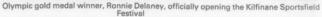
Kilfinane Festiva







work for the promotion of Gaelic sports there. He had the distinction of being first "paleface" who was formally instituted a member of Gayuga Indian tribe as a weight thrower; he was a weight thrower; he was a world record breaker with a one-hand throw of 122' 8" and a two-hand throw of 122' 8" and throw of sented to John J. Flanagan, world's champion hammer thrower, by some of his admirers in the Dublin Police, per Denis Carey, on the occasion of his breaking the world's record with the 16 lb. hammer at their sports, Ballsbridge, 1908". Flanagan – 18 stone of bone and muscle-held nine

American championships for

his skill with the hammer

Coincidentally, Denis Carey came from Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

— he emigrated to America when he was 23 years old — John Flanagan travelled from the London Olympics of 1908 to test his strength against that of his colleagues in the D.M.P. An inscription on one of the

inscription on one of the medals in the Cork bank tells how he got on: "Pre-

how he got on: "Pro ed to John J. Flanagar

Magnificent

sportsman

month before, he won with over 3 ft. to spare. At the same Olympics, he was second in the 56 lb, weight throw — a foot behind the Canadian, Desmarteau — and fourth in the discus.

John Flanagan's third Olympic victory was in 1908. Here he was opposed by his great rival. Matt McGrath, who had deprived him of the world record the previous September and who had won the American hammer title that year.

After the qua.ifying rounds, McGrath led the field with a throw of 167' 11" to Flanagan's 165' 2½". But McGrath was suffering from an injured ligament and could not improve in the final rounds, while Flanagan did. His throw of 107' 4½" was a new Olympic record and, with it, he won his third gold medal at the age of 35.

Standing 5' 9", this 18stone of bone and muscle
won countless minor
trophies and held nine
American championships
for his uncanny skill with
the hammer. And to prove
his versatility, two of his
many wins with the discus
are recorded on gold medals
in the collection of trophies.
One, inset with a diamond, is for a throw at the

Limerick

won three successive

athlete

Olympic

medals

to enter

record

books

championships organised by the St. Patrick's Athletic Association, Wilmington

Association, Wilmington, Delaware. Another, from the A.U.U.S., tells how he won the Championship of the United States in 1907 with a record throw of 111 feet.

resented by the Greater New York Irish Albertin Ranking with the most ornate of the medals is the Dowling Trophy for Points, presented by the Greater New York Irish Athletic

Association, 1902. Fashioned from solid gold.

this triple pendant has the Irish and American flags neautifully embossed in

neautrus,
enamel.
But not all of his trophies
rold of serious trials of skill
on the sportsfield.
One huge cup, which he
bore away in 1904, must
have raised many a laugh at
the winning.

the winning.
It is the Louis F. Haffen

Cup, presented by the Policemen's Benevolent Association of the Borough of the Bronx for the Fat

Man's Race. The distance was 100 yards and every competitor had to weigh over 15 stone.

In between the Olympics of 1904 and 1908, many cups and medals tell of John Flanagan's achievements. There is the Points Trophy for the athlete scoring the most points in the United States, presented by the Hon. John F. Ahern, President of the Borough of Manhattan, 1905; Police Field Day, 16 lb. hammer, 1906; Deputy Commissioner Arthur J. O'Keefe Trophy for Police Field Day, 1906, and the Glebe Trophy for 56 lb. hammer. They are but a few of the many.

For John J. Flanagan. 1908 was a year of glory. Many of the massive silver cups and heavy gold medals tell of the glorious days of that year that could never fade in his memory. But one of the least elaborate was the most prized.

It was the simple Olympic gold medal, briefly in-scribed: "Hammer record, J. J. Flanagan, 170 ft. 4½ ins. in the Olympic Games, 14th July, 1908". A New York policeman

Glory

the most prized.

It is understood that his vast collection of trophies are

stored in a Cork bank

gold

IRELAND may not have collected many medals at the Olympic Games in the past century, but it does have one claim to fame — it produced the first athlete to win three

athlete to win three Olympic gold medals for the same event in succes-

the same event in successive Games.

County Limerick-born John Flanagan notched his first success in Paris in 1900; retained his crown at St. Louis four years later, and completed the "hat-trick in London in 1908.

Flanagan, who died in 1938 and is now buried at Ballingaddy, Kilmallock, represented the United States at the hammer and his Olympic achievements crowned a hugely successful career in his chosen sport. In fact, he was reported to have the largest collection of sporting trophies in the world, and it is believed that many of them are stored away for safe keeping in a Cork bank. John Flanagan came from a family that made sporting history. His father, Mike, was an Irish record breaker in hammer throwing and jumping, and his brother, Tom, broke two world records for throwing the 12 lb. hammer.

lb. hammer.

