

A 67-YEAR-OLD publican died last Sunday after playing in a football match at Dromcollogher. Denis "Sarge" O'Kelly, who collapsed at half-time, was buried this Wednesday with the number 15 jersey he wore during the game.

The "singles versus marrieds" was part of the GAA Centenary celebrations.

At the interval, Mr. O'Kelly, corner-forward for the "singles" said he had had enough and was leaving to open his bar, the Corner House in Dromcollogher. "While he was in the dressingroom he suffered a heart attack and all further celebrations on the day were cancelled," explained his brother, Edward "Cola" O'Kelly.

After Mass

It was to have been a big day in the Dromcollogher Centenary celebrations and shortly before the game the late Mr. O'Kelly had attended a Mass for deceased members of the local club.

A popular character in G.A.A. circles throughout Munster, he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of both hurling and football.

He trained three teams that brought football County championship titles to Dromcollogher in 1949, 1959 and 1963.

During the Emergency he served in the Army and was given an honourable discharge with the rank of Sergeant in 1945.

He is survived by his brothers, Edward "Cola," and Louis, who ran the local bar with Denis. However, Louis was unable to return from a Fatima pilgrimage in time for the funeral on Wednesday in the local cemetery following Requiem Mass in Dromcollogher Church.

Bishop Newman

Thousands of mourners attended the obsequies. The Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Newman, blessed the coffin before it was taken from the church to the graveyard.

Among the many messages of sympathy received by the family were telegrams from the Taoiseach, Dr. FitzGerald, and the Minister for Justice, Mr. Noonan.

The attendance at the funeral — one of the largest ever in the village — included many Army comrades from all over the country.

Deputy Willie O'Brien attended both the removal and the burial.

Hospital 'ballyhoo'

Dr. Darragh Little, a member of the Limerick City Health Advisory Committee, this week attacked politicians for the "ballyhoo and scaremongering" approach adopted by them following three deaths in Unit 6 of St. Joseph's Hospital. Senator Pat Kennedy called for a full inquiry into the matter but Dr. Little said that it would be precipitous for the meeting to call for an inquiry.

Three patients in Unit 6 died recently—two in Limerick Regional Hospital to where they had been transferred. A Health Board spokesman said that the deaths were unrelated and that they were waiting for the results of a post mortem on a 75 year old man

Duck hunt



stirs storm

By LEADER REPORTER

CONTROVERSY has flared over last Sunday's Plassey Regatta, in which a duck hunt was held — just one week after the Gardai stopped a similar hunt at the Abbey Regatta.

The ISPCA in Limerick have complained to the Gardai that the Plassey duck hunt incorporated "cruelty" under the Animal Act.

Mr. Bill Cussen of the ISPCA told the *Limerick Leader* that he was leaving the affair in the hands of the Gardai. It was up to them to take whatever action they felt was necessary.

He said that his organisation would continue to report incidents similar to what happened at the Plassey Regatta to the Gardai. If a case went to court, his organisation would be able to produce many witnesses to "the cruelty of the so-called sport".

'Favourite'

However, Mr. Seamus O Cinneide, PRO for the Plassey Regatta, said that the duck hunt had proved to be the favourite novelty event of the whole regatta and was enjoyed by the majority of people in attendance.

He added that he believed the duck enjoyed the whole affair as much as the people involved. Once the duck was put into the water "it was similar to a human being after being released from prison and put back into his natural environment".

Mr. O Cinneide said that the Plassey Regatta had found the duck in the surroundings of "a landlocked farm".

The Plassey Regatta, he said, had "vehemently decided" to hold a similar duck hunt at next year's regatta. They would be perfectly willing to go to court to prove their case of non-cruelty.

A spokesman at Henry Street Garda Station confirmed that they had received reports of alleged cruelty to the duck at the regatta. He believed the affair was under investigation.

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Mayor saves GAA official choking at soccer party

By EUGENE PHELAN

PROMPT action by the Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Frank Prendergast, "saved the life" of County Limerick GAA public relations officer, Mr. Sean Murphy, at a function to mark the opening of Limerick City's new soccer grounds this week.

Forty-nine-year-old Mr. Murphy slumped over while eating his buffet dinner at the new complex at Rathbane.

Mayor Prendergast, who was standing next to him, immediately came to his aid.

A chicken bone lodged in Mr. Murphy's throat and he was unable to draw breath.

"He was in great distress and in panic and who could blame him—he was as white as a sheet," recalled the Mayor.

Eventually

Ald. Prendergast kept hitting Mr. Murphy on the back and eventually dislodged some food—enough to allow him breathe.

The Mayor then put Mr. Murphy in his car and took him to Barrington's Hospital.

The medical staff used forceps but were unable to get at the bone and had to operate the following day.

The bone, stuck in his oesophagus, was dislodged.

"He said that it was the nearest brush he has ever had with death," said Mr. Murphy's wife, Teresa.

