

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

© Christopher Earls Brennen

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## France 1995

### Airline Flights:

04/30/95 UA 946 LAX IAD  
04/30/95 UA 920 IAD LHR  
05/01/95 BD 175 LHR CDG  
05/10/95 BD 178 CDG LHR  
05/10/95 BD 90 LHR BFS  
05/15/95 BD 85 BFS LHR  
05/15/95 UA 935 LHR LAX

### Sun. Apr.30, 1995

Fly UA946 from LAX to Washington and then UA920 to Heathrow.

### Mon. May 1, 1995

Fly British Midland BD175 from Heathrow to Charles de Gaulle, Paris.



*Fontainebleau*

### International Symposium on Cavitation, Deauville, France, May 1995.

Liu, Z. and Brennen, C.E. (1995). Models of cavitation event rates. Proc. CAV95 Int. Symp. on Cavitation, Deauville, France, 321-328.

d'Auria, F., d'Agostino, L. and Brennen, C.E. (1995). Stability of parallel bubbly and cavitating flows. Proc. CAV95 Int. Symp. on Cavitation, Deauville, France, 385-390.



*International Symposium on Cavitation*



*International Symposium on Cavitation*



*Honfleur*



*Honfleur*



*Omaha Beach*



*Tomb of Richard the Lionheart in Fontevault Abbey in the Loire Valley*



*Fort le Latte, Brittany*



*Fort le Latte, Brittany*



*Fort le Latte, Brittany*



*St Malo?*



*Alignments at Carnac*



*?*

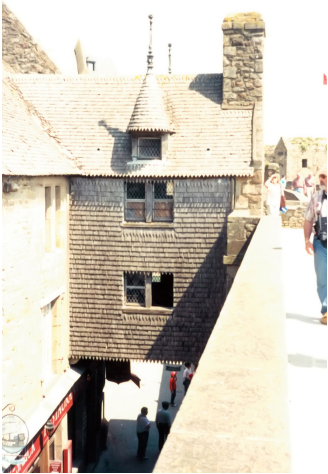


*?*





*Mont San Michel*



*Mont San Michel*



*Mont San Michel*



Mont San Michel



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**Wed. May 10, 1995**

Fly British Midland BD178 from Charles de Gaulle, Paris, to Heathrow and British Midland BD90 from Heathrow to Belfast, Aldergrove.

**Mon. May 15, 1995**

Fly British Midland BD85 from Belfast, Aldergrove, to Heathrow and UA935 from Heathrow to LAX. British Midland BD90 from Heathrow to Belfast, Aldergrove.

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*Last updated 7/30/99.  
Christopher E. Brennen*



## CHRISTOPHER E. BRENNEN

Professor and Executive Officer of Mechanical Engineering

California Institute of Technology

Mail Code 104-44, Pasadena, CA 91125

818-395-4117 / FAX 818-568-2719

email: brennen@ccosun.caltech.edu

It is now almost fifty years since my mother first urged me through the front door of "the Rainey" and up the wooden stairs to the Kindergarten room above the headmaster's office. That moment was the start of fourteen marvellous years at the Rainey Endowed School, years of education and enrichment that have sustained me throughout my life. The gift of these books is a but a small token of the great debt that I owe to the Rainey Endowed School and to all the dedicated teachers whose wisdom and humanity I cherish more with every passing year. It is not too much of an exaggeration to say that most of the mathematics I know, I learnt from "Doc" Gwilliam and that most of the physics I know, I learnt from "Johnny Mac" McAteer. Moreover, whatever small contributions I may have made to the welfare of mankind, they were inspired by the vision and humanity of teachers like Arthur Arnold, Wilfred Young and George Johnston. May that tradition of excellence in education continue to be the heritage of the Rainey for many generations to come.

Christopher Earls Brennen,  
Pasadena, California.

December 5, 1995.



# Phi River Ratus Award

This official certificate is presented to:

CHRISTOPHER BRENNEN

Who has demonstrated superior survival skills while performing death defying feats with uncanny agility.

These feats are herein listed below:

1. Emptying bilge water from eustachian tubes in time to hear panicky commands from boat guide.  
(Favorite command in crisis situation "Never Mind!")
2. Avoiding paddle blades, bailing buckets, meat-eating bees, man-eating mosquitoes, and leftover meals, mean enough to give burly boat guides the trots—(they eat anything).
3. Paddling fast enough to let your boat guide water-ski.
4. Demonstrating courage, holding breath, sitting in solitary confinement, and not passing out while exiting camp porta potty.
5. Showing a 90's sensitivity by overlooking drenched, make-up free and bewildered boat mates as they shed tears of terror.
6. Gulping large amounts of river water without endangering small fish, leeches, crayfish, or parasites, while you flounder in or out of the boat.
7. Asking life endangering questions to your boat guide like: "How deep is the river?" "What do you do when you're not rafting?" "Are there fish in the river?" "Is this a poison oak leaf?", while placing it in their hand!

For outstanding achievement, we proudly present this certificate and congratulate you for becoming a member of the Kern River Tours "Phi-River-Ratus" alumni.

