



Above: Hurler Bernie Hartigan.
Right: The corner of his endangered bungalow alongside land earmarked for a cemetery.



ROW LOOMS OVER NEW LIMERICK GRAVEYARD

BY JIMMY WOULFE

THE DEAD ARE worrying Limerick Corporation. There is a scarcity of suitable burial grounds within the city boundary. The situation is so bad that the city Manager, Mr. T. P. MacDiarmada, said this week that "the gun is being put to the Corporation's head" to resolve the problem.

He, in turn, has been accused of "putting the gun" to the heads of two farmers by offering them allegedly bad prices for land which he intends using as a graveyard. And Limerick hurler, Bernie Hartigan, and his wife are in danger of being forced out of their new bungalow as part of the Corporation plan.

Mr. Mac Diarmada told members of the City Council that the extension at Mount St. Laurence Cemetery would not be able to accommodate any more burials within a year.

A suitable site has been designated just within the city boundary at Trossagall, about a mile beyond Mount St. Laurence.

However, the owners of the land are totally dissatisfied with the price being offered by the Corporation and they are being backed by the three party leaders on the City Council in their bid to get a fairer deal.

Orders

The Corporation have issued a Compulsory Purchase Order to get possession of the 20 acres involved, and also to get possession of a new bungalow, alongside the land, which is owned by Bernie Hartigan.

Ten acres of the land is owned by Bernie's father, Mr. James Hartigan, who told me that if he were to lose this land it would make his holding uneconomic. He described the Corporation offer as ridiculous.

"If I went into arbitration they probably would not go ahead with the compulsory purchase order on Bernie's house, but I can't arbitrate on these terms," he added.

"It is ridiculous taking away a man's livelihood. I would have to sell my cattle here."

Mr. Hartigan said that these ten acres were vital to keep him in existence.

Objection

Bernie said this week that nobody wanted a graveyard at

the back of them. He told me that there was a law which gave a person living within 100 yards of an area like this a right to object.

Obviously, if Limerick Corporation took over his house it would prevent him from objecting.

Miss Kathleen Clappett, the owner of the other ten acres involved, said that her holding would also be rendered uneconomic if she lost the land.

"The price they are offering is not anything near the price being paid at present," she said.

"I am not willing to sell at this price."

The Corporation has already served Miss Clappett with a compulsory purchase order in relation to seven acres in another part of her farm which is wanted for road-building.

Accused

At this week's meeting the councillors seemed to have been unaware that there were two landowners involved.

Alderman Steve Coughlan accused the manager of offering a price far below the market value of the land.

"This is not fair," he declared.

"You didn't offer him anything like half the value of the land. I would suggest that you make him a fair offer and then enter into negotiations."

Alderman Ted Russell said that better offers were at present being made for land within five miles of the city.

He added: "The council agrees that this is not a fair offer which you have made. You haven't reached a point where you could put in a compulsory purchase order."

"What you have done is offer him half the value of the land, put in a compulsory purchase order and then go on."

Deaths

ALLEN—April 4, 1973, at the Regional Hospital, Michael Allen, late of Francis St., Limerick. Deeply regretted by his wife, nephews and relatives. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. Michael's Church this Friday evening at 6 p.m. Requiem Mass on Saturday 12 noon. Funeral immediately afterwards at Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.

DARGAN—April 6, 1973, at the Regional Hospital, Thomas Dargan, 5 Connolly Ave., Lanesborough, Limerick. Deeply regretted by his loving son, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church this Friday evening at 7.30 p.m. Requiem Mass on Saturday 12 noon. Funeral immediately afterwards at Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.

KELLY—April 6, 1973, at her residence, 16 Manor Ave., Limerick. Elizabeth Kelly, deeply regretted by her loving sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. Michael's Church this Friday evening at 7.30 p.m. Requiem Mass tomorrow Saturday at 12 noon. Funeral immediately afterwards at Mt. St. Laurence Cemetery.

URSTON—April 6, 1973, at Barrington's Hospital, Margaret Annabelle Urston, in her 88th year. 2 Grattan Villa, Mulgrave St., Limerick, widow of William Thomas Urston, late of P.D. Deeply regretted by her loving sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and a large circle of friends. Remains will be removed to St. Mary's Cathedral this Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. Service tomorrow Friday at 12 noon. Funeral immediately afterwards at Cathedral grounds. We praise Him for all that is past. And trust Him for all that is to come.

RYAN—April 6, 1973, at the Regional Hospital, Michael Ryan, 5 Peter St., Limerick, and late of Masterson's. Deeply regretted by his loving wife and relatives. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. Mary's Church this Friday evening at 6.30 p.m. Requiem Mass tomorrow Saturday at 12 noon. Funeral immediately afterwards at Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.



Mr. Mac Diarmada.

Corporation could find no ground suitable for burial purposes on the north side of the city.

The matter would be pursued, he said.

New house in Limerick Government

BY PADDY M

A SLIGHT DROP in the average house price in the Limerick area is reflected in government figures, issued this week.

And inside the city boundary there appears to be a considerable fall-off in the number of houses completed.

However, in County Limerick and, of course, some of Limerick's suburbs are there — the house-building rate seems to have slackened only slightly.

In the last quarter of 1972, the most recent period for which figures are available, the overall average price of a new house in the Limerick area was £5,871.

Average

This compares with the previous quarter, the autumn when the new house price averaged £5,948, slightly higher.

Without crowding in mind with figures, the biggest average price increase in recent times in the Limerick area was recorded in the 12 months between the autumn of 1971 and the autumn of 1972.

The overall price rose in that period from £5,020 to £5,949.

If a young person saving for a house were to merely keep pace with that kind of price increase, he would have to save £929 in that single year — between £17 and £18 a week.

And he would have to save much more than that if he were to appreciably close the gap between his existing savings and the price of a house.

Trend

But, in fairness, that period was an exceptional one; how-