

# GA chiefs get Mungret message

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Dr. Mick Loftus, president of the G.A.A., unveils a plaque to mark the opening of the new Mungret centre. Included also are Anthony McGann, club chairman; Johnny Byrnes, fund-raising chairman; Jim Hickey, chairman, Limerick County Board, and Pat Hourigan and Donal Fitzgibbon, committee.

traditions of Mungret with the urban traditions of St. Paul's. "The club are fielding 23 teams at present in the league and championship and have done so over the last number of years as new competitions are introduced".

## The games

The chairman also stressed that the playing side of the club would not be neglected now that they had built such magnificent facilities.

"This community centre is a bonus to the club and a home for the club to work out of, but the fielding and playing of our national games must remain the club's first aim in this wonderful organ of the Gaelic Athletic Association", he declared.

He later paid special tribute to building committee chairman, Johnny Byrnes, and his committee: Tony McMahon, Pat Horgan, P. J. Donoghue; also the finance committee of Cyril Murphy, Pat Tobin, Pat O'Dea, Theresa O'Brien, Margaret Horgan, Mary McMahon and Donal Fitzgibbon.

See *Caman* page 18.

## No word from Pat but Nancy confident

By LEADER REPORTER

SHANNON MARINE Rescue Centre said this Friday that they had not received any communication from Limerick's lone Atlantic adventurer, Pat Lawless, since his June 24 message when he was about midway across the Atlantic. This message was relayed to the marine centre from a Welsh coast station. Pat is now 29 days at sea in his 26 ft. boat the *Inniscealtra*. He started his voyage from Providence, Rhode Island.

Said his wife, Nancy, a Limerick florist: "We thought we might have word this Thursday, but he is now off the main shipping lanes and he might be finding it harder to get a message through."

"We have maps set up here in the shop charting his course. A friend of Pat's, Edgar Heenan, makes out the various points on the map. We are confident that everything is OK and we are looking forward to his next message".

**Finced and**

# COUGHLAN DEMANDS APOLOGY FOR 'SNUB'

By LEADER REPORTER

MR. STEVE COUGHLAN, former Mayor and Alderman of Limerick, as well as a former Limerick East Deputy, this week criticised the Corporation for alleged discourtesy to him as a private citizen.

He said that this also affected the people of Limerick itself as he was making representations on their behalf at the time he contacted the Corporation.

Mr. Coughlan, alleging discourtesy, said that the first official he was transferred to by the Corporation switchboard hung up after briefly passing the buck: the next man not only failed to send a written apology, he said, but twice did not ring him back as requested.

He said in an interview with the *Limerick Leader* that if he got nothing at all, at least he expected courtesy.

"I am insisting on courtesy," he declared angrily. "It costs nothing. And for people who were blow-ins to the city, they should first of all get to know the attitude of the citizens before they take on onerous jobs."

## Flooding

He recalled that recently there was severe flooding in many parts of the city, principally in the Dock Road area—even the Dominican Church was flooded.

"I got some complaints about it, people calling and telephoning, ringing me up to do something about it," he added.

"So I rang the Town Hall, and was transferred by the switchboard to someone else. I said to this other person, 'look, this flooding has been causing a lot of trouble and damage,' and suggested that something should be done—the Fire Brigade could do it in no time at all."

"This other person hesitated for a moment, and then said to me to see someone else about it."

"I rang someone else at about 3.45 p.m. and made my complaint and said that if this was the way the citizens of Limerick were being



Anger: Mr. Coughlan.

treated by the public servants who were being paid by the people of this city, they should listen to them at least.

"I am not going to put up with this kind of carry-on from this official, I said.

"I said I did not want a mere reprimand, but I wanted a written apology—I had told the official who I was, but that makes no difference.

"Nothing happened after that," recalled Mr. Coughlan, of the aftermath of his calls, "and I rang on Monday morning and someone responsible was in Dublin, so I asked that he ring me before 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. I rang that Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. and was told that he had gone to a late lunch and had not yet been back. I said I would be here at home, and I waited until 8 p.m. and got no reply. And nothing again this Wednesday morning."

He concluded: "This, in my view, is very seriously remiss of the Corporation, and the people of Limerick will not stand for it."

● A relevant official was not available for comment when the *Limerick Leader* contacted the Corporation.

