NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FILES OF THE LIMERICK LEADER, FOUNDED IN 1889



e Curraghower Pipe Band, a famous Limerick institution whose music has been enjoyed by generatons of local people, stand to attention (or kneel in some cases!) for the Limerick Leader photographer who took this shot back in 1980

FORTY FIVE YEARS AGO

INDUSTRY Importance of Ferenka Project

SPEAKING at the opening of the new training centre at Ferenka in Limerick, the Minister for Industry and Commerce spoke of the importance of the project locally and nationally. "Both in terms of the regional community and the wider economic scene, the project is economically attractive," Mr Justin Keating said.

"A few figures can place the importance of the project in perspective," said the minister.

"The initial capital invest-

ment at Annacotty was £20 million. The plant is located on an 87 acre site and the actual covered floor area extends to 40 acres. The total annual wage bill amounts to three and three quarter million pounds. The plant provides high quality industrial employment to some 1,500 people and a further £1 million is spent on various goods and services in the locality. All the output from the plant is exported (55 percent to the United States and the balance to the UK and Continental Europe). "Because it is an export orientated industry it aids our balance of payments," the minister added.

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REV CRITICISED Statement 'wild and unfounded'

"WILD and unfounded" - that's how Cllr Jim Kemmy described Rev Fr Kavanagh's recent accusation that Irish men and women were just not prepared to work any more. Cllr Kemmy was speaking at the second annual dinner-dance of the Brick and Stone Layer's Union, which was held at the Savoy Banqueting Suite. He also called on Rev Fr Kavanagh to tour a Limerick building site for a week to see the work being done.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

BUSINESS Water bus to sail on the Shannon

Ireland's first water bus-it goes into operation on the Shannon on Christmas-arrived at Limerick Port this morning from Rotterdam on the Limerick Steamship vessel, the Shannon.

The 42-seater blue and while Ormond was brought by two Nenagh hoteliers, Messrs, Michael and Denis Gilmartin, who believe it will prove a major attraction to tourists next season.#

"The water bus will proved three hour cruises from Dromineer to the many points of scenic and historic interest on the lake," said Denis Gilmartin

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The first of these cruises is planned for Christmas Day with a part of Christmas guests from the Hotel Ormond.

The water bus will carry a crew of three including a 19-year-old river hostess, Miss Theresa Kinnane, a former receptionist at the hotel. Miss Kinnane will point out many historic spots on the lake to the passengers in addition to serving refreshments. She will wear a specially designed uniform similar to that won by an air hostess.*

The Ormond is the first of two water buses ordered.

POLITICS Kaunda gets the Freedom of City

HIS Excellency the President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, received an enthusiastic welcome on his arrival in Limerick this evening where he was given the Freedom of the City at an impressive ceremony in the School of Commerce Assembly hall, Mulgrave Street. Earlier in the day he toured the Industrial Estate in Shannon Airport and visited several of the factories there showing a keen interest in everything.