AT FESTIVAL CLOSING

Group taken at the Theatre Royal, Waterford, on Monday night shows officials, prize-winners and committee members of the International Festival of Light Opera.

Colourful Close To Opera Festival

Premier Award Goes To Belfast Society

Bangor Group Takes Prize For Best Irish Company

SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND GOODWILL PRAISED BY PRESIDENT

Waterford's fourth annual International Festival of Light Opera was brought to a colourful close in a crowded Theatre Royal on Monday night with the final adjudication and awarding of trophies.

The competitive side of the Festival concluded on the previous night with the presentation by the Rhos Aelwyd Amateur Operatic Society of "Carousel." Monday night's programme consisted of a concert by the Aeolian Singers from Swansea; the re-presentation of awards to the sports stars of the year (the prizes were originally presented to the winners at Friday night's Barbecue in the Military Barracks); addresses by the Mayor of Waterford (Collr. J. Griffin), Ald. T. Lynch, T.D., Officials of the Festival, Mr. J. O'Brien, Assistant Promotions Manager o Bord Failte, and the three Festival Adjudicators, and the awarding of the trophies.

The premier award — the Waterford Glass International Trophy — went to the St. Agnes Choral Society, Belfast for their presentation of "The Mikado", which also won the Swift Perpetual Shield (for best choral presentation). The runners-up prize, the Denny's Perpetual Shield was won by the Lurgan Operatic Society for their production of "The Gipsy Baron"

OTHER AWARD WINNERS

Other award winners were: Phoenix Perpetual Shield for Best Irish Society (excluding the first and 2nd prize-winners) — Bangor Amateur Society ("The Boy Friend). Frank Ryan Perpetual Cup for Best Irish Singer —Mr. Tom Hogan, St. Mary's Choral Society, Clonmel (Prince Karl Franz in "The Student Prince").

Best Production: Mr. Michael Garvey of Mullingar Choral Society ("The Heart's a Wonder").

Best Musical Director: Mr. August Toremans of Lurgan Operatic Society ("The Gipsy Baron").

Best Male Performer: Mr. Berwyn Dodd of Rhos Aelwyd Amateur Operatic Society (Billy Bigelow in "Carousel").

Best Female Performer: Ann O'Dwyer of the Mullingar Choral Society (The Widow in "Hearts a Wonder").

Best Comedian: Frank Wolles of Penarth Operatic and Dramatic Society (Mikki in "Magyar Melody").

Best Supporting Male: F. Jamesson Lilley of Sharnbrook and North Bedfordshire Operatic Society (Von Schriner in "The Lisbon Story").

Best Supporting Female: Bunny Marks of Sharnbrook and North Bedfordshire Operatic Society (Panache in "The Lisbon Story").

Best Choreography: Barbara A. G. Coates of Sharnbrook and North Bedfordshire Operatic Society.

Best Male Voice: Mr. T. Hogan of St. Mary's Choral Society, Clonmel ("The Student Prince").

Best Female Voice: Maria McGlade (Yum-Yum) of St. Agnes Choral Society, Belfast ("The Mikado").

The adjudicators also recommended the award of the following additional prizes:

Best Commedienne: Evelyn McCall of Bangor Amateur Society (Maisie in "The Boy Friend").

Best Stage Manager: The Stage Manager of Idle and Thackley Amateur Operatic Society ("South Pacific").

Best Dancer: Alex Wallace of Dumferline Light Opera Club (Tommy in "Annie Get Your Gun").

Outstanding New Work: Mullingar Choral Society ("The Heart's a Wonder").

ASSET TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY

In the course of his address from the theatre stage, Rev. T. Ahearne, C.C., Waterford Cathedral, the Festival President, said the spirit of co-operation and goodwill had made the Festival a great annual cultural and social occasion, an asset to the business community of the city, and an achievement of which not only Waterford but the whole country could be proud.

