

Large

Mr. Frank O'Mahony, director, O'Mahony & Co., who have the largest retail outlet for school books in the country, reported queues outside their premises in Thomas Street early this week.

"It's mostly primary school parents at the moment," he said. Lists of books have been out since July but it's usually the last minute when the books are bought.

"Our main problem at the moment is that we can't get our hands on enough second-hand books. We will continue to buy these until the end of next week but we will have to stop for about three weeks as we will be too busy selling books.

"The amount of books that a child is now required to buy doesn't seem to have increased but because of the increased competitiveness, there are more books available."

Prices for school uniforms range from £25 for a four-year-old up to £100 for a first-year student.

Mr. John Walsh, Walsh's Menswear, Catherine Street, reported a steady business in uniforms for the past few weeks. Prices here start from £18 for a four-year-old up to £50 for a first-year student.

Travel costs are another major expense for parents. Cost per term for a junior cycle pupil is £19; for a senior pupil, £32; and the maximum per family per term is £65.

Over 6,000 pupils are transported by C.I.E. who are contracted by the Department to provide the service.

"Parents are now supposed to have their fees paid. This will give us an indication if we require extra transport but usually we wait until the term starts," said Mr. Bill Daly, chief clerk, school transport section, C.I.E.

"We have closed our marketing school since June, not because there wasn't a demand but we really need the accommodation for the day school."

A major cause of concern for Sr. Catherine and perhaps for all principals of Irish schools is the lack of availability of books printed in Irish.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult to get text books through Irish and teachers have often to translate from the English version," she commented.

"The number of primary schools teaching through Irish seems to be on the increase but there are only about 20 secondary schools," said Sr. Catherine.

Ample room

Throughout County Limerick the demand for places at second level does not seem to be posing a problem.

Monday what the minimum points for courses will be so stick with your original choice," said Mr. Sharkey.

Mr. Michael McNamara, McNamara's High School Secretarial College, said that this year he had noticed that there was now a much higher calibre person doing secretarial courses.

"It's becoming more difficult to gain access to third level colleges every year and the employment prospects in this area are improving," he said.

"At the moment there is a huge shortage of top secretaries in London and we are in constant contact with staff agencies but we do prefer if they have at least one year experience before going," he said.

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Collette Coughlan this week.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON DEVELOPING THE ARTS

By LEADER REPORTER

A DRAFT POLICY on the development of arts in County Limerick will be prepared following a meeting on Thursday, September 4, organised by Limerick County Council to which all those interested in the development of the arts are invited.

Referring to the efforts made within the council itself to promote the arts, Mr. Fean said that a successful staff painting demonstration was held last year.

"Even though the demonstration was held during lunchtime when attendance was low, the numbers attending were high," he added.

Mr. Fean said he was anxious that everybody who had any view on the development of the arts within the county would attend the meeting.

"It is an opportunity for people who are interested to have a say," he added.

Mr. Fean said that the council were prepared to help any group or individual staging an exhibit or demonstration involving the arts.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4, at 5 p.m. in the Council Chamber at council offices at O'Connell Street.

Mr. James Fean, County Council information officer, said the Limerick Leader that the council's commitment to the development of the arts was evident from their participation in the Mid-West regional arts committee and their appointment last year of Mr. Bill Fogarty as arts officer. He added that their commitment was further evidenced by the number of organisations seeking assistance under the Act from an average of seven per annum to 23 in 1985.

New light on Liam Lynch and Limerick

By PADDY MORONEY

WHEN ONE hears the name General Liam Lynch, one is immediately reminded of Florence O'Donoghue's scholarly text of the 1950's: "No Other Law", which chronicled the Troubles leading up to Lynch's death in the Civil War, when he was Chief of Staff of the I.R.A.

That hardcover work of reference, now a collector's item, is now long out of print; sadly, because it is regarded as the nearest thing to the definitive version of the War of Independence in Munster, particularly in the Limerick-Cork borderland.

Now, Mercier Press has published a paperback, "The Real Chief—the Story of Liam Lynch", by Meda Ryan, who has already "The Tom Barry Story" to her credit.

