

EDITORIAL

Changing Limerick

WELCOME to the second edition of the *Limerick Christmas Gazette* — an issue that we hope will bring you back in time to the somewhat less affluent, but nonetheless happy times in this ancient city and county of ours. Linger over the many splendid photographs, guarded treasures which have recorded for all time how Limerick looked over one hundred years ago.

It has changed a lot since then, and will change even further if the improvements of the past year are anything to go by.

Since our first issue last year, the new Shannon Bridge has added further to our city's much improved image, while the development now underway in Patrick Street will see our city centre even further enhanced.

Let's be proud of Limerick, and make sure that our coming tercentenary celebrations in 1991 prove to be a true tribute to our proud heritage.

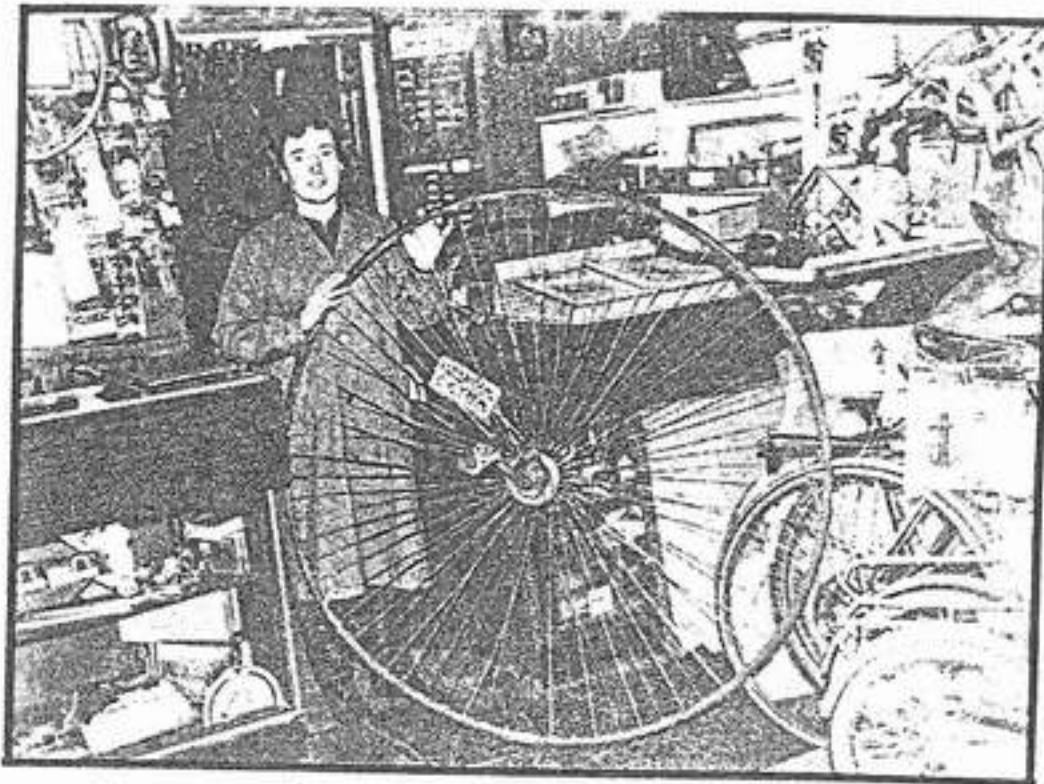
Gratitude

A word of sincere thanks to the many people who made the publication of this year's *Gazette* possible; particularly Mr. Kevin Hannon and Mr. Joseph MacMahon, without whose kind and generous help our task would have been much more difficult.

Just a thought

IT IS now one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-eight years since Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Let us make sure we give this great feast the honour it deserves.

13 The Old and the New at Siopa Rothair



Collette O'Byrne, of An Siopa Rothair, Broad Street, Limerick, pictured with what might prove a right headache for a bicycle repair shop. But not for the experienced Muintir Ui Lochráin, who had this "Penny-Farthing" wheel in ship-shape within a short time.

James Loughran

The Loughran family have been associated with the city of Limerick since just after the 1916 Rising, when James Loughran came south-west from Dublin to settle by Shannonside.

Mr. Loughran, a keen follower of the Gaelic language, was born in Donoughmore, Co. Tyrone and first became involved in the bicycle industry in 1910. He was an avid fan of the "Listen and Learn" radio programme on Radio Éireann, and, assisted by his son, Seán, they both acquired a masterful grasp of the Gaelic tongue.

He carried his talents to Limerick with him, and opened a most successful business in High Street at the end of 1916.

With the bicycle the most popular form of transport in those days, his business flourished, and married to the former Miss Troy, who came

from St. Mary's parish, the couple were blessed with twelve children — 9 boys and 3 girls.

Two of the boys, Sean and Declan, have carried on the tradition, moving the premises from High Street to John Street in later years.

The Loughrans carry on a proud and successful tradition at An Siopa Rothair, and with former Chamber of Commerce "Salesperson of the Year", Collette O'Byrne looking after sales, they are quite happy with the past year's trading. Another generation of Loughrans looks after the needs of the sports-minded of the city, with John Loughran specialising in this area.

They must be one of the few local shops who can carry on their business bi-lingually, so *Más fearr thú an Gaeilge, ar aghaigh leath go dtí An Siopa Rothair.*

WILL

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