GLIMPSES OF LIMERICK by WILLIE W. GLEESON

Catherine Hayes

Echoes of Limerick's forgotten song-queen

NO. 1 of the world's best-known and most colourful personalities in the realm of song in the nineteenth century was Catherine Hayes of Limerick.

Born at No. 5 Sheep Street, in the parish of St. Mary, on October 25, 1825, she was the youngest of three daughters of John and Mary Hayes. The former, Abbey fisherman, gardener, militia man and wife deserter, disappeared overnight and was never heard of again.

At 15 years this simple rags-to-riches girl of humble stock, was an opera star and soon to become the idol of Europe, and at 20 she entranced the world of opera from the stage of La Scala, Milan.

A contemporary described her at the time as: "the Swan of Erin," "the Irish Nightingale," the Pearl of Scala," exceeding prepossessing. "She is somewhat thin but of eminently graceful and symmetrical figure. Her eyes are large and lustrous and the expression of her features, which are regular, is full of intellectuality."

He found the bud of promise that he had cherished ripened into the exquisite flower, every hue of which was alternately simple, graceful and beautiful. He found Catherine Hayes a "bright particular star" to whom the eyes of European admiration had been directed, but who was not spoiled by her good fortune, being the same frank and unpretending lady whose girlhood's warbling had, in his mind, foretold fame and fortune for her.

To Paris

After receiving preliminary voice training in Dublin, she left for Paris in 1844, to study under the celebrated Manuel Garcia, who was also the master of Johnny Lind. After a year and a half in Paris, she went to Italy, where she completed her studies in Milan under Roncona.

She was a brilliant success on the continent, and had the rare distinction of having had two special operas composed for her. In 1849 she sang in the Covent Garden Theatre, London, where mile-long queues formed to hear her. And during the season she sang before Queen Victoria at a private concert in Buckingham Palace.

A year later, on March 11 and 12, she gave concerts in her native city, after which she sang outside her native St. Mary's Parish Church (where she had been baptized), a song specially composed for her by Harvey titled "My Native Land."

I breathe once more my native air,
And hail each happy, happy scene,
That twines around me everywhere,
As though I left but yestere'en.
I found the hour so fondly sought,
And weep — but these are joyous tears,
The rapture of a moment brought
By long and weary absent years.
Oh! how I love thee, Erin, dear,
When roaming on a foreign strand,
I fancy still my steps were here:
Home of my heart, my native land.

The visit to her native city of such an artiste might be expected to excite an immense amount of interest, but really the sensation her too-brief engagement had created surpassed every expectation.

It is on record that after her renderings of Bellini's opera "Norma" and "La Sonnambula" in the Theatre Royal in Henry Street (accidentally and completely destroyed by fire on Monday, January 23, 1922), the boys in the 'gods' in a vociferous outburst, with cries of encore, encore and cheers, repeated over and over, 'till the house rang again, were the true tests of her abilities, for ours is a discriminating audience, and no mere reputation, however vast, could have won from them such irrepressible bursts of enthusiasm as Catherine Hayes was accorded.

Tribute

In 1850, after a very successful concert in Cork, the following farewell tribute appeared in the local periodical, on the eve of her departure for Rome.

Sweet Daughter of Erin — Enchantress divine,
Shedding radiance and splendour on Melody's shrine,
On whose dulcimer tones, like a magical spell,
Fond memory long shall entrancingly dwell,
Thou are leaving thine own cherished Isle of the West,
For the bright favoured South where the sun loves to rest,
But tho' thousands should hail thee with rapturous smile,
Oh! forget not the hearts of the Emerald Isle.