Live life with gusto and keep your tail held high!

**WET YOUR APPETITE FOR ADVENTURE!**

*Rick Roberts*

Rick Roberts, Head Cheese, Kern River Tours

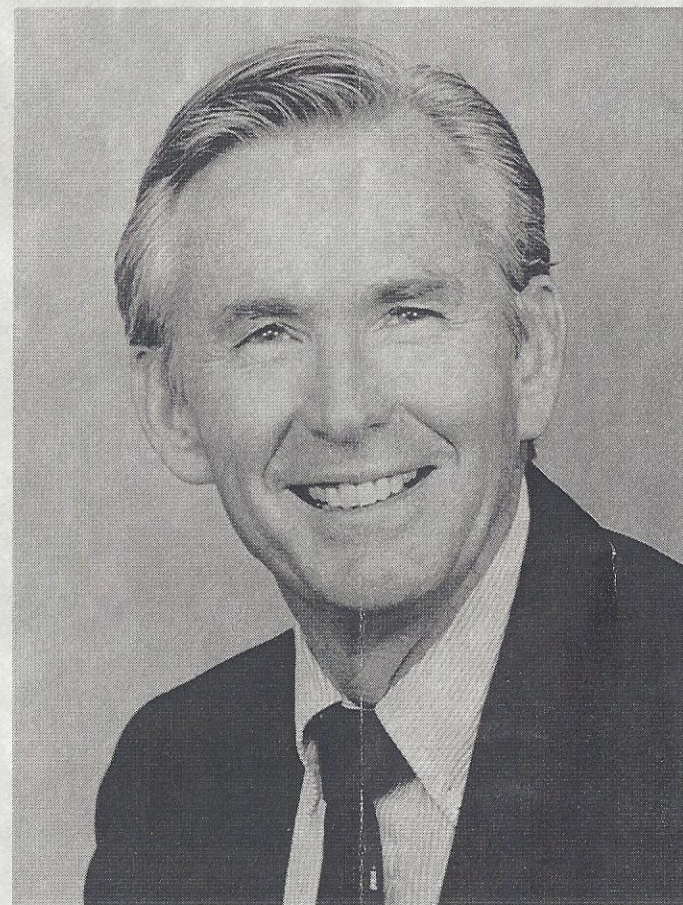


Chris

Congratulations on receiving  
the "Fluids Engineering Award"  
I've attached the news item  
so you can send it home.

Best wishes

— Tom Ward.



**THOMAS MINTER WARD**  
**1933 - 1995**

**MEMORIAL MASS**  
**MISSION SAN BUENAVENTURA**

**FEBRUARY 3, 1995**

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Pasadena, California 91125

Thomas E. Everhart  
President

(818) 395-6366  
FAX (818) 449-9374

June 6, 1995

Professor Christopher Brennen  
360 Olive Tree Lane  
Sierra Madre, California 91024

Dear Professor <sup>Chris</sup>Brennen,

I am pleased to notify you that your salary for the academic year 1995-96 has been increased to \$136,000 effective October 1, 1995.

With this change in salary, the Institute's contributions to your benefit programs will be adjusted. These adjustments will be reflected in the statement of benefits that you will receive later in the year.

The quality of Caltech's faculty is the cornerstone of the reputation of our small and distinguished institution. This salary increase is a small attempt to recognize the importance of your contributions to the Institute.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas E. Everhart

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 4, 1995

Dr. Christopher E. Brennen  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
California Institute of Technology  
Mail Code 104-44  
Pasadena, CA 91125

Dear Chris:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to congratulate you on being the recipient of a 1995 GSC Teaching Award.

This is a prestigious honor and we are delighted that you were chosen to receive it. We commend your efforts!

Sincerely,



Gordon E. Moore

cc: T. E. Everhart  
S. E. Koonin  
J. H. Seinfeld

Office of the President

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Memorandum

February 2, 1995

TO: Professor Christopher E. Brennen  
FROM: Thomas E. Everhart *T.E.E.*  
RE: Your Memo of January 31, 1995

With respect to your memo of January 31, 1995, I would like to assure you that I was present during the entire Institute Academic Council consideration of the recent personnel case you reference. All members of the IACC had read the case carefully, and I believe they evaluated it as carefully as they could from their respective backgrounds. The IACC is the only group of faculty in the Institute that considers all cases put forward for appointment or tenure. Members, therefore, accumulate during their tenure a breadth of knowledge of academic personnel matters across the Institute that is not matched by individual faculty members in any division.

I have observed that while they bring their own personal values and the values of their division to the IACC, they do try to understand the values and proceedings under which other divisions operate. And different divisions at Caltech do operate differently. Most divisions, for example, take a vote in the divisional faculty meeting on tenure cases. In the smaller divisions, all faculty members are expected to consider each case carefully, and to vote on each case. If this were not done, faculty in these divisions would perceive a lack of interest in one of the most important functions of the Institute: to renew itself with absolutely outstanding faculty members.

In this particular case, members of the IACC considered teaching and service to the Institute, as well as the overall record in research and scholarship. Different faculty members within a division may weigh these somewhat differently, and indeed, differences may exist among divisions.

