



City Links

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AREA NEWS

High class: Caherdavin teacher climbs Kilimanjaro



Teacher Sandra Flood, Mary Queen of Ireland school, Caherdavin, uses the globe to show her pupils the spot in Africa where Mount Kilimanjaro is located. She climbed the 5,985 metre mountain in aid of Action Breast Cancer

John Hogan

WHILE most people relax and indulge over Christmas, one teacher at Mary Queen of Ireland bucked the trend by using her holidays to climb the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

Sandra Flood was back down on solid ground in time to teach the junior infants at the Caherdavin school last month, but has been enthralled her pupils with tales of her trek up Mount Kilimanjaro since she arrived home.

Ms Flood, who carried out the last leg of the 5,985-metre climb on New Year's Eve, also obtained sponsor-

ship from the community for her climb and which went towards Action Breast Cancer.

"I was gone for the bones of three weeks with my husband, Mark," said Ms Flood in her classroom this week. "We also went to see mountain gorillas in Uganda while we were there, and I've been bringing in photos of them to show the class."

"I've been telling them about a local Tanzanian named Stewart who guided us for the six-day climb and showed us some truly amazing sights. We stayed in huts along the mountain route each night, but they weren't too fancy, we were sharing them with about 16 other people."

Ms Flood developed her hunger for mountaineering last year while travelling the Inca Trail in South America on her honeymoon.

Africa seemed like an obvious choice in which to tackle her next peak as she had travelled to the continent on many occasions in the past and had fallen in love with it.

"I found it to be such a beautiful place, and this time was no different. We took a break on New Year's Eve for a few hours before setting off on the final stage at 11pm. We reached the summit at 6.30am and saw the first sunrise of the new year in Africa. It was breathtaking," she said.

Programme recalls 1959 Todds inferno

■ RTE's On The Street Where You Live features O'Connell Street this Friday

TWO fire tenders from Limerick's Fire Service used to extinguish the blazing inferno which engulfed Todds in the fire of 1959 will feature on the RTE programme, On The Street Where You Live, writes Petula Martyn.

Limerick City Fire Service came to the assistance of the programme-makers who issued an appeal to local people for footage of the fire.

"We knew there was two minutes of footage of the Todd's fire that was filmed from the chemists across the road," fire fighter Paul Knapp told Community Leader.

The fire fighters raided an archive of training DVDs stored at the fire station and found the DVD containing black and white footage of the famous fire.

Members of Limerick Fire Service hope to restore a 1923 fire tender, which was at the scene on O'Connell Street on August 25, 1959, to its former glory.

A 1953 appliance, also at the scene that day, has already been restored and will be familiar to Limerick people who line O'Connell Street for the St Patrick's Day parade every year to catch a glimpse of the city's fire fighting heroes.

The fire will feature on the programme, On The Street Where You Live, which is all about Limerick's O'Connell Street, this Fri-



Fire fighter Paul Knapp rings the bell on the old Merryweather fire tender at Limerick Fire Station. There are plans to restore the tender, which was in action on the unforgettable day of the Todds fire 50 years ago

day evening at 7.30pm on RTE 1.

The Todds department store occupied about four-fifths of a large city block fronting onto on O'Connell Street. At 11 o'clock on that fateful Tuesday morning, a fire was noticed in the building. An hour later the entire

block was engulfed in flames. Todds, Burtons, Liptons, Goodwins and Cesars were completely gutted, while Gayware, Cromers and Nicholas were badly damaged.

Former residents of O'Connell Street, Liam Hanley, Joe Malone

and Thecla Hartman, will talk about life on the city's main thoroughfare on the programme.

O'Connell Street in Dublin, Shop Street in Galway and Clanbrassil Street in Dundalk have all featured in the six-part series.

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