

FACING EIGHTY

But Very Vigorous
OFTEN CYCLED 100 MILES A DAY

An Ennis jeweller, 77 years old, who stated he never went from Ennis to Dublin by train but always cycled it (writes our Ennis correspondent) was plaintiff in an action for damages before Judge Barra O Briain at the Clare Circuit Court on Thursday, the defendant being Patrick McMahon, building contractor, Clonroadmore, Ennis. The jeweller was Frederick E. Mason. He also said that he was a very energetic man and that he often cycled as many as one hundred miles in a day. During the summer months he often cycled from Ennis to Kilkee and back in the same evening, a distance of seventy miles. Trips to Limerick, 46 miles return, were nothing to him on his bicycle.

Giving evidence in his claim for damages he said he had fallen over a towing rope or wire one morning when going to work. The wire, about half an inch thick, was stretched across the path between the lorries and he did not see it. He tripped over the wire, fell and sustained an injury to his right shin which resulted in his being seven weeks in bed under the care of a doctor.

Dr. J. H. Counihan, in the course of medical evidence as to plaintiff's condition, said he was an extraordinarily strong man, and it had been very difficult to keep him in bed. He went out one day without permission. He thought he should give up the long bicycle rides, as he thought they were ridiculous for a man of his age.

The defence was that plaintiff had been warned to stop by one of defendant's employees, who had raised his hand. Plaintiff did stop, then came forward with a rush, and it seemed to one witness that he meant to jump over the tow rope.

Judge Barra O Briain confessed he was puzzled by the case, but he could not understand why plaintiff had not seen the wire cable. He dismissed the action on the merits.

LIMERICK GAELS
SATISFACTORY FINANCIAL POSITION.

Owing to travelling difficulties, only 26 out of 87 clubs were represented at the Limerick County G.A.A. Convention held in the City Hall, Limerick, on Saturday. Rev. Father E. Punch, P.P., Mungret, chairman (outgoing), presided, and the other officials present were: Messrs P. O'Reilly, vice-chairman (outgoing); Sean O Conaill, secretary (outgoing); M. Mac Giobuin, treasurer (outgoing), and L. Gleeson, delegate to Munster Council (outgoing).

The Rev. Chairman, in the course of his address to the delegates, paid warm tribute to the work of the various Divisional Boards, and drew attention to the fact that though for many years past their organisation had been in debt, mostly to their own clubs, all debts had now been cleared and there was a profit of approximately £258 during the past year. Paying tribute to the various officials of the Board for their zeal and energy, Father Punch said that congratulations and thanks were due to Mr. Seamus O Ceallaigh for the very interesting and instructive books which he had published both in 1943 and 1944.

Speaking to the Secretary's report, Mr. P. O'Conaill (St. Patrick's) alluded to the practice of Limerick Clubs advertising and running English dances, thereby violating a fundamental regulation and making a laughing-stock of the Association.

The Rev. Chairman said that if any instances of such conduct were brought to his notice he would deal with them in strict accordance with the rules.

A heated discussion took place over the method of selecting the county hurling team.

12 Batt., Castleconnell, tabled a motion that the selection of the team be left in the hands of the county champions.

Rathkeale, Kildimo and St. Patrick's Clubs tabled a direct negative.

The Castleconnell motion was passed, 31 voting for and 30 against.

Another motion tabled by St. Patrick's that "no official of the Limerick County Board, other than the secretary be allowed to hold office for more than three consecutive years," was lost by 39 votes to 13.

All outgoing officials were returned unopposed.

(A full report of the proceedings will appear in our week-end issue).

BITTEREST IN HUMAN MEMORY

What is described as the bitterest weather in human memory grips

DIED IN ACTION

Great Priest Passes Away

NATIVE OF BALLYSHEEDY

A prominent and much appreciated Limerick priest passed away some time ago in New Zealand in the person of Rev. Denis Halvey, son of the late Patrick Halvey, Ballysheedy. This is announced in the "New Zealand Tablet," which contains a special appreciation of Father Halvey by a brother priest. From this appreciation we take the following extracts:

"The untimely death of Father Denis Halvey came as a great shock to his many friends. His death made a great void in a diocese so greatly stricken in sorrow over the death of a bishop and six priests in the short space of twelve months. Father Halvey's place will be hard to fill, for he was a most energetic and self-sacrificing pastor, who was a slave to duty right up to his actual death. He never took a holiday, and for the twenty-six years of his priestly work in New Zealand he never took a Sunday off. He died in harness and he died in action, for it was on his early morning journey from Methven to Rakaia to offer Mass for the Sisters that death overtook him. 'Intribo ad altare Dei. Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam.' On what better mission could a priest die. He died in action, and as a brother priest I must feel, as I did feel, when I heard the sad news, that my comrade in arms had rendered the supreme sacrifice.

