

been invited to attend. Development work stalled on the €300 million centre during the onset of the global and national economic crisis, and the massive 38,000sqm site was recently placed on the derelict sites register by Limerick City Council.

With the site now in what has been described as an "appalling state," local business owners have become increasingly concerned.

Mr McManus, the multi billion euro former bookmaker and racehorse owner, recently came to the rescue of the Markets Field which, through his LEDP fund, purchased the property.

He is seen to have the finances, clout and contacts to get things done.

Dr Maguire, previously chairman of the blight on the city in its current state.

"A gaping chasm of boarded up buildings isn't very welcoming".

Dr Maguire stated that "it would be of great benefit to the city," if a cleanup operation was put in place.

One local shop owner told the Post: "It would be far better if the site was purchased from NAMA and developed into a car park in the short term. Simply cleaning it up will make no difference".

Another local developer, Michael Tiernan, responsible for the Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre, had initially supported the proposed Opera Centre, and had plans to build a connecting bridge between both properties.



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Eve's family business to close after 73 years

By John O'Shaughnessy

ANOTHER long-established family-owned Limerick business- and a city landmark- is to close next week.

Michael and Terry Murphy have taken the decision to retire from Eve's Ladies Fashion and Leather shop on Roches Street.

The shop first opened 73 years ago when Michael's grandmother, Winifred Casey, set up at Number 8, and his mother Eithne, now aged 89, took over in 1941.

The baton was passed on to Eithne's son, Michael, 38 years ago.

He told the Limerick Post: "We are looking at the next stage in our life. Trading in the city has become very difficult. The footfall has dropped alarmingly, and rates are crippling. There are other obstacles, too.

Continued on page 4.

MIDWINTER MADNESS

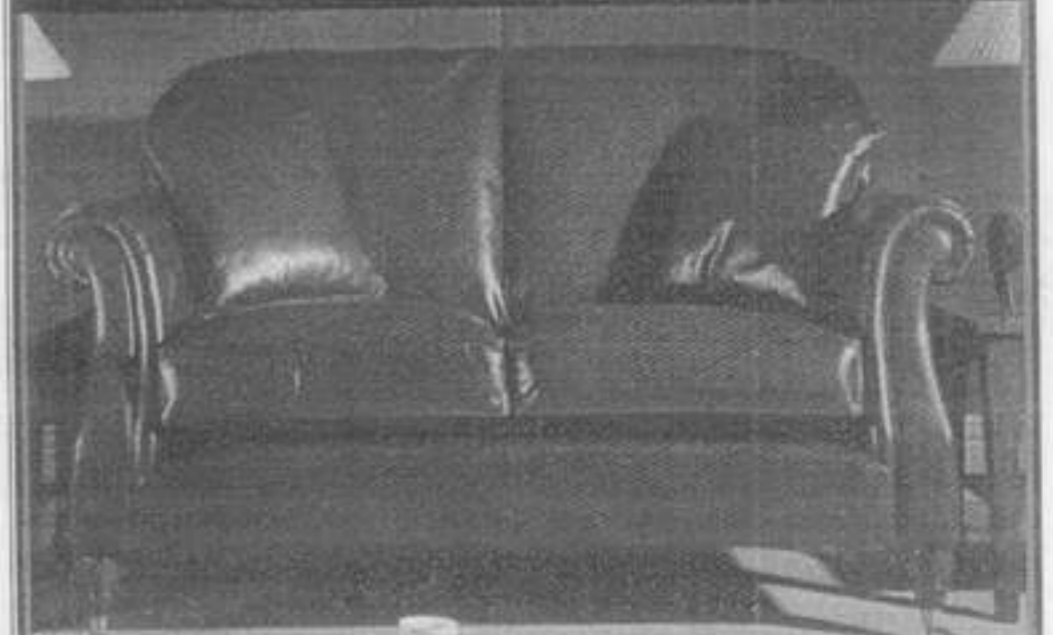
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EX: Limerick Post 16TH July 2011 Page 1 & 4

Eve's family business to close after 73 years

Flashback to 2009 when Brian, Christine, Michael and Terry Murphy were pictured celebrating Eve's 70th Birthday.



Continued from page 1.

"There have been many casualties before us.

"I don't want to go blaming anybody, but I believe that the government has a role to play in changing the system and offer encouragement to the business sector. Only they can turn Limerick around.

"When I took over, we had 14 people fully employed. Up to a few years ago, we had four departments, bridal wear, ladies fashions, furs and leather.

"We will be sad to leave but the reality is that we are not even at a break-even point. We have entered an era of throwaway clothes... people are not buying quality.

"We always had a very loyal staff and customer

base, and we would like to thank them sincerely".

He recalled the days when Roches Street was vibrant and home to many Limerick owned businesses.

The independently owned bridal shop overhead Eve's will continue to operate.

An existing Limerick business is to relocate to section of Eve's premises.

Eve's will be closed on next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to prepare for what Michael described as the biggest sale in fashion and leather, sizes 8 to 30, on Thursday, July 21, at 10am.

There were three other city centre closures in the past week, Choice, William Street, Food Fare newsagency, O'Connell Street, and a Polish boutique at No 22 Thomas Street.

Fires in city centre



A FIRE broke out at a city centre venue earlier this week.

Several units of the fire brigade attended "The Hub" at the corner of Denmark Street and High Street, after a fire broke out on Monday evening.

The blaze caused a great deal of damage to the design and print premises.

Male assaulted

A LONE male walking on the Clonmacken Road was assaulted and robbed last week.

The incident occurred at about 10.35pm on Wednesday July 6 when the victim was approached by two males, who assaulted him and demanded his phone.

One of the culprits is described as 6'2" in height

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A junk state

IT was frustrating and disheartening for taxpayers to hear that Ireland's debt crisis has now been downgraded to 'Junk' status, after enduring endless cuts in services and tax hikes in a bid to meet the conditions of the IMF bailout.

Ratings agency Moody's, this Wednesday, implied that Ireland's efforts were not good enough by reducing the grade of our debt by one level to Ba1, claiming that the country will need further bailout aid by late 2013. Even more baffling is the suggestion that Greece, who are not meeting the terms of their bailout, may be allowed to default on some of its debt. While the taxpayer has often felt irritated by the tax hikes imposed by the Department of Finance, it, too, must feel hard done by, as just last week, other ratings agencies declared that our debt remains within the

investment grade band.

A spokesperson for the department criticised Moody's announcement, saying that Ireland had done all it can to "put our house in order".

Further tax hikes and service cuts are surely unsustainable and, if imposed, will undoubtedly lead to a mass exodus from the struggling country.

And while that will mean a decline in figures signing on the Live Register, there will also be no taxpayers left to shoulder the debt.

On the other hand, it was recently reported that the economy is on track to return to positive growth this year, with GDP having expanded by 1.3% in the first quarter. Whatever the truth, those who have a choice are unlikely to hang around as the country sinks further into the junk pit.

In brief ...

McManus waits another year

IT may be another year or so before any decision is made on whether the world's top golfers and movie stars will return to Adare for the JP McManus Pro Am charity event.

Mr McManus said he was not in a position as yet to commit to hosting another Pro Am in Adare.

Man found dead in sheltered

Death of Mrs Rose Egan

THE death has occurred of Mrs Rose Egan, mother of Fr Adrian Egan, Redemptorist Order, Mount St Alphonsus, Limerick.

Deceased resided at 11 Parkview Drive, Greystones, and is survived by husband Paddy, children, Caroline, Fr Adrian, Philomena, Pat and Catriona, as well as sister Phyllis and brother Peter.

Camera stolen from premises