

SIGNAL

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1963



Nollaig fé shéan is
fé mhaise dár
Léightheóirí uilig.

THE NEWSLETTER MAGAZINE OF IRISH SHIPPING LTD

One Year Old

Our readers will note that we have dated the present number a month late to make it the 1963 December Christmas number. The next issue will be published in February and so on every two months until December 1964.

With this No. 6 issue of "Signal" our house magazine has completed its first year of publication and approaches its First Birthday. It was felt for a long time that there was a pressing need for some type of Newsletter to circulate important information throughout the fleet and the offices and to act as a medium for establishing better contact between those of us away at sea and those at home. After the experience gained in the past year it may be fairly contended that the decision to begin publication of our modest house magazine has been fully justified. The response to the idea has been most encouraging, in particular from the men of all ranks operating our ships at sea, many of whom have been most generous in keeping the magazine supplied with news, descriptive articles and photographs. We can assure our correspondents of our sincere appreciation of the time and labour they expended in preparing material for printing here and to judge by reports received from the ships and letters sent in by our readers their efforts certainly brightened up the pages of the magazine, which has provided an outlet for a great reservoir of talent, as yet we hope only tapped to a partial extent.

In the pages of "Signal" we have tried to present a composite picture of the fleet operation, giving the current position of the ships with the cargo on board and adding the names of as many men operating them as space permitted. From all quarters we are assured that this information is eagerly sought after, a point which has guided us to a large extent in mapping out the contents of our pages.

We have endeavoured to keep the tone of the magazine as personal and as intimate as possible. Here we must bless the many shipboard correspondents for the wonderful sense of humour inspiring all their contributions, making it possible to assert that not one of their articles could be labelled as dull. There are no publishing experts associated with the venture so that suggestions are welcome all the time and within the limits of space available we shall try to adopt any good idea proposed to us. This house magazine will be concerned essentially with news which is of interest to the staff both ashore and afloat and will provide them with a forum to report their activities, to express their opinions and record either their approval or disapproval, as the case may be—of life about them. Our readers are reminded that the



At our Stand at the Scientific Exhibition, Ballsbridge, left to right:—Mr. Erskine Childers, Minister for Transport and Power, Mr. R. J. O'Halloran, Assistant General Manager and Mr. J. J. Stafford, Chairman.

Company has given the magazine complete independence of expression within the bounds of normal good taste. The aim is to provoke healthy discussion on any topic of special interest to our staff and to bring into the open whatever source of criticism may exist.

The magazine has won us many friends among the seamen and has given the shorebased staff a keener understanding of life at sea, and the things which go to brighten the lives of men away from home. We realise that crews like to be in touch with each other and that social activity is as important on a ship as anywhere else. We are learning more about the paramount value of sound human relations in our industry. And this brings us to a very pleasant feature of our magazine—the magnificent response to "Signal" from the families of our personnel, which more than anything else highlights the very special case for continuous liaison between all sections of a shipping company engaged in world-wide trading. The relatives of our seagoing staff have been quite enthusiastic about the magazine, demonstrating by their friendly support the value a seafarer attaches to home news. They have shown a remarkable interest in the fleet, quite apart from their natural concern for the welfare of the men and we take pleasure in extending to them our thanks and gratitude for all their encouragement with the hope that our happy association will continue.

To our readers on board ship and in the Company's offices, to the families at home and to the many friends we have made both in Ireland and abroad, we wish a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Distance will always separate our staff ashore from those at sea and inevitably tend to blur the relationship, but "Signal" is happily promoting a closer understanding amongst us all. Gradually we are getting to know a little more about each other; we are finding that some of the differences which we thought divided us are actually of less significance than the common aims and ideas which unite us. It is true to say, I believe, that even our relatives are finding a new sense of belonging to an enterprise mutually worthwhile.

Prompted and encouraged by this new-found spirit, I am glad this year to avail of the columns of "Signal" to send with sincerity from Directors, Management and Office Staff to all ships' personnel our good wishes for your enjoyment of Christmas and for the health and happiness of yourselves and your families in 1964.

L. S. FURLONG.



*A seasonal picture shows the Pilot walking ashore over the ice from the "Irish Blackthorn" at Tupavouri, Finland
—Photo Jim Lyons*

Our Friends Abroad

Captain John Poole's charming wife, who accompanied her husband abroad, has described for us the visits made by the "Irish Larch" to ports in Asia, Africa and South America and tells of the many friends of the Company encountered during the long voyage. She writes:

We have sailed 47,000 miles and called at 34 ports all round the world since we left Liverpool one rainy day in April. Firstly we took out general cargo for Clan Line to Canaries and to African Ports. I felt, after years of seeing grain aboard, that we seemed like a travelling hardware shop! We had everything you could think about packed tight into our holds including the proverbial kitchen stove.

In Capetown, Mr. O'Dwyer and his lovely family came to see us. He is Captain O'Dwyer's brother and was a Dublin Chartered Accountant before making his home in Capetown.

In Port Elizabeth, Father MacInerney of Dublin, good friend of so many sailors, came aboard. He was asking for so many of you and was so kind in taking us all for drives and to see his beautiful church.

In Mauritius, glorious tropical sugar island surrounded by white coral beaches, the first person to offer us hospitality the minute we arrived was Father Graham, brother of Miss Mary Graham, I.S.L. He was so kind to us all and we were so sorry that personally my husband was too 'tied-up' to be able to enjoy his hospitality as we wished.

In Hong Kong the shoppers' dream city, Father Cunningham, Apostleship of the Sea, dashed alongside in his magnificent launch. He had boarded many of our ships lately and so we were delighted to get news of many friends aboard them. He said Mass for the boys.

We went to five Japanese ports, Malaya and Singapore. I nearly forgot to mention Rev. Roberts of the Flying Angel, Lourenco Marques who comes from Wexford. More African ports—then Argentine Uruguay and Brazil but, before mentioning South America, more news of a very old friend of I.S.L.—Steve Remenyi, his wife Pat and children. They meet every Irish ship in Durban and are absolutely wonderful to us all. We went out to their pretty home at a Thousand Hills, some miles out of town. After our little farm in Wexford surrounded by much mud what a contrast! We did enjoy it all so and you should just have seen my husband and

Steve getting together talking of the old ships and friends—we could not get a word in edgeways!

On to South America, where in Buenos Aires we were given a great welcome. Everyone we met seemed thrilled to see an Irish ship there. The press gave the "Irish Larch" a great write-up, and my husband had to broadcast a "History of Irish Shipping" on the radio and even 'yours truly' had, to my terror, to say a word about my first visit to Buenos Aires shops! They were splendid shops too. We have on the "Irish Larch" David Warner, 2nd Mate, and he is a descendant of Admiral Brown, Irish "Father" of the Argentine Navy. The Navy in Buenos Aires were delighted to meet him and gave him a great time and many interesting souvenirs of that great Irish sailor to take home to his family.

We gave a small reception on board for Ireland's Minister in Argentina, His Excellency Mr. Michael Skentlebery, who comes from Cork, and he was kind enough to bring down most of the leading Irishmen in Buenos Aires to see their first Irish ship. Amongst them I remember Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell (Limerick) who is the leading grain exporter, Miss Flynn, the Legation Secretary, the Chairman of the Irish Society and many others.

Before signing off may I just add one more note. I would like to say from the bottom of my heart, to all you wonderfully kind people ashore and afloat, a tremendously sincere Thank You from my husband and I for all the many wonderful cards and letters you were so kind as to send him during his illness. I owe you a big debt for keeping up his spirits and God Bless every one of you for your thoughtfulness, which I'm sure did so much to boost him back to health again.



Frank O'Neill, Chief Cook of the "Irish Alder" dropped into "Clancy's Bar" in Kobe, Japan lately, and who was there enjoying a pint but his brother Paddy, whom he hadn't seen for years. Paddy is Radio Officer on the m.v. "Captain Minas" and formerly was a steward on the "Irish Hawthorn". As our photo taken at the reunion shows they "had a ball". But please how did Clancy open up a pub in Japan?



Photo of the 'ALDER' football team sent to us by Mr. W. Duffin. Back row: left to right—J. Long, D. Buckley, M. Suatay, J. O'Shea, A. O'Reilly, J. Bradshaw. Front row: N. Goulding, N. O'Neill, J. Lyons, C. Grant (Capt.), P. Ryan. The team has played three games up to October, winning two and drawing one. There is good news for the team. The General Manager decided the boys appeared a bit forlorn without proper Jerseys, so if the Master of the 'Alder' or any other ship which fields a team applies to 'Signal' for a set of Jerseys these will be sent out with the compliments of the Company. It is proposed to have their colour in green with a plain crest to bear the name of the vessel. We look forward to a big demand.

Voyaging to Japan

By P. Kearney, "IRISH ALDER"

In spite of waterspouts, mysterious, glowing lights, eerie seas, volcanic islands and a typhoon, we reached Japan after twenty-four days at sea.

The waterspouts we saw forming at close quarters, three of them to be exact, and although they are a fairly common sight at sea, they are very impressive. However, they went their way and harmed us none. The mysterious lights which appeared beyond the horizon turned out to be a mere factory-ship of a northbound whaling fleet, but how was the poor third mate to know this? Particularly as he is blessed with an over-active imagination and given to reading science-fiction books. To help his imagination along there was no echo on the radar to account for this brilliant glow. This experience prompted him to cry off science-fiction for life. The lights were actually very powerful working lights, and search lights rigged on the vessel,

We passed close to the Cocos Islands, and from our position they looked all that any South Sea Island should look, complete with palm trees, sandy beaches, a beautiful lagoon and lovely weather. (I'm not so sure that people at home know what lovely weather is, and any who has experienced it has most probably forgotten what it is like). We did not see any grass-skirted maidens. However, one glance at the Sailing Direction destroyed any illusions and "South Sea Island" ideas, for there in dream-shattering terms it states that the islands are infested with rats and/or land-crabs. So after having our dreams shattered we headed for the Sunda Strait and Krakatau, the island situated in the Sunda Strait, which erupted in 1883, devastating miles of coast on either side of the Strait.

During the P.M. eight-to-twelve watch of this day, quite abruptly the sea took on a very bright and eerie glow, and although the sky was clear and star-studded the sea was by far brighter. The sceptics will immediately put this down to phosphorescence, well maybe so, but certainly of no common kind.

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Hands across the Border. The Bosun of the Irish Willow Pat Penston receives a lifebelt from the Bosun of the Roonagh Head following the rescue operations in which the "Willow" was engaged after the "Roonagh Head" collided with the "Tritonica" in the St. Lawrence Seaway last July. The Irish vessel under Captain A. Evans was one of the first on the scene and picked up some survivors after the "Tritonica" sank. Also in the picture are Mr. Whooley, Chief Engineer and Mr. McHale, Chief Officer.

