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18, 11.30-5.00 P.M.

TEL, NENAGH
19, 11.00-5.00 P.M.

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Workmen taking up the Limerick-Kerry line this week.

CIE finally cut Limerick rail link

By MARTIN BYRNES

THE LIMERICK TO
Tralee rail link was finally
broken on this Monday
morning when the connection
at Ballygrane Junction
near Rathkeale was
physically lifted by C.I.E.
engineers.

On Tuesday, the signal box
at Ballygrane was formally
closed and the balkeeper,
Mr. John Madigan of Foynes,
was transferred to other
duties.

The Ballygrane gates and other
road crossings on the Limerick
to Foynes line will now be operated
by the crews on the bulk goods
train.

Redesigning

The redesigning of Ballygrane
to make it a single through-track
will have the effect of reducing it to
the design which it had up to 1966.

In the meantime, rail has been
suspended in preparation for lifting
at Rathkeale and the rail workers
will progressively take away the
entire line.

Some of the rails are to be sent to
the Dublin, where the national rail
network will utilize them.

The board of C.I.E. formally
abandoned the line to Lord Christ-
man, twelve years after the last
services were withdrawn. C.I.E.
had promised a ten-year delay to
see whether any development in
the area would restore the line to
viability.

Despite the reluctant opposition
of Kerry County Council, the
Limerick Harbour Commissioners
and the purpose-formed Limerick
and Kerry Railway Society, C.I.E.
abandoned the line having found,
in their opinion, no reason to keep
it in place.

Relief road

Limerick County Council did
not campaign for the retention of
the line, as plans were far
advanced for the construction of the
Rathkeale relief road along the
bed of the track. When C.I.E.
failed to make its abandonment
order in 1965, the council's plans
were set back.

By the time the order was finally
made, late last year, the money for
the Rathkeale by-pass was no
longer available due to State
cutbacks, and that position still
obtains now.

Council sources privately admit
that, unless the Government is in a
position to make a special allocation,
the road will not be on plan
for at least two further years.

The line from Limerick to

Foynes was opened in 1958, and
that line still operates to serve the
port.

From Ballygrane, a line was
opened to Rathkeale, Arleigh and
Newcastle West on January 14,

1967, and this was extended to
Burrage, Abbeyfeale and Lis-
small and Tralee in 1981. Early
trains were slow and it took, for
example, 1 hr. 13 mins. to travel
from Limerick to Arleigh.



John Madigan in the signal box at Ballygrane.

Bands b exempti

By LEADER REPORTER

THREE applications for bar
exemptions relating to
Abbeyfeale functions last
weekend were refused by the
District Court at Newcastle West
last Friday.

Supt. William Foran said that the
Pallas Inn, Abbeyfeale, was not
operating a public bar or a restaurant
separate from its dance-hall club
business. It only opened as a function
room at night, and did not qualify
under law for exemption.

Mr. Brian Curtis, B.L., said that a
public bar and restaurant did exist, and
that circumstances had not changed
and had not been objected to by gardai
for four months.

Bands had been booked and the
Champions, booked for Sunday,
would cost £2,000 alone.

Supt. Foran, in his objection state-
ment, said that the public bar had been
done away with and the space had
been converted for use as a cloakroom
serving the dancehall. There was no
restaurant area operating by day
either.

The premises had also been used for

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(Continued from Page 11)

managed to research, develop
and produce work which was
not only relevant to their area
and their lives but the plays
were a great success every-
where they were performed,
including the Royal Court in
London. Each play took a
theme from local history
covering the infamous red
light district around the
Glasnevin Diamond in the
19th century, the decline of the
Dublin Docks in the 80's and
a contemporary theme
about the drug problem. The
group made discoveries about
themselves, their local history
and, at the same time, de-
veloped new skills.

2. Neighbourhood open
workshops work out of the local
and they have run many
interesting programmes. For
instance, one of their events
consisted of working within
various communities, select-
ing an area and in varied a
group of participants as possi-
ble. The task was to make an
ideal island and it began by
discussion and each person
explaining what they would
consider to be their 'ideal
island'. Each individual con-
tribution was then incorpo-
rated into the whole and, of
course, there were inevitable
conflicts. A consensus was
then reached through argu-
ment and compromise. Once
the group's island was worked
out on paper then it was made
through the different skills of
group, i.e., knitting, quilt-
making, woodwork, etc., and
the finished product was hung
as a tapestry on the commu-
nity centre or club wall.

3. My own centre, 'The City
Centre', is developing a multi-
purpose community arts cen-
tre in the heart of Dublin. Our
goal is to establish a cultural

centre based in D.

Taking its lead
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It is expected
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ment, education
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area.

DIPLOMA COURSE CHINA RESTORATIO

County Limerick Vocational Education C
in co-operation with ANCO and Shannon
ment, invite applications for a Diploma
China Restoration to be conducted in the
Desiree Shortt at 28 North Great Geesh
Dublin. Desiree Shortt is internationally
China Restorer and has 'Diplomats'
working as far afield as South Africa, Aus
Hong Kong, as well as in Ireland.

Limerick runs for