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Improvements in 1985, including the expansion of the amusements and carnival arcade for children. Already the trade stand section looks like being the biggest ever. The trade stand arcade is being refurbished to give exhibitors a completely modernised display facility.

This year a national hunter improvement programme with Limerick hosting All-Ireland finals will be included. This is to help the ailing horse-breeding industry.

The 1984 Limerick Show attracted more than 30,000 people, with many people coming from as far as Down and Donegal.

The huge crowds have corresponded with a dramatic increase in entries in all sections in recent years. The phenomenal success looks like continuing this year.

Dramatic return of Limerick emigrants

By LEADER REPORTER

TWO LIMERICK brothers who went to America in the 50s to seek fame and fortune are to return in a few weeks time to present a controversial play in the Belltable Arts Centre.

Back in Limerick for the first time in 12 years, Malachy McCourt revealed that he and his brother, Frank, will stage "A Couple of Blackguards" from July 1 to 6. Limerick is the only venue.

Malachy, who has featured in many films including the soap opera, Ryan's Hope, hails from Schoolhouse Lane, at the rear of St. Joseph's Church.

David Nowlan, theatre critic with *The Irish Times*, saw the play in the United States and suggested to the brothers that they bring it home to Ireland.

The performance of the two emigrants is bound to stir controversy. They tell stories and sing songs in a two-act show, with the earlier part concentrating on growing up poor in Limerick.

Reviews

In his review in the *New York Times*, Stephen Holden writes: "Among the caricatures, Malachy McCourt, who plays the expansive clown to his brother's more taciturn imp, impersonates a local priest obsessed with 'the burning, the scorching, the putrid stench' of hell."

"Such is the zest for damnation that this man of the cloth can construct an argument in which Ginger Rogers becomes 'an occasion of sin . . . the direct cause of galloping consumption.'"

Don Nelsen of the *Daily News*, New York, writes: "The program says nothing about them having been con men, but they are. The best. They conned me into laughing so hard at times that I cried. At other times they were merely funny. Occasionally, they fielded some duds."

"The McCourts hit on everything from undertakers to the Catholic Church. Mostly they attack the phony, the pompous and the ignorant."

Malachy and Frank McCourt left Limerick aged about 20 "without a bob" to seek fame and fortune and have done very well for themselves.

Both attended Leamy's School and then worked in New York . . . in the docks, dish-washing, anything they could get.

Frank went to night school and then university and got a B.A. and an M.A. before returning home to Trinity to complete his Ph.D. He then went back to the States and now teaches in New York public schools. He has received many awards for creative writing.

Malachy, a year younger, has owned six pubs but his main interest was in acting and he joined the Irish Players off Broadway and got into radio and ran a show for six years on W.M.C.A.

Television

Now he has a television show. He has also appeared in films, and, of course, in Ryan's Hope, where, with a beard, he plays the part of Kevin, the bartender.

"You know something, I was the only Irishman on it though it was supposed to be all about the Irish," he said.



Malachy McCourt in Limerick: If you can make it in Limerick, Carnegie Hall is a step down.

He appeared in "The Dane Curse" series with James Coburn and "The Brinks Job" with Peter Falk.

"My radio show was controversial. I was very rude and upset

people. I could not wait to hear what I would say next," he laughed.

But when the joking was over he recalled the story of a sad upbringing in a poor and depressed

Limerick city.

His father, Malachy, got "an Irish divorce and left us when we were small." That was in Belfast but young Malachy, along with his six brothers and sisters, was raised in Limerick at Schoolhouse Lane.

Malachy recalled a poor upbringing, with his mother getting 13/6 from the dispensary while they got boots from the St. Vincent de Paul Society every Christmas and every month got a 5/- voucher to go to McCarthy's shop.

Deaths

Sadly, three of the family died—one a crib death with four-year-old twins dying within months of each other.

There were so many different diseases, he recalled, hygiene was so bad, and so many people died: "Eight people in school died. The general health and hygiene was very bad."

Malachy, who has been all over the world says that conditions of living in Limerick then were worse than he had seen in India: "There is sunshine there, but when our clothes were wet we had no place to dry them."

Many, he said, died of the unmentionable T.B.: "It was like having something like AIDS or VD. Nobody mentioned it. It was supposed to be the dirty disease."

Back at home for the first time in 12 years he has no family left here but still sees Limerick as home.

He says things are more vibrant and there seems to be more energy in the air now with things being done.

"There was more pessimism when I was growing up and people were pre-conditioned to failure. They would blame the curse of St. Munchin if anything went wrong."

Cautious

Although 3,000 people watched "A Couple of Blackguards" in New York, and it has been a great hit all over the States, he said he was cautious about his return to Limerick.

"If you can make it in Limerick, Carnegie Hall is a stepdown," he commented.