BALLAD

Mr. Declan Talbot, a keen researcher into ballad lore, has given us the words of this lovely song which many will have heard sung on radio and television by those brilliant artists the McPeak family of Belfast:

The summertime is coming
And the trees are sweetly blooming
And the wild mountain tyme
Grows around the blooming heather.

Chorus: Will you go, lassie go,
And we'll all go together,
To pluck wild mountain tyme
All around the blooming heather
Will ye go lassie go.

I will build my love a tower
By the pure crystal fountain
And on it I will plant
All the flowers of the mountain.

Chorus: Will you go, lassie go, etc.

If my true love she were gone
I would surely find another
To pluck wild mountain tyme
That grows around the blooming heather.

Chorus: Will you go, lassie go, etc.



In this happy picture are Mr. and Mrs. James Byrne, married in Cork on October 10th.

"Irish Alder"—continued from page 5

The wash was, instead of the usual fiery glow associated with phosphorescence, quite pale and insignificant in comparison, hardly noticeable in fact. The whole sea was of a bright milky colour, impressive and eerie. Even Captain Hughes pronounced himself puzzled, but not the Chief Engineer, Mr. Reed. He instantly recognised it as a sea of milk. It was at this stage that the third mate cried off science-fiction for life. After about two hours the glow faded, and eventually the sea became normal again. Strangely enough the Chief Engineer's plants were missing off the deck the next morning. Anybody know of a plant-eating marine creature which could be the cause of the above phenomenon? The following night the glow again appeared the same as previously. Samples of the water were taken, but proved to be quite clear and free from any sediment or dust. Specific gravity, temperature, etc., were quite normal.

The next bit of excitement was the report that Typhoon "Faye" was trying hard to intercept us, and it looked as if she might make it too. This gave rise to a very strange sight on board any ship, the sight of Sparks at all hours of the night and day getting reports on her progress. (Typhoons are named alphabetically, starting with the first of the season, A—Ann; B—Betty; C—Cora, etc. I refuse to give my views on why they are given girls' names, but according to Mr. Carey, the Chief Mate, it is because they are so troublesome to seamen). However, by speeding up we managed to dodge her, she passed astern of us about 250 miles, but even so she made her presence felt in the form of force 8—9 headwinds, and very rough seas. Anyway, as I said we did eventually reach Japan safely.



Michael Moody, "Irish Plane"

"Best wishes for a happy Christmas from Mum, Betty, Granny, and Aunties and from all at Douglas Road, Cork, also heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your birthday on 29th Dec."

m.v. "ASH MARU" —By Charlie Lumsden.

You have heard from the Rowan and heard from
the Plane

You have heard from the Maple and Rowan again
We've read of the Oak, of the Rose and the Pine
But the ghost Ship the Ash didn't merit one line.

The Maple is using our nick-name Maru
For daring to trespass we're liable to sue
From the time Ash was built Maru was her boast
She earned it for sailing the Japanese coast.

The crew of the Maple can find a new name,
For using Maru set our whole crew aflame.
They ran out on deck and jumped around in rage,
The words that were used can't go down on this page.

That's all for now we will sign off Adieu,
Regards to Miss Reilly from the old Ash Maru.
If the lads on the Maple should trespass once more,
From Japan into Dublin you'll all hear our *roar*,



"Happy Christmas" from baby Pat and all the family to Paddy McCarthy, "Irish Blackthorn" and Tommy McCarthy, "Irish Hawthorn".

A NEW DEAL FOR APPRENTICES

By R. Gordon

As part of the new Training Scheme which has been adopted by the Company, all Apprentices, after completing one year's sea service, will be asked to take their E.D.H. examination. On the 10th October, Niall Foley, Dick Grant and myself were honoured to be the first chosen to launch this new project and I am happy to say we came through with flying colours.

First we attended the Irish Nautical College at Dun Laoghaire for pre-examination tuition. It was given to us by Mr. F. N. Forsythe, late of the Royal Navy, and Mr. J. Nolan, ex-bosun of the cadet training ship "Durham". I want to thank these two men whose instruction on the syllabus for the examination was most helpful. I hope they will be appointed as instructors to Apprentices taking their E.D.H. in the future.

A lot of credit for this new Training Scheme is due to Captain Langran, who has, for some time I believe, been working closely with Captain McPolin. I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking him for all that he has done for the Apprentices of the Company and I hope this new Training Scheme will meet with the success it so readily deserves.

IN THE OFFICE

—By Dermot McNulty

We extend a 'Cead Mile Failte' to Cora O'Dwyer and Edward Flavin, recent additions to Head Office staff.

Noreen Maughan from Liner Department has departed on the Matrimonial Trail and we wish both herself and Jimmy every blessing and happiness in their life ahead.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. K. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. C. Kinsella, Mr. and Mrs. D. Hodgins on recent additions to their families.

We wish to extend our deep sympathy to Mr. D. Hodgins on the death of his father and to Mr. Donal Kennedy on the death of his mother.

The recent Pitch & Putt tournament seems to have spread the Golf Bug to I.S.L. This tournament (reported on in last issue) was quickly followed by a Golf Outing to Edmundstown on October 19th.

Unfortunately the weather clerk was in absolutely foul humour and conditions were most unpleasant. However, full marks to those who battled around the eighteen holes and I predict a rosy future for our Golf Society next season. The prizes were annexed by Frank Troy, Engineer, and Bill Lynch of Chartering, Frank beating Bill by only one stroke. A special word of thanks is due to Margaret McGivern for organising the outing.

Our Soccer team kick-off the new season against a Clontarf XI at Clontarf on Sunday, 24th November. It is their intention to play teams from our vessels any time they are in port, so let our sailors beware.

Marie Cooper and Kerry Bray took part in the St. Louis Past Pupils' Musical Society production of "The Pirates of Penzance" which was awarded the Phoenix Shield for the best Irish Society production at the Waterford Light Opera Festival in September. The Society also took the prize for the best comedian in the Festival and three supporting awards.



Most of these nice girls (and nice lads too) are in Head Office. It was very late in the evening when this picture was taken at Avoca last June.



The champions in the Pitch & Putt Competition—Enda Mullally, winner, right, and John Wright, runner up.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

By Dermot McNulty

G.A.A.

Football. All-Ireland Championship.

Galway defeated Kerry by 2 points in the first semi-final. This was a game of swaying fortunes. Earlier in the second half Kerry seemed to be coasting to an easy win but they unexpectedly ran out of steam in the closing ten minutes and amid a welter of excitement Galway drew level and obtained the winning scores with almost the last two kicks of the game.

In the second semi-final Dublin had a surprisingly easy victory over Down. The Ulster champions never seemed to get going against a Dublin team that was firing on all cylinders. The Liffesiders gave a display of power-packed football that left the experts groping for superlatives to describe it.

The final did not really come up to expectations. Galway had more of the play but failed to write their superiority on the score board. The Westerners led most of the game but Dublin came in the closing minutes to snatch a narrow 1 point victory.

This match certainly started a controversy which was not settled until the Grounds Tournament was run off. The four All-Ireland semi-finalists were elected to play off and reverse pairings. Galway beat Down and Dublin snatched a dramatic last-minute win over Kerry. Dublin defeated Galway convincingly in the final to settle beyond all doubt as to who were All-Ireland Champions.

Hurling

In the Hurling Championship Kilkenny defeated Waterford in the final. Kilkenny can thank the accuracy of Eddie Keher, who scored fourteen points, a remarkable feat in an All-Ireland final.

SOCCER

The Soccer Season is well under way. The Shield was annexed by Shamrock Rovers, who seem set for a very successful season. Newcomers to League of Ireland Football, Drogheda A.F.C., are finding the going tough, but under the guidance of player-manager, Peter Farrell, ex-Shamrock Rovers, Everton and Ireland wing-half, they should improve.

RUGBY

Ireland meet the New Zealand All Blacks touring side at Lansdowne Road on December 7th. The Irish lads will certainly be up against it, but nevertheless we're hoping that they will grind these All Blacks 'down' under.

HORSE RACING

Paddy Prendergast was top trainer in Ireland and England this year. His winnings topped the £200,000 mark. His brilliant filly, Noblesse, and colt, Ragusa, certainly proved themselves to be two of the best three-year olds in Europe and gave a further boost to Irish bloodstock.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas Party will be held this year in the North Coast Hotel, Portmarnock on Tuesday, December 17th. Details may be had from the Secretary of the Social Committee, Mr. M. de Mangeat.

Our intelligence department reports that Mr. L. S. Furlong, General Manager, celebrated his Silver Wedding Anniversary this year. We wish himself and Mrs. Furlong long life and happiness.

RESIGNATIONS

Captain P. A. Brennan and Captain E. McGee have both resigned from the Company.



"Our highly successful year was due in no small degree to the savings effected by getting rid of our Organisation and Methods department."

M. J. O'Brien reports from the "IRISH CEDAR"

Winter is coming. Aboard ship this is not always apparent by looking at the calendar—what with Singapore's sunshine in January and the often heavy weather Australian coast in July—plainly the "name" of the month just doesn't mean a thing. What does become apparent here, however, is the fact that each successive voyage takes longer than its predecessor and gives less time in tropical gear. So, if the "Rose" can tell its position by a check on the air temperature, then we can tell the month of the year by the number of days to a trip.

The greatest thing that ever happened to banish the now proverbial ships moaner was the suggestion month. After all, it's so easy to tell him to "put it in writing and post it". Of course, with the greatest moaner of them all (and no doubt about it we have him) this sometimes backfires as he plunges into a series of roars, screams, waving arms (which often have a little too much direction about them) and stamping feet. From this one is supposed to deduce that he is moaning again and what can one say when he moans about a suggestion box.

Don Curtis, Apprentice, who had been with the "Cedar" since her maiden voyage, has now left with his apprenticeship completed and all here wish him every success with his second mate's ticket. A 19th Birthday celebration on the 8th October was held by Finbarr Perrott.

We have had a request from our Chief Engineer, Mr. Johnson, that the "Signal" might include, in some part of the magazine, a cross-word puzzle. This is, in my opinion, a very good idea.
(*We are working on it—Ed.*)

THE CEDAR SYMPHONY

Our anonymous reporter "Delta Downer" has sent us in an account of the ship's Philharmonic Orchestra which is a serious challenge to the bands on the "Hawthorn" and "Blackthorn". He writes:

The "Irish Cedar" being on a Tanker run, offers musical competition. We have seen in recent copies of the "Signal" that some of the other ships have started bands so we on the "Cedar" have organised a small combination. The band is nobly led by John Fleming on the drum end, who is supported by Rock McEvoy on the backspring, Jamser Coady on the Loud-Hailer, Benny Crilly on the kettle drums, Archie Murray who has made great progress in conquering the double bass, and the quite exceptional sound of Mick Curran on his typewriter. Our vocalists, straight from their last appearance in the deep South, who quite excel in Negro spirituals, are Erasmus Fleming and Ebenezer Shiel. The combo was supposed to have broadcast over the Galley Radio, which Junior Sparks failed to locate even when tipped by the 2nd Mate that it was in the fog locker.
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THE "IRISH ROSE"—from CORNERBROOK. —P. J. O'Shea, Radio Officer.

