

IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

THE CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ITS ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

CATALOGUE OF 51 RECORDINGS

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Irish Life and Lore Series

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NAME: PAT KELLEHER, BORN 1939, FORMER DIRECTOR OF C.I.T (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 1

Subject: A Pioneer in Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 61:52

Description: Pat Kelleher was born in Limerick where his father was stationed at Edward St. Garda Station. Some years after the death of his father, when Pat was 17 years old, the family moved to Galway. Pat describes his own background in education and his professional experiences up until 1963 where he joined the staff of the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute, operating under the City of Cork VEC. He discusses the origins and the development of the R.T.C., his time spent as a member of staff of the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute and his introduction to Cork's technical education system. He recalls the people who worked with him in the Crawford, the move to Bishopstown and his time as a Director of the R.T.C. He also speaks about other colleges, such as the National Marine College at Ringaskiddy. He describes the establishment of the Biomedical Science laboratory and recalls the introduction of Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Computing, the academic structures when the new R.T.C.s were set up in the early 1970's and the introduction of expert teachers. In 1971 Pat Kelleher helped organise a Conference on Technical Education as part of his involvement in the Cork Scientific Council of which he was Treasurer, and he describes this mammoth logistical undertaking. He has a real love of music, which he discusses in this recording.



NAME: PAT KELLEHER, BORN 1939 (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 2

Subject: A driving force in Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 42:02

Description: This recording with Pat Kelleher focuses on his time as Director of C.I.T from 1988 to 2004. He recalls his early days teaching at the Crawford Institute beginning in November 1963, and the development of new aspects of technical education for the Diploma in Chemical Technology. This Diploma was a fore runner to recent developments in the links between U.C.C. and C.I.T. He speaks about his time as Head of the Chemistry Department when Paddy Parfery was CEO of the City of Cork VEC. He describes Paddy as an austere and brilliant man with a great sense of strategy. He speaks of his own contribution to the training of students at a



time when the Celtic Tiger was creating huge demand for qualified employees in the workforce. It is most interesting to hear him talk about his new focuses in retirement.

NAME: TERRY LAYTON, BORN 1920, FORMER LECTURER IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL DRAWING (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 3

Subject: Recollections of the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 78:58

Description: Terry Leyton was born in Wellington Bridge where his parents had been shopkeepers, and this recording begins as he speaks about his background, his decision to volunteer to join the British Navy in 1939 and his feelings at being rejected due to previous injury. After a period in the Southern Press Tool Company he attended a teacher training course in Dublin. He recalls his days as a student in the Crawford, and undertaking a course in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. At the beginning of his teaching career in 1948 he was appointed to teach engineering at the Crawford. He recalls the members of staff there and their Departments, and well remembers the very positive atmosphere which prevailed. Subsequently he was transferred to the Marine Engineering class and he speaks about the developments in Nautical Studies. The move to Bishopstown is recalled in detail, and he also discusses his membership of the Cork City branch of the TUI, of which he was Chairman.



NAME: TERRY LAYTON, BORN 1920, LECTURER IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL DRAWING (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 4

Subject: Recollections of the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 62:49

Description: This recording begins with memories of past members of staff in the Crawford. Terry Layton speaks anecdotally about the characters, the general regulations, day and evening classes, fees and the use of the Irish language. An overview of some of the departments is provided, including Engineering (mechanical, electrical and motor-car) and the School of Building and Furniture. This recording finishes with Terry's own definite views on the changes in teaching practices over his lifetime.



NAME: CHRISTY McCARTHY, BORN 1925, FORMER LECTURER IN MOTOR CAR ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 5

Subject: A passion for Engineering

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:57

Description: Christy McCarthy was born and reared in Clashanure, Ovens. In this recording he speaks at great length about his memories and stories relating to his father's involvement in steam threshing for the local farmers. Christy explains how difficult times were in the 1930s. He describes the workings of the internal combustion engine and explains how his great interest in motor-car engineering was engendered at a very early stage in his life. He recalls his time as a student in the Crawford, from 1944 and in 1946 he began work as a welder at the Ford Marina Plant in Cork, remaining there until 1949. He studied at teachers' training college at Ringsend in Dublin from 1949 to 1951 and began work at the Crawford in 1952 when David Daly was C.E.O. and Teddy Murphy the School Principal. He worked under Paddy McCarthy at the Motor Engineering Department. This recording concluded with Christy McCarthy's memories of the relocation of his Department to Bishopstown in 1974, and the changes and developments in motor engineering over the following years.



NAME: TERRY LAYTON, BORN 1920, FORMER LECTURER IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL DRAWING, AND CHRISTY McCARTHY, BORN 1925, FORMER LECTURER IN MOTOR CAR ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 6

Subject: The Crawford revisited

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 70:50

Description: Terry Layton and Christy McCarthy agreed to be recorded at their old place of work. Terry Layton began teaching at the Crawford in 1948, and Christy McCarthy in 1952 and both men taught there until 1974. This was their first visit to the Crawford since they transferred to Bishopstown. The recording begins at the rear entrance, down the corridors and into the classrooms, while discussions take place about the many aspects of the Technical College which was housed there in earlier times. Nowadays, the building is occupied by the Crawford College of Art and Design, and many changes have taken place over the years, but these did not affect the clear memories of the former teachers. Passing the Principal's office, Christy and Terry



speak about Principals John F. King, Jim Barry, Teddy Murphy and J.P. Roche, who continued his tenure as Principal at the R.T.C. Also recalled were David Daly CEO and Paddy Parfrey CEO. The Library was used as a staff room in earlier days. The Library is now in the 'Exam Hall' where ceili dancing would be enjoyed on special occasions. The recording continues at the metal workshop where Christy McCarthy spent much of his time, initially as a student, and processes upstairs to the drawing rooms where Terry Layton taught. Before the recording concluded, many other rooms which had housed various Departments in the old establishment were visited and memories recaptured.

NAME: EAMONN WALL, BORN 1940, LECTURER IN BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 7

Subject: A challenging career

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 47:55

Description: Eamonn Wall is indeed a man who has inspired learning in the field of science. He was born and grew up in Blackpool, Cork, and his father worked as a trade union official. His love of science began in the North Monastery, where his mentor was Mr Heffernan, who taught history and geography. Later, Eamonn attended the Crawford Institute, where he studied Industrial Science, with the help of a bursary. He began a career in Medical Laboratory Science in St. Finbarr's Hospital in Cork and later worked at the Children's Hospital in Temple Street, Dublin for two years and then moved to the Mater Hospital, where he worked for three years, subsequently receiving his Fellowship from the Institute of the Medical Laboratory Scientists. In this recording, he speaks about the importance of laboratory testing in the sixties, a challenging time in the science field, which was really breaking ground at this time in Ireland. All his education up to this time had been theoretical rather than practical. The following two years at University College Hospital, in London provided him with great experience, and while there he also got involved in part-time teaching in Paddington Polytech. He speaks in great detail about coming back to Ireland, and teaching at Kevin Street, Dublin, for nine years before arriving back in Cork to work at the new R.T.C. in 1975. He describes the years that followed, up until the present day.



NAME: EAMONN WALL, BORN 1940, LECTURER IN BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 8

Subject: A passion for sport

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 38:27

Description: In this recording with Eamonn Wall, the focus is on his involvement in the G.A.A at the C.I.T campus. Ever since his arrival at the R.T.C he had an involvement in hurling and football, which played a central role in the students' development. He speaks about the successful staff football team, and about the history of the Sigerson (football) and Fitzgibbon (hurling) Cups, as well as the Ashbourne Cup for camogie. He himself was involved, from the early days, in organising the football teams. Fulltime sports officers and coaches are now in place for more than 10 years who bring their skills and abilities to the organisation and development of games to C.I.T. When RTC Cork first opened its fledgling campus, sports facilities were not a priority as they consisted of two tennis courts and an all weather hockey pitch. Through the far sighted and enlightened efforts of the former Director Dr. Pat Kelleher and former Registrar Brendan Goggin, lands were purchased which allowed for the development of the modern facilities now available for all sports activities. Eamonn Wall discusses the bonding between the students and the staff, and strongly feels that sport pulls people together. He also speaks of the breaking down of barriers between the Institutes of Technology and Universities, due to the establishment of new structures for GAA games in Higher Education.



NAME: TADHG CONNOLLY, BORN 1926, FORMER EDUCATION OFFICER, V.E.C (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 9

Subject: Breaking ground in Vocational Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 63:26

Description: Tadhg Connolly was born in Cork city and he initially recalls his school days at O'Sullivan's Quay. He trained as a vocational teacher at Bolton Street, Dublin and in 1951 he began to teach woodwork at the Crawford Institute. He speaks about his various teaching assignments and the new School of Furniture which was set up in 1963, of which he was in charge. It is most interesting to hear Tadhg Connolly discuss the many changes in teaching practice during this time. The educational structure was the



responsibility of the Vocational Education Committee, and the Chief Executive Officer and the Principals of the various institutions put this into effect. Tadhg speaks in great detail about the history of vocational schools from the 1930's onwards, and he also explains how the Vocational Education Act (1930) provided for the education of boys and girls who had left school at the age of 14. In 1967 he was appointed Principal of Scoil Eoin Naofa and in 1972 was assigned as Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer in preparation for the planning and building of the new R.T.C. He returns to the topic of the School of Furniture, which was housed in St. John's Church along with courses on building technology, which were later to be accommodated at the new R.T.C. Development.

NAME: TADHG CONNOLLY, BORN 1926, FORMER EDUCATION OFFICER, V.E.C (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 10

Subject: Breaking ground in vocational education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 66:22

Description: Tadhg Connolly began this recording by recounting in fascinating detail the history of C.I.T. beginning with the CMTI in 1912. He discusses teaching training courses, established in 1966 and the logistics involved in running these courses. He recalls the vocational courses, the staff at the Crawford Institute and their work, general regulations and evening classes. An International Apprentice Competition was staged in Cork in 1979 a major event in Tadhg Connolly's academic life and he describes his great involvement in the Competition.