It is the role of the divisional committee to prepare a case documenting what the candidate has accomplished in research, scholarship, teaching and service in as objective a manner as they can. It is the role of the IACC to evaluate the candidate based on the written record: the candidate's own writings, the materials prepared by the division, and the letters of recommendation that come from outside. Of necessity, some members of the

IACC will not know the candidate personally and must depend on their assessment of the written materials provided them, the presentation of the case, and its discussion. Even though I always study the materials myself, I have always learned a great deal from listening to the questions asked and the discussion carried on by members of the IACC. They are a very insightful group, and have a great deal of experience in reading and judging letters and committee reports. Hence, I take exception to your last sentence, "It is hard for us to understand that a remote group of faculty could bring themselves to think that they know better." Historically, I believe they have done an excellent job for the Institute.

All of us who evaluate such cases know that there can be differences of weightings and of opinions. It is very rare that I differ from the IACC; but because my experience is broader, and my role is different, I may see some matters differently. In all cases I have tried to make decisions that I believe are in the best interest of the Institute. I intend to work with all members of the IACC to be sure that fair, equitable, and *understood* processes are in place in all divisions and in the IACC itself so that the possibility of disagreement will be even more remote in the future, and that standards that will enhance the quality of our faculty are clearly understood and accepted as well.

c: IACC

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TO Thomas Everhart

DATE January 31, 1995

FROM Bob McEliece *RM*

EXTENSION 3981 MAIL CODE 116-81

SUBJECT Tenure Decision in the Melany Hunt Case

Although I have already signed the memo Chris Brennan has sent to you, I wanted to add my personal views on this matter. I am no expert in Melany's research area, but I read the committee report carefully, and attended the division meeting when the case was discussed. The committee report was unanimously favorable, and although a number of substantive questions were asked during the meeting, the committee, and others familiar with Melany's contributions, answered the questions, in Melany's favor, to my satisfaction. While we did not take a vote, I certainly thought the sense of the meeting was strongly positive, and I was shocked when I heard that the IAC had made a negative decision.

In my 12 years at Caltech, I have never heard of the IAC rejecting a unanimous committee report. Furthermore, I have seen several cases which were in my opinion considerably weaker "get through." In my opinion Melany Hunt is a wonderful asset to Caltech, and the IAC decision is wrong.

A wrong tenure decision is always bad for the Institute, but this particular one has the potential to be especially devastating, since it will be a blow to the morale of the existing untenured women faculty, and will make it much harder to recruit new women in the future.


# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING  
AND APPLIED SCIENCE 104-44

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: January 31, 1995

To: Paul Jennings, Thomas Everhart, Division Chairs

From: Christopher E. Brennen 

Subject: Tenure decision in the case of Melany Hunt

I believe that the decision reached by the Institute Administrative Committee (IAC) in the tenure case of Melany Hunt was a grievous mistake which was counter to the best interests of the Institute and I would like to explain my reasons for this belief.

The case was first considered by a committee of tenured faculty of which I was the chairman. This committee included eminent senior colleagues in the Engineering and Applied Science Division, faculty such as Jim Knowles and Hans Hornung who are known for their objectivity, who are exacting in their demands for excellence in research and conscious of the importance of teaching at the Institute. This committee submitted a report which unanimously recommended tenure based on Melany Hunt's overall record in research, teaching and service to the Institute. This report was then discussed openly and fully at a meeting of the tenured faculty in the Engineering Division. Though several concerns were raised, this meeting nevertheless manifested a broad spectrum of support for the case. Based on this support and his own study of the case, the Division Chair, John Seinfeld, carried the case to the IAC with a positive recommendation.

While I do not deny the right of the IAC to reject the recommendation of the Division, it seems to me that they should only do so when there are compelling reasons to believe that the appointment is not in the best interests of the Institute. It is very hard for me to believe that terminating such an outstanding researcher, a teacher of the very highest caliber and a tremendous contributor to other important activities within the Institute could be considered to be in the best interests of the Institute. Rumor has it that the IAC placed little value on the teaching and service aspects of the case. If so, the decision raises very significant questions regarding the commitment of the Institute to teaching and the commitment of the Institute to the Affirmative Action aspects of the case. If I may, let me address each of these issues in turn.

The Faculty Handbook (page 3/3) states that

.... The Institute's goal in making the tenure decision in each individual case is to secure for the Institute the best possible permanent faculty. To serve that goal,

tenure decisions are based on the candidate's excellence in research, scholarship, and teaching. Excellence in the candidate's contributions to other Institute activities may also be taken into consideration.....

