

104 HENRY STREET

The lonely tree in the garden

The massive changes that are taking place in Limerick's architectural scene have stimulated a greater interest than usual in the story of Limerick's past, and in this context we re-print a paper read by Dolly Stewart to the Old Limerick Society twenty years ago on "The Palace, Henry Street." The first instalment appears below.

In September, 1537, Henry VIII made a grant to Edmond Sexton of Limerick, "his well beloved," of a large parcel of ground on the south side of the city wall, the confiscated land of the Augustinian monastery, and on this ground two centuries later Lord Viscount Pery had two homes built to beautify and adorn his Newtown.

The houses were built on an open space called Henry Street, on the verge of the Shannon, one a mansion for Lord Limerick and the other a palace for the Protestant Bishop. The Palace is now known as a number: "104 Henry Street." William Cecil Pery, the first bishop to take up residence there, first lived there in 1784.

The house

A reviewer of that time reports the house as being "built of brick, the inside well and conveniently constructed having several good apartments, the diningroom commanding a view of the river and shipping for several miles, and the garden hanging over the Shannon."

Perhaps he was disappointed by the austerity of the building because the absence of decoration must have made it conspicuous at that period, but certainly none can doubt its durability. The hall door is one of the best preserved in the city. It is framed in chaste Ionic pillars and surrounded by dog's tooth ornament. Up to a few years ago the remains of ornamental wrought iron lamp standards, reminiscent of the days of private street lighting, stood on the walls leading to the door.

Perhaps the reviewer did not actually see inside the Palace at all, because if he had he could not have missed the graceful wide staircase with its delicate carvings, all still in perfect preservation. Had he climbed the stairs and wandered out onto the parapet which surrounds the house he would have seen the most wonderful panorama of Limerick at his feet. The hills of Clare in the background are a perfect foil for the grey walls of King John's Castle, which in turn provides a backcloth for the turbulent waters of Curragower.

The view

Swiftly the River Shannon flows past the quays, and as one follows its course the eyes are drawn to the huge pile of "Rock of the Candle"—Carrigogunnell—according to legend so called because of a demon light supposed to appear there every night after sunset during pagan times.

When St. Patrick was in the district, hearing about the light, he waited until it appeared and then approached the Rock, and challenged the demon to appear before him. The Evil One appeared and began a stubborn discussion with the Saint, who finally banished him from the Rock, where the light was never seen again.

Away to the south and east, over the crowding rooftops and past the slender spire of St. John's Cathedral, rises Keeper Hill—where the legends and stories of long ago still survive and the happenings of centuries past seem like the affairs of yesterday. Here is still remembered the doughty deeds of Sarsfield and his gallant troopers in their famous ride of nearly three hundred years ago.

To-day, looking down from that same parapet, is still to be seen the ivy-covered walls of King John's Castle, the stately Shannon spreading to the sea, and the rugged ruins of Carrigogunnell melting into the horizon with the river,

The tree

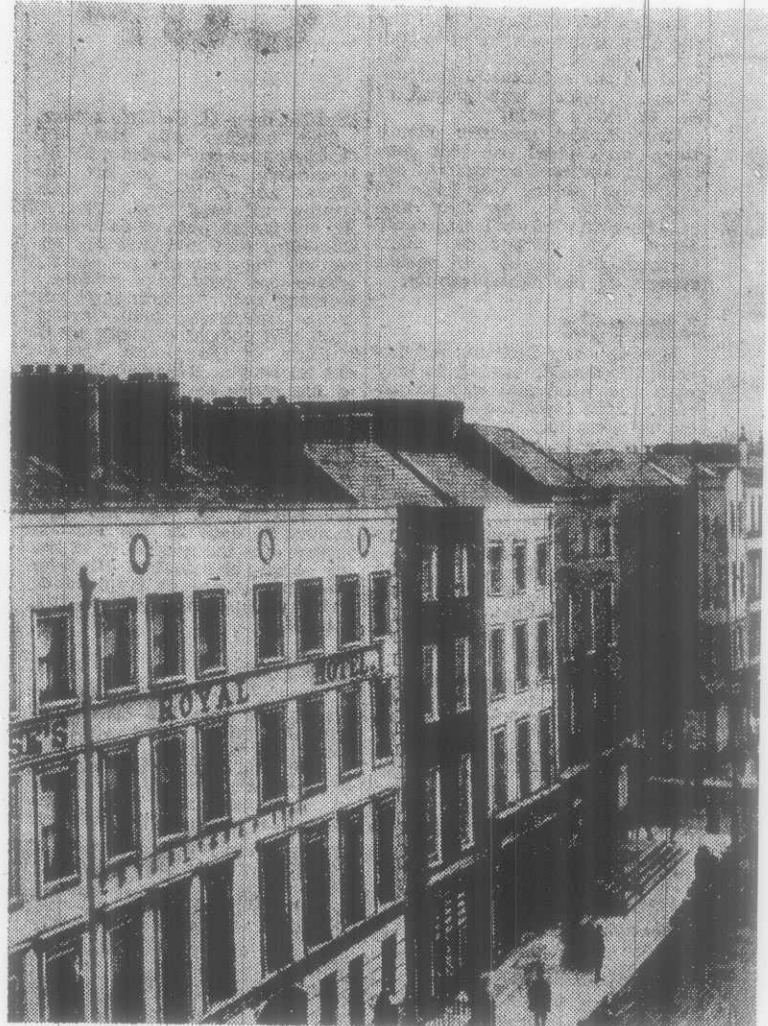
Down below the once beautiful Palace garden lies neglected, its warm brick walls guarding a lonely tree that must be used to loneliness, as it came from an even lonelier place, the Island of St. Helena, where it once whispered over the grave of Napoleon. It was brought to Limerick and planted in the garden by Bishop Graves.

