

CORK DEVELOPER AND EVENING ECHO EDITOR THANKED



Michael O'Flynn, O'Flynn Construction, Cllr Máirín Quill, Liz Meany, Arts Officer with Cork City Council, Maurice Gubbins, editor of the Evening Echo and Lord Mayor Cllr Donal Counihan at the launch of the new book on Seamus Murphy; and below, president of UCC Michael Murphy and Cllr Máirín Quill unveil a relief of JB Dunlop by sculptor Seamus Murphy at UCC.

Picture: Ger Bonus



Michael thanked for €50,000 gift

THE centenary celebrations of the life and work of Seamus Murphy drew to close this week.

By RONAN BAGNALL

At a fitting finale in University College Cork, a 1959-commissioned Portland stone relief of inventor JB Dunlop was unveiled in the O'Rahilly Building.

The wall-mounted sculpture of the man who invented the pneumatic tyre was unveiled by Cork City Councillor Máirín Quill and University College Cork president Michael Murphy. Cllr Quill, who was a key member of the organising committee, paid tribute to

those who made the six-month programme a success.

At a separate presentation at City Hall, also this week, developer Michael O'Flynn and editor of the *Evening Echo* Maurice Gubbins were presented with a copy of a book on Seamus Murphy as a special thank-you for the coverage given to the centenary events.

Earlier this year, developer Michael O'Flynn generously donated €50,000 to ensure the commemoration programme went ahead in its entirety.

Cllr Quill said: "Michael O'Flynn didn't hesitate to help us when we asked for the money. Without him we would not have been able to do all the things we wanted, to pay tribute to one of Cork's best-loved characters."

She added that the presentation was made to Mr Gubbins due to the support the paper had given the centenary celebrations.

"The *Evening Echo* helped bring Seamus Murphy back to the people of Cork. It was invaluable in promoting and highlighting the events," added Cllr Quill.

Seamus Murphy sculpted ecclesiastical and allegorical statues;

portrait heads; commemorative plaques and public monuments.

In 1950, Seamus published *Stone Mad*, his famous book celebrating the work of 'the Stonies' whose craft had begun to die out in the 1940s.

Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney described his book as truly magnificent.

Cllr Quill said the centenary celebrations had been an overwhelming success.

"Seamus Murphy is now recognised along with Christy Ring, Jack Lynch and Frank O'Connor as one of Cork's best-loved figures," added Cllr Quill.