

to recover metal for

George gives a gift of \$60,000

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

OVERCOME with the depth of feeling towards him on his visit to the Southill area, former world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman opened his wallet and made a parting gift of \$60,000 to the local community.

He gave \$20,000 each to the Southill Marching Band, the Southill Boxing Club and Fr Joe Young's soccer academy at Hogan Park.

Said Fr Joe: "George was completely overcome with the strength of the welcome. I have known him for some time and it was the first occasion that I saw tears in his eyes. The children really got to his heart, particularly at St Kieran's school where he broke down when he saw the mural which had been dedicated to him. He just loved the marching band and was touched by their rendition of Rocky."

Foreman told the Southill CC that the day's programme was as exhausting as any of his bouts in the ring.

"He loved every minute of it, though, especially the smiles on the faces of the hundreds of children who greeted him."

An exhausted Foreman retired early at his hotel in Adare, and this morning motored towards Dublin, taking in a few stud farms along the way.

He has an interest in bloodstock. He is also due to visit Our Lady's Hospital for sick children in Crumlin.

Back to Fr Joe: "I don't know if George is a rich man or not, but all concerned greatly appreciated his generosity. The monies will come in more than useful."

On his visit to Hogan Park, Foreman, a Baptist minister in the United States, gave his "blessing" to club manager Tommy Lynch.

During his visit he delivered a firm message to the youth of Limerick—get high on life, not on drugs.

See inside for all the reports and colour pictures of the big day including George arriving at Shannon, meeting Southill boxing coach Tony de Loughrey at Sarsfield



The changing of the guard: George Foreman and Sgt Gerry Rigney at Shannon (LL)

Team of the season

THE Limerick team of the season, chosen by a representative from each of the six clubs who participate in the AIB league, will be announced at a gala banquet on May 4.

The members of the chosen team will receive a special "cap" to mark the occasion which is, for the second successive year, being sponsored by Limerick Leader and Limerick Inn Hotel.

Last year's event was a spectacular success and again this year a competition is being run where members of the public are invited to pick their team.

One lucky reader will win a five day trip to Paris for two and will be a special guest, with a part at the function.

The six selectors for the year are Declan Mad Garryowen, John Fitzald, Young Munster, B O'Brien, Shannon, O'Dwyer, Old Cross, Conor McDermott, Bolians, and Johnny Molloy Richmond.

The team will be officially announced during the function. A very limited number of tickets will be available to the public at a price of £25 each.