On the wall on the southern side is a stone tablet with this inscription: "In memory of Sambo, 5th March, 1868." "Sambo" was the favourite horse of Bishop Graves.

These same garden walls once played the Fairy Godmother to a little Cinderella, Catherine Hayes, whose story you will hear later.

Lord Rutland

In October, 1784, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Rutland, visited Limerick, stayed at the Palace, and on the 14th of the month his Grace held levee there. He was formally addressed by the clergy, the Corporation and merchants



O'Connell Street — a ch

of the city, and presented with the freedom of the city on a gold box. Rutland Street was named after him. A story is told that at one of the levees the Duke remarked to a gentleman who stood beside him and whom he did not know very well that there was a "prospect of an excellent crop; the timely rain will bring everything above ground." To which he received the most disconcerting reply: "God forbid, your Excellency; yes, God forbid, for I have got three wives under it."

(Continued Next Saturday)

Honours

Miss Kathleen Barry, Kyle House, Herbertstown, has passed with honours her final nursing examinations in St. John's Hospital, Limerick.



Left to right: Right Rev. D. A. R. doe; Venerable Archdeacon R. V. Ballybunion; Mr. E. Hanrahan, ttee, at a reception given to the B lybu:

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The rear of 104 Henry St. commanded a panoramic view of Limerick Docks and the hills of Clare. The house was for many years the seat of the Protestant Bishops of Limerick.

CONTINUING THE STORY OF 104 HENRY ST.

Noteable clerics in the life of Limerick

The massive changes that are taking place in Limerick architectural scene have stimulated a greater interest than usual in the story of Limerick's past, and in this context we reprint a paper read by Dolly Stewart to the Old Limerick Society some years ago on "The Palace, Henry Street." The second instalment appears below.

On the 27th April, 1786, the Bishop would undoubtedly be looking out of his windows to see Limerick's first aeronautic display, when Richard Crosbie ascended in a balloon from the square of the House of Industry (later to be called the Strand Barracks) on the North Strand, and after travelling over the counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry, descended the same evening near Ballygreen to the terror of the country people, who fled in horror from the seemingly supernatural visitation. On his ultimate return to the city the admiring citizens chaired the hero through the streets and the entire town went on fete that night.

This Richard Crosbie was known as "Balloon Crosbie." He was the first aeronaut to construct a "Hibernia Balloon" and to venture to take a journey in it himself. From Dublin he tried to cross the Irish Sea, and ascended from the Duke of Leinster's lawn in Merrion Square. The crowds outside were huge, and so tightly packed together that they were forced against the parapet wall fronting the street until it gave way, and wall and people all came tumbling down together. Several were killed and many disabled, whilst Crosbie sailed quietly over their heads. He later dropped into the sea between Dublin and Holyhead, but was saved. It was said that in face and figure he was Daniel O'Connell's double.

Glentworth

William Cecil Pery had married a Mrs. Dorothea Crump, widow of General Crump, and had been created Lord Baron Glentworth of Mallow. He died on 14th July, 1794.

William Cecil Pery's successor was Thomas Bernard or Bernard, son of the Bishop of Down. He was educated in London and was a member of the famous literary circle which included Goldsmith, Samuel Johnson, Edmund Burke, etc. He was a prolific writer and left to posterity many books of sermons which are still a delight to read.

Johnson

Samuel Johnson expressed a desire to visit Ireland, much to Bernard's dismay, as he feared that Johnson might treat the Irish more unfavourably than he had done the Scotch. Johnson's answer to Dr. Bernard was: "Sir, you have no reason to be afraid of me. The Irish are not in conspiracy to cheat the world by false representations of the merits of their countrymen. No Sir, the Irish are a fair people—they never speak well of one another."

Once, in a smart exchange of words between Bernard and Johnson on a question whether a man could improve himself after the age of 45, Johnson, in a hearty humour, said some very unkind things to Bernard. Later Bernard made this the subject of some pleasant verses in which he supposed himself to learn different perfections from different men. They concluded with delicate irony:—

"Johnson shall teach me how to place,

In fairest light each borrowed grace;
From him I'll learn to write,
Copy his clear familiar style;
And by the roughness of his file
Grow, like himself, polite!"

Personally, I think this method of advertising one's literary friends by means of verse, and sometimes worse, was at most successful medium, and assured enlarged sales for books and pamphlets, notwithstanding the fact that most of these poems could best be described as "spiteful."

Goldsmith

Goldsmith, in his pre-mortem epitaphs in his poem "Realisation," writes of Bernard:—
"Here lies the good Dean re-

united to earth,
Who mixed reason with
pleasure and wisdom with
mirth.
If he had any faults he left us
in doubt,
At least, in six months I could
not find 'em out.
Yet some have declared, and
it can't be denied 'em,
That sly-boots was cursedly
cunning to hide 'em."

