

We want to find pictures of our former mayors

By EUGENE PHELAN

AN SOS was sent out by Limerick Corporation to descendants of former mayors of Limerick to contact them.

"There is a good possibility that portraits or photographs of mayors were are looking for are being proudly displayed in private houses by the descendants of these mayors," explained Corporation official Gerry Joyce, who sadly died at the weekend (see notice, page 1).

He explained last week that they wanted to make a copy of the portraits or photographs for their own records and that they would then be returned to the owners.

Mr Joyce made his appeal at the launch of his book "Limerick City Street Names" at the City Hall.

Mr Joyce was working on a book on all the former mayors of Limerick and members of the city council.

This is yet another onerous task as the city has had mayors for almost the past 300 years.

The photographs and portraits are needed by the Corporation so that they can hang them in the council chamber.

"We would also like to copy any interesting old photographs of views, Mayor and/or Council official events. These could also be proudly displayed," said Gerry.

The photographs of the

particular mayors they are looking for are:

1884 Pierse Shannon, 1845 W.J. Geary, 1846 E. G. Ryan, 1847 Thomas Wallnutt, 1848 Michael Quin, 1849 John Boyce, 1850 Laurence Quinlivan,

1851 Thaddeus McDonnell, 1853 Wm. H. Hall, 1854 Henry Watson, 1855 Henry O'Shea, 1858 Edmund Gabbett, 1859 Michael R. Ryan, 1860 Wm. Fitzgerald, Ald. T. McDonnell, 1861 John T. MacSheehy, 1862 William Lane Joynt, 1863 Robert MacMahon, 1864 Eugene O'Callaghan, 1865 John Richard Tinsley, 1868 Thomas Elliot Harte, 1869 Thomas Boyse, 1870 William Spillane, 1871 Robert McDonnell, 1872 John Watson Mahoney, 1873-74 John T. Cleary, 1875 Ambrose Hall, 1876 John Francis Walker, 1878, Stephen Hastings, 1879-80 Michael O'Gorman, 1881 Thomas George Sullivan, 1892 Denis F. McNamara, 1899-1901 John Daly, 1903-04 Michael Donnelly, 1910-12 Timothy Ryan, 1927-28 John George O'Brien.

Anyone who can help should ring city hall at 415799 and ask for Michael J. Ryan or Tony Carmody.

It is possible, however, that due to summer annual leave, it may be difficult getting in touch with the above. In that case, a message may be left at the switchboard, giving a name, telephone number and name of mayor, or old picture, and someone will return the call as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, there has been a very good reaction to the launch of "Limerick

City Street Names" which brings together what historical information the author could assemble on the streets and lanes of Limerick city.

"The naming of the streets, the name changes and the location of streets which have entirely disappeared have all been studied. The research, carried out over a number of years, could not have been accomplished without the help of many people," said Mr Joyce.

In the foreword to the book, former City manager Jack Higgins, now in Cork, warned that there is a danger that with large scale urban renewal, part of the memory could be lost.

"New streets, estates and buildings can take on new names which have little to do with the city's past. In the context of the above I believe that the publication of this book is very timely. It is crammed with information on the origin of the names of our city streets," said Mr Higgins.

"While some of the names are obvious like O'Connell and Sarsfield Streets, others such as Catherine and Ellen Street are not. The names on our streets commemorate those who have been involved over the years in the building of the city that we know today," he added.

"Streets also bear the name of dignitaries who the city fathers, over our long history, deemed worth of honour. It is interesting, in this context, to know that over a hundred of our streets and lanes underwent a change of name at various



Terry McInerney, Inspector of Taxes, Fergus Quinlivan and Kevin Terry, Limerick Corporation at the launch of Gerry Joyce's "Limerick City Street Names" at the City Hall.



Limerick Corporation's chief planning officer, Larry Coyle chats to five-times mayor and city freeman Ted Russell