Six years later, after an unprecedented tour of Italy, the Queen of Song returned to Cork. Again, in poetic effusion she was greeted thus:

Bright Star of green Erin — Enchantress — whose spells,
Enchain every feeling where Melody dwells;
From the sphere of Columbia — and Ocean's white foam,
With a 'Céad Míle Fáilte' we welcome thee home.
'Mid Italy's grand Columns of Genius and Art,
Thy tones shed deep rapture and bliss o'er each heart—
In the land where Rossini and Pasta held sway,
Thou hast called back bright visions of scenes passed away.
Long — long may the Halo of glory endure,
Thou hast shed o'er the Lyre of our own cherished Moore,
And Bellini's outpourings of Music divine,
May be laid at Thy feet as their worthiest shrine.
May the laurels be fadeless, with which Thou art crowned,
And Peace, Joy and Gladness encircle Thee round—
And the cheers from the Shannon will soon swell for Thee,
Not less warm is the 'Fáilte' that hails from the Lee!

In 1851, after having travelled throughout France, she returned to England where she gave farewell concerts. On September 1 of that year, the night of her departure for America — having previously made two round-the-world trips, she made her final appearance at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool. The theatre was filled to capacity, and the popular idol was cheered for fully five minutes on her entry.

She toured America and in California a ticket for one of her recitals sold for 1,150 dollars. Later, she visited Australia.

Her travels seriously affected her health, however. She returned to London where she married her Australian manager, William Bushnell in 1857. Four years later, at the age of 36, she died, her husband having predeceased her by a year. Her remains lie in a neglected grave in Kensall Green cemetery, South Kensington, London. Her tombstone bears the simple inscription:

CATHERINE HAYES
Born Limerick, 1825. Died London, August 2, 1861

Forgotten

Today, 128 years later, nobody remembers her, save what might appear in newspaper columns from time to time of this simple Limerick girl who was the idol of Europe.

No more for Catherine the blaze of publicity — the thunderous applause, the adulation of thousands, only a neglected grave in grimy Kensall Green Cemetery!

'Saint' throws new light on Michael Collins in Limerick

CHARLIE ST GEORGE was one of the last people in the city to see General Michael Collins alive.

For in the fateful month in in August 1922 the big Limerickman — destined to immortality with the Young Munster Bateman Cup team — was standing outside the Henry Street headquarters of the National Army (today's Bord na gCon offices) when Collins stepped out the door and walked over to the waiting convoy of cars that was to take him to his death, only days later.

Mr St George has told the *Limerick Leader* that he wishes this little chapter of history to be placed on record, as he has extensively checked out every work on Collins to see if mention had been made of it. He could find none, he confirmed.

The departure of Collins from the Henry Street headquarters, beside the old St Munchin's School has never been revealed before, it is understood.

Recording memories: Charlie St George at his home in Corbally.

Henry Street

Mr St George, former Irish international rugby selector, had the good fortune to be standing outside the headquarters in Henry Street, by prior arrangement with a customer at the family pub in Parnell Street, Timmy Murphy — a Brigadier-General who became O/C of the Limerick Command area.

The convoy which took Collins away up Henry Street, after leaving the headquarters, consisted of two motorcycle scouts leading an armoured car — a Whippet which is preserved to this day and called "Slieve na mBan" — and three open tourer cars. They were parked along the length of the footpath leading up from today's Bord na gCon offices to Henry Street Garda headquarters. They were facing uphill, in the direction of the Redemptorists'.

We reproduce here St George's account of his encounter with Michael Collins, on the last week of his life, as he bade farewell to Limerick. We include, exactly as Mr St George gave it, the lead-up to his sighting of Michael Collins.

The account goes as follows:

"In August 1914, my family moved into the pub business at 41 Nelson Street, now Parnell Street, opposite the railway station, which is where our bar still is today.

"I went with them, of course — my father, Richard; my mother, Catherine nee Quaid; my brother, Richard, who is now in New York; and my sister, Mary, now Mrs O'Kennedy, of 10 Treaty Terrace.

"We all helped to run the business together.

"Life was very different from the private house—we had just two doors down the street, at No 43, where I was born. Now we had much less privacy, sharing the shop and the kitchen with the customers.

"I moved from being a boy to being a man, overnight: listening to bawdy conversations, jokes, and songs was a new experience.