Introduction

Although it does not have the "personal friend" touch of O'Donoghue's leading work, the new book nevertheless is perhaps a better introduction to the fallen chief for today's generation, being lighter to read.

It is not, however, as well indexed, and one has to read through the text to find many references to Limerick—surely a serious omission at the publishing end, bearing in mind that one of the appendices, the first, is devoted to the Limerick agreement between Lynch and General Hannigan whereby both sides in the Civil War agreed to occupy their normal number of posts in the city, among other things—a second "Treaty of Limerick" during a siege.

The eleven full pages of chapter footnotes give testimony to the 4½ years of research which Meda Ryan undertook to give us this new insight into Liam Lynch, quite apart from the long list of acknowledgements.

There is no doubt that this new volume complements "No Other Law" and sheds new light on the last years of the great Republican leader; it will find its place on the bookshelf right beside the other. Lynch was only 28 when the Civil War broke out; he was a native of Barnasurraha, under the west slopes of the Galtees, born November 9, 1893.

How shaky things were in Limerick, even before the Civil War began at all, can be seen in the following extract from Meda Ryan's text concerning the take-



General Liam Lynch

over of Limerick from the evacuating British forces: "Liam Lynch" wanted the army of the Republic (i.e., the I.R.A., as opposed to the National Army) to function... in the posts being evacuated by the British...

Proclamation

"On 18th February, Liam Forde, mid-Limerick Brigade (I.R.A.), issued a proclamation repudiating the authority of GHQ. Because he took over the evacuating barracks, GHQ ordered Michael Brennan, of the First Western Division who favoured the Treaty, to move detachments from Clare into the city to take over the posts being evacuated.

"It was an unusual move and the first time that one Brigade was ordered into another area. A dangerous situation was about to develop. Captain Hurley, who was Brigade Quarter-Master of mid-Limerick, decided to organise a separate force and take back from the First Western Division the area they had taken.

"He brought in anti-Treaty men from Tipperary, Cork and elsewhere, and on 5 March, a parade was held. Hurley was placed under arrest. Between 6 and 10 March, a number of anti-Treaty units moved into Limerick, occupied hotels and a wing of the Mental hospital.

"Pro-Treaty groups were also, at the time, occupying some of the evacuated British posts in the city whilst British forces were quartered in others. The situation was explosive. The threat of Civil War hung over Limerick.

"Many people, including the Mayor of Limerick, tried to reconcile the conflicting elements and, because they were unsuccessful, Liam Lynch and Oscar Traynor were called to a meeting with Mulcahy, Michael Collins and O'Duffy at Beggan's Bush, which resulted in Liam Lynch being asked to intervene.

"With Oscar Traynor, O'Connell Brigade, Liam went to Limerick and worked out a solu-

tion to the problem."

Pursued

Little did Lynch realise then that he had little more than a year to live. He was fatally wounded on the Knockmealdown Mountains, in the company of Frank Aiken, on April 10, 1923, as they were being pursued in a pre-dawn raid mounted by the National Army.

Meda Ryan used Liam Lynch's personal letters, private documents and historical records to trace his career.

After the signing of the Treaty, Republicans had taken over most of the posts evacuated by the British, and were practically in complete control of Munster, south of a line from Limerick to Waterford.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War in Dublin Lynch was extremely disturbed by a late night report stating that Ashford Castle had been commandeered for the Free State forces by Donnacha O'Hannigan of Mitchelstown. These two neighbours and close friends who had fought together during the War of Independence, were now on opposing sides. Lynch was aware of O'Hannigan's inevitable capture, according to Meda Ryan.

Because Lynch did not want to use his authority in favour of a personal friend, he agreed with Liam Deasy to make some arrangements with the anti-Treaty commander, and so both sides kept the Civil War in check in the Limerick area for a further few days.

However, because of further trouble, on 30th June, 1922, Lynch left Mallow for Limerick and with him from the Cork Brigade led by Dan Sando O'Donovan—the first contingent to enter the city.

Limerick

Connie Neenan said, "when our Brigade in Cork heard of the attack on the Four Courts we went straight away to reinforce Limerick. We got caught between two Free State posts. That was the start of it for us." At Rathkeale they met Liam Lynch, then moved on to capture Adare, took Free State posts at Croom, Patrickswell, then to Limerick and further fighting, when Paddy Norton was killed.

