

# ● Hotel blazes ● FIRE ANI DRAMAS

**FIRE and water threatened lives in Limerick last night and early to-day.**  
At about 4.30 this morning a blaze broke out at a city hotel. Eleven hours earlier rush-hour crowds watched oarsmen in difficulties in a storm-tossed River Shannon.

● Arson is suspected in the case of the fire which broke out at the Shannon Arms Hotel.

The lounge, diningroom, office and some overhead bedrooms were gutted and some guests had to climb out from the second storey bedrooms.

The alarm was raised by Gardai P. J. McDonagh, W. McCabe and W. Cunniffe, who saw smoke coming from the front entrance.

Limerick Fire Brigade were on the scene within minutes of the outbreak and succeeded in confining the blaze. The bar, some bedrooms and the Shannon room are intact but the Fountain room was badly damaged by water.

Some 10 guests were staying in the hotel and some had to leave in their night attire. Mr. Joe Murray, Shannon Travel, Dublin, had to climb from his bedroom just overhead the diningroom. Two Dublin girls also climbed out to safety.

### Downstairs

The staff sleeping downstairs, James McGrath, Pat O'Regan, Liam O'Halloran, Noel Piper and Eugene Logan, were roused by the caretaker, Mr. Michael Barry, who also alerted other guests, all who managed to come out safely.

Firemen stood by today damping down the still-smouldering embers. A wedding breakfast arranged for this morning had to be cancelled, as had several functions to be held during the week.

The Mayor, Ald. G. E. Russell, called on Mr. and Mrs. Steve Foley today and sympathised with them.

● Traffic was held up by hundreds of people on Sarsfield Bridge last evening as they watched a maiden Garda crew struggling to save their new £800 clinker eight rowing boat.

The boat, which was being coxed by Garda Bill Cunningham, crashed broadside into number one arch of the bridge in turbulent waters and was broken in two.

The following dramatic account of the incident was given to a Limerick Chronicle reporter by Tony Tynne, Club Officer, Limerick Boat Club:

"I was coxing a schoolboy four and I was near the second arch when I saw the Garda boat strike broadside into number one pier. I shouted to Bill Cunningham to keep the crew

with the boat and I turned my own crew around and went over to the Boat Club. I told three schoolboys to launch a tub and go to their assistance. This they did but in the meantime a tub from St. Michael's was already on its way to the rescue. I also told our boys to bring life jackets with them. When the St. Michael's boat reached the now submerged Garda boat, one of them grabbed the tub, which immediately overturned, throwing the occupants into the water.

"Our boys succeeded in getting four of the Garda into the tub and brought them safely ashore.

### Back again

"They went back again and rescued four more. In the meantime the Limerick Fire Brigade had arrived and threw ladders down the side of the walls on the O'Callaghan Strand side and also threw out some lifebuoys and the remainder climbed ashore."

The heroes of this thrilling rescue were 12 years old F. White, cox; 14 years old John Allen, boy, and 13 years old Liam Madden. They displayed great courage and coolness and are to be highly commended for their part in the rescue. They were trained in rowing and watermanship at Boat Club.

All praise too to the members of St. Michael's Club who also went to the rescue led by Austin Reed, who was taken to Barrington's Hospital and detained for treatment.

Last to leave the stricken boat was cox Bill Cunningham, who displayed courage of the highest order under very trying circumstances. He was taken off by the ambulance.

Some members of the crew received treatment at Barrington's but none were detained.

Also in the Garda boat were Des Boland, Sean O'Connor, Mick Murphy and John O'Sullivan. They are all members of St. Michael's Rowing Club.

A few years ago, Garda Bill Cunningham was awarded the title of "Outstanding Clubman of the Year" by St. Michael's Rowing Club in recognition of the fine example he had given in the club, particularly to the younger members.

The citation made particular reference to fine sense of punctuality, clubmanship and good example.



day's Munster Junior

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Manager, Mr. T. F. McNott, said that there was complete unanimity amongst the members that this problem should be led.

### Two types

pointed out that there are two types of disability, one retarded and severely retarded. Boys had been taken to St. Joseph's, but the R.M.S. held that the hospital was better geared for the treatment of severely retarded boys. It had been agreed that the problem would be examined by Dr. Hayes and Dr. O'Higgins they had not yet got back on that examination. They could review the matter when the report was available and the suggestion of a location.

The problem then can be led in a very positive way but something practical can be done," the Manager said. Chairman, Mr. J. C. Barlow said that he had been a member of the Commission on Mental Diseases and he was conversant with the prob-

has been mentioned. There will be no final solution until we have our own hospitals cater for these unfortunate boys and girls through the country," the Chairman said. It was decided to await the report from Dr. Hayes and Dr. O'Higgins.

### Bohemian R.F.C.

The annual Mass for deceased members will be celebrated in St.

decision of the Dan Committee on Procedure and to recommend £20 a week extra to Senators and Deputies and to have set-off some of a minor explosion against public representatives. sheer brazenness nothing exceed the passing of a resolution by the South Tipperary County Council calling on the Minister for Local Government to grant members of such bodies annual salaries in addition to the travelling allowances and subsistence expenses which they already enjoy. This resolution is being sent to all County Councils throughout the country and it will be interesting to watch the reactions. At any rate only one member of the Tipperary Council dissented but only because he thought the timing was wrong. The motion was tabled by two Tipperary members and with a single exception was supported by members of all counties.

is the acme of the cupidity which seems to be sweeping the people who are public representatives. It indicates a disregard for ratepayers who would have to foot the bill and a type of dishonesty which is vastly rewarded from the time when members of such bodies deemed an honour to be elected by the people and to be able to hold the title of "Councillor" as a prefix to their names. If you please, the South Tipperary Council wants to be paid for its services. In the same place, nobody asked any member of that body to thrust himself forward for election, but if it all comes to all it must be said that only sheer ambition and vanity induces anybody to hold a status in public life. However about the Deputies and Senators who have hard work to perform and especially the former, there is no objection whatever for giving salaries to County Councillors who, at least, have to attend meetings more than once or twice a month. One member, a Mr. Morgan, had the audacity to suggest that they be given a salary of £300 for this privilege. He claimed that there was not a single member who was 'not out of pocket because of his membership.

There is a very obvious answer to that observation, that in order to attain membership, for what it is worth, these very same people who day after day in canvassing their areas in their endeavours to become tiny specks in the public life of the country. There is nothing to prevent any of them from suggesting should they feel that it is worth the cost of the trains on their behalf. The expenses are too great. What is equally clear is that travelling and subsistence allowances are a travesty. Several members, from vastly different parties but all living in the same area, can utilise a motor to travel to a meeting and individually can chalk up separate travelling expenses as well as handsome meals at a hotel or restaurant. The public should be surprised to learn the number of Dail Deputies who do exactly the same expedient to bolster their finances, but the system stinks of cynicism and blatant exploitation of the unfortunate public.