



Impressive display: the men of St Johns Ambulance in Limerick are pictured here in all their finery on May 13 1965

10 YEARS AGO

TRAVELLERS FACE COURT ACTION

TRAVELLERS who promised to move from a lay-by near the Crescent Shopping Centre, but failed to do so, are to be prosecuted by Limerick County Council.

"Yes, I understand that the council is going through the legal process to prosecute," Cllr Tim O'Malley confirmed today.

The Travellers moved into the site some weeks ago after a barrier was removed.

Cllr O'Malley said that he understood that some contractors laying pipes in the area removed the barrier, allowing the Travellers access.

The said that there was no sanitation or provisions on the site to cater for families.

"It is totally objectionable that they should move in like this to what is council property," he went on.

Cllr O'Malley said that once the legal process goes ahead, and the Travellers are legally removed, he has asked the local authority to develop a 'nice park' on the site.

Council officials told the Limerick Chronicle some weeks ago that they visited the travelling families on a number of occasions.

The families, who had been parked near Krups, had promised them that they would move on.

Cllr O'Malley has now been told by

Council officials that they intend taking legal action against the families to free the property of the caravans.

20 YEARS AGO

BAKERY JOBS AT RISK

THIRTY-four employees of Keane's Bakery, Lower Gerald Griffin Street, face redundancy as a result of a new company organisational structure.

One of the oldest bakeries in the city, Keane's are to amalgamate with Lydons, Williams of Taghmon, Co Wexford, Kiely's, Co Tipperary, Browns in Bandon and Western Pride in Ballinrobe.

Mr Pat Shanley, of the Bakery and Food Workers Amalgamated Union, told the Limerick Chronicle this Tuesday that the proposed 34 redundancies were arising as a result of baking operation ceasing at the Limerick plant.

Emphasising that discussions were at a very early stage, Mr Shanley said "we have not agreed to anything yet".

"We are not prepared to see staff sacrificed for a big company. We will be asking for them to be kept in work or to be given good redundancy," he added.

Mr Tony Walsh, branch secretary of the ITGWU No 1 branch, who represent 18 members of the distribution staff at the company, said that he had been assured by the company that the employment of their members would be maintained.

"We are holding a watching brief on

the position at the moment," he added.

Former general president of the Bakers Union, Cllr Frank Prendergast, described the news as "very sad" for the city.

Referring to the history of bread-making in the city, Cllr Prendergast said that Kirkland in one of his famous works had described Limerick bread baked on Coonagh brick as the best in Europe.

CORPORATION ESTATES TURNING INTO GHETTOS

CORPORATION estates are turning into ghettos of the jobless, Fine Gael spokesperson on Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan claimed this week.

Highlighting the increasing numbers of unemployed, Deputy Noonan said that the great division in Irish society which is now emerging is not between the working classes and the owners of property, but between those who have jobs and those who have not.

"Unemployment in our cities is not evenly spread. While in some housing estates unemployment is quite low, less than 3 percent, in the great Corporation estates of Limerick, Cork and Dublin, male unemployment exceeds 70 percent in many cases.

"And this is turning some of these estates into ghettos of the jobless," he said.

Looking at the unemployment levels among school leavers, Deputy Noonan said in 1988, of the students without qualifications, 54.4 percent

are unemployed; students with Inter Cert, 31 percent are unemployed and students with Leaving Cert, 16.6 percent are unemployed.

Less than 3 percent of students with third level qualifications were unemployed.

"The son or daughter of an unskilled worker has only one chance in 18 of a third level education, in contrast with the son or daughter of a professional person."

The Limerick deputy said that it was a matter of grave concern that an educational system which by and large is free and open to all and indeed compulsory for many years, should operate in a fashion which is neither equal or fraternal.

40 YEARS AGO

MAGNIFICENT!

CHURCH and state dignitaries were among the distinguished attendance at the gala opening of Limerick's great historical pageant in the 800-year-old St Mary's Cathedral - one of the city's most historic showpieces - last night.

The Pageant, which traces the history of Ireland with special emphasis on Limerick from olden days to modern times, is a brilliant and colourful spectacle that is fully deserving of the support of the citizens of Limerick.

The script, written by the noted Irish dramatist, Eugene McCabe, can only be described as a masterpiece. Bill Golding, one of Ireland's leading

actors, plays the part of the River Shannon, and spotlights the main features in our history - these were enacted by mime, music, poetry and dialogue by a magnificent cast of 120 leading actors and singers.

With the exception of Bill Golding, the entire cast comprising many well-known local actors is wholly amateur, and it is a great feat by the producer, Barry Cassin, that he has succeeded in providing the most outstanding production of its kind in the city. One could not find a fault with the presentation. The colourful costumes from the time of primitive man down through the Middle Ages to the 1916 period were designed by Mr Pat Murray of Cork, who also did a splendid job on the sets.

The sound effects and the marvellous make-up of the characters were other great features of the production.

Each member of this huge cast contribute in no small way to a most memorable pageant but one is bound to single out several characters for special mention.

Desmond Ronan as 'The Bard' gave a faultless and memorable performance. He was superb in the major role and starred with Bill Golding in this two and half hour presentation.

A number of the players play several roles with great competence, such as Tony Pratschke, Tony Portley, Paddy Portley, Andy Butler, Jim Keyes, Dave Coughlan, Jim Cleere, Robert Collins, Ray Morrissey, Ralph McMahan, Michael O'Malley, Denis Ryan, Phyllis O'Sullivan, Geraldine Costelloe, Biddy Keogh and Eileen Egan.

ER: LIMERICK CHRONICLE
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 PAGE 17