Bernard was married twice, first to Ann Brown, by whom he had one son, Andrew. At the age of 75 he married Jane Ross, Lewin of Fort Fergus, aged 22. She was a chronic consumptive and died shortly after her marriage. The bishop declared his intention of marrying a third time, but fate was against him and he died at Wimbledon in June 1806.

Warburton

The next occupant of the See of Limerick and of the Palace was Charles Warburton, Dean of Clonmacnoise, who was enthroned at Limerick in August, 1806.

I am afraid the newly-appointed Bishop got a rather warm reception in Limerick. The country was still in a very disturbed state after the '98 Rising, and bands of desperadoes roamed about robbing and beating up unwary travellers. On the 7th August, 1807, several gentlemen, who were returning from a party given by Lady Clare at Mount Shannon, were robbed and ill-treated by a gang of such thieves who also fired at the Bishop, wounding him in the ear and arm with two slugs.

However, in September of the same year the Bishop was sufficiently recovered to receive distinguished company at his Palace. The Duke and Duchess of Richmond arrived in the city, including in their retinue Lord March, Lady May Lennox and a large staff.

His Grace stayed at the palace, and on Sunday, the entire company attended Service at St. Mary's Cathedral. Never before or since was witnessed so large a procession of carriages, or such an exhibition of wealth in the city. An excellent charity sermon was preached by the Rev. Henry Gibbons, but alas for his eloquence, he received no contributions from the distinguished visitors.

(Continued next Saturday).



Mrs. Kathleen Carrig and Jet.

Picture: A. F. FOLEY

Jet...
the
nine
day
wonder

IN A DRAMATIC rescue from an unused, unlined 60-foot well in Borrhigone, County Limerick, an S.P.C.A. inspector brought a dog to safety after it had been missing for nine days.

The gallant rescuer was Kerry SPCA inspector, Mr. Michael O'Callaghan, and he was assisted by the society's Limerick inspector, Mr. Donal Moloney.

The animal's owner, Mr. Jim Carrig, Borrhigone, told the SPCA officers that for eight days he had gone to the well and not heard a sound.

Then on the ninth day he heard the dog—Jet—barking. He immediately went to the Garda in Foynes and they contacted Kerry SPCA.

Joint rescue

As a result a joint rescue operation was mounted by Mr. O'Callaghan and Mr. Moloney, Rathkeale Fire Brigade was also at the scene.

Mr. O'Callaghan was lowered down over 60 feet into the well on a rope, as the available ladders did not reach to the bottom.

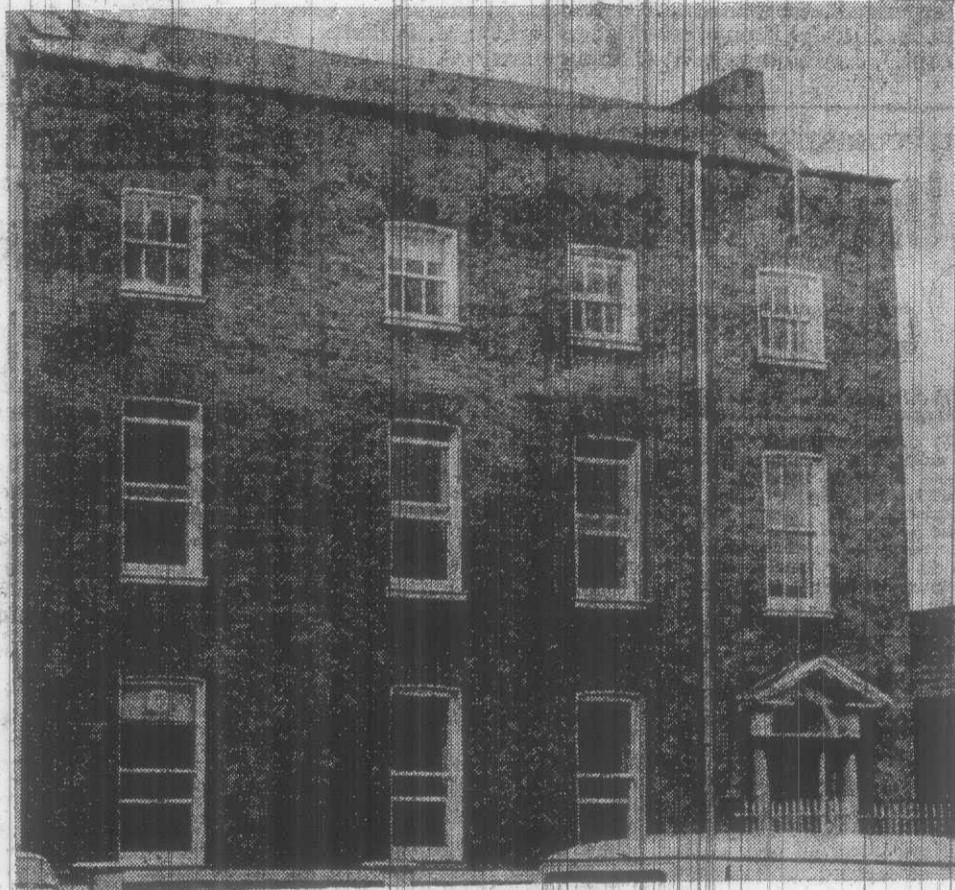
He succeeded in locating the dog deep in the darkness of the earth and brought him safely to the surface.

