



ON THE LINE Bob Considine

Eamon de Valera, who recently retired as the Republic of Ireland's president at age 90, continued to make history the following day. The oldest head of state in the world and his 95-year-old wife, Bean, moved immediately into a nursing home in Dublin. Another "first" for old Dev, as well as "last."

Almost completely blind, but still tall and proudly straight-backed, de Valera's last hurrah was sounded at the same place where his public career had begun — Boland's bakery in Dublin, across the street from the gas house. That was 57 years ago. Those who could hear him understood him to say, "I was once afraid I would not live to see Ireland united. I now think I will see it. . . I have always been loyal to the country and to the Irish language."

His fidelity to the Irish language was one of the continuing complaints against him by newer generations of the Irish. As long as he held power, particularly when he had the more important post of prime minister, Dev demanded that Gaelic be preserved in the schools, on the direction markers and name places of the land, and in certain discourses in the Dail or Congress. Earlier this month in Ireland there was a vigorous protest by university students who were required to answer certain of their final examinations in the almost extinct native tongue, under pain of being flunked. Irish businessmen, especially those seeking to build up foreign trade, had long since rejected the old gentleman's language-preservation preachments.

As for his expectation of seeing Ireland united (some of his old foes still say he should have striven harder for that in 1916 and later), he probably will be disappointed. Only some gigantic breakdown within the British

government would cause it to close up its properties, shipyards, plants, and Protestant majorities in Ulster. The "trouble" there is as virulent as the Israeli-Arab clashes. On the night of his sad farewell in Dublin, de Valera could hardly have been aware of two stories out of Belfast:

UPI reported, "A gunman shot and killed a man when he answered a knock on his door late last night in a Protestant neighborhood. A British Army spokesman said the assailant fired several times at pointblank range, killing the man instantly."

AP: "Guerrillas launched attacks in Northern Ireland today, blasting a police station with rockets and setting off a bomb in the heart of a country town. Guerrillas fired two Soviet-made rockets at the police station in the village of Belcoo in County Fermanah."

The death rate in Ulster is taking on the proportions of some wars of the past, including the final phases of the multi-billion dollar war in Vietnam. As usual, there are no true statistics on the number of wounded, the psychological drains, the loss of business and other contact with the world outside and, worst of all, the poisoning of the minds of children on both sides of the religious aspect of what once was a Catholic minority's demand for equal rights in jobs, promotions, housing, voting rights and privileges, and politics.

Dev's a dear old man who looks less like an anarchist (which he was) than, let's say, the Pope. He has always had a special feeling for America, where he was born (in New York). He was taken to Ireland at a tender age, educated there, and as a young man joined with those who justifiably objected to a British oppression that had existed in various degrees for the worse part of five or six centuries. In his County Clare he was constantly reminded, as a youth, of the depredations of Queen Elizabeth I, Cromwell, priest-hunters, and absentee landlords. It was the secret sadness of his life that he, almost if not entirely alone, survived the massacre or banishment of such fellow patriots as Padraic Pearse and Michael Collins . . . not to mention Wolfe Tone, Daniel O'Connell, Charles Parnell and James Connolly.

50th ANNIVERSARY

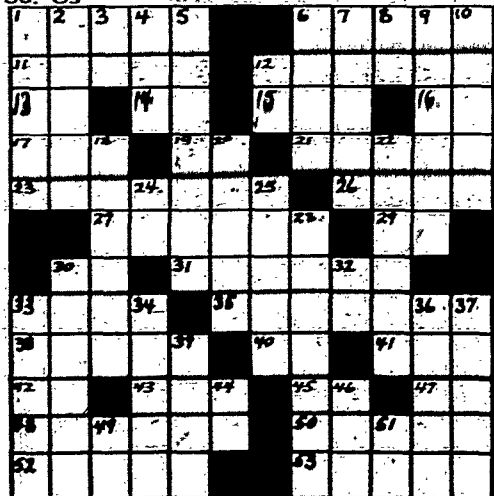
Mr. and Mrs. George Woolford of Colebourne Road celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding on June 27 with a Mass at St. James the Apostle Church. Father Francis Feeny, pastor, celebrated the liturgy. Following the service, the Woolfords hosted a small party at their home.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Reason
 - Young ladies
 - Malicious burning
 - Aureate
 - Note of scale
 - Shot size
 - Sioux
 - Roman numeral six
 - Abstract being
 - International language
 - Moist
 - Wise
 - Prescribed amount
 - Expurger
 - Compass point
 - Us

- Renter
- Small children
- Entirely
- Implant
- Japanese measure
- Chinese ruler
- By
- Contend
- Atop
- Greek letter
- Soften in temper
- A crystalline salt
- Love
- Winter vehicles

