

not contact them in Dublin for tickets. Tickets for the Limerick show on the 5th can be obtained by contacting the Treaty 900 office and for the Abbeyville show on the 6th by getting in touch with Abbeyville Co-op.

Also RTE fashion show Head to Toe, which stars Limerick's Barbara McElhannon will be in town later this month to film the latest collections of local fashion designers.

soon this Thursday evening bringing rain to all parts. It will be much milder than of late. It will become more settled over the week-end with ground frost on Saturday and Sunday night.

New store

ESB chief executive Dr. P.J. Moriarty this Thursday officially opened the company's new Limerick Supply Store at Ballysimon Road.



£29.95

7635
Black Suede/Multi Crocodile Trim



£39.95

7092
Black Leather/Basket Trim



£39.95

7012
Black Suede/Crocodile and Patent Inset

to Kate aged 5

By LEADER REPORTER

THERE WERE poignant scenes in Glin Parish Church this Thursday afternoon as little Kate Cullhane, the five-year-old schoolgirl from Raheen who was fatally injured as she returned home from school on Tuesday afternoon, was laid to rest.

Kate, a senior infant pupil at St. Nessans National School, Munget was the eldest daughter of Philip Cullhane, the well known Limerick solicitor with a practice in Mallow Street, and Jean, a primary school teacher at Southill Junior School.

The accident happened at 2pm. on Tuesday. According to the Gardaí, Kate had stepped off the footpath after getting off the school-bus at Owenmore Road, just a short distance from her home at 23 Avonmore Road, Raheen, when she was struck by the vehicle. She died instantly and her body was removed to the Regional Hospital.

School principal Mr. Raymond O'Hagan told the *Limerick Leader* that school staff and children were shocked and devastated by the tragedy.

"We are unable to express our feelings. It is just so sad," he said.

Little Kate was laid to rest — after Mass of the Angels at 3pm. in Glin Parish Church — in Kilfergus Cemetery.

Accident victim

The condition of the 30-year old Co. Limerick motorcyclist who was injured in an accident in the village of Caherconlish on Sunday night, was described by a spokesperson at the Regional Hospital as "comfortable".

John O'Neill, married, from Croom, was taken to the Regional Hospital but was later transferred to Cork Regional. On Monday he was transferred to Limerick Regional. The accident according to the gardai happened shortly after 9pm. on Sunday night when the motorbike went out of control, skidded and hit the footpath. There was no other vehicle involved.

bringing about £24 million in savings each year, it is not known how many of the 80 sub post offices throughout the Limerick district are to close. Mr. Hynes has ruled out any state subvention for getting An Post out of its present difficulties.

Single deliveries in Limerick each day are to be brought in, but it is not yet known which staff are to go, or from which offices.

Mr. Hynes did confirm that Kilmallock which was a head post office is to be converted into a district office and Charleville which is a district post office is to be converted into a sub office.

He told the *Limerick Leader* that the redundancies sought would be from management down. He accepted that management were to blame for the present situation in the Post Office with impending losses of £25 million.

The objective, he explained, was to get total staff numbers down from 7,800 to 6,300 by 1995. He said that the closure of sub post offices, and redundancies would happen over a phased period up to 1995.

Deputy Michael Finucane said that the closure of the post offices, following the downgrading of Garda stations and other services, "would help wipe out some villages in the county."

Said Senator Dan Neville: "This is the thin end of the wedge of the decimation of rural post offices in county Limerick...it is the last post for rural Ireland."

He revealed that he would be meeting with Mr. Hynes as part of the Joint Committee on State Sponsored Bodies next week.

like blasted scud

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

AN POST'S "viability plan", which includes a proposal to close a minimum of 550 sub post-offices nationwide, was hitting the towns and villages of County Limerick this week like debris from an interrupted Scud. Nobody knew for certain where it would fall.

The plan, which makes much play of the reduced earnings of "postmasters" has failed to recognise that, in this part of the country at least, most of the sub offices are manned by "Postmistresses", many of whom are afraid to speak out against the new threat to their livelihoods.

"An Post mightn't like it" we were told by one postmistress, whose family has been in the business for over half a century.

But there is growing unease at the implications of the plan. Muintir na Tire president, Mr Michael Lynch described it as "a further step in the dismantling of rural Ireland".

On the streets in Doon, pensioner Nora Thompson said "It would be a terror. I don't know what we'd do".



Doon pensioner Nora Thompson — "I don't know what we'd do."

