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# LIMERICK LEADER

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## Seven Reported Killed In Floor Crash At Ennis Auction

### ART BRINGS FORTH LATENT TALENT IN CHILDREN

Speaking at the formal opening of the Child Art Exhibition in Messrs. Todds Ltd., sponsored by Caltex Ltd., Ireland, on Monday, the Mayor, Councillor C. P. Keyes, said that art helped to bring forth latent talents in children which only wanted to be moulded, encouraged and cultivated.

On show were a selection of the winning entries and included among them was the first prize entry of seventeen-year-old Michael A. Little, Galway. Many entries were received from Limerick but they were not included in the prize winners.

The attendance included Mr. D. O. Reade, Divisional Manager, Caltex; F. Webster, Advertising Manager, Caltex; Mr. A. Brown, Manager, Todd and Co. and Right Rev. Mgr. M. Moloney, P.P., V.F.

Mr. Reade, introducing the Mayor, said it was most encouraging to them to see the large numbers of children entering these competitions. In 1955, the entry was 3,000, which was increased to 7,000 in 1956 and 11,000 last year. Such an interest existed despite the counter attraction of television, pictures and comics. Caltex believed that children with artistic talents should be given an opportunity of exercising them.

#### MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

Speaking in Irish and English, the Mayor said, in encouraging child art, Caltex were like a benevolent society taking an interest in the youth of Ireland. Anybody connected with education knew that children benefit more from study of art than from a good deal of so called practical studies. Art helped to bring forth latent talents which only wanted to be moulded, encouraged and cultivated. Caltex, he said, deserve a sincere vote of thanks for their enlightened approach to education in this country. If more companies adopted the true methods we would have a true spirit of vocational education in our midst.

Mr. F. Webster, Advertising Manager, Caltex, said the theme of 1958 competition would be: "Things I Love About Ireland." There would be more than 500 prizes awarded. He added that Mr. Black, of Glasgow, the adjudicator of the 1957 competition, had stated that Irish children were more highly developed in art than children in Great Britain.

### Accused Of Stealing £460 From City Bookmaker

In the Limerick Circuit Criminal Court this afternoon the trial opened in which Bridget Foran, 8, O'Callaghan Avenue, Limerick, is charged with the larceny of £460, on the 19th December, 1956, from

MANY people sustained injuries during the holding of an auction in Carmody's Hotel, Ennis, this evening when one of the floors collapsed.

Telephone messages to and from Ennis have failed to throw much light on what has happened, but it is known that many have been injured.

As a result of the collapse of the floor the whole interior of the building would seem to be in a shambles.

A later message, for which it is not possible to get confirmation at the time of going to press, says that seven people have been killed in the crash. The casualty list is continuing to grow.

The auction was being conducted by Mr. L. de Courcy, Limerick. There are twenty-three bedrooms in the hotel and the auction was advertised to last three days.

Mr. Eric Neville, phoning us from Ennis, states that he went to attend the auction, but was not present when the floor collapsed. "When I returned to the hotel after lunch I found the whole place in a shambles. There was no hope of either getting in or out and people were going about in a state of bewilderment. There are reports of some people having been killed, but to tell the truth, there is so much confusion, I don't know what is going on."

A message received at 4.15 from Mr. Dick Walsh, an Ennis journalist, states that it was then known that six people had lost their lives.

Asked if the Auctioneer, Mr. Louis de Courcy, was safe, Mr. Walsh replied that Mr. de Courcy had escaped injury.

The collapse, Mr. Walsh said, took place on a second floor. At the time there were two hundred people in the room.

#### AMONG THE DEAD

Among the dead—in some quarters said to number eight—is Mr. E. de Regge, who was the organist at the Cathedral, Ennis, for over 20 years, and is the proprietor of a music shop in Catherine Street, Limerick.

It is also stated a mother of five in family is among the victims.

Phoning at 4.45, Mr. Walsh said that the hospital authorities would not be in a position to give the names of the dead until identification had been completed.

"As I 'phone," he said, "the debris is being searched for more bodies. So far as I know, six have been killed, but it is rumoured that the number may be eight."

"The whole town," he added, "has been turned into a hospital. The Red Cross, nurses, doctors and fire brigade men are working at top pressure. The people are so stressed that they do not realise what has happened. In fact, we don't yet know what has happened, for it is not easy to patch things together when so many have been killed, and when the casualty list is up to fifty people."

Mr. Walsh, 'phoning at 5.15, states there is now no doubt that Mr. de Regge has lost his life. A woman named Mrs. Coffey, of Clarecastle, and a son of School Inspector Donnellan are among the dead.

A woman, who was not in the building, collapsed in the street with shock and died.

### ROSBRIEN FLOODING DISCUSSED

THE serious flooding of the Rosbrien Road, in the vicinity of the level crossing, was raised by Mr. J. McNamara, at last Saturday's meeting of the Limerick Co. Council, Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., Chairman, presiding.

Mr. McNamara asked if there was any report prepared by the County Engineer on the matter.

The County Secretary (Mr. D. F. Donovan) read the report, which stated that flooding occurred in October, 1957, at the south side of the level crossing at Ballyclough. FLOODED TO DEPTH OF 18 INCHES.

It was flooded to a depth of 18 ins for eight days. One house was flooded and there was considerable dislocation of traffic. Flooding occurred frequently there. There had also been extensive flooding in the area for five days in 1956. Considerable drainage had been carried out in the area and further improvements were pending. The upper catchment area of the Ballyclough river had been widened and improved with the result that there was a greater volume of water thrown down from higher portions of the catchment area than before. The road culverts were not wide enough to take the extra volume of water and he would make provision in the coming estimates for widening of these.

#### CULVERTS TOO SMALL

In reply to Mr. McNamara, the County Engineer (Mr. M. G. Ahern, B.E.) said that the culverts in the railway line (Limerick-Kerry line) were also too small and he had written to the C.I.E. Superintendent on the matter. He had also written to the lands branch of the Department of Agriculture but he had received no reply yet. It was a matter for the Land Commissioners to tackle.

Mr. McNamara said that road was a very important one. Quite recently a tractor and trailer loaded with cattle for a Limerick auction was stuck as a result of the flooding and could not get out.

#### HAD TO UNLOAD CATTLE INTO WATER

The owner was obliged to unload the cattle into the water. Flooding had been occurring there for years and something would have to be done about it. The general impression was that the new railway was responsible because the flood water could not get away down to the Shannon.

The Engineer said that the culverts on the Limerick - Patrickswell line were too small. He would try to get something done to relieve the situation.

The discussion ended.

### "Flu" Holds Up "Jobs In America" Case

The "Jobs in America" case, in