Bid to link Mayor James Casey and General Michael Collins

Michael Joseph Casey, brother of former Mayor of Limerick, James Casey, with two of his children Margaret and Eileen.

By Rebekah Commane

ENGLISH-born Gerald Daly, related to a former Mayor of Limerick on his mother's side of the family, and to General Michael Collins on his father's side, is piecing together his family history in a bid to uncover whether the two political figures ever met.

Gerald was born in London, the son of Angela Casey, and grandson of Michael Joseph Casey, whose brother James was Mayor of Limerick from 1932 to 1934.

James Casey was also the leader of the Limerick Soviet of 1919 and the first mayor to serve under the Limerick City Management Act of 1934. Both James and Michael Joseph worked for Guys Printers of Limerick, but the latter was sent to work for the Cork branch of the company, where he married and had six children in the Mardyke area of the city, including Gerald's mother Angela.

"Mum told me that uncle James was very involved in politics and the welfare of workers and their rights", Gerald explained.

"Also that he was dedicated to getting the British 'out of things,' as she put it."

Gerald added that his uncle 'Jim' had built a house in the Shelbourne Road area of Limerick, which he named 'Emilyville', after his wife.

As well as trying to connect with relations from the Casey side in Limerick, Gerald is looking to make contact with relatives on his father's side; the Daly's from Clonakilty.

His grandmother, whose married name was Daly, was one of Michael Collins' sisters. Since returning to Ireland and settling in Banlon, Gerald's interest in his roots and family connections has peaked.

"I've been thinking about the talk of people, places and incidents overheard around the fireplace as a small lad in 1950's London, listening to mum telling dad about uncle Jim, and dad telling mum about uncle Michael."

"It made me wonder if James Casey and Michael Collins ever met."

Gerald is looking to contact any relations of James Casey, or anyone who may have information on his history and career, including any possible dealings with General Michael Collins.

Gerald can be contacted at geraldaly@eircom.net.

Vodafone employee hospitalised after shop attack

By Andrew Carey

A MALE staff member at the Vodafone outlet on O'Connell Street was hospitalised this Tuesday after he was attacked and tied up by an intruder, after he had opened for business. Gardai attended the scene shortly after 8.30am. It is unclear as to how many assailants were involved in the incident, and gardai are appealing for assistance from the public. They made an arrest shortly after arriving as the injured man was receiving assistance from the emergency services, and was subsequently taken to the Mid Western Regional Hospital.

The injured man had been found by a work colleague.

Gardai are viewing CCTV as part of the investigation, and a stock take was undertaken to evaluate if anything was taken during the robbery.

They are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious in the area to contact them at Henry Street Garda Station on 061-212400.