

# Unveil the murky depths of Corbally Baths

By **CLAIRE DOYLE**

IN undisturbed solitude at the Corbally Baths, a local man sits in his car, reading the paper for an hour before lunch.

He's been going there every morning since his retirement in 1987. "It's quiet here," he said, as, startled, he answered the reporter. "There's no one here usually, I can just relax and read my paper."

Since May 1985, a Corporation sign, which, presumably the result of vandals' boredom, now faces the river, informs visitors to the baths that: "The quality of the river in this location has deteriorated. Accordingly, it is not considered suitable for bathing or swimming purposes."

Before this sign was erected, Corbally Baths were among the most popular family amenities in the city. Crowds milled around the area on sunny afternoons, and children's' shouts rang in the air as they splashed in the pool to their hearts' content.

The bashful could change into their costumes in coloured changing rooms,

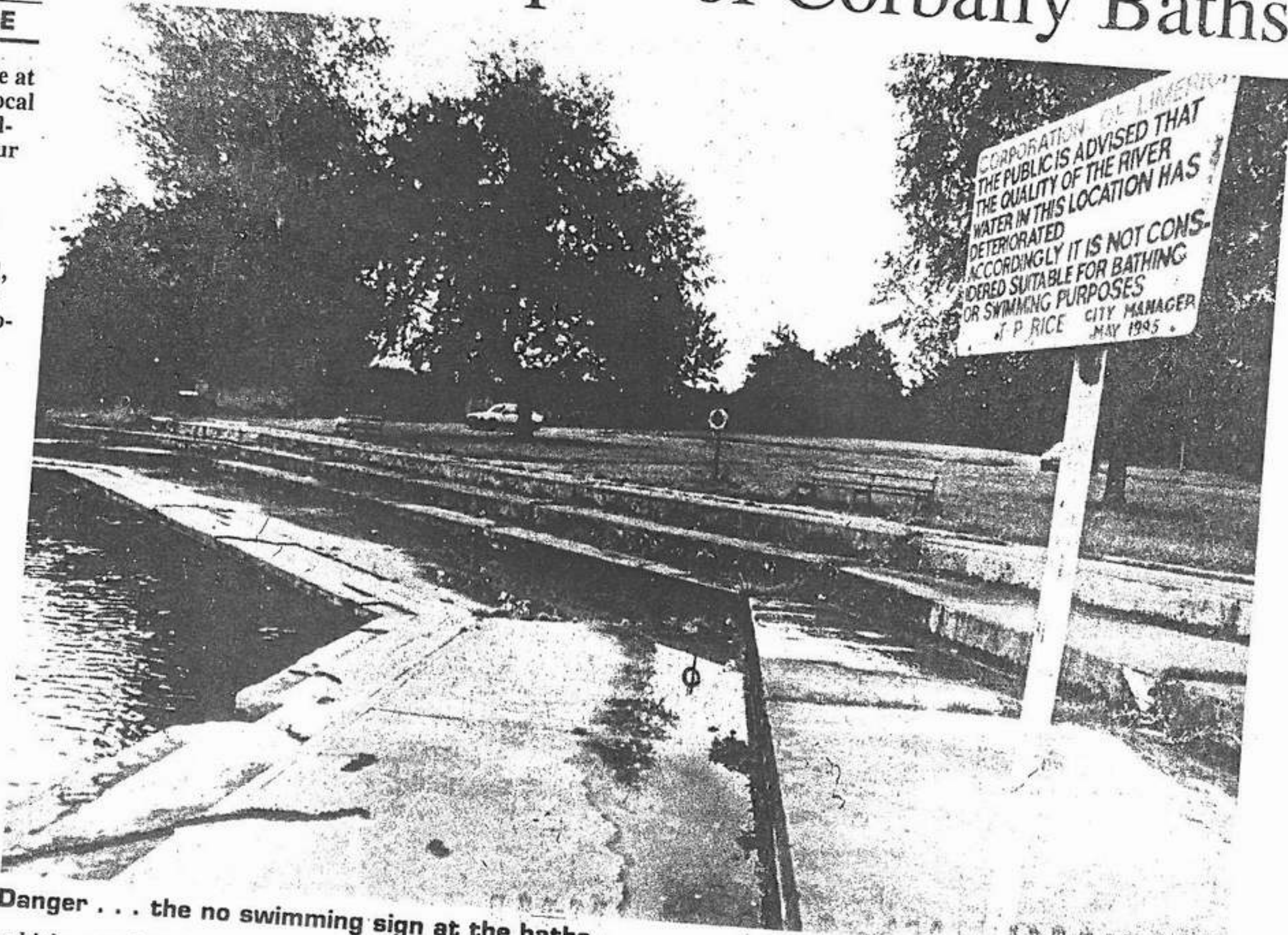
**Danger . . . the no swimming sign at the baths.**

which were dotted along the bank. Nothing remains of its former glory except a row of iron seats.

The river is clogged with algae, while the pool, now barely distinguishable, is uninviting to say the least. The water is murky and

polluted - an inquisitive hand disappears from view beneath just a few inches of water. With the sense of loss and

ominous desertion that pervades the area, the Corbally Baths would now provide an ideal setting for a horror movie.



(LL)

# Raising a glass to the birth of Limerick