

bad weather conditions which prevailed at the time, there were very few using the roads."

Both men were highly

went to the warnings about the icy roads, although there had been a number of reports of minor skidding.

Road conditions in

for a mile below the town. Butcher Mr Tony Sheehan said: "I've never seen anything like it and I'm living here for 40 years."



Boys skating along the frozen Maigue river in Bruere during the freezing weather of January 1982



Take that! Patrica Kelly, left, and Catherine Hayes, Adare, revel in the snow at their local park



Maurice Danagher, 82, Shanagolden, clears the snow from his driveway, watched over by an attentive dog. Maurice told Leader reporter Fergal Keane that he recalled the big freeze of 1917



Michael McNamara, Tim Shanahan and Patrick Meehan at Knocknaboola, Foynes



Paddy Gallagher looking at the frozen River Deel in Askeaton, 30 years ago this week



Michael Shanahan clears the snow from the front of his house in Knocknaboola



Knocknaboola resembles Russia in this lovely picture of the snow drifts, by Dermot Lynch



Taking a tumble: PJ Hennessey and Pat Keane, Ballinavana, come down to earth near their homes

Squeezed out: the first supermarket in Limerick is forced to close doors

Undercut by the bigger players, Ormstons called time 30 years ago this week

Cormac Liddy

THE first supermarket to open in Limerick, Ormstons in Patrick Street, is soon to close. And this Friday the proprietor, Mr Jack Ormston, said that cut-price tactics being used by multiple chains were a major reason for him going out of business.

It was just 21 years ago that Mr Ormston introduced supermarket shopping to Limerick. Indeed, it was such a new happening that on occasions shoppers had to be shown how to operate with a basket and roam through the store.

Mr Ormston said that the day of the completely independent grocer was fast disappearing and he believed that they were being squeezed out by the multiple chains.

These multiple chains, he said, were able to force

manufacturers to sell to them at a better rate and as a result they were then able to launch cut-price tactics, all of which hit at the independent grocer who could not compete on an equal footing.

Mr Ormston said that the decision to close his Patrick Street premises had not been taken lightly. He was full of praise for all of those who had worked for him at all times during his 21 years in business.

And he also paid glowing tribute to his customers down the years, many of whom had shopped in his store from the start, to the present day.

Mr Ormston said: "It is hard enough for housewives to make ends meet now and I would not blame any housewife for opting for what she considered to be the best prices available to her. "It is regrettable,

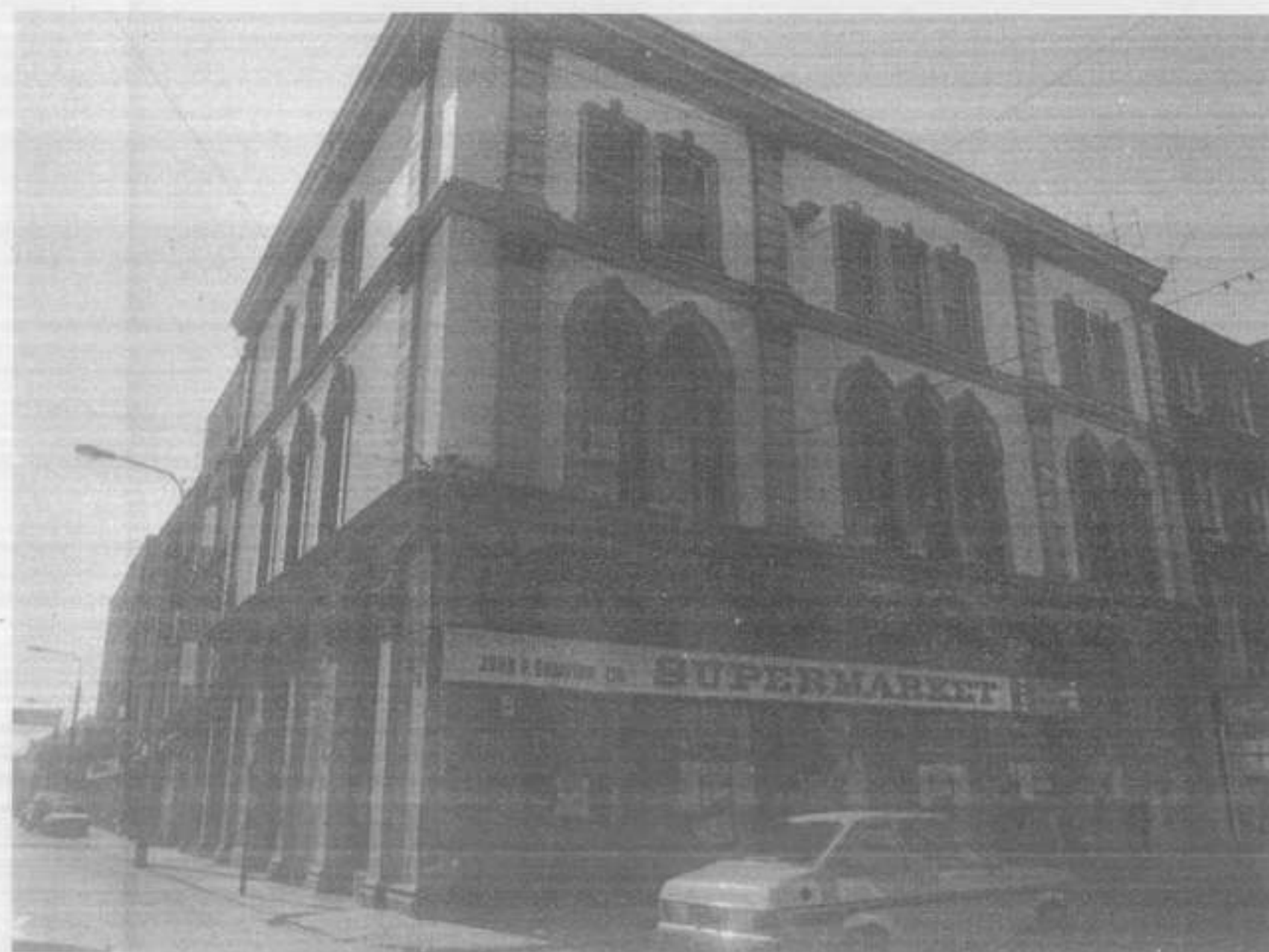


though, that all grocers are not given the chance to compete on a similar level to provide for the housewife."

Mr Ormston is having a closing-down sale at present and all goods in his shop are 15 per cent reduced in price.

Right: Ormstons supermarket, the first in Limerick, in the midst of what is now the Opera Centre site, closed its doors in January 1982. Above: how the Leader reported the closure of the Patrick Street shop

The Leader will publish a series of collectable supplements this year featuring Limerick in days gone by - look out for them!



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