"British soldiers were everywhere, and Royal Irish Constabulary policemen — RIC — both uniformed and plain-clothes were, too.

"The military barracks were further up the street — Sarsfield Barracks now — housing the different regiments at different times.

New Barracks

"It housed the Black Watch, the Highland Light Infantry — 'HLI' as they used be known as — the Yorks and Bucks, and the Royal Army Medical Corps — RAMC as they used be widely called. There was a big hospital with nurses and doctors from England at the 'New Barracks' as it was called, and there were living quarters there too.

"Kitchener's army was there, and the West Fusileers, with their mascot goat, the Munsters and so on. At any time, there were 3,000 to 5,000 troops in Limerick. It was the years of the Great War.

"There was also the Southern Irish Horse in the barracks on Mulgrave Street — opposite its junction with Cathedral Place — that was a gentleman's regiment.

"At the Castle Barracks, you usually had the Irish regiments like the Connaught Rangers. The New Barracks was a rest barracks for troops going to and from the front.

"The Strand Barracks did not have much accommodation and was generally a 'day' barracks.

"There were also local men known as Volunteers who, at weekends, Sundays, went marching out into the country. This lot were known as the Irish Volunteers.

There was also a lot of talk about 'The Front' and the trenches, men stricken with shellshock and all kinds of wounds.

"Street fighting between gangs was common, and taking down the shutters off the windows in our place was also taking a risk of the glass being put in about the place.

"Then there was talk of a 'rising' in Dublin, and there was much talk about 'volunteers', the Irish Volunteers particularly, and singing of 'A nation Once Again'.

"Across the road from where Reeve's Path comes out towards the railway was the Rangers' Club, which was the home of the Shamrock hurling team and where later the Young Munsters Rugby Football Club was revived after the Troubles.

"The 'Rangers' was the meeting place of every man and boy living in the neighbourhood — it was both the hub and the keystone of the social life of Boherboy. After 1916, it became the local intelligence centre of the IRA.

"When trouble spread around the country, safe houses where activists would receive shelter and food were established.

Good escape

"Usually those houses were chosen because the occupants were known to be trusted and there was a good escape gateway out the back.

"Food and sleep, when necessary, was always at hand. When the Tans came in their Crossley tenders, action on the part of the lads increased and cover became more in demand.

"Word began to filter through to the neighbours at home of the courage shown in action of those lads on the run, names were being mentioned and reputations established.

"They became local heroes. One of these in our locality was a young man named Timmy Murphy. He became a much-wanted man for the police and was the acting leader of the unit operating out of the Carey's Road area.

"Our pub became known as a 'safe house' and was used by those on the run, as many other pubs in the district were, too.

"Many times, I was handed a revolver to put away and to be given back when requested. There were usually Webleys, Colts, Lugers, and there was even a Peter-the-Painter, a parabellum.

"Women took part in those operations: they usually wore a shawl which was wrapped around them, and underneath they had a carpenters' apron tied around their waist.

"When on duty, they carried the loaded pistols in the big pocket of the apron and walked through the streets without attracting any attention.

"As time passed, and the soldiers and police disappeared off the streets, things began to settle down. The lads on the run returned home, as those released from jail.

"Now they were enjoying their freedom and their reputation for courage. Some of them still carried firearms in their coat pockets and a 'bulge' there was proudly emphasised.

"Some remained customers of ours, and continued to use the pub as before, as if one of the family.

"When the Split came, it affected the neighbours very much, splitting them into different camps — de Valera versus Collins.

"When the Free State Army took over, Timmy Murphy was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, and appointed Officer Commanding the Limerick area.

"He still frequented the pub, and we all got on very well — he used show up on Sundays and Mondays in mufti.

His pint

"This Monday morning, we arrived as usual and I served him his pint. We got chatting, and I mentioned that 'The Chief', as they used call Michael Collins, would be in town the following morning, Tuesday, and that he was on a tour of inspection.

