

Our name is McNamara . . . We're daughters of the Band

By LEADER REPORTER

"McNAMARA'S BAND" was ringing through historic St. Mary's Parish again last week, when McNamara's daughters paid a sentimental visit to Athlunkard Street.

The two "McNamaras", Mary Margaret Shepherd and Kathleen Hume, both from Exeter and daughters of the famous brothers who once had "the best band in the land" — were visiting their cousin, another Band relative, Mrs. Imelda McNamara, of Rathbane.

They came on the 100th anniversary of another historic band — St. Mary's Fife and Drum Band, of which Michael McNamara was a founder member.

Stories

His daughter, Mrs. Shepherd, recalled stories told by her father of McNamara's Band playing throughout the 32 counties at balls, pattern day celebrations, weddings and St. Patrick's Day parades, before "the leader of the Band", Patrick, emigrated to the United States in 1905, where he later became known in musical circles as "the Professor".

"Dad often told me that one of



Mrs. Kathleen Hume (nee McNamara), Mrs. Imelda McNamara, and Mrs. Mary Margaret Shepherd (nee McNamara), descendants of McNamara's Band.

the best performances of McNamara's Band was when they played at his own wedding to my mother, Margaret Shine, from St. John's Parish," she said. "They spent a whole week celebrating."

And although McNamara's

Band had broken up before she was born, she remembers her father training a cadets band in Exeter. "They won prizes everywhere and their signature tune was McNamara's Band."

Limerick historian, Mr. W. W. Gleeson, in the centenary booklet

of the St. Mary's Band, tells how the four brothers Patrick, Michael, John and Thomas McNamara, all from Meat Market Place, Old Thomas Street, off Athlunkard Street, with their banner proclaiming "McNamara's Band" were a familiar and welcome sight every-

where at the beginning of the century.

Even when two of the brothers, Thomas and Patrick, had emigrated to the U.S., the Band continued there and captured the imagination of the song writer who penned the lines of the song.

In later years, many discs were cut for the Vocalion Records by the McNamaras trio, Thomas on the piccolo, Patrick the violin and Patrick's daughter, Eileen, on the piano.

Patrick and his wife and children paid a visit to Ireland in 1912 and were due to return on the ill-fated Titanic but missed it.

Mrs. Shepherd said that her father Michael was a Boer War veteran and an instructor and sergeant in the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

John was also attached to a regimental band but was killed in France in 1916, where, as a member of an ambulance corps, he was attending to the wounded.

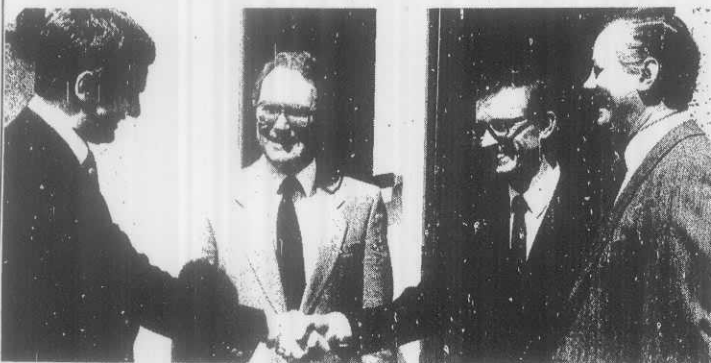
Thomas saw service with the British Navy and later with the Army where he was awarded the 1914 Mons Star, and British War medal as well as the Merchant Marine medal and the Victory medal. He was one of the crew of the vessel on which de Valera was smuggled to the U.S. in 1920.

Limerick

"Every year," Mrs. Shepherd said in reminiscence, "my father came back to Limerick. He would have lived and died for Limerick, and every Christmas when he played and we had a sing-song, he always remembered Limerick."

That's why she was so proud in Limerick last week to be able to say everywhere she went "My name is McNamara . . ."

