

City Council tribute to placenames author and city official, Gerry Joyce

TRIBUTES were paid to the late Gerry Joyce of Limerick Corporation by Mayor Sadlier before the commencement of the election.

Cllr Sadlier referred to Mr Joyce's book on the city's street names, called Limerick City Street Names, which launched just days before his death, and described it as "a tribute to his memory".

Mr Joyce, a draughtsman, worked in various departments of the Corporation for 30 years, and was also very much involved in a number of committees aimed at promoting the historical, cultural and sporting life of the city.

Cllr Sadlier described his death as an "incalculable" loss to his family and to the city.

Deputy Jim Kemmy described Mr Joyce as a "conscientious" official who always looked for consensus.

"His book will be a testament and a worthy memory to him," he added.

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll described Mr Joyce as a man "who had time for everybody," and one who loved his city.

Cllr John Quinn spoke of Mr

Joyce's help and assistance to mayors. He was dedicated to the task of getting things right".

Cllr Jack Bourke said Mr Joyce was always available for civic duties above and beyond the call of duty.

He referred to Mr Joyce's sporting career, and said he was one of the people who, when he stopped playing, gave something back through his

referring and work on committees.

Cllr John Ryan endorsed the tributes of the previous speakers and said that Mr Joyce would be missed in Kilkee, Quimper, and most of all in Limerick.

Cllr Frank Prendergast said Mr Joyce had a depository of knowledge on the history of the city which was unrivalled.

"There is no more important part of our heritage than our streets, and I think his reference book will be a reference for centuries and used as a model for the rest of the country," he said.

Flan O'Neill, acting city manager, described him as "an exceptional" colleague, and said the tributes were very well deserved.

Kemmy elected in a bombshell

DEPUTY Jim Kemmy was elected Mayor of Limerick this Monday in a shock election in City Hall.

He was proposed by Ald Sean Griffin and seconded by Sen Jan O'Sullivan.

Mayor Kemmy was elected by 12 votes to five through the backing of the Progressive Democrats.

Ald Griffin withdrew his nomination at a meeting of Labour Party members one hour before the election was due to commence at 7.30pm.

It was also revealed that Cllrs Frank Leddin and Judy O'Donoghue also declined the offer of a nomination.

Ald Griffin told the Chamber that he had received his party's nomination, but that, "after a good deal of consideration," had decided to decline the nomination.

He indicated that he would be prepared to take up the offer at a future date.

"My decision to decline the nomination is my own," he said.

In view of the 800 years celebrations of the city charter, Ald Griffin said as the coming year is "crucial" for the preparation of the celebrations it was important that a mayor would give leadership to the operations.

He described Deputy Kemmy as an outstanding Mayor during Treaty 300, and said he was confident that Limerick could have no better man than Deputy Kemmy at the helm.

Sen O'Sullivan said Deputy Kemmy, given his knowledge and background, is a "most suitable person for the position".

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll proposed Cllr Tim Leddin, Mayor in 1985/86.

Fine Gael, he said, repre-



MAYORAL ELECTION

sented 25 per cent of the membership of the Council and "we feel that we are entitled to rotation".

Since he joined the Council in 1967 Cllr O'Driscoll claimed, that there was always rotation between Labour, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

During part of that time, he said, Deputy Kemmy was a lone party member of the Council.

In July 1991, Cllr O'Driscoll recalled that Deputy Kemmy stated that there was no decision on the mayoralty for years three and five.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, seconding Cllr Leddin's nomi-

nation, recalled both Deputy Kemmy and Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon stating in 1991 that the mayoralty would be rotated on the basis of numerical strength.

Ald John Gilligan proposed Cllr Joe Harrington, and said few on the Council worked as hard or as diligent for all the people of Limerick as Cllr Harrington.

The alderman said he was pleased to vote for Deputy Kemmy on the first occasion because he had been a member of the Council for a number of years, and it was his turn to be given the honour.

Cllr John Ryan seconded Cllr Harrington's nomination.

Cllr Harrington thanked his proposer and seconder, and indicated that he was withdrawing his nomination.