NAME: LARRY POLAND, BORN 1934, FORMER HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 11

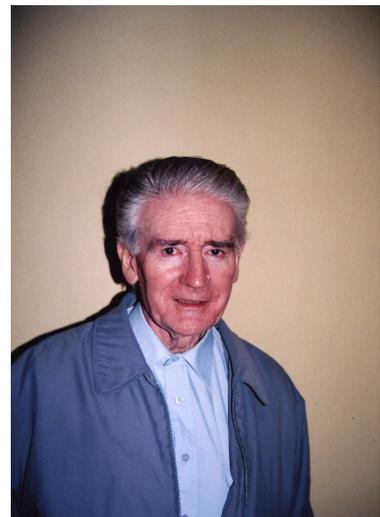
Subject: Advances in engineering technology

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:40

Description: Larry Poland initially recalls his early schooling in Bandon, Co. Cork followed by his days at Presentation Brothers College in Cork. He discusses his time at UCC and his graduation with a primary degree. He recalls the history of UCC and the Crawford during the 1920s when they worked jointly on a degree course for electrical and mechanical engineers. After World War II, the Crawford conducted a radio course until the early 1950s. A Marine Engineering



course for Irish Shipping was established at the Crawford in the 1950s and it was the forerunner of the National Maritime Institute in Ringaskiddy. After graduation Larry spent a most interesting three months in 1958 as a student engineer with Aer Lingus and following graduation was appointed to the Crawford to lead a then small Electrical Engineering department. During his interview by the VEC, he was asked by the CEO if he could develop a telecommunications course, and he assured him that he could indeed. He humorously recalls his rather heated discussions with the powers that be about the budget for the new course, discussions that were eventually to prove successful.

NAME: LARRY POLAND, BORN 1934, FORMER HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 12

Subject: Advances in engineering technology

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 35:14

Description: This recording with Larry Poland begins as he discusses the advances in courses up to PhD level in the Institute of Technology in 1992. He talks about the great success stories of some of his students, his own input into the setting up of EMC in Cork, and the involvement of the IDA in the setting up of new companies in the Cork region and elsewhere in Ireland during the 1980s and 90s. He also discusses his great interest in music.



NAME: LARRY POLAND, BORN 1934, FORMER HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Part 3)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 13

Subject: The establishment of technical courses at the RTC.

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 71:49

Description: Larry Poland began part-time technician courses for the repair of radios and televisions in the 1960s and points out that there were very few televisions in Ireland at that time. It is interesting to hear him describe the changeover from black and white TV technology to colour. Other courses included apprentice, to technician, to higher technician, to honours degree, to Master degree, to Doctoral qualifications as well as post-Doctoral activities. He recalls his involvement with the VEC and its CEO Paddy Parfrey. It is fascinating to hear him speak about his position as a senior figure in the College after the setting up of the RTC, and the



move to Bishopstown. He has a profound interest in the arts, particularly music, and has great knowledge of the science and technology associated with music.

NAME: LARRY POLAND, BORN 1934, FORMER HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (Part 4)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 14

Subject: Advancement in technology over three decades

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 18:37

Description: This recording begins as Larry Poland recalls the appointment of Louis O'Halloran, a UCC graduate and Post Office engineer who later worked for IBM. In 1969 full-time two-year Certificate courses covering the subjects of electronic, telecommunications and computer engineering were established at the Crawford, initially with City & Guilds recognition, with particular attention to the new subject of computer engineering. Soon the NCEA was established and the courses were redesigned and validated. In 1974 the Diploma course in Electronic Engineering was established and 1979 saw the four-year honours Degree course established.



NAME: BRENDAN GOGGIN, BORN 1944, FORMER REGISTRAR C.I.T. (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 15

Subject: Recollections of the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute and of the RTC

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 70:45

Description: Brendan Goggin began his teaching in the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute in 1970. Following a short period in Athlone RTC during its start-up year, he returned to a full-time position in the Crawford in 1971. In this recording he provides an overview of the developing technological sector of education in the early 1970's, the role of the VEC and the planning for the new Cork RTC building. He recalls the establishment of new courses and the increased interest by students in courses in the sector. He discusses the constraints on developing degree courses in the RTCs during the 1970s and the eventual changes in national policy at the end of the decade. He recalls aspects of the early days of the RTC, including his memories of attending the official opening of the College by Taoiseach Jack Lynch on 31st December 1977. Brendan has witnessed many changes in education during his career, which he



discusses in the course of this initial recording.

NAME: BRENDAN GOGGIN, BORN 1944, FORMER REGISTRAR IN C.I.T. (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 16

Subject: Development of Technological Education

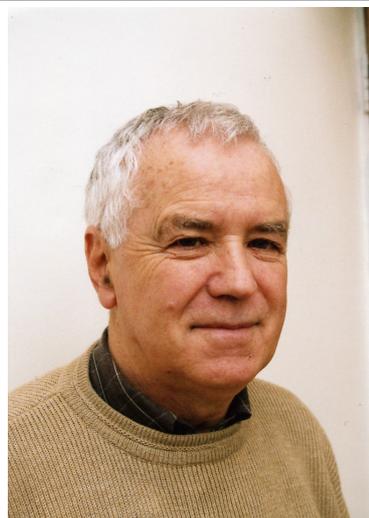
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 56:49

Description: Brendan Goggin reminisces about his teaching career as a lecturer in Chemistry. He recalls his involvement in the early 1970's in the establishment of one of the earliest NCEA diploma courses, the Diploma in Chemical Technology.

This had been an NUI qualification and its development reflected the commitment to developing the technological sector. He recalls the increased demand for places over the years and the changes to the admissions system, including those during his 15 years as Registrar. He also discusses the planning for the developments higher education in the 1990s and its implications for Cork RTC. Other subjects discussed are the education programmes established in the early 1990s under the Euroform and NOW initiatives and supported by EU cohesion funds. He also discusses the successful campaign for the designation of Cork RTC as Cork Institute of Technology.



NAME: BRENDAN GOGGIN, BORN 1944, REGISTRAR IN C.I.T. (Part 3)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 17

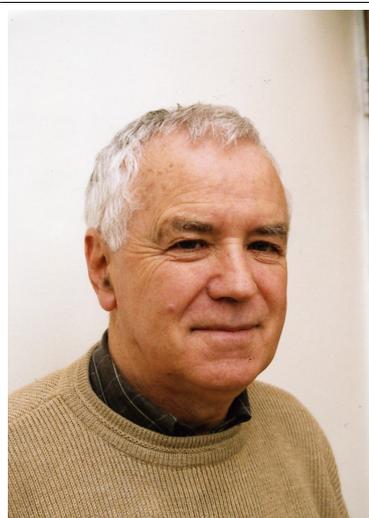
Subject: The Role of Registrar

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 67:15

Description: Brendan Goggin speaks about his appointment as Registrar of CIT and his role in the post up to his retirement in 2008. He talks of the academic developments in CIT during that time as well as the development of student services and CIT's facilities. Reference is made to the incorporation of the Crawford College of Art and the Cork School of Music into the College as a result of the Regional Colleges Act in 1992. He speaks of the academic planning to provide a basis for the new School of Music building and also refers the establishment of the National Maritime College of Ireland as a school of CIT. Brendan also refers to his role in many other aspects of CIT life, such as the developing relations with other higher education institutions including UCC, his role in promoting the arts in CIT and his selecting of the motto on the Institute's crest.



NAME: BERNARD CASEY, BORN 1935, FORMER LECTURER IN THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 18

Subject: Long memories of the School of Music

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:28

Description: Bernard Casey spent 55 years in the School of Music, initially as a student and subsequently as a teacher. He witnessed many changes in the buildings, the staff, the teaching methods and in the types of musical instruments taught. In this recording, he recalls how his own interest in and love of music was initiated. He learned the clarinet as a student in the School of Music and he describes the pre-50's old building, and later the move to the new building in George's Quay. There he studied for a diploma in music, while working in his own family business in the city. He recalls the one-day-a-week school in Wellington Road, while building Union Quay, and also the fact that if you wanted to learn to read music you needed to attend the School of Music or by joining the many bands, such as the Barrack Street Band, and the Butter Exchange Band. Frank Treacy was the teacher in the 1950s, and taught night classes there. Bernard recalls the directors of the School of Music down through the years, Mr Curtis, Bridget Doolan, John Murphy and Geoff Spratt, and the great innovations they brought to the School. The rules, regulations and conditions at the school over the years were recalled and also the amalgamation with the R.T.C.



NAME: DECLAN TOWNSEND, BORN 1938, FORMER LECTURER, SCHOOL OF MUSIC (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 19

Subject: A passion for music

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 79:20

Description: Declan Townsend recalls his early days growing up in Tralee where his family was deeply rooted in the tradition of music. He describes his family's move to Cork, his education in the fifties in the school at Sullivan's Quay, and his entrance to the School of Music. His parents became part of the Cork Symphony Orchestra, under the conductorship of Aloys Fleischmann and Declan also joined the orchestra at the young age of 14. He talks about his studentship in music in U.C.C, where he completed his B.Mus and where he was taught by Aloys Fleischmann and Sean Neeson. He began to teach violin for the County Music Scheme, and explains how the Scheme came into being. He talks at great length about



his own contribution in writing music for the orchestras at Cork School of Music and Cork Youth Orchestra, one of which was toured by the National Youth Orchestra u/18s, and speaks about the marvellous driving force Bridget Doolan brought to the School of Music, and her recruitment of some excellent staff during her time.

NAME: DECLAN TOWNSEND, BORN 1938, FORMER SCHOOL OF MUSIC (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 20

Subject: A passion for music

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 36:17

Description: In this recording, Declan Townsend discusses the growth in quality of the students in the School of Music over the years, and he also recalls his time as a music reviewer for the 'Irish Examiner' which has spanned fifteen years. Having suffered a 'burnout' in 1995, he vacated his post of Head of Department, and returned to teaching for a further six years. He took early retirement in 2001 and submitted his letter of resignation in the summer of that year. He says that despite his total commitment to the School from 1974 to 2001, and the contribution he made to its development, his letter was not acknowledged by either the Director of C.I.T. or the Chairman of the Governing Body, which is a source of immense sadness to him.



NAME: LOUIS O'HALLORAN, BORN 1935, FORMER LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 21

Subject: A creative thinker

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 64:17

Description: Louis O'Halloran discusses his early schooldays and later being awarded scholarships to attend university. He studied Electrical Engineering at U.C.C where his mentor at the time was Professor Teago. He recalls his time in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and the great advances made there at the time. In 1963 he began work in IBM as a computer maintenance engineer, and this involved intensive training in computers at that early stage. He later joined a small company in Cork, called Jowen Electronics which produced electrical display boards for sports stadia, and was the initiator of such a system. Louis describes his responsibility for the design and supervision of this work. In September 1970 he was appointed to the R.T.C by Larry



Poland, Head of the Electronics Department and there he began a new course for electronic technicians specialising in computers. He returns at the end of the recording to talk in more detail about the positions he has held during his life.

