

# Shotgun blasts at 2 homes

By **EUGENE PHELAN**

A YOUNG mother and baby had a narrow escape when a shotgun blast just missed them in the early hours of Thursday morning. And in a separate incident occupants of another city house were unharmed when shots were fired through their front window.

Family members told this week how Noreen Collins (26) was walking down the stairs with her six-month-old baby Sarah for the child's nightly feed when a shotgun blast went in the front window of their home at 19 Hyde Avenue, at 4am on

Thursday.

"Then they stuck the shotgun in the letter box and she was coming down the stairs. She had to dive for cover. She was very lucky," said her boyfriend Patrick Hartnett.

There were around five shotgun blasts fired into and at the house. Inside there were about six people.

Some of the occupants said that efforts were made by the gunmen to gain entry but they failed. They also said that they did not know why their house was attacked.

Not long after this attack there was a similar incident at the home of Gerard Roche, (60), 19 Clarina Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston.

A gunman or men tried to enter the house after shooting a

blast through the front window. They broke the light bulb in the front room. No one was injured.

Mr Roche said that he had also earlier in the week been attacked by a number of men who hit him with a hammer while his son Geoffrey received 20 stitches when attacked.

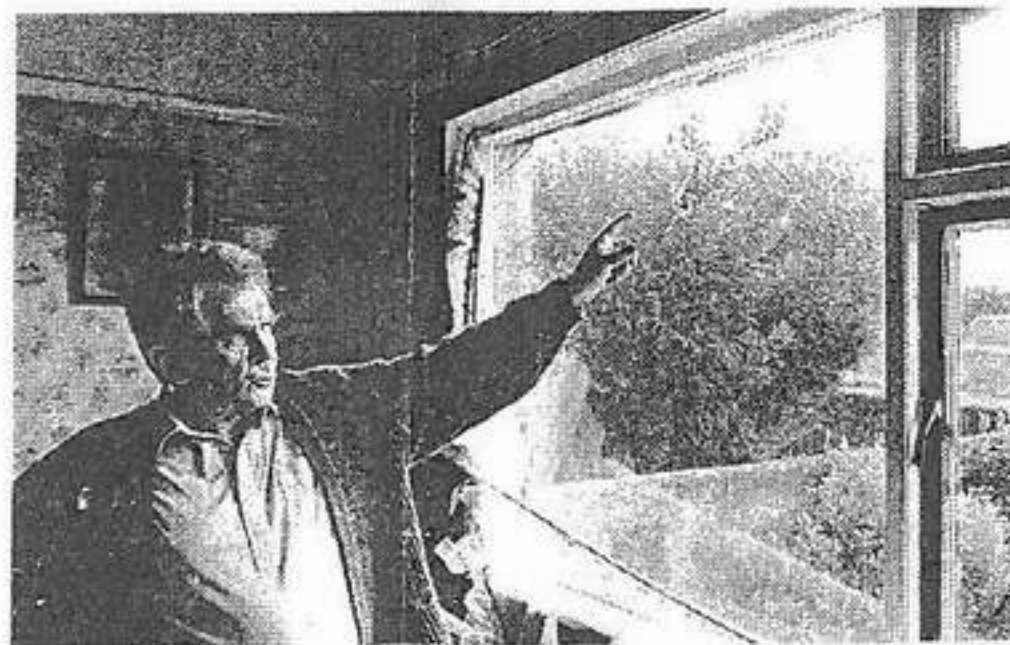
A Garda spokesman at Roxboro told the Limerick Leader that they wanted to interview about six people they believed to be involved in the different incidents.

"We are also eager to find the shotguns used. These was a very serious incidents," added an investigating officer.

