Schooldays*

The young Behan of schooldays¹ was recalled by two of his teachers, Bred Costello and Brother O'Donnell. Bred remembered his torrent of Gaelic ('he loved roaring out the Irish'). Another teacher had told her that he was 'brassy bold', and that she could not stop him talking in English and Irish. But he was full of personality.

Brother O'Donnell remembered him as a 'thin, spare, little boy' in 1934, but he was an avid reader of the Irish novelists when his schoolmates were reading books of their own age.

He caught Brendan one day with Daniel Corkery's² *Hidden Ireland*, and found he understood it very well. 'He had matured thoughts, weaved his sentences very well, and, where other boys would write one page of an essay, Brendan would write six.'

He said he thought that he was unmarked by Borstal and said, 'I don't think he had it in him to be bitter to anyone' and said that when he was there he read everything from the *Catholic Herald* to the *Daily Worker*.

* *Irish Times* (Dublin), 21 Mar 1964, p. 9. Editor's title.

NOTES

1. Behan attended the Irish Christian Brothers' School, Dublin, from 1934 to 1937.

2. Daniel Corkery (1878–1964), Irish writer, professor of English, and Senator.

Moving Out†

DOMINIC BEHAN

I first met him in 1937¹ when he was fourteen and I was nine. On the back of an ass and cart we were sitting, and it going to Kimmage. He had an answer for everything—or so I was led to believe. 'Why are we leaving

† *My Brother Brendan* (London: Leslie Frewin, 1965) pp. 9–16. Editor's title.

E. H. Mikhail (ed.), *Brendan Behan*

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