The dog, a Dalmatian-Pointer cross-breed, was in reasonably good shape.

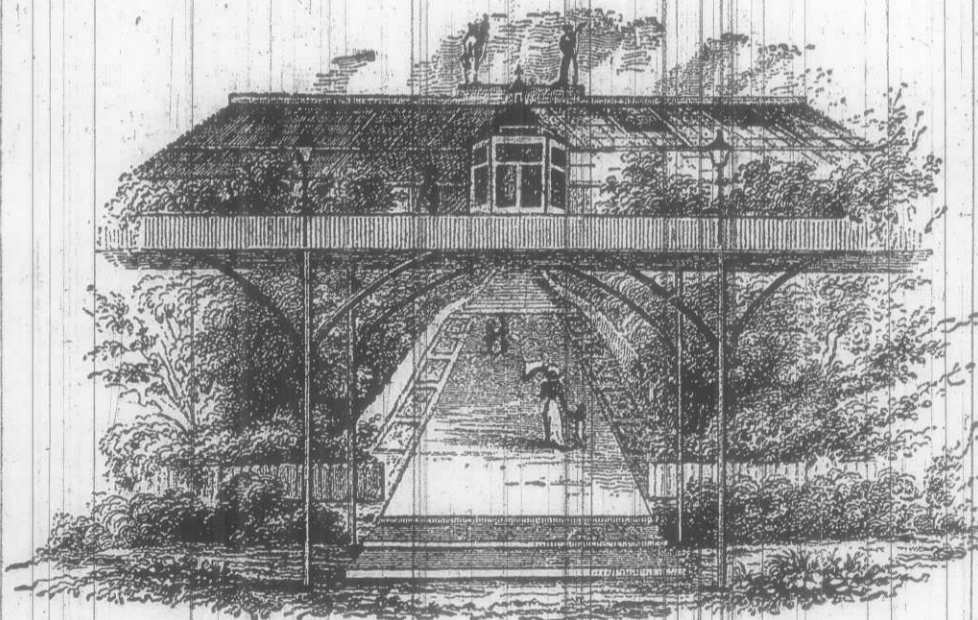
Immediately he was placed on the ground he ran to his master.

CONTINUING THE STORY OF 104 HENRY STREET

The Palace was a Social Centre in the 19th century



No. 104 Henry Street, Limerick, now the headquarters of Bord na gCon, was for many years the seat of the Protestant Bishops of Limerick.



Roches Hanging Gardens, one of the curiosities of Europe, were sited at the rear of 99 O'Connell Street, and could be viewed from The Palace, 104 Henry St.

The massive changes that are taking place in Limerick architectural scene have stimulated a greater interest than usual in the story of Limerick's past, and in this context we re-print a paper read by Dolly Stewart to the Old Limerick Society some years ago on "The Palace, Henry St." The third instalment appears below.

In 1808 an extraordinary structure was going up right in front of the Palace. William Roche, head of a large banking concern, finding little time for trips into the country, deciding to turn the waste ground at the rear of his house, 99 O'Connell St., into a garden.

Roches Gardens

He had built a number of arches, converted the interior into stores, and on the arches formed elevated terraces on the highest of which were built forcing houses. Some of these produced grapes, pineapples and other exotic fruit, and others were orangeries and conservatories.

The middle terrace was devoted to vegetables and the lower to flowers of every kind.

The cost of this structure was £15,000.

This interesting garden, likened by some to the hanging gardens of Babylon, was visited by several Irish Viceroy's and many illustrious strangers and was famous throughout these islands.

The ferry

At the beginning of May, 1811, a ferry boat service was initiated between Newtownperry and the North Strand. Its journey was from the shore under the Bishop's Palace to the steps of the Revenue Houses, which were on the opposite side of the river. The ferry boat was owned by one Christopher Meade, after whom was named Meade's Quay.

New houses were now being built around the Newtown, or Newtownperry, and it is recorded that in December, 1813, the Rev. George Studdert, Rector of Kilpeacon, fell into the unprotected area of a new house at the corner of Glent-

worth Street and died as a result of the injuries he received.

Literary lion

To return to Bishop Warburton. He was one of the literary lions of the Johnson-Goldsmith circle. His criticisms and opinions were deferred to by this select group. Boswell describes him as "supercilious," but Johnson held him in grateful remembrance, who said: "He praised me at a time when praise was of value to me."

Certainly the approbation of such a critic as Warburton was sufficient to raise a struggling writer to the top. Even ten years later, when Johnson stood pre-eminent, he had not forgotten his patron. Conversation at a private dinner turned on the subject of Edward and his latest "Canons of Criticism" which, someone announced, appeared to put that author on a level with Warburton.

"Nay," said Johnson, "he has given him some smart hits to be sure; but there is no proportion between the two men: they must be named together. A fly,

may sting a stately horse and make him wince, but one is but an insect and the other is a horse still."

In 1787, George III, in a conversation with Johnson, said he heard that Dr. Warburton was a man of such general knowledge that you scarce could talk with him on any one subject on which he was not qualified to speak, and that his learning resembled Garrick's acting in its universality. He jokingly remarked that Pope made Warburton a Bishop! "True Sir," said Johnson, "but Warburton did more for Pope; he made him a Christian" (alluding to Warburton's ingenious comments on "Essay on Man").