Since the handbook is provided to all incoming faculty, it represents a definitive statement of the standards upon which tenure decisions are to be based. Note that the implication is that teaching contributions are to be an important component in the decision. I am concerned that the IAC deviated from this policy and placed too little value on Melany Hunt's contributions to teaching (both formal and informal). Some members of the faculty have expressed the opinion that tenure decisions should be based only on research accomplishments because the reputation of the Institute is derived from those achievements. I believe this argument is fallacious because the accomplishments of our alumni have also played a very large role in establishing our reputation. Indeed, it could be argued that the contributions which alumni like Arnold Beckman, Chester Carlson, Ben Rosen, Gordon Moore and Ruben Mettler (to name a random five) have made to the welfare of the country may have at least equalled the contributions of the faculty. Even if one focusses on the contributions to science alone, it could be observed that the students of this Institute have won more Nobel prizes than the faculty. For these and other reasons, I have always believed that teaching is a very important part of the mission of the Institute. It is also important to point out that the E.& A.S. faculty shoulder the lion's share of the teaching burden at the Institute and it verges on the self-serving for other divisions to downgrade the importance of this activity.

In summary, the above statement from the Faculty Handbook is in accord with my own view of the standards on which tenure should be based. It is also, I believe, in the best long-term interests of the Institute. If, on the other hand, teaching is to be an insignificant factor in the decision then the Handbook (and other Institute literature) should be altered to reflect this reality. Otherwise we are fraudulently misrepresenting our policy, in particular to the untenured faculty, and, in general, to the students and public at large. However, until such a change is made, we are surely bound by the current description as the basis for those decisions.

There has been talk of recent changes in the standards and criteria applied by the IAC. Such changes might be appropriate in new hirings but their immediate implementation would be most unfair in tenure cases since these must surely be judged by the criteria in place at the time the candidate first joined the faculty.

The Melany Hunt decision also calls into question the degree to which the IAC took into account the substantial additional burdens thrust on Melany because of her position as the first women engineer on the E.& A.S. faculty (Mary Lidstrom has agreed with this since she characterizes herself more as a biologist than engineer). Because of her excellence in teaching and her empathy for the students, Melany Hunt spent countless hours counselling and advising undergraduates and graduates and, most especially, female students. It might be argued that she should have been protected from these additional burdens. Many of us did our best to provide such protection. To do more one would have had to stand at the door to her office and refuse to let students knock. In some sense she was a victim of her own teaching excellence and empathic counselling. But the magnitude of the demand for her counsel was but a reflection of the

magnitude of the "affirmative action" problem at the faculty level especially in the engineering division. It simply could not be contained. It was inevitable and unavoidable that the first woman engineer in the student-rich E.& A.S. division would be subject to these burdens, especially if she had the empathy for students which Melany possesses. Therefore, I see the apparent lack of consideration for these factors as a very important affirmative action issue and one which is particularly critical in the E. & A.S. Division. Thus, the IAC decision must call into question the Institute commitment to and understanding of the realities of affirmative action.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that the administration of the Institute will find some way to correct this mistake. If she stays Melany Hunt will continue to be a great asset to the Institute and her profession. If she is terminated, the E.& A.S. Division will inevitably suffer great harm, harm which could take decades to repair. All the faculty in Mechanical Engineering (and all the others in the E.& A.S. division who have worked with Melany) share these opinions; it is hard for us to understand that a remote group of faculty could bring themselves to think that they know better.

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING  
AND APPLIED SCIENCE 104-44

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: January <sup>26</sup> 21, 1995  
To: John Seinfeld, Paul Jennings, Thomas Everhart, Division Chairmen  
From: C. E. Brennen  
Subject: Tenure decision in the case of Melany Hunt

We, the undersigned tenured faculty in the Engineering and Applied Science Division, wish to protest most vehemently the IAC tenure decision in the case of Melany Hunt. We are at a loss to understand the reason for this decision especially in the light of the fact that the committee who studied the case in detail unanimously recommended that tenure be granted. Subsequently, the Division meeting at which the case was discussed indicated a broad level of support for the case. We wish, in the strongest possible terms, to protest this rejection of our carefully considered decision.

Christopher Brennen

John F. Hall

Thomas K. Caughey

James H. Krumholz

Jul W. Purdie

E. H. Cuthbert

James L. Beck

Ed. C. C. Culick

Murray C. C.

Fredrick K.

Norman H. Brooks

Ed Zebroski

Give us the reasons!

B. Stutavant

W. H. K.

Noel Corgood

S. M. M.

David N. R.

Theodore J. M.

Bob M.

Henry

Mary G.

Aras J. Rosaki

William B. B.

We continue to survey  
our colleagues and expect  
that other signatures  
will be added.

48, Glenburn Park  
Magherafelt  
Co. 'Derry.  
BT45 5BJ.

15th November 1995

Dear Christopher,

I was so pleased to  
receive a letter from you at the end of August  
and I thank you for it.

It is heartening to know that you enjoyed  
our magazine and that the progress of the school  
is still something you care about. There is so much  
effort goes into the production of the magazine  
that a word of thanks is greatly treasured.

I had not realised that you would have known  
Esmé Somerville as a friend - apart from just  
being aware of who she was. She was a lovely pupil  
and I am sure that she remained that way. Apparently  
she suffered from asthma and the sudden shock  
of hearing of her brother-in-law's death brought

on the fatal attack, so that her own death came just hours after his. Edmund was completely outstanding - he immediately came to Ireland with his son, to be with his family. After Richard's funeral they all went to England to support him at Esme's funeral. Now he is feeling very lonely but is working hard at getting on with his life.