NAME: DONAL BURKE, BORN 1941, FORMER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF NAUTICAL STUDIES CIT, FIRST HEAD OF THE NATIONAL MARITIME COLLEGE OF IRELAND

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 22

Subject: A love for the sea

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 26:29

Description: From a very early age, Donal Burke had a huge interest in ships and the sea. After his childhood education was completed, he studied at the Crawford from 1955 to 1960 where he was part of the Marine Engineering Course. He then completed his engineering training at the Liffey Dockyard as an apprentice from 1960 to 1962. He commenced his seagoing training with Irish Shipping Limited and discusses all his experiences there, he joined the 'Irish Poplar' in Glasgow as a Junior Engineer, working his way up through the ranks to attain the position of Chief Engineer. Subsequently, he worked for an insurance company for a short time until he secured a teaching position in the Crawford in 1969. He lectured in Marine Engineering on the 'Cill Airne' – the R.T.C. training ship which was docked in Lapp's Quay, across from the City Hall. He recalls his many happy memories of his time teaching in the Marine Department in the R.T.C.



NAME: CHARLIE McSWINEY, BORN 1928, FORMER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF NAUTICAL STUDIES, FORMER DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OF CORK R.T.C.

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 23

Subject: Witnessing many changes in marine engineering

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 64:03

Description: Charlie McSwiney's passion for the sea is clearly evident in this recording. He discusses at length his ten years at sea, having served his full apprenticeship in Rushbrook Dockyard, from 1946 to 1951. He talks about the Irish Shipping Company, and his time as Chief Engineer on the 'Irish Rose', trading up and down the Baltic and the many other ships on which he sailed. He obtained a position as teacher in the Marine Engineering Department (at that time the Mechanical and Marine Engineering Department) at the Crawford in 1967 and describes the good academic and



practical experience which was gained by the cadets from Irish Shipping Ltd., B.P and Mobil. These cadets in later years returned to study for their Senior Certificates before taking up positions as 2nd and Chief Engineer. Also recalled was the purchase by the V.E.C of the 'Cill Airne' training ship, and Charlie's appointment as Head of Department. He was later appointed Assistant Principal of the R.T.C, later re-titled to Deputy Principal. It is interesting to listen to Charlie's account of the time when the Nautical College in Dun Laoghaire transferred to the R.T.C. where Nautical Studies became a separate Department of which he was appointed Head.

NAME: JOHN CALNAN, BORN 1939, FORMER LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 24

Subject: An overview of education in the C.M.T.I, and the new R.T.C

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 73:07

Description: John Calnan recalls his early education, and his great interest in mathematics and science from a very early age. He graduated with a Science Degree from U.C.C and began his teaching career at Kevin Street Dublin. Two years later he was appointed to the Crawford as a teacher of mathematics, where he ran a course for recruits nominated by the O.P.W especially for engineering technicians. He had been involved in the design of the course from the outset. He discusses at length the vocational educational system, and the improvement in the educational ability of students over the years. He also taught in every Department in the R.T.C., and later in C.I.T. He discusses the improvement in the educational ability of the students over the years. He recalls the economic depression in Ireland in the late 1980's and early 1990's during which time the job prospects for students in the Marine Department became more uncertain and he also describes the subsequent upturn in their career prospects.



NAME: BRENDAN RYAN, BORN 1946, LECTURER,
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 25

Subject: A life teaching and politics

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:59

Description: Brendan Ryan is a native of Athy, Co Kildare, where his father worked as a secondary school teacher. Having left school Brendan spent a couple of years with the Divine Word Missionaries, where he learned about social injustice which was to dictate the path his later political career would follow. He recalls his college days at U.C.D. and Kevin Street, Dublin where he studied Chemical Engineering, graduating in 1971. His introduction to politics came about during his college years, as he became involved in social issues. He joined the Simon Community around the time he was appointed to a post in the Crawford in 1973 during Jim Roche's tenure as Principal. He discusses the responsibilities involved in purchasing all the equipment for the new Chemical Engineering laboratory. It was a time of great change in technical education. He was a member of the Board of Management of the RTC from 1975 to 1982. Brendan Ryan discusses his essentially pragmatic nature, his great support of the Labour party, and his tenure as an Independent Senator from 1981 to 1993 and from 1997 to 1999. He rejoined the Labour party in 1999 and is Chairman of the Cork South Central constituency. He is justly proud of the fact that he was instrumental in bringing the word 'homeless' into housing legislation in Ireland.



NAME: DOMHNALL O'DUBHLAUCHRA, BORN 1951, AND
PAT CROWLEY, BORN 1953, TECHNICIANS IN
CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 26

Subject: Recollections of C.M.T.I and the new R.T.C

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:29

Description: Domhnall O'Dubhluachra and Pat Crowley were recorded at C.I.T. while walking around campus. They recall many interesting anecdotes associated with their own education and the time they spent in the old Crawford. They recall the other members of staff who worked there at that time. The move from the Crawford to Bishopstown is discussed and the early days in the R.T.C under the leadership of Jim Roche, who was Principal. They both witnessed the arrival of the 'Celtic Tiger' era, and the improvement in the courses to meet the mushrooming



demand for qualified students in the workplace. The recording continues with many stories from Domhnall and Pat about the whole organisation of R.T.C.

NAME: GEOFF STEINER-SCOTT, BORN 1948, PRINCIPAL OF THE CRAWFORD COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 27
Subject: A re-awakening of the visual arts
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 53:11



Description: This recording was compiled in Geoff Steiner-Scott's art studio. Now retired, he spends many enjoyable hours creating art which he previously did not have time to do. He discusses his American background, and his study of Art History and Fine Art at Rutgers University. In 197 he came to Ireland, where he found that the visual arts had been receiving less attention than they merited. He joined the visual art committee at the Project Arts Centre in Dublin and began his teaching career in the National College of Art and Design, where he learnt much about the third level education system in Ireland. He recalls his arrival in Cork and taking up his position as Assistant Lecturer in Printmaking with the Crawford Municipal School of Art on 1st January 1977, one of a new group of teachers. This was really a new beginning in Cork for the visual arts and he speaks eloquently about the many challenges and changes which occurred in the early years. The school was initially situated in Emmet Place, and later moved to Sharman Crawford Street in 1979. He recalls that his students were "talented, excited and open to everything." New artistic techniques were introduced and a new curriculum came on stream. The course had been structured around the Art Teachers Certificate, not an ideal structure as no tuition was required in order to sit the exams. The system did not really train people for careers as artists. By 1974, the National Council for Education Awards had begun to put new qualifications in place in all areas of study. The National Diploma in Art and the old Art Teachers Certificate were running in tandem for some time, and these were to become the forerunners to the B.A. in Fine Art or Ceramic Design, and the Higher Diploma in Arts for Art & Design Teachers.

NAME: STELLA BARRY (nee Nagle), BORN 1918, FORMER TEACHER, DEPARTMENT OF HOME ECONOMICS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 28

Subject: Memories from the first quarter of the twentieth century

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 39:19

Description: Stella Barry, who is now in her 91st year, recalls her earliest memories of the Troubles in Ireland, during which her own father was tragically shot dead. Following this disaster her mother reared six children on her own. Stella recalls her schooling at St Angela's on St. Patricks Hill, and later at Sion Hill in Dublin where she qualified as a Domestic Economy teacher in 1938. She recalls at length her ten years teaching in the Crawford, where her subjects were cookery and laundry. She remembers the equipment at the time – there were no electrical appliances – and the basic cooking was brought home by the students. In addition, she describes the night classes which she taught in the School of Commerce and gives a great account of the Principal at the Crawford, Mr King and Mr Daly CEO of the VEC who ran the Department, and the wonderful Christmas parties held there. Her love for her teaching career is vividly evident throughout this recording.



NAME: TONY O'DOHERTY, BORN 1941, FORMER LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 29

Subject: The beginnings in the sciences

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 53:10

Description: Tony O'Doherty is a native of Co Clare and following his schooling he studied at UCG, from where he qualified in 1964 with a Degree in physics. His research was in atmospheric physics and his lecturer and mentor was Dr Tom O'Connor. He remained as a member of the teaching staff at UCG until 1968, when he moved to Dublin as an assistant engineer with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs while simultaneously doing part-time work at Kevin Street College. He then took up an appointment to teach in the Crawford in 1970 and recalls that at that time there existed well established departments for Marine Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry, but not for Physics. Tony O'Doherty taught on the first teacher training course for Rural Sciences. He fondly recalls a great colleague, Dr Aherne, Head of the Chemistry Department. He goes on to discuss the move to Bishopstown,



and the logistics of setting up there, including adapting courses and equipment to the developments in technology which were occurring at that time. He had to write new syllabi, adapting the presentation of the subject for the range of courses to accommodate changes and advances in the subject. He worked closely with the pharmaceutical industry in securing positions for graduates, and he gives a brief account of the emergence of the Department of Applied Physics and Instrumentation.

NAME: MICHAEL AHERN, BORN 1942, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS STUDIES

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 30

Subject: From Ford's Factory to Lord Mayor

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:16

Description: Michael Ahern describes the many stages of his life, beginning with his background, and his work with the Ford Motor Company in 1960. He also worked in Denis Coakley Agricultural Wholesalers, Sunbeam (the Cork Spinning Company), Carrigaline Pottery, Smithwick's Brewery, and Bunzi in Macroom. He managed also to study at night classes in the School of Commerce while continuing to work. He began his teaching career in 1981 at the R.T.C. and so began a very satisfying life's work. In the same year he joined the Labour Party and was co-opted to Cork County Council in 1995 and held the seat in 1999 and 2004. He speaks about the honour of being elected Lord Mayor of Cork.



NAME: CHARLIE PURCELL, BORN 1930, FORMER LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 31

Subject: Creating new ideas

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 61:12

Description: Charlie Purcell has a very interesting story to record. He is a native of Nenagh, North Tipperary who moved to Canada and later to the U.S. where he lived for 10 years. While in Boston he graduated with a Masters Degree in Civil and Structural Engineering and in 1964 he was appointed to a teaching position at Limerick V.E.C. He discusses the fact that at that time he broke new ground because he was one of the first third level teachers in the Vocational system to be appointed outside of Dublin. It is interesting to hear of the courses in which he was involved, which allowed the curriculum to be widened into general Civil Engineering. This



was because the O.P.W were interested only in the two basic subjects of Hydraulics and Surveying. From those early beginnings, some of his students achieved very high positions in their careers, as he discovered at a reunion not too long ago. The recording focuses on his move to Cork in 1973 to take up an appointment at the old Crawford, where he was involved with the design of the first NCEA accredited Civil Engineering courses. He gives his personal opinion on the grading of students, and feels that the present system does not do justice to some of the students. He also discusses the large classes and the lecturing system.