Bishop Warburton was translated to Cloyne in 1820 and this ended his connection with Limerick. At the top of the hill of Cahernorry is the remains of a church built under his direction in 1810, and I believe there is a memorial to him in Rathkeale Church.

Next Saturday—John Jobb, Bishop of Limerick from 1823 to 1833.

Rathfredagh gymkhana: the divide of the divide

IT SEEMED a pity that the final main events on the programme at Rathfredagh House, Newcastlemore, were staged so late in the afternoon that some of the qualifiers had decided to leave the field.

It was no fault of the organisers that the final of the open ponies 142 class was still undecided at 6.40 p.m. It would have been an exciting "run off" between four keen competitors, T. Ryan of Ennis, B. McMahon of Kilmallock, Barry McCormack of Ardagh, and D. Costelloe of Kilmallock.

But what was the point in further dragging out a long programme when there was scarcely a spectator left on the field to enjoy the thrills of what could have been the highlight of the afternoon.

Instead the competitors appealed for a divide of the first, second and third prizes and the judges agreed. The same had been applied so many times during the evening, with up to ten qualifiers in some of the events deciding to divide the prizes instead of running it off, that another would make very little difference—especially at the hour on the clock.

Such keen competition explains the size of the entry and the standard of the competitions at Rathfredagh, where the large attendance certainly got value for their money and saw some of the cream of the gymkhana horses and ponies in action over two very well laid out arenas.

Twenty-four competitors took part in the opening competition in the section for horses whose winnings did not exceed £10, and the six remaining with clear second rounds divided the prize money.

The senior event in the class, the open event for horses with winnings not exceeding £200, was won by Delobra, owned by Sean O'Shaughnessy of Ballyengland, Askeaton.

In the pony classes, the Costelloe family of Kilmallock collected quite a few rosettes, figuring among the winners in three of the four events for ponies on the programme.

Results

HORSES

Event A for horses with winnings of less than £10. (All prizes were divided among six qualifiers):

Sean O'Shaughnessy, Ballyengland, Askeaton; Michael Moran, Askeaton; Michael Moran, Askeaton; Michael Moran, Askeaton; Michael Moran, Askeaton; Michael Moran, Askeaton.

Event B, for horses of winnings of less than £20 (all prizes were divided among ten qualifiers)—Mrs. E. O'Connor, Mallow (Volla); W. Ryan, Hospital (Ballinhasig); Michael Moran, Askeaton (More Candy); Juan McDonough, Askeaton (Solent); Seamus O'Shaughnessy, Askeaton (Diamond Dan); John O'Gorman, Dooneen, Patrickswell (Ballycahill); T. Lyons, Foynes (Simons Rose); Mrs. Johnson, Ashill, Kilmallock (Panther); Jerry Dunne, Drombane, Thurles (Drombane); J. A. Finnegan, Askeaton (Nordel).

Event C, for horses with winnings of less than £50 (four qualifiers with clear rounds divided the first four prizes)—J. A. Finnegan, Askeaton (Nordel); M. O'Keefe, Duagh (Queen of the Fairies);

farming information
ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

HOGGET EWE MOUNTAIN LAMB SUBSIDY SCHEME 1972

HOGGET EWE IN...

is Eireann

- 9.45—Island In The Sun—Part II, followed by Weekend Sport, News Headlines and end of transmission.
- MONDAY, JULY 10**
- 5.35—A Way To Adventure.
- 6.00—The Angelus.
- 6.01—News Headlines.
- 6.06—Trumpet.
- 6.20—The Magic Roundabout.
- 6.30—Amúigh Faoin Speir.
- 7.00—Gaelic Report.
- 7.15—An Nuacht.
- 7.25—Sports Final.
- 7.30—Cinnarron Strip.
- 9.00—From Glen To Glen.
- 9.30—The News.
- 9.50—Film.
- 10.50—It's...
- 11.20—News Headlines.
- 11.25—Transmission ends.
- TUESDAY, JULY 11**
- 5.35—Adventures In Rainbow Country.
- 6.00—The Angelus.
- 6.01—News Headlines.
- 6.06—Mart And Market.
- 6.15—Atonement.
- 7.15—An Nuacht.
- 7.25—Sports Final.
- 7.30—Calum's Cell.
- 8.00—The F.B.I.
- 9.00—The Question Is...
- 9.30—The News.
- 9.50—Outlook.
- 9.55—The Rite of Spring and Hamlet.
- 11.30—News Headlines.
- 11.35—Transmission ends.
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**
- 5.35—The Rovers.
- 6.00—The Angelus.
- 6.01—News Headlines.
- 6.06—Family Life Around The World.
- 6.20—The Last of the Mohicans.
- 7.15—An Nuacht.
- 7.25—Sports Final.
- 7.30—Here's Harry.
- 8.10—Caught In The Act.
- 8.40—Cineclub: A Common Fascist—Part I.
- 9.30—The News.
- 9.50—Outlook.
- 9.55—Cineclub: A Common Fascist—Part II.
- 10.45—Garda Patrol.
- 11.05—News Headlines.
- 11.10—Transmission ends.
- THURSDAY, JULY 13**
- 5.35—All Join In.
- 6.00—The Angelus.
- 6.01—News Headlines.
- 6.06—Calmero.
- 6.15—Daniel Boone.
- 7.15—An Nuacht.
- 7.25—Sports Final.
- 7.30—Mission: Impossible.
- 8.30—Sport In Action.
- 9.00—Personal View.
- 9.30—The News.
- 9.50—Broaden Your Mind.
- 11.20—News Headlines.
- 11.25—Transmission ends.
- FRIDAY, JULY 14**
- 2.00—Fitzwilliam and British Open Golf.
- 6.00—The Angelus.
- 6.01—News Headlines.
- 6.06—Encyclopaedia.
- 6.20—Gunsmoke.
- 7.15—An Nuacht.
- 7.20—The Andy Williams Show.
- 8.30—The F.B.I.
- 9.30—The News.
- 9.50—Outlook.
- 9.55—7 Days.
- 10.25—Marcus Welby, M.D.
- 11.20—Fitzwilliam and British Open Golf—Recorded Highlights.

