

Juno holds memories for Maureen

Sean O'Casey's masterpiece "Juno and the Paycock" returns by public demand to the City Theatre for the latter part of next week and the play holds memories of an unusual theatrical coincidence for actress Maureen Teal.

Maureen joined the Abbey on October 6, 1946, and twenty-three years later to the day, on October 6, 1969, she stepped back on the Abbey stage playing Mrs. Tansard in "Juno".

In next week's production by the Gemini Players she has the name part, "Juno".

Maureen, a native of Dublin, was educated at St. John Baptist School, Clontarf, where her head teacher, Aine Ni Cheannain, was a major influence on her subsequent decision to make the theatre her career. Later she moved to Scoll Caltione in Eccles Street, and through Miss Ni Cheannain joined the Abbey at the age of 16.

She was with the Company for three years, playing in the usual Abbey repertoire. Then she went to London where she played with Liam Redmond in a company he had formed in the New Lindsay Theatre near Notting Gate, and did a season of Irish plays.

In USA

After that she toured the United States with Touring Players Incorporated, a group of first class actors whose aim was to decentralise the theatre and bring drama — from Shakespeare to Noel Coward, and musical plays — to all parts of America.

She was with the Touring Players for two years, and then, after three years came back to Ireland where she has been freelancing ever since.

Maureen has been playing on and off with Phyllis Ryan since Gemini was founded. Phyllis gave her the oppor-



tunity to play in new and exciting parts in such plays as "Two For The Sepsaw" and Donagh MacDonagh's "Lady Spider" — "a beautiful play which I would like to do again."

"I think the current Theatre Festival is a tremendous adventure and very necessary for the survival of the Irish theatre in Ireland" Maureen told me. She feels strongly that the provinces should have an opportunity of seeing the

A Limerickman's Diary

By OBSERVER

Mick Kemmy's visit recalls great days in Limerick soccer

In 1958 Michael Kemmy had an opportunity of sampling English League soccer with Bristol City. Instead, he emigrated to Bristol, Rhode Island, U.S.A., to seek suitable employment and continued his footballing career with Fall River.

Now, Michael is back on holiday in his native city and accompanying him is his American-born wife, Joan, and their three children—David (8), Stephen (6) and Sharon (5).

Soccer has been kind to the former Limerick full-back. He won practically every honour when assisting Garryowen Celtic and Pike Rovers, and received many fine press notices during his two-year stay with our League of Ireland club.

And Mick was to meet his future wife while playing with Fall River. Joan was a personal friend of the club manager's family and it was after one of their games that she was introduced to the Limerickman.

Exponent

Had Mick Kemmy decided to continue playing soccer in Ireland, it is safe to assume that he would have covered himself in glory. There were few full-backs to compare with the hard-hitting ex-Pike minor.

Our international selectors saw his potential when they picked him to play for his country on no fewer than four occasions at youths level — against England (two) and Germany (two).

Mick had perhaps his greatest honour when he captained a Munster Selected to a sensational 2-0 win over a powerful West German side. He contributed to that victory with a goal from the penalty spot. Vinny Prendergast (Caledonians) was the Munster custodian.

Loyalty

During his years with the famous Pike Rovers, Mick became one of the most feared full backs in the game. He was a player in the same mould as former international, Bud Aherne. As he said himself: "We hit everything first time and asked questions afterwards." His only real disap-



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kemmy pictured with their children (from left): Stephen, Sharon and David. They are at present on vacation in Limerick from Rhode Island.

pointment was when Pike lost the F.A.I. Youths' Cup to Drumcondra at the Markets Field.

Mick had a great flair for attack and netted many important goals during his time.

"There was tremendous club loyalty and spirit in the Limerick camp in 1956/57 and it was a pleasure for me to play in the company of such well known players as Mick Lipper, "Togsy" Cunneen, Frank Johnson, Joe Casey, Sean O'Dwyer and Fred McNamara."

Mick is looking forward to tomorrow's Cup clash between Limerick and Dundalk. "I have heard it said that present day soccer is not as good as it was say fifteen years ago, so I am going along tomorrow to find out for myself." During the week he was pleased to meet Ewan Fenton during a training session.

It is also worth mentioning that Mick captained the Limerick Junior team which won the Inter-Counties Cup for the first time.

Although in Ireland only one week he has already met up with some old acquaintances, particularly Tony McKeown,

Ed O'Donovan, Brian O'Brien. Mick asked me to give special mention to Tommy Byrnes. "He has really gone out of his way to help my family and myself."

When Mick arrived in America twelve years ago one of his first missions was to find a soccer club. He teamed up with Fall River and stayed with them until the club went out of existence some years ago. He took up employment in a supermarket, which he now manages.

Mick, who at one time in his career was watched by famous English international Raich Carter — then a scout for Leeds — reminded me that current Limerick utility player Sean Byrnes played alongside him on the Falls River team in 1965. Much to their surprise, they were opposed in one game by well known sports personality Ralph Prendergast, who operated on the wing for another American professional club, Eintracht.

Fitness

Now that his soccer days are over, Mick keeps himself in peak fitness by playing an odd

game of baseball with his sons. He keeps in touch with local soccer affairs by reading the "Limerick Chronicle" and "Limerick Leader," sent to him each week by his mother, who resides in Garryowen. Mick has noticed many changes in Limerick. "It appears to me that everybody nowadays has plenty of money to spend," he added.

His wife, Joan, likes Ireland very much. Her grandparents were English and this is her first visit to the Emerald Isle. "Already we have been to Killybegs, Galway, Lahinch, Cliffs of Moher and Adara and I found them to be wonderful places," she told me. Mrs. Kemmy has found the price of foodstuffs rather high but this is not going to prevent her from making a return visit in the near future. "Your countryside is so beautiful," she commented.

David, Steven and Sharon have made many friends in the Garryowen area. Mick is a brother of popular trade union official, Mr. Jimmy Kemmy. The Kemmys will return to Rhode Island in a fortnight. They are staying at 38 Greenhill Road, Garryowen.

Kilkee welcomes Limerick to