NAME: DONAL O'ROURKE, BORN 1947, CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF CIT

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 32

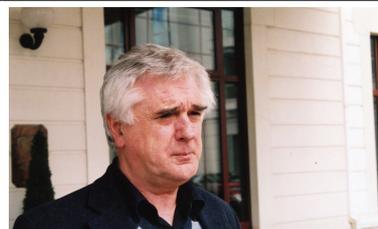
Subject: Rural education and a political career

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 69:49

Description: Donal O'Rourke is a native of Roscarberry, where his father was a secondary school teacher. He speaks briefly about his own education, both in De la Salle boarding school, and later at UCC, where he did an Arts degree, followed by the H.Dip.Ed. In 1969 he was appointed to a teaching post at the Sacred Heart Secondary School at Clonakilty. He discusses the rural schools in his area, social stratification, and the role of the religious orders in teaching, and their legacy. He focuses on his introduction to politics, and combining politics with teaching, when he was elected to Cork City Council in 1991. He feels his two careers worked well together. At around this time he was appointed to the governing body of the R.T.C. and he discusses his reasons for taking this position which created a huge challenge for him. He discusses his abiding memories of those early days in the position, the new situation once the V.E.C had separated from the R.T.C., and the many challenges of his job now and the challenges to come.



NAME: BATT O'KEEFFE, BORN 1945, FORMER LECTURER

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 33

Subject: A teacher and a Politician

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:13

Description: Batt O'Keeffe was born in Cullen Co Cork into a family of six boys and one girl. His father was a Relieving Officer, cattle dealer and farmer, and his mother ran a small village shop. He was educated at St Brendan's College Killarney of which he has very fond memories, and while there he excelled in Gaelic Football and also enjoyed his game of handball. He decided against attending third level college full time and began work with the ESB as store manager and administration officer, and in 1966 he began his studies at evening classes, and qualified with a BA prior to taking up a teaching post at the Crawford. He taught English and general subjects to technical Leaving Cert classes, a job which he very much enjoyed. The new regime at Bishopstown brought about many positive changes, as new disciplines were introduced and new standards of achievement became possible. Batt O'Keeffe fondly remembers Jim Roche who was the first Principal at the R.T.C, He also recalls the staff football team and their great social gatherings, his introduction to politics which followed his involvement with his local community in Ballincollig, and he discusses his present position as Minister for Education and his ambitions for the future of education in Ireland.



NAME: DICK LANGFORD, BORN 1941, FORMER CEO CORK CITY VEC (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 34

Subject: A life in education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:13

Description: In this recording Dick Langford initially recalls his Kerry roots, and his father's involvement in Ireland's struggle in the early part of the 20th century in Kerry. Dick Langford was born into a family of four boys and two girls in Waterford city and was educated at De La Salle College. He discusses his mentors there and their very positive influence on him. He studied for his degrees in Arts and Commerce, and began his teaching career in Birr in 1963. He has great memories of his days in Birr and of his Principalship which he attained in 1965. In 1967 a report was published by a Steering Committee which explored the possibility of establishing RTCs around the country. This led to the setting



up of five colleges, and was the dawn of a new and challenging era in the sphere of Irish education. In 1970 Dick Langford was appointed Principal of the RTC in Waterford and in 1974 he became CEO of the VEC there.

NAME: DICK LANGFORD, BORN 1941, FORMER CEO CORK CITY VEC (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 35

Subject: A life in education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 29:20

Description: Dick Langford took up duty as CEO of Cork VEC in 1978. He has much to say about education in the VEC schools in Cork during this time, and he points out the many and complex reasons for the delay in the establishment of Cork RTC. He talks at length about his brief on his arrival in Cork and his encounters with academic staff. While the National Institute of Higher Education in Limerick, now the University of Limerick, was established under the aegis of a Planning Board in 1970, the first Governing Body was appointed in 1975. Dick Langford was invited to sit on the Board, at a most interesting and challenging time. His tenure as CEO in Cork was colourful and intense at times. He discusses the School of Music and its development over the years and he feels that the hosting of the International Apprentice Competition, now known as the International Skills Olympics was a major factor in the bonding and teamworking of the institutions of learning in Cork.



NAME: DICK LANGFORD, BORN 1941, FORMER CEO CORK CITY VEC (Part 3)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 36

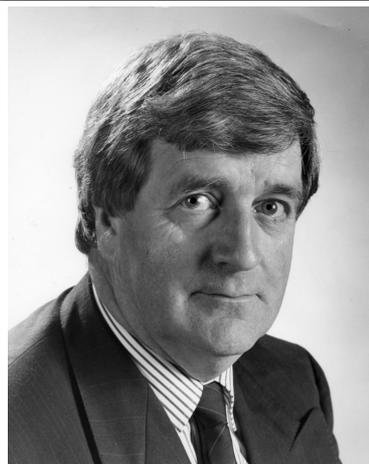
Subject: Development of Innovation

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:18

Description: This recording initially focuses on Dick Langford's teaching years in Birr, Co Offaly. He recently attended a reunion of students from the school 45 years after they left and he very much enjoyed learning about their varied life stories. He has interesting observations to make on the traditions of technical learning over a century in Cork city. He discusses his successful meeting with Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism John O'Donoghue T.D. when the Minister agreed to a strategic move relating to the establishment of the Crawford Art Gallery as one of the family of National Cultural Institutions – the only one located outside of Dublin other than a branch of the National Museum at Castlebar. This also



secured the funding base of the Gallery into the future. The early days at Bishopstown when new courses were being developed, were vitally important to the educational life of the city and beyond. Dick Langford oversaw the maturing of these courses, and makes special mention of Jim Roche, and his fine work at that vital time. Tension sometimes arose between the RTC and UCC and these were diffused due to the co-operation in the Biomedical Sciences Degrees. He is at present enjoying his retirement though still very busy indeed. His most challenging endeavour at present is his Chairmanship of the State Examinations Commission, which was established in 2003.

NAME: BOBBY BUCKLEY, BORN 1931, FORMER CEO OF CORK CO. VEC (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 37

Subject: A career in Vocational Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 55:12

Description: Bobby Buckley is a North Kerry man who was educated at St Ita's College, Tarbert. He later attended Agricultural College in Galway, and studied at a teacher's training course in Rural Sciences, both at the Crawford and at UCC. In 1953 he secured a teaching position at the Kerry Vocational School in Kenmare, where he worked for 3 years. He was then appointed Principal at the new Vocational School in Causeway, Co Kerry, where he spent 9 years, following which he was appointed Kerry County Development Officer, but after one year he took up the post of CEO of Tralee Town Vocational School. He recalls the early development of the RTC in Tralee in which he was heavily involved. In this recording Bobby Buckley discusses each stage of his career at great length.



NAME: BOBBY BUCKLEY, BORN 1931, FORMER CEO OF CORK CO. VEC (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 38

Subject: A career in Vocational Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 46:48

Description: In 1973, Bobby Buckley was appointed CEO of Cork Co Vocational Education Committee, and in this recording he recalls his initial challenge – a report was requested on each vocational school in County Cork. His predecessor in the post had not used the financial resources on the school buildings, which now required urgent attention, and Bobby Buckley is proud to be able to assert that he became part of the building and design team which put in place many fine centres of vocational education. He recalls many of the challenges he faced in his long career and he mentions the need to remove the stigma which often attached to vocational school students, and the huge competition for students which existed in rural areas. He oversaw the creation of community colleges in County Cork, with the co-operation of Fr Denis O'Callaghan. He was also the instigator of the creation of an independent Board of Management for each school in the county, and during this time, he faced a challenge in the High Court relating to Boards of Management. The challenge was unsuccessful and he feels that this outcome strengthened the position of the Boards into the future.



NAME: BOBBY BUCKLEY, BORN 1931, FORMER CEO OF CORK CO. VEC (Part 3)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 39

Subject: A career in Vocational Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 39:54

Description: In this recording Bobby Buckley focuses once again on the early days of his career in Kerry. His family background in farming, his early education and his teachers provided a wonderful grounding for what became a most challenging career in education. In the 1960s and 1970s it was practically impossible to secure funding for education in Ireland but owing to the foresight of Education Minister Donogh O'Malley, the emphasis changed with the advent of free education. These were very exciting times when new beginnings and the breaking down of barriers became possible. This was obvious to Bobby Buckley as he sat on the Board of Cork RTC. He was totally committed to his involvement in education in this progressive climate.



NAME: BOBBY BUCKLEY, BORN 1931, FORMER CEO OF CORK CO. VEC (Part 4)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 40

Subject: A career in Vocational Education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 41:35

Description: Bobby Buckley recalls his days on the Board of the National Council of Education Awards. He discusses individual schools in County Cork, and their ongoing success. In the latter part of the recording, he discusses the memorable events of his career in education, which continued over four decades, and which witnessed many challenging and difficult times, and many successes and achievements. When Ireland became part of the EEC, he played a central role in the setting up of the European Rural University.



NAME: PADDY OLDHAM, BORN 1940, FORMER CARETAKER AT RTC/CIT

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 41

Subject: Reminiscences of Caretaking

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 55:07

Description: Paddy Oldham spent 31 years caretaking at RTC/CIT. He is a native of Inchigeela in West Cork and in his early days he spent 13 years working in Clancy's Bar in Princes Street, Cork. He was appointed caretaker to the RTC in 1975, and declares that it was a building site when he first began work there. He recalls anecdotally the management and staff members in a light and humorous way. In the early days the provision of security was very difficult, as houses were regularly broken into and other security issues had to be dealt with. He would start work at 6.30 a.m. once the RTC was fully functional, and would proceed to open 400 doors in the college. In 1979 the International Apprentice Competition was staged at the college and the medals awarded were minted within the campus. A time came when the introduction of CCTV cameras became an absolute necessity, and Paddy recalls the great opposition the introduction of these cameras encountered from the staff and the students. Paddy Oldham has very fond memories of great social occasions and late nights of celebration at the RTC.



NAME: MICHAEL NOONAN, BORN 1944, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, CIT

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 42

Subject: An innovator in education

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 52:45

Description: Michael Noonan, a native of North Cork, was educated by the Christian Brothers in Doneraile and graduated with a Science Degree from UCC, followed by a Masters and PhD. While undertaking postgraduate studies in UCC, he taught biochemistry as a part-time teacher at the Crawford Municipal Technical Institute, and then spent a year working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Agricultural Research Institute and UCD. He humorously recalls being interviewed for a position at the Crawford, an interview which had a successful outcome. He gives a fascinating insight into the recruitment of students at this time, though the Crawford had an edge because Cork (and Belfast) had led the development of technical education in the country. He recalls a Rural Science dinner when he, Pat Kelleher and Jim Roche met at the bar and decided to establish Cork RTC's first degree course, a Degree in Chemical. This Degree course was quickly joined by three further degree programmes in Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Applied Computing. He recalls with special regard the initial group of outstanding students who revelled in the challenge of a new Degree course in a new academic environment. He discusses his present position as Assistant Principal at CIT and his hopes and aspirations for the future.



