



LIMERICK LEADER

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'Fearless' James honoured at last

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

A THIRTY-TWO year campaign to commemorate one of the most prominent figures in Limerick public life in this century came to a successful end this week.

Jack Hennessy, the eldest grandson of former mayor and alderman of the city, Jack Casey, had been campaigning tirelessly since 1968 to have his grandfather remembered in a fitting way.

James M Casey was the man who stepped into the breach after the murder of Mayor George Clancy and ex-Mayor, Michael O'Callaghan in 1921.

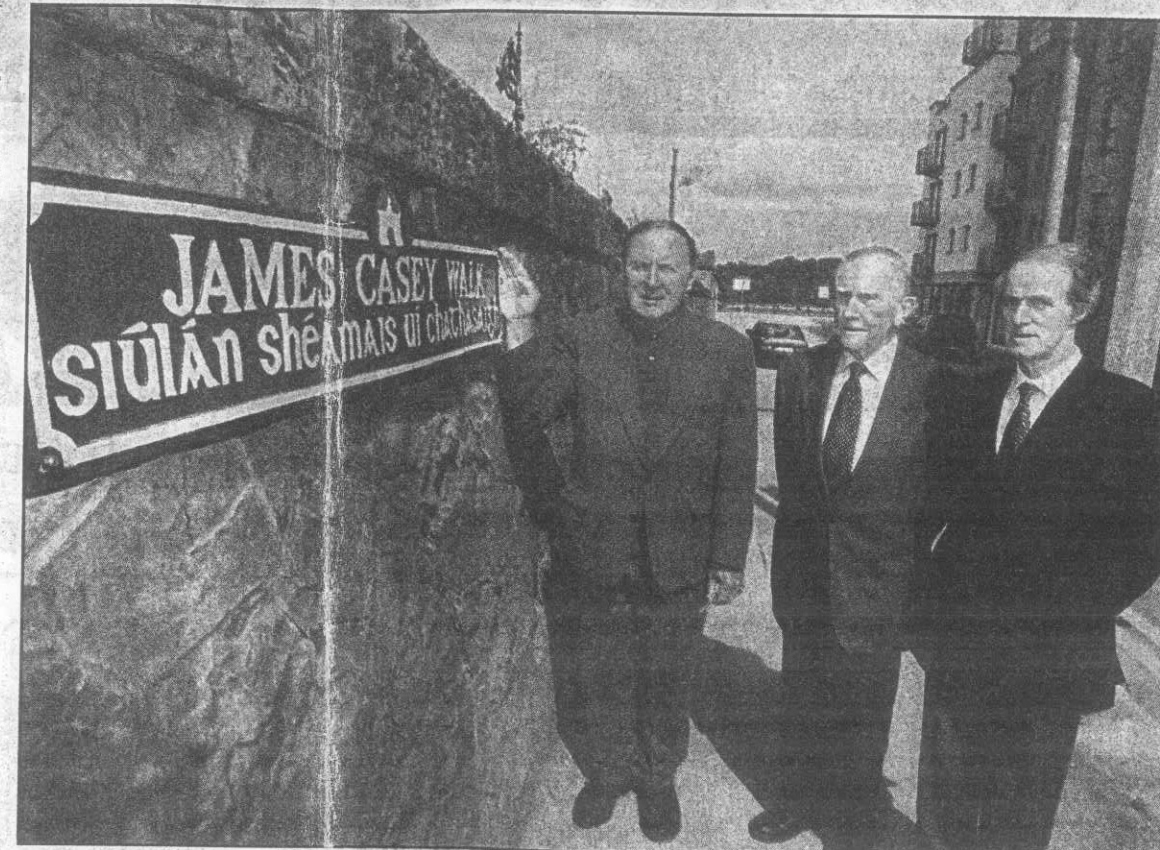
He took over as civic head of the city and arranged a public funeral for the murdered mayors and Volunteer Joseph O'Donoghue, in defiance of the orders of the British forces.

The Deputy Mayor, surrounded by British bayonets, delivered the graveside oration himself, condemning the appalling murders.

Mr Casey, who was Mayor of Limerick from 1934 to 1936, died in 1953 but never had a street nor a park in the city named after him.

"Other mayors of Limerick had been immortalised with estates and roads named after them, to name just some—Glasgow Road, Carew Park and Liddy Street. We just wanted something like this for James. We didn't mind where, but felt he should be remembered for the role he played in Limerick life," said Mr Hennessy.

"It was a long campaign, but we never gave up hope, due to the support and assistance in our campaign of the late



Former Mayor James Casey immortalised: Mr Casey's grandson, Jack Hennessy, with former mayors Ted Russell and Frank Leddin at James Casey Walk this week (LL)

Jim Kemmy, Ted Russell, Frank Prendergast, Frank Leddin and Jan O'Sullivan. They have been moving this forward for us along the way."

