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Water riddle baffles experts

By LEADER REPORTER

THE BITTER, iodine taste in the water which flowed from Limerick taps during the weeks has baffled the local authorities.

Bacteriological and chlorine tests undertaken by the Mid-Western Health Board in response to numerous complaints have proved negative. But community care programme manager, Dr. Feirce McCrann says that he is now awaiting the results of a chemical analysis.

The Corporation hotly denies allegations that extra chlorine was either accidentally or deliberately put in the reservoir and blames the vile taste—which according to local publican, Cllr. Bobby Byrne, couldn't even be diluted by "a small one"—on "extra organic carbon in the river".

"It happens", a Corporation spokesperson said, "in a sudden change in the weather, such as happened on Tuesday when the long frosty spell came to an end".

Their claim, however, is somewhat dismissed by the ESB's chief biologist at Parteen, Mr. Noel Roycroft who says that such a development is usually associated with algae production and "it's not the time of the year for that".

But farmers, Mr. Roycroft pointed out, had been "pumping all kinds of things on land during the dry spell".

Dr. McCrann said they had no reports of illness and that the water would have been treated at the reservoir in any case.

Earhart day

Adare Zonta Club's promotion of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards for women engineers doing post graduate studies in space related science will be held at the Jonathan Swift Theatre, NIHE, on this Friday, at 8 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Weather

Shannon Met. Office forecast rain for the morning and afternoon this Saturday in Limerick. The outlook for the remainder of the weekend and into next week is for mild weather with showers or longer periods of rain, but overall amounts are expected to be small.

Bella O'Connor

a former employee of The Limerick Echo.

Aged 79, she had been ill for some time. She is survived by her sons Jack, Joe, Kevin and Teddy; daughters Mrs. Rita Gleeson, Mrs. Kathleen Duggan, Mrs. Margie Prawley and Mrs. Mary Bugler; sister-in-law Mrs. Mai Bourke; and sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Funeral arrangements will be held at the Limerick Echo.

It would, the statement said, be maintaining its retail and distribution outlet in Limerick.

The Minister for Labour had been advised and discussions in relation to the consequences of the closure were ongoing.



GAC row flares up again

Imported CIE coach in Limerick.



Death of old city industry

Writing on the wall at O'Mara's.

O'MARA'S LIMERICK PLANT TO STAY SHUT

By LEADER REPORTERS

THE LIMERICK BRANCH of the Bacon Company of Ireland — O'Mara's — has officially ceased production with the loss of 50 jobs, the Limerick Leader learned this week.

After weeks of negotiations between management and the ITGWU, during which 37 workers were laid off temporarily, it was finally confirmed that the plant is closed.

The premises in Roche's Street will be retained as a depot and marketing office for the Claremorris and Letterkenny branches of the Bacon Company of Ireland and 11 workers will be employed.

A spokesman for the ITGWU said that they had been hopeful up to the end that production might be continued in Limerick and they were disappointed at the final outcome. *Bringing home the bacon: Page 8.*

O'Mara's bacon factory has been in operation in Limerick since 1839.

The reasons for closure were given this Friday by a company spokesman. "Primarily," he said, "it was because the business was unprofitable. There are too many pigs in the country and little or no export. All our margins have been squeezed. Also, the spokesman said: 'We are an old factory in the wrong part of the town.'"

Unlikely

He said that the IDA and the Department of Agriculture were trying to sort out the problems in the bacon industry but whatever happened it was unlikely that O'Mara's would ever open again in that premises anyway.

In a statement issued this Friday, company director, Mr. Michael O'Mara, who wasn't available for comment, said that the company has decided to cease killing and ancillary production and to close its retail outlet Richard Ray Ltd.

It would, the statement said, be maintaining its retail and distribution outlet in Limerick.

The Minister for Labour had been advised and discussions in relation to the consequences of the closure were ongoing.

GAC crisis

Meanwhile, a report commissioned by Shannon bus builders GAC and submitted to the Government claims that the closure of the plant would cost the exchequer £8 million while it would cost almost £12 million to keep the plant open for 12 months and at the same time replace the coun-

Meanwhile, new food firm rises

By LEADER REPORTER

ALTHOUGH SOME of Limerick's traditional food processing industries have been enduring the sour taste of recession, a new enterprise will cash in on the distinctive tastes of Continental palates, it was revealed this Friday by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D.

The company, Valcoast Enterprises, is to set up at the Limerick Food Centre, in Raheen Industrial Estate, where it will process high added value fish products, particularly smoked eel for German, Dutch and other markets.

18 jobs

It will employ 18 at full production. And Mr. Noonan, who was paying his first official visit as Minister to the Innovation Centre at Plassey Technological Park, also announced that a company in the



Minister Noonan.

Technological Park, Industrial and Scientific Imaging Ltd., has signed a unique commercial agreement with a New Jersey firm, Fideo Tek. Inc., which combines a joint technology transfer agreement and substantial venture capital funding for the Limerick firm.

