

McMahon's for their fur and leather week.

The latest winter boots and accessories will also be on display and a representative from Julian Vard will be there to advise on the wear and care of fur and leather garments.

Julian Vard's look for the autumn, incidentally, is a swaggering style, described as "halfway between Mexican and Rodeo cowboy". The fur coat image has certainly changed!

Martha Clohessy, Rathbane, Ann Conlon, Limerick, Ballysheedy, in suede coats that will go on display at Leather Week.

Julia Holman Lee, McMahon's Fur and

DONNACHADH O'BRIAIN,

R.I.P.

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"Bhí a chuid seirbhíse fhada ionraiteach do shaol pholaitiúil na h-Eireann agus go speisialta don teanga Gaelach mar ionsparaid duinn uilig."

These words of Mr. Haughey, Uachtarán Fianna Fáil, convey the sentiments of the many people from the political, cultural and religious sphere who attended the funeral of Donnachadh O'Brien in his native Clouncagh last week.

Donnachadh was the eldest son of David O'Brien from Tulaneascaí, Clonakilty, creamery manager at Clouncagh C.D.S., and local girl Katherine Casey from Ballyguile. He was educated at Ahalin N.S. and the Redemptorist College Limerick.

The Gaelic League was only a few years old when Donnachadh was born on 17th November, 1897. Inspired by the ideals of Dr. Douglas Hyde and Eoin Mac Neill he took an active interest in the Irish language and in national issues from his youth. He worked as a Timire Gaeilge - travelling teacher-organiser - for Conradh na Gaeilge, setting up branches and teaching Irish during a period when the Conradh was at its height. He was also involved in setting up Irish colleges, from Carrigaholt in the twenties to Aras Ide in the fifties, and worked for a period as general secretary of Conradh.

Founder member

Having been a founder member of Fianna Fáil, he was appointed general secretary of this organisation and was first nominated to stand for Fianna Fáil in West Limerick in 1932. Elected to Dail Eireann in 1933, he was an active participant in Dail debates and committees and was renowned for his contributions to debates in the

Irish language. A friend of Eamon de Valera's from his Conradh na Gaeilge days he later became his political confidant and served as chief whip of the Fianna Fáil party for many years.

He became Parliamentary Secretary to Eamon de Valera in 1951 and also served for a time as parliamentary secretary to Sean Lemass. As chief whip he was respected by the opposition for his honesty and fair play and in his own party for his integrity and discipline.

His interests and his work enabled him to get to know many people and he travelled abroad to Copenhagen, London and Teheran to inter-parliamentary meetings. He retired from public life in 1969 having served as a deputy for a continuous period of 36 years.

In June 1940, he married Eileen Liston of Lios an Uisce who was at that time nursing in Holles St. Hospital. Their lives together were very full and happy. They farmed for a number of years in Ardgoul and in 1950 they came to live in Clouncagh.

Kind and gentle

Donnachadh O'Brien was a kind and gentle man whose helpfulness and generosity were appreciated by all who knew him. His political concern was largely with the issues of unity of the country and the revival and strengthening of our native culture. He spoke the Irish language to anyone whom he thought had even the slightest knowledge. He encouraged his colleagues in Dail Eireann to be loyal to the language and inspired many of them by his example. He read widely in Irish and English - biography, fiction, poetry and religious material. A profoundly religious man, he travelled to Knock frequently in latter years where he and his wife Eileen were wardens.

There was a large and representative turnout for his removal from his home to Clouncagh Church. Bishop Eamon Casey of

Galway - a cousin and friend of the O'Brien's, received the remains at the church. He spoke warmly of his friendship with Donnachadh and of his integrity and loyalty to religious and Irish culture.