"Thanks be to God the Mayor hit him on the right spot—he was very good and came over to the house and drove me to the hospital," she added.

Quick action

Mrs. Murphy also thanked *Limerick Leader* reporter, John O'Shaughnessy, who also helped her husband at the soccer grounds.

"Only for the quick action taken by the Mayor, Sean Murphy could have died," Mr. O'Shaughnessy commented.



Rescued: Mr. Murphy.



Rescuer: Mr. Prendergast.

"He was as white as a sheet, unable to breathe and was obviously in a state of panic and was unable to communicate."

Mr. O'Shaughnessy added that after much back slapping by the Mayor, a piece of food dislodged, allowing Mr. Murphy to breathe again.

"Only for this piece of food being moved he could have died—the chicken bone remained in his position causing much discomfort to Mr. Murphy," he said.

Hospital staff

Dismissing his efforts as not worth any publicity, Mayor Prendergast said: "I did what anyone else would do in the circumstances."

"The staff at Barrington's Hospital were absolutely fantastic. They could not have done more and they deserve the height of praise."

Lady of the Rosary, Limerick.

"Most people in the U.S.A. elope to Las Vegas to get married, but we wanted something more special," said Jeffrey after the ceremony which was performed by Rev. Edwin Irwin, C.C.

For keeps

Denise explained: "We wanted to get married in a Catholic Church, and in a country where divorce is not allowed. This gave more meaning to our wedding vows. It's definitely for keeps now."

Denise will have a double celebration in Ireland, as her 22nd birthday is on August 21. She hopes to meet some of her mother's relations from Cork and Donegal while touring the country on the two-week honeymoon.

"All our money went towards the event which we have been saving for during the last year," said Denise, a computer operator at Arizona State University, where Jeffrey is a mechanical engineering student.

Best man for the couple was the parish clerk, Christopher Barry, 30 Elm Park. His daughter, Mrs. Bernadette Whelan, 23 Hillcrest Drive, Greystones, was the matron of honour. There were no guests.

This is the newly weds first visit to Ireland.

Parish priest

Jeffrey arrived on July 31 to finalise the arrangements. He spoke highly of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Tynan, PP.

Denise arrived on August 6 "which only left me with three days to prepare for the wedding."

She wore a white full-length dress which she brought with her from Arizona.

After the ceremony the couple adjourned for a toast to the home of Mrs. Whelan. Later that night they attended the medieval banquet at Knappogue Castle, where Denise wore her wedding gown.

Mr. Barry said: "This was not the first time a couple eloped and were married in the church. Jeffrey and Denise are our third American couple to get married here."

Knockpatrick celebrants

The principal concelebrant and preacher at this Sunday's annual Knockpatrick Mass will be Fr. John Cribben, a local priest home from the South American Missions.

The Mass, in which parish and other clergy will join, will commence at 3 p.m. on the summit of Knockpatrick itself.

Fr. Kavanagh

A meeting is to be held within a matter of days between the Mayor of Limerick, Ald. Frank Prendergast, and Fr. Stephen Mahony, the Provincial of the Redemptorist Order, with a view to having the transfer of Fr. Vincent Kavanagh from Limerick to Athenry deferred.

Jeffrey and Denise

'Planning refusal



Mr. O'Brien

imperils 30 jobs'

By LEADER REPORTER

OVER 30 new jobs proposed mail order shop Matt The Thresher's in Birdhill, may go by the board because of North Tipp County Council's refusal to grant planning permission was stated this week.

Mr. Denis O'Brien, proprietor of the venture, who is financed by Mr. Tony Ryan Guinness Peat Aviation, met that a most disappointing aspect of this investment experience has been "bureaucratic manner" which the proposal had received.

"It is unreasonable appeal for constructive invitational support to a widely acclaimed center of demonstrable success value which has been established and financed with any request for assistance."

"No government grants were asked for or received."

Full time

Mr. O'Brien said that present there were 15 part-time employees full time at Matt Thresher's and that to over £300,000 had been invested in the project.

He added that business booming and that their turnover was three times that they had anticipated. It were allowed to develop site, the number of jobs be trebled.

Mr. O'Brien explained the new mail order business which would also have an outlet in Birdhill, was named "The Tipp General Trading Store."

"We have carried out extensive market research and are confident that there is a very large market for the quality Irish produce we will sell in the outlet explained."

A relationship has also established with the Ki Design Centre and the Chow Collection of which distributes four catalogues annually.

Refused

Mr. O'Brien said that planning applications refused because the planning authority felt that the development would endanger safety by reason of hazard and the obstruction of road users due to the standard nature of the primary route through the area.

TURN TO PAGE

Show comes to town in style

By LEADER REPORTERS

THE CLOCK will be turned back in Limerick next week when 19th century vehicles take to the streets in style.



they will be driving carriages and chariots, many of them at least a century old.

Among the entrants in the class are Sadie Murphy, current national event champion, and Sadie