"As I had never seen Collins in person, I asked Timmy if it were possible to see him, not necessarily meet him, just get a look at him.

"Timmy replied that if I were in front of headquarters in Henry Street, between 11 and 11.30 a.m., Collins would be leaving to continue his journey.

"The headquarters were alongside Despard's coalyard, where the present Bord na gCon offices are now, alongside the old St Munchin's College.

"So the following morning, I was standing on the road in front of headquarters, close to a small armoured car in front of which were two motor bikes, standing on their props and facing up the road.

"Behind them were three big touring cars, standing around which were six drivers in all. There were no visible signs of arms of any description, with the exception of the muzzle of a machine-gun, pointing out from the slot at the front of the turret of the Whippet.

"Occasionally, the muzzle moved, indicating there was another soldier in there, like as if he were settling the inside or that he was uncomfortable inside.

"There were no pressmen or photographers to be seen.

"After about twenty minutes, Collins appeared at the door of the headquarters. He moved forward slowly, followed by six or seven officers, including Timmy Murphy.

"Collins wore a very long green overcoat, buttoned up to the neck, and he wore a peaked round military-style cap.

"He had his two arms across his chest, as he stood at the top of the steps, at the entrance — he did not have his hands in his pockets. He looked straight ahead.

"There were a number of groups of people standing round in curiosity, and Collins looked at them and then looked left and right.

"Collins' group moved to the cars with the drivers now in position. Suddenly Collins turned round to his right, stretched out his arm and shook hands with Murphy.

Broke up

"Then the group broke up, Collins taking his seat alongside the driver of the first car, the other officers divided up between the other two cars.

"As I stood looking at the convoy moving off, in the general direction of the Redemptorists' church, I felt happy that I had seen 'The Chief' in person.

"Later that week, when the news came through of the ambush, and that Michael Collins had been killed, I found it hard to believe.

"Nobody seemed to know how it could happen. Then Murphy came into the shop and I immediately asked him for information.

"He replied that he didn't have any, but that he was going to work, where he hoped to get the full story.

"It was over a week before we met again, when he gave me the following account.

"Some local IRA lads, on hearing that there was a convoy of Free State soldiers travelling in the area, decided to set up an ambush.

"Fire had been exchanged, and when the locals were running out of ammunition, they had decided to call off the engagement.

"In the course of pulling out — these were Murphy's own words to me — one f----- 'oinseach' turned round and took a pot-shot in the direction of Collins.

"This was believed to be the shot that killed him."

"I remember distinctly looking for an account of Collins' inspection tour in Limerick — and there is not a record of it as far as I know.

"There were no cameras there, that weekend, and they never mentioned that he was in Limerick or came from the Limerick direction.

"There seems to be controversy about the direction Collins was going in, on his way to Cork. That was the atmosphere of the time.

"Only for Murphy knowing me, there would never have been a record of it.

"Brigadier-General Timmy Murphy, who lived up Carey's Road, remained on in the Army after hostilities ceased, as O/C of the Limerick Command area, until things finally settled down. He later left the Army.

"He died of natural causes in Castleconnell, after the Emergency of 1939-'45, very different from the kind of death he had been sentenced to by the British when another man, Keane, was sentenced.

Execution

"Timmy Murphy offered himself for execution so that Keane would be reprieved and so go back to his family.

"The British refused it, and he was under the threat of execution himself when, as part of a group of escapees from Limerick prison, he got out by digging a tunnel from the jail which came out in the grounds of the mental hospital. The Truce came after that.

"What is left of Timmy's family are all in America, brothers and sisters.

"But he had one brother, 'Coogie', one of several brothers, who was killed below in the docks on a boat unloading timber for the new Shannon Scheme at Ardnacrusha.

"The timber was being hoisted, and a bale of it swung round and hit him in the chest.

"Another brother, Joe Joe, played with Young Munsters and is now in America.