At home no doubt the theme will again be a white Christmas. On board we are impartial, it can be green, or white, wet or dry (that last with reservations) just as long as it is an Irish one.

So Mr. Editor, start looking for a new name for us. "Lakers" will no longer hold good. Likewise our friends on the "Big Fellas" can forget their jeers, and favourite Gilbert & Sullivan song, "of never going to sea". Recently we made an unscheduled voyage from Sydney, Cape Breton, to St. John's, Newfoundland. For the first time in many months we put our nose out into the Atlantic Ocean, and were promptly chased back in again by a windy lady called "Flora".

Our poor poet was deep in the doldrums after reading the last issue of the "Signal", so many imitators, one even cheekily boasting of a beard, "just as good as that on the Rose". (Our lad got rid of his shortly after our arrival out here; the Canadian girls refused to be tickled to death by it). We had old misery himself on our hands until someone made the mistake of posting out to us a cutting from the "Irish Independent", and there in large print was the "Irish Eucalyptus". Now full of the joys of life, we can't switch him off the subject of poets and poetry. In his more irrational moments he has boasted of "next stop The Atlantic Monthly"—no !—well maybe the "Cork Weekly Examiner" ! ! (and he a Dublin man). Despite all the sarcasm, including a suggestion that "Our Boys" might accept his work, he remains floating on air. However we did ground him long enough to get the following from his pen:

A few write verse,
Some bad, more worse,
And none of it's resplendent,
But the bard on the "Rose"
Has the verse that's chose
For the "Irish Independent".
And now from his exalted post,
"Anoff" bids fond adieu.
With Christmas greetings from the "Rose"
and a Happy New Year too.

ANOFF.

Patricia Byrne replies to "ROSE" poet
"Eucalyptus" ?—well, maybe
At least a noble sounding tree,
But like me—aren't you worried chum
When all that's left is "Irish Gum" ?

"IRISH HAWTHORN"

—By Thomas Burke, Radio Officer

Congratulations on the introduction of the Suggestion Scheme, which should bring an abundance of constructive ideas, proving beneficial both to the Company and its employees. It certainly is a wonderful opportunity for everybody to have talent and ability recognised and rewarded.

Our newly-formed band received a solar-plexus blow in Rotterdam on September 26th when Martin "Acker-Bilk" Doyle, one of our most accomplished musicians, and Frank Kirwan, who had been engaged in an advisory capacity, proceeded home on leave. However, Mick Lyons, who had been taking lessons from "Acker" prior to his departure, stepped into the breach, and whilst he has not yet attained the high standard on the clarinet set by the latter, he does show considerable promise. The vacancy on the advisory committee, for which there were many candidates, was filled by Chief Steward Eddie Fricker. Bosun Collins directs the following verse at the "Blackthorn" and the "Lost Chord"—

The fame of your ragtime band has spread
throughout the Fleet,

But to the "Combo" you'd play second best if
only the two could meet.

In such a competition our lads would triumph
we know,

For we have got what the "Blackthorn" lacks,
a second-hand pi-an-o.

Congratulations to Derek Leonard and James Stubbs on their 20th birthdays. Also, to 2nd Officer Brazier and Mrs. Brazier on their recent addition to the family, a baby girl.

The sympathy and deepest regret of all on board is extended to the Lawler family on the occasion of their recent bereavement.

In conclusion, as this will be the last issue before Christmas, we wish all ashore and afloat, through the medium of "Signal", a Very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Cedar Symphony *continued.*

By "Poplar" demand the four cadets recently made their debut on a stage in Rotterdam. They have "Doc" Livingstone on the geetar, "Cheef O'Flynn" who stood out on his own in scaling the Jakers Ladder, Polly Perrot the vocalist who specialised in Just Rolling Along, and Dogs Leg Thompson who was holding his own on the Anchor.

At the moment we are auditioning two new members, Mick Devine on the dividers and Ernest McFadden on his percolator and at the time of issue we feel we will be up to scratch to outdo any other such bands in the outfit. So remember, "if you can't outbeat 'em, join 'em".



Frank Kirwan and Jim Gaul on the "Irish Hawthorn"
—Photo John Harford.



On the deck of the "Irish Hawthorn"—Mick Kiernan,
Jack Clark, Jimmy Stubbs, Charlie Austin and Peter Reddy
—Photo John Harford.

MR. ROBERT LAWLER, DECEASED

It is with profound regret that we report the death of Mr. Robert Lawler, Electrical Engineer, "Irish Hawthorn" which took place at sea on October 5th when the vessel was on passage from Rotterdam to Port Arthur. Contact was made with the Italian Liner "Cristoforo Colombo" whose doctor confirmed death from natural causes. The Last Rites were administered by a priest who was a passenger on the liner. The burial took place at sea on Sunday, October 6th.

Mr. Lawler was immensely popular and was a generous contributor to this magazine.

Mr. Joseph Fallon, 2nd Steward, "Irish Cedar" sends best wishes for their future happiness to his sister Ann and her husband Mr. James Nolan who were married on November 7th at St. Columba's, Iona Road, Dublin. Mr. Fallon's voyaging engagements prevented him from attending the wedding.

CHRISTMAS MORNING

It is a curious experience, that of seven o'clock Mass on Christmas morning. The groping through the dark, with just the faintest aurora on the horizon, the smell of the frost in the air, the crunching of icicles under one's feet, the shadowy figures, making their way with some difficulty to the church, the salutations of the people: "Is that you, Mick?" "'Tis, Mrs. Grady; a happy Christmas to you, ma'am." "The same to you, Mick, and many of them". "Good morning, Mrs. Mulcahy; 'tis a fine Christmas morning, glory be to God". "'Tis indeed, ma'am, glory be to His Holy Name". "Hurry up, Bess, you'll never catch the priest at the altar". "Yerra, sure, haven't we three Masses to-day". The more polite people said: "The compliments of the saison to you, ma'am". "The same to you, sir; may we be all alive and happy this time twelvemonth". Well, just as I commenced the hymn of the angels at my first Mass, there was a crash of music and singing from the gallery over the door, that made my old heart leap with joy and pride. I never expected it; and the soft tones of the harmonium, and the blending of the children's voices, floating out there in the dark of the little chapel, made tears of delight stream down the wrinkles of my cheeks. But the great surprise of all was in store. For, after Mass was over, there was a great rush to St. Joseph's Chapel; and I am afraid I cut my own thanksgiving short, to move with silent dignity in the same direction. I heard gasps of surprise and delight, exclamations of wonder, suppressed hallelujahs of joy; I saw adoration and tenderness, awe and love on the dimly lighted face of the people. No wonder! For there, under a rough, rustic roof of pines and shingles, was the Bethlehem of our imaginations in miniature.

The Afternoon

Here he is, your reverence—a misfortunate angashore! For the love of God make him now a pattrern to the parish!

"It is quite clear, Jem," I said, "that your Christmas dinner disagreed with you".

"Begor, thin, your reverence", broke in Mrs. Deady, setting herself in a rather defiant attitude, "he had as good a dinner as any poor man in your parish. He had a roast goose, stuffed by thim two hands with praties and inguns, until the tears ran down my face; and he had a pig's cheek, and lashins of cabbage".

—From "My New Curate" by Canon Sheehan.

ABOARD THE "NEPTUNE" CHRISTMAS DAY 1848

There are nearly two hundred Irish amongst the prisoners. As I am far removed, however, from their part of the ship, I seldom hear their voices, except when they sing at night on deck. And such singing is mournful beyond all caoines, coronachs, and noeniae. But in poor frail huts, on many an Irish hill-side, their fathers and mothers dwell with poverty, and labour, and sorrow, and mourn for their lost children, with a mourning that will know no comfort till they are gathered to their people in the chapel-yard. For indeed these convict boys were not born of the rock or the oak-tree—human mothers bore them, sang them asleep in lowly cradles, wept and prayed for them. Thoughts like these often come upon me when I hear at night, rising from the ship's fore-castle, some Irish air that carries me back to old days when I heard the same to the humming accompaniment of the spinning wheel.

They have had service on deck to-day. The men have had a holiday. The weather is bright and warm; and the whole of this wooden building is reeking with plum-pudding. I hear a distant sound of loud applause and stamping of feet, reminding me of Conciliation Hall. The man who attends me says it is a company of amateur convicts enacting a tragedy on the lower deck; the guards and officers are among the spectators, and there is a general gala—something as near to a saturnalian revel as would be safe among such a crew of miscreants. I wish them all a merry Christmas, and many happy returns of the same; but I doubt if it will return to me; I am sitting all day, shrunk together in my cell, dismally ill, and wrapped up in coats, like a man on a box-seat of a coach.

—From John Mitchel's "Jail Journal"

SLUA MUIRI on the "IRISH SPRUCE"

—By Pat Crowley

One of the duties of An Slua Muiri during wartime is to inspect ships arriving in the harbour. To assist the training programme, the Officer Commanding An Slua Muiri at Haulbowline, Co. Cork, asked for some of their officers and men to be shown over an I.S.L. vessel to view the equipment and to see the ship's papers.

A party of 20 men were received and welcomed on board the "Irish Spruce" at Cork by Captain J. P. Kelly, on Tuesday 15th October. This was the first time that An Slua Muiri was officially received on board an I.S.L. vessel in Cork.

After the formal introductions and conducted tour of the vessel the guests were invited to the Master's cabin where their host provided light entertainment.

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"ASH" MEETS "WILLOW" AND "OAK"

—By Charlie Lumsden.

The lads on board got together, decided we had been silent long enough and determined to take action. We may not have bands or other fancies on board but, so far, we've been a very happy ship. Outward bound we had a dart competition which was won in fine style by Noel Appleby (Chief Cook) with the 2nd Officer Mr. F. B. Kelly a very good runner-up. From Panama to Japan we had a draughts contest which was won by C. Morrissey (3rd Officer) and a very gallant second was R. Clothier (Electrician). While in India we acquired Frances, our almost human monkey. We think she is the most travelled monkey in the world, having been to two ports in India, one in Pakistan, two in Ceylon, Aden, Egypt, Canada, United States, Panama and now Japan. Soon she will be en route to Europe via Australia.



K. Flynn, C. Lumsden and P. Redmond. The lady hanging on to the neck of C. Lumsden is Frances, the ship's pet monkey.

While in Montreal we watched the "Irish Willow" arrive and by a mixture of shouts, gestures and a crazy kind of morse gave the lads the word to join us in a nearby "Refreshment Parlour". Having met with much handshakes and greetings, we began to partake in some liquid refreshment and at closing time the crews of both ships set course for the "Irish Ash". Having arrived safely at our destination we set to once more and with a rousing sing-song, which would have done credit to the "La Scala" Chorus, we set the party in action. The lads on the "Irish Willow" started their songs and a friendly rivalry sprang up with the crew of each ship trying to outdo the other. Mr. Paddy Doyle of the "Irish Willow" was really topping the list when we decided to unleash our secret weapon—the famous "Deeptank Scanlon". He really set the place going with his own unpublished, uncensored sea shanties. We really had a great time.

