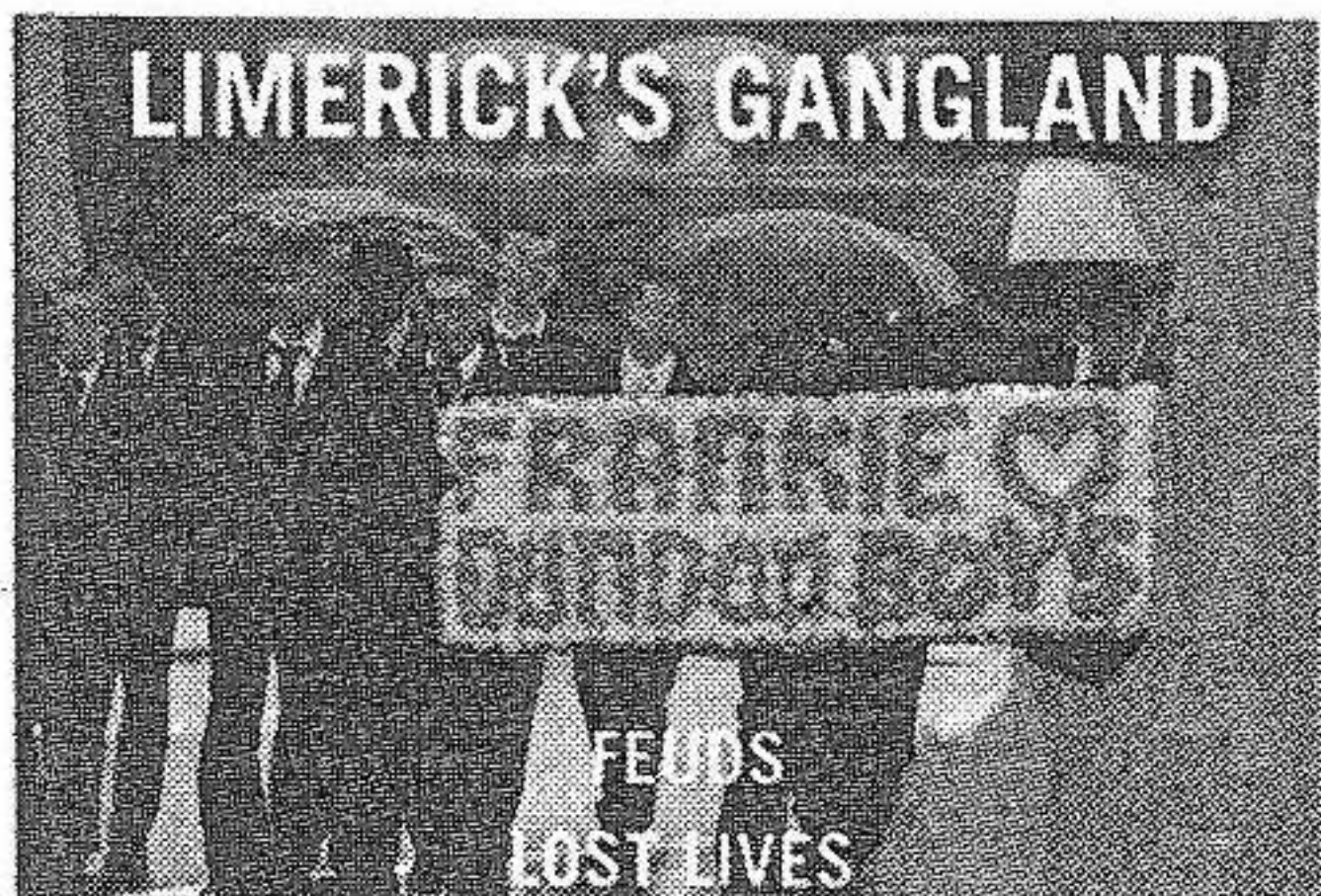


Mean Streets launched by Steve Collins



By Colum Coomey

PERSON of the Year award winner Steve Collins, praised the media for their help in the campaign for new legislation to tackle gangland crime when he launched Mean Streets, a new book on Limerick's gangland by journalist Barry Duggan.

Speaking about the author, he said: "He's been very good to us helping us in our campaign. It proves without the media, we wouldn't have got what we did".

Discussing the new legislation, Mr Collins, whose son Roy was shot dead earlier this year, added: "We haven't seen major change yet but I'm sure when they do start implementing

them, they will be effective. You have to wait for something to happen. I'm looking forward to the first one being put away for a long time".

He was delighted for Duggan on the release of his first book and paid this tribute: "He's a hard worker; he's always on top of things and he's always the first face you see when anything happens. For people that don't understand what's going on in Limerick, this book is very informative".

Speaking to the Limerick Post, Barry Duggan said it was easier to write the book with a Limerick background: "You have a basic understanding of where people are

coming from. You've got the local knowledge and it helps out a lot in that respect".

He explained how his strong link to the city was beneficial in writing the book: "You're dealing with the same lawyers, solicitors, guards all of the time and you

develop a relationship with them".

This gave him an advantage while completing his work. "The Dublin media come down and they might not have the same local knowledge. It's not as simple as one side against the other, there are complexities

there and they can only be seen by working here and working here on a long-term basis".

Mean Streets takes an insightful look at the gangland feud which has affected Limerick over the last decade, and is available in local book shops.

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