S BURTON'S SUPER SUMMER SALE

£5 on made to measure suits!

CASH IN ON ANY-TO-WEAR, TOO!

HANNEL R TOUR

Raleigh-Dunlop Tour of Ireland, August 18, will have a four-ell known cross-Channel Bees second year in succession.

When he finished in 10th place. The team includes Paul Turnbull, who competed in the 1971 Tour, and John Whitby, a promising young rider competing in his first national Tour. David Grettton makes up the four-man side, and he, too, has some excellent firsts to his credit, as well as finishing well up in last year's Raleigh-Dunlop Tour.

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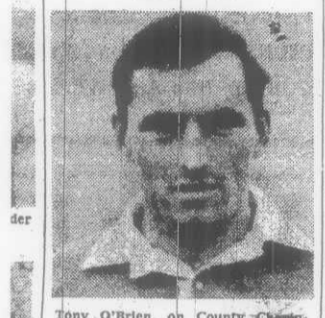
CITY BOARD AFFAIRS

WHAT'S ON— AND WHERE

Two attractive minor hurling championship games are listed for this (Saturday) evening with Na Piarasigh and Treaty-Sarsfield in action at the Gaelic Grounds and St. Patrick's making the journey to Patrickswell where the opposition is provided by a talented Ballybrown selection.

The minors again hold sway on next Wednesday evening with the hurlers of Na Piarasigh and Mungret striving for victory at Patrickswell while two football ties are also scheduled and both should provide top-class fare.

At the Gaelic Grounds the holders, Treaty-Sarsfields, face a strong Cloughaun fifteen powered by many of last year's all-conquering juveniles while at St. Patrick's Field, the host club play St. Brendan's, who are reported to have a very good side in this grade.



Tony O'Brien, on County Championship duty with Patrickswell on Sunday.



Sean Foley, at mid-field for Patrickswell against Old Christians in the County S.H. Championship.



man of the Schools' Board, speaking at the function or to present medals and trophies to the winning teams.



manager, Chrysler Ireland Ltd., Mr. Michael Murphy, W. (Limerick) Ltd., Main Chrysler dealer for Limerick and eshney, managing director, Chrysler Ireland Ltd.



Bernie Hartigan, a key figure in Sunday's senior hurling championship game between Old Christians and Patrickswell.

CAMOGIE LIMERICK FOR MUNSTER TITLE

Limerick travel to Cork on Sunday next, where they take on the home side in the Munster junior final. As was expected, the Limerick selectors gave a vote of confidence to the side, which scored a 40 pt. win over Tipperary in the semi-final. The Limerick line-out is as follows:—

Helen Roche, Brigid Ryan, Mary Hayes, Bunty Guiry, Kitty Ryan, Betty O'Leary, Geraldine O'Brien, Christina Murphy, Margo Condon, Carrie Clancy, Brigid Darcy, Marion Madden.

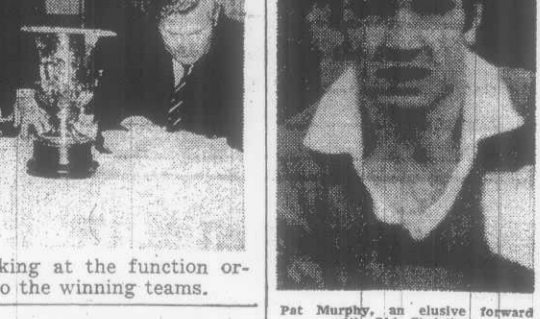
Subs.: Helen Butler, Joan O'Brien, Teresa Fennessy, Phil Darcy, Sheila Mulcair, Breeda Stokes.

The defence has conceded very little so far and if they can contain the Cork forwards and in particular Rosie O'Sullivan and Ann Higgins, then Limerick would be well on the road to victory. The Abane, Ballygran, Croagh combination at midfield should have the edge and if they supply the forward lines with a reasonable supply of the ball, there is no reason why scores will not come. This is the sector that has failed Limerick time and time again. The entire forward lines for Sunday's game are all newcomers to the attack. Veteran Carrie Clancy moved from midfield to the centre mark early in the season and Brigid Darcy, Margo Condon, and Marion Madden, made their inter-county debut against Waterford last May.

Cork did not impress against Clare in the semi-final, but they will be a much tougher proposition on Sunday. They are always hard to beat at home, but they may have to pull something extra out of the bag if they are to overcome a well-balanced and determined Limerick side.

St. John's Hospital should house a bumper crowd on tomorrow (Sunday) evening when old rivals, Na Fianna, drawn from the parishes of Hospital and Herbertstown, meet Killteely in the final of the Festival Tournament.