THE "OAK" JOINS IN

When the "Irish Oak" came in we had some more handshakes, greetings and more refreshments. I never saw so many happy sailors together at one time and I take this opportunity to wish our friends on the "Irish Oak" and "Irish Willow" happy sailing from all the boys on the "Irish Ash" and we hope we "bump" together again soon.

I think that's about all we have to report on the "Irish Ash" for the present and hope this makes up for our past failings on behalf of the "Ash Maru".



Looking like two Texan millionaires are Pat Walsh and John Fleming of the "Irish Cedar". Photo by Joe Fallon at Port Sulphur.

Slua Muiri—continued

Captain Kelly set the ball rolling with his memorable rendering of "The Bould Thady Quinn". This was followed by "The Holy Ground" sung by some members of An Slua Muiri. The other artistes who contributed to the night's entertainment, apart from myself, were Chief Officer Small and Mrs. Small, Chief Engineer Roche and Mrs. Roche and Chief Steward Mayland. The singing, story-telling and drinking went on until handshakes were renewed and promises of "better days ahead" were echoed from both sides.

Birthday Greetings

Greetings on his 18th Birthday to **Thomas Stout**, "Irish Alder" from his mother.

Congratulations to **Eamonn Doyle** who celebrates his 21st Birthday on the 19th December from Mammy, Daddy and his two sisters Vera and Josephine.

Congratulations to **Ronan Early**, "Irish Plane" who will be 21 on 26th December from his parents and family.

To **Paul Thompson**: "Wishing you all the best on your coming engagement also best wishes for a happy birthday on the 26th November, from Mammy, brothers and sisters".



When **Raymond Smith** celebrated his 15th birthday on the "Irish Spruce" last September the boys presented him with a birthday cake, and the occasion was photographed. Left to right—**Michael McGowan**, **Paul Behan**, **Raymond himself** and **Mick Murphy**.

To **Syl Cox**, "Irish Larch": "Loving wishes to our son Syl on his 21st Birthday, 27th November. We are all living in hopes of having you home for Christmas. From Mam, Dad and all the gang including **Joe Carroll**.

Birthday greetings to **Noel Ward**, "Irish Sycamore", on December 12th from Mammy, Daddy, Peter, Gerard, Fergal, Phyllis, Alice, Frank, Brian, Alice and Jackie.

To **Eddie Murphy** on the "Irish Cedar": "Birthday greetings Eddie from mother, brothers and sister".

Congratulations on your 19th birthday—To **Noel Masterson**, Galley Boy, "Irish Sycamore"—from all at 42 Dolphin Road.



The happy couple are **Mr. Liam Dunne** and **Miss Emily Leonard**, both of *Rush* who were married in September. The bride's father is **Mr. Dick Leonard**, "Irish Holly", who has been with *Irish Shipping* since 1948.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. P. V. Flynn sends loving greetings to her husband on the "Irish Plane", on the occasion of their 26th Wedding Anniversary on November 23rd.



Group taken after the wedding of **Mr. Sean Buckley**, "Irish Oak", and his bride **Maureen** in October last.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Tom Kinsella, "Irish Maple". Greetings to you from Gerard, Christine, Ann, Michael, Kathleen, Billy, Aunt Lizzie and all in Castlebridge, and "Wishing Tom a very happy Christmas. Hope you are keeping well" from Dick, Josephine, Mary and Joe.

The **Rogan Boys**: Christmas Greetings to Jack on the "Irish Willow", Dermot on the "Irish Spruce" and Brian on the "Irish Alder" from your Mother, Father, Brothers and Sisters.

A Greeting from **Cork**: **Mr. & Mrs. Otter**, Inniscarra, Co. Cork, whose son Peter is 2nd Engineer on the "Irish Hawthorn" send greetings to all our staff ashore and afloat and wish all our ships a smooth passage and a safe anchorage.

"WHO FEARS TO SPEAK"

By Yards na hAsaleen

There was a very full attendance at the I.S.L. Memorial Hall, Aston Quay, on Monday night last week when the Irish Shipping Ltd. Literary and Historical Society held their annual monthly debate. Among the attendance were such well-known figures in the shipping world as Bill Mullen, Eddy McQuaid, and Patsy Kelly. The motion down for discussion was 'That Business is Becoming Too Commercialised'.

Moving the motion, Mr. R. J. O'Halloran, Vice-President, said that he felt very strongly about this particular subject and in his opinion the suggestion contained in the motion was perfectly true. Representing as he did, the ordinary rank and file engaged in business he had sad personal experience of the depths to which some business tycoons could descend. (Loud cheers from the unreserved enclosure and a few restrained boos from the dear seats). Mr. O'Halloran continued by drawing attention to the fact that while the plutocratic overlords of big business enjoyed the exclusive comforts of suburban mansions and urban penthouses, married men like himself who lived in working class areas were denied the ordinary amenities which their honest labours had earned them. It was clear that present trends could not be allowed to continue and there would soon be a peaceful revolution in which he hoped to take a leading part and which would destroy the bureaucrats and emancipate the proletariat. (Prolonged cheers).

Opposing the motion was Mr. P. P. English, a former Toastmaster General under the Fianna Fail Government. Mr. English said that at the present time the white collar worker never had it so good and he could produce statistics to prove this. On the other hand the entrepreneurs were being unfairly treated. (Cries of 'Leave religion out of this'). What was needed was not the revolution to which the previous speaker referred but greater loyalty to the business. How often do we see workers laying down their pens at five thirty or six o'clock in the evening when there was another five or six hours work to be done? They even objected to Sunday work. It was an indication of the luxury enjoyed by the worker that when one went on the Riviera for a few months in the summer one was liable to encounter some of the more presumptuous clerks basking in the continental sunshine. It was also noticeable in recent years that these people were buying cars on the never-never where in former times they could barely rise to a second-hand bike. If he might be permitted to coin a phrase; the working cycle had given way to the age of Chevrolet. Mr. English concluded by saying no more.

The next speaker was Mr. T. E. Flynn who supported the last speaker and said that this was not the first time he had occasion to do so. He had only to refer to the last Annual Staff Dinner —(the rest of Mr. Flynn's opening remarks could not be heard at the Press table). Mr. Flynn went on to point out that much depended on better business relations and the more relations one had in business the better. He believed that more use should be made of wall charts in offices, bigger and better charts were needed and if necessary bigger walls should be built to accommodate these charts. At this point Mr. Flynn burst into song "You've got to have charts, miles and miles and miles of charts"—and he was finally removed from the Hall by the Sergeant-at-Arms resisting violently.

The next speaker favoured the motion and he was Mr. N. J. McGovern, B.L., who said that like Mr. O'Halloran, he too was a working man and he felt that commerce was definitely creeping into business and very possibly this would have the effect of creating a situation where undue importance might be placed on the less praiseworthy aspect of the entire question. He had always advocated a policy of wholehearted support for the principles for which he had always stood and he could say without fear of contradiction that he had never once wavered in the observance of these principles. That was more than some people could say even if he said so himself. Mr. McGovern resumed his seat amidst scenes of complete silence.

Captain C. P. Kinsella, 3rd Battalion, Cavalry Regiment, B.S.A., spoke against the motion and said that what business needed was greater discipline in the ranks. If we were to advance in this field of endeavour we must marshal our forces properly and set our sights on the highest possible plane and then fire ahead as rapidly as possibly.

The next speaker was Mr. D. O'Neill, an X Officer in the Merchant Marine, who also opposed the motion. He said that much criticism had been levelled at business of late. (Shouts of 'Where were you at 9.16 from the back of the hall').

In his summing up, the Chairman, Mr. L. S. Furlong said that the standard of debate was very high and he was pleased to hear both sides of the question put so ably. He wished to pay special tribute to the speakers who spoke for the motion and he hoped they would always feel free to speak their minds as long as they remained in the Company's service. After their years of long and devoted service he felt a pang of regret at losing them. Mr. Furlong brought the meeting to a close by inviting questions.

(The Editor disclaims all responsibility)



A picture taken on "Irish Maple" in 1957; left—John Lumsden and Mr. Lennon. Mr. Lumsden has met with some very hard luck. A few weeks after his wedding last year he developed a serious illness which has resulted in both his feet being amputated. He is at present in the Rehabilitation Centre in Dun Laoghaire and is showing remarkable fortitude. He sends greetings to his brother Bertie, his nephew Charlie and his friends on the Irish Ash, and also to all his old shipmates on the Rose, Maple and Larch. We know they will all join us in wishing Mr. Lumsden every success in his treatment.

Personnel

Masters on Leave: J. A. Caird, B. Reilly, M. Langran, R. Patterson. **CHIEF OFFICERS ON LEAVE:** S. Gleeson, V. McEvitt, J. Small. **SECOND OFFICER:** A. McMahon. **THIRD OFFICERS:** D. Daly, E. Kavanagh, J. Rickard, J. P. Coady. **CHIEF STEWARDS:** J. Clinton, J. Dillon, J. Doran, P. Farrelly, W. King. **APPRENTICES:** T. O'Brien, H. Courtney. **CHIEF ENGINEERS:** M. Byrne, W. Irvine, K. Roche, G. Rowe. **2ND ENGINEERS:** H. Dowdall, A. Hughes, F. Merrick, N. Whitfield. **3RD ENGINEERS:** R. Grimes, I. Stuart, M. Cassidy, D. Hamilton. **ELECTRICIAN:** Michael Lawler. **4TH ENGINEERS:** H. Caughey, B. O'Geran, J. Waters, J. O'Riordan. **JUNIOR ENGINEERS:** M. Curley, W. De Renzy, J. Gaul, B. Geaney, D. Hoey, F. Murphy.

OFFICERS ON STUDY LEAVE: Chief Engineer E. Flanagan. **2nd Officers** K. F. Dooley and H. B. Fidler.

We wish a speedy recovery to Captain C. A. Brennan and Junior Engineers S. Langan and B. McCann, who are on sick leave.



Pictured at our Stand at the Science and Technical Exhibition, Ballsbridge in October are our voluntary demonstrators Captain J. Caird, Mr. R. Gordon, Apprentice, Mr. H. Mooney, Chief Engineer and Mr. T. O'Flaherty, Radio Officer.

Congratulations to Mr. J. F. Troy who has secured his Chief Engineer's Steam Cert., and Mr. W. Frampton who has secured First Mate's Foreign Going Certificate.

