

1939—the last year of a liberal decade

Most people over forty will hold a special place in their memory for the 1930s, and particularly perhaps for the most significant years in that decade, 1939. The price of the pint was 9d., cigarettes were 11d. for 20, and a glass of whiskey cost 1/8d. Petrol was 1/- a gallon and bed and breakfast in the Four Hotel could be had for 7/6.

And then the war came, and we moved into the dark decades of the 40s and 50s, years for the most part of fear and uncertainty, and the bright thirties looked very far away.

This week, as we move into a new decade of the '70's, a brief review of 1939—the last year of a happy-go-lucky era—may be of special interest.

JANUARY

It was announced that the

Corporation had acquired 63 acres of land for building schemes, which when completed over a period of years would provide a housing programme costing £1,000,000.

Work on the new Augustinian Church, to be built at a cost of £45,000, was commenced.

The death occurred at Multyfarnham of Very Rev. Fr. Peter Begley, O.F.M., aged 80 years. He was ex-Definitor-General and a native of West Limerick.

On January 13 a mysterious explosion shook the lower portion of the city, and despite every effort by the authorities its origin was never discovered.

The death was announced of Major de Ros Rose, founder of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Mr. Charles Downey, Northesk, Limerick, was awarded the Gold Badge of the Lifeboat In-

stitute for distinguished services.

Rt. Rev. Cornelius Mulcahy, P.P., V.F., Kilmallock, was appointed Dean of Limerick.

At the annual convention of the Limerick County Board, G.A.A., Very Rev. E. Funch, P.P., Mungret, was elected Chairman following the resignation of Mr. W. P. Clifford, for many years occupant of the Chair.

FEBRUARY

Early in the month, Limerick, in common with the rest of the world, mourned the death of Pope Pius XI.

Very Rev. Hugo Kerr, C.S.S.R., Limerick, was appointed Irish Provincial, to succeed Very Rev. J. Reynolds, C.S.S.R., transferred to Dundalk as Rector.

The centenary of the firm of Messrs. O'Mara Ltd. was celebrated with a dinner in the Savoy Restaurant.

On February 22, a large and representative public meeting at the Town Hall entered a strong protest against the proposal of the Hospitals' Commission to abolish Limerick's voluntary hospitals. Most Rev. Dr. Keane and Right Rev. Dr. Irwin were among the speakers.

The swimming pool grounds at Corbally were bought by the Corporation.

Official notification was received that the Local Appointments Commission had appointed Mr. James Berkery, Town Clerk, Clonmel, to be Limerick City Manager.

MARCH

On the second of this month the Conclave of Cardinals elected His Eminence Cardinal Pacelli Pope. The new Pope assumed the title Pius XII.

Limerick City Valuation was fixed at £97,444.

The well-known Redemptorist, Father John Creagh, C.S.S.R., a native of Limerick, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Mr. John Ryan, official arbitrator, sat in Limerick to hear claims respecting land acquired by the Corporation at Janeshoro and Prospect.

The death occurred of Mr. Frank Muspratt, F.R.C.O., for many years organist at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Workman won the Grand National at Aintree.

APRIL

On April 12, the Yankee Clipper left Foynes on the first regular air mail service. Her moorings fouled prior to the take-off, which was delayed for two hours.

MAY

Deaths announced for the month included Rev. Mother Thecla, F.C.J.; Mr. P. M. Colbert, Thomondgate, a prominent member of the Limerick Vintners' Association; Mr. Daniel O'Grady, buyer of the lace department of Messrs. Cannock and Co.; Dr. Frederick W. Kennedy; Lady Heah, the well-known airwoman, a native of County Limerick; and Mr. William Gough, Assistant City Treasurer.

A committee of the following was formed to build a new clubhouse for St. Michael's—Right Rev. Dr. Cowper, president; Messrs. J. White, vice-president; W. Stapleton, hon. secretary; F. Geary, Tom O'Dwyer, Ned Nealon, Joe O'Halloran, P. Deegan, J. Sheehan, M. Goggin, E. Haugh and J. Whelan.