Fr. Ahearne said he hoped the visitors to the Festival would recall their visit with nothing but the happiest of memories. Waterford and the Theatre Royal he went on, would continue to provide the focus for amateur operatic societies. Without the wonderful co-operation of the operatic societies there would be no festival. In the first year the people of Wales came. They won their hearts and they departed singing joyously. They in the Festival and in the city would never forget the gracious generous co-operation of the people of Wales.

TRIBUTES

Continuing, Fr. Ahearne paid tribute to the Festival officials; the Mayor, City Manager, Waterford Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, Harbour Board, the business community and Waterford people in general. The Mayor, he said, left nothing undone to make the visitors feel at home and welcome. His ability and versatility to deal competently and graciously with every situation made them all feel very proud of him.

ADJUDICATORS PRAISED

Fr. Ahearne also praised the work of the Stage Director and her committee. They were most grateful for the valuable contribution of the adjudicators who were delightful people and object lessons in gracious personality and masters of the art of criticism.

Good adjudication needed a thorough knowledge of the mechanics of the stage and they had that, but a knowledge of the mechanics of the human heart was equally essential. The adjudicators were elegantly objective—they had maturity, encouragement and quick understanding.

ACHIEVING "MIRACLES"

Fr. Ahearne continued: "From all sides we hear praise of the Festival orchestra. They tackle each year the formidable task of playing a different opera to a different company each night for almost three weeks. Visiting musical directors have been astonished at the high standard maintained throughout and the wonderful co-operation they have received from this highly talented group of musicians. No praise is too great for the man who assembled this admirable orchestra and who moulded them into the highly efficient group they are. No praise is too high for our own Stanley Bowyer Festival Musical Director who has achieved "miracles" with very little fuss or fanfare."

PART PLAYED BY PRESS

They were deeply conscious of the indispensible part played by the Press in making the Festival the success it had been and a special word of praise was also due to Telefis Eireann who gave so much of their air time to bring the Festival to the very firesides of so many thousands of people. A word of thanks was also due to the city industries who entertained groups of visitors, particularly Waterford Glass Ltd., Cherry's Breweries Ltd., Messrs. Snowcream Ltd., and Modern Bakeries Ltd.

SECRET OF SUCCESS.

This year, the Festival had been a greater success than ever before, said the Mayor, who added that they had really worthy representatives of these islands enjoying themselves in Waterford and who had given them great pleasure and the great social thrill of their presence and company. Very many people had now realised that the Festival period was a great period to come back home and was the easiest way of meeting a large number of more enjoyable and entertaining of our citizens, as a person from Bangor had said to him, the great secret of the success of the Festival was the gaiety and friendship of the Waterford people. Some wise people had taken their annual holidays and spent them in Waterford to synchronise with the Festival, which was a welcome development.

ENQUIRY FROM U.S.A.

The Mayor went on to say that he had received an enquiry from America about the Festival. He passed it on to the Festival Executive, and he was glad to hear that they had in Waterford during the period of the Festival representatives of "Uncle Sam."

The Mayor praised the great work of the Festival Executive and committees, and also paid tribute to the initiative and drive of the first director, the late Mr. George Goodfellow.

MORE VISITORS THIS YEAR.

Mr. J. O'Brien, Bord Failte, said he had always been struck by the amazing stamina of the Festival organisers. A Festival normally lasted 9 or 10 days, but here in Waterford the Opera Festival went on for almost 3 weeks, which was a real test of endurance. Visitors came to Waterford and were paid every attention and given such hospitality that they must feel as if they belonged to the city. Although figures were not yet available, he understood that more visitors had come to Waterford this year during the Festival than in previous years. The Festival had received considerable publicity overseas and its fame had spread far abroad. He would very much like to thank, on behalf of Bord Failte, all those people who had made the Festival possible.

ADJUDICATORS' PRAISE.

Glowing tributes were paid by the three adjudicators to the theatre stage staff and the orchestra and its conductor.