We welcome the following personnel to the Company: **JUNIOR ENGINEERS:** M. Cleary, "Irish Spruce", W. McCarthy, "Irish Cedar", K. Muldowney "Irish Pine", J. Foley, "Irish Oak", J. McLaughlin, "Irish Spruce", B. McGarry, "Irish Spruce", R. Gavigan, "Irish Poplar" and G. Harrington, "Irish Blackthorn". **APPRENTICES:** J. Shelton and D. Corish, "Irish Rowan", T. Bell, "Irish Pine", G. S. Collins, "Irish Oak", W. G. Thompson, "Irish Cedar", C. O'Connell, "Irish Poplar", M. J. Brophy, "Irish Spruce", P. J. O'Reilly, "Irish Spruce" and E. D. Armstrong, "Irish Pine".

"SUNSET"

Wonder where the sunset goes, at the close of day
Disappearing where who knows, as it fades away.
Oh Sunset of crimson gold, how fascinating to behold,
Farewell at evening time, your colours of gorgeous
hue, says peace on earth abide.
Oh Sunset! no artist's brush can catch each vivid
shade,
As twilight steals in with a hush and tis softly then
you fade.
Oh symbol that all is well before the shadows fall
Sunset your magic spell was made for one and for all.

The author of "Sunset" is Mr. R. F. Doyle who is at home in Dublin recovering from an accident on the "Irish Rowan" in October last. His poem was written some years ago and is actually set to music for full orchestra. Mr. Doyle has written many other lyrics.

GREETINGS FROM HOME

It gives us particular pleasure to print the Season's greetings from their relatives at home to the men sailing the ships. We hope our readers will forgive us for having to shorten down the messages in many cases but this was necessary in order to fit them all in. The letters we received also conveyed good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to the Office Staff and the Crews of the ships, and we only wish that space had permitted us to print them all in full.

On behalf of the entire staff of Irish Shipping Ltd., ashore and afloat, we are heartily reciprocating the Season's greetings.

"IRISH PLANE"

To Michael Broderick: Christmas Greetings. Hope you have a very happy Christmas. Good luck and God Bless. From his Mother. Greetings also from Vera, Jimmie, Angela, Noeleen and Jimmie Junior.

To Mr. P. Walker: Christmas Greetings from Mrs. Broderick.

To James Kealy: Mam and Dad and all the family wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. Wish you could be here, but love from all.

To Michael Slevin: A very happy Christmas Michael from Mam, Dad, Brian, Barry, Brenda, Eric and Ann, also greetings from Auntie Kathleen, Sister Mary Lelia, Australia, and Aunt Ethel Byron.

To P. V. Flynn: "Loving Christmas Greetings from all at home and from your daughter Mother M. Valerie in New York.

To Ronan Early: Christmas Greetings from your parents and family.

To Joseph Geoghegan: Christmas Greetings from Mother, Dad, Peter, Alan, Anne, Francis and Catherine.

To Noel A. Dillon: Happy Christmas. We will be thinking of you on Christmas Day and always. Hope to see you soon. From Jack, Rose and all the Enrights.

To Eric Mahoney: Greetings and a very happy Christmas. We will miss you a lot at Christmas and send all our love and best wishes. From Mam, Dad, Aileen, relations and lots of friends.

To James O'Neill: Happy Christmas Garry and all the best for the New Year. Love Mammy.

To James C. O'Brien: A merry Christmas to you Seamus from Dad and Mum and all your brothers, especially Dermot. Hoping you are well. Looking forward to seeing you.

To Pat Walker, Chief Engineer: Wishing you a very Happy Christmas. From Dad, Rita, Jack.

To Pat Redmond: Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Ciss and all the family.

To Aidan Kehoe, Apprentice: A Very Happy Christmas to yourself and all on board. Mam, Dad, Declan, Catherine, Eithne and Moira.

To Brian Fogarty, Radio Officer: Dad, Mum, Brothers and Sisters, Dublin and Toronto, send greetings to you, and wishing you and all your colleagues aboard a Very Happy and Holy Christmas. Yvonne says "Decorations aloft".

To William Murnane: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from Ma, Da and all the Murnanes; also little Ramony and the lads from Connolly's.

To T. Kendellen, Chief Steward:

Although you are across the Seas,
It doesn't seem so far
When happy greetings such as these
Can reach you where you are.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mother, Kay and all the family.

To Florence McCarthy: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from Mam, Dad and all the family at Scart, Douglas, Cork.

To Denis Falvey, Jun. Eng.: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas. From Mum, Dad and Kathleen.

To Evans Onions, Jun. Eng.: Our Love and God's Blessing on your first Christmas away from home. We'll be thinking of you. Mum, Dad, Olwyn and, of course, Ann.

To Richard Gaffney, 2nd Steward: Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year from your parents and all at 11B. All the best, Ritchie.

To F. Kelly, 3rd Officer: Happy Christmas and best wishes from all the family. We will be thinking of you. Mammy.

To Joe Ennis, 2nd Eng.: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Bright New Year; also to Master, Officers and men of the "Irish Plane". From Mother and Father.

To Liam Stacey: Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a bright New Year. From Mr. and Mrs. F. Stacey and family. Also Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stacey.

To Denis Gibbons: Christmas greetings and good wishes—Mother, Sister and Brothers.

To Michael O'Connell, Ch. Officer: Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Love from Mother, Eileen, Fionan and Dermot, and looking forward to seeing you soon.

To Mr. Pat Walker, Chief Engineer: Wishing you dear Pat a very happy Christmas from your loving wife Doreen and son Michael, also from all at 36.

To Liam McLaughlin: Greetings from Jan and all at home.

"IRISH PINE"

To Edward O'Neill: Very Happy Christmas and God's protection. Love always from Mammy, Daddy, Brothers and Sisters. To my friend, Edward O'Neill, Captain and crew—Happy Christmas and God bless you—Peggy Ryan, Savoy Cinema.

To Jim Kelly: A Happy Christmas from Dad (Captain Jim), Mum and all the boys.

To Sean Hamilton: A Happy Christmas from Ma and Da and all at 21 and greetings too to Joe Kelly, Cook.

To Pat Kelly: Best wishes to yourself and all the boys on the "Pine" from Andy, Angela and baby Andrew.

To Andrew Moynihan: Season's greetings and much love to you Andrew from your Mother.

To Pat Gaskin: Wishing you a very happy Christmas Pat. See you soon. From Thomas and Alice. And to Pat to wish you a very Happy Christmas, with love from Mammy, Daddy, Thomas, Marie, Noeleen and John. With best wishes from all your friends, hoping you have a very Happy Christmas. We'll be thinking of you. God Bless.

To Joseph Kelly, Chief Cook: Greetings from Mother, sister Cora, brother-in-law Stephen and children. Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas.

To Larry O'Duffy: Love and best wishes, from Mother, brother Kevin, sisters Jo-anne and Patricia and Aunt Nan.

To Pat Kelly: Christmas Greetings and best wishes to you and all your companions on the ship. From Mum, Dad and all the Kelly family at Holycross.

To Patsy McClean: A Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from Mammy, Daddy, brothers Sil, Derek and Alan, and his twin sisters, Alice and Fidelma. God bless.



Maria and Ronnie Lumsden wish their Daddy and Brother on the "Irish Ash" a very happy Christmas, and send greetings "from all at 93".

"IRISH BLACKTHORN"

To **Aindreas Minihan**: Warm (not hot) greetings from all at Kylebeg.

To **Ted O'Connell, Ch. Steward**: Christmas Greetings to my husband from Maura and daughters, Mary and Deirdre; his Mother-in-law also wishes to be remembered.

To **James Grennan**: Greetings and every good wish from Father, Mother, Sisters and James Nolan for a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and may we see you soon, P.G.

To **Michael J. Henshaw, 2nd Officer**: Christmas Greetings from all at home, also Maureen, Don and children.

To **Charles Cunningham, Cook**: Merry Christmas from Cissie, Barney; also Molly, Kitty, the Johnston family, Jim, Matt, Annie, and all your friends around Bellurgan. All is well here, thank God. Hoping all is well on the ship and to see you in the near future. All the best.

To **Joseph Smyth**: Christmas Greetings, also best wishes for your 21st birthday on January 22nd, 1964. Mam, Dad and sisters Maureen, Joan, Bernie, Patricia, and all his friends in Skerries.

To **Bryan Keane**: Greetings and God bless to you and all the other boys on the "Irish Blackthorn". We will be thinking of you when we are eating the turkey on Christmas Day. Dad, Mom, Pat, Donal and Sean.

To **Patrick Hannah**: Greetings from Mam, Dad, Brothers and Sisters, also from 67 Ravensdale Road, and the Pierce family.

To **Edward Fricker, Chief Steward**: Happy Christmas from all at 215.

To **Thomas Fay, 2nd Steward**: Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. God bless you and best wishes to all the crew. Mother, Father, sisters Tressa, Betty and Maeve.

To **Gerard Dorgan**: Christmas greetings and best wishes from mother and all at home.

To **Liam Maher, Jun. Eng.**: Greetings and Best Wishes for Christmas, with love from Mother, Father, Lorcan, Olive and Joe.

To **Denis Moloney**: Christmas greetings to all on board "Irish Blackthorn" from all Moloney family at Terenure.

To **W. A. Kirwan**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas—from Dad, Mum, Catherine, Paddy, Monica and Bill.

To **Sean Phelan**: Love and best wishes for a Holy and Happy Christmas. We hope to be in our new house by 20th December. From all at 154 Oxmantown Road.

"IRISH CEDAR"

To **James Clinton**: Christmas Greetings and best wishes for the New Year. Mam, Dad, and the Boys.

To **Archie Murray**: Christmas greetings, and hope to see you soon. Your loving wife Betty.

To **Jimmie O'Riordon, 4th Engineer**: Happy Christmas from Mammy, Daddy, Cora, Tony, Alfie, Paul, Dermot, and little Gerard. Hoping to see you soon.

To **Paul White, Jun. Eng.**: Greetings from Mammy, Daddy, Ann and Bridgidine; May, Jack and children; also greetings from the crew of the Stone Boat, Leo & Co. Also from Jerry and Violet; Willie, Annie and family.

To **John D'Art**: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, John, from Etta, Sean, Mam and Dad.

To **E. C. S. McFadden**: "Christmas Greetings to you from your wife Olive and daughter Penelope.

To **Joseph Fallon**: Best Christmas wishes from Mother, Dad and Gay, from Nurse Mary at Hither Green, from Ann and Jim at Cypress Grove; from Frank and family at Poulaphouca and from Bernie, Maureen and family at Toronto.

To **Martin Golding**: Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Mam, Dad, Mary and all his friends. Also Greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the 4th Port of Dublin Sea Scouts.

To **Jack Johnson**: All good wishes for Christmas and 1964 from Betty, Arthur and Susan.

To **Eddie Murphy**: Christmas Greetings to you from your mother, brothers and sister and all your relations.

"IRISH POPLAR"

To **Tony McDermott**: Greetings and best wishes from Mum, Dad, Christie, Marie, Eileen, Angela, Paula and Austin.

