

E.G. FITT  
ELECT FAMILY GROCER  
LA MERCHANT  
PROVISION PURVEYOR

## Haughey's nas gift

seach, Charlie was on top of when he visited k, Bruff and Co. Limerick in n of 1980.

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## mmmy puts the boot

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sway regarding crucial votes in the Dáil, had repeatedly warned that he would oppose the tax. FitzGerald ignored the warnings, and the Limerick man's crucial vote brought down the Coalition Government, resulting in Charles Haughey again gaining control and consequent notoriety in the years that were to follow.

## mers have 0.50 a week

According to an on the ge, there was where 26,000 farmers and s were living per week. to the 1980 nagement has resulted ly farmers on being forced ime farming

er sector of ity would be on a family 19.50 power ot of course, ilion people is now ed are living ty," declared

## ENNIIUM BRIEFS . . .

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Mr. Don McCarthy, president of the National Land League. Thousands of farmers travelled from all parts of Co. Limerick to join 600,000 others who in Dublin pledged that a campaign of civil disobedience and protest would continue unless they were rescued from the crisis in farming, at a mass demonstration.

Martin urged farmers to look for an alternative income to supplement the profits "which will be tight over the next few years. The cultivation and cropping of bog land could be profitably turned into hard cash."

### Blue Pool

THE notoriously dangerous fishing spot in Doonbeg, the Blue Pool, claimed the lives of three members of a Limerick family in September, 1980, when Andrew McMahon, son Anthony and daughter Nuala, from

THE mid-eighties saw the start of the moving statues syndrome. In August, 1985, reports came in from Mountcollins that a statue of the Blessed Virgin had been seen to move. In the following months there were reports of the same phenomenon coming from Cahermoyle and Manister.

Many people from the

county and Clare travelled to Limerick to view the statue at Garryowen, near the Markets Field, following reports that some people had seen blood coming from one of the hands of Our Lady. The Rosary was recited several times each night as hundreds converged on the shrine.

In the county, Foynes was one of the top

attractions when it was reported that Our Lady's statue had been observed moving. Cratloe was also proving a huge draw with crowds visiting the shrine there and reports of people having seen movement. Cahermoyle and Manister, two of the first to report the phenomenon, drew constant crowds of believers, and the

curious.

The Prior of the Dominicans in Limerick, Very Rev. Killian Dwyer, said that the attitude of the Church to the phenomenon of moving statues bordered on the "sceptical." "These alleged happenings had a tendency in provoking numberless counterfeit imitations. As soon as one incident is reported,

another is recorded elsewhere, triggering off a reaction that tends to escalate to the confusion and bewilderment of ordinary people," he said. Fr. Matt O'Shea of the Oblate Monastery at Cahermoyle said he "was impressed by the extreme reverence and goodness of people praying there."

A Leader Editorial said the alleged

sightings "tended to trivialise religion in the media and amongst the community and have yet to be supported by established fact. The case has yet to be tried alone proved."

A Blackpool man John D. Vose, however, was a believer and claimed in Kilfinia Church he saw the Statue of Our Lady change into the

# The decade of the moving statue

## O'Malley kicked out of Fianna Fáil

TWO of his fellow Limerick T.D's, Gerry Collins and Michael Noonan, were amongst the 56 Fianna Fáil Deputies who voted to expel Dessie O'Malley from the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party in May 18th, 1984.

Sixteen Deputies voted against the motion including Willie O'Dea, who stated afterwards that "it was a hard decision for me to make, but I felt that the punishment did not fit the crime."

Beforehand, two former Mayors, Cllr. Tony Bromwell and Cllr. Clem Casey came out in favour of the expulsion but Jack Bourke, whom the Leader said was one of Haughey's strongest supporters in the city, said he was shocked at the proposed expulsion.

"I personally didn't see anything wrong with what Dessie said on television or what was reported on the Sunday newspapers. It is a bad day for the party and a bad day for Fianna Fáil."

Fianna Fáil's Cllr. Paddy Kiely refused to comment, but did say he did not know if Mr. O'Malley's expulsion would damage the Party locally.

The Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey, tabled a motion at the Parliamentary Party

meeting calling for the expulsion of Mr. O'Malley due to his challenge to his (the Taoiseach's) handling of the Northern Ireland Forum Report. The voting went 56 for to 16 against.

