



**HUNDREDS** of colleagues and friends last weekend honoured James Daly, Redgate, Caherdavin, who had retired after 45 years' employment with the psychiatric services in Limerick. James, who had worked as a nursing officer, started at St Joseph's Hospital, and had seen many changes over that time. Very popular with the staff, he is seen above receiving a presentation from chief nursing officer Padraic Gilligan.

# Shannon nets £10m from new Authority

## SHANNONTOWN

By RON KIRWAN

IN ITS first year of operation, the Irish Aviation Authority was worth £10 million in wages alone to the Limerick region.

The new semi-State body made a pre-tax profit of £4.1 million. This was announced as the authority published its first annual report.

The authority, which began operating on January 1, 1994, employs 613 staff — over half of whom are based in the Mid-west. Most of these — 204 — are based at Shannon Airport, while the rest — 112 — are based at Ballygirreen, near Newmarket-on-Fergus.

The Aviation Authority is a limited company, and all of the shares are held by the Finance Minister and the Transport, Energy and Communications Minister.

The authority was established by statute in 1993, and was vested on January 1, 1994. It manages Irish-controlled airspace, and regulates the aviation safety standards with which Irish aviation operators, including other semi-State bodies such as Aer Lingus and Aer Rianta, must comply. Its role is distinct from other aviation companies in that it controls the airspace and regulates safety standards of air carriers, maintenance and support organisations. It also provides the required technical infrastructure and personnel resources.

Although income is generated through aircraft landing in Ireland, the vast majority of the turnover — 84% — is derived from air-

craft which do not land, but who utilise Irish airspace.

The Aviation Authority has just published its first annual report.

Newport man Jim Lacey, chairman of the authority, said that the report showed a healthy and satisfactory trading position.

"The Irish Aviation Authority aims to be at the leading edge of air navigation and safety standards on a world-class basis. The authority has a good foundation in place and is now actively looking to the future which will include the development of commercial activities in training and consultancy directly connected to its own area of expertise," he said.

He added that 1994 had been a turbulent year, as the Aviation Authority had been set up to replace the former Air Navigation Services Office of the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications, and 585 staff had to transfer to the new Authority on its first day of operation.

"1994 was a period of significant change for the Authority, and all its people," he continued.

Many tasks had to be accomplished, he explained, such as putting in place a new management structure and setting up appropriate financial and other control procedures, so as to ensure the Authority would operate to the highest standards.

"Much has been accomplished, but many challenges lie ahead and I am confident that the Authority is well capable of progressing to become a world leader in its field of operations."

Chief executive Brian McDonnell said: "To be effective the Authority must have a sound financial base, the highest levels of expertise, a full range of modern equipment with management systems and organisation to deliver the highest safety standards, and services at competitive cost."

"I am satisfied that, in 1994, the Authority has laid very solid foundations for successfully achieving these objectives."

# Chernobyl's children fly in — via Shannon

SICK children still suffering the ravages of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster have been flown into Ireland, this week, for a month-long break.

On Monday, 75 children arrived in Shannon, while this Friday another 104 are due to land.

Altogether, the Chernobyl Children's Project will fly in 520 children this year.

The children will arrive in Shannon, and from there they will be whisked to

The children suffer from health problems such as leukemia, cancer and thyroid problems, caused by the massive nuclear leak associated with the Chernobyl disaster.

Several of the children are the offspring of "liquidators", workers who were sent in without protective clothing to clean out the reactor after it had gone out of control.

"A lot are orphans, abandoned at birth, because their parents couldn't accept the high defects that had been

vital medical aid. In the five years, £2 million has been raised. The latest aid convoy, sent in April, included 12 ambulances and 2 trucks.

One of the reasons that the children are brought to Ireland each summer is that the temperature soars in Chernobyl during the summer months, and the danger of exposure to radiation

increases.

The children are housed all over the country. Now the Project is looking for Limerick families to take in children, in the coming years.

"They have limited English," said Ms Corcoran.

"But during the course of their holiday, they pick up the language."

# Had too much at children's celebration

A FATHER who drank too much on his children's First Communion was convicted of being drunk and disorderly and fined £25 at Adare Court.

But the incident involving James Harty, Lisheen Park, Patrickswell, last May 13, was an isolated one, according to Garda Michael O'Leary.

However, the Garda said, Mr Harty's son, Patrick, of the same address then arrived on the scene and tried to prevent him, the Garda, from restraining his father.

"He was shouting obscenities and threatened to burn down my residence," the Garda said. While accepting the young man's apology, the Garda said his reaction was a "bit much".

"I do take his threat seriously," he said.

Patrick Harty took the stand and said that he "panicked" and apologised to the Garda.

His solicitor, Laura Murphy, said he too had been drinking.

The defendant's "very cavalier" attitude would be seriously tested by the Court, Judge Mary

O'Halloran said, convicting Patrick Harty.

"It has to go out very clearly that the Gardaí are there for the protection of all of us," she said.

She imposed a three-month sentence on Patrick Harty, suspended on condition he keep the peace for two years and imposed a fine of £100.

## Tax not displayed

TONY Murphy, Rathcrea, Janesboro, Limerick, was fined £25 at Kilfinane Court for having no tax displayed on a vehicle registered in his name at Murins Cross, last April 17. A charge of having no tax was dismissed, and similar charges against the driver were also dismissed.

## Re-trial

A RE-TRIAL has been ordered in the case of a County Limerick farmer who is charged that between October 1 and November 1 1988, both dates inclusive, he indecently assaulted a female. Judge Kevin O'Higgins made the order after a Circuit Court jury in Limerick had failed to agree on a verdict, late last week.

## Paper

FIONNULA Kilfeather, national co-ordinator of the National Parents' Council — Primary, this Wednesday addressed a meeting at the Woodlands Hotel, Adare, on the White Paper on Education.

APPLICATION TO PLANNING AUTHORITY  
Limerick County Council: I, Hugh Campbell, am applying to Limerick County Council for full planning permission to erect extension to existing dwelling at Lough More, Mungret. (t24/6672)

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