

Salute to Limerick's bands

Limerick Civic week will begin on this Saturday with a spectacular and colourful display by the local bands who will march through the city to Charlotte's Quay.

There they will be met by the Mayor of Limerick, Clr. Frank Prendergast, who will present them with plaques in recognition of the tremendous service they have given the citizens of

Limerick down through the years.

"For far too long our local bands have been taken for granted and have not got the recognition and praise they deserve. This is why we have decided to honour them this Civic Week," said Mayor Prendergast.

"For far too long," he continued, "we have neglected our local bands who have served us so

well down through the years. I am sure the people of Limerick will come out in their thousands to pay tribute on opening day."

This, the opening event, promises to be a truly colourful and musical extravaganza and will no doubt be a very fitting opening to Civic Week.

For the past number of months the bands have been preparing for the occasion and have formed

their own committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Patrick Phelan of the Boherbuoy Brass and Reed band.

Bro. Noel McGrath of C.B.S. Pipe Band, is the vice chairman and Mr. Albert McMahon of St. John's Band is the secretary. As well as the above mentioned all the bands have two representatives each on the committee.



A photograph of the original Victuallers band taken in the 1860's. They are now, of course, known as St. John's Band.

St. John's Brass and Reed

ST. JOHN'S Band is without doubt one of the most popular and historical bands in Limerick and dates back to 1865.

It was in that year that the Victuallers band was formed. In the 1920's the name of the

band was changed to St. John's Workman's Band and has subsequently become known as simply St. John's Band.

Family loyalties have been a strong feature of the band which practise every Sunday in a room at the rear of St. John's

Pavilion.

There are some 30 members in the band who raise funds through collections in public houses and an annual collection in the shops.

Without doubt one of the most popular and colourful of

our bands, St. John's participate in all the civic functions which are held in the city.

The above photograph is of the original victuallers band and was kindly given to us for publication by McCarthy Wool Stores, Chapel Street.



C.B.S. PIPE Band must need be one of the most spectacular musical groups in Ireland today. Founded in 1963 by Brothers Kenny and Wright, it has already established itself in Limerick's great musical tradition.

C.B.S. Pipe Band

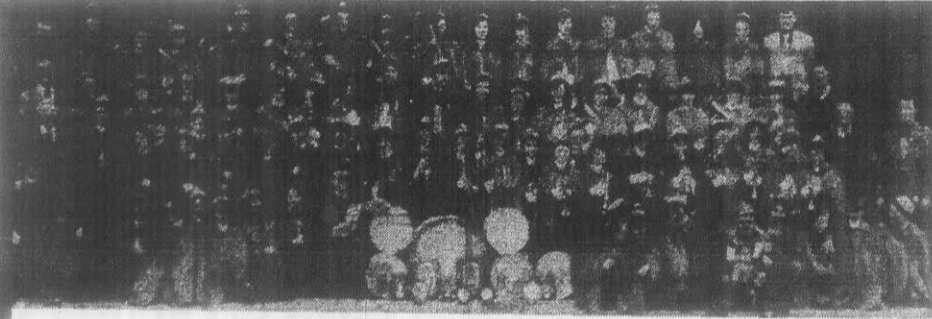
Since its foundation C.B.S. Pipe Band has represented Limerick on numerous occasions throughout the country, successfully competing in band competitions and achieving great acclaim at many sporting and civic events.

Also the band are no strangers to Shannon Airport where they have welcomed thousands of foreign visitors to Irish soil.

1975 saw one of the greatest feats of the band, when they travelled to the Netherlands as Ireland's representatives to the 700th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the city of Amsterdam. One of the highlights of that tour was the reception given to them by the

Irish Ambassador at the Hague.

Civic Week 1978 will once again see the band in action under the directorship of Bro. N. McGrath. With almost 100 members the Sexton Street band room is a hive of activity as the bandsmen rehearse for the coming events of the festival.



Limerick City Brass and Reed Youth Band

ONE BAND certainly going places at the moment are the Limerick City Brass and Reed Youth Band who have under construction at the moment a new £100,000 bandroom.

The band was founded in 1974 by M/s. Sam and Christy Benson and since then they have gone from strength to strength and have 64 boys and

girls playing in the band. In addition there are 16 other pupils who are being trained twice weekly at the Transport Union Hall, O'Connell Street.

The girls and boys in the band are at the moment preparing for a 10 day tour of England which will commence on March 28th and will conduct recitals in Coventry, Bir-

mingham, Manchester and London.

The members of the band who are aged between eight and sixteen, practise three nights a week at the Transport Union Hall. For the last three years they have won first prize in the youth section of the Limerick International band competition and they will be

hoping for a repeat performance this March.

One of the big headaches for the band mentors is to raise money for the new bandroom which is at the moment under construction at Caledonian Park. The cost of the building is £100,000. It will include a main hall which will seat 800 people.



Pictured on St. Patrick's Day, 1950, Limerick Pipe Band. From top, left: Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. Pat Kirby, Mr. Bob Hourigan and Mr. Tom Frawley. Middle row (from left): Mr. Martin Burke, Mr. Jack McManus, Mr. Michael Kiely and Mr. Monty Ahern. Front row (from left): Mr. Jim Bowman, Mr. Sean Kiely, Mr. Michael Kenny, Mr. John Williams, Mr. Jack Mitchell, Mr. William O'Mahoney, Mr. Seamus O'Dwyer (R.I.P.), Mr. Frank Whelan and Mr. Donald Hickey.

