



Mr. Michael P. Houlihan has been elected President of the Incorporated Law Society for the year 1982/83. Mr. Houlihan is senior partner in the firm of Ignatius M. Houlihan & Sons, Solicitors, 10/11 Bindon Street, Ennis, and is the eldest son of Ignatius Houlihan and Oona Treacy Houlihan, both solicitors. Educated at Ennis C.B.S., Cistercian College, Roscrea, U.C.D., and the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland, Mr. Houlihan was admitted as solicitor in 1963, and has been a member of the Council of the Incorporated Law Society since 1970. Mr. Houlihan has served on most of the Society's Committees, and is a former Chairman of the Society's Privileges, Professional Purposes and Insurance Committees, and was for many years the Society's representative on the Superior Court Rules Committee, and he has also represented the Society at many International Conferences. Mr. Houlihan is a founder member of the Society of Young Solicitors, a former President of the County Clare Law Association and a member of the Local Authorities' Solicitors' Association. He is also a member of the International Bar Association and has represented his country at its meetings, and he is also actively involved with the Society of Computers and Law, London. Married, with three children, Mr. Houlihan is County Solicitor for the County of Clare and is a director of a number of property and development companies. He is also a former President of Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Houlihan's election as President is unique in that it is the first occasion that a Clareman has been elected to this position in the history of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland. Mr. Joseph L. Dundon, Limerick, has been appointed Chairman of the Society's EEC and International Standing Committee.

COURAGE OF TOM CRAWFORD, PATRIOT

An Appreciation

THE WAR of Independence generation has all but passed away. That was the thought that struck me on hearing a few weeks ago of the death of Tom Crawford, of Cullane, Ballylanders. Tom Crawford was born in the village of Ballylanders in 1897, the son of John Crawford and his wife, Catherine Kelly. Later the family moved out to farm at Cullane.

Tom joined the Irish Volunteers in 1914. So did his brother, John Joe, who now resides in the U.S.A. Both subsequently were recruited into the I.R.B., the secret revolutionary organisation that had survived since Fenian times, and that played such an important part in organising the 1916 Rising. Subsequent to the re-organisation of the Volunteers after the Rising, Tom and his comrades gave generously of their time and energies, training, marching, hardening and preparing themselves generally for the next phase in the fight for freedom, which they knew could not now be long delayed. Tom was given his first task in the renewed fight when he was detailed to do scouting duty on the occasion of the dramatic rescue of Sean Hogan at Knock-long railway station.

Leadership

His qualities of courage and leadership were quickly recognised, and he was appointed a member of the Brigade staff of the famous East Limerick Brigade of the I.R.A. He also became a member of the East Limerick Brigade Flying Column, a swift mobile striking force of selected men who went on whole time military service. This was the first such Flying Column to be established in Ireland. Anybody who has read Seamu O Maoileoin's gripping book, *B'Fhuil an Braon Fola*, will remember his tribute to the fighting men, and the ordinary people, of the East Limerick Brigade area during the War of Independence. That there were no better in Ireland and his verdict.

Seamus's brother, Tomas (Tomas Malone), known in the fight for freedom as "Sean Forde," was in charge of the attack on Ballylanders police barracks in the

early summer of 1920. Tom Crawford participated in the attack, and helped smash the roof of the barracks so that it could be set on fire. He also took part in the attack on Kilmallock barracks a few weeks later. Other engagements in which he took part included the Ballinahinch and Emly ambushes.

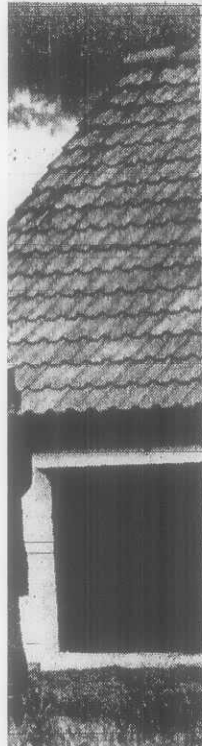
In the aftermath of the Emly ambush large numbers of British troops moved into Ballylander and took over the town. They were attacked by the I.R.A. In the ensuing fight Tom Crawford was wounded and captured. He was taken to Limerick Jail, and from there to Cork Jail, where he took part in a hunger strike. The strike was broken by having the striking prisoners transferred to England. Brought back to Cork again to stand trial, Tom was sentenced to twelve years penal servitude. He was first sent to Wormswood Scrubs, and then to Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight, where he remained until the general amnesty in 1921.

When the Treaty Split occurred he threw in his lot with the anti-Treaty or Republican side. The "War of Brothers" was sad and hurtful to him, as it was to many others who had tasted of the wonderful unity and spirit of the War of Independence period. In later years he was one of the prime movers in having a fitting memoria erected in Ballylanders to the thirteen men from his part of County Limerick, who died in the War of Independence. The memorial was unveiled on August 29, 1954, by President Sean T. Ceallaigh.

Apart from his qualities as a fighting man, Tom Crawford was also a fine footballer, being a member of the Ballylanders junior football team that represented Limerick against Dublin — losing by a point — in the 1917 final. But best of all he will be remembered as a fearless fighter for Ireland's right to self-determination. He was one of the generous, self-sacrificing, idealistic young men of an earlier Irish generation who challenged the domination and armed arrogance of a great empire, and risked their all to win freedom for the people. One hopes that their sacrifices are fully appreciated by today's generation.

Go dtuga Dia aobhneas na bhFlaitheas do Tom Crawford, agus do na sarfhir go leir a shaothraigh, a throid agus a d'fhulaing ar son na hEireann.

—M.S.



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JOHN F. WRIGHT.

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