Last year, he said, he was told that he could not be Mayor because he might give a civic reception to Gerry Adams.

"This year, people would be almost insisting on such a reception," he declared.

He added that he would

and to Cllr Judy O'Donoghue, both of whom declined the nomination.

"It then fell to me to step into the breach", said Mayor Kemmy, who added that he entered public life to do public duty.

It is true, he said, that Fine Gael have four members on the Council, but he said: "It is also true that its party members have held the mayoralty seven times between four of them."

"There are six members here of our party, and between them they have only held the mayoralty five times," stated Mayor Kemmy.

Mayor Kemmy said he had a difficulty with Cllr Harrington's nomination because of the councillor's attitude to Northern Ireland, in that he appeared to be against the peace process.

"We could not support somebody who does not support the peace process," he said.

Cllr Harrington emphasised that he is not opposed to peace.

"I'm opposed to the process," he stated.

Cllr Tim Leddin shook

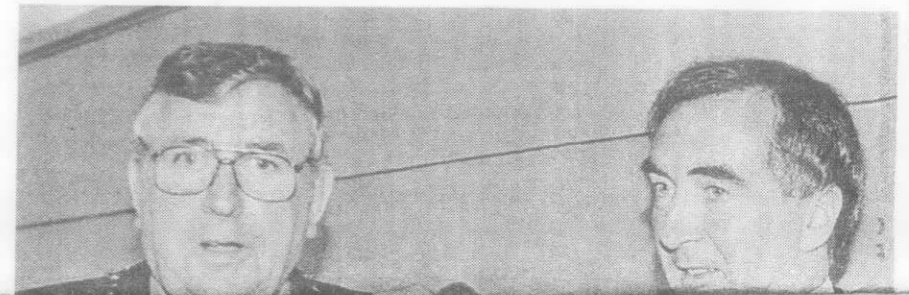


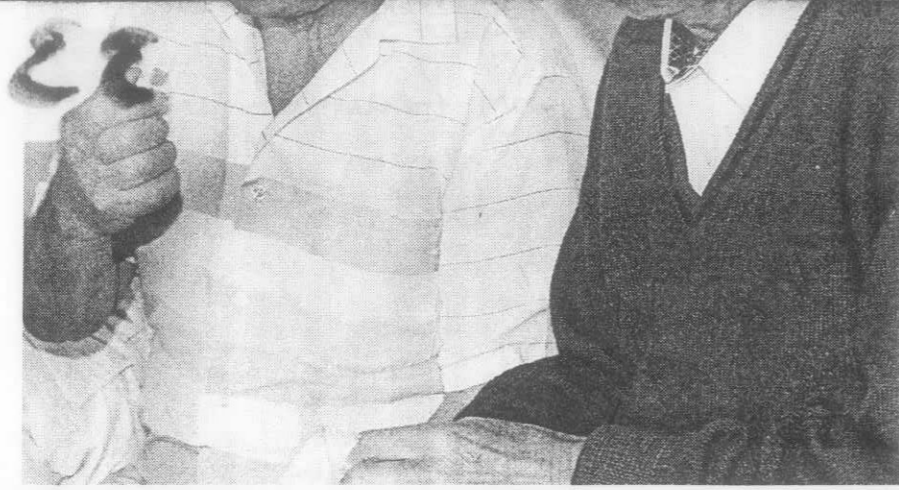
Triumph . . . Deputy Kemmy raises his arms after his election as mayor flanked by Ald Sean Griffin, the man who had been tipped as the city's next mayor. (LL)

Sadlier says Freedom granting the highlight

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

FORMER Mayor, Cllr Dick Sadlier, described the granting of the Freedom of the City to Ted Russell, Dr Edward Walsh and Dr Brendan O'Regan as the highlight





Noël Malone, Mary Street, with James Leddin, Lansdowne Park, at City Hall last night. (LL)



Mayor Kemmy with Cllr Frank Leddin and his son, Declan. (LL)



John Collins, Ballynanty, Niall Crowley, America, Sheelagh Crowley, Galway, and Joe Kemmy, Roundwood. (LL)

Kemmy as part of a socialist pact. Deputy Kemmy secured 12 votes which included the full support of his own party, the Progressive Democrats and Ald John Gilligan and Cllrs John Ryan and Joe Harrington. Cllr Tim Leddin received the support of his own party and that of Cllr Jack Bourke. Mayor Kemmy said Ald Griffin had the party's nomination but he declined. "That does not mean that Ald Griffin will not take up the nomination in the future" he added. When Ald Griffin declined Deputy Kemmy, said the nomination was offered to Cllr Frank Led-

wished him well in his mayoralty, and said he had the capacity to push the development of the city even further.

