



**M ROAD**

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t the decision was make sense that ay would not be fully, the NRA has and the road will the near future," s. reached following the city manager d the chief execu- Michael Tobin on

has been asked to ction of this road- f £4 million. way is planned to congestion on the en the Groody and its.

**20 YEARS AGO**

**SFADCO GETS MINISTERIAL BACKING**

MINISTER of State Michael J. Noonan has issued a "hands-off" warning on Shannon Development.

In a strongly worded address at a SFADCo sponsored function, he referred to the development company's "perfection and professionalism".

Mr. Des O'Malley, Industry Minister, has recently hinted at a change in SFADCo's role.

Speaking at a lunch following the International Band Parade - organised by Shannon Development - Mr Noonan said that SFADCo's record in attracting tourists to the Mid West spoke for itself.

"The figures are there to prove it," he said, adding that overseas visitors to the region were up 20 percent over the last two years. He also defended SFADCo's record on job creation, citing the 1989 figure of 26 percent of new Irish jobs created by the company.

The Mid West, he said, was a region envied in Ireland. What Shannon Development had done for the region could "not be counted in any way".

He complimented Shannon Development's chairman, Mr Tom Dunne, on the company's "total commitment" to the area.

He also praised tourism boss Gerry McKeon. "His expertise is synonymous with the perfection, the professionalism of Shannon Development," Mr Noonan concluded.



**40 YEARS AGO**

**CHAMPION PIPER ON PARADE**

THE National Feast was a day of happy memories relived for Michael Kenny. Over a score of years ago - in April 1949, to be exact - the ideal of a pipe band for the city was first mooted and Michael, with the help of a few enthusiastic friends, set about making the thought a reality.

On Tuesday last he had his first public outing with the band since he went to England in 1959, and he told me: "I enjoyed every step of it."

For people know that a suggestion from that lovable comedian, the late Jimmy O'Dea, was responsible for giving Limerick its pipe band. Michael told me how this came about.

Jimmy was giving his annual Easter show at the Savoy and he needed two men to play in a piping scene. He engaged Michael Kenny and Sean Kiely for the spot, and was so pleased with their performance that he made a public announcement from the stage that a pipe band should be formed in Limerick.

That was in April 1949 and the two musical friends, Michael and Sean, initially shouldered the heavy task of getting a band together.

Within eleven months the cost of instruments and uniforms was met and Michael has never forgotten the help he got from the people of Limerick in this great achievement. He told me this week: "I would like to thank

the generous public for their great support in those difficult, early months of the band."

He is for a number of years a member of one of the foremost piping groups in Britain, the Mount Carmel Band of Salford.

**IMPORTANT POST FOR SCHOOL OF MUSIC PUPIL**

THE proud record of the Limerick School of Music was further enhanced this week by the appointment of one of its pupils, 22-year-old Joseph Maher, to the important position of co-leader of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The citizens will join with us in congratulating Mr Maher and his tutor, Mr Jack McKenzie, principal of the school on this distinguished success.

Joseph made his application for the position some time ago and following an audition last week was notified of his appointment. He will take up duty on March 30.

Commenting on the appointment, Mr McKenzie told me: "I am very gratified that the work we have done over the past six years has borne this fruit. The opportunities are there for anyone who wants to avail of them and who puts in the effort."

Mr McKenzie added that he has now another four or five violinists who, he feels will do equally well.

Joseph is the son of Mr Patrick Maher, a well-known GAA personality who played hurling and football for Dublin. He was educated at the Christian Brothers' Schools, North Brunswick St, Dublin and has been playing the violin since the age of four.