Doon Post office has been sited at the rear of James Ryan's thriving supermar-



Postmistress at Doon, Mrs. Sheila Ryan (right) with assistant Anna O'Dwyer of Pallasgreen.

ket on the main street, since 1986, when James' wife, Sheila, succeeded Kitty Coyne as postmistress of the town.

Business, on a bitterly cold Monday afternoon, is steady, if not brisk — four customers in the space of ten minutes, all buying stamps.

"You came on the wrong day" says Sheila. Thursdays and Fridays apparently are hectic.

This particular sub post-office services 700 social welfare recipients in any one week, ranging from old-age pensioners to recipients of family income supplements and unemployment allowances.

"We have 400 pensioners

• TURN TO PAGE 2

Remembering Dromkeen Ambush

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

THE terrible expectancy that hung over a group of men on a Dromkeen hillside 70 years ago, is still vivid in the mind of Paddy Hickey of Elton, Knocklong.

Paddy, who was 91 last Monday, is one of only two survivors of the historic Dromkeen ambush, the anniversary of which is being celebrated this Sunday, and which was regarded as one of the most morale boosting events of the War of Independence. Eleven RIC and military (travelling in a two lorry convoy, were killed in the ambush laid by the men of East and Mid Limerick brigades of the Volunteers.

like to live through those days again".

He recalls being ordered to place a man on Ballyadam hill to watch the movements of the military. "I remember we gave him a watch" he said.

The convoy that February afternoon in 1921 was after visiting Inch St Lawrence Churchyard to search for arms.

"I passed on the intelligence to the Brigade commander Dick O'Connell, call him, Richard" said Paddy.

Of the ambush itself, he recalls seeing the local RIC District Inspector sitting in the front of the lorry which crashed into the barrier.

"He was thrown from the lorry and appeared unconscious.



Memories: Paddy

We took his gun and his belt. When we were moving back over the hill, we saw a man running away from the scene..."

The reprisals in Dromkeen and Caherconlish were

legislation announced

By LEADER REPORTER

MINISTER OF State at the Department of the Marine Mr. Michael Noonan TD this Monday visited Thomond College to reveal that legislation will shortly be introduced in the Dail to integrate Thomond as part of the University of Limerick.

Mr. Noonan said that the integration would be fully in place by the academic year 1991.

1992, under the Thomond College of Education, Limerick Act 1980.

He revealed that the Higher Education Authority, Thomond College and the University had all agreed on the merger and a report had been submitted to the Minister.

In the Dail on Tuesday, Mr. Michael Noonan, Fine Gael, was told in answer to a question by the Education Minister that she would shortly be introducing the new legislation.

"This legislation will enable the University of Limerick to award degrees to existing students of Thomond College," she told the Fine Gael TD. "I would hope that the legislation will be enacted before the summer recess."

"Everything has gone without a hitch," said the other Michael Noonan, the Fianna Fail Minister. "An assistant secretary of the Department has been involved in the discussions, and everything is running smoothly.

The *Limerick Leader* understands that Mary Immaculate College of Education, which had been mentioned as possibly coming under the wing of the University, is not included in the forthcoming legislation.

they were arrested. She said that the police took a lot of things from their home in the early morning raid.

Neighbours

"Our lives and characters are in shreds! The police came here and arrested us. They did not come back and tell all our neighbours and the companies we worked for that we are innocent," she stated.

Stating categorically that neither she nor her husband nor her 29-year-old son have any connections with any illegal organisations she attributed her treatment to the visit to the airport next month by the Queen.

"Back in 1980, when my husband and I were on holiday, I remember we picked up a hitch hiker on the French/Spanish border. He was an Irish lad from the North, he was about 22 at the time. He was very nice a smashing lad," she recalled.

They exchanged addresses and the Balmains thought nothing of it, until

"When they were arrested the Balmains were taken separately to the police station and questioned separately. "I must stress that I was treated alright by the police, they treated me with respect."

Finger prints, "mug shots" and questioning continued for the day. It started with her nationality, her pass port and the fact that she was born a Catholic.

"They were taken back when I told them that I was a Jehovah Witness...because if you are Catholic and Irish in England they think you are a terrorist," she stated.

She had to give names and addresses of all her family in Ireland and England. "I am living in an English community here. What we are concerned about is our good name and character," she said.

She confirmed that she got in contact with Minister Collins office to complain, but he was away in Egypt.

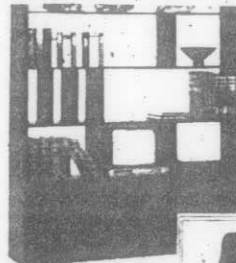
Now she wants their good name cleared and to get back to her peaceful life with her friends and neighbours.

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