Cllr Leddin referred to the rotation of the office and added: "There was high drama enacted here to-night. I do not know the story. Is this pact forever and ever?"

Cllr Sadlier wished Mayor Kemmy every success. "The office of mayor is one to which significant influences are attached. I have the utmost confidence that Deputy Kemmy has the ability to carry out the duties of the office," he said.

Ald Gilligan stated that, when he voted for Deputy Kemmy in 1991, "I did not think you would be making a habit of it".

He said he was never naive enough to believe that years three and five of the mayoralty would be open.

"I figured it out that the mayoralty would be between the nine of them (Labour and PDs) for the term of the Council," he declared.

Ald Gilligan said that he believes that the Mayor should be elected by the people.

"That would be a democratic way. It is not a matter of people sitting down and having little pacts," he said.

Cllr O'Driscoll congratulated Mayor Kemmy on his election, and assured him the support of his party for the next 12 months.

Cllr Bourke also congratulated Mayor Kemmy.

with an honour they richly deserved," he said.

Recalling his year, which began with his attendance at the All-Ireland hurling final in Croke Park, Cllr Sadlier said the disappointment of that day was made up for when 25,000 people of all sporting codes lined the streets to welcome home the team.

"That is what makes Limerick so special," he declared.

Having witness the same result at the All-Ireland junior camogie final, Cllr Sadlier admitted that he was beginning to wonder about the effect of his presence at such events, until he witness Shannon's win over Lansdowne, and the start of their 100 per cent record in the All-Ireland league.

He recalled Young Munster's feat in winning their vital game by 20 points, and described it as one of the best games of club rugby ever played.

He referred to the visit of Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, and said it was entirely appropriate that such a person should visit the North and South of the country at this time.

On the same note, he paid tribute to the chairman of Omagh District Council who invited him to a civic reception in June this year.

"The goodwill is there. It is a matter of breaking down the barriers," he said.

On a sadder note, he paid tribute to Steve Coughlan and Bishop Newman, who



Mayor Sadlier hands over his chain of office to Deputy Kemmy (LL)

died during the year.

During his year, Cllr Sadlier said he made a special effort to liaise with the university, and "to ensure closer harmony between town and gown".

Visitors to the university, he said are "amazed" at the scale of developments on the campus in only 25 years.

One area, he said, where he would have liked to have seen more progress would have been an extension of the city boundary.

He thanked everybody concerned for their help and support during the year, including former city manager, Jack Higgins, acting city manager Flan O'Neill, his secretary, Siobhan Car-

roll, Marie Cantillon and Larry Coyle for their help in organising civic events in unpaid time, and Mike Collopy and Des Ryan for their help during unusual hours.

He also paid tribute to his wife, Mary, son Owen, daughter, Aoife, and his mother, Agnes, for their encouragement and support during the year.



William O'Keeffe, centre, who retired as Governor of Limerick Prison 1st week, pictured with his family at a special retirement party in the Two Mile Inn. From left are, Noreen, Phil, William, Catherine and Tom. William served 35 years in Limerick and is a native of Galway.

ESB network

THE ESB has announced the details of its major investment in rural low and medium networks, throughout the country.

A total of 738kms of network will be refurbished in county Limerick and Cork. In all, the ESB will invest £10,780,772m in the following towns and villages and their surrounding areas: Patrickswell, Mungret, Pallaskenry, Rathkeale, Kilmeady, Kilmallock, Croom, Adare, Milford and Charleville. The first phase will begin in 1996 and will be completed by the year

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