Limerick Pipe Band

ONE OF the best known and popular bands in the Munster area since their foundation in 1949 are the Limerick Pipe Band who are based at the Dominican Hall in Dominick Street.

The band when founded were based at the 'Rangers' Club in Boherbuoy and then moved to 27 Thomas Street after which they went to the

Knights of Malta premises, before they moved into the Dominican Hall which is now their headquarters.

Although almost 30 years since they were founded, nine of the ten men who were involved in the foundation of the band are still alive, the exception being the late Mr. Michael Kiely.

The nine other founder

members are Mr. Sean Kiely, Mr. Michael Kenny, Mr. Jack Mitchell, Mr. Jack McManus, Mr. Donal Hickey, Mr. Michael Storan, Mr. Michael Frawley, Mr. Jim Bowman and Mr. Seamus O'Dwyer.

Easily recognisable by their tartan dress and white shirts and tie bows the band have to their credit won five Munster

junior pipe band competitions. One of the founder members, Mr. Michael Kenny, who now lives in Wigan, was a member of the Worcester Pipe Band who some years back won a world's pipe band championship. The band plays at all the regular festivities and pay regular visits to Shannon Airport to welcome V.I.P.'s into the country.



St. Mary's Girls' Band

WELL-KNOWN local musician Charlie Curran founded St. Mary's Girls Pipe Band for children between ten and fourteen years of age.

Although they still go under the banner of St. Mary's Girls Pipe Band, a new class of pipe band, which included some boys started recently.

Formed in May '76 by Mr. Curran, a former member of the Army Band, St. Mary's first public engagement was at the Markets Field on March 6th of last year when they provided music for the big crowd which came to see Waterford and Limerick clash in the F.A.I. Cup.

Although only formed a short while the band has gained a big reputation for itself and won a cup and 16 medals at the Munster championships last year.

The pipers in the band are instructed by Michael McMahon, who along with

Charlie Curran, organise practice sessions for the members four days a week at the Dalcassian Hall.

At the moment Michael and Charlie are on the lookout for any boys or girls in St. Mary's Parish who has an accordion or can play one, as they intend to go into this field of music in the not too distant future.



Southhill Youth Pipe Band

THE MOST recent band to be formed in the city is the Southhill Youth Pipe Band which came into being some four months back.

Although only getting off the ground the Southhill band has 40 members.

The boys and girls in the band are obviously very dedi-

cated as they practise in local community centre each evening of the week.

Mr. Gerard O'Brien is the pipe instructor while Mr. Andy Hussey teaches the youngsters how to play the drums.

The mentors of the band are hoping to get good support

from the community in Southhill when collections for the band are held, and Mr. Gerard Moloney, chairman, is very busy at the moment trying to raise money for band uniforms.

One of the bands first functions was to perform in a cabaret act for some old folks

from the Garryowen area of the city, and since then their popularity has been steadily increasing.

The present officers are: chairman, Mr. Gerard Moloney; vice chairman, Mrs. Helen Moloney; treasurer, Mrs. Chris Corbett.



The Boherbuoy Brass and Reed Band

THE BOHERBUOY Brass and Reed Band since its foundation in 1850 has been a part of Limerick life musically and has had a long and distinguished career.

In last September the band had a long cherished ambition when they opened a new room at Edward Street on the site which they have

occupied down through the years. The Boherbuoy has brought honour and glory to Limerick on numerous occasions winning nearly every band competition worth winning in the Republic.

On a film made by the Voice of

Ireland" featured the band as well as Limerick's champion dancer, the late Una O'Rourke.

The band has very strong family tradition with fathers, sons, grandsons, nieces and nephews involved. In the last couple of years the band has been rebuilt and is now show-

ing the result of musical training by Mr. Patrick McCormack, musical director.

The boys and girls in the band attend the Municipal School of Music and have had great success in their music exams. Practically all the brass and woodwind players performing in the city orchestras are members of the band.



St. Mary's Fife and Drum

ST. MARY'S Band, founded in the Parish in 1885, is one of the oldest bands in Limerick and has enjoyed much success down through the years.

Up to 1927 the band had practice rooms in various parts of the parish, when the president at the time Mr. Patrick McManara, ventured on a

building in Mary Street which has been the headquarters of the band up to the present day.

St. Mary's are unlike other bands in the city in that they are a Fife and Drum Band and are in fact one of the few remaining such bands in the country, as most of the bands now include a brass section.

St. Mary's most notable achievement was in 1975 when they won their first prizes in the Republic of Ireland senior Fife and Drum championships.

The band meet every Sunday on practice and raise funds through their billiard room and annual which they let ten rent from time to time.

The present officers and committee are: Mr. Michael Bourke, president; Mr. Gerry Clancy, vice president; Mr. Sean Meehan, treasurer; Mr. Colm McGrath, secretary; Committee, Mr. Jimmy Daly, bandmaster; Mr. S. O'Donnell, Mr. J. McMahon, Mr. T. McArthur, Mr. P. Keogh and Mr. A. Hurley.