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MR. O BRIAIN'S REPLY
Mr. O Briain, having replied at length in Irish, continued in English to say that the occasion was for him a rather embarrassing one, but it was a very happy one, indeed. From the bottom of his heart he wished to express his gratitude and appreciation to all who had joined in making the presentation. Many of those present were old comrades and others were the sons of those who had passed on and who had stood in the gap of danger in times gone by. "I cannot find words," said Mr. O Briain, "to express the thanks and appreciation I feel for this token of your regard and esteem, and I would also like to offer thanks on behalf of Mrs. O Briain for your kindness and generosity." Mr. O Briain also thanked Mr. de Valera for the signal honour he had conferred on them in coming there that night to make the presentation. He knew how difficult it was for An Taoiseach to travel in view of his many commitments, and he (Mr. O Briain) would always cherish the honour. Thanking all the members of the Comhairle Ceanntair for their generosity in making the presentation, Mr. O Briain said he could go back through the years and talk about the struggles they were in together and their failings-out and the rainings-in that followed. He recalled, too, that the movement with which he was associated since 1913 and which first brought him into public life and into national work of various kinds, was the Gaelic League, the movement that put a new soul into Ireland. There were, indeed, very few of the older generation who had not some association with the movement, including Mr. De Valera himself.

HISTORIC OCCASION.
Mr. O Briain went on to say that An Taoiseach's presence there that night made it an historic occasion because, perhaps, when they met again within the next three months or so Mr. de Valera would, please God, be serving Ireland in a different capacity. It would be sad to part with him as their leader and guide but he was sure the people of the country would show to Mr. de Valera their appreciation of his unwavering allegiance to the ideals of the men of Easter Week, particularly the people of his own County Limerick.

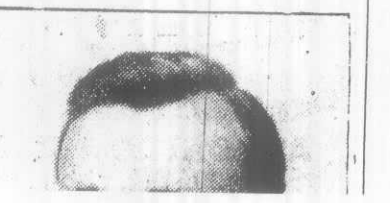
Concluding, Mr. O Briain said he accepted the token of appreciation and friendship with gratitude and pleasure and said the presentations would be cherished all the more as the years passed by.

TRIBUTE FROM CANON CARROLL

Very Rev. W. J. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F., Rathkeale, joined in the tribute to Mr O Briain and recalled their first meeting in 1920, and later in the organisation of Irish classes in Ballygran National School. Mr. O Briain had been a long time serving the country and had always done his very best not only for those associated with him but also for those who differed with him. Having recalled schoolboy acquaintances with Mr. de Valera in Bruree, Canon Carroll said it was a great pleasure and honour for him to be present that night at the well deserved tribute to Mr. O Briain.

DEPUTY J. J. COLLINS.

Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., Chairman, Limerick County Council, joined in the tribute and thanked all present for their very generous response and for their support for the presentation. West Limerick



His Excellency, Mr. Scott McLeod, cut the first sod on the site chosen for a new £100,000 hotel to Co. Clare, last Monday. Our picture shows him getting "a big hand" as he removed the left—Col. Russell, Mr. B. O'Regan, Chairman Bord Failte; Councillor J. P. Liddy, Mayor of Lin A. Devane, M.R.I.A.I.; Mr. T. J. O'Driscoll, Bord Failte; Mr. J. J. Irwin, Chairman, Field En McEvilly, Clare County Manager.

The Blind Piper Of Limerick

WHO was the blind piper of Limerick? Hanging on the stairway leading to the City Museum is a lonely painting of the blind piper. But the question:—"Who was he?" has been asked hundreds of times.

Well, he was Padraig O Briain, a native of Labasheeda, Co. Clare. Belonging to a well-to-do family, he was given a good education at the hedge schools. He became a Latin scholar of note and his parents had planned to send him abroad to complete his studies. At an early age, however, his sight began to fail and before he celebrated his twenty-fifth birthday he was totally blind. He turned to music to earn his living and in a short time became very proficient with the bagpipes.

CAME TO LIMERICK.
At the beginning of the 19th century O Briain came to Limerick, but, meeting with little recognition from the aristocracy, he was forced to become a street musician.

His favourite location was at the Crescent, then an exclusive residential part of the city, and there, for years, in fair and foul weather, he delighted the populace by his interpretation of native music, both classical and popular.