Thank you, most sincerely, for your kind good wishes on my retirement. I must say I am very happy but I don't seem to have shed all of my school jobs. I was very busy during September and October carrying out many of my usual tasks connected with Prize day. Many of my duties - especially relating to the printed programme - are done 50-50 with George. I couldn't abandon him and no one else seemed to have been appointed to do them. Next summer George will be retiring so I think that someone will have to be found from somewhere to take on all his administrative tasks.

as your mother will have told you, I was honoured to be a Guest of Honour at Prize Day along with Derrick (Crothers). I thought we made a good pair! I felt so a ease for I was not sharing the honour with a stranger. Also I was not shy about being obviously heavier than I was, for Derrick could beat me there, at 18 stones. I planned to send Derrick some sheets from our photographic records (4 books from the 1950's). As you too feature in the same sections I thought "why not two?". I hope you will enjoy a little "Memory Lane" stroll.

Concerning addresses: I have obtained the three you requested. I do not have access to the Old Pupils' List as I understand that past President Willie McKeown put them on to computer. By chance, at the A.G.M. in September the President, Robert Ditty, expressed a wish to go through the list of O.P. members. So myself, Miss McCully and a few other old stagers hope to

(4)

assist Robert with this, probably next year. Of course generally pupils are most lax about <sup>joining</sup> the association when they leave school. If there are any names you want, at any time, to send me I will do my best to track them down and if any come to light when we have our "check up" I will let you have them.

Concerning pupils and N. America I have only a few leads - rather vague but could, given time, probably obtain more precise details. You mentioned Ivan Campbell (he is always easy to get as he is written up in the old Pupils' section fairly often) but that is the one person you know! John Bole has been in Canada, headmastering, for years. A boy Greer is in Canada, also Ritchie McIntyre who married Olga Miller. Of course the one whose address I am most familiar with is Prof. Brian Rainey (Head Boy), of Regina University. Brian may himself know of other Rainey pupils "over there" as he is keen on keeping up.

I spoke to George about your suggestion that we could have copies of your books for the school. He said that it would be a great honour for the school to receive them and we hope that you will do us the honour of sending them to the school.

I was pleased to hear that my design for your drama appearance still exists! When I was talking to Ian Gordon's sister she told me I had clad Ian's brother Robert in long green stockings for a Rainey stage debut and that this had made a great impression on her as a child! It is only now (too late) that I realise that one should be very aware of the bread one casts for it can return at the oddest moments. Recently a respected middle-aged solicitor brought me an enormous photocopy of a little drawing of a Teddy Bear family which I did for him as a sick child in 1956 - He now plans to have it mounted and to present it to the Kindergarten. ("What next"? I ask fearfully).

In conclusion I send you my very good wishes for the rest of the year and 1996.

And any sleuth work needed, don't hesitate to contact me.

Most sincerely yours,

Prothy M.

RAINEY ENDOWED SCHOOL  
MAGHERAFELT

Ms D. Madden  
48 Glenburn Park  
Magherafelt  
N. Ireland BT45 5BJ  
Tel 01648 32423

as requested: -

(from his parents)

Peter Burton

1, THE LODGE,

BEDFORD ROAD

HOLWELLBURY

HITCHIN

HERTS. SG5 3RZ

England

(from his sister)

J. A. (IAN) Gordon,

"ROBINSWOOD",

THE RIDGEWAY,

PYRFORD

WEST BYFLEET

SURREY

England

(from his mother)

Frank Johnston

FLAT 231 ST. MARTINI GARDENS

QUEEN VICTORIA STREET

CAPETOWN

S.A. (Tel. 0027-21 243 595)

and also

BOX 631

BLANTYRE

MALAWI

CENTRAL AFRICA

(Tel 00265 631509)

50 GLENBURN PARK,  
MAGHERAFELT,  
Co. Londonderry,  
N. IRELAND BT45 5BJ  
5th Dec., 1996.

Dear Chris,

It was great to get your "wee" P.C. - it revived very pleased memories, because it's just over 2 years since I was at the very same Chateau de Chillon in the course of a very pleasant fortnight spent mostly in the French Alps, just south of Lake Geneva.

Anyway - pursuant to your enquiry, I went down to school yesterday and consulted the relevant bound volume of the school magazine. And - lo + behold! - I found an account of your trip, written by Elizabeth Logan. Moreover, in the same volume I found another account - this time by Peter Burton, describing a hiking trip through the Normans. Unfortunately, neither account 'names names', with the exception of the staff involved. However, since you might just have taken part in both trips, I've enclosed photo-copies of both. I doubt if anything more precise + details exists.

Your sharp eye + brain will have picked up a phrase in the previous paragraph - i.e. "I went down to school yesterday" - yesterday being Wednesday. The reason I wasn't in school but had to go down P.T.O.,

to school? Because I retired at the end of the last academic year, i.e. as of 31<sup>st</sup> August. I could theoretically have gone on for another 2 years - until the age of 65 - but have a little theory - admittedly with absolutely no scientific basis - that one year's full-time work after the age of 60 takes 2-3 years off your life expectancy in retirement!