"He also had a brother, Billy, in America, and he has a sister, Chrissie, who married a man who made fishing rods for Enright Fishing Rods — if you had a good rod, it was an Enright, the best going — there is a son a priest now.

"When the Free State came in, when fellows were captured by the National Army, if they signed 'The Gadget', as it was called, they were released from jail.

"'The Gadget' was a written promise on a form declaring that, if released, you would not participate any further in military activities on the IRA side.

"Those who signed were despised — the others had no time for them".

Who fired the shot?

CHARLIE ST GEORGE'S account of what he heard of the ambush, later that week, is certain to arouse fresh controversy over the exact sequence of events during the exhange of shots, in which Collins died.

It is generally agreed that Collins died from a ricochet, judging from the size of the wound in the back of his head.

Previous accounts indicate that Collins' colleagues, who had been firing back at the ambushers at Beal na Blath, noticed that some time during the action, they noticed that Collins himself was no longer firing. Then the wound was noticed.

But the account which Charlie St George received from Brigadier-General Timmy Murphy, O/C Limerick, only days later, after he had personally travelled to Cork to get a first-hand account, was that an IRA man had fired back a random shot as he fled after the ambush.

Accounts down the years, from various sources, maintained also that Collins died when a single shot rang out, almost a minute after the firing had ceased. Subsequent researchers have maintained Collins died in the midst of the fighting. Mr St George's revelations provide new grounds for controversy.

Only last year, on the 66th anniversary of Collins' death, historian Fr Anthony Gaughan, PP, of Newtownpark, in Blackrock, Co Dublin, published an eye-witness account from the IRA side of the Beal na Blath ambush, which had not previously been revealed.

According to Fr Gaughan, a member of the ambush party, Tom Kelleher, told a life-long friend, Eamonn de Barra, during a visit to Beal na Blath in 1978, that there were six men in the ambush party.

Mr Kelleher said that the man nearest to him, Sonny O'Neill, was a crack-shot, but one of his bullets hit the road, near where Collins was lying, firing back at them with his rifle.

Mr Kelleher's account was passed on by Mr de Barra to Fr Gaughan, who felt that it fitted neatly into a definite pattern, giving it "an unmistakeable ring of authenticity".

Hospital deal? Monday meeting

By LEADER REPORTER

WITH DEPARTMENT of Health officials after setting Monday, April 17th as the final date for the sale of Barrington's Hospital, the board of management meet yet again on next Monday, the 10th, to try and recommend a buyer for the facility to the board of governors.

The board of management met on Wednesday night and because of a breakdown in communications with the Shawline group were not in a position to recommend a buyer to the governors.

But with the local group of consultants insisting that they will only purchase, with VHI approval for a private hospital, it looks certain that the Shawline group will end up with the premises.

They have bid £500,000 and are expected to go up to the £600,000 which the board of management are now insisting on.

This Shawline group it appears are willing to take the risk that VHI cover will come in a year or so, and will pay maintenance costs in the interim.

"Our debts are shoving up to around £550,000 so we need the £600,000," Alderman Gus O'Driscoll, chairman of the board of governors told the *Limerick Leader*.

After Monday's meeting of the board of management, the governors will meet and with a firm deadline now set, we should know on April 17th next who the new owners will be.

However, with the VHI going through a tough financial period, many believe it could be a year, before they decide to give approval — if at all — to the hospital.

When Barrington's finally goes under the hammer, much more than stone and mortar will have changed hands.

Since 1980, the Department of Health has spent £250,000 on capital equipment there — half the size of the bid now before the board of management for the entire hospital.

And this doesn't include fully equipped kitchens, which last year were producing 250 meals a day, and a new cafeteria.

The 'in situ' value of the medical equipment in the hospital is considerable. For instance, a spokesperson for management said that it would cost £150,000 to replace the equipment in the hospitals two X-Ray units.

Only two months before the announcement that the hospital was to close, a new theatre sterilising unit had been installed, at a total cost of £25,000.

