

CONGRESSMAN JOHN E. FOGARTY'S REMARKS ON OCCASION APPEARANCE  
OF LITTLE GAELIC SINGERS IN PROVIDENCE, FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1959

One of the most moving experiences in Ireland is to visit Nazareth House in the County of Derry and to hear its children sing. Almost a century old, Nazareth House is an orphanage maintained by the Sisters of Nazareth.

The Little Gaelic Singers of the County of Derry grew out of the popularity enjoyed by the children at public musical festivals in Ireland. So great was the demand for their appearance that what had been an informal activity at Nazareth House developed into a well-organized and thoroughly trained ensemble, one of the glories of the Irish cultural scene today. Nazareth House, say the good people of Derry, is a happy community -- aglow with the versatile singing and dancing of its children.

The chorus of young voices, superbly trained by James McCafferty, Director and Accompanist, tugs at the heart strings, whether its songs are in English or in Gaelic. Yet, the mood can change with the flick of a finger, and gaeety takes over. Now the children accompany their songs with lively dancing, playing their own accompaniment on violins.



The supremacy of the little Gaelic Singers has often been asserted at the celebrated Irish competition the FEISEANNA. At Nazareth House there are trophies and ribbons and the coveted Bishop's Shield, giving eloquent testimony of the winning ways of this charming group of children whose singing and dancing always prove irresistible.

Ireland, as you well know, is a country that breathes music in its very air and Derry is known as one of its most musical regions.

The infamous partitioning of the Irish homeland while it has severed the land politically cannot, thank God, divide the arts and culture of the Gael -- and the City of Derry with its background and historic association with the great Saint Columcille is as Irish today as it was in those bygone centuries.