

Expert speaks

Limerick woman's handbag was stolen

IN VIEW of the man's past record there was little anyone could say for him, said Mr. Frank King, solicitor, at Tralee Court.

He was appearing for Michael John Gallagher, aged 33, of Mitchell's Crescent, who pleaded guilty to feloniously breaking and entering the lock-up caravan in the pleasure park at Lyy Tce. and stealing a woman's handbag, value £10, containing £78 cash, a necklace (value £10) and three Post Office Savings Books (total value £98), the property of Mrs. Evelyn Bird, of Seafield Gardens, Ballinacurra, Limerick, on August 27.

Inspector John O'Riordan said Mrs. Bird left the handbag in the caravan where her son, Donal, was in bed.

Was seen

Shortly afterwards the defendant got into the caravan and took the handbag from a table, but was seen by the son, Donal, who later accompanied Gardai in a squad car and identified the defendant as being the man while he was standing with a group of others outside a Wimpey Bar.

A sum of £24 was found on the defendant and the necklace had been recovered, but the rest of the property was missing.

Justice Hedley McCay sentenced the defendant to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour and fixed bail at £10, with an independent solvent surety or cash of £600 in the event of an appeal



discussing the Limerick promotions manager, Mr. LL photo

was one of the outstanding successes of the season in London's West End in 1967.

"It also had a very good run in the Olympia in Dublin, and it has proved to be one of the highlights of the 25th Season of Repertory, which was presented in Butlin's Holiday Theatre.

Outstanding

"The Barretts of Wimpole Street" is, I think, one of the outstanding successes in terms of romantic entertainment, and it has a factual basis in that it has the love affair of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, which ended in matrimony.

"It is being brought back to the Gate, and is a revival of a production that ran about two months there.

"One of the main purposes of theatre is to entertain, and you can entertain with themes like tragedy, and so on, but particularly with comedy or romance.

"Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin" and "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" are good examples of this."

John's book tells of the wise women of Mungret

BUILDING CONTRACTOR and home decorator, Mr. John O'Connor, is extremely proud of his native village of Mungret . . . so proud in fact that he has just completed a 60-page booklet on its history and antiquities.

The initial print of 500 copies set him back £172. To date he has recovered £73 from sales. Mr. O'Connor is confident that he will cover all his expenses within the next month "and maybe even show a little profit."

His attractive and well designed booklet took three full years to compile. Encouraged by the success of his work, he plans to publish a history of Kileedy in the near future. "The booklet was compiled from what I consider the most reliable sources on Mungret," he said.

"For such a historical place very little can be got on record today. If I wrote all I heard from local historians and story-tellers I would have a larger book, but most of this was only fireside chat and I wanted as much fact as possible."

Mungret History and Antiquities sells at £1 per copy.

Worried

"I was worried at the beginning when sales were slow to get off the ground, but things have brightened up considerably since and there is a good demand from the local community for the booklet," commented Mr. O'Connor.

"I am not so concerned about the amount of money involved. If I have succeeded in bringing Mungret's history to light and got people to take interest again, I feel I have done something."

Educated at Tervoe National School and the Technical Institute, Limerick, Mr. O'Connor, aged 23, expressed his thanks to Nesson O'Donoghue, John Sheehan, Marian O'Connor, John Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. Enright, James O'Sullivan, Seamus O'Sullivan, and John Roche for encouraging him all the way.

"There were times when I felt like giving up the job, and would probably have done, so were it not for the help I received from these people."

Much of his research work was done in the City and County Libraries.

John would like to see his

booklet on the shelves of local bookshops. The booklet contains many interesting items on Mungret, and explains the legend, "The Wise Women of Mungret."

"The monks of another monastery, jealous of their own reputation for learning, decided to see if they could not best the monks of Mungret in debate. The Mungret monks being forewarned of their coming, hit on an idea.

"Dressing some of the young monks in women's clothes, they sent them to a stream which the rival monks would have to pass."

The visitors came upon the 'washerwomen' beside the stream and asking the way to Mungret monastery were amazed when the 'washerwomen' answered them in Latin and Greek.

Asking

"The visitors, asking how it was possible that such languages were so common among the ordinary people, were told that such languages were in common use in the monastery yonder, and all the people of the neighbourhood, gentle and simple, had learned somewhat of them."

"The visitors quickly decided to retrace their steps, for if the 'washerwomen' could speak such excellent Latin and Greek what indeed must be the learning of the monks of Mungret. From the legend derived the saying "As Wise as the Women of Mungret."

Mr. O'Connor, married to the former Miss Dorothy Brosnihan and father of two sons, Paul (5 months) and Nesson (2½), has listed the majority of the parish priests in Mungret from the year 1704 when Rev. William Ryan was P.P. Other headings include place names, An Peart Laoith, the O'Daly Stone, Mungret Castle, Mungret College, coin and bell finds and the Loftus family.

The O'Connors reside at Loughanleigh, Mungret.

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