

## O Dea Clan Gathering 1999

**M**ost of the O Deas/O Days who attended this year's clan gathering at the Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, July 9-12, 1999 say that it was our best clan gathering to date. The proceedings were formally declared open by Ms Síle de Valera, Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht. Peter Considine, Chairman of the Ennis Urban District Council and Flan Garvey, MCC, Chairman, Mid Western Tourism were also present. All clan members were warmly welcomed and wished every success during their visit to their ancestral home.

It could be said of this clan gathering that the majority of those who came to Ennis were clan members who had been at previous clan gatherings but now, had decided to bring along their extended families. Unfortunately, there was a poor turn out from the native Irish O Deas. Chieftain elect Anderson O Day of Salem SC, has vowed to make sure that this does not happen again.

The Antipodian contingent was lead by the ubiquitous Sue Poole and her husband David, as well as, James O Dea of Lisseycasey now resident in Coomabah, Queensland, Australia who, despite recent heart surgery managed to make it to Ennis with his family. New Zealand had just one representative, Maureen Richmond of North Shore City, Auckland.

Highlight of Saturday night was the handing over of the Chieftainship from Michael O Dea of Dublin to Bill O Day, son of our Hereditary Chieftain, Jack O Day, Wisconsin Rapids.

The election of Táiniste, Anderson O Day of Salem, Southern Carolina was universally acclaimed.

There was a standing ovation for our Hereditary Chieftain Jack O Day and his wife Anola, who, despite recent illnesses, made a special effort to be among their

kinfolk.

Special presentations were made to clan members who gave exceptional service to the clan down through the years. These included: Jack O Day our Hereditary Chieftain, Anderson O Day, Ed O Day, Kate O Day and Paul T O Day.

Clan gathering organiser, Mary O Halloran, arranged a wonderful programme of events over the weekend. These included a visit to the O Dea's ancestral home Dysert O Dea Castle, St Tola's Church, St Tola's High Cross, lectures on genealogy and the Irish clan system, a guided tour of West Clare, a Mass at St Flannan's College, medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle, Irish music and dance sessions.

The O Dea family of O Connell Street in Ennis kindly hosted a magnificent buffet and sing song at their licensed premises, as

did the Herir family of Fanny O Dea's in



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Lisseycasey. Overall, a fantastic weekend.

A detailed report will appear in our Summer 2000, *O Dea Clan Chronicle*.

A list of those who attended the clan gathering is included with this newsletter. Officially, there were 204. Overall, there were at least 300 who came to see us over

### Official Clan Gathering Photo

This photo of all who attended the reunion was taken outside Dysert O Dea Castle on Saturday, July 10. We understand that a copy was published in *The World of Hibernia* magazine. Has anybody attempted to identify all in the photograph??