NAME: LEN O'CONNOR, BORN 1942, FORMER LECTURER IN BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 43

Subject:

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 53:35

Description: Dr. Len O'Connor was born and reared in Passage West, Co. Cork where he got his early education. He served his apprenticeship as a joiner for five years with the firm of Daniel Hegarty & Sons Ltd, and in 1963, at the age of 21, he was awarded a scholarship to teacher training at the Department of Education Teacher Training College in Gorey, Co. Wexford. His first teaching post was with the Town of Wexford VEC in Wexford town where he taught for three years. He then got a post in Cork with the VEC at Scoil Eoin Naofa, Sawmill Street. At the same time as was appointed to the City of Cork VEC, he was invited by the Department of



Education to return to the Teacher Training College in Gorey on secondment as a lecturer but permission was not forthcoming from the VEC at that time. After six months at Scoil Eoin Naofa he was again invited by the Department of Education to join its staff lecturing on a new Teacher Education course which was based in Cork. The VEC agreed to his secondment on this occasion and he remained as a lecturer on this course until 1976 when he joined Cork Institute of Technology, then known as Cork Regional College. He describes his time in Gorey and the requirements for student acceptance on the teacher training course. He recounts the history of the vocational schools in the country, the International Apprenticeship Competition in Cork and his own input into its success. Len O'Connor sat on the National Apprenticeship Advisory Committee, which advises the Board of FAS on apprenticeship matters, and other national committees and provides his views on the structure and the work of FAS. He also speaks in detail about other Boards on which he served during his long career. He has also written extensively on apprenticeship education and training and related topics.

NAME: LIAM HODNETT, BORN 1944, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING
Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 44
Subject: A lifetime in Engineering
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 51:42



Description: Liam Hodnett was reared in Turner's Cross and received his primary education at South Presentation and his secondary education at Sullivan's Quay. He was awarded a scholarship to study Civil Engineering at UCC, graduating in 1966. He began his career in Wexford working for the ESB and later worked in Dublin with CIE for four years. He returned to work in Cork for the Harbour Commissioners. He recalls his involvement with the Tivoli works, the Ringaskiddy works and harbour dredging. After two years with the Harbour Commissioners he decided to take a consultancy job in structural engineering with Malachy Walsh and Partners, with whom he worked for four years. In 1976 the position of Head of Department of Building and Civil Engineering at the RTC in Bishopstown became vacant and Liam Hodnett was appointed to the position. He recalls the International Apprenticeship Competition at the RTC and says that this gave education in craftsmanship "a shot in the arm", and was to create a "landbridge to Europe". He speaks about the architecture of the 1950's and 1960's when the mantra was "form follows function", and about the introduction and

importance of the course in Architectural Technology. Liam has a strong loyalty to St Finbarr's GAA club for which he began playing football from the age of 13 and he has much to say about the politics, the structure and the amateur status of the Association.

NAME: KATHLEEN ROCHE, WIDOW OF THE LATE JIM ROCHE, BORN 1937, FORMER PRINCIPAL

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 45

Subject: Memories of a passionate educator

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 38:21



Description: Kathleen Roche, nee O'Callaghan, was born and reared in McCurtain Street, Cork, was educated at St Aloysius School and completed a Commercial Course at Skerries College. Her career began at the Cork Spinning Company. A subsidiary of Sunbeam Wolsey. Kathleen explains how she met her future husband who was a neighbour. She crossed the street to congratulate Jim Roche, who had just graduated with a MSc, and had been photographed for 'The Echo'. He invited her to the pictures at the Pavilion for their first outing together, and the rest is history. The couple married in 1960 and moved to Waterford where Jim was employed by Waterford Glass. A year later they came back to Cork where Jim took up a post as a Class 3 teacher at the Crawford. He was later appointed Head of the Physics Department at Kevin Street Dublin, where he was to remain for five years. In 1968 the position of Principal at the Crawford became available, and he was appointed to the post. Kathleen remembers that this appointment was met with some opposition but declares that Jim was a man who enjoyed a challenge. At this time plans were afoot to move to Bishopstown and Jim Roche was very much involved in this major change. During his time as Principal of the RTC in the earlier days, he worked assiduously in attempting to put in place the four Degree courses. Kathleen clearly recalls the many stumbling blocks placed in the way of Jim Roche and his academic colleagues. He was also on the Governing Body of the University of Limerick and watched very keenly the rapid growth of that institution. Kathleen recalls the tragic evening on which her husband became unwell and died suddenly while they were attending a social function.

NAME: TOM RIGNEY, BORN 1942, FORMER HEAD OF BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND HEAD OF SCHOOL (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 46

Subject: A life of achievement

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:35

Description: Cloyne is the birthplace of Tom Rigney, where his father was a blacksmith and small farmer. A neighbour of the family was the brilliant hurling champion, Christy Ring. Tom Rigney always had great ambition to succeed, and having left school at 14 years of age he began to work in retail sales, and attended night school to study Business Studies. Later he would board the bus to travel to Cork to attend night school at the School of Commerce. On being awarded his Business Studies Certificate, he became Financial Controller at a motor company in Castlemartyr – Abrenathy Ltd. He also taught night classes at the School of Commerce during 1968 – 1969 and was then appointed grade 3 lecturer at Waterford R.T.C. He remained there for 10 years, and recalls many happy memories of his life in Waterford. In late 1983 he was appointed Assistant Head of Department of Business Studies at Cork RTC, and simultaneously was appointed part time tutor in accountancy at UCC. In the latter section of the recording he describes the circumstances in which he got permission to record former President of Ireland, Dr Patrick Hillery on the subject of general education.



NAME: TOM RIGNEY, BORN 1942, FORMER HEAD OF BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND HEAD OF SCHOOL (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 47

Subject: A life of achievement

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:35

Description: The initial section of this recording relates to a lengthy interview with Dr Patrick Hillery which Tom Rigney recorded in 2000. Dr Hillery was Minister for Education from 1959 – 1965, a most important period in Ireland's educational life. In 1965 Tom had been awarded First Prize in a national competition in Advanced Economics, and the prize was presented to him by Dr Hillery. This was his first encounter with the Minister whom he years later went to great lengths to record. Tom Rigney's career was very busy and very productive. He recalls his time in Waterford RTC and his role in the introduction of a computer module on all third level courses in the College. He worked as an External Examiner



and attended many Examination Board meetings around the country, which gave him a great insight into individual people and their potential. He sat on the Board of the Synod of the Open University, which afforded a brilliant opportunity for the promotion of innovative thinking and real progress in the field of education. He discusses his tenure as Head of the Department of Business Studies and also Head of School, and recalls the many challenges and obstacles along the way, and his many achievements and contributions to Business Studies at C.I.T.

NAME: COUNCILLOR JIM CORR, BORN 1934, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF RTC AND FORMER LORD MAYOR OF CORK CITY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 48

Subject: An Educator and Politician

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 49:59

Description: This recording was compiled in the Lord Mayor's chambers at City Hall, Cork. Jim Corr was educated at Greenmount National School and takes great pride in the fact that he is one of five Lord Mayors of Cork who began their education at this school. His grandfather organised Davitt's first Land League meeting in Irishtown in 1879, and the family has always been involved in politics. Jim Corr had the honour of serving as Lord Mayor of Cork on two occasions. He received his secondary education at Presentation College and later graduated with a B.A and H.DipEd. from UCC. He and his new wife left for Nigeria where Jim taught for six years, a very grounding experience for the young man. They returned to Cork in 1964 when Jim began his Irish teaching career at Presentation College. In 1973 he was co-opted to Cork Corporation and the following year he stood for the local elections for Fine Gael, and was successful, as he has been at each subsequent election. He very successfully combined his educational responsibilities with his political work and feels that one complemented the other. In 1974 he was appointed to City of Cork V.E.C., and he discusses the major changes which have come about in the educational field over the years. He also recalls the CEO Paddy Parfrey whom he feels was one of Cork's best public servants in his real commitment to education. Jim Corr discusses at length the growth and development of the Cork School of Music and its affiliation with the RTC. In 1979 he was first elected Lord Mayor of Cork which was a wonderful honour and achievement for Jim and the Corr family. In 1982 he was elected to Dáil Eireann but at the subsequent election he made the decision to concentrate on his political and



educational life in his native city, so he was not a candidate in the General Election. To this day he remains committed to his work on Cork City Council and on the Board of the VEC.

NAME: DR. PATRICK HILLERY, BORN 1922, FORMER PRESIDENT (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 49

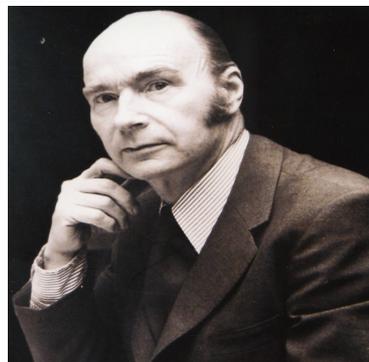
Subject: Interview compiled by Tom Rigney

Recorded by: Tom Rigney

Date: 2000

Time: 59:11

Description: In these interviews conducted at the Marine Hotel, Sutton, Co. Dublin on 28th July 2000, Dr Hillery described the state of education in Ireland during his own schooling and during the late fifties. He explains the plans to increase participation in second level education and the extension of the curriculum. He goes on to talk about many aspects of his own input into education. Due to the poor quality of the taped recording a full transcription is included in this catalogue (page 33).



NAME: DR. PATRICK HILLERY, BORN 1922, FORMER PRESIDENT (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 50

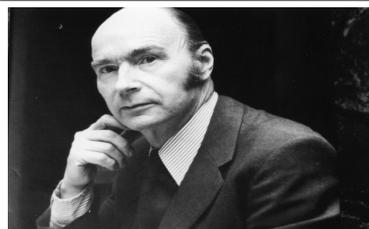
Subject: Interview compiled by Tom Rigney

Recorded by: Tom Rigney

Date: 2000

Time: 59:11

Description: Part 2 of the interview conducted at the Marine Hotel, Sutton, Co. Dublin on 28th July 2000, Dr Hillery described the state of education in Ireland during his own schooling and during the late fifties. He explains the plans to increase participation in second level education and the extension of the curriculum. He goes on to talk about many aspects of his own input into education. Due to the poor quality of the taped recording a full transcription is included in this catalogue (page 33).



