

Limerickman's Eve statue goes on view

BY TOM BROWNE



The Eamonn de Valera statue at Ennis



Jim O'Farrell 1981

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Corporation in the mid-1830s resulted in the Pains losing their patronage.
The Pains' contribution to Limerick's architectural heritage is considerable - Villiers Almshouses alone would have made us grateful. The Almshouses are near King John's Castle - go and feast your eyes on them.

□ Drawing: JIM O'FARRELL.
□ Words: SEAMUS O CINNEIDE.

WITH A full assembly of the Fianna Fail party chiefs in Ennis last Sunday, to pay honour to the founder of their movement at the unveiling of the National Memorial to Eamonn de Valera - "the boy from Bruce" - the Government was challenged to hold a referendum on Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution, which deal with the jurisdiction of the State.

The statue is the work of Limerick city sculptor, Jim Connolly.

"Our Constitution has been availed of time and time again by individual citizens to assert some particular right or liberty. It enshrines in Articles 2 and 3 the clear assertion of the belief that this island should be one political unit - a belief stretching far back into history and asserted and re-asserted time and time again by the vast majority of our people North and South," declared party leader, Mr. Charles Haughey, when he unveiled the eight-foot high-bronze statue of Mr. de Valera.

Town Park

The statue stands in the Town Park in front of the Courthouse on the spot where Mr. de Valera addressed a huge gathering following his election for East Clare in 1917.

A few old comrades who were present on that historic occasion were among the 2,000 or so present at Sunday's ceremony. Conscious of their old IRA service medals, some shed a silent tear as they recalled days spent with "Dev" on his early visits to Clare.

Eighty-five-year-old Mr. Pat Lynch, from Killoolum, Kilmalek, remembered that he was knocked to the ground by members of an opposing faction. Pointing to his forehead, he showed the traces of the wound he received when he was kicked "by the opponents of Dev".

The popularity of the chief's granddaughter, Miss Sile de Valera, Euro M.P., was evident everywhere and there were several calls from the crowd: "We want Sile".

Prior to the unveiling, Fr. Fiachra Kelly, O.M., Gormanstown, was the chief celebrant at Concelebrated Mass in the pro-Cathedral at which Most Rev. Dr. Michael Herlihy, Bishop of Killaloe, presided.

Singing

The Tulla Pipers' Band, another link with Mr. de Valera's days in Clare, led the parade through the streets of the town and the ceremony was opened with a spirited singing of the Legion of the Rear-guard led by Mr. Tomas De Barra.

Mr. Haughey said: "Eamonn de Valera's belief in unity derived from a recognition of the simple fact that the partition of Ireland is the central problem from which many other problems have arisen and will continue to arise. In Government or in opposition he would have fought to defeat the effects of the present Government, to give some legal validity to partition, and by doing so to abandon that aspiration to which generations of Irish men and women have dedicated themselves."

At a memorial dinner later, Miss Sile de Valera accused the Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, of taking the names of Tone, Davitt and Michael Collins in vain.

Stating that Dr. FitzGerald kept harping back to the Fine Gael mentality, Miss de Valera continued: "I don't think that Garret FitzGerald is being loyal to people like Michael Collins when he wants to get rid of Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution. Collins would have been disgusted with the attitude of the Fine Gael party, under Garret FitzGerald, and the attitude they are taking with regard to Articles 2 and 3. We must remember, although we would have disagreed with his tactics, that Michael Collins was prepared to fight, and did fight, use physical force to achieve what he wanted and that was an eventual unity of this country."

The majority

Major Vivion de Valera said that now was not the time to "hink" with the Constitution. To do so in present circumstances, especially in relation to Articles 2 and 3, would be to capitulate the rights



Sculptor Jim Connolly - in the light-coloured coat - and the de Valera family behind, listening to Mr. Haughey at the unveiling of the monument.



Attending the reception at the West County Hotel, Ennis, after the official unveiling (from left): Mr. John O'Donovan, Foynes, Miss Sile de Valera, and her sister, Jane, and Miss Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Foynes.



Limerick's Mr. Gerry Collins, T.D., signing his autograph for Mrs. Tommy Mullins, Dun Laoghaire, at the Eamonn de Valera memorial.

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DRIVERS TELL OF TWO CAR COLLISION

BY LEADER REPORTER

AN accident on the Adare Askeaton Road, involving two motor vehicles on May 25 last was recalled at Adare District Court this week.

Noel Horgan, 14 Franken Road, Askeaton, was convicted on a reduced charge of driving without due care and attention and fined £25.

Breda Doab, Ballinvara, Cragh, was fined £25 for driving without insurance on the date in question.

Collision

Breda Doab told the court that at 9.05 p.m. on the date in question she was driving from Adare to her home. A red Escort came in the opposing direction. It seemed to be travelling fast.

There was a collision. The right front wing and the driver's door of witness's car was damaged.

In reply to Mr. McMahon, Solicitor, who appeared for Noel Horgan, witness said she was not accompanied on the date in question. She was travelling at approximately 40 miles per hour.

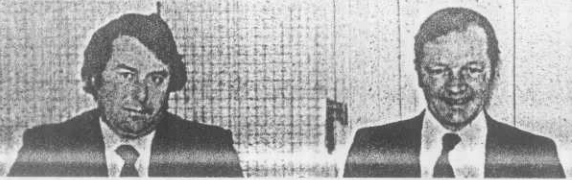
Noel Horgan said he was travelling towards Adare. A car driven by the last witness came round a sharp bend, on his side of the road. Witness braked but failed to avoid

the other car.
In reply to Inspector William Sloyan, witness said he was taken to hospital after the accident.



Alice Kennedy, winner of the shield for the outstanding competitor at the annual Murroe Sports. The shield was presented by Michael Ryan, of Catherine Street, Limerick.

A quarter-million contract



week

