



OCTOBER 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH ROAD HAULIERS ASSOCIATION

# Frank Whitten R.I.P

News of the death of Frank Whitten was met with great sadness as it spread throughout the country. Frank Whitten has been delivering the concrete beams that are the backbone of our infrastructure for many years, a challenge he always relished. However big, heavy or wide the beams were the more inviting the challenge became for Frank.

Turbines, boats or anything abnormal was all in a days work for Whitten's Road Service. Frank once said in the environs of an IRHA Conference that no matter how big or heavy something was, if there was a crane able to lift it he would deliver it. Where others saw problems Frank Whitten saw challenge and opportunity. IRHA Members will remember his lively contributions at Council debates and his ability to recount details of real events from the road, always helpful and usually entertaining. There was a serious side to this man, he played a pivotal role in the running of the Beet Hauliers Association (BHA) and the IRHA Co-op. Both of these organisations were closely associated and involved with the IRHA and his ability to represent all of these different sectors of our industry made him unique.

Occasionally Frank found himself on a limb when representing hauliers. Never one to be daunted by not being popular his bravery by having the courage of his convictions impressed others around him and often won them over. Long before laptops and

'Blackberries' were around, Whitten Transport was run on a mobile basis. Council meetings, the cab of a truck, once Frank had a mobile phone and his diary he could set up his office anyplace. Indeed during his recent illness operations transferred to his hospital bed, during which time he was probably the only patient that worked harder than the nurses.

Our industry has lost a Pioneer and a professional, our Association has lost a great representative and collectively we have all lost a friend who was a gentleman. Frank has gone to his eternal reward to be reunited with his daughter Shirley. Frank is survived by his wife Evelyn, his daughter Ruth and son William.

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It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Frank Whitten, a man whose name was known far and wide as a pioneer in the movement of heavy haulage. There was nothing he wouldn't tackle. He was a fearless investor in modern equipment so he was naturally in pole position whenever something long, awkward or heavy needed to be moved. He was a major power in the Beet Hauliers Association and a founder member of the Co-op. Frank was a major provider of work to the Co-op and it troubled him greatly



that noble enterprise did not achieve greater success.

Our parting memories of Frank was how proud he was when showing everybody who attended our last Annual Conference the pictures of his company moving what were probably the heaviest loads ever moved in Ireland from Banagher in Offaly to the Limerick By-Pass. Such a feat required the trucks to reverse some five miles in order to face the right direction for Limerick.

Frank's courage in facing his final years while coping with serious illness was an example and an inspiration to us all. He had the heart of a lion and earned the respect of everyone who knew him. His presence at council meetings and A.G.Ms will be sadly missed. To his immediate family and wide circle of friends I offer my sincere condolences. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

JQ

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