FORGING BUSINESS LINKS IN LIMERICK



From left: Dr. William Chambers being welcomed to his new post by Mr. Tom McAuliffe, regional manager, I.D.A.; Mr. Paid McMenamin, executive director, I.D.A., and Mr. Tom Dowling, manager, development division, I.D.A.

By LEADER REPORTER

A NEW BRANCH of the I.D.A. to cover the whole country, with the aim of sourcing £100m in business over five years, has been set up in Limerick.

The former head of Molex in Shannon, Dr. Bill Chambers is heading the I.D.A.'s national linkage programme from the Mid-West office in the Plassey Technological Park.

panies", said Mr. Paid McMenamin, executive director, I.D.A.

The aim

The aim of the linkage programme is to significantly increase the level of integration between major industrial purchasing companies and Irish supplier firms and to tap the opportunities which exist to expand the supplier base.

Initially the programme will concentrate on the electronics sector, the fastest growing sector

years.

Supplier companies are being identified which have the potential to trade with the larger multinational firms. The IDA will work closely with them in drawing up plans for their future development and in assisting them develop the necessary levels of technical and management expertise to successfully do business with the larger companies in Ireland and in export markets.

The aim is to have 50 companies participating in the programme at the end of the third year.

SCHOOL MINI-BUS AND LORRY IN CRASH

By LEADER REPORTER

AN ACCIDENT just outside the town of Kilmallock involving a school mini-bus and lorry was recalled at Kilmallock court.

Liam Sheehy, Mountrussell, Kilmallock, had a charge of dangerous driving reduced to one of driving without due care and attention by Justice M. C. Maguire.

Sheehy, who had no previous convictions, was ordered to pay a £50 fine and £45 expenses and had his licence endorsed.

In reply to Inspector Ignatius Cadogan, Brian Salter said he was driving the school bus on December 17th last.

Saw truck

He was on his own correct side of the road and was half-way around a bend when he saw a truck facing him. The truck crashed into him.

Answering Mr. Aidan Judge, solr., witness said that it was quite bright at the time. He was travelling about 30 to 35 miles an hour.

His bus was about six-foot wide.

They tried to pull back in when they saw the mini-bus, but just hit it. The impact was on the other side of the road, their incorrect side.

Answering Mr. Judge, he said that they were about two feet on the other side of the road. There was black frost on the road.

Peter Higgins, motorcyclist, said that he was travelling 15 to 20 miles an hour. He did not see the accident. The vehicle driven by the defendant did not overtake him at all.

Garda Moore said that he met the defendant who was in a shocked condition at the scene. He told him to get medical attention. He could not say for a matter of fact where the impact was.

Liam Sheehy, in evidence, said that he was travelling at about 30 miles an hour. He saw the motorcyclist and about one hundred yards from the bend indicated to overtake him.

Skidded

He saw the top of the bus coming around the bend and braked to go back in but skidded on ice and hit the mini-bus.

34 ships call at port in one month

By LEADER REPORTER

LAST MONTH 34 vessels totalling 152,490 tons net entered Limerick port, it was reported this week.

Capt. E. K. Donnelly, harbour master, told the July meeting of the Board that 11 of the vessels were from foreign and 23 from home-trade ports.

At Aughinish two vessels of 43,395 registered tonnes discharged bauxite, two vessels of 6,275 tonnes discharged bulk caustic, and five vessels of 17,376 tonnes arrived light to load alumina.

Two vessels of 24,027 tonnes discharged fuel oil at Tarbert, one vessel of 39,650 tonnes discharged coal at Moneypoint.

Of the ships arriving at Limerick 12 carried petroleum, four coal, two feedstuffs and one each timber and fertilizer. Two arrived light-one to load machinery and the other peat moss.

Exhibiting in Dublin

Limerick Art Society announced this week, that many of its members' paintings were accepted for exhibition at this year's Royal Hibernian academy

JULY

regal, ility

nne ices ch- 1611 8308)