Mrs. Pat O'Malley, wife of the expelled Deputy, said her husband's opponents had been waiting for this day.

"A certain element will probably be delighted with the way this has happened this way. They will be glad they have finally got rid of him. But why have the Forum at all? The whole idea was to open up new ideas, otherwise it was a waste of money."

She described the treatment to her husband as unjust.

"He has devoted his life to Fianna Fáil and this is it. It is very disillusioning."

It took O'Malley's secretary one and half hours to open the many hundreds of letters of sympathy that poured into his office on the days following the expulsion. "It is incredible the support I have got" the deputy said. He would not comment on the fact that two of his fellow Limerick TDs had voted against him.

"FF Kitty Rattled at Church Gates" was the lead in the Leader in the weeks that followed when Eugene Phelan reported that the annual Fianna Fáil collection in the city was substantially down. There was no collections outside some of the churches and abuse was hurled at some of

the collectors.

At a meeting later of the local Tom Clarke Cumann, a vote of confidence was passed in Mr. O'Malley and his policy on the Forum. "We support Mr. O'Malley's call for debate on party policy and do not want a dictatorship position in the party," said Mr. Dick Sadlier.

Bishop Empey joined in the chorus of defence of O'Malley. In a *Chronicle* report he said "young people are becoming disillusioned and cynical regarding politics. Again and again I hear them talking about a lack of integrity in political life and I find this to be both said and frightening. Mr. O'Malley knew well what the consequences of his actions would be, yet he still took his stand. Such integrity, and it is to be found in members of all the political parties, is the antidote to this galloping cancer."

The following February Deputy O'Dea tried to heal divisions and made an impassioned plea to O'Malley to join in welcoming their leader, Mr. Haughey, to a Comhairle Ceanntair dinner in Cruise's Hotel. Haughey's right hand man, P. J. Mara, said they were going down to Limerick with "an open mind and open heart."

Even though he had an engagement to speak in Chicago, Mr. O'Malley cancelled it and made his appearance at the dinner. Supporters of Mr. Haughey and O'Malley "tried to

outshout each other at the function," the report said. Haughey said: "Those who came to see confrontation or disagreement are going to be disappointed" and when O'Malley spoke he turned to his adversary and said "welcome to my constituency", which was greeted by roars of approval from his supporters.

By the end of the month O'Malley was expelled from the party itself. He had abstained on the vote on the contraception bill and was expelled "due to conduct unbecoming a party member." Several Fianna Fáil members of the City Council threatened to resign from the party and there were fears of widespread defections. Cllr. Clem Casey said Mr. O'Malley "should be spanked on the bottom and told to be a good boy."

Following the foundation of the Progressive Democrats in the months afterwards, Fianna Fáil Councillors John Quinn and Peadar Clohessy were first to defect from Fianna Fáil to join O'Malley's new party and in January, 1986, speculation was rife that former Mayor, Tommy Allen, was also about to join the party.

Chairman of the Workers Party in Limerick, Mr. John Ryan, referring to the new party, said: "manufacturers of soap powders have for years prospered by marketing the same product in new or

greatly improved form."

There was consternation in Fianna Fáil ranks when in the 1987 general election three PDs were returned in Limerick: Dessie O'Malley and Peadar Clohessy in the East and John McCoy in the West. Jimmy Kemmy was returned as a Democratic Socialist. Two years later O'Malley and Clohessy retained their seats but Michael Finucane took the West Limerick seat for Fine Gael.

## Recess hits ha

THE recession was biting hard towards the end of the decade and in May 1987 the unemployment situation was so bad that several hundred people queued outside the Roy George where officials from the Australian Embassy were dealing with enquiries.

The City Centre Traders Association expressed alarm at the huge number of closures in the retail business in the city. Ann McKillick PRO, said the up to 30 traders had closed the doors that year and predicted that another 30 would go to the wall before the year was out.

Fianna Fáil, in opposition, coming up to the General Election headed their manifesto "Despair. What has the Coalition done to our Country." It listed the industries that had closed in Limerick during the previous few years



Happier days saw Charles Haughey canvass in O'Malley

## Water charge sport starts

THE first shots in the proposed water charges that was to consume much passion, protests and eventual court charges and jailings through the decade, were fired by the City

## Worke at PRS

IN what was described as a "massive display of solidarity", 30,000 trade unionists and others