

MONUMENTS MAN SAYS NO PARKING AT MARKET

By BILLY KELLY

PLANS TO turn Limerick's historic Potato Market at Merchants' Quay into a car park—even temporarily—are being opposed this week by Cllr. Jim Kemmy who wants to see it turned into a "restful oasis" in the form of a public park.

He is worried in case traffic going in and out through the old gateways would cause damage to the beautiful cut stone piers.

He also wants to ensure that the cobblestones and standing stones with iron rings on them—used in the past for tying horses to—will be preserved.

Limerick city manager, Mr. T. F. McDermott, said the suggestion to use the property as a car park was a temporary one and the long-term plans were for use of the market as a public park, which would be linked with the Custom House Park across the river.

He added that the car park stemmed from the desire of the Corporation to get the property into use as soon as possible.

The Corporation, Mr. McDermott went on, had been under criticism for leaving the space idle while there was a demand for off-street parking in the city.

The ultimate plans for the area may include car parking facilities as well as an amenity park.

Cllr. Kemmy said his opposition to the idea of a car park at the market was on the grounds that there was an underused car park a few hundred yards away at Charlotte Quay.

Judging from the under-use of that car park, Cllr. Kemmy concluded that there was not much pressure for parking space in that area.

The old Potato Market would be totally unsuitable for use as a

car park, he added. It was part of a complex of historic buildings including St. Mary's Cathedral, the Courthouse, the old City Jail, Mathew Bridge, and so on.

"The park could be useful and restful," he went on. "After the honkey-tonk of O'Connell Street this could be a restful oasis for old people and children."

He suggested demolishing the sheds on the river bank and putting a low wall with railings on it there instead. This would open a new view of the Shannon river and it would open up another area of the city to tourists.

Cllr. Kemmy felt that renovating the park would be an ideal project for the Corporation's environmental works, and there was Government money available for these works.

The national monuments advisory committee, of which Cllr. Kemmy is chairman, discussed this matter and members agreed with the suggestion of making a park out of the old market.

Members, Cllr. Kemmy said, were totally opposed to the idea of making a car park out of the site.

Complimented

He complimented the Corporation on getting the property for public use, but regarded the car park idea as being the wrong use for the place.

The Potato Market was opened in 1843 by the then Mayor, Martin Honan. It was built for £1,200. Mathew Bridge, which is just next to the market, was built three years later in 1946.

The city manager said that the views of a voluntary group, interested in the development of that area, would be taken into account when final plans were being decided on.

Solicitor pleads for father of six

BY LEADER
REPORTER

"RECEIVING is a frightful crime and there would be no stealing if there was not receiving," said Justice M. C. Maguire at Bruff when he convicted Michael Clery of Bottomstown, Elton, Knocklong, of receiving rolls of wallpaper, the property of the executors of Mary Browne, Baggotstown, Bruff, knowing them to be stolen, and also of receiving a transistor radio, the property of Alice Leddin, Newtown, Elton, knowing it to be stolen.

The Justice imposed a sentence of six months on each of these charges, but later, following a plea by defendant's solicitor, Mr. Gordon Hayes, he suspended the sentences and fined the defendant £20, on each charge and bound him to the peace for six months.

Defendant, who was stated to be a married man with six children, was also charged with entering the premises of Alice Leddin and stealing goods to a total value of £124.50; with entering the premises of the executors of Mary Browne and stealing goods to the total value of £53; and with entering the premises of the executors of the late James Casey and stealing goods to the total value of £50. The Justice dismissed all these charges.

