lodge membership stood at 67 and the monthly dues were 1/-. Upon his death in December 1996 the lodge membership stood at 16 and the monthly dues were £3.50.

During the war years of 1939 to 1945 Billy served in the Royal Air Force and still kept his links with his old comrades through the R.A.F. Association meeting up against in London in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of V.E. Day and regularly holidaying at the R.A.F. Holiday Home in England.

He was elected to the Committee of LOL 1339 in 1946 upon his return to civilian life in peace time Ulster and started a long career with the Belfast Corporation Transport Department, now Citybus working at its Falls Road Depot as an industrial First Aider, a skill he had learnt during his time serving his country in the R.A.F.

In 1948 with the lodge at a membership level of 97 members Billy was elected Deputy Master until 1949 when he achieved the top office of Worshipful Master of

Christian Crusaders LOL No.1339, a lodge of some 105 brethren.

Since 1946 Billy sat as a representative of his lodge to Belfast No.3 District LOL and was elected as a District representative to the City of Belfast Loyal Orange Widows Fund being a district representative for 50 years. He remained an active member of both the District Lodge and the Widows Board until his death, attending the District for the last time in November 1996 almost four weeks to the day prior to his calling home and only missing the December meeting of the Widows Board because he was ill. In July 1996 he was presented with his 50-year service medal.

The Royal Black Institution was an organisation he held dear to his heart and was always ready to explain the scriptural truths contained within the degrees of the

Institution. He conferred degrees on Sir Knights throughout Ireland and Scotland, having conferred his last degree in Christian Crusaders RBP 823 on the second Friday of November 1996.

Above all and foremost in Billy's life was his personal relationship with His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whom he served with and without our organisations being an elder in the Presbyterian Church but typically counting as his personal friends Ministers of the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Congregational churches along with many other Evangelical Protestant churches. He also was involved right up until his calling home in the work of the Belfast City Mission seeking as he did in his membership of the Orange, Purple and Black Institutions to bring the work of the living God to all who would listen regardless of the status of the person or the location in which he came into contact with him. Sharing in his love and devotion to the Lord were his life companion and wife May and his son Mervyn, who like Billy is committed to the Orange way of life in the spreading of the True Gospel to all people everywhere

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Due to increasing administration costs it has become necessary to request that for small advertisements costing £12.00 or less, payment *must* be forwarded with order.
Cost of small advertisement remains the same. £1.00 per single column x one centimetre.