

# BEST WISHES

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## Junior Chamber Through The Decades

### *JCD During the 1960's - Declan L Lennon*

When on ones 64th Birthday you are asked to put together some recollections of a 40 year old institution, ones mind to some extent is inevitably drawn back to your own state of mind 40 years ago, that is, if the brain will stand the strain.

On a personal basis I believe that I perceived being asked to join the Dublin Chamber shortly after its birth by then and happily still very good friends Senators John Hegarty and Tony Tynan as a major commercial and personal validation of my potential status in the then emerging young business society of the late 1950's.

The business community in that era was strongly driven by family firms of high probity and financial institutions of impeccable standards both firmly locked into a hierarchical concrete where promotion was governed by lineage or longevity of service. Election to the ranks of the emerging thrusting group of young Turks in Dublin Junior Chamber seemed to be a passport to challenging their closed mind state of affairs.

The reality was quite different. The Chamber because of its strong linkage with the governing Chamber of Commerce then well into its second century suffered all of the difficulties created by a dominating parent and I believe it was our hosting of a Junior Chamber International European Congress in 1958, if memory serves me correctly, that opened our eyes and minds to the real possibilities of being an independent free standing business entity. That route was vigorously pursued thereafter with significant haste.

One of the highlights of the Congress was the lunch party, hosted by Michael Rowan sometime President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and father of Senator Paul Rowan at their beautiful home in Beacham in Bray.

A few of those present on that occasion can still recall with clarity the sensation created by the three point turn arrive on the family front lawn of a battered Volkswagen piloted by the much lamented late Jack Fallon, President 1964. Happy Days! Happy, grass seed was a stable commodity in the Rowan empire so that damage was short lived.