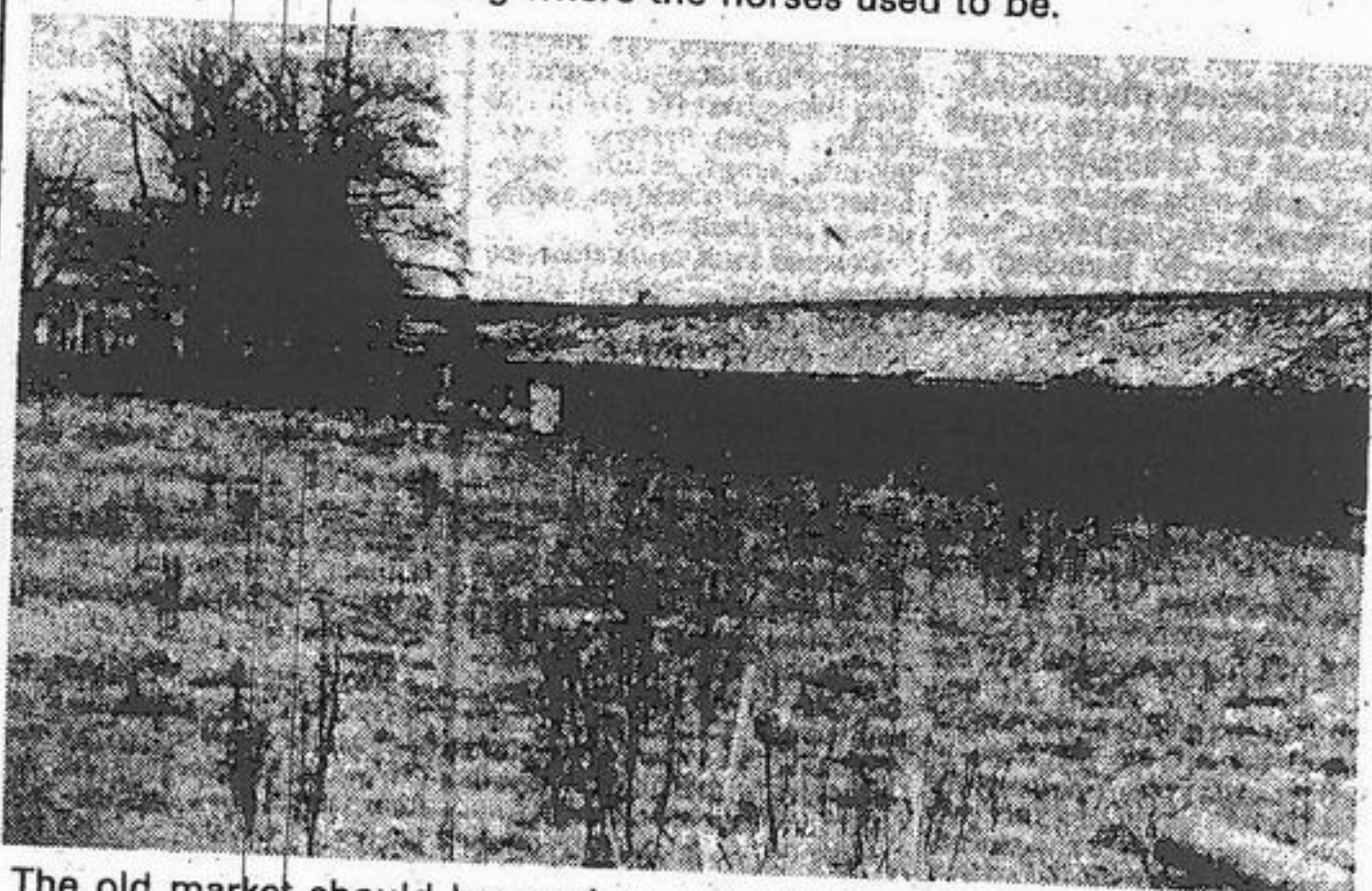
Garda T. Coleman, Bruff, in reply to Inspector MacSwiney

receiving the wallpaper, said he bought the transistor radio from travelling people. A total of 14 witnesses gave evidence for the prosecution.

