

SFADCo: cllr raps his own

By COLM WARD

FIANNA Fail councillor Eddie Wade has hit out at his Government colleagues over their silence on the future of Shannon Development.

The Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council called on all the Oireachtas members from the Mid-West to find out what was happening in relation to the

development agency. And he suggested that they had not shown enough courage in fighting for its future.

"I do not hear any backbenchers coming out in support of the role of Shannon Development," he said, adding that it was time for them to "get up a bit of courage" in relation to the matter.

"I would call on them to put down a question

at the parliamentary party meeting and have it aired to see who is supporting Shannon Development and who is not."

Cllr Wade was speaking at this week's meeting of the Mid-West Regional Authority. In a letter read out at the meeting, the Minister for Enterprise, Micheal Martin, confirmed that the future role of Shannon Development was

under review.

The future of the agency has been cast into doubt by recent developments, such as the decentralisation of Enterprise Ireland to Shannon and the report of the enterprise strategy group which recommended merging some Shannon Development functions with the IDA. It has also been proposed that the income from the Shannon Free

Zone should be handed over to the new Shannon Airport Authority.

However, senior figures in Shannon Development were this week bullish about its future. Speaking at the launch of its end-of-year statement, chairman Liam McElligott said that the agency was needed "now more than ever" to drive regional growth.

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Death of Limerick hunting legend Thady Ryan

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

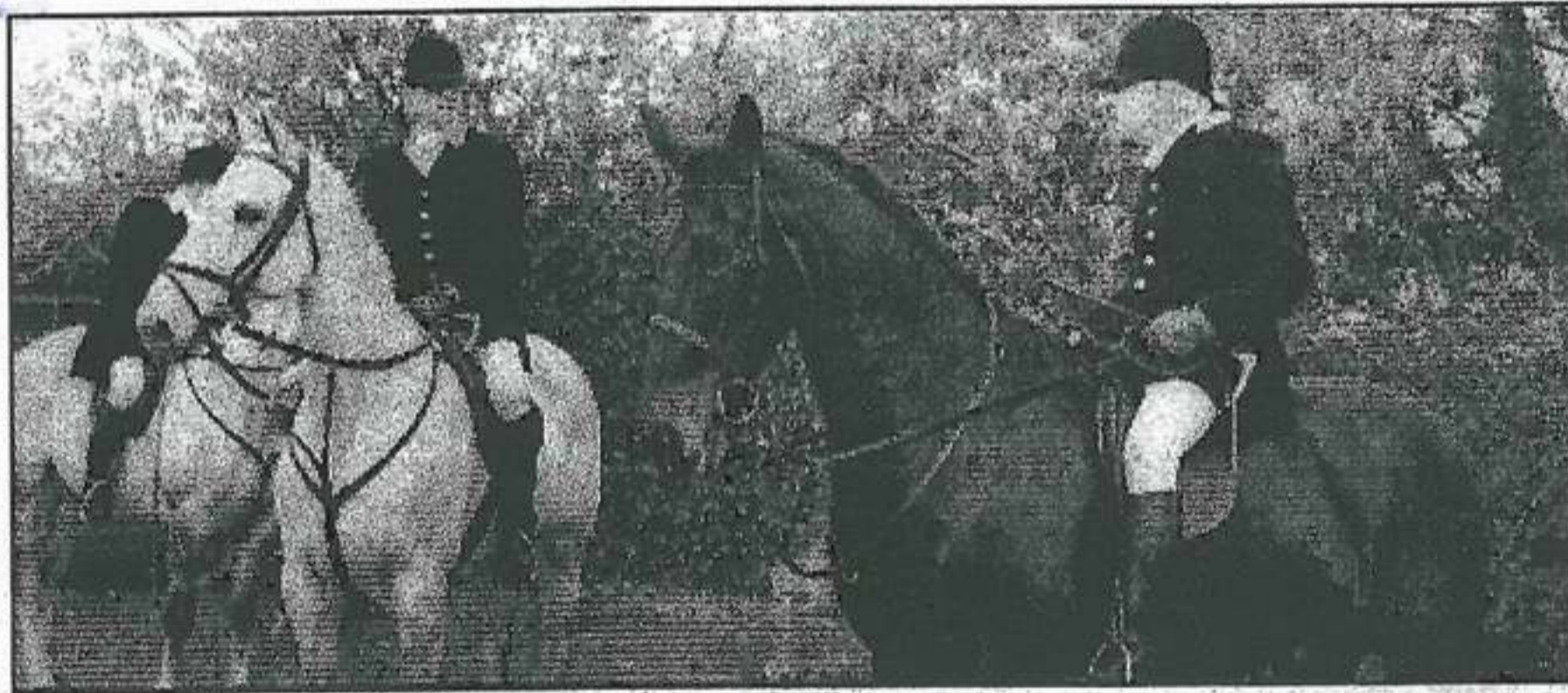
THADY Ryan, the former master of the Scarteen Hounds, one of the most famous packs in the world, was laid to rest on Tuesday in New Zealand, far from his beloved Galtee mountains.

Aged 81, he died in New Zealand at the weekend where he and his wife Anne had lived for over a decade, and where he once said he had known "the most marvellous sunsets".

At his own request, his remains were encased in a coffin of solid oak made from a tree that grew at his old home in Scarteen, near Knocklong.

Huntsman, horseman, farmer, sporting ambassador, Thady was larger than life. He had an extraordinary life by any standards and chronicled it all two years ago in his auto-biography "My Privileged Life".

It was privileged, cer-



Thady Ryan (right) with his beloved Scarsteens

tainly. He came from an old Irish Catholic family, kinsmen of the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell and enjoyed a happy childhood home, peopled by at least five servants, including a cook and a nanny. He was educated at the exclusive Benedictine public school Ampleforth, in England. One of his classmates was the late Cardinal Basil Hume, who once snatched a

sprig of shamrock from Thady's lapel on St Patrick's day.

"I visited the Cardinal years later and we had a great laugh over that incident," he told the Limerick Leader on his last visit home over a year ago.

But Thady's privileged life had its crosses too. He and Anne lost a beloved daughter Claire when she was just 12 years old.

He often spoke too of

the depression years of the 1930s when the family was bankrupt, and the bailiff ordered the cattle to be sold. They were on their way to the railway station at Knocklong when news came that a wealthy relative had come to the rescue and Scarteen was saved.

Thady spent much of his life farming the 500 acres at Scarteen. He was involved with Bord na

gCapall and the Irish Draught Horse Association. But hunting was his life, and he took over the Scarsteens from his father John, nearly 60 years ago, becoming the seventh generation of his family to hunt with the famous black and tans.

He came from a long line of horsemen, soldiers and businessmen. His grandfather, Thaddeus, was a survivor of the Indian Mutiny and his father, John fought in the Boer War.

He is survived by his wife Anne, his children Rachel, John, Hugh, Chris (current master of the Scarsteens) and Mark and by his sister, Gwen.

He was a man who empathised with people from all walks of life and he always proclaimed his loyalty to his Catholic faith. A special commemorative Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, January 23 at Knocklong Church.

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