



The above is an Old Crescent RFC team taken in Thomond Park in 1949. Back row, left to right: G. Spillane, W. O'Brien, R. Harris, T. Hayes, P. Carroll, J. Keane, N. Quinn, T. Farrell, D. Moloney, L. Nestor, A. O'Donovan, G. Wood and G. O'Donovan

## 10 YEARS AGO

### McCOURT REFUSES TO AUTHENTICATE PHOTO

ANGELA'S ASHES author Frank McCourt is not prepared to have his cover photo of Leamy's Schoolboys independently examined to prove if it's genuine or not.

Former classmate Paddy Malone claimed he has the original and has challenged Frank McCourt to prove his is genuine.

But now his solicitors have been told the Pulitzer Prize winner won't oblige.

In a letter to a firm of Limerick solicitors last week, publishers Harper Collins say his agent Molly Friedrichs has confirmed that "Mr McCourt is not willing to accede to your client's request to establish the authenticity of Mr McCourt's picture."

The New Yorker, who lived for a time in Limerick's lanes, claimed he used an original picture of 18 Leamy's Schoolboys on the cover of his multi-million bestseller.

But Old Clare Street resident Paddy Malone, who sat beside Frank McCourt in third class at Leamy's School, says he is convinced the author used a copy of the original picture in his possession, part of which was printed in the Limerick Chronicle during the 1970s.

"I know that copies of the paper were sent to the United States and I believe they used that for the cover," he said last year when challenging the author to prove he used his own photograph and not one belonging to Mr Malone.

According to the author, the picture was in his mother's possession but he is refusing to hand it over now to be verified.

The letter received last week was signed by Kim Daw, legal advisor with Harper Collins and Adrian Bourne, editor-in-chief. It's also co-signed by the author's US agent.

"My picture was torn and has the exact wear and tear marks as the picture on the cover of Angela's Ashes. If the photograph used was, as Frank McCourt claims, in the possession of his poor mother, surely it would have

# MEMORIES

From the files of the Limerick Chronicle, founded in 1768, the Republic's oldest newspaper

37 boys and not 18 and he would be prepared to have it tested," said Mr Malone, "I'm prepared to put my picture up for any inspection."

### ARSON SUSPECTED IN CHURCH BLAZE

A FUNERAL went ahead in a city church half an hour after a fire had been put out there.

The funeral service, at 8:30pm yesterday in St Joseph's Parish Church on O'Connell Avenue, was not disrupted but those attending were asked to leave as soon as it was over, in case there were toxic fumes in the church.

An initial investigation has suggested attempted arson as the cause of the blaze.

According to Fr Pat O'Sullivan, PP, a passer-by noticed smoke coming from the church at about 7:30pm.

Fire extinguishers from O'Brien's shop across the road were used to tackle the blaze, which was at the back of the church.

Limerick Fire Service was called to the scene, and three units arrived within minutes.

According to Jack Cusack, a member of one of the fire crews who attended the scene: "They had it more or less controlled by the time we arrived. We were mostly just clearing up after the fire."

Said Fr O'Sullivan: "The blaze started in a basket used to collect donations for the Kosovo food appeal, placed on a table at the back of the church. The basket was propped against a wooden partition so it could have been very serious if it had continued, as this partition was under-

neath the choir and organ gallery. Gardai suspect that it was attempted arson."

Fr O'Sullivan, who has been PP and Administrator at the church since January said that although there was some smoke damage, it could have been far worse.

A forensic investigation is expected to be carried out

## 20 YEARS AGO

### HUNDREDS TO PLAY IN INTER-FIRM EVENT

SIX Limerick players, five from Limerick Lawn and Frank O'Shea from Catholic Institute, will be representing the Bank of Ireland sponsored Munster teams in the veteran interprovincial championships which take place at the Windsor club in Belfast on Saturday and Sunday.

Anne Bradshaw of Limerick Lawn is the only local newcomer on the Munster ladies veteran team. A former South of Ireland singles winner, Mrs Bradshaw also represented Munster at hockey and she helped the Catholic Institute club to many major successes.

She joins experienced interprovincials, Claire Hayes and Irene Hannegan both of whom were very successful in the same competition last season.

Amazingly there are thirteen newcomers on the Munster teams and Frank O'Shea is the sole new local on the men's team. This is his first time being chosen for his province despite being one of the most prominent

players on the club scene years.

Denis O'Keeffe is by far experienced member of the team. A former Irish veteran he remains one of enthusiastic players in the also played for Ireland as a

Eugene Mulholland who tributed so much to the loves is once again chosen continues to possess immer which he endeavours to pass such enthusiasm to the juniors at Limerick Lawn.

Tennis, in Limerick, reached high last week with the success of the Davis Cup Limerick Lawn club. It was a triumph for Mrs Lu President of the Munster (the ILTA, who did Limerick Munster proud not only in the organisation of the event but also in the magnificent opening address she delivered in Irish, Fr English and which was very appreciated by the visitors.

### HER NAME WAS LIMERICK REMIND

THE government was urged to urge its FAS emigration in service, described this week as "less" and "inaccessible" a place provide more information Bureau similar located at the Limerick Resource Centre, Glentworth

Expressing his concern about the plight of young Irish people forced to emigrate, Mr O'Connell that unfortunately little or nothing has been done by the

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