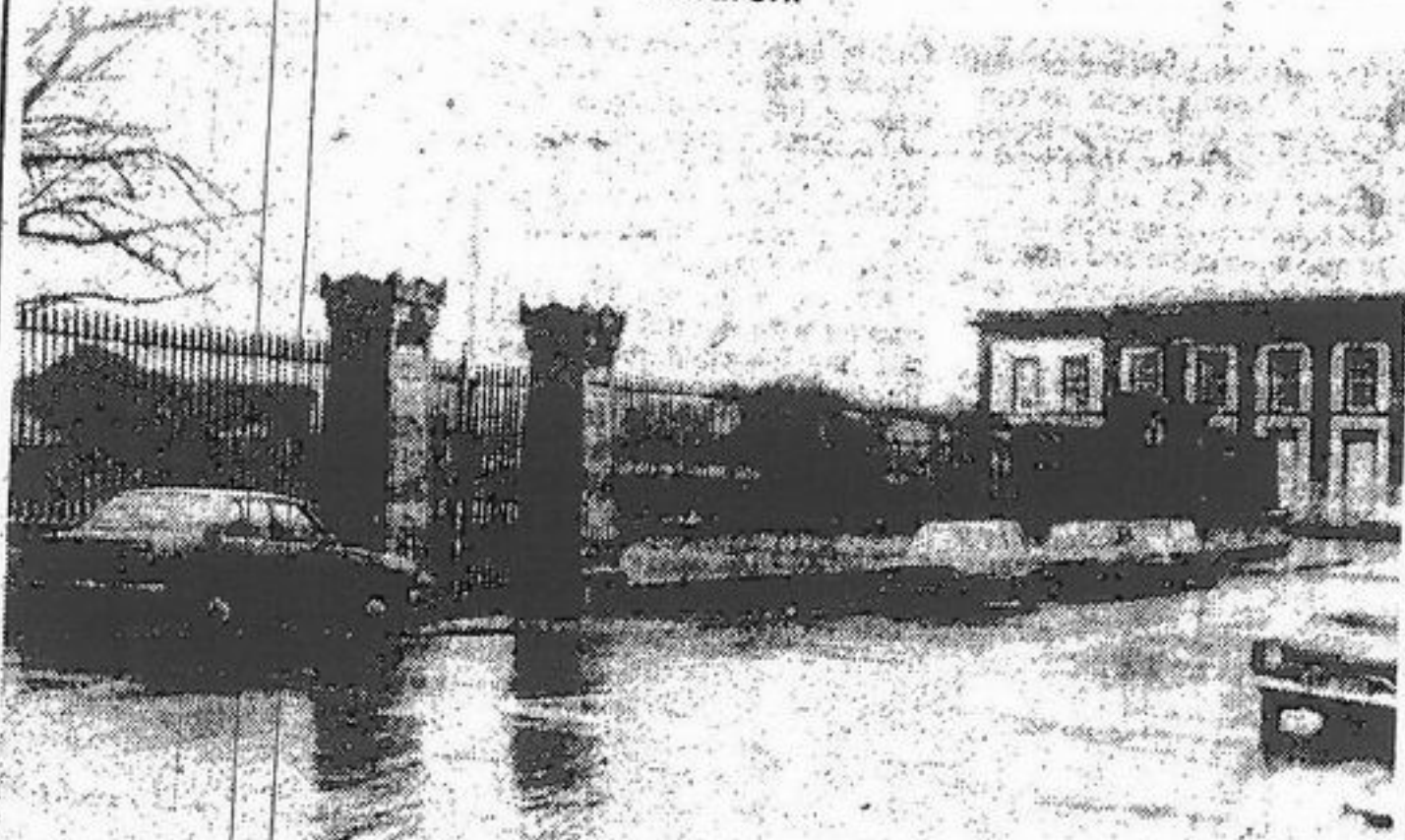
The cut stone piers at one of the gateways into the old Potato Market, which "might be damaged" by traffic if the area was used as a car park.



The standing stones which were used for tying horses to. Soon cars may be standing where the horses used to be.



The old market should be used as a "restful oasis" for old people and children.



The courthouse flanks the market.

A. F. FOLEY

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