Limerick City Council agreed to have a street named after Mayor Casey more than two years ago.

Only last Friday, their efforts came to fruition. The street name sign was erected on the James Casey Walk. The road selected is that which runs from the Harbour Commissioners beside Steamboat Quay, to the junction with O'Curry Street.

"We are delighted to see our grandfather being remembered in this way. We got five

signs in all, one is up high on the side of the Steamboat Quay Apartment Complex. People are definitely going to notice this, it's up so high, you couldn't miss it," said the former mayor's grandson.

He continued: "For me the street which was chosen fits in well with the memory of my grandfather. On the one hand, there is the old world of the docks, which is now side by side with the new world of development, industry and apartments. The location beside the estuary to the sea is also significant to our family. My brother, Peter, was tragically killed in Galveston, Texas, in 1964. He was a merchant seaman."

Mr Hennessy believes that in years to come the area around James Casey Walk, particularly Steamboat Quay is going to be a bustling centre for the city.

"Already we can see that it's becoming a hive of activity, bars, restaurants, apartments, businesses, and now there's talk of a hotel for that same area," he pointed out.

By coincidence, Limerick Corporation have recently diverted traffic around Steamboat Quay and the Dock Road.

"Traffic has to travel through James Casey Walk now, so more and more people will see who this street is named after. It's worked out well that

way," said Mr Hennessy. Mr Casey, a Labour alderman and councillor, was also a noted amateur boxer, and became national president of the IABU.

He was also active in trades union movement and became president of the Limerick Trades Council.

At the time of his death in 1953, the Limerick Leader paid tribute to him as the man who had "stepped fearlessly into the gap of danger in a time of grave peril. Identified with the public life of his native city for close on half a century, he was one of the best known and most respected of men."

Cranberries deny John's Castle gig in summer

By AIDAN CORR

WHILE rock band The Cranberries say that they are keen to play in their home city if a suitable venue can be provided, they denied this Thursday that arrangements have been made for them to headline a concert in King John's Castle in August.

According to their press officer, Lyndsey Holmes, the band had no immediate plans to play in Limerick while the band's road manager, Sett Neiland, told the Limerick Leader that there was

no truth in the report. Efforts to stage a series of summer concerts at the castle venue, however, are continuing with a number of bands already lined up for a proposed festival next August.

King John's Castle was successfully used last year as the entertainment venue for the UK and Ireland Corporate Games.

Dublin band Baggatelle performed from a stage in the courtyard of the castle on the final night of the festival which is due to be staged in Limerick again next year.

LIT suspends controversial course for 'evaluation'

By JIMMY WOUFFE

LIMERICK Institute for Technology has decided to suspend its controversial architectural technology course in order to carry out "a full evaluation of the situation."

The Royal Institute of the Architects in Ireland (RIAI) withdrew its recognition of the course after changes were introduced.

These were also strongly opposed by the course leader, Nuala Keran, who has since retired.

Heriot-Watt university in Scotland recently told LIT it was withdrawing

the degree status it bestowed on the course.

There will be no intake of new students next September, the college said this week.

"This will allow for a period of reflection which will enable the institute to examine all options and how it can continue to serve the needs of the construction industry in the future," said Michael O'Connell, secretary LIT.

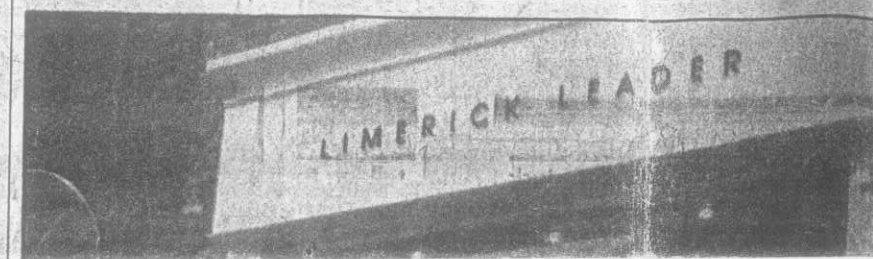
In a statement LIT referred to a "misleading and unfavourable" press campaign, and added that they will now commence a full evaluation of the situation and consider the best options for the future.

Jewel thief is jailed for nine months

A LIMERICK man charged with stealing over £3,000 of jewellery last week was sentenced to nine months imprisonment by Judge Tom

problem, which he had tried to address in Bushy Park residential home.

"On the morning of the alleged offence my client had been told my money



Medicine woman's topic for

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occasions and will continue to do so. Because of concerns, Chieftain Construction Ltd is reverting to the original entrance. Mr O'Connell said that

on their behalf.

In the submission it is pointed out that the Limerick Retail Study carried out by Brady Shipman Martin, specifically stated that the Coonagh