Another brother, Patrick, held the junior championship of America for throwing the 16 lb. hammer.

throwing the 16 lb. hammer.

Before he left for the United States in 1894, John Flanagan had already broken the record for the 16 lb. hammer throw in Ireland. In Kilbredy, where he came to from Moorstown as ra boy, he learned to become one of Ireland's best all-round athletes, and even in his youth his prowess on the sportsfield had become a local legend.

But it was in America that this Irish, English, United States and Olympic champion climbed to world fame. He's brought the hammer record from 140 ft. 11 ins. to 184 ft. 4 ins. and his feats with the 56 lb. weight were remarkable too.

At his first public appearance in New Jersey, he created a new world's record in the hammer throw.

and it was an indication of the great things that were to come. He went on to become the hammer champion of England in 1896 with a throw of 131 ft, 11 ins., and his introduction of the same table hammer with a

yards behind.

His is the amazing distinction of winning three successive Olympics at the turn of the century.

cessive Olympics at the turn of the century.

In the Paris Olympics of 1900 he represented the United States and won with a throw of 167' 4". He received a later honour for this feat from the New York. Athletic Club, which is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.

A certificate from the club read: "This is to certify that John J. Flanagan was winner of the hammer throw in the Olympic Games held at Paris, France. As a reeard for having won this signal honour, he was duly elected an Olympic champion member of the New York Athletic Club of the City of New York, January 14, 1933".

On his way to the Games, he took part in the English he took part in the English

York, January 14, 1933".

On his way to the Games, he took part in the English AAA Championships in London, where he won the hammer title — an event he also won in 1896.

Four years later, in the St. Louis Olympics, the competition was an all-American affair. Flanagan won from a field of five with a throw of 168° 1°. Though this was nearly five feet below his world record set a

Created

career of fine

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Another gold medal, in-set with a diamond, tells of another honour conferred on his return to the United States.

on his return to the United States.

"Columbia's greeting to J. Flanagan, presented by the citizens of New York, commemorating the "homecoming" of the victorious American team from the Olympic Games, London, 1908".

Many other medals, recording the many honours, include: Irish-American Athletic Club, N.Y., 56 lb. weight, 1908; the Pittsburgh Press, inset with diamond, Field Day, Danbury, Conn., throwing the 16 lb. hammer, June, 1909; Eccentric Association of Firemen, for 56 lb. weight, 1909; Federation of Canada Amateur Athletics Championship, 16 lb. hammer, 1909; East Shore Amusement, 16 lb. hammer throw handicap, 1909; Clan na nGael, Rhode Island, 56 lb. weight championship; Amateur Athletics Union of Famen, Note of the Proposition of Canada Amateur Athletics Championship, 16 lb. hammer throw handicap, 1909; Clan na nGael, Rhode Island, 56 lb. weight championship; Amateur Athletic Union of weight championship; Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S., champion throw-ing 56 lb. weight, 1909, etc.

Place

Crescent Shopping Centre.

French Circus

• Just as we go to press, news reaches me that the rench Circus will be in Limerick next week.

This is the first time this continental attraction as come to our shores and they will be sited at the

With top acts from all over Europe, this presentation will offer a unique insight into the presentation techniques of a European-based

Details of times, etc., may be found in our

The Savoy

• Eastwood's Niteclub in the Limerick Savoy

literally bristles with top names in the entertainment world in the coming weeks, with stars such as

John Martyn coming on Saturday, September 7.

And watch out for Paul Brady, heading for Eastwood's on Monday, September 16.

Incidentally, there's live music at Eastwood's every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday with popular musicians on stone

TWIGGS NITE CLUB

CAHERCONLISH

This Sunday, September 1st

COME AND ENJOY YOURSELF AT

LIMERICK'S NEWEST NITE SPOT.

Bar Extension :: Dancing till 2 o'clock.

THE HUNTING LODGE

TELEPHONE 061-351472

IRISH NIGHT

This Saturday night and every Saturday night beginning at 9 p.m.

For bookings ring the above telephone number

Wainright The Third.

with popular musicians on stage.

Friday, September 13 will feature Loudon

champion boxer, Jack John-son. He brought several Irish athletes to Canada and

son. He brought several Irish athletes to Canada and had them trained there.