The game will be refereed by John O'Grady (Mungret), who will also be in charge of two Senior Championship games at the Gaelic Grounds in the afternoon. John is certainly a busy "Knight of the Whistle," and has been appointed to referee the Munster senior hurling final between Cork and Clare, at Thurles, on Sunday week.



Pat Murphy, an elusive forward with Old Christians.

Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage Train

On Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30, a special pilgrimage train will be provided. Timetable and combined return train/bus fares (Standard Class) to Murrisk will be:

From Waterford, with Buffet Car, on Saturday, July 29.	Adult	Child
Waterford	22.05	13.50
Grange	22.18	13.50
Carrick-on-Suir	22.30	13.50
Clonmel	22.50	13.20
Cahir	23.10	13.10
Tipperary	23.29	13.00
Limerick	00.05	12.70
Westport, arr. 03.00		

Return train from Westport at 11.25 Sunday, July 30.

The Bishop who first heard the "Irish Nightingale"

The massive changes that are taking place in Limerick's architectural scene have stimulated a greater interest than usual in the story of Limerick's past, and in this context we re-print a paper read by Dolly Stewart to the Old Limerick Society some years ago on "The Palace, Henry St." The final instalment appears below.

Now I must tell you about Cinderella and the Fairy Godmother, "Garden Wall." Little Cinderella lived in Patrick St. She was the daughter of a bandmaster in the Limerick City Militia, who had deserted his family. Her mother tried to make a living for herself and her children by dressmaking.

A relative of theirs, Mrs. Carroll worked at the Earl of Limerick's, whose great house was next door to the Palace, and when the family were away the little girl often played in the garden.

One sultry summer evening in 1839 Catherine Hayes, for that was her name, sang to herself as she wandered about the garden, and in the next garden, Bishop Knox dozed. Thro' his dreams came the gentle refrain of "Jimmy, Mo Mhile Stor."

Waking up and looking over the garden wall the Bishop saw the pale, badly dressed child singing like an angel. He made enquiries about her, got a number of people interested in her voice and assisted her to take a course of music in Limerick.

Studies

After some little time she was sent to Dublin where she studied and quickly progressed under Sapio, and there she made her first public appearance in 1844. She went to Paris where



Catherine Hayes, in her day the world's greatest soprano, was "discovered" by Bishop Knox when he heard her singing as a child in the garden next door to 104 Henry Street.

Hospital Tournament Final

St. John's Hospital should house a bumper crowd on tomorrow (Sunday) evening when old rivals, Na Fianna, drawn from the parishes of Hospital and Herbertstown, meet Killteely in the final of the Festival Tournament.

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In 1849, just ten short years after Bishop Knox had heard her singing in the garden, she made her first appearance in London where she got a wonderful reception. She repeated her triumphs in every capital in Europe and in the chief cities of America and Australia, and was known everywhere as "The Swan of Erin" and "The Irish Nightingale."

Reception

The following extract is taken from an article written about 1890:

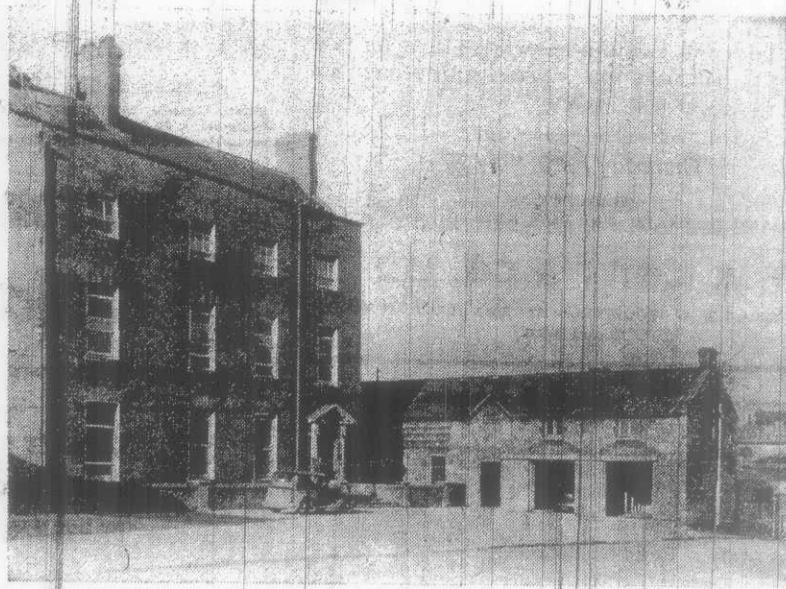
"The forthcoming visit to the Theatre Royal of the Royal Italian Opera Company is the first we have had for over 30 years. We had Italian concerts and mixed performances — that is where English and Italian were sung in the same work — but since 1861 we have not had purely Italian representatives of opera here.

"So far as we can ascertain the first Italian opera which was sung here was on the 28th, 29th and 30th April, 1857, when a fine company came here with 'our own' Catherine Hayes as leading soprano and Signor Volperie as first tenor.

"We are told of the enthusiasm of her reception and how many had to be turned away from the doors the desire to hear her was so great, and although the prices were 7/6d. for reserved seats, 5/- for pit and 2/6d. for balcony. In those days the theatre had not been altered and improved by the addition of stalls and other changes, so there was no fourth price for admission.

