

U. 54

CURTIS BILLY KELLY

# Marching band is dream come true

## SOUTHSIDE

THE 95 member Southside Marching Band and Drill Team - born during Limerick Treaty 300 - is now fully operational and anxious to play at events throughout the region.

The band was the dream of Miriam Dawson, who was a member of the youth committee of Treaty 300. It was set up to provide an opportunity for children who wanted to play but could not afford their own instrument.

Today the band is the newest, youngest and biggest in Limerick and is still growing.

"The children have put in a lot of time over the last 12 months and I am very proud of their achievement," Miriam Dawson, the band's musical director, explained.

"I know they now have something worthwhile in their lives which will never leave them lonely or alone."

Since its foundation the band has struggled against the odds to make it to the present position.

Without money, uniforms or enough instru-



The Southside Marching Band - a Treaty 300 dream come true.

30 children between 10 and 14 years of age.

"I had only one trumpet, two cornets, and one eb horn to begin the band with," she revealed.

The members have been paying £1 a week ever since and this has helped to buy

start with three and four members sharing the one instrument. Today they have 52 instruments but need many more.

Miriam has spent up to seven nights a week with the band members to give them some of what she learned herself while a

Dallas. Now, with an expanded repertoire and the music sounding very well the band is attracting attention from new members as well as from groups which want them to play at events.

The band won its first awards on St Patrick's Day this year when it won the

standard of the band's performance is continually improving and developing.

"Our only uniform is a light jacket. This is because of the high cost of uniforms and because we give priority to buying instruments for the rest of the children in the band.

"The band is giving an opportunity to many young people from around the city to play an instrument, create music and enjoy themselves. This is a worthwhile and positive activity for them to be involved in."

Miriam would welcome any support for her efforts