

CRAOBH LUIMNIGH DE CHONRADH NA GAELIGE.

- ① The first craobh was established in the Autumn of 1898. The impetus came from the Hon. Sec. 1798 Centenary Association, J.F. O'Neill who wrote a letter to the "Limerick Leader" which was published in the July 11th issue of the paper. In his letter he wrote "At
- ② Thursday night's meeting of the Centenary Association the question of the establishment of a Gaelic League (craobh) was under consideration, and it was decided that the use of the room should be granted to those who wished to form classes for the study of the Irish language. A meeting for this purpose will be held on Friday next at 8.30 o'clock....."
- ③ The craobh was funded by members subscriptions and by the small fees charged for class membership. Later on, when the craobh was well established a church gate collection was organised annually on La 'le Phadraig.
- ④ A meeting on the 22nd August lists the following as being present, T. O'Neill presided and present also were J. O'Brien, D. Daly, W. Quirke, M. Danagher, T. Browning, J. King, J. O'Connor, P. Daly, J. O'Neill, D. Egan, M. Connell, P. Cusack, M. Storan, W. Whelan, M. O'Rourke, P. Foley, S. Frost, W. O'Sullivan, P. Marshall, P. Keane, J. Horan, M. Reidy, D. Moloney and T. Toomey. Down through the years many famous Limerick people have been active members of the craobh, e.g. both Mayor O'Callaghan and Mayor Clancy (after whom the Gaelscoil in Southill is named) who were killed by the British forces during ~~the~~ the War of Independence, Ted Russell (also a former mayor), Frank Glasgow, An tAr. Athanais, O.F.M. etc. From the craobh ~~the~~ grew Feis Tuamhuhan and subsequently Feile Luimni.
- ⑤ The primary function of Conradh na Gaeilge is to work for the restoration of Irish so that it becomes as important as English in the community. All activities, classes, dancing, feiseanna, publications, lectures, singing, drama are aimed at achieving fluency in the language.
- ⑥ The first meeting place was in the '98 Centennial Commemoration room in Sarsfield Street. Thence the craobh moved to the Clare Chambers, Sr. Uí Chonaill and then to Sraid Thomáis, No.17 was purchases first and then number 18, the present headquarters of Conradh na Gaeilge in Limerick city and county.

(Seán Ó hAllmhuráin 1998).