STERLING CHARACTER.

"His sterling character and love for his brother priests were much appreciated in the diocese of Christchurch. His generosity and hospitality were outstanding and were fully taxed by his host of clerical friends. His home, no matter how far distant from Christchurch, was the rendezvous of the priests, and many a happy gathering we had both in Hawarden and Methven. He was the friend of the young priests, encouraging them and putting them wise to the many pitfalls that await ambition and imprudence.

"Although Father Halvey was retiring and shy by nature, he never failed to speak out his mind when the occasion arose. And what he said was full of wisdom. He could express his sympathy and consolation better than any one I ever knew. I remember him going to visit Bishop Brodie shortly before the Bishop died. Most of us priests were overcome by the sight of so much suffering and on most occasions were unable to say a word to the dying Bishop. Not so Father Halvey. He thanked the Bishop for all he had done for him, and for the warm welcome and home he gave the Irish priest who came to his diocese. The Bishop's eyes filled with gratitude and joy. 'I am glad to hear you say that,' was his reply.

"When there was a principle at stake Father Halvey knew no compromise. 'After all, I seem to hear him argue, it's the principle that counts.' His love for the simple and good things of life were never spoiled by modern fashions, either in the Church or State. His piety was deep-rooted in the Mass and Rosary. He longed while he was in North Canterbury 'for a parish with nuns.' He got his desire when transferred to Methven. He appreciated the great work the Sisters were doing for the children. How kind he was to his nuns, the Sisters of Mercy can testify with gratitude and the highest praise.

SINCERE AND LASTING FRIEND.

"I feel that one of his flock might pen these lines with more appreciation, for he was a great friend of the priests and sisters. He was a sincere and lasting friend and father to his flock. His sympathy and generous spirit went out to them whether they were in need of spiritual or temporal things. If he thought they were not doing their duty he would read them a lecture. Nor were those lectures confined merely to the laity. If he thought a deserving family needed help he emptied his pockets to help them. He helped many to stay on their farms, to educate their children, to recover their health, or to go on a well-deserved holiday.

"His hobby was bird-life, and he was a very successful exhibitor and an esteemed member of the Canterbury Pigeon and Canary Club. He loved his game of euchre and if he chuckled with convulsive delight when he smote your left with his right bower, it was merely because he loved the game.

"We, priests, have received more requests for Masses from the laity for Father Halvey than we can offer for some time to come. 'Please say a Mass for Father Halvey, for he was a great friend of ours and did more for us than we can ever repay.' Such requests are greater marks of esteem than

MORE RED CLAIMS

Push Into Germany

THREE AIR RAIDS ON BERLIN

The Moscow Wireless announced officially to-day that the Russian forces had entered the German State of Brandenburg and that the important centre of Czarnikau had been captured. It was also claimed that the town of Schneidemuhl had been surrounded.

Unofficial messages say that the Russians have penetrated to a depth of 30 miles in Germany and that they are driving down the Posen-Berlin highway and railway line. The Russians, it was added, were now within 100 miles of Berlin.

Another Moscow statement says that the Germans are now practically cleared out of Poland.

The German wireless stated to-day that the Russians had pushed forward almost into Breslau. The southern half of the great Silesian mining and industrial basin was now occupied by the Red Army.

Allied Headquarters announced to-day that several centres in Germany were subjected to air attacks during the past 24 hours. There were three raids on Berlin to-day.

According to to-day's Allied communique the Germans are falling back from Alsace to the Siegfried Line, on which an offensive has been launched by the United States 9th Army. This offensive, it is stated, is doing well. The British forces have reached the Roer and are compelling the Germans to yield ground.

TREATMENT OF BIRDS

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Dear Sir—Your comment on the treatment of birds was very necessary, and it is about time that something was done to stop the practice of youngsters killing them with catapults. Teachers and those in authority should make some effort to put down this barbarous conduct. A few days ago I saw a crowd of boys lashing a spaniel dog near the Fair Green in a most savage manner. It is about time that the Cruelty to Animals Act and the Wild Birds Protection Act were more rigidly enforced.—Yours truly, J.G.

BOWLS

The annual general meeting of the Bowling League of Ireland was held in Dublin on the 25th inst., at which the attendance was bigger than usual. In the proceedings special reference was made to the welcome attendance from Limerick of Messrs. O'Keeffe and O'Toole, representing the new Bowls Club started at the Limerick Golf Club at Ballyclough.

Mr. J. M. McCreedy, well-known to Limerick bowlers, was again unanimously appointed secretary for the ensuing year.