Be that as it may, I've adapted to my new status with very little difficulty - in fact, I am now at a loss as to how I ever found time to teach! I'm working a day a week at the Ulster Museum in Belfast, helping their Keeper of Geology put his department's manual records onto a computer database. And I'm putting together my own home PC, with Intel P200 processor, CD-ROM, fax-modem, + printer and scanner. And I'm flogging the Sperrin Choir through final rehearsals for performances of the Messiah next week. And I'm still running (jogging? - limping?) round the Ballyheifer + associated roads. And I've got queues of books, bought but unread, and CD's, bought but unheard, which I'm now working my way through - I may just make it by the millennium!

So, if you've got the impression that I'm enjoying my new-found freedom, you might just be right!

Again, great to hear from you - maybe we'll get a chance to talk some time you're this side of the Lerrin pond. Meanwhile, take care of yourself.

Cheers!

George.

## THE SCHOOL TRIP TO SWITZERLAND, 1957

On the 3rd July, 1957, a party of about thirty pupils under the care of Mr. Wareham, Dr. McFadden and Miss Carson had assembled at the quayside in Belfast by 7.30 p.m. After receiving our berth tickets from Mr. Wareham, we boarded the ship. A stewardess ushered us to our cabins, which were situated on the lowest deck of the ship. The crossing was very calm and we arrived in Liverpool the following morning. There, to our dismay, it was raining, but that did not dampen our high spirits. Before long, we were all in a coach being driven to the station where we boarded a train for London. On the journey we had breakfast. We arrived at our destination to find that the rain had at long last stopped. The teachers in charge each hailed a taxi and soon we were speeding along London's busy streets to Ashburton House, our headquarters for two days.

When we had finally settled in to our allotted rooms, we were informed that we were lunching at a very "posh" restaurant. Here we were served with a dish called *vol au vent* and then with a nut melba, both of which seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.

It had become so hot that we went for a sail down the Thames and even on the water the heat was still very oppressive. We passed the Houses of Parliament, and many large factories, belching out great clouds of black smoke. The launch stopped at Kew and we disembarked to admire the gardens there. On the return trip it became cooler and we returned to the house, after a lovely day.

The next day dawned bright and clear and the morning was spent sight-seeing. At mid-day we collected our luggage and set out by coach for Victoria Station, rightly called the "gateway to the continent," to catch the train bound for Folkestone. Some time later our destination was reached and we passed through the customs to board the steamer for Calais. Before long, we were leaving behind us the white cliffs of Dover, our last sight of England for some time. As we crossed the Channel, it became extremely cold and the sea quite rough. The sailors were mainly French, but much as I tried, I couldn't make out what they were saying.

Calais was reached, and again we found ourselves in the large customs shed, thronged with excited, chattering people.

We set out on the last stage of our long journey, a train journey, which took us overnight through France and into Switzerland, where we changed trains at Basle for Montreux.

At last we were there. The heat was tremendous. The party was met at the station by the owner of the hotel in which we were going to stay. The Hotel Bouffet de la Gare, as its name implies, was situated alongside the railway station.

Montreux was a lovely place, situated on Lake Léman. I was greatly taken by the blue of the sky and the lake against the white-capped mountains.

Everyday, the majority of the party, accompanied by a teacher, went to bathe in the lake, which was very cool after the great heat.

We made many excursions to neighbouring towns, and found, to our relief, that most of the shop-keepers understood at least a little English. A very memorable day was the one when we sailed up the lake to the lovely city of Geneva. We crossed the Pont du Mont Blanc, and went to see the monument built in memory of the great reformers—Calvin, John Knox, and other such famous men. The rest of the day was spent by shopping in the large stores.

One of the most interesting and picturesque outings was going up to the Great St. Bernard. The scenery was full of grandeur and many of the surrounding mountains were covered with snow. We were fascinated by the Great St. Bernard dogs which are trained for rescue work on the mountains. In the monastery, we saw the monks, dressed in black habits. The Great St. Bernard is situated near Italy and we all crossed the border from Switzerland into Italy. The journey back was very exciting and nerve-racking as the road was narrow and very steep, but we landed at the hotel safely.

Going up by mountain railway was also a great thrill. As the train climbed higher along its narrow track, it became noticeably colder. Châlets

could be seen perched on the mountainsides, while goats and cows grazed on the short mountain grass. When the train reached its destination near the summit peak, it was surrounded in mist, much to our disappointment.

We also made many trips by funicular railway. The vehicle was pulled up over rollers by a wire, which was very thin for the great weight it was supporting.

But one of the outings which I enjoyed most was going up by chair-lift, although it rained heavily all the time. It was very exciting being suspended up in mid-air by a wire and was really quite frightening. From the chair-lift, we had a wonderful view of all the little chalets on the neighbouring mountain-sides.

Montreux, like all other tourist centres, boasted of many souvenir shops. The exquisitely made cuckoo clocks and musical boxes along with jewellery and ornaments were among some of the many attractive purchases made by tourists.

But all too soon it was time to say good-bye. Our cases were packed, we caught the train and arrived at Calais, where we passed through the customs and were soon sailing home towards England again.

