New light on Lillian Lynch and Mericke

By PADDY MORONEY

WHEN ONE hears the name General Lillian Lynch one immediately is reminded of Florence O’Donoghue. She was the first female to hold the position of General in the Irish Civil War. The text and the “no other law” which chronicles the events of Lillian Lynch’s death in the Civil War, when she was Chief of Staff of the I.R.A.

That hardwork of reference, now a collector's item, is a rare find. The book is said to be in very good condition, but it isLot because it is regarded as the second of the definitive version of the War of Independence in Munster, particularly in the Cork-Corkland borderland.

Now, Modern Press has published a pamphlet, “The Real Charleston Diary of Lillian Lynch,” by Meda Ryan, who has already “The Fawc Story” to her credit.

Introduction

Although it does not have the “personal touch” of the pamphlet, the new book nevertheless is perhaps better than the previous one in terms of being a collector's item, but it is not as widely available as the previous one.

The opening of the book, however, is quite good. It begins with a quote from Florence O’Donoghue, who was the first woman to hold the position of General in the Irish Civil War.

Proclamation

On 18th February, Lillian Lynch, mid-Limerick Brigade (I.R.A.), issued a proclamation repealing the authority of the GHQ. This was because she wanted to maintain the authority of the I.R.A. and, as opposed to the National Army, it continued to exist because of the Free State force and the guerrilla warfare that was being conducted in the area.

Lynch was born in Tipperary, Cork, and her father was a farmer. She joined the I.R.A. on the last day of December and, in February, she took over the command of the I.R.A. in the Cork-Corkland borderland.

She brought in anti-Treaty men from Tipperary, Cork, and Waterford. On 30th March, a number of anti-Treaty men occupied a hotel in Cork and Lynch was able to maintain her command in the area.

Little doubt

Meda Ryan states that there is little doubt that Lynch was hoping for victory without a fight and that she did not have the power to effect even a portion of the country from the Civil War.

Limerick

Conor Neenan stated, “when our troops were in Cork, they were in danger of being attacked on the Four Courts we were very glad to have Lynch with us.”

When asked if there were any plans for the future, Neenan stated, “We got caught between two Free State posts. That was the start of it for us.”

At Rathore they fought in the streets of Limerick and Lynch was able to maintain her command in the area.

They entered the city from the Cork side and were surrounded by Free State forces as well as other strategic areas.

Exceptionally

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

Adding to this weekend's excitement are the finals of the 1968 Community Games which commence today.

Over the two weekends of Community Games events out of a possible 41 in the country, the games will be represented in Munster.

This weekend, 140 competitors from Carbery will be competing in five events including swimming, gymnastics, badminton, tennis, ladies soccer, art and music from areas including County Cork, Dunmanway, North Cork, West Cork and Limerick.

Track and field

The following weekend, 140 competitors will be represented in track and field events by 65 competitors in the western region.

How CAN W Halp YOU HELP?

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTER

Bunratty, Co. Limerick

Tel: 311411

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

By LEADER REPORTER

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

Mr. James Feen, County Manager, in conjunction with the Limerick Leader that the council’s commitment to the development of the arts was evident in the amount of money devoted to the Mid-West regional arts committee and their appointment last year of a new Arts Officer as an executive.

He added that their commitment was further evidenced in the number of meetings seeking assistance under the Act from an average of seven per quarter to 23 in 1968.

Referring to the efforts of the council itself to present the arts, Mr. Feen said that a successful student painting exhibition was held last year.

"Even though the demonstration was held during the summer and attendance was lower, the interest was very high," he added.

Mr. Feen was asked if a group of people who had the idea of developing the arts in the county would be invited to attend.

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

Mr. Feen said that the council was prepared to help any group or individual engage in an organization or demonstration for the arts. The council’s role was facilitative.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, September 3, at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber. Adjunct to this, the council offices are at O’Connell Street.

LIMERICK’S COMMUNITY GAMES GOLD BID

By DYMPHA BRACKEN

LIMERICK will be represented on this year’s Community Games by 140 competitors from counties Cork, Limerick, Clare and Waterford.

The games cover a wide range of sports including athletics, swimming, gymnastics, tennis, ladies soccer, art and music.

The competition is aimed at providing a platform for those who may not have the opportunity to compete in more traditional sports.