



LEFT: Pictured at the Kerry Football Club of Boston Special Awards Banquet from left - Charlie Neilligan, Eamon Horan, John O'Flaherty, John Curran, Simon Clifford, Maurice Maher, Pat Devine, Kieran O'Flaherty, Joe Moran, Representative Maurice Walsh (Massachusetts House of Representatives), Representative Charlie Timoney, Connie Kelly.



RIGHT: In festive mood at the Kerry Football Club Banquet - From left: Mike Flanagan, Mairead Finnegan, Mary Lovett (all Tralee), Deirdre Lydon, Genevieve Maher, Mary Folan, Cora Walsh (Tralee), Paddy O'Keefe (Tralee) and Joy Harron.

Kerry packs Boston Dorchester for special awards banquet

IT is classified as the social event of the year in Boston and if you were in the spacious Florian Hall in Dorchester on Saturday, February 13, you would have had visible proof of that contention as the Kerry Football Club of Boston staged its annual Special Awards Banquet, with a bumper attendance of close on 400 people.



Castlegregory's Brendan 'Bruno' Maunsell, Guest of Honour with his wife, Rita.

Guest of Honour at the function was Brendan ('Bruno') Maunsell, who hails from Castlegregory. Also honoured on the night were Connie Kelly as Clubman of the Year, former Kerry All-Ireland goalkeeper Charlie Neilligan and Eamon Horan of The Kerryman as Special Guests.

The Kerry Football Club is a close-knit organisation for not alone does it unite its sons in playing football but it also acts as a unifying force in helping Kerry families who are domiciled in Boston to meet on special occasions and thereby consolidate relationships. In the course of his acceptance speech, Bruno Maunsell had this observation to make: "I know you are going to go out winners again this year - the last year of the century. Having gauged the innate pride they have in their club, it won't be for want of real trying or wholehearted endeavour they will fall in the quest for future honours. After dinner, presentations were made by the club to Brendan Maunsell, Charlie Neilligan, Con Kelly, Eamon Horan and to Players of the Year, Mick O'Brien and Mossy Murphy and to team captain Mike O'Brien.

In addition, the Massachusetts House of Representatives presented special citations to both Charlie Neilligan and Eamon Horan, and these were made jointly by Massachusetts Representatives, Maurice Walsh and Charlie Timoney. Charlie Neilligan received his citation for his 'unprecedented accomplishment in winning seven All-Ireland medals for Gaelic football with County Kerry'. Eamon Horan's citation was for his 'outstanding accomplishment as a Journal-

ist for *The Kerryman* - "On behalf of *The Kerryman*, Eamon Horan presented the chairman of the Kerry Club of Boston, Joe Murphy from Smeem, with a statuette of Cuchulainn, cast in cold bronze and suitably inscribed in Irish. Prior commitments prevented Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty from attending the banquet. Mr O'Flaherty is a native of Lixnaw and was represented on the night by his father, John, who runs the

club. It was a great honour for him. He said it was a pleasure to sit alongside as invited a player as Charlie Neilligan. "He was a great player for Kerry, some might say maybe overlooked, but certainly one of the most important parts of those great teams," he said. He also welcomed Eamon Horan from *The Kerryman*.

Mr Maunsell complimented his friend, Brendan Maunsell, who had honoured him greatly in the early years and who was the first man to play in the club when he played when he joined the Kerry Club. "Everytime I played ball with was special," he said. "I was lucky enough to be on the team with the likes of Pete Nash, P.J. O'Shaughnessy, Mike Folan, Jim McKeown, Sheehy, Billy McDonald, Noel Black and Joe Driscoll. I was a great supporter and worker behind the scenes in the Kerry Club and he is the

chairman said that Bruno Maunsell needed no introduction. He had been the backbone of the Kerry senior team in Boston for many years. As both player and selector he had always been a great ambassador for the Kerry Football Club, both on and off the field. Mr Murphy paid tribute to Connie Kelly on being named as Clubman of the Year. Connie is a die-hard supporter and worker behind the scenes in the Kerry Club and he is the

person to receive the award more than once. "I really don't know where he gets the time and the energy that he puts into the club, but it is greatly appreciated," he said. The chairman went on to congratulate both their players and selectors on having had such a great year. "Our senior team made it to two finals and narrowly lost both but they've done the club very proud," he said. On receiving the award as Guest of Honour at the banquet, Bruno Maunsell

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Sounds of Erin fill airwaves

ONE of the very first clarion calls to be answered in Boston was for Charlie Neilligan and myself. I was interviewed with Waterville born John Curran on his ever popular radio programme 'Sounds of Erin' which has a sizeable listening audience in the Boston area.



Former Kerry goalkeeper Charlie Neilligan receiving a citation from Representative Charlie Timoney for his 'unprecedented accomplishment in winning seven All-Ireland medals with Kerry'.