"The 'Irish Nightingale' appeared in 'Lucia di Lammermoor,' 'Norma,' and 'Il Trovatore,' and sang magnificently. And, we may add, before the left she sang the leading solos in Handel's 'Messiah,' at the Limerick Harmonic Society's concert in the Athenaeum, which was then, through Mr. Handel Roger's (organist, St. Mary's Cathedral) exertions, one of the most famous and successful local music associations in Ireland."

A contemporary writer, Thos. Lacy, says: "When Miss Catherine, here mother and sister recently visited Limerick their drawingroom at Cruise's Hotel



The eminent pianist and composer, Franz Liszt, gave a recital in the drawing room of 104 Henry Street in January, 1841. And tradition has it that he gave the first public performance of the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 there.

was crowded by the most fashionable visitors, ladies and gentlemen, and might be said to bear the resemblance of a levee." The same writer dismissed the Bishop's Palace with few words: "A plain brick edifice."

Said to tell, at the height of a brilliant career, Catherine Hayes died at the early age of 35, and her remains laid to rest in Kensal Green Cemetery in London, far from her native city to which she had brought such honour and glory.

Liszt

In January, 1841, Franz Liszt visited Limerick. At the invitation of Bishop Knox he gave a recital in the drawingroom of the Palace and tradition says that here he gave the first public performance of the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.

The famous composer also gave a performance at the Theatre Royal which was packed to capacity with an enthusiastic audience. The "Chronicle," reporting the recital, finishes its eulogy with this astonishing sentence: "It was a marvellous piano to stand up to it."

There really must have been something amazing about Mr. Liszt's piano playing, because even ten years later his prowess was recalled in the following extract from a report of a coming grand concert to be held in the Theatre Royal, Henry Street, in February, 1852:

"Miss Bassano is not unknown to a Limerick audience, for she



Right Rev. Raymond D'A. Orpen, who was the last Bishop of Limerick to occupy 104 Henry Street.

appeared here some years ago when Liszt was astonishing the public with his extraordinary pianoforte playing."

Graves

Bishop Graves was Bishop of Limerick from 1866 to 1899. He is best remembered for his knowledge of the ancient language of Ireland, and is reported to have been the discoverer of the key to the alphabet of the Ogham characters in the "Book of Lecan." His sons won

fame with their writings, more especially the author of "Father O'Flynn."

Orpen

I know there are many of you who will have personal reminiscences of these latter bishops, including Thomas Bunbury and Raymond Orpen. Dr. Orpen was the last Bishop of Limerick to reside in the Palace in Henry Street. He had his summer residence at the Spa, Tralee, and while there he visited the various parishes in his diocese and then spent the winter months in Limerick. Dr. Orpen was a Rector of Tralee for 38 years before he was elected Bishop of Limerick, and it is said that the night of his election the Tralee local band came to the Rectory at Tralee and played a selection of music in honour of the new Bishop.

Dr. Orpen resigned the See in 1921 and retired to Ardagh, where he eventually died. He was a near relative of Sir William Orpen, the well known painter.

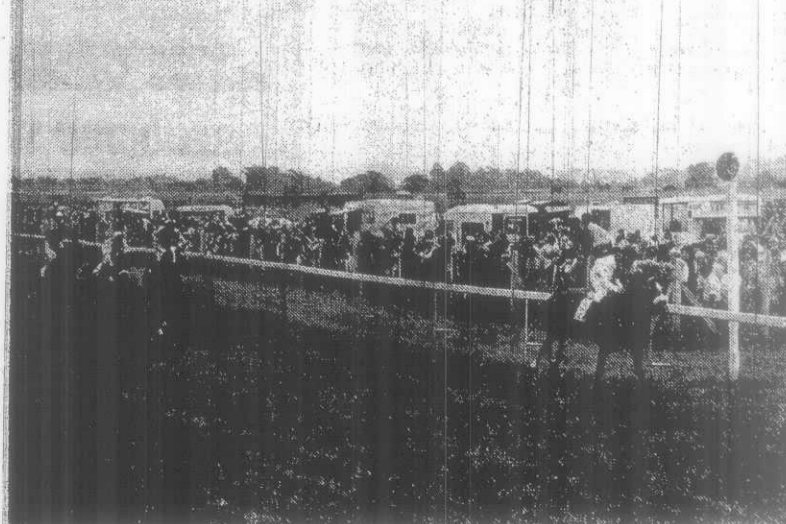
With the resignation of Dr. Orpen the glorious days of levees and receptions fade into the past. In 1922 the gracious rooms were converted to suit the requirements of industry, the premises later being the headquarters of Messrs. Rankin (Ireland) Ltd.

(NOTE: The premises, 104 Henry St., are now the headquarters of Bord na gCon.)

(CONCLUDED)



MUNSTER HARP DERBY . . . Mrs. R. B. Howick presenting the Waterford Glass Trophy to Mr. Kevin Prendergast, trainer of Southern Star, winner of the Munster Harp Derby at Killarney. Also in the picture are Mr. R. B. Howick, Sales Director, Guinness Group Sales, and jockey, Brian Marsh.



MUNSTER HARP DERBY . . . Southern Star, ridden by Brian Marse, comes home a comfortable winner of the Munster Harp Derby at Killarney. Black Abbot and Mount Music fill the minor places.