

Portraits riddle baffles councillors

AN INTRIGUING mystery involving the disappearance of the portraits of the two murdered Mayors of Limerick unfolded this week.

It transpired at a meeting of the cultural and environmental committee meeting of the Corporation that the paintings had gone missing.

"Why were they taken down, who took them down and where are they now?" asked Cllr. John O'Connor as some bemused councillors looked on.

The seriousness of the situation was stressed by Alderman Jim Kemmy who confirmed that the portraits of George Clancy and Michael O'Callaghan had vanished.

On March 7th, 1921, the men were taken from their beds and are said to have been shot by the Black and Tans. George Clancy was the sitting Mayor and Michael O'Callaghan was number one citizen the previous year.

Alderman Kemmy revealed that the matter was raised at sub-committee meetings of the Corporation. "No one knows of their whereabouts, but of course we have paintings on loan to different places and that is where they could be", he added.

He suggested that they recall all the paintings owned by the Corporation and get a proper inventory. They could then leave them out again.

Mayor Jack Bourke recalled last seeing the paintings outside the assistant town clerk's office. But then they were taken down when painting work was going ahead in the building.

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Cllr. Frank Prendergast said that when you entered the City Hall in Cork the first thing you saw were the portraits of their murdered mayors.

"Who has the authority to take them away anyway? Maybe a public appeal should go out", he suggested.

He also suggested that they should investigate works of art of interest to Limerick around the country. Cllr. Prendergast named as one of the famous paintings of the Limerick Piper in the former home of Countess Markievicz.

Back to Alderman Kemmy: "We are concerned about this in the gallery. I can't remember seeing those paintings in the last decade".

He assured his fellow councillors that as chairman of the art gallery committee that they were not treating this matter in a shoddy or less serious way.

"This matter will not be left lie until we find what happened to the two paintings", he stated.

Alderman Tim Leddin, recalling a sub-committee meeting, said that the curator of the gallery did not know anything at all about the paintings.

"Cllr. O'Connor has touched on a very serious thing . . . was any catalogue or inventory made available to the curator when he took up his post?" he asked.

The Councillor was told that a substantial inventory was made available to the curator.

Mayor Bourke promised a report and action on the matter.

Limerick jobs go a-begging?

□ THE QUESTION of whether Limerick Corporation have used up all the places available to the authority in the Social Employment Scheme is to be investigated.

Cllr. Frank Prendergast described



Raising the mystery of the missing paintings: Cllr. John O'Connor.

he added.

However, Cllr. Prendergast revealed that he had been at a meeting in the National Manpower office the previous Thursday where it was confirmed that there were unused places in the region.

He further revealed that he checked this point with the Department of Labour who confirmed there were free places in the region.

"The quota is full — there are about a thousand waiting to go on that scheme", said Alderman Kemmy.

"My information is of last week from Manpower about the unused places — I know, I thought the same as you up to last week", said Cllr. Prendergast.

Mayor Bourke said that Mr. O'Sullivan would contact the Manpower Office to find out the exact situation.

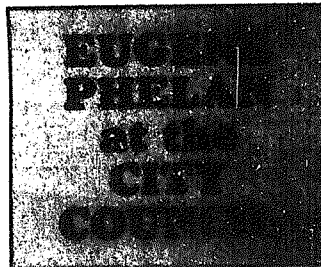
Carnegie remembered

AFTER A SUGGESTION by Cllr. Win Harrington, who recalled previous debates, it was agreed that a prominent sign be erected at the Art Gallery reading: "City Art Gallery Carnegie Building".

Delay on dog control unit

THE DELAY REGARDING the dog control unit — or dogs home — which is to be built at the Longpaveement was raised by Cllr. Jan O'Sullivan.

Assistant town clerk, Mr. O'Neill, explained that the original cost estimate was queried by the Department.



They were now re-arranging proposals for the financing of the building. There would be no alterations to the design of the building.

Answering Cllr. Kevin Kiely, he said it would be difficult to say when

Mayor Bourke pays tribute

MAYOR BOURKE singled out Cllr. Jan O'Sullivan, chairperson of the cemeteries committee, for special praise for her excellent work.

"She has done a lot of good work and we know a lot more now about our cemeteries", he said. Cllr. O'Sullivan for her part promised news shortly about the "ownership of graveyards" to the committee.

'Stolen car rammed pound'

NEW PROBLEMS regarding the round-up of wandering horses and a recent serious attack on the city pound were also raised at the meeting.

Alderman Gus O'Driscoll said that a stolen car rammed into the gates of the pound on January 2nd last and eight or nine horses got out. He recalled that a bulldozer was used on the previous pound to leave out animals.

Good news, however, was revealed by assistant town clerk, Mr. O'Neill, who said that safety bollards to stop ramming at the pound were to be erected.

It was Cllr. Jan O'Sullivan who raised the matter when she reported that a garda had told her that they were not fully able to meet their side of the agreement following a case in Kilkenny.

She said that the garda in the Kilkenny case was held responsible for damage caused to a car by a horse he was bringing to the pound. This had opened up new questions for the Gardai, she added.

Alderman Kemmy said that a lot of good work had been achieved in the past six months, but he noticed now once again that horses were appearing on city streets.

The Gardai, he suggested, should have their own horse box and not be forced to drive the animals through city streets.

And Cllr. Bobby Byrne revealed that in Limerick there was a case of a horse that kicked out at a car in Parnell Street, when being brought by the Gardai to the pound.

The owner of the car went to the Gardai and, according to Cllr. Byrne, money collected for a party to be held for a garda that was transferred had to be used to pay the man.

Cllr. Prendergast said that it was very important to find out the official position of the Gardai. "If there is a hole in the law we will have to get it filled", he stated.

Mayor Bourke said that they could contact their own legal adviser and the Gardai to clarify the situation.

Mr. Seamus O'Sullivan, senior executive engineer, stressed in case the wrong impression was given, that the Corporation and Gardai were working in full co-operation. He said that the Corporation workers collected animals at weekends.

Return of Punch Park?

□ THE MUCH-DEBATED Canon Punch Park was on the menu once again with news from Alderman Gus O'Driscoll that Old Christians G.A.A. club were now thinking of giving back the pitch to the Corporation. But he stressed that they wanted to get something for their asset.



Bowing out receives a Leddin, at t

By LEADER

LIMERICK Co this week that t were working fl with problems estates followi conditions of la

"They are work it will be two to th they will be able everyone," a sp plained.

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Hundreds

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The news reg time came follow Frank Prenderg poration to (emergency situ

Deputy Frende knew of many v flooding in Corp

"It is an eme and emergency n to be taken," he MEANWHILE

in temperatures, of St. Vincent d week continuu supplies of blan for the poor.

"Everything v during last week we are not gua arctic condition