

... man on foot snatched between £300 and £500 from the counter of an Allied Irish Bank sub-branch.

Bank raid

The raid happened about 11.15 to 11.30 a.m. today when a young man, aged between 20 and 25 walked into the A.I.B. sub-branch office in Ballinacurra and demanded money.

He had a nylon stocking over his head and was wearing a red cardigan and had a local accent.

No customers
There were no customers in the bank at the time,

only two staff, a man and a woman. He had some wires hanging out of his pocket and in a raid which lasted less than a minute dashed out the door and made good his escape on foot by

running down the back of Ballinacurra Gardens. An extensive search is going on in the vicinity by Garda detectives. Descriptions of the young man are difficult to obtain, as there were so few eye-

witnesses, but the young man is understood to be about 5'9" in height.

In vicinity
The Gardaí still think the culprit is in the vicinity: he appeared to be alone and no car appears to have been used. The money taken was mainly in small notes.

Defendant removed

"It's a waste of time convicting him for contempt, as I can only give him seven days," commented Justice M. de Bureca at Limerick City Court when he ordered a defendant who was awaiting trial to be removed from the court. The Justice said that he was fed up "with that blackguard for about two months" and he said the defendant was "a constant source of interruption, nuisance and discourtesy." The Justice had heard the defendant making noise in the detention dock.

Justice warns on extensions

Applications for extension of drinking hours and for special exemptions will come under closer scrutiny from January 1st, Justice M. de Bureca said at Limerick City Court. The Justice said that in future also a certificate of insurance will have to accompany applications for temporary dance licences.



The smouldering ruins of the gutted buildings being damped down by firemen.

Aftermath of Limerick fire

THE MAIN TOPIC of conversation over the weekend was the disastrous fire which destroyed two of Limerick's main stores, Newsom's and McCarthy's, and damaged at least three more, in the early hours of Saturday morning. It is estimated that some £1,000,000 worth of damage was caused. Also damaged were Eugene McGovern's, Gents Outfitters; sweet shop owned by V. Durack, and some premises in Denmark Street.

Mayor Pat Kennedy praised the Limerick Fire Brigade, the contiguous fire services, the Garda authorities, the various units of Limerick Corporation and all the citizens who helped in any way for "their remarkable efforts in containing and controlling this disastrous fire."

Mayor Kennedy said that he was hopeful that alternative accommodation would be found so that the businesses which were the victims of this fire could be continued and jobs saved. Mayor Kennedy also said that a comprehensive inspection of buildings at risk would

need to be carried out and suggested the appointment of a fire prevention officer. Pipe Chief, Michael Walsh, paid tribute to all the firemen and particularly to those from Ennis, Shannon, Killebeg and Rathkeale, for their help. He also thanked the Gardaí

for their wonderful assistance, but he paid glowing tribute to the Limerick Corporation staff attached to the water section who cut off the supply in certain parts of the city to enable extra water to be provided for the fire-fighting. He also thanked those who had provided tea for the firemen and others for their hospitality.

the street during the height of the fire. One amazing feature was that there was no loss of life, and this was undoubtedly due to the efforts of the Gardaí, who evacuated some 100 flat dwellers after the blaze was first noticed around 4.10 a.m. The fire climaxed Limerick's blackest week for years. Last Monday, Aquascutum Clothing factory closed its doors for the last time, and 300 jobs were lost; four premises in Patrick Street were demolished during the week after the rear of one of them collapsed last Saturday night; nine lives were lost in road accidents in the Limerick region during the week, and about 75 jobs have been lost because of Saturday's fire. The general manager and director of Newsom's, Mr. Billy Hurley, said the fire was a "great tragedy." About 45 workers were employed in the Newsom, William Street store, but every effort will be made to absorb the workers in the firm's other city premises.

Art exhibition by ten city artists

AN ART exhibition by ten Limerick artists began at the Crescent College Comprehensive, Doora-doyle, last Saturday. The Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Patrick Kennedy, performed the opening.

It will include paintings, sculpture etchings, printing, wood carving and ceramic sculptures. This is the first exhibition by the artists in Limerick. They have been to the Cork Art Society Gallery and the Emmet Gallery in Dublin, as well as open exhibitions all over Ireland. The group has come together solely to exhibit their works and it includes practising artists, teachers and students.

held in Limerick on such a large scale. The Ten Limerick Artists Group is: Ursula Brick, Kate Hennessy, Benediet Tutty, Charlie O'Donovan, Tom Fitzgerald, Dietrich Bolodeau, Peter Holloway, Jack Donovan, Terry Leahy, and Sam Walsh. There are four invited artists also taking part. These are Dudley Herbert, Michael Coleman, Michael FitzHarris, and Gerry O'Mahoney. The organisers of the exhibition are grateful to the authorities of the comprehensive for the use of the facilities and the assistance they received.

Advised to shop at home

Shannon town residents have been advised to shop at home this Christmas and spare petrol. Mr. Downey, chairman of the Traders' Association, pointed out their extra buying power in the money spared on petrol by not going outside their area. The rise in living costs to some Shannon workers posed by the increase in the price of petrol was condemned today by trade unionists and industrialists on the Shannon Estate. The majority of the 7,000 workers on the estate and at the airport commute to work in cars from places in Clare and Limerick—some from distances of 60 miles. The extra costs for these workers would be as high as £3 a week. Councillor Frank Prndergast, secretary of the 4500

Open Again

William Street was open for business again today. Corporation workmen demolished dangerous walls, but some firemen had a miraculous escape when the facade of Newsom's collapsed into

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