Answer To Crossword On Page 12



- DOWN**
- Is concerned
 - Amphitheater
 - We
 - Drunkard
 - Besech
 - Kind of butterfly
 - Audibly
 - Corp
 - Contrive
 - Malicious
 - Depart
 - Races
 - Beginning
 - Largely
 - Prefix, negative
 - Male singing voice
 - Fixed portions
 - Desired
 - Sodium, Chemistry
 - Jeweled headdress
 - Cut
 - Crippled
 - Belonging to you
 - Prong
 - And (Fr.)
 - Nothing
 - Behold
 - Musical note



Daughter's 70th

National officers of the Catholic Daughters of America get together during the organization's 70th anniversary annual meeting in Utica, N.Y. Left to right are: Mary Murray, second vice-regent; Margaret McKearney, secretary-treasurer; Mary C. Kanane, national regent; Father Leonard Bachmann, consultant to the national regent; Agnes Welch, president of the host Utica Catholic Women's club; Mrs. Vincent Pezzella, national director; and Eleanor Quinn, third vice-regent. [RNS].

Benny Goodman To Play Here

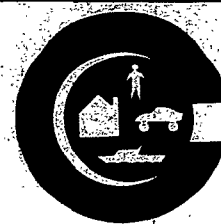
The "King of Swing," Benny Goodman, will bring his sextet to the Eastman Theatre stage on Saturday, July 28 for an evening of jazz.

The sextet includes Urbie Green, Milt Hinton, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Bunche, Bobby Rosengarten and Bobby Hackett.

Goodman's appearance is sponsored by the Civic Music Association. Tickets are on sale at the Eastman Theatre Box Office, or by phone, 454-2620.

CRS AIDE

New York [RNS] — Thomas B. Mulhearn, a financial analyst, has been appointed by Catholic Relief Services to be its program assistant in Ecuador, Bishop Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director, announced here.



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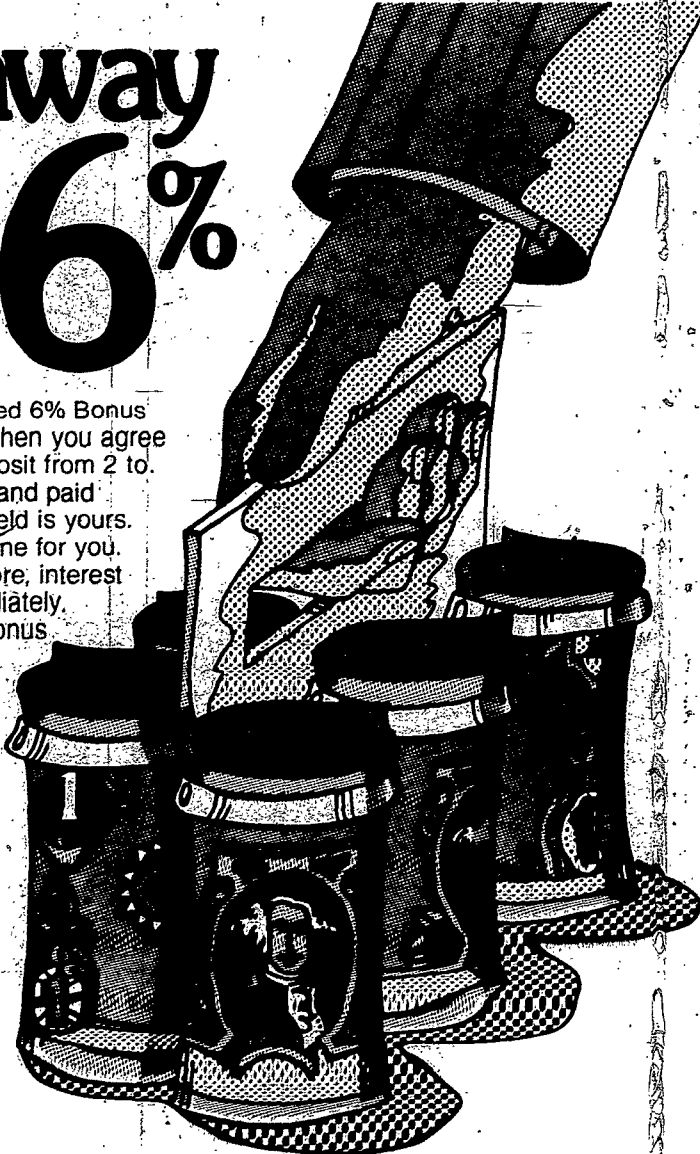
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