An t-Athair Micheal Liston a leigh an t-Aifreann comhcheiliurtha as Gaeilge i dtéannta Canon John Liston, P.P., Dromcollogher, Very Rev. Michael Kelly, Rev. Brendan Connellan, Rev. Kilian Dwyer, O.P., Rev. Peadar De Burca, Very Rev. T. J. Lyons, Chan. Fr. Eamon Dillane, Fr. Ambrise agus Sean Liston. The tricolour draped coffin bore testimony to his service in the War of Independence.

Inspired

Thug an t-Athair Micheal Liston an oraid as Gaeilge mar seo leanas - "Some people remember Donnachadh O'Brien as a colleague for 36 years, some remember him as a parishioner and some as a member of the family. I remember him as an inspirer. While my contemporaries were cynical about life, about the future of our country, Donnachadh O'Brien was a man of integrity with strong loyalties to his religion, his country and his native language.

"He believed. During his lifetime he nurtured the Irish culture, was devoted to the spread of the Irish language. As a politician Donnachadh O'Brien was a man of his word, working the best years of his life for his constituents and his countrymen. Donnachadh O'Brien had his culture and his creed."

Among the attendance were Lt. Col. Patrick O'Kelly representing the President, Dr. Hillery; Mr. James Tunney, Leas Ceann Comhairle, representing the Fianna Fáil party; Deputies Collins, Noonan and O'Brien; Mr. Jim Gibbons, ex Minister for Agriculture; Senators Rory Kiely, Michael Crannitch, Treas. Honan, Willie Ryan, Frank Carter, ex T.D.; District Justice de Burca; ex Leas Ceann Comhairle Denis Jones, and

many local co. councillors and all the neighbours and friends from Clouncagh and Knockaderry and West Limerick generally.

Many of those who worked with him in promoting the Irish language were also present, including - Mainnchin Seoighe, Risteard mac Siachuis, Dr. Bryan McMahon, Padraig O'Ceirbhail, Sean de Bhulbh, Nioclás Breathnach.

Clergy

The clergy in attendance were Bishop Eamon Casey, Very Rev. T. Lyons, P.P., Knockaderry, Rev. L. O'Callaghan, C.C., do., Canon J. Liston, P.P., Dromcollogher, Rev. M. Liston, C.C., St. Munchin's College, Rev. M. O'Connor, St. Mary's, Rev. W. Walsh, C.C., Croom, Rev. P. de Burca, C.C., Broadford, Rev. K. Dwyer, O.P., St. Saviours, Very Rev. M. Kelly, Dr. T. Ambrose, C.C., St. John's, Very Rev. E. Dillane, Raheen, Very Rev. D. O'Brien, Newcastle West, Very Rev. J. Burke, P.P., Monegea, Very Rev. G. de Bhall, P.P., Fedamore, Very Rev. T. Culhane, P.P., Banogue, Canon M. Doody, Nazareth House, Mallow, Very Rev. D. Rea, P.P., Croom, Rev. J. Leonard, C.C., Limerick, Rev. T. Coughlan, C.C., Kilfinane, Rev. B. Connellan, C.C., Holy Family, Rev. R. Costelloe, C.C., Feenagh, Rev. Butler, S.D.B., Salesian College, Pallaskenry, Rev. P. Bowen, C.C., Kilmallock, Rev. L. Kelly, C.C., Limerick, Rev. G. Frawley, Knockaderry, Rev. J. Noonan, St. Munchin's College, Rev. L. McNamara, do., Rev. D. Browne, C.C., Bruck.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen, to whom sincere sympathy is extended, his sister Dr. Seamus O'Brien, his sister Mrs. J. Wall, nephews and nieces.

Fear e Donnachadh a cbaith a shaol leis na nithe a raibh suim aige ionnta agus leis na cuiseanna a bhí gar da chroí. Bhí saol fada suimiúil aige inar chuir se a lan i gcrích. Fuair se bas go siotlach gan phian. Guimid Solus na bhFlaitheas do agus go dtuga Dia cabhair agus solas da bhaintreach agus da ghaolta.

3/10 Oct / 1981