A new lift was installed five years ago estimated to be worth about £200,000, and one of the last improvements to the building was the installation of stainless steel windows at a cost of approximately £7,000.

But the most interesting part of the package are the two houses adjoining the hospital, which had been purchased by the board of management for £60,000.

'Limerick Leader' walks in the Holy Land . . . Garda Cormac Hurley lea[ds] towards Jerusalem during the week as he walked for Rehab Rehab/Irish Wheelchair Association sponsored walk. Carrying a Leader sign on his back, given to him by other walkers, Cormac set the other 160.

Pilgrims follow the Leader

By LEADER REPORTER

SOME 150 Irish pilgrims followed the "Limerick Leader" on a gruelling but memorable five hour walk from the town of Nazareth to Tiberius in the Holy Land.

The "Leader" was veteran charity walker, Garda Cormac Hurley, who, after being elected by the group to lead for the Rehab contingent, strode proudly out into the holy places, with the banner "Limerick Leader" pinned on his back.

Just back from the six day walk which took in most of the places famous in biblical history, Garda Hurley said that it was "a very moving experience".

Limerick was well represented in the annual walk for the Irish Wheelchair Association and the Rehabilitation Institute. Walking with Garda Hurley were John Hayes, Solr (Meghen and Hayes), Liam Burke (Press 22), Joe Brooks, Dr Tom McDonnell, Liam Sheehan, Newcastle West, Sheila McInerney of Oola, Pat Murphy, Manager of the Rehab Institute at Raheen, Sr Margaret Hogan, chairperson of the Mid-West branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association, and Carmel Sheridan from Blackwater.

One of the most interesting aspects of the charity pilgrimage was a visit by many of the group to Limerick born Sr Kevin Morton, formerly of Wolfe Tone St., who teaches in St. Joseph's School, in the tension torn West Bank.

"She's a wonderful woman," said Garda Hurley. "She's doing marvellous work there in the front line.

"She gave us a glass of Heinekin and scones symbolically shaped like the crown of thorns, and she told me to spit in the Shannon for her," he said.

Sr Kevin has spent 25 years in Bethlehem.

Garda Hurley has personally raised £5,000 from the walk for the two charities.

BUTCHER' ASSISTAN SAYS HE FELT HUR

By LEADER REPORTER

A FORMER butcher's assistant told the Employment Appeals Tribunal in Limerick that he felt "hurt and cheated" when he saw a young fellow working in a city business where he himself had been made redundant three months earlier.

In an unfair dismissal claim against William Hogan, Little Catherine St. and William St., Paul Barry, of Denmark St., said that he had been employed by Mr Hogan for three years. He spent the first year in the Little Catherine St shop, and the next two years in the William St premises.

On August 6th, 1988, he was off sick after breaking his wrist. His employment was terminated on September 2nd, after calling to Mr Hogan telling him that he would be able to come back on that Saturday when the plaster had been taken off.

'Stunned'

When Mr Hogan told him that he would have to leave him go, he was "stunned", he said.

"I said 'You're joking?', and when he told me that there wasn't enough work I said that we had been rushed off our feet," he said.

Continuing, the appellant claimed that he had been told by Mr Hogan that when things picked up, he might call him in the near future.

He also told the tribunal of having gone back to the shop afterwards on one occasion to sell a ham. He said that he asked them how they would manage for Christmas. "I didn't want to come out and say 'Will ye take me back for Christmas?'."

He claimed that in a conversation with one of Mr Hogan's sons on this occasion, he had told him that he was work[ing] nights a week ... amusement arcade ...

He said that w... new employee wor... after Christmas, h... cheated. "I felt the... no job I should ha... to be taken on."

Mr Bill Hogan s... two shops, one in ... St and a Willia... opened in 1985 wh... was first taken ... separate, but the... arrangement that... would help out wh... extra busy.

The William S... said, was run by... Frank and Kevin.

He told the t... applicant's work ... but while he was ... his own son's was ... on the Continent ... that they could n...

