

Limerick's first full-time Mayor

LINK COMMEMORATES PAUL ALPHONSUS O'BRIEN

BY RICHARD NAUGHTON

THE FIFTIETH anniversary of the Mayor-

ality of the late Councillor Paul Alphonsus O'Brien will be commemorated by his son, Mr. Paul R. O'Brien, with the addi-

tion of a new link to Limerick's great Civic Chain.

The late Mr. O'Brien, who had a distinguished record of public service, was born in Henry Street, Limerick, in 1875. After completing his education at Sexton Street C.B.S., he taught for some time in that school and later took up an appointment as traveller for Messrs W. J. Shaw and Sons Ltd.

Manager

In 1927 he was appointed a district manager of Texaco Petroleum Company (later the Texaco Oil Company) for which he built up a large business connection in the city and throughout Munster.

Also prominent in the realm of culture and sport, he was involved in the operatic production of the old Theatre Royal and was a life-long member of the Shannon Rowing Club.

He entered public life as a member of the Limerick City Council in 1920 with the Progressive Party which was the forerunner of the Cumann na nGael Party. He was honoured with the Mayoralty in the two successive terms 1925/26 and 1926/27 and would indeed have been the Council's choice for a third term but did not seek re-election.

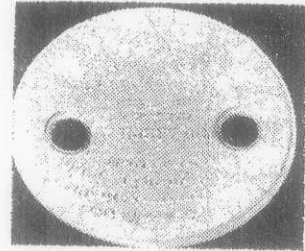
He set a precedent in being the first Mayor to give up his job and devote his full attention to the duties of First Citizen.

He continued to hold his seat in the Council up to his untimely death in April, 1931, at the age of 56.

In 1911, Mr. O'Brien married Miss Lillie Troy. They had a large family, Hilary (R.I.P.), Eric (R.I.P.), Paul, Angela, Aidan, Christopher, Rachel and Colm.

A brother of Mr. O'Brien, Michael, was proprietor of the Bonded Stores in Limerick and his two sisters owned Carmody's Hotel, Ennis.

The new link which has been fashioned by Mr. J. J. Kenneally of Limerick, is of solid gold and commemorates some of the major events in Mr. O'Brien's terms of office. On one side is the inscription:



The new link records some major events in the Mayoralty of the late Councillor O'Brien during the successive terms of office, 1925/26 and 1926/27,

"Paul A. O'Brien, 1925/27. A.B.C. Boat House Completed, Dec., 1925. Dominicans Celebrate 700 Years in Limerick Jan., 1926. Bohemians R.F.C. win First Munster Cup, April 1926. G.A.A. Acquires Ennis Road Grounds, April 1926," and on the other: "Archbishop Mannix Made Freeman, Aug., 1925. Shannon Hydro-Electric Scheme Started, Aug. 1925."

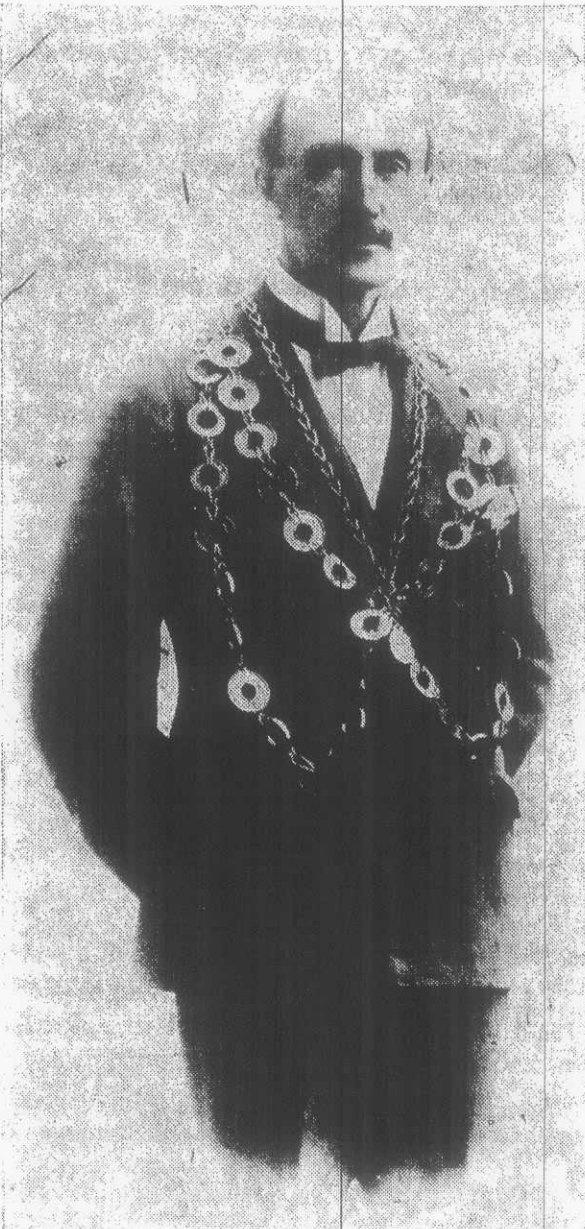
The great Mayoral Chain is of Solid Gold and was originally fashioned by a firm of London Goldsmiths about 1820. In the early stages of growth the links from 1822 to 1842 were considerably smaller than at present, and resemble a flat ring circumference not much larger than a new two-penny piece.

They had no room for elaborate carving, and each merely carried the name of the holder of the office.

Priceless

The links added by the Mayors of the Reformed Corporation, however, different in format, were much greater in thickness and value, and carried a record of local, national and world events, during each Mayor's term of office.

The Mayoral Chain is one of the City's most treasured possessions and its historic value is priceless.



The Mayoralty of the late Councillor Paul A. O'Brien will be commemorated by a new link on the Mayoral Chain.

ROYAL CINEMA

the mid-w Buildi Socie

Fo in C

POS PERM

Regardless of QU in immediate ai Contact: THOR Limerick, Tele

ND OF SE