One day, while playing his bagpipes, he attracted the attention of Joseph Haverty, the celebrated Garry portrait painter, and Haverty, struck by the fine figure and noble features of the musician, executed a portrait of him, which has become immortal as "The Blind Piper." In it, O Briain is depicted as old and grey, but still possessing all the nobility of countenance of his youth. The musician is seen bent over his beloved pipes, while by his side is his young and very attractive daughter.

COPIES MADE

Haverty, having completed his portrait, presented it to his patron, Sir Robert Gore-Booth, of Lissadel, Co. Sligo. It is still in the possession of the family. In the course of time, several copies were made from the original, one being presented to the National Gallery by Wm. Smith O'Brien, of '48 fame. Subsequently, engravings were made by J. S. Templeton for the Royal Irish Art Union, one of which came into the possession of the City Museum many years ago. Poor O'Brien had a tragic end.

In 1856—he was then an octogenarian—he slipped on an icy patch of roadway and was so badly injured that he was confined to his lodgings in Nicholas Street until he died, on the 1st December, 1856. He was buried in Kilquane Cemetery, near Parteen. So ends the story of "The Blind Piper."

First Limerick Girl To Make Jet Flight
A sixteen-year-old Limerick girl

Justice Issues Stern Warning To Driver

A farmer, who was appearing on a Court charge for the first time at the City Court to-day, was fined 40/- and had his driving-licence suspended for six months when he was convicted of being in charge of a car while drunk.

He was Joseph Fogarty, Rath-jordan, Hospital, Co. Limerick, who pleaded guilty to the charge through his solicitor, Mr. Martin Tynan.

A further charge against defendant of attempting to drive while under the influence of drink was dropped by the State because of insufficient evidence.

CASE OUTLINED

Inspector John Fitzpatrick, prosecuting, said that at 10.40 p.m. on the night of December 16 a Volkswagen car was parked in Mulgrave Street. There were two men there, one at the wheel of the car and another man who appeared to be arguing about driving it. When the Guards came on the scene, Detective - Officer Jones asked defendant, who was fumbling at the switchboard, to get out of the car, but he refused to do so at first. He was eventually removed from the car and brought to William Street Garda Station, where he was collected by friends later that night. Fogarty was very unsteady on his feet and his head was swaying. His speech was thick and he appeared drunk. He was barely able to stand in the station. He mentioned something about a Kerry murder and said: "I had nothing to do with it." He was speaking incoherently and didn't make sense.

The Inspector went on to say that defendant came from a very decent family and was not previously in trouble.

Mr. Tynan said defendant was a married man with two children and was a farmer. On this particular occasion he came into the city to attend a livestock sales and the time being near Christmas he had some drinks. He was prepared to accept the statement of the Inspector of the events. He did not recollect the occasion very clearly and now apologised for any annoyance to the Guards.

"EXTREMELY FORTUNATE."

The Justice addressing the defendant declared: "You are extremely fortunate that the State has withdrawn the charge against you of attempting to drive while drunk. If the engine of your car had been started and the charge had been

Pilgrim

ARRANGEMENT
pilgrimage to C
mencing at 4 p.m.
occasion will be pre

A general meeting of natives of all Catholic Soc Confraternities in the City held on next Tuesday evening (9.15 p.m.), at 86 Street, Limerick, to concert arrangements. Those making pilgrimages are asked to the vicinity of the Parish and follow the directions Orderlies re points of assistance participation in the proc Grotto.

The ceremony will con

- (1) Visit to the Blessed
- (2) Procession of Blessed ment from Parish Cl Grotto.
- (3) Organised bodies with pany the Blessed Sacrament the general public will behind.
- (4) The Rosary and appropriate hymns will be recited by pilgrims walk to the Grot
- (5) The Stations of the
- (6) A short sermon.
- (7) Visit to the Blessed
- (8) Prayers for the sick
- (9) Closing hymn.
- (10) Small procession to pany. Blessed Sacrament Church.

All Catholic Societies fraternities are asked to ate, and it would be multiplied if they could carry banners in the proc

This year it is hoped to modate a number of invalid stretcher cases) at the ce Those wishing to attend capacity must notify the retary. Pilgrimage C Limerick, in writing, be 7th.

C.I.E. will run regular vices from the Railway; Setright's Cross from 2.3 the day of the pilgrimage fare, 1/7d.). "these will re 5.15 p.m. onwards.

Marian Shrine Groups fraternities, etc., could buses, the cost of which lower when spread over complement of passenger

The pilgrimage is on 1 day (not Whit Monday; been stated in error).

Fined For Unemployment Fraud

"In future cases of th will impose prison sentence Gleeson stated in Court to-day, when he was fined £5 for fraudulent