We were welcomed by the white cliffs of Dover and after a further train journey arrived in London, where we did some more sight-seeing. The last day of our lovely holiday was nearly over. We took a train to Liverpool and from thence by boat we sailed to Belfast. Arriving at Belfast we found to our disgust that it was raining—as usual. It was the end of a very enjoyable holiday and one which I shall always remember.

ELIZABETH LOGAN (V Upper)

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### NIGHT THOUGHTS

As I gaze from my bedroom window,  
I see the hill tops high;  
And the fleecy clouds seem to touch them,  
As they go sailing by.

But ever my heart is lifted,  
When the sky with the moon is light;  
And the starry hosts unnumbered,  
Shine on my window bright.

And far in the dimming distance,  
I see the tales that were told;  
The princesses good and beautiful,  
The knights with hearts of gold.

But of life I am never certain,  
However much I try,  
That my knight will be tall and handsome,  
As he comes riding by.

And whatever the weblike pattern  
Of my life, when the tale is told;  
In the moonlight's silver shadows,  
I weave it with threads of gold.

MOYRA RADCLIFFE (IV, Lower I)

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### WHAT A WORLD!

It is the Fair Day. The streets are crowded with people, vehicles and animals. I am standing at the corner of the street watching the activity.

From a nearby public-house emerge about half-a-dozen teddy-boys dressed in unearthly coloured shirts, outsize jackets with big, padded shoulders, tight drainpipes and luminous socks. They loaf around the "pub" door swinging bicycle chains and throwing murderous looks after two

The last meeting of the term was held on the 12th March with an "Any Questions" programme in which the ladies dominated the meeting. The questions varied between "What do the panel think of love at first sight?" to questions of Government Policy on Refugees.

Due to the extreme shortness of the summer term with its numerous examinations, it is unlikely that any meetings will be held during the remainder of this school year, but it is hoped that next year the society will build upon the good foundation which has already been laid.

## THE SCHOOL TRIP OVER THE MOURNES

Summer, 1956

There were ten of us in the party, two masers, Mr. Purdy and Mr. Arnold and eight boys.

Our starting point was from the Newcastle Youth Hostel. Here after the fond farewells of mothers and fathers (who had secretly tipped Mr. Purdy off not to bring us back), we entered the hostel. As this was our first acquaintance with a youth hostel, we looked around with interest. Upstairs was the Men's Dormitory. Here we left our rucksacks and made the beds. These were "double deckers" consisting of canvas stretched between the sides of the bed. Blankets were obtained from a cupboard in the passage.

On going downstairs we found a large dining room and a kitchen well equipped with all kinds of kitchen utensils. This hostel was provided with gas rings to cook with instead of the usual primus stoves.

When morning came, the few of us who had managed to get to sleep woke up. After a hearty breakfast of porridge, scrambled eggs and/or corned beef and luncheon meat, bread and butter, we made sandwiches for dinner and shouldered our rucksacks.

We met at the harbour and then set off together up a thickly wooded slope of gradient about 1 in  $\frac{1}{4}$  (slight exaggeration). At last we reached the top and we set off up a gentler slope. During this journey we often passed slabs of stone. The insets were the places where wedges had been knocked in to split the stone. The split part was then used as a gravestone.

When we were almost at the top of Slieve Donard we sat down and had dinner. This consisted of sandwiches, hard boiled eggs and "pop."

After this we all raced or tried to race to the top. The view from the top was unbelievable. To the east the sea stretched out and in the far distance we could faintly see Scotland and the Isle of Man. To the west the Mourne undulated away ending in the green shades of the neighbouring valley.

At the top we left our names in a bottle on the cairn and then climbed the Water Commissioners' tower even though it said

"Trespassers Prosecuted." Then we descended on to the Brandy Pad. This is an ancient pathway used by smugglers. They used to bring brandy on donkeys' backs up the Bloody Bridge over to Newcastle. Mr. Purdy seemed to know this part of the country very well. It was even suggested that this was inherited knowledge from his smuggler ancestors.

We followed this winding path up past the 'castles' to the Hare's Gap. To the left of this Slieve Bearnagh rises steeply. Here everybody except Mr. Arnold, who stayed to bathe his aching and blistered feet, set off to reach the top. The top was most unusual because it was surmounted with jagged rocks instead of being the round topped variety which is most usual. From the top of these there was a marvellous view of the valley beneath with Castlewellsan in the background.

From the Hare's Gap we went down into the valley following a stony cart-track and arrived at the Slievenamon Youth Hostel. This is a very comfortable hostel situated in an excellent position, being surrounded by beech and fir trees. After we had eaten an enormous dinner we bathed in a neighbouring stream. At night when we were turning in, Mr. Purdy showed us some enormous blisters on his feet. These he said were caused by his insoles deteriorating.

In the morning, after we had packed up we walked along the road to a reservoir. From here we struck up over Slievenamuck and down to the Deer's Meadow. Here the Spelga Dam is under construction and is very spectacular indeed. Fortunately when this dam is filled the Deer's Meadow will be flooded because this "Meadow" is little more than a marsh and very tiring indeed to walk over it.