NAME: EILEEN GRAHAM, BORN 1939; MARGARET CLAYTON, BORN 1941; CATHERINE MORONEY, BORN 1947; SADIE ALLEN BORN 1940; MONICA CURTIS, BORN 1950

Title: Irish Life and Lore Cork Institute of Technology, CD 51

Subject: Bernard Curtis remembered

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:42

Description: This recording was compiled at the Cork School of Music, with the daughters of Bernard Curtis, (1909 – 1995). Dr. Curtis was a former Director of the School of Music at 13 Union Quay to which he was appointed in 1936. His daughters remember him with great fondness and recall his career in this recording. His favourite instruments were the piano and the organ, which he played in Holy Trinity Church for many years. He had a long and distinguished career, and overcame many challenges along the way. He will be best remembered for many developments in the School of Music including his introduction and support of the Suzuki Method of teaching and for his great enthusiasm for education and for music.



The Birth of Change in Irish Education with particular reference to Business Studies

T.J. Rigney

Introduction

Up to the seventies there were no undergraduate Business Studies degrees outside of the Universities in Ireland. In addition the seed corn of third level education, second level education had not developed Business Studies in their curriculum leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. This article attempts to put the new changes that took place in Irish Education in perspective.

What follows focuses on the birth of change in Irish Education. It centres on a challenging interview with Dr. Hillery who was the Minister for Education and had unique insights when the concept of Investment in Irish Education was conceived. Business Studies in the Regional Technical Colleges sector grew out of Hillery's initiatives. The increased participation at school level and the development of the business studies curriculum at second level were the key drivers of the new third level institution in Ireland. The period being addressed was a time of preparation for Ireland's entry to the European Union. It will be presented as follows:

1. Background
2. The Birth of Educational Change in Ireland
3. Higher Education
4. Regional Technical Colleges
5. Business Studies
6. The Minister's own Schooling
7. Reflections as Minister for Education
8. Hillery's other Ministers
9. Concluding Comments

1. Background

Dr. Hillery was Minister for Education from 1959 to 1965 and was one of the longest serving Ministers for Education since the establishment of the Irish Department of Education in 1922. He was unique in setting the agenda for change in Irish

Education. According to Buachalla (1988) in his book *Education Policy in Twentieth Century Ireland* Hillery's term of office coincided with a growing demand for change and with an improving economic climate which could provide resources to finance reform. Mulcahy (1981) suggested:

Prime among the objectives sought by Dr Hillery was the expansion of facilities to cater for the increased participation in technical and other forms of applied education especially commercial and business studies. (Curriculum & Policy in Irish Post-Primary Education, D.G. Mulcahy, 1981) p. 21.

Coolahan (1981) in referring to Hillery's speech in 1963 claimed that this was a major policy speech which contained seminal ideas that were to show results in the following years.

Dr Hillery was born on May 2nd in Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare. He was educated in Rockwell College in Cashel and studied Medicine at University College Dublin where he qualified as a Medical Doctorate in 1947. In 1952 he received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland and in 1962 University of Dublin Trinity College conferred him with an Honorary Doctorate. Other Honorary Doctorates conferred on him included University of Melbourne Australia 1985, Limerick University 1990, Pontifical University Maynooth 1988 and the National Council for Educational Awards 2000.

Hillery's appointments included Minister for Education 1959 to 1965, Minister for Industry and Commerce 1965 to 1966, Minister for Labour 1966 to 1969, Minister for Foreign Affairs 1969 to 1972. When Ireland joined the European Union (then known as the Common Market) in 1973 he became Ireland's first European Commissioner in Brussels. He held this post from 1973 to 1976 when he became President of Ireland. He was President of Ireland for the following fourteen years, which is the maximum term for a President under the Irish Constitution. Because of his unique role in Irish education an extensive interview sought by this researcher from Dr.

Hillery is presented in this chapter. The findings provide a unique insight into sowing the seeds for change in Higher Education in Ireland. During this time as Minister for Education there was growing political party competition by Fine Gael and Labour on education policies and this exercised pressure on Hillery to speed up change. A Government statement in 1959 committed it to educational expansion and a statement by Hillery in 1963 was more specific and mentioned the concept of Regional Technical Colleges which were opened in the late sixties in Waterford, Carlow, Athlone and Galway and added to in the seventies in other locations throughout the country. Indeed Blanchardstown College in Dublin is being constructed at the time of writing. Many significant developments such as the extension of Business Studies at second level and the development of Business Studies in the Regional Technical Colleges have come to fruition from Hillery's period of office as Minister for Education 1959 to 1965.

In this interview, conducted at The Marine Hotel, Sutton, Co. Dublin on 28/7/00, Dr. Hillery described the state of Education in Ireland during his own schooling and in the late fifties. He explains the plans to increase participation in second level education and the extension of the curriculum. Three Business Studies subject were created known as Accounting, Business Organisation and Economics at pass and honours levels. Leaving Certificate studies in the fifties was confined to specific secondary schools and was not provided in Vocational Schools. All students attending Vocational Schools at the time could sit for the Group Certificate Examinations after two years study. Students of vocational schools would then pursue apprenticeships or return to work on the farms owned by their parents. On the other hand secondary schools such as the Christian Brothers and the Mercy convents educated pupils for University education. Third level education was almost entirely confined to the Universities and limited to Dublin, Cork and Galway.

He discusses his own role as setting the scene for his ideas and his relationship with the Taoiseach Mr Sean Lemass. He also emphasises the economy and unemployment leading to high emigration and the important role for second and third

level education in this environment in the fifties and early sixties in Ireland. His experience in Brussels from 1973 to 1977 as the first Irish European Commissioner is also useful. During this time Ireland became part of a bigger Europe with no protective tariffs. It was anticipated that on joining the Community the Irish motor assembly industry would close leading to many job losses such as the Ford plant in Cork. In addition the Irish textile industry closed leading to many job losses in that sector.

One message comes through loud and clear: the new economy in Ireland and Europe that was to follow demanded an educated work force not in the old traditional classical education but in Business Studies and Engineering and Science.

INTERVIEW

2. The Birth of Educational Change in Ireland

Dr. Hillery explained that when Mr. Sean Lemass became leader of Fianna Fail in 1959 he sought a meeting with him urgently. At this meeting Lemass said to him:

You got away from my predecessor Mr. deValera but you will not get away from me. I want you in the Cabinet.

Dr. Hillery at the time was a practising medical doctor in Clare and pointed out that he had much to do, such as the delivery of new babies. Lemass agreed that he could finish out his medical work and later announced in the Dail that Dr. Hillery would be the new Minister for Education as Jack Lynch the then Minister for Education was being moved to the Department of Industry and Commerce.

When Dr. Hillery was asked about his early years in education he recalled

You start off with the mind set that was there at the time.

He was concerned about the people in the National Schools, people who did not get any opportunity, they got nothing after finishing or leaving National School education in Ireland. He explained how he brought in scholarships, but found that if there was enough scholarships for all they could not be kept in secondary schools and they could not be all provided with skills.

I got deeper and deeper into it, we needed to develop the other forms of education, the technological and we needed to widen the secondary. I got a general plan and I announced it at the General Election in 1961 in a broadcast.

His feeling was that all students could start off together. However, he pointed out that there was no money available for educational changes but that schools could be combined and expensive areas like science could be shared. The vocational schools (technical school) at the time were only providing two year courses leading to the group certificate in education. He emphasised that this form of education was looked down on at the time and did not hold high recognition by the community.

I had a general plan in my mind which I gave on a television programme.

The intention was that the vocational school and secondary school would have a two year course leading to the Intermediate Certificate and after that pupils would stream into technological and academic. At Leaving Certificate there would be another division driving students into technological colleges and universities. Hillary suggested the idea was simple, the scholarships were not good at the time, there was not enough to put anyone through education, the big political problem he claimed was that there was a large area of need for buildings, for teachers and extension of opportunities in education. He emphasised that private enterprise was

not going to supply the resources and at the same time they did not want the state involved in education. He stated:

It was almost dogma that the churches did not want the state in education, and it was a very brave act that brought in the vocational schools in 1931 and they were down graded in the public esteem immediately.

Mulcahy (1981) pointed out that there was concern about the traditional pattern of post primary education in Ireland as it was not sufficiently well articulated with emerging needs and possibilities in economic development. According to Mulcahy this was to be a bold attempt to set post-primary education in Ireland on a new pathway. Dr Hillery explained his work on the matter this way:

The first step was to get a party political decision that the State must take responsibility and have a role. I went to Sean Lemass the then Taoiseach and I explained it to him. It was not going to be done by private enterprise and the state needed it and the students needed it. However, it would not be done, extra educational provision of finance required would not be given. Sean Lemass then said to me "you write it, I'll say it, put a sentence into the Ard Fheis speech". That was the beginning of the State coming in to full responsibility in education.

Then I found I was dealing with a subject I did not know. I was not an educationalist I was a medical doctor. I had been through the system, so I organised a committee in the Department of Education of Inspectors. I told the Secretary of the Department, to go down the line, not to select the old fellows as they were fixed in their minds. The committee worked at producing the accurate education needs that would be put into a paper for the Government.

Coolahan (1981) claims that changes in Ireland were being influenced by Ireland's expanding links with overseas organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Dr Hillery recalled in his interview with this researcher that almost coincidental with his plans set out above he was attending

meetings with the OECD. The OECD had done studies on underdeveloped countries and they mentioned at one of their meetings that they would like to pursue studies for developed and developing countries.

I (Hillery) went to the Government which was regarded as not the thing to do to get the OECD to study Irish education. The Government bravely agreed – it was going to show up all the gaps.

Dr Hillery recalled the committee he appointed to run this study at home. The Members appointed were Paddy Lynch Chairman, Mr. MacGearalt from Education and Mr O'Driscoll from the University sector. He announced it by telling one of the television shows the name of the chairman and he called it "Investment in Education". Up to then he pointed out that he was dealing with the Department of Finance and if they had money they would give it but it would not be much due to constraints.

I had to turn around the attitude that the talent was our riches and that he would invest in that. That's the most important thing that was done I think. I did one other thing at the time and it was symbolic. I got a comprehensive school idea and the idea was not like the English colleges. It was to have a full range of subjects and we invited people in secondary schools to join it. I got one built in West Connemara, Galway and another in Shannon, just to show the status coming in of building post primary schools.

