

To the rescue of the Titanic

HARRY COLSTON'S NIGHT TO REMEMBER

BY JIMMY WOULFE

ON A shivering April night as a steam ship churned its way through the icy waters of the North Atlantic, a youthful Harry Edward Colston tried to fend off the cold by sipping beer with the wine steward on board.

But his few moments of relaxation was abruptly terminated when the captain of the Carpathia, a Cunard liner, ordered full steam ahead.

Little did Harry Colston know that at that moment he was heading for the scene of the worst catastrophe ever at sea.

Super ship

It was the night of April 21/22, 1912, and the newly launched super ship, the Titanic, was sinking less than 150 miles away.

To this day, Harry, who is now 85 years of age, still has a vivid recollection of that terrible night.

He will never forget it. And he is one of the few people alive to-day who can say: "I was there."

Harry Colston came to Ireland four years ago on a holiday after his wife died. He immediately fell in love with this country and the people, and he decided to settle in



Mrs. Ella Sheehy, matron (right), and staff nurse Helen O'Shaughnessy, welcome Mr. Colston, 85, to Tall Trees Nursing Home, Askeaton, this week.

Limerick. And now he has retired to a private nursing home at Askeaton.

It was said at the time that neither God nor man could sink the Titanic. But her massive frame crumpled when she collided with an ice-berg as she made her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

First

And the Carpathia, on which Harry Colston was returning to England the same night, was the first rescue ship to arrive and pick up survivors.

In fact it was by sheer acci-

dent that Harry was aboard the Carpathia that night.

"I was a Warrant Officer Shipwright in the Royal Navy at the time and I was attached to H.M.S. Dominion. We sailed to Canada after the Coronation of King George V as our ship was sponsored by the Canadian Government.

"While making our way across the Atlantic we ran across an uncharted rock which tore a 70 foot hole in the bottom of the ship. This meant that we had to go into dock in Montreal and it was estimated that it would take three months to repair the damage.

"We therefore went aboard

the Carpathia, a passenger and cargo liner, to get back to England. On the night of April 21, I was having a few drinks with the wine steward when at about midnight the wireless operator got an SOS from the Titanic. Immediately the captain turned course and ordered full steam ahead. It was about 6.30 a.m. when we arrived at the scene.

Crowded

"Small boats crowded with people dotted the horizon in front of us.

"By this time the Titanic had gone under and we started to take the survivors on board. Among the people I assisted aboard was Lady Astor and her young son. She was brought through the seagangway amongst the many others. In all we took on 625, mostly women and children."

About 1,300 people died in the disaster.

As Harry endeavoured to keep the survivors warm and supplied them with hot drinks they were told of how all the men who remained on board to make the lifeboats available for their families sang the hymn "Nearer, My God, To Thee," as the ship slid to the bottom of the ocean.

"I will never forget it," said Harry when I spoke with him this week in Askeaton.

The story of the Titanic has been well documented since then in both words and on film.

But Harry Colston is one of the few people alive to-day with the story, as he witnessed it.

County Limerick livestock breeder is elected president of Irish Hereford Society

BY LEADER REPORTER

A COUNTY Limerick livestock breeder has been elected to lead the development of the country's leading beef breed of livestock over the next twelve months.

Mr. Thomas Long, who has been elected president of the Irish Hereford Breed Society, is the first Co. Limerick breeder to hold the position, and during his term of office hopes to further promote the breed as the ideal beef producing breed for this country.

A native of Feenagh, Co. Limerick, Mr. Long runs a 120-acre farm at Ballynulty, near Limerick Junction, where he keeps a herd of 60 head, including 25 pedigree cows for breeding.

He is well known in the business and co-operative movement throughout North Munster. A qualified auditor, he has been handling the business of many of the co-ops for several years and is now

Last year he represented the Irish Hereford breeders at the World Congress of Hereford breeders at Alberta, Canada, which was attended by representatives of 21 countries.

Of his ambitions during his term of office, he said: "I will

be trying to establish more co-operation between the Department of Agriculture, the A.I. stations and the breeders, for the advancement of the breed.

"We have so much in common and yet we seem so re-

note. I hope we will find more co-operation and interest in these factors," he stressed, emphasising that with further improvement of the breed, Herefords could face competition from any of the Continental beef breeds.

Inspector: If every lounge got a restaurant licence . . .

BY LEADER REPORTER

A GARDA INSPECTOR told Justice M. de Burca at Newport Court that if every lounge got a restaurant licence they would all be able to get spec-

Bruton at NIHE meeting

AT THE second public meeting of the Fine Gael Club (N.I.H.E.) the guest speaker was Mr. John Bruton, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industry and Commerce. The topic: Contemporary Politics.

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