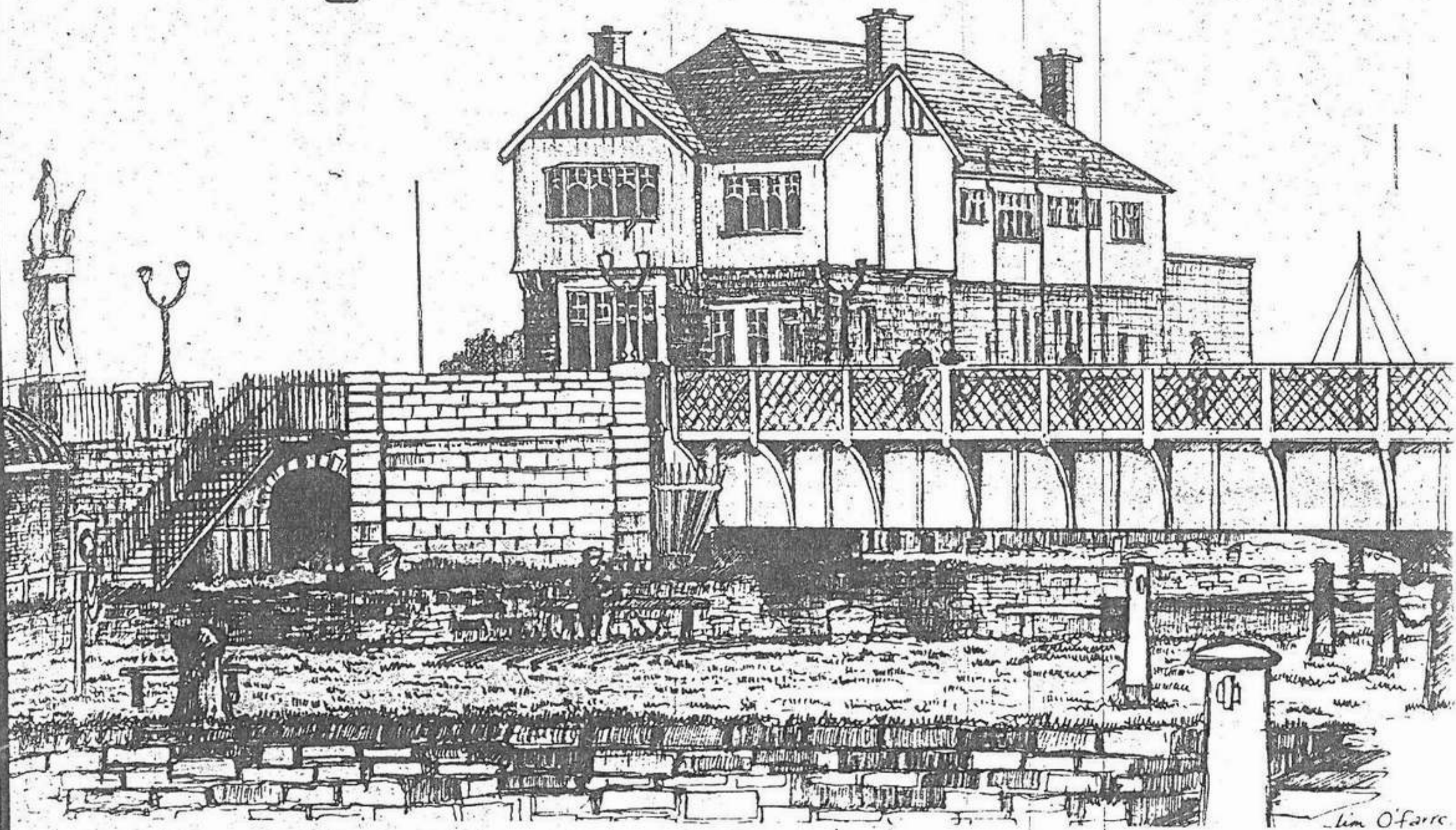


24/10/1981

Glimpses of Old Limerick



THE SKETCH shows Shannon Rowing Club near Sarsfield Bridge, the swivel bridge, the 1916 monument and a dockland feature known popularly as The Poor Man's Kilkee.

Shannon Rowing Club's premises gets its charm from a blend of architectural styles. It was designed by a Scottish architect, Mr. Newenham — who was so delighted with Limerick and its people, he came to reside here permanently. Shannon Rowing Club is of 1920s vintage. It is renowned in the annals of the sport in Ireland.

The swivel bridge was built to allow ships to go through "The Basin" and moor at Honan's Quay — near Arthur's Quay.

The 1916 monument replaces the Fitzgibbon

monument — in memory of John Fitzgibbon, son of John Fitzgibbon, of Mountshannon House, Annacotty — which was blown up in the late 1920s.

The John Fitzgibbon commemorated by the monument was killed at Balaclava in the Crimean War. His father, John Fitzgibbon (Lord Clare) of Mountshannon, played a shamefully influential role in the passing of the Act of Union (of Ireland with Great Britain) in 1800.

So, in a way, the demolition of the Fitzgibbon monument — a beautiful sculptural work — was an understandable act of patriotic resentment. The cannons which flanked the monument and a Crimean battle scene plaque which adorned it, sur-

vived the explosion, and are preserved at the Limerick Harbour Office in the docks.

The 1916 monument is in memory of the two Limerick-born leaders of the Easter Week Rising, Edward Daly (Limerick city), Con Colbert (Athea), and Sean Heuston — a Dubliner — who worked as a railway clerk in Limerick city, where he was an officer of the Fianna Boy Scouts.

Tom Clarke (who was married to Kathleen Daly — Edward Daly's sister) the Fenian of 1867, who fought beside Padraig Pearse in the G.P.O. in the 1916 Rising, is depicted on the monument symbolically breaking the chains which enslaved Mother Eire.