To **Michael Doyle**: Christmas Greetings to you from Mammy, Daddy and Vera and Josephine.

To **John Sloan**: Greetings and best wishes to you from your wife, Julia and family.

To **Michael Russell, A.B.**: Merry Christmas and hope you will be with us this year—from Mother, Meg and Betty, also the twins.

To **Ray Clarke, Radio Officer**: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Ray dear, from Daddy, Mum, Violet. God bless.

"IRISH ROSE"

To **Denis Glynn**: Christmas greetings and good wishes. We will miss you very much and send all our love. From Dadda, Mamma, Sr. Maris Stella, Anne, Gerard, Paddy and all at the Cross and in Kilfenora.

To **P. J. O'Shea**: Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and all happiness and prosperity for 1964—from your mother and your sister and family in Skibbereen.

To **Seamus McNally**: Greetings to you from your mother who also wishes to send greetings to your brother John on the s.s. "Sunek"—somewhere between Jamaica and Kitamet.

To **Patrick Minto**: Greetings from Father, Mother, Tommy, Francis, William, Joe, Bernard, Rosaleen and nieces and nephews. Best wishes also from Aunties, Uncles, Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law.

To **Terry Meagher**: Best wishes for a very happy Christmas—from Dad, Mother and Sheila.

To **Michael Murphy, A.B.**: Greetings and best wishes from all at home; also to the rest of the crew. Alice Murphy.

To **Stephen Burke**: Happiest of greetings for Christmas and New Year. Also to your Captain and the crew. A big welcome home from us all at home. Cheerio—love, Mother,

"IRISH ROWAN"

To **Shawn Gaffney**: All the best, Shawn. Have a Merry Christmas and a Bright New Year. From your Parents and all at 11B.

To **Roy Pye, Chief Eng.**: Happy Christmas, Roy, and may the New Year bring you every success and a safe return. Our thoughts will be with you even though many miles divide us. Good luck. From Dad.

To **Bernard Fay, Cook**: Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year, Bernard. I hope to see you home soon. Eithne and Baby.

To **James Redmond**: We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope it will not be long before I see you again. From your wife Lena and all the folks at home.

To **John Fenton and R. Kinsella**: Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year from the Fenton Families at Ferrybank and London, also Alice and Joe.

To **Patrick J. Spillane, Jun. Eng.**: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from Mum and Dad, also Mary Alice, Margaret, Ann, Evelyn and Dymrna.

To **Jack O'Driscoll, A.B.**: A Happy Christmas and Many Happy Returns for 1st January, 1964. From The Twins and Peggy.

To **John Fricker, 2nd Cook**: Best wishes and Happy Christmas from Mam, Dad and all at 215, and from Ethna, John and Paul, Carrie, Joe and Lynda.

To **P. D. Gordon, Apprentice**: Every Christmas Joy. From Mum and Dad; also boys in Wexford Boat Club.

To **John Sullivan, 3rd Eng.**: Best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas. From Dad, Mam and Ely.

To **Kevin Healy**: A Happy and Holy Christmas, and we pray that you will be home soon. And to all the members of the ship we wish a very happy Christmas. From Father, brothers and sister, and in-laws.

To **Michael Hurley, A.B.**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Hoping to see you sometime next year. Love from Mam, Dad, Finbarr, Bridgid and May; also best wishes from Charlie, Sally, Denis, Betty and children.

To **Michael Twomey**: Greetings and all our love for a Happy Christmas. Eileen, Jerry and baby Jacqueline. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

To **Bernard Fay, Chief Cook**: A very Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. God bless you, and best wishes to all the crew. Mother, Father, sisters Tressa, Betty and Maeve.

To **Wm. D. Garvey, Ch. Off.**: Best wishes for Christmas from Breda and Siobhan, also Mother, brothers and sister.

To **Michael Price, A.B.**: Love and greetings from Mam, Dad and Paddy in Clonakilty; George, Mary, Judy and baby Gemma in Dublin. We are all looking forward to seeing you early in the New Year, please God, and to rehearse all your songs for the 'hooley' which we intend to have in Dublin. Mrs. Mary Gaynor.

To **Tim O'Leary**: A Happy Christmas from all at home. We think of you all the time and hope to see you soon.

To **Jerry Moynihan**: Season's greetings and much love to you Jerry from Margaret.

To **John Shelton**: Christmas Greetings to you John from Daddy, Mammy and all the family at 47 Connolly St., Arklow, also birthday greetings on December 30th from us and David, May Anne, Egon, Pauline and all the gang.

To **Ted Hanley**: Best love and a Happy Christmas from his wife Netta, Vera, Steve and family in Essex, Noel, Rita and family in Cork, Gregory in Wembley and Angela, Irene and Carmellie at home.

To **Frank Keenan**: Greetings to you from Mam, Dad and all at Number 1 St. Attracta Road, Cabra. We will miss you very much at Christmas.

To **John McPartland**: A merry Christmas, John, from all at home.

To **Richard Corish**: Christmas Greetings from Dada, Mama, Brian, Terence and Christine, also from all at 62, 42 Clontarf and 282.



"Love to Uncle Pat on Christmas Day from David and greetings and best wishes for 1964. Will remember you at Crib on Christmas Day" from Kevin and all at No. 1 —for Pat Kearney, 3rd Officer, "Irish Alder".

"IRISH ALDER"

To **Noel Goulding**: Congratulations Noel on your 19th Birthday. Here's wishing you a holy, peaceful and very happy Christmas, from Grandad, Mam, Patrick, Anthony, Uncle John and all your friends in Cork and Youghal.

To **Sean McNelis**: Birthday greetings to you from your parents, Peggy and Annie T., who also wish you a very happy Christmas.

To **Christopher Hughes**: Happy Christmas darling and all good wishes from Agnes. Also from Geraldine, Peter and Linda and all the family circle and Please God it won't be too long before we see you again.

To **William Fields**: Greetings and best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas from Mother, Father, Eileen, Kathleen, Mary and Bernadette, Richard and John.

To **William Duffin**: Best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas from Mother, Father, Brothers and Sisters, Grandmother, nieces and nephews.

To **Patrick Ryan**: Wishing you every joy and happiness for Christmas and the New Year from Mother, Father, Brothers and Sisters.

To **Thomas Flynn**: Greetings to you Thomas and may you have a very happy Christmas. Love from Mam, Dad, Sean, Francis and Uncle John, Josie and family.

To **Dermot Buckley**: Warmest greetings for a happy and holy Christmas from Father, Mother and sisters Brid, Loreto and Finnoula also all his friends in Portmarnock.

To **William Anthony Magner**: Happy Christmas Bill. Love and best wishes from Mum, Dad, Noel, Pauline, Sheila, Donal, Pat, Bridie, Noreen and all your friends in Cork. God Bless You.

To **Aidan O'Reilly**: Christmas Greetings to you from Mam, Dad, Ita, Brendan, Kieran, Pam and family, Eithne, Joe and family.

To **Peter McDonnell**: Greetings to you from the O'Reilly family, Cobh.

To **J. Twomey**: A very happy Christmas from your wife and children.

"IRISH SYCAMORE"

To **Jimmy Malone**: Christmas Greetings to you from Mam, Dad, Irene, Corinne, Gran Malone, Gran L'Estrange, all the family in Dublin and Coventry. God Bless.

To **James Gorman**: Greetings for Christmas and the New Year to you from your loving Mammy, Daddy and sisters Nora, Helen and Margaret. Also greetings from your sister Ann and brother-in-law Kieran and your two nephews Thomas and Kieran Francis and from Mary, Peter and children in London.

To **Philip Ryan**: Greetings from all at Cathedral Road, Cavan.

To **Sean Murray**: Happy Christmas Sean and lots of love from Mam and Dad, Stephanie, Damien and Joseph, and we hope to see you soon.

To **R. J. Needham**: Greetings to you from Father, Rodney and Thelma.

To **Thomas Byrne**: Greetings to you from your Mammy, Daddy, Granny, Grampar, and "all the gang". They look forward to seeing you early in 1964.

To **Michael J. O'Mara**: Very best wishes for a Happy Christmas Mickey from all the family.

To **Edward McVeigh**: Happy Christmas to you from your mother who also wishes you to know that you have a new niece, Una, and a new nephew, Edward.

To **Tom Savage**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas, from Dad, Mum, Brother and Sister.

To **Liam Kelly**: Happy Birthday to you from all at 474 Galtymore Road, Dublin. They also send you greetings for Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year.

To **James Creighton**: Season's greetings and a very happy birthday on New Year's Day from your loving wife Patsy and children Gerard and Terry.

To **Daniel R. Dineen**: Greetings to you for Christmas from Dad, Mam, Pat, Colette, nephew Peter and your loving sweetheart Kay.

To **James T. Mason**: Happy Christmas to you from all the family.

To **Tim Lynch**: All our love and best wishes for Christmas from Mam, Dad, Loly, Paul, Pat and Kim and "Pug"—hope to see you soon—we miss you.

To **Owen Kehoe**: Love and best wishes for a very happy Christmas from Mother, Sisters and Brothers.

To **Anthony Duff**: A Christmas Prayer and Greetings from Mam and Dad, brothers and sisters, including May and Jimmy.

To **E. Lynn, 4th Eng.**: Best wishes for Christmas; also, greetings on your 23rd birthday on 28th December. From Mum, Dad and the family, not forgetting Deirdre and George.

To **Noel McDonagh**: Sincere best wishes and congratulations for the 27th December on your 19th birthday. From Mammy, Kathleen, and all your friends and relations in Dunmore, not forgetting Teresa and Jim in Castlecomer.

To **Peter Kelly, Chief Officer**: Happy Christmas greetings from Mother, Father, Maurice, Betty, Des and the children. God bless you. Love from all at 22.

To **Patrick Wilde**: A Very Happy Christmas from Kathleen and the children, and all at No. 3.

To **Michael Brazil**: Greetings and a Very Happy Christmas. Love from Jane, Joe and Family.

To **Eamonn Byrne, Eng.**: A Very Happy and Holy Christmas from all at "Innisfail", Drogheda.

"IRISH FERN"

To **James Whelan**: Best wishes and good cheer to you from Mother, Brothers, Sisters, especially the sister in Indiana, nephews and nieces and all at home.

To **Charlie McCarthy**: Wishing you a Holy and Happy Christmas from Daddy, Catherine, Mary, Laurence and Uncle Willie.

"IRISH SPRUCE"

To **Nigel Kinsella**: Christmas Greetings and best wishes from Directors, Staff and Employees of J. Paul & Co. Ltd., Civil Engineers, also from his parents and friends in Walkinstown.

To **Dermot Rogan**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas, —with love from Sheelagh.

To **Christy Donovan**: "Happy Christmas to Daddy Donovan from all at Lime St., also Liam and Bridget, Frances and Jimmy. And "Happy Christmas Christy from all at 223 Kildare Road, Crumlin".

