

# SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

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PRICE SIXPENCE

## Robert Emmet is honoured

by JIM McCOY in Cleveland, Ohio

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C., is as noted as Paris for its statues and monuments. However, a newly-placed one of Robert Emmet in the American Capital, is already attracting tremendous attention.

The United States Government relocated the Emmet statue two months ago, to honour Ireland's 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. Tourists visiting the Arlington Cemetery grave of the late President John F. Kennedy, have been overheard asking guards to direct them next to the Robert Emmet memorial, which is located several miles away, in the heart of Washington.

During the vacation months ahead, it is expected that hundreds of thousands of Irish Americans, from all across the U.S., will include it in their Washington tours, as will dozens of American Irish Societies, making their annual pilgrimages to the Kennedy graveside.

The Irish hero is ideally situated on "Embassy Row". Appropriately enough, too, "The Darling of Erin," has taken his American stand, just two blocks from the Embassy of Ireland.

### MAGNIFICENT

Even Russian writer and novelist, Valery Tarsis — who has been stripped of his Soviet citizenship — who was in Washington recently to address the noted National Press Club—went out and placed a wreath in honour of the Irish hero.



Congressman Michael J. Kirwan

The setting in Washington, is most magnificent. The U.S. National Park Service has done a top flight job, arranging a sanctuary of green. A low green foliage plant, known as "Mother-of-Thyme" has been planted in the terraced surface.

### IN BRONZE

The statue of Emmet is in bronze, and over 7 feet high. Three statues were executed from the original cast made by talented sculptor Jerome Connor in 1916. The artist had been born in Annascaul,



Congressman John E. Fogarty

Co. Kerry, in 1876, but came here to Holyoke, Mass., as a boy.

This present statue in Washington of Emmet has been in the Smithsonian Institute since 1917. However, this year several prominent Irish Americans arranged its transfer to the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Park Service.

They were: U.S. Congressman Michael Kirwan, of Youngstown, Ohio, Chairman of the Robert Emmet Dedication Committee; Representative Kirwan, vigorous at age 80, has 30 years of service in

## What Johnson said ...

**PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON** said:

"It is entirely fitting that this likeness of Robert Emmet should grace the national parklands in the District of Columbia.

"And it is entirely appropriate that this dedication coincides with the celebration by the people of Ireland of the 50th anniversary of their declaration of independence. "The sheer patriotism and the gallant courage of Robert Emmet have inspired Americans no less than Irishmen in the century and a half since his death.

"The man whose memory you honour is indelibly enshrined in history because he fired the imagination of his compatriots.

"He cherished the dream that each man should have the fullest measure of freedom.

"His image now takes its place in a city where we revere the memories of others who had the same hope.

"It takes its place in a country where their dreams and their hopes have become reality.

"We Americans are proud to accord a place of honour here, in the Nation's Capital, to Robert Emmet, whose struggles and sacrifices speak the yearnings of mankind throughout the ages."

(Other Side)