



The McMonagle family from Shelbourne Road photographed in August 1961

10 YEARS AGO

HERO'S WELCOME AS McCOURT RETURNS

PULITZER prize winning author Frank McCourt received a hero's welcome yesterday when he returned to his home city to be greeted by up to 1,000 well-wishers.

Looking none the worse after his Late Late Show appearance on Friday night, when abuse was hurled at him over his portrayal of Limerick in Angela's Ashes, Mr McCourt signed copies of his new book, 'Tis in O'Mahony's bookshop.

Speaking to the Limerick Leader, he dismissed comments that he was upset after Friday's Late Late Show when he was accused of "peddling lies about Limerick for two and a half years" by long time local critic, Gerry Hannan.

He also denied Mr Hannan's claim that he had misrepresented the city in Angela's Ashes.

Said Mr McCourt: "Upset by the Late Late? No I wasn't, because there are people with agendas everywhere. The majority of Limerick people aren't like that and are embarrassed by people dragging the city down. But now I want to forget about it - I'm more interested in what goes on in education."

On the Late Late, Mr Hannan's abusive comments were described as "pathetic" by Ellen McCourt. He was also described as being obsessed with Mr McCourt and told the audience he is in the process of publishing a follow-up book to 'Tis called 'Tisn't My Arse'.

But in Limerick yesterday, Mr McCourt said he was delighted to be back in his home city.

"Limerick has changed so much and I love the warm greeting of the people. I still can't believe people are queuing down the street to meet me even though the Irish rugby match

MEMORIES

Contemporary news reports taken from the files of the Limerick Leader, 12

is on! It's a wonderful feeling."

He said he also has plans to set up a music scholarship at the University of Limerick where he is writer in residence and hopes to take part in charity work to support Limerick Parents and Friends of the Mentally Handicapped.

The Angela's Ashes movie, directed by Alan Parker, will be premiered in the USA on Christmas Day.

TANAISTE BACKS PLAN BY RYANAIR

THE future of Shannon Airport depends on the Ryanair plan being adopted by Government, the Tanaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Mary Harney, has warned.

The Progressive Democrat leader was commenting on Friday for the first time on a proposal by Ryanair to base three aircraft at Shannon, open five routes and bring 750,000 passengers into the region provided they get approval to build their own terminal at Dublin.

"I am very positive about the Ryanair plan and the future of Shannon is very much in the hands of the plan being adopted by the Government," said the Tanaiste.

"What we need for Shannon is more passengers, particularly more European passengers that stay in the area and use the hotels. I think access is the key decision that had

to be made. If people have access to the region they will come for their holidays or for long weekends. I would personally be very favourable and I think that's generally well known," said the Progressive Democrat leader.

20 YEARS AGO

RESIDENTS GANG-UP ON WATER DISCONNECTION CREW

A WOMAN was reported injured this Thursday afternoon, when a group of protesters in Ballinacurra Gardens surrounded a van with men inside, who had arrived to adjust water supplies to houses.

Gardai were quickly on the scene, as the van belonging to contractors engaged by the Corporation, left the scene followed by another vehicle with a Corporation observer.

An ambulance took away the woman, who is believed to be not seriously injured. Gardai are investigating how the accident happened.

About 20 men and 10 women were involved in the demonstrations around the contractors' van, according to an eye-witness. This Thursday's demonstration occurred at about 2.55pm after the arrival of the van containing three men.

Prior to that, 16 householders had

their water c residents' sp their refusal t the Corporat observed th necting or more houses Thursday, th surrounded t incidents, t however, w adjust water houses. It is one househo after repor charges.

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