

Pigeon club's annual dinner

30p

Sex assault on young woman due to lack of taxis

By JESSICA QUINN

GARDAI have confirmed that a young woman, who was sexually assaulted over the weekend, was walking home because she could not get a taxi.

The woman had been on a night out last Saturday but could not get a taxi to take her home as the taxi strike con-

tinued. In desperation, she decided to walk home.

However, gardai say that because Saturday night is the busiest time for taxis, they cannot say if she walked home because of the strike.

She was walking towards Athlunkard bridge at around 2.30 on Sunday morning when she was grabbed from behind by her

attacker.

The woman was dragged onto waste ground leading towards the baths in Corbally and sexually assaulted. The brave woman managed to fight off her attacker, and was able to give a good description to investigating gardai.

She described the man as being in his twenties, clean shaven

with a sallow complexion. He is between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 10 inches and was wearing a navy windbreaker jacket and light blue jeans. Gardai are anxious to speak to anybody who may have any information about the assault. They particularly want to talk to the owners of two cars spotted on the road at the time of the attack.

A woman speaking on a mobile phone with shoulder length brown straight hair passed the spot and parked her car by Scoil Ide, Corbally. Another car, described as a jeep or a four by four, passed by.

A spokesman from Mayorstone garda station said that they were very concerned about young women walking home alone at night.

"This woman could not get a taxi so she walked home. We would advise young ladies not to walk home unaccompanied. If you can't get a taxi, then ring somebody who will collect you, but never walk home alone."

Anybody with information on this assault is asked to contact Mayorstone or Henry Street gardai on 061-414222.

ANN McCABE: I COULD NOT BEAR KILLERS' RELEASE



By EUGENE PHELAN

ANN McCabe admits in her first major television interview that she would not be able to handle it if the killers of her husband were given an early release.

And tomorrow night the people of Ireland, North and South, will hear her tell the nation how she believes there is no future without Jerry.

Viewers will see at first hand the trauma and heartbreak the McCabe family have had to endure since the murder of Det Garda Jerry McCabe in Adare in 1996.

Mrs McCabe says that she is sure the early release from prison will not happen for those who gunned down her husband.

She has told a team from the BBC Northern Ireland current affairs programme Spotlight that she has every confidence in the Government and the verbal and written assurances that she has received from the Justice Minister, John O'Donoghue, that the killers will not be released under the Good Friday Agreement.

And while many believe that the killers will be released, she is satisfied that the assurances she has received would be honoured by any future government, no matter what its make-up.

Mrs McCabe says this will be her last interview and she hopes that the media will allow her get on with her life without being hounded by the press.

The interview is being broadcast just six days after the November 22 anniversary of the late Jerry McCabe's birthday when he would have been due to retire from the force. To be screened at 10.30pm it also goes into the early release of prisoners involved in the killing of members of the RUC in the week when the RUC name is to be replaced following the Patten report.

Mrs McCabe tells Spotlight interviewer Stephen Walker that she knows exactly what RUC widows are going through and that she does not think she would be able to

handle it if the killers of her husband were given early release.

"I feel sad for any widows in the North. I too would find it difficult to see these people walking around, especially if they came from the same area," she says.

She says that while she does not consider herself different as a police widow, she does consider that the killing of her husband was different to the deaths of RUC officers.

"Because there was a state of war in the North, members of the RUC went out to work each day knowing they might not return." But in her case, such thoughts of danger only happened occasionally when subversives were on the run in the country. "We did not have that fear" she tells the BBC.

Asked if she thought that the early release of those sentenced for the killing of her husband would assist the Peace Process, Mrs McCabe says: "I do not see how it could help because if had nothing to do with it."

She stresses that the letter from the Minister for Justice was clear cut and "reassures us that under no circumstances would they qualify under the Good Friday Agreement."

She recalls the agony and anguish of the June 6 morning when her husband and Ben O'Sullivan were shot.

She tells of the devastating impact on herself and five children and the McCabe family as well as their friends. She tells the programme that the pain and heartache have not diminished.

She also describes the family's courtroom ordeal, her anger at the leniency of the sentences and that for her there is no future without Jerry McCabe.



Ann McCabe at the memorial to her late husband Det Garda Jerry McCabe in Henry Street Garda station (LL)

£60,000 drugs haul in Pallasgrea

DRUG Squad detectives from Henry Street netted a haul of over £60,000 worth of ecstasy, cocaine and cannabis in a weekend raid.

Detectives swooped on

a business premises in the Pallasgrea area and also searched adjoining properties.

Two people were arrested and brought to Henry Street for ques-

tioning.

They have since been released.

A file is being prepared and will be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It's official, the Leader is best

THE Mid-West's top selling newspaper, the Limerick Leader, is also the best in the country—and that's official.

Your favourite paper has been named as Best Regional Newspaper at the Millennium Irish Print Awards held at the

Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin, at the weekend.

The award was presented to Leader managing director, Joe Gleeson, by Helmut Cissman, managing director of UPM-Kymmene, sponsors.

The judges commented on the overall

high quality of print throughout the Limerick Leader which emerged winner in what was described as a "particularly competitive" category.

The other main prize went to The Irish Times, winner of the Best National Newspaper category.