# Remember Limerick diocesan priest's martyrdom

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TUESDAY LAST, 30th June, marked the 403rd anniversary of the execution of a remarkable Tipperaryman who had strong Limerick connections. On that date in 1584, Dr. Dermot O'Hurley, Archbishop of Cashel, was hanged outside the ancient city walls of Dublin following on a trumped-up charge of treason. At the present time his name heads a list of seventeen Irish martyrs from Penal times whose causes are being processed at Rome. Present indications suggest that progress is being made towards the beatification of O'Hurley and the others.

Dermot O'Hurley was born at Emly, Co. Tipperary, about the year 1530. His father was employed by the Earl of Desmond and the family was quite well-off by the standards of the time. In later years the family moved to Lickadoolin in the parish of Donoghmore near the present-day outskirts of Limerick city. In later life he was ordained as a priest of the diocese of Limerick.

Emly—his native town—was the cathedral town of Munster's most ancient diocese. Bishop Thomas O'Hurley had established a cathedral school at Emly for the education of diocesan priests. In all likelihood, Dermot received his early education at that school.

Dermot moved to the great University of Louvain in Belgium to continue his studies. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree in 1551 and eight years later was appointed professor of philosophy there. Subsequently he studied law, and became a Doctor of Canon Law and Civil Law. The new University of Rheims in France availed of his expertise in these fields and appointed him professor of law. After four years of lecturing at Rheims he moved to Rome where, it would seem, he worked in the service of some one of the cardinals.

A feature of O'Hurley's life which may surprise us is that he remained a layman almost all his life. This was so even though he lived and moved in predominantly clerical domains, and taught philosophy and Church law. However, he was recognised as a scholar and lawyer of outstanding ability. Added to this, it would seem that his lifestyle won admiration for the practice of Christian virtue, for when Archbishop Maurice MacGibbon died Pope Gregory XIII decided that Dermot O'Hurley was the man to succeed him in Cashel. The year was 1581.

The man whom the Pope wished to appoint to Cashel was a layman. In obedience to the Pope's wish, Dermot consented to ordination. By special dispensation of the Pope, the normal preparation for the priesthood was

waived. Within the space of two weeks he was conferred with Minor Orders and Major Orders and was ordained priest on 13th August, 1583, in the chapel of the English College in Rome. The ordaining bishop was the Englishman, Dr. Thomas Goldwell, the exiled Bishop of St. Asaph. The records of his ordination show that O'Hurley was ordained as a priest of the diocese of Limerick.

Within a month of ordination, Dermot O'Hurley was appointed Archbishop of Cashel. However, he did not arrive in Ireland until August 1583, when he came ashore secretly at Skerries. He was spied upon from the time of his arrival, since Dublin Castle regarded his presence as a danger and viewed him as a fomentor of treason. He arrived at a time when Elizabeth I was trying by every means to extend the Reformation to this country. As part of her strategy she appointed 'reformed' bishops to dioceses as vacancies arose. Thus Cashel, in common with other dioceses, came to have two archbishops with the arrival of O'Hurley—the one a papal nominee and the other a royal nominee. O'Hurley's royally appointed counterpart was Milner Magrath.

After his arrival in Ireland, O'Hurley headed southwards towards his archdiocese. However, there is no record of his having ministered within the archdiocese. Instead, within two months he found himself arrested and imprisoned in Dublin Castle. He was charged with being party to an international conspiracy against Elizabeth. In order to extract information, which he did not have, he was cruelly tortured. His legs were encased in special boots and then roasted over a fire. (This historical fact is alluded to in the coat of arms of another Dermot—Dr. Clifford, Co-Adjutor Archbishop).

The Dublin Castle authorities realised that there could be no evidence found which would convict O'Hurley and so he was sentenced to death under the cover of martial law and without a trial. His body was buried in St. Kevin's churchyard, Camden Row, Dublin. Almost immediately his grave became a place of pilgrimage and remained such for centuries. Unfortunately its exact location has become lost to memory.

Dermot O'Hurley was a scholar who accepted the mission of returning to his troubled home land as a shepherd of God's people. Although he was unable to fulfil that role in the diocese entrusted to his care, he gave outstanding witness to all by the example of his faithfulness even unto death. In youth Dermot O'Hurley belonged to Emly. In manhood he belonged to Europe and to the world of books. In age he belonged briefly to Cashel. In martyrdom and in death he belongs to all of Ireland and to the communion of saints.