

# Drama as Eamonn commuted to Savoy

By A SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

THE PUBLICATION of the new biography of legendary broadcaster Eamonn Andrews will recall for some Limerick people Eamonn's days as quizmaster of "Double or Nothing" at the Savoy Cinema where his performance attracted much attention.

It also had its amusing side. He was so inept as a driver that a close friend, Dermot Cafferky, agreed to act as his chauffeur so that he could keep his schedule. On Thursdays Eamonn broadcast a sponsored programme in Dublin. If he set off from Limerick early in the morning he could get to the Henry Street studios in good time for the programme; the problem was driving the 120 miles back to Limerick for the 5.30 performance.

## Stage manager

For the first few weeks Dermot drove him to Limerick, returned to Dublin next day and collected him again the following Thursday. Even for an energetic advertising man it proved too much.

Eamonn then persuaded the Savoy's stage manager to travel with him. Their first journey to Dublin was uneventful. On the return trip Eamonn drove the old car as fast as it could go until, leaning too heavily into a sudden bend as they approached a village, the door, which fastened with a catch, flew off and he was shot into the roadway. The driverless car careered down the main street, with the stage manager sitting petrified in the passenger seat, until it bounced off a drain pipe on the local policeman's house and came to a halt.

The stage manager was shaken and Eamonn unharmed. They succeeded in calming the policeman by paying him 30 shillings for the damaged drainpipe. The car seemed mobile, so Eamonn pitched the driving door into the back seat and the pair set off again for Limerick.

No sooner was he behind the wheel, however, then he realised that something was wrong. He had lost the seat of his trousers.

At the Savoy the organist was nervously repeating the introductory music to "Double or Nothing" for the third time when Eamonn ran on to the stage. The audience tittered, the organist couldn't believe his eyes. The compere was wearing his overcoat.

But in true show business tradition the show went on.

That Limerick stint was instrumental in Eamonn Andrews being picked to compere "Double or Nothing" at the old Theatre Royal in



Gus Smith presents a copy of his new biography of Eamonn Andrews to Charles Haughey. "I'm delighted to accept it," said the Taoiseach, who was a friend of Eamonn's. The biography, entitled "Eamonn Andrews—His Life", is published by London publishers W. H. Allen.

Dublin when resident compere, Eddie Byrne, went off to England for film work.

It was Eamonn's big showbiz start and it was in the Theatre Royal he was to meet Joe Loss, the famous band leader, who gave him his cross-Channel break.

This new biography is aptly called "Eamonn Andrews—His Life" and was written by Gus Smith, who came to know Eamonn very well in Dublin and London. The book is already proving a bestseller and it recalls, in affectionate manner, the great episodes in Eamonn's eventful life.

Many outstanding names in broadcasting and show business pay tribute to the memory of the Irish broadcaster and boxing commentator, including Henry Cooper, the former British

boxing champion. "Eamonn's voice painted pictures," says Henry. "He brought the boxing game alive by his commentaries."

Gus Smith recently presented a copy of the book to Grainne Andrews, widow of Eamonn, and autographed it as "his tribute to the popular broadcaster," who died almost a year ago. Grainne is sister of Cllr. Jack Bourke, chairman of the Mid-Western Health Board and former Mayor of Limerick.

Gus Smith, chief sub-editor of the Sunday Independent, is one of Ireland's most successful authors.

Two of his brothers are also journalists — Noel in Limerick and Raymond in Dublin. A third brother, Brendan, teaches at CBS, Sexton Street. He has two sisters, Mrs. Phil Collier, Limerick, and Kathleen, a teacher.

By LEADER R

IT'S NOT the young life that counts in your years - it's the active life that counts. Limerick Action Group, the motto holds true.

The notion reached 65 one's comes to an end dispelled by secret of the founding Pat Clarke, with "retirement just beginning of a new life".

Life does not end. Forget that most healthy, energetic participating active long after they reach 65. The endless activities undertaken by Limerick Action Group is enough to keep a young person gasping. Swimming, bowling and crafts, carper exercise are among the popular. "The old are the more active," Ms Clarke.

## Membersh

Established in 1978, members, the group over 100.

Originally set up by the Western Health Board with the V.E. organisation in the area, the cater for the many in this area, the group mushroomed and retired people in the city. "We have from all areas of the city and recently a group cater for the needs of the elderly in Northside, said Mary, eventually we we groups in all areas.

Co-ordinator of the group is Mary, who is in her first year of Aodha and this we paid to Mary by "She can feel very achievements with in its first year."

Horgan, chairman. A huge success secretary described the date: "The attitude members is why do before. Retired previously had hours each day and who collect their pens now share one co-



of legendary Eamonn being welcomed to tel by manager Bryan

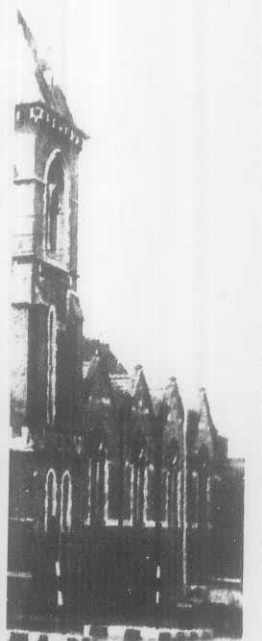
## nark y church

did not intend putting the property up for sale, stating that they were "optimistic" that a certain group would take over the building shortly.

Meanwhile, Mr. John Wrixon, an environmental economist, who lives at Kilmore, County Clare, says that a preservation order should be put on the building.

"How many other fine buildings have we destroyed over the years. We should ensure that the same does not happen here," he declared.

Mr. Wrixon added that the building was in an ideal location for an arts and crafts centre, or museum.



house of prayer in Henry

Regional Award Winner in the 1988 National Bar Cater

REPORT