To **Michael Kavanagh, Eng.**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas from all the family at Harbour View.

To **James Rickard**: Christmas Greetings from Mam. Congratulations on the occasion of your marriage on the 17th August to Miss Mary Flynn—every happiness to you both; and also on obtaining your First Mate's Certificate recently.

To **Nicholas Murphy, Cook**: Very Happy Christmas with best wishes from Mum, Dad, Benny, Matt and Pearl. Mrs. E. Murphy.

To **A. H. Dalton, 3rd Officer**: Happy Christmas, Harry. From Mum, Dad, Alan, Patricia, Catherine and Sam.

"IRISH WILLOW"

To **R. L. Mullins, Radio Officer**: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from Mother, Vincent and Tom. Greetings also from all your friends in Athlone, and to all personnel on the ship.

To **Mike Cogan**: A happy Christmas from Maureen and children.

To **T. Carroll**: Happy Christmas Tom, looking forward to seeing you. From all your brothers and sisters in Arklow and a special greeting from Mam.

To **Patrick Penston**: Happy Christmas Patrick. We will be thinking of you. Love from Betty and children, Nuala, Nicholas, Sean and baby Colm.

To **Leo Whooley and his wife Ursula**: Kind regards. Pauline and I are looking forward so much to seeing you at Christmas after such a long absence, also the other members of the family. From your loving Mam and Pauline.

To **Noel Roddis**: Greetings to you and best wishes for a very happy Christmas from your mother.

To **Martin Lyons**: Greetings to you and best wishes for a very happy Christmas from Liz and family, and from your daughter—"Dear Dad, I hope you will be home for Christmas. We are all looking forward to meeting soon. I miss you very much. From your little doll Ann with love".

"IRISH HEATHER"

To **Bernard Heade, 3rd Eng.**: Christmas Greetings from Mum, Dad, Geraldine, Thomas, Bob and Rose, John and Cora, and all the Gang.

To **John Farrell, Bosun**: Best wishes for Christmas and the coming year from your loving wife, Olive, children John, Susan and Lorraine; also greetings to the crew and God bless you.

To **Barry Kiernan**: Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year from Mammy, Daddy, John and all at 16.

"IRISH MAPLE"

To Gerard Kenny: Greetings to Gerard. Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a speedy homecoming in the New Year. From Mother, Marie and family, Sister Miceal, Coldash, England, the O'Briens, Kilfenora and the two Kenny families in Artane.

To Brian Warren: Merry Christmas Brian from Mam, Dad, Peter and Sheila, also Phyllis, Tony, May, Dan, Muriel, Derry, Patty, Ronnie, Nuala, Paddy, Margaret, Colm, Pat and Richard. Shall be looking forward to seeing you after Christmas. God Bless.

To George O'Brien: Christmas Greetings to my dear husband, George, from his loving wife Patricia and all his in-laws in Ardee.

To Eric Byrne: Birthday Greetings and Christmas Greetings too, with all best wishes from Mam, Dad, Uncle Jim, Eamon, Irene, Monica, Bernadette and Nuala.

To Hugh O'Farrell: Greetings from his Mam, Dad, brother Pat, sisters Sal and Maureen. We all look forward to seeing you home soon.

To Paddy O'Neill: Happy Christmas to you, with love and best wishes from Mother, Father and all at South Quay.

To John Nangle: Christmas Greetings to you from your Mother, sister Dolores and brothers Michael and Noel, and "Happy Christmas Paddy and best wishes for the New Year" with love from Aunt Daisy.

To Eamonn Brady: Happy Christmas to you from Daddy and Mammy, Breda, Frank and Liam.

To Joseph Kavanagh: Christmas and Birthday Greetings to you from your Mam and Dad.

To Frank Brown: Christmas Greetings to you from Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters, Marie, Mick and family, Christy, Pat, Jacqueline and Bridie and all at No. 11. Will be thinking of you on Christmas Day.

To R. Waterhouse: Greetings to you for Christmas from Mammy, Daddy, James, Henry, Bridge, Maisie and Lidie.

To Patrick Murphy: "Christmas greetings to you from Mother, Father, sisters and brothers and Granny. May you have a very happy Christmas.

To Eamonn Carberry: Greetings and best wishes for your happiness at Christmas, and looking forward to seeing you in the New Year. With all my love—Theresa.

To Hugh Moore: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas, and all crew members of the ship.

To Eddie Rowan: Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and the New Year, and a Happy Birthday. From your loving wife, Tess and family; Ma and Ella.

To Ronan Dunne: Wishing you a very Happy Christmas from Mam, Dad, Aedamar, Ciaran and Darina.

To James and George Murphy: Christmas Greetings from Mother, Father and all the family at 18 Rory O'Connor Place; also Aunt Sarah and Wally Hill and children; also No. 2 Bride's Road, Wicklow.

To W. Howie, Chief Engineer: Christmas Greetings and love from Mary, wee Susan and the two little Junior Engineers !!!

To William Warren, Chief Steward: Greetings to Daddy—we miss you very much and hope you will be home soon. Love June and Denise. Greetings to you and all aboard. A very Happy Christmas from Birdie, who misses you very much and hopes to see you in the New Year.

To Austin Bolger: Wishing you and all the boys on the "Irish Maple" a very Happy Christmas. Mother, Mary, Cecile and Eileen.

To Thomas Wm. Meagher: Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and much happiness in the New Year—from Mam, Dad, Frank and Margaret.

To Raymond Waterhouse: Hoping to see you home for Christmas or in the very near future. Meanwhile, every good wish—From Peggy and all the Mountaine family.

To Raymond Palcic, Deck Boy: Our loving thoughts and good wishes are with you always, Ray, but especially this Christmas. Mum, Dad and all the family.



"IRISH OAK"

To Michael Dillon, 4th Engineer: Best wishes and blessings from Mammy, brothers, sisters, brother-in-law, Grandad and relatives.

To Danny O'Neill, 2nd Officer: Christmas Greetings from Roisin, and Mum, Nancy, Margert, Michael, Anthony, Billy and Jimmy. Also, congratulations on obtaining your 1st Mate's Foreign-going Certificate in September last.

To Paddy Fay, Chief Steward: Greetings for a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. God bless you, and best wishes to all the crew. Mother, Father, Sisters Tressa, Betty and Maeve.

To Jack O'Brien: Loving Greetings. May you have a very happy Christmas. From Mother.

To Bosun Tommie O'Connell: Happy Christmas from Marion and Tommie and your loving wife who misses you very much.

To P. J. Boyle: Greetings from Mum and Dad, Brothers and Sisters and Uncles and Aunts. Looking forward to seeing you in January.

To John Duff: Greetings to you John on your 17th birthday from all at home and they also send best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas.

To Maurice Ward: Christmas greetings to you from Mam and all at No. 8.

To Andrew Stout: Greetings and best wishes for a happy Christmas from your wife.

"IRISH HAWTHORN"

To **Edward Fricker**: Love and best wishes for Christmas from your wife Maureen and greetings to you also from all in 5 Crushrod, Drogheda.

To **Michael Gilton**: Christmas Greetings and a very happy New Year, with love from Aunt Kathleen and Aunt Bridie.

To **Laurence Hanlon**: Love and best wishes from your mother and all the family including Aunt Kitty and Willie.

To **Gerald Daly**: Happy 21st Birthday Greetings to you from your loving mother, brothers and sisters, Aunt May and sisters-in-law. They also send you greetings and best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas.

To **Desmond Keoghan**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas, from Pat and the children. Happy Christmas to you also from mother and all at home.

To **John Kelleher**: A very Happy and Holy Christmas to you from your loving wife and children.

To **Everard Doyle**: A very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from Mam and Dad, Purnell, Lu, and baby Patrick, Aunt Etty, Winnie, Paddy, Betty and John. God Bless and protect you.

To **Alec Rose**: Wishing you a very happy Christmas, regret that you are not with us. Regards from Jim, Wally and the boys and the Jones family of 31 Blarney St. Shall drink your health on May's 21st birthday. All our love, from Mother, Father and all the Rose family.

To **Sean Lattin**: A very happy Christmas and bright New Year from Mother and Father, sisters and brothers. We will be all thinking of you on Christmas Day.

To **Thomas and Tony Stout**: Christmas Greetings to you from your Mam, Sheila and Angela.

To **Teddy Russell**: Birthday greetings to you from your Mam, Dad, Rena, James, Patricia and Grandfather and they all join in wishing you a very happy Christmas.

To **Thomas Gallagher, Donkeyman**: Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year from Miss Gallagher, Dike and Josie Tucker, and the boys in Cassidy's Pub.

To **Reginald Eric Cullen**: A very happy Christmas and a bright New Year. Dad, Mum, Dessie, Tony, Imelda, Loraine and little Ann.

To **Michael Gilton**: Christmas greetings and every good wish. Dad, Mam, Frank, Ann, Tom, Mary, Kathleen, and all your friends here who wish you every blessing; also remember us to his friend, Jim Hannah.

To **Phil Hawkins**: Christmas Greetings and a Very Happy New Year. Mammy, Daddy, and all the family at 2 George Reynolds House, Dublin.

To **Michael Fleming**: Wishing you a Happy and a Holy Christmas from all the family and your friends in Dublin.

To **James Hannah**: Greetings from Mam, Dad, Brothers and Sisters at 67 Ravensdale Road, also from the Pierce and Donnelly families; also Louisa.

To **Patrick McNamara**: Greetings from Mother, Brothers, Sisters and the rest of his family at 53 Shulmier Road, East Wall.

To **Donal Burke**: Christmas Greetings from Mam, Dad, Sean, David, Pat and family, Maurice, Maura and Jean Neily, Mrs. Barrett and Albert, Uncle John, Nora and family.

To **Neil and Harry Loughrey**: Greetings:

To Neil on the 'Hawthorn', as she cuts the foaming sea,
To Harry on the 'Maple' wherever she may be,
We would like to send best wishes
And lots of joy and cheer,
For a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From Father, Mother, Julia, Anne, Sheila, Ethna, Michael, and Francis.

"IRISH FIR"

To **Willie O'Brien**: Loving greetings and may you have a very happy Christmas from your mother.

To **John O'Keeffe**: Loving greetings and a very happy Christmas from your sister Catherine.

To **Tommy McGuire**: Greetings from Maisie, Rose-Mary, Anita, John, also from all at 36 Westland Row, K. and The Three Ds., and wishing all your mates a Happy Christmas. Love, Maisie.

To **Pat Brazil, 3rd Eng.**: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mammy, Sisters, Sean, Nephews and Nieces.

To **Jackie Allen, 3rd Off.**: A Very Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. Miriam.

To **Stephen Howlin, 2nd Eng.**: Christmas Greetings and best wishes from Marie, son Tony, and Johnny and the boy.



The little jockey is Richard O'Connor who sends birthday and Christmas greetings to his dad Pat O'Connor, "Irish Plane", and is joined by "your loving Wife, Mum, Dad and sisters".

