

By CONOR KEANE

## YOUNG LIMERICKMAN who was sick in bed died this Friday despite valiant efforts of his brother to rescue him from a blazing cottage.

The dead man, Mr. Jimmy Hayes, aged 22, was asleep at the time in the family home at Ballybrood, just two miles from Caherconlish, when a neighbour spotted the fire and raised the alarm at around 3

so in the house were Mr. Hayes' mother, Bridget; his brother, Jerry, 25, and his sister, Mary Anne, 29. Three were injured.

### Neighbours

The neighbours told me that Jerry rushed into the house to try and rescue Jimmy who was sick in bed, but he did not get in because of the fire and the fire," said Mrs. Hayes.

Mr. Denis Hayes, father of the dead man, was in hospital at the time of the blaze. He said other members of the family who were in the ill-fated cottage were taken to Limerick Regional Hospital.

At the late Mr. Hayes, unemployed, was a very active football player.

### Fire brigade

The neighbours, Mr. Christy, Mr. Ned, were first on the scene. The Cappamore Fire Brigade arrived shortly afterwards, but the house was almost completely gutted at that stage.

It is not known how the fire started. This is the third fatal fire in the town of Limerick in recent months. Two children died in a fire in Fedamore before Christmas and a baby was killed when a caravan went on fire at Caherelly, Grange, Mallock, before Christmas.

LATEST: Bridget and Mary Anne Hayes were "comfortable" and Jerry Hayes was "satisfactory" at the Regional Hospital.

### Budget protest

The Limerick and Clare District Council of the G.W.U. this Thursday night passed a resolution calling on the national executive of the union to organise a one-day nationwide strike because of the "savage attack on living standards and the substantial reduction in real earnings caused by the Budget."

### St. Patrick's

## Limerick Theatre Omnibus without a bus

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK'S ONLY professional theatre company — Theatre Omnibus — is without a bus following a fire — thought to be malicious — which burned out their only means of transport in Newport at the weekend.

Ms. Jean Regan of the company explained to the Limerick Leader that the burning of the bus, which had taken them all over Ireland, was a case of mistaken identity.

Omnibus are currently relying on hired transport to help them fulfil their engagements.

"Getting to future dates is going to be a real headache," Ms. Regan said. "We have been wracking our brains because this has been a bit of a disaster. We also lost half of our dance floor which was in the bus at the time."

Their bus, an old one, had served them well and even transported them to the Edinburgh Festival where they received much acclaim.

However, Ms. Regan was adamant that the show would go on and the group members will be staging children's shows all over the country.

## Mattersons: Louis Byrne calls for united front

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK Chamber of Commerce president, Mr. Louis Byrne, has called for a united front in Limerick to appeal to the Government to give special attention to industry in the region, following the announcement this week that the canning section of Mattersons is to close next month with a loss of 36 jobs.

The decision to shut down the canning section at the ultra-modern Moyross plant was described by him as a shattering blow and one that could have serious repercussions.

Having survived the recession for so long the stage had now been reached where genuine efforts would have to be made to curb further loss of employment.

Colleagues It was, continued Mr. Byrne, a very serious situation

and he would be asking his colleagues in the Chamber of Commerce to approach the Government to focus attention on the Limerick area.

Meanwhile, former Labour TD for East Limerick, Mr. Steve Coughlan, described the closure as a scandal and, like Mr. Byrne, suggested all should join forces to at least maintain existing employment levels here.

It was a scandal, he added, that the Irish Sugar Company should take such drastic action. "This is just another casualty in a traditional industry in Limerick."

The Mattersons plant at Moyross has a capacity of 100,000 cans per eight-hour shift.

The closure will take effect from March 25.

Just 12 months ago 75 people were employed in the canning section.

The news was broken to the heads of departments of Mattersons at a meeting with management this Wednesday

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The Trust, the first of its kind in the country, has received widespread support. AnCO will move young workers two schemes as part of its youth employment programme.

A leading expert on civic trusts, Mr. David Fletcher of Manchester Polytechnical College, told the inaugural meeting of the Limerick Civic Trust this Thursday at Mary Immaculate College that the initiative could be an answer to vandalism in the city.

Mr. Fletcher said the civic trust could tackle many derelict sites in the city.

"Commitment is more important than cash, and the time is now ripe for Limerick to get on with this work — if the commitment is there the money will be found," said Dr. Fletcher.

He stressed the need for a city like Limerick to put on its "best suit."

"If Limerick becomes a better place to live, work and spend recreation time in, because of its improved appearance, it will make it a better place for people to invest in and, thereby, create more jobs," he declared.

"Like going for an interview, it is important for a city to wear its best suit."

Mr. Denis Leonard, chairman of the Limerick Image Committee, who have spearheaded the civic trust idea, said the 16 projects selected would cost in the region of £50,000.

They are proceeding immediately with a clean-up of a corner site near St. Mary's Cathedral and the War Memorial at O'Callaghan Strand.

### The Walls

Among the other projects planned are a clean-up of the Walls of Limerick at St. John's Hospital and work on a derelict site in Parnell Street.

Most of the work will be done in co-operation with AnCO and will be funded from subscriptions to the civic trust.

"We are hoping to get 100 members at £100 each, and this will give us a cash float to work from — already we have 20 members and we see no difficulty in getting the rest," said Mr. Leonard.

The civic trust committee are confident that the new drive to clear away eyesores in



A derelict one of the

the city will be in community city's beauty tions.

Said Mr. F the time for Limerick to volunteer the form of time and, of course

At the laun trust, Mr. M T.D. Ministe it was our du could to see t were worthy

He added gives the in does not car and apathetic cises officia things go wi done, it will i those charge sibility or pr iverment.

### Young Lim

Three "Ye ters will leav Square on Fr to start a two to Dublin television annual appe Limerick. Cl as well as personalities Allen and T will see the This yea appeal will Guide Dogs cycle will fir and Roscrea for Portlao where the jo p.m. on Sat studios in E

### Fergu deaf

Lancome O'Sullivan, han, hair st will present and demo Limerick In at 8 p.m. senior const returned fro duce the Look. Ther good advic care. There wi wine recep

## LIMERICK FAIR OPENS

By LEADER REPORTER

INDUSTRIES in the Mid-West were encouraged to pay particular attention to the Irish-American market by the Mayor of Limerick, Councillor Tony Bromell, at the opening of Limerick Spring Fair at the Parkway Motor Inn.

There are over 100 stands on display at the Fair, which is expected to generate over £1m of new business in the region.

### Goodwill

Following a recent trip to America, Mayor Bromell said he was very impressed with the goodwill towards



Artists of St. Enda's Community School adult education department are exhibiting paintings at the Spring Fair. Left to right (standing): Pat O'Connor (headmaster), Liam Leland (adult education), Michael Whelan (artist). Sitting: Anne O'Friel (head of art department), Vera Sheerin (artist), Liz Ryan (organiser, Spring Fair), Jane Myland (artist), Nora Ryan (artist).