

LIMERICK LEADER

ESTABLISHED 1889 MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2006 75c

LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPT.

Mother relives horror of attack on her two young children

By DAVID HURLEY

THE mother of the two young children, who were severely burned in Moyross three weeks ago, says watching them receiving treatment is like watching something out of a horror film.

Six-year-old Millie and four-year-old Gavin Murray remain in the burns unit at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin.

Speaking at her home in Moyross, Sheila Murray relived the events of September 10. "I went up to my friends house and I was there for about 10 or 15 minutes when she told me that I was wanted out in the front. There was three lads outside—they wanted a lift but I told them I wasn't going anywhere because I was bringing the kids down home for their dinner," she explained.

Miss Murray said she went to leave about ten minutes later: "I just went to turn the key in the ignition to start the car and I just saw a flash behind me and I looked in the mirror and the two kids were on fire in the back seat," she told me.

After receiving initial treatment at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital in Doonadole the two children were transferred for specialist treatment in Dublin.

Sheila Murray says despite their horrific injuries both are showing signs of recovery: Millie is coming on great, her face has cleared up brilliantly but her arm and her leg are still bad. Gavin is still not talking to anyone but he has been taken off the ventilator. The doctors were talking about giving him a prosthetic ear because his ear is really bad there's nothing really there," she added.

Both Millie and Gavin are facing a lifetime of treatment: "The two of them have already been in theatre and they have got skin grafts. It's hard looking at it but I have to be there for them; I'm just glad that they're coming on and that they're getting better," she said.

GLADIATOR VISITS KILKEE

By MIKE DWANE

KILKEE was more like St Tropez this weekend as movie stars and entertainment figures gathered to remember one of Limerick's favourite sons—Richard Harris.

Harris' son Damien, who flew in from Los Angeles to attend the unveiling of a statue to his father at the Cliff Walk, said up to 40 members of the Harris family had come to Kilkee.

Actor Daragh O'Malley and composer Phil Coulter were in Kilkee but the main attraction was Oscar winner and Harris' Gladiator co-star Russell Crowe.

"Richard and I met on the movie set when I was dressed in the finery of a Roman general and he in the finery of the Emperor, so naturally, we talked about rugby," the Hollywood star said.

"He said to me 'Crowe, I hear you were born in New Zealand but you choose to live in Australia so I can hurl abuse at you about the Wallabies and speak in reverential tones about the All-Blacks.' Richard told me 'there's a good night out in you—I think I'm going to like you,'" he revealed.

Crowe said he befriended Harris at a time when the older man was reflective about his life and imparted "a lot of wisdom". The pair made a pact to visit Lansdowne Road to see Ireland take on the Australians but Harris passed away before this could happen. Crowe said he



Hollywood star Russell Crowe with Garda Seamus Gleeson and Sgt Gerry Lernihán before the unveiling of a statue to Richard Harris in Kilkee, County Clare, at the weekend

had gone to the match anyway as part of a "one-man pilgrimage to my old friend" and when Ireland beat Australia for the first time in 37 years, he felt the home team had a sixteenth man in Harris looking down on them.

The actor even composed a song about it and performed it

with local singers at Saturday's unveiling, which attracted 2,500 people.

Crowe had flown in from a film set in upstate New York to attend and paid his own way, including a private plane and a stay at Dromoland Castle. He drank with locals at Scott's Bar on Friday and signed auto-

graphs and had photos taken with local children.

Mr Harris' sons attended the opening of an exhibition dedicated to their father in Kilmallock on Sunday before calling in for a drink at one of their father's favourite spots in Limerick—Charlie St George's on Parnell Street.

City publican Nancy Blake is laid to rest

LIMERICK this Monday lays to rest one of its most popular business figures, Nancy Mulcahy, nee Blake, whose Denmark Street pub has been a city institution for over half a century, writes Mike Dwane.

Nancy 81, a former chairperson of Limerick Vintners, passed away on Friday night after a short illness. The pub closed its doors on Saturday night and the removal took place from the bar on Sunday afternoon, draw-



Nancy Blake

ing hundreds of mourners. Her son Donal, who

now runs the pub, said "it was her wish that she die here and be waked in the pub in the old style surrounded by family, friends and customers."

Nancy worked in the bar until her illness and loved to share a chat and a drink with customers with JJ, her golden retriever, by her side.

She was a native of Ballybrood, near Caherconlish, and as a young woman worked as a cocktail waitress in Cruise's Hotel. She mar-

ried Danny Mulcahy, a foreman with CIE in Limerick. Just over 50 years ago, they bought the pub on Denmark Street, then Mulready's and home to a licensed premises since 1778.

"They actually opened the pub before they got married and they were going to change the name but at that stage it was too well-known and my father had to settle for that," said Donal.

"Our mother wasn't just our mother, we

shared with so many customers over so many years," said her daughter Deirdre.

"Her sense of style and talent for decoration was always a great source of pride for her daughters and she will be truly missed by us all."

As well as fashion and flowers, Nancy also had a great love of hurling and rugby.

"Our dream was to see a Limerick team winning the All-Ireland Final together but unfortu-

nately it wasn't to be but a couple of days before she passed away Paul O'Connell came in to see her with the Heineken Cup," Donal said.

Nancy is survived by her children Deirdre, Aine and Donal and eight grandchildren. Her late husband passed away in 1991. Funeral Mass is at 12 noon today in St Michael's Church, Denmark Street with burial afterwards at Kilmurry graveyard in Castletroy.