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at McNamara, Civil
r for the city, said
centres throughout
were now being

updated.

And although on Sunday the exercise focussed on action taken in the event of a nuclear emergency, Mr. McNamara emphasised that the centre would play a major role in other emergencies, such as floods and fires.

Speaking of the exercise, Mr. McNamara said on Sunday that he was particularly pleased with how it was going. "Readings are coming in and we are applying these readings to our maps giving us a clear picture of the situation in the region. All this information is being transmitted to the national centre."

Mr. McNamara paid tribute to all the wardens who participated in the exercise.

Protection

The RPC itself has a high building radiation protection factor: "It is 760 times safer here than outside."

Built to accommodate 40 people for 14 days, it has its own generator system and a secondary back-up system. Special filters have been built in ensuring that all incoming air is filtered.

The centre will now be used as a training centre by the Civil Defence.

Regional Civil Defence Officer, Comdt. Larry Kiely, said that the exercise was running very smoothly.



Camera crew with a smoke boat in the background to make a misty day mistier on Dromore Lake.

Top film crew on location in Limerick

By MARTIN BYRNES

ROOFLESS Dromore Castle near Pallaskeyry is the principal location for Neil Jordan's new film, *High Spirits*, starring Peter O'Toole. The main shooting schedule begins later this month.

But already much of the background work has been done and the incidental filming and stunt work has been completed. In the process, the former seat of the Earls of Limerick has been transformed into a cross between Disneyland and Castle Dracula for this, Jordan's first outright comedy.

A realistic Gothic gateway, weathered by age and encrusted with lichen and ivy, transpires to be made entirely of aerobord and light timber. A brickwork and limestone extension to the east wing is similarly constructed.

Eerie pall

The eerie pall of smoke which hangs over the gloomy castle is the product of four smoke generators, and its effect is accentuated by discreet cross-lighting.

Dromore Lake too is in use. Last week a cameraman hung out in a hammock-like contraption slung in front of a makeshift pontoon while a boat, in long-shot, scudded, apparently ablaze, along the reefs of the southern shoreline.

Despite its apparent antiquity, Dromore Castle is comparatively new, having been built in the last century to a rather eccentric design which was supposed to incorporate all of the styles of Irish architecture



Back in use: Dromore Castle.

down the years. Thus, it features a round tower, a Norman-style central unit, and a variety of barbicans, bastions and crenellated battlements.

It was never comfortable to live in, as the local limestone is notoriously porous and the walls wept profusely.

Eventually, to avoid paying rates, one of its owners deroofed it.

Much of the 4,035 acre estate which it commanded was, by that time, broken up.

Filming

But it was precisely that dereliction and overgrown and unkempt appearance which attracted Ire-

land's premier film-maker to choose it for his film.

Mr. Jordan is not in Ireland at present. Filming of clips for insert-editing is usually done by an assistant director. In the case of work done at Dromore, at Knock Airport and along the Galway coastline, the man in charge has been Gil Whelan, a freelance location co-ordinator, engaged by the production company, Hiralta Productions.

Currently, internal scenes are being filmed at Sheperton-Studios. Beverly di Angelo is the leading lady.

On November 19th, the entire first crew moves to Dromore for a planned three-week campaign, which will effectively finish the

film, after which Mr. Jordan and his editors return to London for the processing, dubbing and cutting.

Mr. Mel Bishop, for the producers, told the *Limerick Leader* that the film is to run 1½ hours approximately, and is aimed at the general cinema market.

But there is humour among the visiting crew also (very few locals will be used in any capacity in the film). As filming ended at dusk one cold, wet evening last week, and the assistant director chugged his camera raft to the shore, the first words from the property master was: "You call this co-ordination? There was no sugar for the tea today, and all the cakes were damp."



ughan with the trophies which he won in Ireland Burger of the Year Competition.

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