Mrs. Williams said she would go away from Waterford with memories of great kindness which she found even in the streets and in the shops. Never in all her experience had she met such a human lot as the members of the stage crew. During the Festival, she had plenty to say about the audience from the stage but, all-in-all, she found them the warmest of audiences.

Miss Shrubb said the Festival was a marvellous organisation. She was very fond of Ireland, and was very pleased to have been invited to the Festival as one of the adjudicators.

LOW STANDARD OF COSTUMING.

Mr. Cooke singled out Messrs. Pierrie Power and Tommy McGuire for special mention when referring to the great work of the stage staff. From time to time during the Festival, references had been made from the stage about the low standard of the costuming by many Irish societies as compared with other entrants. A member of one of the societies had told him, when he took the matter up with him later, that they were not too well served in Ireland in this matter. It was beyond the control of the societies.

Mr. William Carroll, Festival Chairman, and Ald. T. Lynch, T.D., also spoke.

On behalf of the Festival Executive, the Mayor presented the adjudicators with Waterford cut glass.

Mr. Tom Hogan, St. Mary's Choral Society, Clonmel, who was adjudged as having the best male voice and was presented with the Frank Ryan Cup.

DUNGARVAN DIARY

The Following Officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Dungarvan Musical and Choral Society, held at the Friary Hall recently: President, Mr. James Patterson; Vice-President and Hon. Secretary, Rev. R. O'Shaughnessy, O.S.A.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. Murphy; Assistant Secretary, Mr. P. Walsh. Committee: Mrs. J. Moloney, Miss B. Christopher, Mrs. W. Stack, Mrs. V. Morrissey, Messrs. J. O'Keeffe, J. Deering, M. Hennebry, T. Lynch, J. Montgomery, J. Flynn, L. Comerford. Rehearsals have already begun, with Mrs. V. Morrissey, conductor: and the orchestra with Mr. M. Hennebry, conductor.

An Excellent Musical Treat was the general verdict of the large attendance at the Friary Hall on Sunday evening at the concert given by the Aeolian Singers from Swansea, Wales. This talented group of four ladies and four men, with their conductor-accompanist at the piano, provided a well-balanced programme of items from grand and light opera, folk-song, ballad and popular airs. Each member of the group, in solo, duet, and choral items, well deserved the highest praise, and each item was warmly applauded by the audience with repeated calls for encores. It was a first-class musical entertainment from start to finale.

Mrs. O'Sullivan, South Terrace; Miss Una O'Leary, Main St.; Mr. P. Walsh, Friary St., and J. J. Naven, C.I.E., from Dungarvan, will leave this week to travel on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

On Holiday. — Very Rev. C. N. McCarthy, O.S.A., Prior, Austin Friars, England, visiting St. Augustine's, Dungarvan. Previous to his appointment to England, Father McCarthy was Prior in Dungarvan. Rev. L. Sheridan, S.D.B., recently returned after twelve years in Chile, has been appointed to Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. Rev. Brother Eugene, Clare Priory, England, is on a holiday visit to his mother, Mrs. Wade, Friary St., Dungarvan. Mr. and Mrs. James McEvoy, Limerick, visiting his mother, Mrs. McEvoy, St. Patrick's Terrace, Abbeyside. Mrs. Allen, Dublin, visiting her mother, Mrs. M. Egan, Coolagh Road, Abbeyside. Mr. John Ormonde, B.E., Dublin, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Ormonde, Grattan Square, Dungarvan.