Soon, we arrived at a river valley. Here we sat down, bathed our sore feet and ate lunch. This was followed by a mudfight.

After this we walked round the side of Rocky mountain and dropped down on to the Rostrevor Road. We followed this for about two miles beside a plantation, cut overland and reached the Knockbarragh Hostel. This was the most modern hostel we had met with yet; it being equipped amongst other things with showers. These caused a great sensation whilst everybody washed several layers of mud and sweat off themselves.

In the morning we had breakfast and left (the warden of this hostel was an artist and no mean salesman either—for he persuaded one of the masters to part with a lot of money for a painting). Today was to be a free day for us to do as we liked. So we all walked to Rostrevor and then took the bus to Kilkeel. The main attraction here was a "juke box" and a cinema, so the amount of money spent can be just imagined.

The next hostel was the Silent Valley hostel and was definitely the worst we had been in. The lighting was very poor and almost all the primuses were broken. However, we survived and the next morning we started up the road that skirted the 'catchment area' for

the reservoir. Unfortunately we only saw the Silent Valley Reservoir from a distance.. This valley is not called the " Silent Valley " because of the absence of birds as some people suppose. It was however ironically given this title by the inhabitants of the area because of the terrific amount of blasting going on whilst the dam was under construction. From here we cut off over the moors and round the side of Slieve Binnian to the Blue Lough. We stopped here and, after a few of the hardy ones bathed, ate lunch.

When this was finished we started again and here we had our second casualty. Mr. Arnold sprained his ankle in a rabbit hole but fortunately the distance to the next hostel was not very great although it was over rough ground. He did, however, just reach the Bloody Bridge Hostel where he recuperated. This hostel was one of the first built in N. Ireland but in spite of this it is in excellent condition and well situated on the hillside.

The next morning we walked down the cart-track on to the Newcastle Road and "thumbed" lifts into Newcastle. From here unwilling parents received us and brought us back home.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed this new type of holiday and are looking for this year's trip which is round the Antrim Coast. We are however combining with a party from Portadown College to which school Mr. Purdy is going this summer.

PETER BURTON, 5U.

## WITH PEN AND PENCIL

### 1st XV. RUGBY TOUR

The outstanding event of the season as far as the 1st XV was concerned was undoubtedly their Mersey-side tour, which took place from 24th to 28th October. On Wednesday, 24th, the team, which was in charge of Mr. J. Blackmore and Mr. R. Purdy, crossed from Belfast to Liverpool. Unfortunately, the crossing was rather rough and several of the party were sea-sick.

Councillor H. P. Minton, J.P., Mayor of Widnes, received the team in the Council ante-chamber in the presence of a number of other civic dignitaries. Welcoming the party, he said that it was the first time an Irish team had visited Widnes; the boys were especially welcome, because they were in charge of an old boy of the local grammar school, Mr. Blackmore. Afterwards the party were entertained to tea.

The party then proceeded to Wade Deacon Grammar School, where lunch was taken. In the afternoon, the team played the Wade Deacon School. The effects of the crossing and injuries to Gribben and Ferguson weakened the Rainey team, which however put up a good display although defeated 17—0 by a team which ranks among the best in the North of England. In the evening, the party attended a dance organised by the home club in the School Hall. The night was spent in Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.

The next day, Friday, the team travelled by coach to Newton-le-Willows, where they drew 8 points all. On Friday night, members of the team were guests in the homes of members of Rock Ferry High School 1st XV, a gesture which was warmly appreciated. On Saturday, the team played the Rock Ferry High School 1st XV before a large crowd of spectators. The result was a victory for the Rainey by 21 points to nil. After an afternoon spent in Warrington and Liverpool, the party returned home on the S.S. "Irish Coast," arriving in Belfast on Sunday morning.

The thanks of the party are due to Mr. R. Purdy and also to Mr. J. Blackmore, to whom the 1st XV expressed their thanks by asking their captain, L. Graham, to present him with a token of their appreciation at the Christmas party. We should also like to thank those parents and friends who provided transport to and from Belfast; those who supported the Jumble Sale organised to raise funds for the tour, and also the Governors for their grant towards the expenses.

### I WALK IN THE COUNTRY

The sky is a brilliant blue and the bright sun is shining with all her glory as I linger along a dusty, grey country road. All the sturdy oaks, the wide spreading chestnuts and the tall slender elms are in their prime; the hedges, too, are fully leaved and deeply tinted, for it is Summer.

It is the sweetest hour of the twenty-four, as I lie down on a small grassy slope for a rest. Lying there I notice, a little way beyond, a tiny habitation. This small building is situated at the foot of a sloping hill, sheltered with a beautiful underwood behind and a prattling river before. Nearby, and likely connected with the little house, is a farm. Nothing could exceed the neatness of the little enclosures around this; the elms and the hedge-rows appearing with inexpressible beauty.

Rising, I make my way along the ancient road, and when passing by a tiny cottage, I can not help noticing its snugness. This cottage is neatly white-washed and is covered with thatch. Millions of flowers are in bloom around this quiet but lovely place, and these too contribute to its beauty.