When he tol... about the redun... asked why he h... instead of a girl ... work at the same...

"I pointed out ... taken her from a ... wouldn't be fa... redundant," he s...

He said that he... had been rushed ... said that he coul... Mr Barry that h... back if business ...

When asked b... he hadn't sent fo... another employe... he believed th... working in an a...

Evidence was ... Hogan, a son of ... business, that o... shop after the ... appellent had to ... working in an a...

Mr Pat Punc... for Mr William... appellent was r... Jim Kemmy.

CITY DISTRICT NOTES

Castletroy

A special Wang presentation function was held at the Limerick Inn last Friday night at which over 40 employees, each having over five years service with the company, were presented with a special appreciation award. The presentations were made by Mr. Buddy Griffin, managing director of Wang Laboratories, Limerick. Mr. Pat O'Donoghue, personnel manager also attended. An enjoyable night's dancing followed the presentation ceremony.

Aisling/Annacotty F.C., was well represented recently in national competitions. Eoghan Patton, Monaleen Heights was a member of the Oscar Traynor team (minor), who were beaten by a Dublin league side, only when the game went to penalties. On the schoolboy front, however, the Limerick under 14 Kennedy cup side defeated Galway 5-1, with Aisling/Annacotty boys playing major roles. Stephen Ryan, Mulcair Drive scored twice, and Stafford Quaid, Milford Grange scored once to help ensure a semi-final place against Waterford in two weeks time. It is 10 years since Limerick reached this stage of the Kennedy cup, and further progress in thsi prestigious competition could mean international caps for the Republic of Ireland, at under 15 level, for the said local boys next season. As an Easter attraction Aisling/Annacotty Club entertained a Galway under 13 side at Annacotty, and won 2-nil. Scorers for the local club were Oliver Kennedy and Neil McGrorty.

The A.G.M. of the Friends of Milford Hospice was held in Milford House last Monday night. The very large attendance included Sr. Anne, provincial of the Order of the Little Company of Mary, and Sr. Bridget, superior, Milford House. The outgoing chairman Eamonn Ryan welcomed all and spoke briefly on the work of the committee during the past year. The treasurer Sr. Catherine detailed the many events that had been held, and the various monies collected. She thanked the many organisers associated with the fundraising. The election of the new committee resulted as follows: Chairman, Tony O'Driscoll; vice chairman, Bill Noonan. Committee: Eamonn Ryan, John Harty, Mary Lillis, Joe Hyde, Jim Carey, Joan Hyde, Matt Ryan, Garry Walsh, Jim Doherty, Patsy Carey, Maureen Seery, Mary Callinan, John Leddin, Michael Punch, Maurice O'Connor, Finbarr Gavin and Pat Quinlan.

Prior to the A.G.M. a special meeting of the outgoing committee was held at which suitably inscribed Galway Crystal plates were presented to Fred Fennessy, chairman '83-'85; John Harty, chairman '85-'87, and Eamonn Ryan, chairman '87-'89. Presentations were also made to Matt Ryan and Michael Punch, both founder members, and still committee members of the Friends of Milford Hospice.

Cratloe

A meeting of the field development committee will be held in the Community Hall on this Thursday night, April 6, at 9 p.m. sharp. All committee members are requested to attend.

The buffet social organised by Cratloe GAA minor club on Easter Sunday night at Setright's lounge attracted a large crowd and was most enjoyable. Local girl Siobhan Hurley received many compliments for serving such a delicious meal so efficiently.

During the night recent All-Ireland title winner Roisin O'Connor recited "The Stormy Years" and she and the author of the poem, Joe Ward, were presented with beautiful mementos in recognition of their achievement by minor club chairman, Seamus Reidy.

Par... Me...

Meelick und... good win o... championships

There was a... the March ... president Ma... comed all. ... bers. Guest sp... ing was Sea... Insurance. H... teresting talk ... your home, a...

The comm... held on Wedn... discussed was ... outing. It will ... the last Sund...

