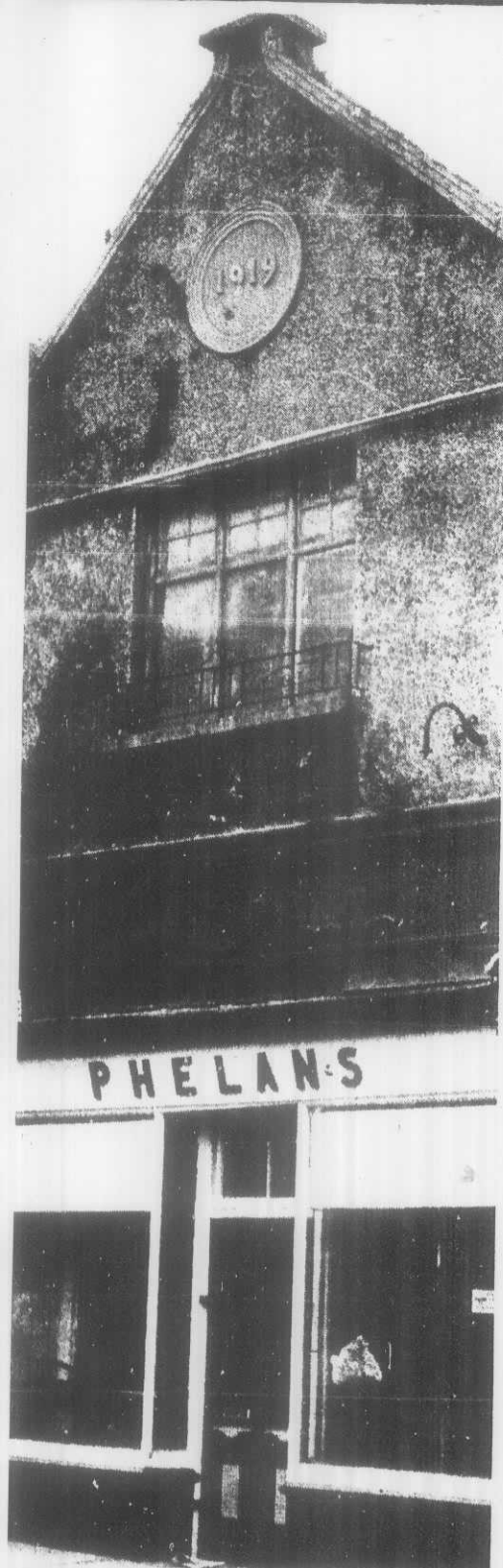


THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD

BY E.C.



Cinema Memories from the 1920's...

● The 19th century was rushing towards its close, propelled by steam and electricity. The railroad, the steamship, the telegraph, the phonograph and the internal combustion engine all took their places in human life in bewildering succession.

● But it was the cinema which made the greatest strides and actors like Charles Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford were household words, and Limerick had its share of "motion picture" houses.

● Strangely enough in Limerick, three of them grew up in a comparatively small area.

● In 1919, the Garryowen opened in Broad Street and its films and variety shows attracted capacity houses every week. The exterior of the old cinema still stands. Anyone who takes the trouble to study it will realise that it was quite a large structure for its day. It is now Phelan's Upholstery and Repairs, but the frontage is remarkably well preserved with two of the original light brackets still in position; plus the office window area or projection box on the first floor. The name GARRYOWEN can be made out with little difficulty.

● Not far from this cinema, there was The Tivoli Cinema, famous for its films, serials and stage shows with The Baileys, the Fergusons, and the feats of Bert Duval. Across the river from this cinema was the Abbey Kinema on the site of St. Anne's Vocational School. So there was no shortage of entertainment in this compact area in the 1920s. But then, it was one of the most densely crowded districts in the city.

● This picture, therefore, is the last surviving

Killorglin

● Killorglin is a very fortunate town. It has cinema for the best part of 45 years and has now a completely modernised movie house.

● It is mainly due to the O'Shea family. Killorglin has had the best in dancing and entertainment for almost half a century.

● "The only screen of its kind in Munster" the family describe the new multi-purpose which has been fitted—and the seating capacity reduced from 600 to 200.

● Much larger centres have lost their cinema in recent years but the determination of the O'Sheas has ensured that all the latest movies are heading for the town. The very first film Deanna Durbin's "Three Smart Girls" in followed by such successes as "The Song of Music" which ran for 32 performances; "With The Wind," which ran for two months.

● The foyer is dotted with old posters which are an interesting conversation piece.

● The one which really captured my attention was a dance poster for 1938—August 10, 11 and 12 Fair. It announced that Louis Lee's Orchestra would be playing for the three nights with six instruments including two violins. Admission three shillings (fifteen pence) and dancing from 8 p.m. until SIX a.m.

● Here's wishing this enterprising family success with their new-look cinema—warmer, more comfortable, carpeted, and very, very inviting.

link with an era that was unique in Limerick life—contrasting starkly with the position of the town. There is no cinema in the area now, although in later years there was (on a continuation of Broad Street) the Thomond in Nicholas Street at the corner of Thomondgate.

● Time marches on...

SCHOOL

NOW OPEN!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Limerick's original

Come and see us

Doors open

TWO MILE INN, LIMERICK

SUNDAY: Bar Extension and Supper

TUESDAY: Bar Extension and Supper

Dancing Every Tuesday and Sunday