"IRISH LARCH"

To **William Hynes, Jun. Eng.**: Greetings for Christmas; hope you come home soon to munch a bun with us. Greetings also to the Captain, Chief and crew, and may God take care of them all. Mammy, Daddy, Brendan, also Lyn, Auntie Kitty and Renee, and not forgetting "Mary".

To **Brian Murphy, 3rd Officer**: Greetings and looking forward to your homecoming. Love from Mother, Father, Una, Diarmuid, Olive, and the rest of the family.

To **Kevin Geoghegan**: Christmas greetings and best wishes to you and to all who sail with you. Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters.

To **Harold Johnson, Deck Boy**: Best wishes and God's Blessings—Father, Mother, sister Olive and Katherine, brothers Richard and Jack; Grandad Richard Nolan, who was 90 years young last October.

To **Bernard Dorgan**: Greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Mother and all at home.

To **Tom Rickard, E.D.H.**: Christmas greetings and best wishes—Mam.

"IRISH ASH"

To Captain John M. Flanagan: Best wishes for a happy Christmas—from Mother and rest of family.

To Thomas Molloy, Jun. Eng.: Our thoughts are with you always, Tommy. Wherever you may be, And we wish you a Happy Christmas. While you are far away at sea. Love from Mam and Dad, Harry and Lilian, Rita, Jimmy, Desy, Kevin; your pal John Wall; also both Grandmothers and Aunts, not forgetting Jack.

To John Twomey, Jun. Eng.: Sorry you will not be home for Christmas. May God bless you. Have a nice time. Do not worry about me. I am going to Jim and Marie—Mam. Sorry you will not be coming home for Christmas. We will miss the old pint together. Be sure and enjoy yourself. God bless. Love. —Jim and Marie Rea.

To Martin Kennedy, Jun. Eng.: May the peace of Christmas be with thee. Wherever you are, on land or sea. From Father, Mother, Brother and Uncle.

To Joseph Gannon, Catering Boy: Christmas Greetings and New Year wishes to my dear son, love from Mother, Father, brothers and sisters.

To Paddy Kearon, A.B.: A Merry Christmas from Eileen and family.

To D. Scanlan: Best wishes for Christmas, Des. We are thinking of you. Paddy and all at 92.

To Charlie and R. Lumsden: Happy Christmas to our Daddy and Grandad from Colum and Kieron and all at 93. Mrs. Carmel Lumsden.

To Frank Kelly: A happy Christmas from Dad (Captain Jim), Mum and all the boys.

To Alex Calderwood, 2nd Engineer:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
May Christmas bring to you a host
Of just those things you long for most,
And through the coming glad New Year
May skies above be bright and clear.

From Father, Mother, Kenneth and Jim, also from all at 3 Laggan Road and 27 Downe Crescent.

To John (Noel) Appleby: Happy Birthday on the 22nd December and a Happy Christmas. Hoping to have you home early in the New Year P.G. From his loving mother, brothers, sisters and their families.

To Paddy Coyle: Christmas Greetings from his wife Lily and children.

To Gerry Broderick: Christmas Greetings to my dear Dad. Here's hoping you have a very happy Christmas. We will be thinking of you. God Bless. From Vera, Jimmie, Angela, Noleen and Jimmie Junior, and "Christmas Greetings to my husband Gerry. Hope you have a very happy Christmas". From Mrs. Broderick.

To Patrick Hearne: Wishing you a very happy Christmas and Merry New Year. Hoping to see you in the near future. From Mother, Father, brothers and sisters.

To Noel Hart: Best wishes and blessing for your 15th birthday on 9th December and wishing you a Happy Christmas and bright New Year. From Father, Mother, Sisters, Uncle Paddy and cousin Edward. Uncle Jack, Aunt Vera, Granny, Grandad and cousins Mary, Sean, Susan and Eamon. Uncle Jim, Aunt Kay, cousins Laurence, Jimmy, Derek, Declan and baby Paul and from your aunties, uncles and cousins in Enniscorthy.

To Patrick Redmond: Have a nice Christmas. We will be thinking of you. From Mother, Sisters and Brothers.

To Oliver Foley: Happy Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you soon. God Bless. From Father, Mother, Brothers, Sister and all the kids.

To Paddy Lyons: Happy Christmas and God Bless. From his sister and all at Springfield.

To Martin Bowen: All the best for Christmas—have a good time and hoping to see you early in the New Year. From Mam and Dad.

To George Kavanagh: Christmas Greetings from Father, Mother, brothers and sisters, especially little Pete and brother Brendan.



Some of the lads on the "Irish Ash". P. Kearon, D. Scanlon, R. Lumsden, C. Lumsden, G. Broderick, P. Redmond.

To Kevin Joseph Flynn: Hope this finds you very well as we all are here. Hugh James and all the gang send very best wishes for Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to seeing you soon. From your loving mother.

To James Nangle: We hope you had a nice birthday. This is to wish you a Happy Christmas and also all the crew on the "Irish Ash". Your sisters and brother in England and all at home wish you the same. With love and God Bless from Mam and Dad.

To James Ryder: Christmas and New Year Greetings to James. With love and best wishes from his wife Kathleen, daughters Betty, Mary and son Jim.

To J. F. Fogarty: Loving Christmas Greetings from Mam and all at home.

To S. Jolley, Chief Engineer: Love and good wishes for a Happy Christmas from Mary, Karen and Susanne. Sorry you can't be with us.

To W. Haddock: Hello Billy. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and hoping you are keeping well. All here send love and all the club members of the Brugh Aire. Write soon. From Mammy, Daddy, Philis, Joan, Robert, Morris, Patty, Lily, Barbara, Albert, Rusty and Michael.

"IRISH HOLLY"

To Christopher Markey: Loving greetings from Mary, Deirdre and Mary Doherty, and your ever loving wife, Mary.

Christmas Greetings to the (Tommy Shanters) gang on the "Holly" and special greetings to Ned Roche, from Sally and the family.

To Peter Byrne: Christmas greetings and best wishes to my dear husband from his loving wife Frances and family.

To Dick Leonard: Christmas Greeting and every good wish from our children and myself—Mrs. M. Leonard, Richie, Jimmy, Joan and Emily and Liam.

To Paul Thompson: Christmas Greetings and best wishes—Mammy, brothers and sisters, and girl-friend, Margaret.

"IRISH BLACKTHORN"

To Michael Lyons, Jun. Eng.: Best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas; also all good wishes from all your friends and neighbours, not forgetting all the girls you left behind! We're always thinking of you and praying for you and all aboard the "Hawthorn". Best love to you and God bless. Your loving Mother and Sisters, Joan, Una and Patricia; also all at 3 Errigal Road, Ma and Da Gaynor, Mary, Margaret, Gerry, Jim, Noel, May and Sandra.

AN UNSIGNED SUGGESTION

It was inevitable, we believed, that some smart anonymous suggestions would be received along with the well meaning ones, following on the Suggestion Scheme announced in our last issue. In fact, we only received one of the wrong type and we are going to quote the printable parts here. Some words, mostly names of personnel, must be left out in the interest of good taste. For some peculiar reason our anonymous friend thought fit to mark the envelope containing the suggestion with the name of one of our Masters.

"I think you should sack half of your office staff and save a few bob. If one gets bond all should get bond. Give crew sub same time as officer bums and not a port later. Sack Skippers ————. Take back crews that were sacked at the undermanned act. Don't take ———— bastards as apprentices. (He underlines this bit, and readers may insert the omitted word to taste. It could be Dublin, Cork, Kerry or Ringsend, etc.). Don't publish Signal—it costs too much money for the Company, and don't be stupid, nobody in the office cares for the seamen. Be more polite when seamen are looking for jobs. And when you have sorted your Office out you can sort out the ships and dump them all into the Liffey. The ships are good but the crews are lousy".

Apart from having a positive interest in all the Company's personnel, the Management are well aware that the ships cannot be efficient if dissatisfaction is rife among the crews. If this man is harbouring some grievance or some bitterness he is invited to let the Personnel Manager know all about it and he can be confident that any complaint he has to make will get an unprejudiced hearing and, if it merits it, an immediate investigation. He can take it that the business of good staff relations is one of top priority in all industry today and doubly important in the shipping world, having regard to the special nature of the conditions prevailing.

We now make a suggestion to the anonymous suggester. Why not re-write your ideas, minus the invective and send them in for serious consideration.

"IRISH ROWAN" IN COLLISION

The "Irish Rowan" was in collision with the Greek ship "Evie" when leaving Vancouver on November 27th. Both ships were damaged. The "Irish Rowan" returned to Vancouver for drydocking and repairs. There were no casualties on either ship.

"IRISH SPRUCE"—BULLS—By David Glass.

The Port of Cork was the scene of great activity last October 16th when we embarked some very distinguished passengers en route for the New World. As befits such an event their send-off was suitably recorded by such public bodies as the Cork Examiner, Radio and Telefis Eireann.

For those unfamiliar with Burke's Peerage our guests were sporting such grandiose titles as Prospero of Chaterhouse, King Pin of Seldon and Pride of Wyche Cross, to name but a few, belonging to the Royal and Ancient House of Aberdeen, who, legend has it are descended from a certain bovine beauty named Angus.

On arriving at their new quarters they must obviously have approved of everything as no time was wasted getting down to the grub steaks. King Pin volubly declared his satisfaction by a playful bellow, which caused a general evacuation of onlookers.

Once settled in their respective stalls the animals proved to be firm favourites with the ship's company and certainly did not have a lack of visitors.

During the voyage our royal entourage quartered down without incident despite the fact that conditions were a bit inclement for the first few days. Again when approaching the American side it was learned that a certain lively water-sprite by the name of "Ginny" was lurking about and up to all sorts of unpredictable tricks. Lavish attention was, however, bestowed on all and the party braved the passage without incident. Thanks in this respect are due Mr. Rock Humphries, our agricultural expert travelling with us and Mr. Jerry Rooney, our "lamps and chief cattleman assistant" who is now accepted by all and sundry as the ship's expert on all things bovine and otherwise. Indeed such affection was felt on their respective parts that Jerry tried to effect an introduction between Prospero and young Raymond Smyth, our pantry boy, but Raymond decided this was too much "bull" on Jerry's part and declined.

Similarly when we arrived in Brooklyn another welcoming party was on hand to greet our charges in the U.S. This time in the shape of the Press and the animals' owners. One rancher wearing a suitable ten gallon Texan hat was heard to exclaim to Chief Officer Byrne his thanks and praise at how well they all looked. His animal, he said, was "a mighty fine hunk o' beef".

In response to many requests we give the Company's Office addresses and telephone numbers:

DUBLIN OFFICE: 19/21 Aston Quay, Dublin 2.

Telephone No.: 72901.

CORK OFFICE: 41 South Mall, Cork.

Telephone No.: 23111.