Parteen and ... fine match in ... at Lanahron... Parteen 4-1, C... round of the u... hurling. Part... held at the ... Parteen 2-4. ...

The Clare ... beat Dublin i... Lanahrone o... teams were e... House later.

The local ... having a ceili ... at the Angle... music by ... proceeds ar... equipment f... munity Hall.

Clarina

Deepest sympathy is extended to the husband, daughters, son, brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and other relatives of the late Mrs. Nan Doran, Doon, Clarina, who died recently.

Deepest ... Culhane, Ri... Rosaire M... U.S.A., o... sister, Mrs. ... of Ashbro... Road, Lime...

St. Clement's nam[es] first lay principal

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE MANAGEMENT Board of St. Clement's Redemptorist College, South Circular Road, have announced the appointment of a new principal, the first lay person ever to hold the post. He is Mr. John Vincent Foley, presently senior teacher of history at St. Enda's Community School.

A native of Doneraile, Co. Cork, he was educated at the Christian Brothers School, Doneraile, and at University College, Cork.

He lives with his wife, Anita, and their children at Adare, Co. Limerick.

The appointment of Mr. Foley as principal of St. Clement's College marks a departure from the 100 years tradition at the college, where the principal has always been a Redemptorist priest.

The college was founded in 1884, and for most of that time, it was a boarding school and juniorate as well as being a rich source of ... mptorists.

Appointed: John Vincent Foley this week.

Mr. Foley will succeed Fr. Cathal Cumiskey, C.Ss.R., the present principal, who has led the college through the transition from juniorate to the open secondary school of over 480 students that it is today.

The Redemptorists, who are trustees of St. Clement's, when informing the management authority of their intention to appoint a lay principal, paid special tribute to the teaching staff of the college for their professionalism and their indefatigable spirit of co-opera... stated how much they welcomed the opportunity of offering the post of principalship to a lay person.

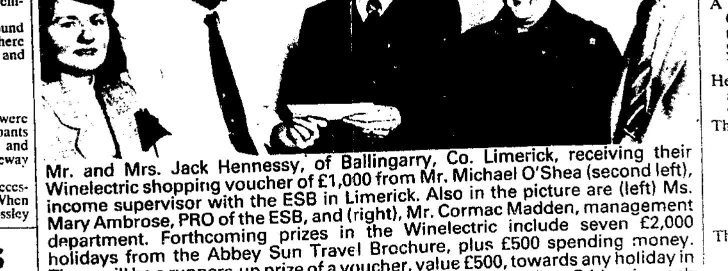
The appointment of Mr. Foley becomes effective on 1st August, 1989.

The Redemptorist Provincial Superior, Very Rev. Raphae Gallagher, C.Ss.R., who was at Mount St. Alphonsus at the weekend, speaking on behalf of the Redemptorists, welcomed the occasion as another important milestone in carrying out Redemptorist policy of developing co-responsibility with lay people in the Church.

He congratulated Mr. Foley and wished him every happiness and success in leading St Clement's along the road of educational excellence in what can be difficult times ahead.

The new principal had however, Fr. Gallagher added, sure anchorage in the traditions of scholarship and the attention to personal development which are hallmarks of St. Clement's down the years.

Mr. Foley is well known in the ... community where he is ... parents ... ber of ... board ... Brothe... of Bor... ger of ... hurling.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hennessy, of Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, receiving their Winelectric shopping voucher of £1,000 from Mr. Michael O'Shea (second left), income supervisor with the ESB in Limerick. Also in the picture are (left) Ms. Mary Ambrose, PRO of the ESB, and (right), Mr. Cormac Madden, management department. Forthcoming prizes in the Winelectric include seven £2,000 holidays from the Abbey Sun Travel Brochure, plus £500 spending money. There will be a runners-up prize of a voucher, value £500, towards any holiday in the Shannon Regional Home Holiday Brochure. On the first Friday in each ... will be for a Nissan Micra car and this will

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