

*OBITUARY***Tom Hayes (1931-1982)**

Tom was a native of Ardura, Ballydehob, Co. Cork. He began his formal education at Kilcoe Primary School. He studied at the Albert College at the beginning of the fifties. After completing his training in Avondale he served in Foxford, Cappoquin and Killarney forests. He became Forester-in-Charge at Castlegregory forest. After coming to Kerry he met and married Eileen. His seven children were born in Kerry, his adopted county, whose mountains he loved. He moved to Killorglin forest in the early sixties and set up house in Cromane, near the sea. He was well known throughout Kerry as a most diligent, competent and popular forest manager. He imbued those with whom he came into contact with a great love of nature and of the rural environment. He was a member of the Society and participated in its study tours. He promoted and acted as leader of forest walks in Killorglin forest.

His activities outside of his profession showed a tremendous concern for the welfare of people both socially and economically. He was deeply involved in Muintir na Tire and was County Chairman for some years. He believed firmly in the ideals laid down by Canon Hayes. Tom was a founder member of the local Credit Union and worked unstintingly for it for many years. He was a strong advocate of the principle of self help within a community, to improve living conditions. His strong views on the "work ethic" were evidenced by the amount of hard work he put into his profession and into his gardening activities. He was a very practical man. Once he became involved in a Community Project, and this was always in the role of leader, he persevered through all difficulties to see it through to fruition.

A story I heard, which happened in the local Primary School, exemplified how the local community in Cromane perceived Tom Hayes. A child was asked "who built the local coast-guard station" (which is nearly one hundred years old). The answer was "Tom Hayes".

He was active in his church as a fund raiser and served on the Parish Council. Indeed it was in giving the lead in attempting to put out a fire in the church, that he was suddenly called away from us. This trait of taking quick, positive action was typical of the man. He would never shirk duty, or hold back, but would give his all. Whatever the situation he would "take the bull by the horns".

Above all else Tom was a great family man, fully committed to

make sacrifices to get the best for his children. He had been present at the graduation of his two eldest children some months before he died. He was very proud that his second son was doing Forestry in U.C.D. and now a third son has begun his first year and hopes to pursue Forestry.

It is very difficult to write an adequate appreciation of Tom without using some of the over used cliches. He was a loving but firm father, and a loyal, dedicated husband, complementing his wife Eileen in many ways.

On a personal note I valued his friendship and the friendship of his family. To have known him was a privileged and enriching experience.

The loss to Eileen and his children cannot be measured. May God help them to bear their sorrow.

T.N.