Malachy has travelled back to New York to continue work on his television programme and in the longest running soap opera in the United States, "Search for Tomorrow."

Adjourned

A case in which seven people face charges arising out of an incident at Dromohor, Pallaskeenry, on February 3 last, was adjourned at Askeaton court to the July 25 sitting as two other defendants could not be served in time with summonses. Charged with assault on Helen and Maureen Breen at Dromohor, Pallaskeenry, on February 3 last, are: Sean Slattery, of Tracey's Villas, Cashel; Thomas Walsh, of 56 Springfield Crescent, Cashel, and Oliver Ryan of 29 Springfield Crescent, Cashel.

Walsh and Ryan are also charged with malicious damage to a door at Dromohor, Pallaskeenry, on February 3 last, along with three other defendants: Eamonn Fogarty, of Pike Street, Kille-naule, Co. Tipperary; Philip Phelan of Ballinainch, Cashel, and Joe O'Dwyer of Thurles Beg, Cashel. Thomas Breen of Dromohor, Pallaskeenry, is charged with common assault on Thomas Walsh at Dromohor on February 3 last.

MOTORIST AND LORRY DRIVER ARE FINED

By LEADER REPORTER

A MOTORIST from Limerick City and a lorry driver from the county were each fined £50 at Askeaton for careless driving arising out of a collision on a straight stretch of road last November.

They were John B. Switzer, motorist, of 16 Ashbrook Gardens, Ennis Road, Limerick, and P. J. Kearney, lorry driver, of Ballyhomin, Askeaton.

The accident happened after dark on the main Askeaton-Limerick road.

Reversing

P. J. Kearney, replying to Supt. John McCormack, prosecuting, told Justice M. C. Maguire that on November 14 last he was reversing a lorry into an entrance to his property; he had headlights and reversing lights on.

A car came along a straight stretch from the west and collided with the lorry. He had seen the car coming from as far away as the bend, 270 yards off, but assumed its driver could see him.

Cross-examined by Mr. Maurice Spillane, solr., defending John B. Switzer, he said he had side-markings on the lorry which were dirty, though cleaned the previous day. He agreed he had nobody else with him with a warning light.

John B. Switzer, in evidence, said that at 6.10 p.m. he was driving towards Limerick in a Triumph Acclaim when, about a

mile from Askeaton, travelling on an undulating road, he became aware of something ahead — a vague shape he could not analyse. He could not make out how close he was but, by the time he realised it was an obstacle, he was too close to stop. He emergency braked. He was going at the normal 55 m.p.h.

Cross-examined by Mr. Maurice Noonan, solr., defending P. J. Kearney, witness said he could see no headlights or reversing light or any side-markings.

Garda Nicholas Leonard, Askeaton, who arrived on the scene at 6.26 p.m., said he found a lorry across the roadway and a crashed car close to the right rear of the lorry. There was a film of dust on the markings, which would have the effect of reducing reflections from them.

Cross-examined, he said he would not expect the side-markings to have the same effect as when clean, but he did not carry out any tests. He would accept they were cleaned the day before.

Manoeuvre

When both solicitors sought directions, Supt. McCormack said that P. J. Kearney was carrying out a potentially dangerous manoeuvre, and should have had somebody with him.

The Justice remarked the lorry was blocking the whole public road, both left and right.

Convicting both, the Justice said that John B. Switzer could have taken more care when he saw something in front of him. He fined each defendant £50 on a charge of careless driving.

Monaleen fete keeps expanding

By LEADER REPORTER

THE MONALEEN parish debt should be reduced substantially next week when the annual garden fete is held from June 7-9 with a host of attractions.

Last year's event helped to raise more than £7,000 which went towards the school and church building funds.

Very Rev. David McNamee, parish priest, said that his decision to make it a three-day affair had proved an outstanding success and this year it had been agreed to extend the list of activities.

Rose of Tralec Diane Hannegan will judge several of the events, as will Mayor Frank Prendergast. A special presentation is to be made to the family of Brian Spillane, the Irish rugby international, who live at the Golf Course Road.

Highlight of the weekend should be the garden fete, which gets under way on Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m. This will include go-car racing, break dancers, fancy dress (organised by the teachers at Monaleen N.S.), a Punch and Judy Show, fortune teller and a visit from the Limerick C.B.S. Pipe Band who will parade through the area.

As usual, there will be various stalls offering a wide choice of goods.

The programme gets under way on Friday, June 7, with cheese and wine reception. Tickets are priced £5 each, with music by the Sean Boland Band. A junior disco will be held on June 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. and teenage disco from 8.30 - 11.30.

Mr. Frank Madden, spokesman for the parish committee, said that in previous years people travelled from all over the county as well as from Tipperary, Clare and North Cork for their garden fete, recognised as one of the best of its type in the region.

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