

MAYOR INAUGURATES L.B.C. CELEBRATIONS

Centerpiece of Limerick Boat Club's centennial celebrations is today's regatta, which is held under the I.A.R.U. rules and has attracted an entry of seventy-three crews. The regatta will be followed this evening by a centenary dinner in Cruise's Hotel, and on tomorrow there will be an interesting fixture under the auspices of Fynes Yacht Club on the stretch of water between Sarsfield Bridge and Barrington's Pier, and a display by the members of the Limerick Sub-Aqua Club.

The series of five-day celebrations was set in motion on Wednesday last by the Mayor, Ald. Stephen Coughlan, T.D., who wore his robes of office and the great Mayoral Chain. He was piped from the bridge to the club green by a member of the Limerick Pipe Band. Two new club boats, the Captain C. J. Hanrahan and the A. G. Fitt, were blessed in a joint ceremony by Very Rev. M. J. Talbot, Dean of Limerick, and Rev. T. Morrissey, S.J.

Mr. Peter Lawless, Club President, who introduced the Mayor, paid a tribute to the early members of Limerick Boat Club who had instituted a tradition of service and sportsmanship that had been upheld by the club throughout the years. He felt proud to say that the club was as strong today as it had ever been and they looked to the future with confidence.

The Mayor said the occasion was an historic one, and he felt

honoured in paying a tribute to the club which for a century had been continuously engaged in developing the youth of the city by fostering the great art of rowing.

Tribute

"It is to the eternal credit of the men who have gone before us that they began this great work" he said, "and the tradition has been ably carried on by the present generation."

He congratulated Limerick Boat Club on all they had done for youth and said he would like on this occasion to pay particular tribute to two great men whose names were woven into the history and tradition of the club, the late Bruce Murray and the late Alfie Goodwin.

"I must pay tribute too," he continued, "to the great Tommy O'Donnell and his I.A.R.U. Cup winning crew of 1927, who took on the might of Ireland on that glorious day when they brought the Union Cup to Limerick."

The success of that great club was not won by accident; it was achieved by hard work and strenuous duty, and these ideals were, he was glad to see, still observed. The work of the members was done silently and quietly, but with grit and determination; and two new boats, costing nearly £2,000, had been provided this year for the oarsmen.

"I hope that those who come

after us will continue this great work for rowing and for the development of the youth of the city," he added.

He was himself a former Athlunkard Boat Club man, but in his rowing days L.B.C. dominated the scene and won all the trophies that were up for competition.

Mr. Jim Crowe, President of the I.A.R.U., said the Limerick Boat Club could well be proud of its record of unbroken service to rowing for one hundred years. The club had had its lean times and good times, but had always remained faithful to the sport of rowing, and the value of the members' work could be seen in the magnificent new boats.

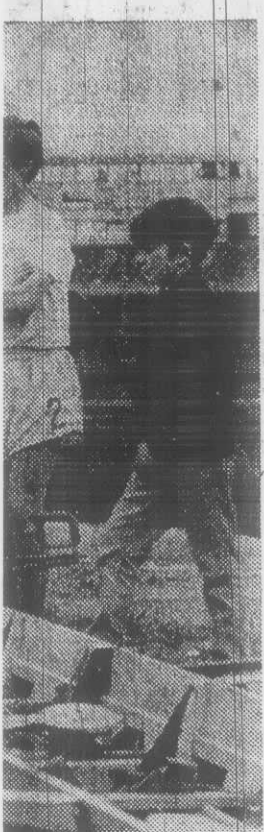
The blessing ceremony was then performed by the Dean and Fr. Morrissey, and the Mayor hoisted the club burgee to the mast.

Boats

The new boats, an eight and four, are named after Captain C. J. Hanrahan and Mr. Alma Fitt, two of the club's honorary life members. Captain Hanrahan is a former president of the club and a member for many years. Mr. Fitt, who celebrated his diamond jubilee year of membership in 1966, has a long association with sport in Limerick, and in addition to his rowing associations, is a former President of the Irish Hockey Union.



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enger rail service provides in appear- Europe, and fully

to report that as from commencement of the new timetable in June, we are leaving from the main platform. The problem was highlighted when the Chambers of Commerce and, by changing the departure time to 19.00 hours instead of 18.45 at present, it has been found possible to meet the requirement. Passengers arriving at Heuston are afforded the opportunity