

PRESS RELEASE

Krups Engineering Limited today (30th June) celebrated 25 years in Ireland. In attendance at the celebration at the Krups plant in Limerick were Mr Frieder Krups Director, and a son of the founding director, Mr Fritz Krups, Mr John A Daly, Chairman of Shannon Development, and Mr John Carroll, General President ITGWU. Among the many guests were the Deputy Lord Mayor of Limerick, Mr Jack Bourke, the President of the University of Limerick, Dr Edward Walsh, and Dr Dermot Whelan, President CII.

Krups Engineering Limited was first established in 1964 at Limerick where mechanical weighing scales were produced for the Irish and overseas market. Today, the company still produces mechanical weighing scales, but also an internationally known range of electrical appliances - in fact, over 3 million every year.

Speaking at the celebrations, Mr Frieder Krups said " The first production in Ireland started in June 1964, but the story actually started more than a year earlier, when my father decide that Limerick was just the right place for the new production plant which he was planning to establish. From a history of making only scales for more than 100 years, the company had taken the risky step five years earlier of entering the small electric appliance market, and since then have been tremendously successful in its new market." He continued "Ireland was seen as the ideal location for such a facility and a large green field in Roxboro was selected for the site of the actual plant, close to the Airport of Shannon and close to the city of Limerick, where future employees could easily be recruited. This is a period that I, personally, remember well, because I was here at the time. My father was taking a very active role in the start-up of the plant here, so he decided to move over his whole family to Ireland for almost a year.

So I went to school here at Villiers, learnt to play tennis on the court outside the company and played soccer with Ballynanty Rovers. It was a perfect way for me to get to know the Irish way of life and I must admit that I enjoyed it very much."

Mr John A Daly, Chairman Shannon Development congratulated Krups in their very successful 25 years in Limerick "Krups now represents a major industrial force in the region, with almost 800 employees. It is the largest German owned company of the 22 now in the region and is for us at Shannon Development, one of the jewels in our industrial development."

The Company's industrial relations record is particularly noteworthy and in recognition of this, Mr John Carroll, General President of the ITGWU, made a special presentation to the company. The guests were invited to view the plant and stay on for lunch at the plant.

END

30th June 1989

Further details:

John Lovett
Personnel Manager

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Krupps 25th Anniversary

30th June 1989

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

11.00 a.m.	Welcome to Guests - Reception
11.15 a.m.	Address by Herr Gotthard Ch. Mahlich Chairman, Executive Board, Robert Krups Address by Mr. John Daly Chairman, Shannon Development Company. Presentation to Krups Engineering by Irish Transport and General Workers Union. Presentation to Krups Engineering by National Engineering and Electrical Trade Union.
12.00 noon	Plant Tours Commence
1.00 p.m.	Buffet

Pat Ambrose

John Lovett

An appreciation

It is difficult to write upon the death of a friend. John Lovett and I grew up together, from our entry to the Green School after First Communion to the Leaving Certificate at Carrick CBS in 1957. In latter years the circumstances and location of our lives had diverged and we seldom found an opportunity to meet, but the bond and rapport of all the shared years had never weakened. We were inseparable companions as well as classmates throughout our growing up. The breaking of such a bond through John's untimely death at the age of 51 shocks one into a tragic sense of the folly of all human assumptions about life and its probabilities.

In school John had an intellectual ability which was effortless. Though we grew up in the stagnation of the fifties we owed much to our teachers - among them Liam Hogan and John's father Sean Lovett. John himself was the kind of student who could nonchalantly leap the hurdles without being, in teacher parlance, 'a hard worker'. He was always a voracious reader for whose quick and omnivorous mind the set examination texts were only an incidental snack along the way. Out of the bare seven who remained to take the Leaving Cert there was a diverse but inseparable quartet of soulmates: John, myself, Tommy Finnuane and Brian O'Keeffe.

For all his intelligence John never had anything of the ivory-tower intellectual about him. Anyone who knew him remembers the mischievous sense of humour which was one of the most attractive and memorable aspects of his character. He was the best of company, with a winning ability to relate to all sorts of people. His intellectual brilliance never overbalanced a basic common-sense which instinctively deflated any kind of pretension it might encounter.

John's first job was with the then Dublin Milk Board. I well remember my regular meetings with him at that time. I was a student teacher at St. Patrick's Training College, then still a repressive institution cast somewhere between a religious seminary of the fifties and a spartan boarding college. John was earning his living as an artificial insemination operative overseeing matters of bovine fecundity in Co. Meath. I never had any money, but he would buy me cups of coffee and the odd bun in O'Conne's St. cafes, while from his pockets he drew reams of the Eliot-influenced poetry which he was writing with amazing facility at the time. I functioned for him as a sympathetic sounding board over the coffee cups. Though to my knowledge he published little in the years that followed, I suspect

that he never abandoned the pen.

The Co. Meath bovine dimension - subject of much colourful anecdote - gave way to a job as an official with the Workers Union of Ireland, where he served with Jim and Denis Larkin and Bill Attley, along the way acquiring an Arts degree from UCD. He had met his future wife Phil in 1959 and it was immediately obvious to all that the true lightning had struck and this was to be a deep and abiding union. John and Phil married in 1961 and moved to Limerick in 1970. Thus began a highly successful career with Krupp's Engineering, where all of John's social and intellectual gifts made him an outstanding executive who saw the company's workforce double in the two decades that followed. He would eventually become the National President of the Institute of Personnel Management in Ireland.

Our divergent locations, lives and careers meant that opportunities to meet grew fewer, but for years John would return to Carrick every summer and share with me a full day's angling (not to mention talking) on the river, where I kept a boat. This became an annual ritual and my memory persuades me that these excursions were always blessed with a salmon, which we would celebrate afterwards in the pub. We had fished together since we were boys on the banks of the Linnaun or the quayside of the Suir, and angling remained one of his lifelong passions, along with books, music and ideas.

In 1982 John and Phil suffered a most grievous family tragedy with the accidental death of their eldest son Colum at the age of 19. What can adequately be said of such a wound? They moved to Killaloe and bravely rebuilt their lives in a lovely location on the Shannon. In retrospect I feel very happy that I was able to share a couple of relaxed and happy hours with both of them in Clare late last April, none of us remotely suspecting what was on the horizon. On my return from America at the end of July I learned with incredulity and utter dismay that John had suddenly contracted an extremely rare and incurable disease.

His last weeks in his own home were serenely shared with his wife and family. I express here my sympathy and heartfelt sorrow to Phil, Sean, Conor and Brian, along with John's mother and father, brother and sisters.

John Lovett's friendship was part of my life and its shaping. Though I grieve at his passing I will always be touched by the rich affirmation of his spirit.

Michael Coady