And employment at ISI in Limerick which currently stands at ten is expected to increase to 35 after 3 years. Referring to Shannon Development efforts to create more small industry in the region, Minister Noonan said the success of that

company demonstrated that the favourable environment and supports in the region had produced a steady flow of new entrepreneurs setting up in business.

He added: "The Innovation Centre, where we are today is a division of Shannon Development with a nationwide role. It is a network of workshops, innovation management advice and funding mechanisms which has been developed and which provides a 'hot-bed' setting for export based high technology enterprises.

"Entrepreneurs from different parts of Ireland are now running 15 companies in these workshops, employing 82 people, which are engaged in a wide range of sophisticated industrial operations.

Full range

"The Innovation Centre, which works in conjunction with the IDA, Udaras na Gaeltachta, the IIRS and other agencies, also offers a

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Fear and panic among Noonan supporters: T.D.

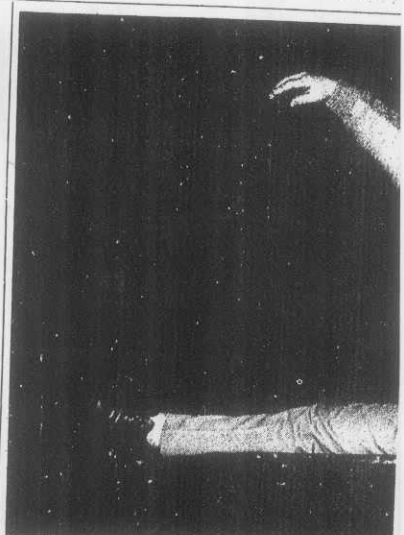
By LEADER REPORTER

DEPUTY WILLIE O'DEA claimed this week that there was "fear and panic" within Fine Gael and particu-



Mr. Noonan.

"The sentiments he expressed Mr. Noonan's sentiments. It is said indeed that a person of Mr. Noonan's alleged status has not got the guts to come up front and do his own dirty work."



Oliver Hayes at the scene

Oliver Hayes falls from stage

By LEADER REPORTER

A NEW MEANING has been given to the theatrical expression "trip the light fantastic" at the Belltable this Thursday night when Oliver Hayes of the Anvil Players fell off the stage in front of a dumb struck audience. But the show went on without the tough technician missing a line.

Soccer referee, Ollie never called foul when fellow player Kieran Ring from Bruff gave him an over-exuberant push which sent him flying from the stage during Moliere's classic "The Miser" at the Felle Luinni Drama Festival.

Ollie, from Woodview, was none the worse for wear this Friday and clocked in for work as usual with Atlas Aluminium on the Roxboro Road.

Playing the part of Master James with the Bruff-based amateur group, Ollie was supposed to be at logger heads with Vincent, played by Kieran.

Balance

Said Kieran: "I pushed him on the shoulder and he seemed to lose his balance and fell off the stage. I was about to ask him was he alright when in the true tradition of the stage he never faltered and carried on acting—the audience loved it".

Ollie recoiled at a suggestion that the unscripted episode be incorporated in all future productions, saying: "They better have an insurance man on standby".

"I was very lucky in the way I tumbled. It was three feet to the ground. I think a lot of the audience just thought it was part of the play".

The mishap did not put a damper of their performance. Adjudicator Nora Lever singled out Ollie for special praise.

Footlights note: Fellow actor Pat O'Connor twisted his ankle as he left the stage.

Tragedy

Gardaí at Henry Street are investigating a fatal accident which occurred on the Dublin Road at 9 a.m. this Wednesday in which a pedestrian, Mrs. Betty Healy, aged 56, from 22 Rossa Avenue (off Mulgrave Street), died from injuries received when she was struck by a motorcyclo.

Courts strike this

LIMERICK CITY Saturday morning. B charges will be included popular with the pub groups is expected to House at 9 a.m.

Leaders of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, Ald. G O'Driscoll and Cllr. Jac Bourke, are both confident that a rate will be struck.

While they have spoken about the matter, all Ald O'Driscoll would say this Friday was: "Nothing definite has yet been decided."

The dilemma facing the councillors is that if they not vote for the service charges, ranging from £100 to £180 per dwelling, 80 Corporation workers may be go with 78 more on short time. And numerous contributions to different groups could be axed.

Commitment

Already Ald. Jim Kenn D.S.P. have said they against the services charged. So are Cllrs. Joe Harrington and John Quinn. Cllr. V Harrington has intimated that while against the charges he would vote moderate charges once commitment was given phase them out.

Cllr. Frank Prendergast, T.D., is against the charges.

"It looks as if there will some service charges, but all what the manager looking for," said A O'Driscoll.

The main priority, he was on, was to save jobs. "There are enough people on the council — we have to protect workers."

He said that it also looks if there would be some service cuts. "I just hope that the councillors all act responsibly," he added. "We are just there to do the pop thing. Sometimes hard decisions have to be made." The service charges being sought by the city manager

YOUNG TRENDS

DER REPORTER JNERAL TOOK Thursday of Mrs. O'Connor (nee 41 Athlankard) who died this by at St. Camillus to friends, family hours as "Bella", deceased by her Jack, who worked Limited. wife for most of Mrs. O'Connor was