According to Mulcahy (1981) Dr Hillery initiated the dynamic of expansion in technical and related forms of applied education particularly business studies. On the 20th May, 1963 Hillery presented his major and important statement, giving an outline plan which as well as attempting to achieve these objectives would constitute the first steps towards a new system of post primary education. The statement also announced the building of Regional Technical Colleges. Hillery explained the birth of the 1963 document this way.

The big political change was getting the state to take over its responsibility and knocking down the opposition. I had a tough time with the Bishops, they did not want that. The Government had responsibility for Primary and Vocational but beyond that there was no Government involvement. It was very deficient, but no one saw it as deficient over all. I saw people who did not get a chance, but as I went deeper into it, I saw that you had to extend the system and then I found only the State could do it. The State had to be persuaded Lemass was very good but the Department of Finance did not want to expend the money.

Sean Lemass was the Head of the Government, the Taoiseach who appointed Dr. Hillery as Minister for Education, his support for an agenda for change in Irish education would be very important.

I got a programme of what was needed and I went through the system. I sent a document to the Department of Finance and they sent it back, saying it could not be done. I sent it maybe three times with variations and it was turned down. Then I asked for an appointment with Lemass. I told him my story. He said that myself, Jim Ryan the Minister for Finance and himself should meet. The three of us met and I had the documents to discuss. Jim Ryan agreed and Lemass agreed, I was delighted. Lemass said "you will not get that through the Government". So the mind set of the Government had not changed. What will I do with it? Lemass said "announce it". I then gave a press conference in May 1963.

Referring to the opposition parties in Dail Eireann at the time, Dr. Hillery said he did not get much from them. Noel Browne was asking questions and he was very angry and delayed time but no one criticised it. It was well received according to Hillery.

Questions were being asked by the opposition parties, "when will it happen?" "When will it happen?" Of course the Department of Education were not ready for it. It took

quite a while according to Hillery, but there was nothing wrong in the political world really he said.

Sean Lemass had pointed out to Dr. Hillery that his agenda for change in Irish Education would receive opposition from members of the Government and the Bishops of the Catholic Church.

The first objector was Charlie McCarthy who was a friend of mine, he said his union was not consulted, but you couldn't consult on a thing like that. I was down recently in Limerick in St. Munchin's, they asked me to launch their two centuries – I don't know why they picked on me but anyway, I opened the school there. I said the last time I was here I was attacked by a bishop, they got a kick out of that. I remember just that time, Bishop Browne of Galway came over to me "you are changing education". I said how is the golf my Lord?" He said "you are making big changes in education" – are you golfing at all my Lord. He got the message after a while that I wasn't going to talk.

The fact that Sean Lemass was Taoiseach meant a lot. He would go with an idea if you had it. Jack Lynch was also supportive.

3. Higher Education

Logan (1999) pointed out that Patrick Hillery would signpost the way to a future where the work of the vocational school would be fundamentally transformed. This would also feed into the third level system and provide opportunities and competition for places on courses. Hillery recalls a speech to graduates in University College Dublin when he was Minister for Education.

I was asked one night to a dinner of the graduates. Just that evening they phoned up, to know would I speak. I hate speaking anyway. I said what will I say, when you're young you will say anything. I made a speech saying that no longer in the near future will a person knock at the door of a university and have money to get in. You will have to compete. I was still Minister for Education, and they didn't like it

naturally because they were the ones that got in with the money – the graduates of University College, Dublin. I remember they talked while I was talking they didn't like it. Afterwards Cearbhall O'Dailaigh made a remark to me – he said "they're so stupid they did not understand what you were at." But I was telling them that quite soon a person going up to the door of the university and knocking will not get in. He will get in, off his Leaving Certificate, he will get in on results. It was a sudden speech, they gave me two hours notice.

Coolahan (1981) suggested that the setting up of a Commission on Higher Education by the Government in 1960 was an indication of the need for a new appraisal of the existing third level structures and provisions and of the need for new guidelines for the future of third level in Ireland.

I was disappointed at the beginning. I had in my head, I was fresh, I came in as a doctor, if I could get seven or eight people who knew education and make a commission I could do the same for higher education as post primary. I went to the Government with it and I came back with twenty six names. So you had this thing always, representation of every section. As I said I had six or seven picked people who knew their business, but the Government wanted to add on representatives of farmers etc. Dr. Morris Archbishop of Cashel said don't have two Bishops on it. Normally before that a Bishop would have been chairman and I said we won't have that now. I asked Cearbhall O'Dalaigh the Chief Justice at some function we were at down in Shelbourne Hall, one of the big embassy receptions, would he be Chair of the Commission, but he did fair dues to him. He was reluctant to take it on, it was a big job.

Researching in 1995 White suggested that the map for higher education in Ireland was to be radically different from anything we envisaged or projected by the members of the Commission on Higher Education.

I think the fault was the Government, as I said I wanted seven or eight people and I came out of that meeting with twenty three people. It was representative instead of people that would be valuable. They were not interested in vocational technological, they were not on the same wavelength – they were all representatives of different segments of the community. They were protective of universities as they were then.

4. Regional Technical Colleges

O’Buachalla (1988) suggested that by 1963 the central issues in Irish education had been quantified and defined. Dr Hillery’s major policy statement on 20th May 1963 contained many of the reforms for the long term future of Irish education. This is the first time that Regional Technical Colleges were mentioned and the Government’s intention to establish them and the promotion of higher technological education.

I am sorry I have not got a copy of the T.V. political broadcast. I had a bit of fun with it, it came out in the form of a H, the two streams crossing over. H for Hillery. My first idea for Regional Technical Colleges was that they would get post primary at third level and that’s why I had the H two levels up to Leaving Certificate. But from that start I envisaged in my ignorance that you could take people from either stream of Leaving Certificate and cross them over again. Let them pick what subjects they wanted to do in third level education. But it all got taken up in the further study. My idea was that you could cross after three years and do academic or vocational and then have a chance to cross over again and maybe get back into the academic third level or back into a new third level.

I had a feeling that Regional Technical Colleges would have some amount of third level. That’s why I thought you could cross over twice. They said it could not be done once they specialised. The thing was to keep specialisation out a bit early.

Mulcahy (1981) claimed that the year 1964 marked a significant year for expansion in the Department of Education. A site for the first Regional Technical College for Carlow was announced and emphasised that it was at the planning stage.

With regard to Carlow the first mentioned RTC. It was my view that Carlow being associated with sugar manufacture would take care of vegetable development and production. There would be another one in Galway. Donegal wanted one because Blayney wanted it. That was no harm either – he fought for that at the Government. RTCs – its amazing how things take on a life of their own and work out much better than you would have ever foreseen.

5. Business Studies

Clancy (2000) suggested that business studies comprises vocational orientation and is practical and applied. Mulcahy (1981) claimed that almost any area of study can qualify for study under vocational studies. Conventionally vocational subjects tended to be woodwork, metalwork, technical drawing and building construction but more recently according to Mulcahy business studies have come to be spoken in like terms. He recalls his thinking in respect of business studies when he was Minister for Education.

I just saw the need for it and I said it. You see, education in Ireland was an education for failures. It was based on the church needs, so that first of all there were priests and then teachers and they got the thick of the crop and of course the civil servants. It was strange when you think of it, they had great power because they supplied the civil service out of every college – the top of the college entered. There was an economic need because people would have to get jobs, as soon as possible. Some got into teaching and the civil service – they were getting the top of each school. There wasn't a structure and a great many people got excluded. The people that didn't get in were failures, they did not fail the Leaving Certificate but they didn't get the places. So that was an important psychological thing for people. When I was in university, the degree for business was the B.Comm and it was looked down on. Even when I was a Minister the B.Comm was still looked down on. It did not have the character that it has got now. The business opportunities were not there. I suppose people felt that business is something you would pick up.

I spotted business studies and commercial education – I spotted it as a gap. I remember going to the Irish Management Institute when I was Minister for Education.

Reference to how business studies was to be developed, is very scarce in the literature. Many are divided as to whether it came about by chance or accident. Today business studies forms a large part of any Institute of Technology, providing National Certificates, National Diplomas, Bachelor Degrees and post graduate programmes. Specialisations include marketing, financial accounting, business information systems, human resource management and business management.

The new business studies subjects at second level in accounting, business organisation and economics have also motivated students in their destination to third level. He explained the background like this:

We didn't set up any business studies that I know of. The Irish Management Institute came about – I remember making speeches about education. The first speech I made it was to Cearda Fail and it was very basic, and that what education was there was good.

I remember addressing businessmen about the need to have a good cutting edge to what you were doing and to be able to compete. I suppose that would be the origin of getting them to study. We were going to have to compete and a lot of businesses were family owned. They would pass them on, management was something that was dead. They came in and had a gin and tonic and looked at the post and the world was kept going. I knew that would not work, that was not going to compete with the Germans and the French people.

With regard to business studies in the Leaving Certificate, I'd say it was that committee that I set up, the inspectors. I hadn't enough expert knowledge and they were to supply the expert knowledge and fill out the plan. They were doing the whole range of what should be done.

I don't recall the RTCs and that would go into them. There is a very bad records department in the Department of Education. I often asked them for things and they hadn't them.

The Polytechnic was a new higher education institution developing in the United Kingdom. The first third level qualifications in business studies outside of the established universities in the UK were growing in these institutions.

The Council for National Academic Awards was also established to grant awards in the Polytechnics. The National Council for Educational Awards was set up to grant awards for the RTCs at a later date. This body when it came about copied many of the practices of the CNAA in the United Kingdom. What influences the development of business studies in the United Kingdom had on the setting up of structures in Ireland brought the following responses:

It probably did have influence through the committee that I set up of Inspectors. The inspectors knew what to do and where to go.

I cannot recall if the OECD or Whitaker referred to business studies. Department of Education memorandums did not refer to business studies. I remember those costly subjects, I tried to get combinations of schools.

The atmosphere at the time, Sean Lemass the Taoiseach was pressing hard for this type of activity – competition he used to say “you won't slide on your backside to success.” He had expressions like that you know. You have to work, you have to study, and that was going on all the time from him. The Irish Management Institute was his – he asked to set it up.

The inspectors in the Department of Education dealt with syllabus content in respect of business studies subjects and other subjects.

6. The Minister's own Schooling

According to Atkinson (1969) it is one of the liabilities of an educationalist's work that he or she must be a pragmatist. There can be little doubt that a knowledge of the

past will contribute little towards the likely course of future events. Human life changes constantly never repeating in exactly the same form. However, a person's personal experiences can contribute to the development of the future. Hillery illustrated his own school and university experiences:

The National School impressed me most. There were two or three lads, that were very bright, it did not do them any harm. One of them became a tradesman and he became very well off but the rest emigrated. It kept at me. You had a lot of people in secondary education because they had the money. Which again meant they got into the professions because they had the money. The only real test of people was the ones who got into the Civil Service. The Church took the top.

