



BOMBSHELL CLOSURE OF BOYD'S

ONE OF Limerick's longest-established hardware firms, J & G Boyd, which has traded in the city since 1848, is to close. So will the Boyd's Centre in William Street.

Eight full-time and ten part-time jobs will go at the firm itself, effective from Thursday of next week. The bombshell was landed at closing time, yesterday.

A spokesman for the company told the Limerick Chronicle today that they had also decided to close Boyd's Centre in William Street. This would affect five tenants trading there.

Two years ago, the com-

pany embarked on a major refurbishment and rebuilding programme, with entrances from William Street and the new Cross's Street.

The Boyd's staff were notified of the decision at

closing time yesterday, following an extraordinary general meeting earlier in the day.

According to a statement from the Board, issued by Tim O'Brien & Associates, the decision was taken as a result of the general downturn in business.

Boyd's business focus, in recent years, was in the marketing of hardware, paint and garden products.

Boyd's state that trading

had become very difficult since the company's return to 11/12 William Street, in mid-November, with the economic climate having disimproved enormously since the company had embarked on its ambitious development plans back in early 1991.

A spokesman for the firm

Turn to page 2



The first picture of Annie Murphy in Ireland, taken on her arrival at Shannon airport, this morning. [Picture by Owen South]

Noonan loses FF whip

By JIMMY WILKIE

THE Fianna Fail whip will be removed from West Limerick TD Michael J Noonan when the parliamentary party meets tomorrow, it was learned in Dublin, this afternoon.

Mr Noonan was criticised at a meeting of the parliamentary party, following critical remarks he made about the Taoiseach in a *Limerick Leader* interview.

But in a follow-up interview, Mr Noonan reiterated his views in stronger terms.

Gardaí at funeral

THERE was a large presence of uniformed and plain-clothes Gardaí at the funeral of William (Sonny) Darcy, which took place from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church to Mount St Laurence cemetery, yesterday.

The coffin, draped in a tricolour, was flanked by four men and two women wearing black veils.

Cyni MacCurtain, a Sinn Féin candidate in the last local elections, gave an oration at the graveside.

In a statement today, Sinn Féin criticised the presence of the Gardaí.

Annie Murphy: glad to be back again

By TOMMY DUNNE

A JET-LAGGED Annie Murphy stepped off the Aer Lingus jumbo at Shannon, this morning, and told waiting journalists: "Hi, I'm glad to see the Emerald Isle again."

She arrived at the airport at 7.30am and spoke briefly to journalists.

Looking strained and frail, she was dressed in a short casual jacket, black slacks. She wore long gold earrings and black leather shoes.

She added: "I am a little tired."

She recalled her first visit to Shannon 20 years ago.

"I think I landed here about 20 years ago," she said with a smile. "Really, it does not seem to have changed that much."

She was accompanied by Peter McKay, who described himself as a good friend and a lawyer.

She said she still loved this country.

Mr McKay told journalists that Annie wanted to talk to the Irish people.

"This is the country where it happened, and this is the country that deserves the first explanation," he said.

After a brief meeting

Turn to page 2

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