John Flanagan closed his brilliant athletic career in 1911 and later took up farming in Kilbready East, Kilmallock. During his years in America he coached in Harvard and Princetonu Universities. He helped to turn out many well-known athletes there, too. including Willie Britton, who won a number of British and Irish championships for throwing the hammer.

John Devoy, the noted Irish patriot, in one of his last letters, paid him a fitting tribute:

"It is one of my most pleasant memoies to stand in Celtic Park watching your splendid figure as you whirled the hammer around and sent it flying into space. You have done more credit in the athletic field that any other man. except, perhaps, Martin Sheridan, and I

other man, except, perhaps,
Martin Sheridan, and I
always held you as the fresh
type of the old Gallowglass.
. winning glory for Ireland"

winning gory
land"

Unfortunately, many of
John Flanagan's achievements are forgotten today.
Perhaps, some day his
admirers will erect over his
grave a memorial comgrave a memorial com-memorating his great athle-tic achievements.

biggest troupes of Jugglers in the World. The Julian Santus Family present a thrilling bicycle act.

There is plenty of fun and frolics with the clowns BoBo, Toni and Mikey, and also with the crazy acrobats The Looneys, There are beautiful Arab horses and much much more. This is a circus of the highest standard and far

Ireland can truly be proud of its National show

is back as





SYLVESTER STALLONE "RAMBO/FIRST BLOOD PART IT" RICHARD CRENNA

STARTS THIS FRIDAY

Fossett's Circus

world saw the birth of what is now Ireland's National Circus – Fossett's Circus – back in 1887 when George Lowe, better known in those days as Dr. Powell, returned to Ireland from America. He had toured there with the Great Barnum and with Buffalo Bill (Colonel Cody) and his wild west circus. his wild west circus.

Dr. Powell was a Mallow man and an accomplished one at that. He was a juggler, ventriloquist, swordswallower and brilliant racon-teur and could hold an audience enthralled with his stories

 Having returned, he and his daughter, Mona, commenced a very small circus.

In the early 1900's he was joined by an English man Edward Fossett. Edward and Mona married and the show was known as Powell and Clark's Circus. Eventually, the name was changed to Fossett's, then to Heckenberg's Berlin Tower Circus. When the last war broke out the circus was in Derry and the populace, thinking it was a German circus, stoned the show and nearly wrecked it. The circus moved out into the Republic and the name Heckenberg was painted out and replaced with the name Fossett again.

After Edward Fossett died in 1950 the circus

was taken over by his three sons, Bobby (BoBo the clown); Teddy and Johnny, and they were assisted

by their three sisters, Mary, Amy and Mona.

They were then the youngest circus proprietors in Europe and together have built up a circus which enjoys a very strong reputation throughout Europe for the high standard of programmes presented. This year is no exception and the show for 1985 a veritable celebration of the art of circus.

• Direct from America and the centre ring of Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey (The Greatest Show On Earth) comes the death defying highwire act of the Two Guerroros. They work high in the roof of the big top without any safety net or safety harness and present the most sensational act eve

seen here.

From France comes the 8 Kansas one of the

For skill and beauty it would be hard to beat Caroline and her high school horse, Cochise. On the aerial rope La Mona spins and twirls high above the audience. The incredible Miss Aura, contortioniet literally turns beared inside and her high school horse.

excels anything seen with foreign circuses



MARIO KASSAR and ANDREW VAJNA present

AT THE CARLTON



8 KANSAS 8



LA MONA

THE NATIONAL CIRCUS with the International Show

FOSSETTS CIRCUS

All New International 1985 Show

- visits -

LIMERICK RACECOURSE

Monday, September 2, to Sunday, September 8

Weekdays at 5 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.; Sunday at 2.30 and 5 p.m.

• BOOK EARLY •

SAVOY

LIMERICK. TEL: 44644

Saturday, September 7, at 8 pm: JOHN MARTIN

in Eastwoods. Admission £4.00. Friday, September 13:

LOUDON WAINRIGHT III 11 pm to 1 am. Top Floor. Adm. £4.00.

Monday, September 16 - IN EASTWOODS: **PAUL BRADY**

10 pm to 1 am. Admission £5.00 LIVE MUSIC EVERY THURSDAY.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY ON THE TOP FLOOR.

* Every Thurs: RAZMATAZ. 9 pm to 11.30

Every Sunday: THE O'MALLEYS and Friends, Great crack, Adm. £2.00.

RIVER VALLEY LOUNGE BROADFORD

This Saturday..... WILD ROVERS This Sunday VANTONES

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