When I was a student in University College Dublin, I had the idea of a campus university. The old idea of the university being the students themselves, working off one another, talking. In my time I thought we were too much of a technical school, a medical technical school, it would be nicer to have a broader approach. The original idea was that different people studied, they probably did not study so hard, but they mixed and got to know each other.

There was a terrific intellectual pride, especially the fellows going to Maynooth, the top of the class and they were very proud fellows getting great marks in Greek and Latin. When they went back to school they didn't have a life, they didn't change their minds. They were very good at Greek and Latin. They were very bright and got involved in sport and that.

I did the matriculation examination, I was only sixteen when I went through to medicine. I did Maths, English, Irish, Latin, French, Physics and Chemistry. I got good marks in Rockwell College but I didn't think much of the secondary school physics and chemistry.

I don't know how I got through the first examination in university. We did no study the first year. The first exam was Physics and Chemistry and I got through that without knowing how. I thought the most useful subject for medicine was Latin. Illnesses and syndromes were in Latin, and if you got the Latin name, you had the first couple of sentences of the answer. I understood it better.

People in class with me without Physics and Chemistry from their Leaving Certificate studies were not at a disadvantage. They did not fail their examination because of it. The first year in university was a complete study in itself, you could learn it from scratch.

I remember I did a BSc degree and when my son was doing his first med I said I can help you. He said it had all changed and he was right. I did the BSc after the second med in Physiology, Anthropology and Biochemistry.

Latin was a great help in medicine. The only time I saw a person in difficulty was a student who had studied everything through Irish. He had to have a dictionary to learn things in English.

If the universities are giving exemptions now from pre- med there must be higher standards. That means they are doing it well. I thought you meant a student with prior knowledge of the subjects would be free to use their time getting into mischief.

According to Flanagan, Morgan and Kellaghan (2000) 48% of all students failed to graduate on time in the eleven Institutes of Technology in Ireland. Students failing their examinations and dropping out for various reasons are always part of the higher education system. Hillery recalled his experiences with this respect of third level education:

Medicine there was a big drop out. I remember answering questions in the Dail about people who failed their first year. My answer was that there was more reasons for failure than brains. Some of the students were drinking and carousing and had no interest. There wasn't always a vocational thing you know.

Wastage in my time was fellows going to England. They would become doctors but they were wasted as far as the State was concerned.

Drop out in medicine in my day – the phenomenon of the chronic medic – fellows that were there for years and years – they kept on repeating.

As I said already there are causes of failure other than lack of brains. People away from home, away from discipline and away from supervision. Oh yes commitment, this is where a lot of people who didn't grow up with their father and mother, uncles,

friends having persisted in a long course and dedicated – they accepted that's the way to do it.

I must say going into medicine in my time, it was an awfully long journey. Parents liked getting people off earning early – in teaching, you would be qualified in two years. Very few could afford university. If you got into the civil service or the guards you got paid.

If it was only the university it was cheap for parents it was the accommodation that was dear. Keeping yourself and the cost to the parents. People living in the cities had a better chance of education. In Clare I always thought the Queens Colleges in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Belfast were well spaced.

7 Reflections as Minister for Education

In a period of six years, in a time of change, a Minister for Education in an Irish Government, there may be a variety of issues that he would have reflected on. Some reflections recalled:

I remember the Secretary of the Department of Education saying to me that it should not be all clever fellows in the University. They should get used to mixing with people who are not so smart. There's something in that. A thing that bothered me at the time, was a TD from West Limerick, he was a Fine Gael TD. He was a teacher, he used to bother about untidiness, people being untidy. He used to be trying to teach the students to get up. I thought of bringing in Civic, I think we brought in a civics book. I notice now it is in the early stage of being well off and they're all a bit rough.

I always thought when I was Minister for Education, that you should have yourself fully trained to make a contribution – that's business isn't it. You have developed your talents and your capacities so that you can make a contribution.

I remember a friend of mine he was lecturing in Trinity College, he would rather a student didn't do Physics and Chemistry, he would rather the students were starting from scratch. A lot of lecturers in University, felt that what the students learned at

school was no use. Now you are obviously into a much higher secondary school level of Physics and Chemistry, I suppose all standards are higher now.

The level of education in the West of Ireland was the way out of poverty. Out of future poverty you know. If there was five or sometimes ten children in a house, there was one going to be kept at home, the others had to find their own and education was the way into a better living – lot of them didn't get that.

Extraordinary to think of those people realising that they had been let down.

I remember clearly saying that we were not going to have the Eleven Plus.

I said to people I had trouble with the Bishops. They replied "How could you have trouble with them?" They were powerful and they owned the schools they owned the structures.

8 Hillery's Other Ministeries

Dr. Hillery became Minister for Education in the Irish Government in 1959 and held that Ministry until 1965. Many writers and education academics including Malcahy (1981), Coolahan (1981), O'Buachalla (1988) and Atkinson (1969) agree that Hillery planted the seeds for change in Irish Education. In 1965/1966 he was Minister for Industry and Commerce. In 1966 he became the first Minister for Labour and in 1969 became Minister for Foreign Affairs. He held this ministry until 1973 when Ireland joined the European Union (the Common Market) when he became the first European Commissioner for Ireland in Social Affairs. In 1976 he became President of Ireland and held that appointment for the following fourteen years, the maximum period of office for a President under the Irish Constitution.

Well Industry and Commerce was the first one after education, and it was after an Election. Education was very difficult and the delegations, trade unions were pretty severe.

Delegations would take three or four hours, they would not go out and they would not stop talking. Debates going on forever. I remember one day I went into the restaurant, Sean Lemass and Jack Lynch were there at the table. Lemass said to Jack Lynch or someone we will have to give Hillery a new job after the election.

After the election he put me into Industry and Commerce. This was a beauty of a job, there was travel, there was everything. I got fixed on the trade unions, they were in CHAOS total CHAOS. Anyone could go on strike. A trade unionist said to me one time anyone would go on strike "all I need is a card and a clothes peg and I'll stop anyone." He was joking. I got absorbed in this and it was no place to go if you had ambitions. I was playing and dealing with them. There was strike after strike. There was more money and no system for division. The only way they knew was to go on strike. Then you had leap frogging. Because if you went on strike, a fellow coming in a month later got a better deal than you with another union.

So the whole thing was crazy, McEntee tried to bring in legislation, to have at least one person negotiating for an enterprise, but the National Union of Railwaymen tested it in the Supreme Court and it was found unconstitutional so it fell. I was less and less travelling abroad while all this was going on.

I said to Sean Lemass one day we should have a Department of Labour and he looked at me. A week or ten days after, I was in the Dail, with some debate and I sat longside him. He said "if I set up a Department of Labour would you take it?" I said ok. He wrote down some notes and stood up and announced it, that there would be a Department of Labour.

Friends of mine were watching me, watching my interests, said that was a very bad move. That's a bad move, you won't get anywhere now. It was all trouble all the way – I liked it, I enjoyed it.

There were some good people in it. I got to know the Trade Unions, they had a tough time of it, they got no rest any day of the week. It was a very interesting time and it had to be gone through. Time came when you had Atley and Cassells, people who know where the real interest lies.

Redundancy retraining and resettlement was developed on the assumption that you would never again hold a job for life. Jack Conway of the Liberty magazine said we were going to have unemployment, and we were going to cause it. He was very difficult and I made an attack on him.

I asked the Unions, what is your loyalty? "To our members, members of other unions and other workers." I said what about the country? "Oh no" You could not see the country progressing.

The Department of Labour was a good idea, but it was a bad career idea for me – that what friends were saying at the time. I was not looking for any personal ambitions at the time. I was interested in what could be done. In the end it turned out well.

Dr. Hillery became Ireland's first European Commissioner when Ireland joined the European Union in 1973. He explains:

Our application was dropped in 1961, when DeGaulle knocked Britain. In 1967 all my thinking was to be members of the European Community. We were not fit in 1961. We had to become fit. It suited us to go out with the British that time. The fact was – Lemass always said, we had to work on the assumption. Again I don't think we would have made progress if we didn't have that aim there.

I remember top people in the multinationals being very worried about the criticism they were getting and they said "employees wouldn't be happy if we were criticised like that."

In the Commission its funny – I liked to hear the Belgians in the Commission "the Irish did it very well, they were getting money out of it". The other countries were not able to do it as well and they wanted money too.

9. Concluding Comments

This interview with Dr. Hillery which lasted almost two hours, concentrated on his insights as Minister for Education. The interview attempted to address two themes. Firstly, the development of education particularly at second level. The development of second level education would drive third level education as it sets the seed corn for natural progression. Secondly, the interview attempted to focus on the development of business studies education. Business studies education developed at second and third level. Irish educational change may be summarised as follows:

1. The Minister's own background from a National School in Clare – rural Ireland and his practice as a medical practitioner gave him unique insights into families and lack of opportunities.
2. Sean Lemass's drive to push the economy was very important. Lemass' teamwork with Hillery was of enormous help in expanding educational opportunities in the sixties and planting the seeds for change.
3. Hillery also put the fundamentals in place for a binary system of third level education as distinct from a comprehensive system.
4. The complacency of the Higher Education Commission proved the necessity at the time for a technological sector – a sector that would also grant degrees and postgraduate qualifications outside of the university sector
5. Probably because of his training as a medical doctor, he was able to read the mind set of the cabinet members he needed to support him and of other stakeholders in education.
6. Third level educational developments appeared to be supply driven with little planning. More planning could have provided benefits such as training of academic staff for the new third level institutions. The gaps might have been satisfied earlier with better planning in the early sixties.

There is no doubt that the interviewee set the agenda for change in Irish Education during his period as Minister for Education 1959 to 1965. His passion for change at second level transformed second and third level. At second level all students were provided with the opportunity of completing their Leaving Certificate. The range of subjects was also extended to include business studies in the late sixties. The church monopoly of second level and the creation of Regional Technical Colleges filled an amazing gap in Irish third level education.

Finally, if Hillery hadn't been Minister for Education at the time would another person have equally made the same changes to Irish education? This is an arguable point. However, his background and experience were unique, because as a medical

practitioner he had insights into family life in rural Ireland and had started his own education in a National School in the late nineteen twenties in County Clare. In addition his unique relationship with Sean Lemass was significant in implementing innovative changes in Irish education.

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