

...y, and he mentioned the work of Mr Michael Hanley, chairman of the Foynes and District Community Council, the main movers in the establishment of the museum. He announced that the actress, Maureen O'Hara, widow of the

eminent aviator, Captain Charles Blair, proposed to donate her memorabilia to the project, and he thanked for their assistance Shannon Development, Aer Rianta, FAS, Irish Shell and Irish Helicopters.

The first phase, he said, would cost £300,000. The entrance area would hold an exhibition of information and photographs to capture the atmosphere of a flying boat base of the period.

An introductory exhibition, showing Foynes as the centre of the world, will be next, incorporating graphics, photographs and a history of links with other bases, as well as pictures of distinguished visitors.

The first phase will also include an audio visual theatre, with an audience capacity of 30 people, showing a ten minute film, incorporating archive material.

There will also be an interpretive display, showing Foynes during the Second World War, and

**Private sector**

The managing director of Shannon Development, Mr T A Dunne, pointed out that additional funding for the project would be welcome. He said that the private sector should get involved to a greater extent.

Links have been forged with British Airways and Pan American, whose companies each operated the service through Foynes half a century ago.

**LIMERICK AVIATION VETERAN KNIGHTED**

By PADDY MORONEY  
ADARE-BORN Austin Murphy, manager of KLM in Ireland for the past 32 years, has become a "Sir" on his retirement. He has been knighted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.



Austin Murphy.

The honour — he is a Knight of the Orange Nassau — marks the culmination of his lifetime of work for the Dutch national carrier.

And on a recent visit home to Limerick, his first call was to his brother, Bob, who is living at 31 O'Curry Street with his wife, Bridie.

"I grew up in Adare, of which I have the happiest memories," he reminisced, "and I played minor hurling for Adare, too."

**Education**

He was educated at Adare CBS up to Inter Cert — he had done his primary at Shauntrade School — and completed his leaving Cert at Sexton Street CBS in Limerick.

Austin began his career in business in Limerick, joining the construction firm of McCaffrey & O'Connell, at The Crescent, becoming a time clerk, and was with the firm during the major internal reconstruction of Cruise's Hotel in 1948-'49.

Building was in his blood, being a son of a builder, the late Con Murphy, of Tuogh, who lived a short distance out from Adare on the Black Abbey Road, at Murphy's Cross.

He also worked for a time with Pace College in New York, moving eventually to TWA in New York. He also did a stint in Montreal, before returning to Dublin in 1956, joining KLM in the capital that year.

"The late Sean Sullivan was manager at the time," recalled Austin, "and they were looking for a reservations and ticket officer. I applied and, five years later, in 1961, was made manager."

When he first joined KLM, they had a big staff in Ireland, because of their flights through Shannon. But the advent of jet aircraft

terminated that, and there was a sizeable reduction in the Irish payroll.

"The older propellor aircraft used leave Shannon between midnight and 3 a.m. to get to New York 12 hours later," he remembered.

"In fact, the flights of the various airlines used leave from 9 p.m. nearly all through the night until 10 a.m. the following morning. There was a lull for a couple of hours from 5 a.m.

**Shannon**

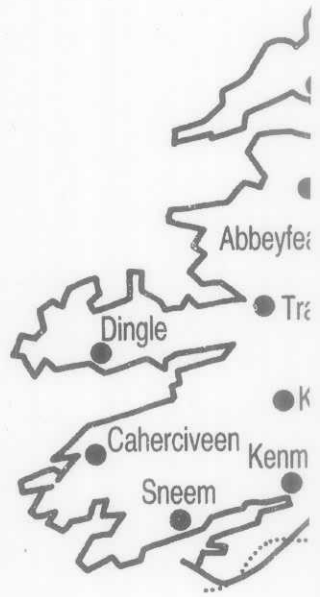
"The idea of the timings was that if you left at 2 a.m. from Shannon, you arrived in New York at 9 a.m. local time."

Austin's reception of his knighthood was from the First Secretary of the Dutch Embassy, Mr Hans Van Demmedlen, at a recent travel conference in Killarney. A reception was later thrown in his honour at the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, at which the ITAA presented him with a Waterford crystal set.

Although a County Limerick man born and bred, he will continue to remain living in Dublin — his home is at Kenilworth.

His one abiding passion is golf — he is a member of Naas Golf Club, and was its captain in 1971.

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Following the successful implementation of a new Service Order System, in the Limerick District last June, a new Telephone Billing Service is being introduced from November 1988, for customers in the 06 area. This is the first District to benefit from these improvements which will be gradually introduced throughout the country over the year.

The main changes under the 'Telephone Billing Service' are:

- Business customers will receive monthly bills, and private customers two monthly.
- All of the lines at a single address will be included on a single bill.
- Because Telecom are issuing bills more frequently, final notice will no longer be issued.

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