COUNT McCORMACK PRESENTS A CUP

For this year's Feis Ceoil, to be held in Dublin from the 7th to the 12th of May, John Count McCormack has presented a silver challenge cup, tenable for one year and silver medal to become winner's property, open to gold medal winners in the vocal solo competitions in 1945—soprano, mezzo-soprano, contralto, tenor, baritone and bass.

A PRACTICAL LESSON

Accepting an invitation to become patron of the All-Ireland Ploughing Championships in Tipperary on February 7th, Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Archbishop of Cashel, in a letter to the secretary, says:—"The ploughing championships are a practical lesson in proper methods of tillage, and help to give farmers a laudable pride in their work, which is so essential for the nation's welfare."

DOGS HELP IN SEARCH

Alsatian dogs were used in the search for victims when seven persons were killed and others injured after a V-bomb crashed recently near a Southern England football ground, which had suffered severely from one of the first flying bombs.

TIGHTENING UP SMUGGLING LAWS.

Under a Bill now before the Dail the laws against smuggling are to be tightened up. The provisions of this measure will make it more difficult and dangerous to in any way help or encourage smugglers.

A HEAVY LOSS.

Owing to the decline in shipping Cork Harbour Board has lost nearly £66,000 in the last five years. This is stated in the annual report of Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce.

TOWN TOPICS

OLD LIMERICK SOCIETY.

The Old Limerick Society, which is really a very young body, will hold its first annual "at home" in the Stella on Thursday evening next, 1st prox. This is certain to prove a very interesting social function. Following tea, an informal concert will be held, and a lady member will read a paper on a subject of general appeal. This Society, since its foundation a little over a year ago, has done much to bring to the fore questions relating to old Limerick. The Chairman, Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, B.E., and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. F. Walsh, make an excellent combination. Hard and enthusiastic workers, they are leaving their imprint on the Society.

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NINE DAYS.

An item of news in the week-end daily Press concerning the tragic deaths of two Irishmen on the ninth day of their arrival in England recalls to mind some of the superstitions associated with the numeral nine. Everyone is familiar with the story relating to the "charm" to be worn for nine days and then cast away. Then we have the cat o' nine tails, nine points of the law, nine worthies, nine days' wonder, nine planets, etc. Success in a law court, it is stated, requires the following nine conditions: (1) a good deal of money; (2) a good deal of patience; (3) a good cause; (4) a good solicitor; (5) a good counsel; (6) good witnesses; (7) a good judge; (8) good jury and (9) good luck.

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POPULAR OFFICIAL.

Mr. Laurence O'Donnell, Secretary, Limerick County Council for the past twenty years, is about to retire, having reached the age limit. Mr. O'Donnell is one of the best known public officials in the country, and his friends everywhere will extend to him hearty congratulations on his honourable retirement. Mr. O'Donnell would, in ordinary circumstances, have retired last year, but the Department desired that he should continue in office during the transition period, caused by the coming into force of the County Managerial system. Mr. O'Donnell's successor will be appointed by the Local Appointments Commissioners. The new salary has been fixed at £650 per year, rising by annual increments of £20, to a maximum of £750.

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DRAMATIC TALENT.

That dramatic talent in abundance is to be found amongst the students of the Sacred Heart College was demonstrated all last week. The Crescent boys produced two plays—one in Irish, the other in English—and the performances given in both reached a very high standard of excellence. The histrionic powers of the juvenile artistes denoted careful training, and in that connection praise is due to mentor and student in equal measure. The performances were excellent and one carried away the impression that when these boys had reached "man's estate," they would play in every sense of the word—a big part in the development and advancement of this fine old city.

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THE FUEL PROBLEM.

The news that the city's fuel problem had been considerably eased in consequence of the decision of the authorities to release timber from the reserve dumps came as a great relief to the citizens generally. Supplies, however, are far from normal; yet, the citizens are grateful to be able to obtain small quantities of turf and timber. Thanks are due to the Mayor (Ald. James Reidy, T.D.) for the prompt measures taken by him to rescue the city from a threatened fuel famine. In consequence of representations made by him two representatives of Fuel Importers, Ltd., came specially to the city so that they might satisfy themselves that the situation was really acute.

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DESERVED HONOUR.

The high honour conferred on Rev. Edward Punch, P.P., Mungret, by the Gaels of Limerick City and County at their convention on Saturday, when he was unanimously re-elected chairman, was well deserved. Father Punch is a most enthusiastic worker in the cause of our national pastimes, and it is only right and proper that his wonderful energy and inspiring influence should be fully availed of. No more active man could be given the helm, and there need be little doubt that he will