The Sailing Race, under the auspices of the Dungarvan Sailing Club, for the C.J. Hockin Cup, for the Junior Section (limit 10 to 18 years), Seven boats competed. The winner was Donal Walsh (Mrs. Walsh's crew); 2nd, Desmond Walsh (Mr. P. Walsh's crew); 3rd, P. and P. Walsh (G. Walsh's crew). Other competitors —T. Mountain (J. Mansfield's crew); Eilish Cleary (N. Cleary's crew) M. Landers (M. Foley's crew); Caroline McCarthy (T. McCarthy's crew). In the afternoon, an inter-club sailing race took place between crews from Blackrock Coast Boat Club and the local club, for team of eight, using four boats each race. Dungarvan won the first with 18½ points to 18 for Blackrock. In the second race, Dungarvan won with 17½ points to 31 for Blackrock. In the overall result, Dungarvan won by 35½ points for Blackrock. The members of Dungarvan team were M. Kiely (J. Foley's crew): G. Walsh (D. Walsh's crew), J. Mansfield (J. Cleary's crew). P. McCarthy (D. Walsh's crew). On next Sunday, the ladies' race (confined to club members) and a duffer sailing race will be held in the local harbour.

The Annual Meeting of the Dungarvan Bridge Club was held at Lawlor's Hotel recently. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. D'Alton; Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. O'Donovan; Hon. Treasurer, Miss C. O'Sullivan. Committee: Mrs. W. Cusack, Miss M. O'Neill, Mrs. J. O'Keeffe, Mr. J. O'Shea, and Mr. W. Cusack.

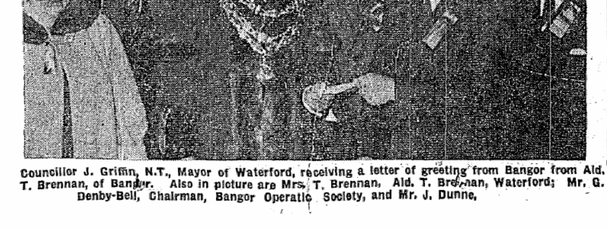
The Wedding took place at the Honan Chapel, University College, Cork, recently, of John G. eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kelleher, Knockaconmore, Dungarvan, and Miss Laboure Walsh, M.Sc., second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Walsh, Ferryview Cottage, Sunday's Well, Cork. The ceremony, with Nuptial Mass and Papal Blessing, was performed by Rev. J. Hickey, O.S.A., Cork, assisted by Rev. J. Aherne, O.S.A., do.; Very Rev. J. Roche, P.P., Abbeyside; Rev. J. Walsh, C.C., do., and Rev. M. Rea, Cork. The best man was Mr. Stephen Kelleher, B.E., brother of the bridegroom. Miss Monica Walsh, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid. The reception was held subsequently at the Metropole Hotel.

At Dungarvan Golf Links. President's Prize: 1st, Mr. J. O'Keeffe (14), 36 points; 2nd, Rev. J. Boyle, C.C. (10), 36 points. Best gross, Dr. C. P. O'Connell (5), 34 points. E. A. Ryan Cup: 1st, Rev. J. Boyle (10), 2 up; 2nd, Dr. C. P. O'Connell (5), 2 up. Ladies' Section — Mrs. S. Glanville's Prize: Won by Miss U. Power (19), 34½ nett; runner-up, Miss C. O'Sullivan (19), 37 nett.

The Dungarvan Driller Club finished up a very successful season with the final club race from Coleraine, a distance of 214 miles, & after the birds had been held for some time, the following were the results: 1st, E. Daly, 790.9 yards minute; T. Drummey, 784.8 y.p.m.; 3rd, J. Street, 768.6 y.p.m.; 4th, A. Donnelly, 767.2 y.p.m. The final race from Girvan, Scotland, was held up for a week owing to bad weather. When the birds were finally liberated, there was no one, unfortunately, homed in race time. Best winner in the young bird racing was the property of J. Street, who won three firsts and several places in these races.

A Retreat for the Children of Mary is being held this week at the Mercy Convent, Dungarvan. The Retreat is being conducted by Rev. H. McLoughlin, C.S.S.R.

Bangor Operatic Society Received By Mayor



Councillor J. Griffin, N.T., Mayor of Waterford, receiving a letter of greeting from Bangor from Ald. T. Brennan, of Bangor. Also in picture are Mrs. T. Brennan, Ald. T. Brennan, Waterford; Mr. G. Denby-Bell, Chairman, Bangor Operatic Society, and Mr. J. Dunne.