The new extern department of St. John's Hospital, erected at a cost of £2,000, was opened and blessed by the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane.

JUNE

On June 3rd, 2,000 school-children participated in the first great Liturgical Festival held in Limerick. They sang High Mass in St. John's Cathedral.

The 150 appointed tenants were given possession of their new houses in Janeshoro.

Alderman Dan Bourke, T.D., was elected Mayor of Limerick for the fourth successive year—a municipal record.

The deaths occurred of Mr. T. A. Hartigan, secretary, Co. Agricultural Committee; of Rev. C. O'Flynn, C.S.S.R., Limerick, son of ex-Alderman P. O'Flynn; of Mr. W. G. Peacocke, oil and colour merchant; of Mr. Stephen

Dinneen, for many years Irish Organiser of the Operative Bakers' Society.

Mrs. Tom Clarke, daughter of Edward Daly, of Limerick, became the first woman to be elected Lord Mayor of Dublin.

JULY

A public meeting held in the Town Hall called for the provision of public swimming baths near the city.

Mr. N. Mansergh, Tipperary, beat Mr. G. Spiller in the South of Ireland championship final in Limerick.

The Yankee Clipper made the first regular trans-Atlantic flight with passengers over the Northern route, Botwood-Foynes.

Marching Through Georgia won the Irish Greyhound Derby at the Limerick track.

Mrs. Annie C. Hanratty, proprietress of Hanratty's Hotel, died. She was a prominent supporter of the Independence Movement, and her hotel since 1917 had been Mr. de Valera's headquarters whenever he visited Limerick.

AUGUST

Mr. de Valera was at Foynes for the inauguration of the first regular trans-Atlantic service of Imperial Airways.

The death occurred of Mr. J. P. Hartigan, auctioneer and racing official.

There was much excitement in the vicinity of the People's Park following reports of ghostly apparitions.

Sir Malcolm Campbell created a new speed boat record of 142 m.p.h.

John Cobb broke the land speed record with an average time for the mile of 368.85.

On an objection lodged against Waterford, Limerick junior hurling team were awarded the Munster Championship final by the Munster Council.

SEPTEMBER

On September 3, Britain declared war on Germany. Comprehensive A.R.P. schemes were drawn up in Limerick for two nights there was a complete blackout.

The death occurred of Lieutenant-Colonel Stacpoole, Croon. He was a prominent sportsman.

The official arbitrator made an award of £17,000 to landowners at Janeshoro and Prospect in respect of acquired lands.

St. Anne's Vocational School, Georges Quay, was opened.

OCTOBER

Petrol rationing was introduced in Ireland.

The Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, celebrated High Mass in St. Joseph's Church when St. Michael's and St. Munchin's Temperance Societies celebrated their centenary foundation.

The Royal Oak was torpedoed. St. Michael's Rowing Club applied to the Harbour Board for a club site at Lansdowne.

NOVEMBER

A branch of the National Council for the Blind was formed.

After a period of reorganisation, Limerick Municipal Library was re-opened by the Mayor. An address was given by Mr. R. Herbert, Librarian, to a big gathering.

For the first time in many years, an ordination took place in St. John's Cathedral. Rev. T. O'Dea, Drombanna, was raised to the priesthood by Most Rev. Dr. Colbert, Bishop of Capestown.

DECEMBER

The acquisition of many interesting portraits was announced at the annual meeting of Limerick Art Gallery Committee.

For the first time in twenty years, the Abbey Theatre Company visited Limerick and played in the Savoy Cinema.

St. Anne's new Girls' Auxiliary School was officially opened and blessed by the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane.

Mr. Bryan J. McGann died at the age of 85. He joined the Customs and Excise Service in Limerick in 1876. He was a diamond jubilarian of the Arch-Confraternity and one of the oldest members of the Shannon Rowing Club.

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EXCHANGE OF MEN'S INSURANCE CARD SAND WET-TIME BOOKS—JANUARY 1970

Men's 1969 Insurance Cards and WetTime Books, duly stamped, should be exchanged during the week ending 9th January, 1970.

Failure to exchange cards or books promptly may result in loss of Benefits which employers may be liable to make good

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