

Limerick oarsman Louie Murnane is laid to rest

Honour was bestowed this year when Athlunkard named boat in his memory

By Denis O'Shaughnessy



Louie Murnane RIP

THE death has occurred of one of Limerick's best known rowing personalities in the person of Louie Murnane of 13 Athlunkard Street.

The deceased was a life-long adherent of the sport and won many honours at the highest level with his club, Athlunkard. He was also an enthusiastic Shannon RFC member and supporter, travelling all over the country to see his

favourites in action.

Louie's prowess in rowing, came to the fore when back in 1951, when he was part of the Athlunkard maiden eight who, unheralded, beat national champions UCD in the Quin Cup, in Limerick. It was the era of Grand National type starts to the Quin Cup and no less than 11 eights went off together to the delight of spectators, but not so for harassed

starters and umpires.

The nucleus of this successful eight went on the following year to bring untold glory to the club when, representing Munster, they won the All-Ireland Inter-provincial Championship (now defunct) with the late Willie Henn in the stroke's seat. The universities were the dominant force at the time, and rowing in a borrowed boat, the Parish lads took them all on. The race, for the Irish Press Cup, was held along the quays in the heart of the capital, and with thousands of Dubs cheering them on, the ABC boys defeated Queen's University in the final to take the title. There was bonfires in Athlunkard Street when the crew arrived home the following night. The win, in rugby comparison, was equivalent to Young Munster's Bateman Cup victory.

Louie went on to win other important races, such as the Shannon Rowing Cup for senior eights, and was to give unprecedented service to his club, serving it in many capacities, from captain to president. In 1967, as captain, he turned out a highly successful maiden eight, who went on to win at junior level also. He was also a Munster vice-president of the IARU, serving on the executive for several years. Earlier on this year, he was honoured by ABC, who had a new boat named after him.

The deceased was the epitome of a Parish man, playing and following rugby in the winter months and turning his face to the river in summer.

Though not a singer himself, he enjoyed nothing better than a good sing-song, of which there was plenty in that most musical of parishes.

He was one of the last links with the legendary pig buyers of Athlunkard Street, his father Michael, and his grandfather, being prominent members of this unique breed of traders, noted for their sporting, religious and cultural attachments. In business, Louie was

a director of the successful DMK typewriter company.

A gentleman, sincere and trustworthy, the deceased was a caring man, as epitomised by his life-long work with the boat club, ensuring youth would have constant access to this most attractive of sports. He was a life-long member of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Family in Mount St. Alphonsus and a great adherent of his local church.

Foremost, Louie was a caring family man, and he will be hugely missed by his wife Madge; sons Gerard, Michael, John, David, Aidan, daughter Miriam, brother Michael, family members and friends. A large concourse of mourners turned out to pay tribute to the deceased at the obsequies, and Athlunkard and Shannon RFC members formed a guard of honour.

Scientific staff kept in the dark re closure

By Mary Earls

EMPLOYEES at Thomson Scientific, Castletroy, which is relocating to India, have said that they have no idea when their jobs are to be officially terminated, "which is really affecting staff morale".

"People are being trained into our jobs in India and yet we are completely in the dark as to when we are to become unemployed. It's very difficult for those who have families, in particular to plan their future. Some people have been given notice but most of us don't have a clue," said one staff member.

The company which develops software for the science and healthcare sectors, confirmed that it would be shedding 200 jobs in March, 2007.

The process of letting go 200 employees was to be implemented in stages. But a spokesperson for the company told the Limerick Post this week that "a definitive date for the job losses was not set at this time".

Anne O'Donoghue, managing director, said: "We understand that our employees are anxious to know when they are being made redun-

dant. For each production process we have given employees tentative dates and further updates as training and proficiency progresses in India. We inform employees as soon as definitive dates are agreed. We are doing all we can to help staff find new jobs".

She added: "Thomson Scientific takes its obligations as an employer seriously. We have made every effort to ensure that affected employees have been kept informed of progress as the transfer has progressed. Meetings have been held with employees on a regular basis. Appropriate staff have been available at all times to answer employee questions and outline options".

But the mother of another staff member who contacted the Limerick Post, said that "although meetings are being held with management, staff aren't being given any concrete information on the termination of their jobs".

"It's just horrible for them, knowing that as soon as someone in India is trained into their job, they will be out the door. It would just be much better for staff morale if they had a definite idea of when their job is finishing up," she said.



The Limerick office of BDO Simpson Xavier has launched a major fund raising drive for cancer treatment equipment for the Mid West. The target of 200,000 euro will be achieved through their Get Back Challenge, Business Against Cancer initiative. It will involve a 100km cycle from Limerick to Doonbeg. Pictured at the start of the cycle were Susan Gleeson, BDO, Will Leahy RTE 2FM and Carolinbe O'Donnell at the Clarion Hotel, Limerick.



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