John, who incidentally, is a first cousin of Mick O'Dwyer's, chatted for about eight or nine minutes with Charlie and wanted to suss out a few things about Kerry football back home. For one thing, he wanted to know why it was that there were so few young Kerry people at last year's All-Ireland semi-final game against Kildare.

Needless to say, Charlie duly rebutted this assertion and answered by saying that, even though Kerry supporters might have been outnumbered on the day by their Kildare counterparts, there was certainly no shortage of young Kerry fans in Croke Park.

The interviewer also wanted to know if Charlie and his teammates would have won all those titles without the assistance of Mick O'Dwyer. And, in the true style of the fine sportsman that he undoubtedly is, Charlie promptly paid glowing tribute to the major role that O'Dwyer had played as trainer of the great teams of the '70s and '80s.

John Curran had a dossier on Charlie's career and went on to refer to the fact that the Castlesland baker had won a Munster Shout title when a student at St Patrick's Secondary School, Castles-

land. He also excelled in the soccer code, playing in goal for Home Farm in the 1977 and '78 seasons. Among those playing with Charlie were Ronnie Whelan and Terry Eviston. Among his idols as a youngster were Jimmy Johnston of Glasgow Celtic and the legendary Dixie Dean, and he had the privilege of actually playing in the same game against Johnston.

In the course of a chat with yours truly, John wanted to know if the Kerry / Cavan game in New York at the end of 1997 had been particularly significant for supporters from Ireland and I an-

swered by saying that I felt it had been. And I made the point how historic an occasion it was to see the surviving members of the Kerry and Cavan teams who played in the '47 final in the Polo Grounds meeting together after all the years and reminiscing about the old times and really enjoying themselves into the bargain.

He also wanted to know if there were any copies of *Years of Glory* - the book jointly written by John Barry and myself, in 1977, still available and I informed him that there were some still to be got.

A lively kick-off to what was to be a brief but very enjoyable trip to Boston.



Simon Clifford and Louise Turpin pictured at the banquet with Special Guest Charlie Neilligan.

Not alone does it unite its sons in playing football, the Kerry Football Club also acts as a unifying force in helping Kerry families who are domiciled in Boston.

It puts in perspective the accomplishments of the great Charlie Neilligan - winner of seven senior medals. I am quite sure that we will not see that accomplished by any team or any individual in our lifetime again. It's a tremendous honour for the Kerry Football Club to have you here tonight.

Eamon Horan is the other special guest here tonight. His contribution to Kerry football and the GAA is every bit as great. He is a distinguished sports writer for *The Kerryman*.

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Memories of JFK bring tears to Irish eyes

NOT having done so on previous visits, we were told that a visit to the John F Kennedy Library and Museum was a must. The result was a fascinating experience and a brilliant memorial to the man who was assassinated.

It's a massive museum and contains reams of archival material which relates the life and times of the man who became the youngest President of the United States when elected on January 20, 1961, at the age of 43.

The library has more than 8.4 million pages of the personal, congressional and presidential papers of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. It also houses the papers of Robert F Kennedy and more than 300 other individuals who were associated with the Kennedy Administration or mid 20th century American history.

There are videos of all the outstanding events during the three years of his presidency, including his visit to Ireland in June 1963. It captures all the emotion and happiness generated by Kennedy as he visited his relatives in Westford and mingled freely among the people.

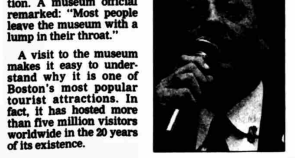
Then, of course, there is the graphic film footage of the fatal day in Dallas when he was assassinated and the whole American nation was plunged into mourning. Charlie Neilligan, who accompanied me on the visit to the museum, said



A happy Kerry trio at the Banquet in the Florian Hall. From left: Seamus Buckley (Lisroy), Mike Foley (Keel) and Tom Griffin (Lispolo).



ABOVE: Joe Murphy, chairman of the Kerry Football Club of Boston, making a presentation on behalf of the club to Special Guest Eamon Horan of *The Kerryman* at the Boston function.



LEFT: John Joe Somers, a native of Fingus, the MC for the evening. Pics: Harry Bratt.

Boston's big dig

THEY call it the Big Dig. And a drive through the centre of Boston gives visible proof of the massive construction work that's afoot in the city at present.

Basically what's happening is they are putting the overhead expressways under and it is reckoned to be the biggest construction job of its type in the world.

It has been going on for the past five years and it will take about another 10 years before it is completed. Originally the estimated cost was in the region of \$1 billion but that figure has now gone to \$4 billion.

It's all about inter-connecting roadways. As one onlooker put it: "It's like putting the whole city of Dublin underground. Daily you have hundreds of police patrolling the traffic. The whole thing is mind-boggling."

"Workwise it was never better here, but you have to have a work permit."

A Tralee man, now domiciled in Boston, expressed the opinion that they would build Blennerville Bridge over a weekend! In effect, what the whole thing means is that the tradesman in Boston today never had it so good.

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