

## 10 Years Ago

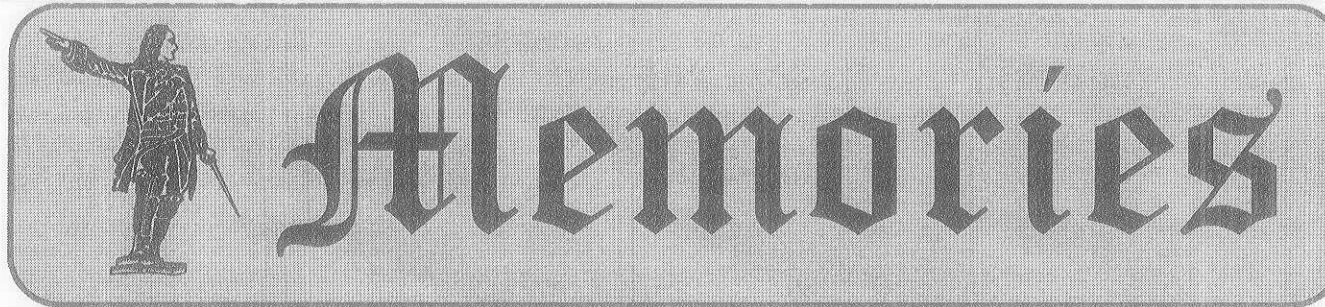
### NO BIG BANG AS MUNGRET STACKS TO BE DEMOLISHED

THE three tall chimney stacks at Irish Cement Limited in Mungret are to be taken down this summer. As they can't be blasted with dynamite — because they could fall on existing production buildings — they will have to be demolished from the top down.

None of them have been in use for many years — ever since the new rotary kiln was installed. They stand in total isolation on the grounds of the huge site at Castlemungret.

First to go will be the tall square-topped stack. This is so because its more slender sister, the stack which tapers at the top carries aviation warning lights. Those lights will be transferred to the new metal production stack and work can then begin on demolishing the second of the tall ones. Last to go will be the relatively small stack.

The absence of the three stacks, the taller two of which are about 100 metres in height, will make a drastic difference to the Limerick skyline. They can be seen from as far away as the parish of Templeglantine in the west, from outside Charleville to the south and from parts of Shannon town.



### DRAMATIC DROP IN CITY'S POPULATION

LIMERICK city is being swallowed up by its suburbs, a report confirms. The city population is now 52, 093 and falling as more and more people move out to live in the suburbs.

In 1986 the city population stood at 56,279. While there has been a population explosion in city suburbs, a City Enterprise Board report published today states: "the population of the city as it is presently constituted will not increase significantly over the next 15 years."

During the past five years, the report says more than 1,500 city people have moved out to the suburbs.

The report also says that the city has the highest unemployment rate in the region.

Although there has been a jobs boom in the city over the

past four years, unemployment in the city has only fallen by one tenth of one per cent.

But the report states: "Many businesses in the city are finding it difficult to attract applicants for vacant positions in their companies in the skilled, semi-skilled and manual areas. While there is a shortage of some skilled craftsmen, it is clear that for many the option of remaining on social welfare is more financially attractive and secure than the rates of pay being offered for many of these positions."

### LIMERICK'S HONG KONG FAMILIES CELEBRATE

MOST of Limerick's Hong Kong families celebrated the handover of their homeland from Britain to The Peoples' Republic of China in their homes around the city.

But feelings were mixed about the handover, according to Albert Wong, PRO for the Limerick-based Chinese Association of Ireland.

"The handover is a happy occasion because it marks the end of British rule but there is some uncertainty about the future," he said.

Hong Kong and Chinese residents in Ireland held their main handover celebrations in Dublin last month.

Most people wanted to watch the official ceremonies on television with their families and friends, Mr Wong explained.

There are about 200 Hong Kong Chinese living in Limerick.

Mr Wong is from Hong Kong and has lived in Ireland since 1980. His parents and three sisters still live in Hong Kong and he said they attended the official public celebrations. Mr Wong wished he could have been with them for the occasion.

"I am optimistic and confident that the Chinese Government will be a positive thing for Hong Kong but there are mixed feelings because people don't know what's going to happen in the future," he said.

## 20 Years Ago

### PARKWAY DEBT IS £730,000

ALMOST 73 creditors are owed over £730,000 by Parkway Catering Limited, Dublin Road, which closed down two weeks ago with 25 job losses, according to the directors' statement of affairs released to creditors yesterday.

Assets are estimated to realise just over £65,000, which holds out little hope for unsecured creditors. It was disclosed at the meeting that Parkway Catering did not own or have a lease on the buildings at the Parkway and therefore these buildings cannot be sold as an asset as they are owned by a separate company.

At a meeting of about 50 creditors in the Royal George yesterday, managing director Mr Ralph Parkes explained the difficulties the company had run into.

After the meeting which was open to creditors only and not the press, liquidator Dermot FitzGerald, who was ratified by the meeting after being appointed by the company said that in its initial stages, the company — which ran the New Yorker Night Club, Robbies Bar and Oliver's Restaurant — was running at a substantial loss.

However, in recent times, it was trading profitably but was unable to generate substantial cash flow to clear the backlog of accumulated debts.

"My job is to realise the assets for the benefit of the creditors and the staff will receive their statutory redundancy entitlements," the liquidator stated.

Spokesman for the staff, senior bartender Mr Richard Kelly said that he was devastated by the manner in which the closure took place because he and no other staff received notification until the morning of the closure.

### CITY FG DIVISION DEEPER

TENSIONS within Fine Gael in Limerick East heightened last night at an acrimonious two-hour meeting of constituency delegates to appoint

a constituency organiser and PRO.

A recommendation from a special three-man committee under party general secretary Finbarr Fitzpatrick that Mrs Marie O'Connor of Ballyclough be ratified as PRO was opposed. One delegate said the recommendation of the special committee was not worth the paper it was written on.

Mrs Rosarie Moylan was put forward along with Mrs O'Connor and on a vote, Mrs O'Connor was elected.

Mr Eddie Butler who was ratified as constituency organiser earlier, acted as teller.

The details of the vote were not revealed.

Mrs O'Connor had originally been approved by party headquarters and the party's press officer Peter White.

However, at the first meeting which was called to ratify the nomination, it was claimed that proper procedures were not adhered to as the Oireachtas members in the constituency were not consulted.

The handling of the matter further aggravated the party's general election wounds and at the special conference at the Limerick Inn two weeks ago it was decided that the matter would be left a special triumvirate under Mr Fitzpatrick.

And the rejection of their recommendation last night is seen as evidence of further disharmony in the ranks.

### LOOKING BACK AT 25 YEARS

IT was a night for reminiscing at the Limerick City Gallery of Art on Pery Square last night at the launch of RTE's 25th anniversary celebrations in Limerick.

To launch the event an exhibition reviewing the last quarter of a century of Irish television history in photographs and a video presentation was officially declared open by the Mayor, Cllr Jack Bourke.

## Memories photographs

PHOTOGRAPHS for the Memories pages in the Limerick Chronicle should be addressed to Gerry Ryan, Limerick Chronicle, 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick, by noon on Friday prior to publication. Please enclose a caption and a stamped addressed envelope