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Limerick Chronicle

1766 — THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN THE REPUBLIC —

204th YEAR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1970

JUMBO AGE DAWNS

PICTURES: BRIAN McMAHON
BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR THE FIRST time in history, a Jumbo jet on a scheduled flight touched down at Shannon Airport today. Aboard were 311 Irish exiles, many of whom are to spend holidays in Limerick.

The Pan American aircraft, which had travelled from New York, was greeted by the Mayor of Limerick, Councillor J. P. Liddy, a Pan American official at Shannon.

As the Jumbo came to a halt, Mayor Liddy, standing on the ramp, declared:

"This is a history-making event. He congratulated the people at Shannon on the manner in which they handled huge aircraft and provided such big numbers of passengers, all arriving at the one time, with all the facilities of a modern airport."

Welcome

Mr. Tom O'Donnell, T.D., Fine Gael Shadow Minister for Transport and Power, who was also at the airport, said that he had come to Shannon to welcome the Jumbo and observe the operation and handling facilities available.

Mr. Art Gaynor, Pan American airport manager, was also present to greet the passengers. He commented: "This is a very proud moment for my company."

To facilitate the passenger arrangements through the Customs—It was the biggest number of passengers to arrive at any one time—Pan American only allowed passengers off in groups of 75.

They were taken from the aircraft, which was parked in front of the 24 million terminal building which is under construction.

This morning is believed to have been the busiest in the history of Shannon Airport.

In all, 1,475 passengers disembarked from 13 flights during a one-and-a-half hour period.

The reason for the boom was the re-introduction of a 21-day airline excursion fare from North America to Europe.

Insight

An airport spokesman said: "This is the busiest morning we have experienced. It gave us an insight into the jumbo era."

and Mrs. William Crawford, their daughter, Mrs. Lee Kelmer and her husband, from the Bronx, New York.

The Crawfords are natives of Garryspillane, Knocklong, Co. Limerick.

They were met at the airport by Mr. John O'Dea, Mulgrave Street.

Mrs. Crawford commented on arrival:

"It was a wonderful experience."

"We are proud to be the first Limerick people to fly into Shannon Airport on a Jumbo jet."

The Jumbo was scheduled to travel to London this afternoon.

Baby knocked down

An eighteen months old baby, Clara Rice, Clonlara, Co. Clare, was knocked down by a lorry in O'Connell Avenue last night. She was rushed to Limerick Regional Hospital where her condition today was stated to be "quite satisfactory."

Cholera

An outbreak of cholera yesterday spread in a widening arc 1,200 miles long across the southern part of the Soviet Union. The highly contagious disease has caused severe travel restrictions and a nationwide cleanliness campaign as health authorities struggled to control its virulence.

Unemployed

Swiss Labour offices listed a total of 26 unemployed and 5,036

An Trial a big success

IT IS very likely that "An Trial", now being staged at the City Theatre, will go down very well with Limerick audiences.

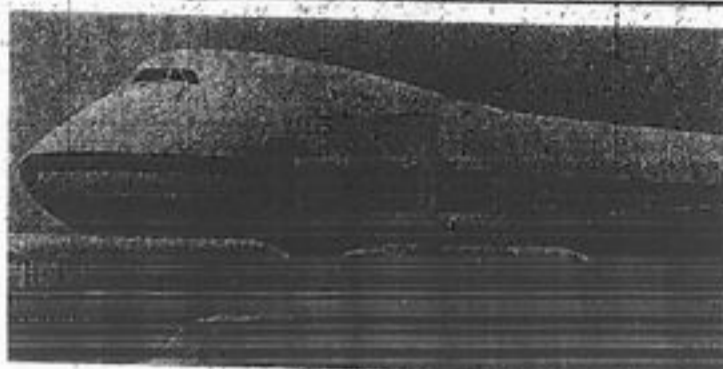
The play will be shown nightly for the rest of the week.

The production is a controversial one, coming to Limerick at a time when the social conscience is becoming more aware of the problem of unmarried mothers in Ireland.

Documentaries have been screened on television giving an insight to the problems facing such women, and the choice many of them have to make—that of going to England to have their children rather than have them born at home in Ireland.

The unmarried mother in Ireland has a stigma which makes her life a trial, and this is what the English version of "An Trial" at the City Theatre is all about.

Society



Passengers disembark from the Pan American Jumbo Jet non this morning.



The Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. J. P. Liddy, and Mr. Art Gaynor, manager, Pan American, Shannon Airport, examining the jumbo jet which arrived this morning.

CONTINENTAL SERVICE WITHDRAWN

"IT WOULD NOW appear that the general services of the Hibernian Shipping Group have been withdrawn from the Port." Mr. B. G. O'Malley, vice-chairman, stated at this week's meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board. He said that the fortnightly sailing list for the continent had not been listed under the scheduled sailings list.

The Group has already withdrawn its container service to Liverpool.

Mr. O'Malley informed the board that the list advertised sailing, from Fenit to Rotterdam and Antwerp and vice-versa, but that these sailings would not take place unless there was cargo.

He said that he had spoken to the company on the telephone but he had nothing in writing and it would now appear that the Continental services had been withdrawn.

Mr. Michael Hector, B.E., Harbour Engineer, said that what

sions in the region.

"Bearing in mind the latest industrial developments and the rationalisation moves on foot at the port, it would be still timely for the company to think again before severing its links for good," the Mayor declared.

A spokesman for the Hibernian Transport Group stated that they were servicing the West of Ireland through their other services, but if there was sufficient inducement for them to go back to Limerick they would do so.

Last November, the Group withdrew its Limerick/Liverpool service.

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