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Eighty cities

Pat says that he is very excited at the prospect of joining the organisation in January, which visits up to 80 cities each year, doing concerts in each of them.
 Pat was selected out of 22 people interviewed in Limerick, although he has no singing or musical background.
 He will now have to spend some weeks at the "Up With People"



Saving: Pat O'Brien

For charity

Pat says that for every three concerts they play, the proceeds from two are donated to charity.
 Pat, an industrial design student, has already done medical and dental examinations for the trip, and is looking forward with great anticipation to next January when he eventually sets off for Arizona.

Jim, 83, explodes historical 'myths'



Jim Phelan at home this week.

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

Most Irish

A LIMERICKMAN who recently received a plaque from the Tanaiste, Dick Spring, for his "outstanding dedication and loyalty to the Labour Party", is now planning to expose the "Myths" of Ireland's fight for freedom.

Eighty-three-year-old Jim Phelan of Singland, a life-long friend and former neighbour of ex-Taoiseach Jack Lynch, says: "I played a small part in the years after 1916, and those years were neither glorious nor glamorous nor romantic. They were as mean and as petty as anything in our history".

Jim, who is writing his own history of the period, and the fledgling Irish Labour movement, says: "I've read most of the literature of those years and where the writers got their material, I don't know. Most of it was hearsay."

Heartening

"It is heartening to see young people now taking a fresh and more objective view of history".

Most of his work for the Labour Party was done in the East Limerick constituency of which he was secretary during the Coughlan, Lipper days.

But it all began in Cork, where his father, Jim, an old Land Leaguer, had been one of the party's founder members.

He had lost his teaching post in Nenagh because of his Land League activities, and Jim remembers his childhood home in Cork as one of the headquarters of the cooperative movement.

He enrolled as a scout in the Citizen Army when he was 13 and remembers meeting William O'Brien, Jim Larkin and James Connolly.

"The Labour Party", he says, "is not only the oldest, but the most Irish of the current major political parties".

He dismisses any international context: "It grew out of a national agrarian movement, and I think it's time it recognised its roots".

He says he was disillusioned by what he describes as the so-called idealism of the Sinn Fein movement: "When you find heroes' medals given out at random to keep the facts of what happened buried, you get disillusioned very quickly".

He came to Limerick 63 years ago and recalls the heady days of Labour in the constituency when Mick Keyes was Minister for Local Government, and Posts and Telegraphs. Even in those days the most loyal Labour section of the city was "the Pike": "At the annual collection I'd collect as much money at St. John's Cathedral as I would in the rest of the constituency".

The hustings

He also recalls the entry of Stevie Coughlan and Mick Lipper to the party from Clann na Poblachta and the day on the hustings when Lipper took someone to task "for daring to heckle Steve Coughlan".

He introduced Jim Kemmy to the party and has known "Frank Prendergast since he was a youngster".

But Jim Phelan's greatest claim to fame in Limerick is his reputation as a bonesetter. "The doctors says I have a gift. But why should the Almighty give me a gift?", he asks.

"I have a skill", he admits "but nothing more than a good mechanic might have".

Thousands of people have come to his home in Singland for relief.

"There is even many a greyhound that ran again because of me", he says.

Most of his patients complain of "slipped discs".

"But there's no such thing", he says contemptuously. "It's just a medical term for something the doctors don't understand".

Balance

He believes himself that it has something to do with upset balance, and man's constant struggle with the force of gravity... "a contraction of the muscles", he explains.

He discovered his bonesetting skill when he was only 13. "I set a jackdaw's broken leg with a woodbine carton", he said.

Since then he has studied anatomy extensively and can describe every bone in the body. He blames "poor attendance at birth" as the root cause of many people's aches and pains.

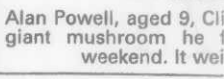
He has kept his friendship with Jack Lynch over the years. "He lived beside us when he was a child", he said, "and I still get a Christmas card from him".

Jim's children are Noel, who

teaches at the School of Commerce; Pat, who runs the family upholstery business in Broad Street; Joe, who is head of Daly Technology in Fermoy, and his daughters, Rita, Maura and Helen. His wife is the former Rita Doyle of the well-known Limerick horse-dealing family.

Attitude

He works each day on his history of the Irish Labour movement, with what he describes as "a healthy attitude", gleaned from the diverse strains of a Land Leaguer father, fond memories of Larkin, and, for good measure, the story of how his three uncles - one with the U.S. Army and two who were members of the British forces - met unexpectedly at the Battle of the Somme, and lived to tell the tale.



Alan Powell, aged 9, Clif giant mushroom he f weekend. It wei

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORESHORE ACT, 1933

NOTICE IS hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933, that Limerick Harbour Commissioners have applied to the Minister for Communication for permission to occupy area of foreshore of the River Shannon at Derrish Island for the purpose of laying a water supply pipeline to their jetty at Shannon Airport, Co. Clare.

Any person who wishes to object to the grant of the permission sought should furnish a statement in writing giving reasons to The Secretary, Department of Communications, Marine Division, Apollo House, Tara Street, Dublin 2, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice. A site plan of the area and drawings of the proposed works may be inspected at Shannon Airport Garda Station.

Dated this 24th day of August, 1984.

Secretary,
 Limerick Harbour Commissioners,
 Harbour Office,
 O'Connell Street,
 Limerick. (t25c)

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APPLICATION TO PLANNING AUTHORITY
 Raymond Barry wishes to apply to Co. Council for Planning Permission of bedroom to hairdressing saloon at 95 Sheelin Rd., Caherdavin Park.
 Signed:
 RAYMOND BARRY (t25-6202)

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