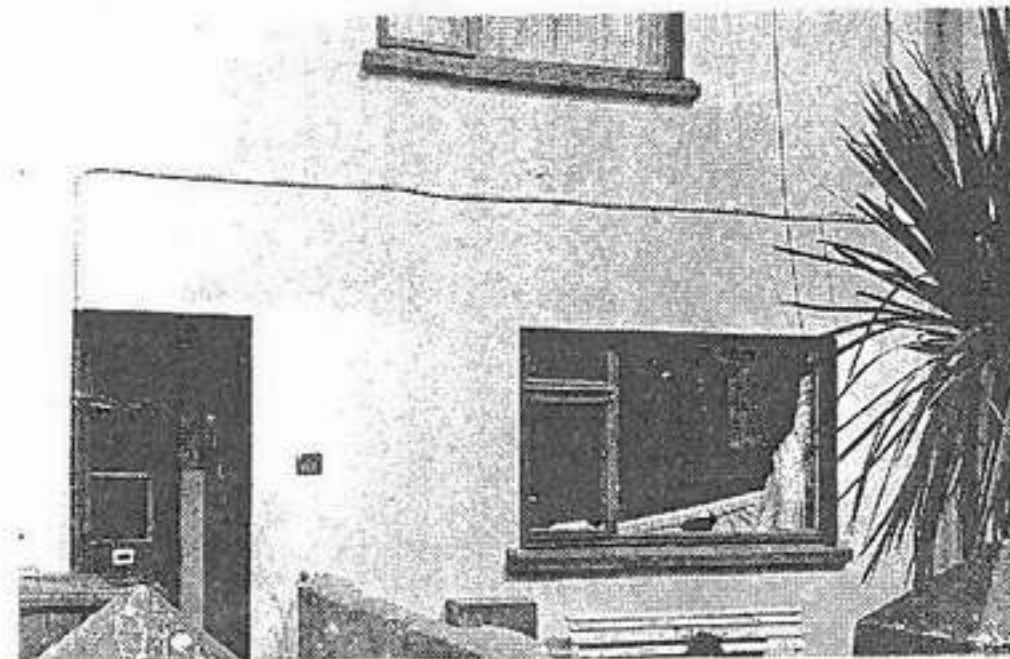
**PADDY MORONEY** writes: According to initial reports, the first shooting occurred at



Norren Collins and baby Sarah who survived the shooting incident at 19 Hyde Avenue (LL)



Ger Roche, 19 Crecora Avenue, shows where the shots came through his front window (LL)



19 Crecora Avenue, where shots were fired (LL)

# Drugs warning as girl survives

By **PADDY MORONEY**

DETECTIVES in Limerick have once again warned of the dangers of taking Ecstasy tablets, following the near-escape from death of a 19-year-old city girl this week.

She was comatosed for nearly two days after taking an Ecstasy tablet.

She was only saved by doctors and nurses at Limerick Regional Hospital, after friends had unsuccessfully tried to awaken her, and then rushed her to hospital.

"Young people should not be fooled by 'hype' that Ecstasy is a 'designer drug' and somehow 'safe'," said a detective at Henry Street station, later this week.

The most recent incident, understood to be the latest in half-a-dozen such hospital cases so far this year, occurred when the teenager was taken to Limerick Regional Hospital on Sunday evening by two men.

It is understood that the girl had returned home on

Saturday night in good spirits, having taken an Ecstasy tablet at a night club.

She had vomited water consumed earlier that night, and fallen asleep, but did not wake up the following morning. By 8 pm that Sunday, when efforts to rouse the girl had failed, she was rushed to Limerick Regional.

She remained comatosed until 3.30 am on Monday morning, when efforts by hospital doctors and nurses eventually succeeded.

She is reported to have since been discharged and is at home with her family.

The Drugs Squad based at Henry Street garda station this Thursday refused to comment on any specific instance related to drugs, but issued a general warning to young people and parents alike of the dangers of Ecstasy.

"Ecstasy has been around particularly for the past four years," said a spokesman in a general comment, "and is regarded as fashionable.

"In fact, there is a whole culture surrounding Ecstasy, such as music and clothes."

He agreed that the drug was passed on through other young people, adding, "There is a lot of peer pressure to take the drug.

"They get this feeling of well-being with the drug, and they want to go out and dance, and it could last for

up to six hours.

"But definitely people had had very adverse reactions even to taking a tablet only once."

He added that there was nothing "designer" about the drug, or safe, and he appealed to young people

and parents to be particularly on their guard.

There was now a greater awareness on the part of parents of the dangers, and of the importance of keeping a close watch on teenagers, particularly those in the 14-15 years of age category.

## Shooting

### ● FROM P1

approximately 4 am, when about three shots were fired from the road at the house in Hyde Avenue.

About 15 minutes later, a similar incident occurred at a house at Crecora Avenue, nearby, though this time only one shot had been fired.

Gardai conducting preliminary investigations on the spot, minutes after the report had been received, went on the line that a shotgun had been used in the two attacks, subject to examina-

tion of the scene later.

It is believed that more than one individual was involved, and that they escaped from the area on foot.

"There is nothing to suggest that a car was involved," said an official source. "It is more likely that they left on foot."

Gardai were relieved to find, on arrival at the scene, that there had been no injuries. But the occupants of the two houses appeared to be shaken by the incident.

## Dunnes

### ● FROM P1

Roads.

The sales continue, Mr Dwan said, until the warehouses are cleared of

current stock. Rails of new clothing were being rolled in for the week-end on Thursday and Friday.

And Sunday is expected to be particularly busy in all stores.