

# Farewell tribute to Paddy Quinn.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support on the death of my father, Paddy Quinn, on the 4th of January, 1993. He was 86. My dad was so full of life that it is hard to believe that he is gone. Only in the last three months did he start to go downhill. Up to then he was living life like a teenager, always going dancing at least once a week, always on the lookout for the next party or social occasion. He would greet them with such enthusiasm you would have to laugh. How often I sat listening to him as he told me about the next do he was going to. He would clap his hands and rub them together laughing at the thought of it all.



Paddy circa 1930 with his horse and trap.

Every Thursday, rain or shine, he made the trip from his house in Arbour Hill out to visit me in Malahide. You could set your watch by him - always there by twenty to twelve in the morning. One of his great pleasures in life was walking.

He liked to walk everywhere. He would set out from his house and walk up to his shop in Rathmines and maybe from there over to Eccles Street and back home again. He was adamant about the fact that under no circumstances would

he take to his bed so if he got a cold or anything of that nature refused to stay in bed even for one day. He would always just get up and carry on as usual. He'd say to me, 'I can't afford to stay in bed. I might seize up. I

have to keep on the move all the time.' Truly a believer in the old adage 'To rest is to rust'.

What really amazed me about him was his capacity to live in the now - never dwelling in the past. Truthfully, he was one of the few people I ever met who could actually do this. In this way, he would seem to extract the maximum pleasure out of each day. All his life he worked in the taxi business, originally with a horse and cab and then changed over to a motor car. There used to be a song out called 'The Jarvey was a leprechaun' and if you remember jarveys used to transport people around in a sidecar. I have pictures of him doing just that - taking people on tours round the Phoenix Park. I used to think he would be perfect in one of those Irish films in the part of the jarvey with just a touch of a leprechaun - a mischievous little smile and the glint in his eye - just have a look at the accompanying picture.

I wrote an article about him entitled, 'Glass into Diamonds'. This resulted from his great capacity to see the good side of things rather than bad. When I was a child he used to find rings or brooches or go to sales and pick up such items. Then he would bring them home to my mother and say, 'I found/bought this today, Kathleen. Look, I think it's a diamond' or 'I think it's gold'.



Paddy with Mary Power

My mother would turn to him and say, 'The trouble with you Paddy Quinn is all your geese are swans.' He'd reply, 'I don't care what you say, Kathleen, I think it's valuable.' He had a tin box in which he used to keep all these treasures. Of

course, I, as a young boy, believed that they were gold and diamonds. Every now and again I would ask if I could take a peep into this box and I would look at our collection with awe. He lived in the best cottage in Ireland, was married to the best woman in Ireland and his son was a genius. About my mother he was always saying to me, 'You and I don't appreciate that woman. She is so good she can't do enough for us.' When I was still quite a

young boy I remember one evening my mother and I were talking about him and she said to me, 'Ah, sure you know your father, all his geese are swans.' Then it dawned on me and I said to her, 'Isn't it lucky for us that they are.' And she looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, 'I suppose you're right.'



Paddy with Tony

and kindness. Above all, I would like to thank Joan who looked after him so well and gave him a new lease of life. Mary who looked after him like a daughter. As he used to say to me, 'Where would you and I be without her?' - which is so true. Thanks also to the two Patricias, to John and finally to Aisling whose support made the vital difference to me. Finally, I know all of us who knew him well will agree - they don't make them like that any more.

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Adrienne Gannon giving a facial massage.

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