They entered the city from the western end and occupied New Barracks as well as other strategic positions.

At the other end of the city they were opposed by the East Clare Brigade under the command of Michael Brennan with men from Limerick city and county who had taken the pro-Treaty side. Brennan and Lynch had worked closely during the War of Independence, often collaborating as in the kidnapping of Lucas, and they were now on opposing sides.

Lynch told Deasy that he wished

he could find common ground to settle the situation with men like Brennan, O'Hannigan and Michael Collins. However, the conflict deteriorated.

According to Meda Ryan, Michael Brennan of the Western Division said that "the holding of Limerick was the holding of the whole south and west."

Talking

Brennan, while waiting for rifles from Dublin said: "My whole fright was that Lynch would attack me before the guns turned up, I had to keep him talking... we met and we met, altogether about a dozen times. We used to meet in the presbytery of the Augustinian church where we argued and argued."

Lynch believed the take-over of Limerick would be a mere formality, but this was not the case. He took over the New Barracks where he established his headquarters and then occupied the Strand Barracks, Castle Barracks and Ordnance Barracks. Shortly after his arrival in Limerick, Dan Breen and Stephen O'Mara intervened to avoid a conflict; at an arranged meeting, Donnacha O'Hannigan and Liam Lynch signed a truce by which both hoped a permanent settlement would follow. Ms. Ryan says that this and subsequent agreements which were signed in an effort to contain the Civil War, show clearly the importance of Limerick as a strategic area.

Little doubt

Meda Ryan states: "There seems to be little doubt that Lynch was hoping for victory without bloodshed... Unfortunately, this effort to prevent even a portion of the country from the scourge of Civil War failed."

In December 1922 Liam Lynch wrote to his mother: "Future generations can best judge our actions, and these will be proud we so acted at a vital period." Earlier he wrote to his brother, Fr. Tom: "I do hope I shall live through this, that future generations will have written for them the full details of all the traitorous acts." But such was not to be; he was killed at the age of 29.

The effort to prevent even Limerick from being affected by the Civil War did not succeed. At 5.30 in the evening of July 7, 1922, the Provisional Government forces (i.e., the National Army) at William Street opened fire on the Ordnance Barracks in the city; today, it is a well-known timber yard in Mulgrave Street. The Republicans held for a short time, but the lack of artillery and machine-guns eventually meant surrender. Liam moved headquarters from Limerick to Clomnell on July 11, and on July 13 was joined by Eamon de Valera who was assigned by Liam to a post on the staff of the Director of Operations.

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

LIMERICK WILL be represented by 248 athletes—an increase of 50 on last year—in 11 events at the national finals of the 1986 Community Games which commence in Mosney this weekend.

Over the two weekends 29 Community Games areas out of possible 44 in the country, will be represented in Mosney.

This weekend, 141 competitors from Limerick will be competing in eight events including swimming, gymnastics, rounders, table-tennis, ladies soccer, art and variety.

Expected to do well in the finals are the table tennis team representing Caherdavin and the ladies soccer team representing Rathkeale, who played exceptionally well to win the Munster final.

Also taking part this weekend will be artists from Bruff, Caherdavin, Kiltinane, and Monaleen; rounders teams from Southill, Monaleen and Hospital; a pitch and putt team from Bruff; a variety team from Kiltormain; and swim-

The Treatyites captured Limerick on July 20, and took advantage of the large coastal area with convenient ports at strategic points.

mers from areas including Patrick's Donoughmore, Neale West and Abane.

The Limerick teams and mentors will leave from Hurlers pub this Saturday a.m. and return on Tuesday a.p.m.

The National finals of Community Games will be opened by Mr. William V. Galway, national president. President Hillery, and Taoiseach, Dr. FitzGerald also selected to attend the games on Saturday, which will come with a national parade of the participants.

Track and field

The following weekend, I will be represented in the track and field events by 65 comps and in the hurling final Caherdavin who beat miebridge in the Munster 1.

Limerick also have two corners in the modelling comp which is carried out in plastic or clay.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

Basement, 91 O'Connell St Limerick. TEL 311444