

EARLY INTEREST GREW INTO LEADING ENGINEERING COMPANY



Castle Street, Tralee, during the construction of the culvert in May 1974

Denis achieved much in Kerry

ON SATURDAY, March 3rd, Denis Moriarty got up as usual at seven o'clock, had breakfast and went to organise a group of men for a road improvement works scheme.

BY GORDON REVINGTON

He was home again for lunch and at three o'clock, having made a few calls to arrange the work schedule for the following Monday, he lay down and quietly went to meet his maker, with his wife of 48 years, Eileen and his youngest daughter Margaret close by.

It was typical of this big man who achieved so much in his lifetime by pursuing his own approach, to slip away with the minimum of fuss.

Despite growing the company and subcontractor staff to 130 and with a strong management team right up his last day, Denis took a keen interest in the business and was always available to provide his wisdom and experience.

Denis was born in 1936 in Ballintarman, Annascaul, and grew up on the family farm with his parents Jack Moriarty and Margaret Hickson, his brother Jackie and sister Margaret.

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From an early age, he expressed a strong interest in machinery and tractors and this interest found direction when he established the plant hire business, an enterprise that continues to thrive today.

Denis married Eileen Griffin in 1964 and moved into a new home at The Kerries outside Tralee.

It was here that the couple's six children - Sheila, Aileen, John, Denis, Maurice and Margaret - were brought up and it was from

here that he developed and grew the business.

The foundation of the civil engineering section in 1975 instigated a period of significant growth for the Denis Moriarty group of companies and the Tralee Flood Relief contract was a particularly significant one for the new division.

Sewage and water schemes in Kenmare, Waterville, Killarney, Ballyheigue, Tipperary and other locations around Ireland were also undertaken.

A major reconstruction of the pier in Dingle in 1990 was followed by a series of contracts to erect outlets for the McDonald's restaurants in 1995 to 2000, as Moriarty's diversified and expanded its range of enterprises.

In recent years, the burgeoning alternative energy market provided another direction and the company became the largest windfarm contractor in the country and has also completed a number of contracts abroad.

Denis suffered a number of health setbacks in later years but none of these prevented him from dealing with every challenge that had to be met on the farm or in the business.

He always had a great love of sport and closely followed the fortunes of his boyhood team, Annascaul. It was with great pride that the family placed an Annascaul jersey, presented by the club, on his coffin.

Denis also had great faith and was well known to the community in the Dominican Church at Holy Cross in Tralee, where he



Denis at work on land reclamation on the Sliabh Mish mountain

attended 8am Mass every Sunday.

His funeral was attended by thousands and many re-told acts of kindness Denis had done for them and various clubs and organisations down through the years to his family.

He leaves his wife Eileen, children Sheila, Aileen, John, Denis, Maurice, Margaret, grandchildren, sister Margaret, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends. He was predeceased by his brother Jackie.

Denis was brought from the Gleasure Funeral Home to the Church of the Purification, Churchill, for Requiem Mass on Monday, March 5th.

He was laid to rest the following day at Réalt na Mara New Cemetery, Churchill, after midday Mass.

He will be missed by the business and farming community in Kerry, by a large circle of friends, but especially his loving family who will miss him dearly.

Denis Moriarty

Tralee scheme was a Moriarty landmark

For many hundreds of years, the town centre in Tralee was plagued by flooding caused by the heavy rains that fall on the western coast and a number of solutions were proposed to deal with it.

From time to time, when heavy rain coincided with high tides, very serious instances of flooding occurred, causing serious losses for businesses and threats to the lives of the people.

The town has a lot to thank Denis Moriarty for in this regard because he was centrally involved in consigning this serious flooding to history.

He was initially involved as a plant hire operator in 1973 when he brought his Hymac into the town to undertake works on the first serious attempt to solve the problem following a huge flood in the town.

These works failed to address the root cause of the problem and, in 1990, a concerted programme was devised to divert large volumes of flood water out of the town centre following heavy rainfall.

The main contract went to Denis Moriarty and involved the construction of a two-mile concrete culvert taking the surplus water out of the Big River (one of the principal problem areas) at Oakpark, beneath the racecourse at Ballybeggan, and discharging into Fitzy's River in Ballinorig.

Denis's company also undertook the river widening works from Blennerville Bridge through Cloghers and back to Ballyseedy.

The river was widened in the area by Manor West Retail Park and across the Killarney road so that it could accommodate the increased water flow from the culvert at Ballinorig.

This scheme has turned out to be an huge success for Tralee no longer suffers from the large-scale and lethal flooding instances and seawater flooding no longer occurs.



Pat Flaherty, Dick Mason, Michael Broderick and Denis Moriarty in Denny Street, Tralee, during the construction of the Tralee Culvert in November 1974