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Two First-class Joiners

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THE DISTRICT COURT

Notice of Application for Certificate of Transfer

NOTICE that Francis Holland of Williamstown, Limerick, in the County of Limerick, intends to apply to the District Court to be held at the Court-house on the 20th day of September, 1973, at 10.30 a.m. for an order of Transfer to enable him to receive an Excise License for Beer, Cider and Spirituous Liquors by retail in the Limerick, previously licensed in the name of Kathleen

At work on the Roxboro' Shopping Centre.

Shopping Centre

IT WILL BE a service assembly which will have at least one unique item for such a complex in Ireland. While its undoubted objective is to make money it proposes to plant itself as a benevolent and endemic part of the area. And it intends, not only to emulate services offered elsewhere, but in so doing, to improve the aesthetic quality of its surrounds.

At present under construction, the centre is due to be finished in October and to have its doors open by November. It is an enterprise of Ashbourne Properties, whose directors—O'Dwyer, Beckett & Collier—are the estate agents handling the letting of its units. The builder is John Lydon, the architect, Matthew Moran of Dublin and the ebullient, enthusiastic and optimistic man who plans for it as a mother would for a baby is project manager, Tom McMurray.

For the next five years, Tom McMurray will be responsible for the continuity of trading, the upkeep of the buildings and, as he says, the "ecology of pollution." But under these mundane headings, and outside of them Tom has scores of ideas and plans—tentative and other-wise—for the centre.

Definition "What we want," said Tom McMurray, "is a definition of an amenity, something which will provide traditional shopping and will be a place to go. The modern shopper is very concerned about what he or she is getting, so you must also provide competent service. And you must have something for people to do other than looking at a mass of red brick. We've got to create an environment. This is an attitude you've got to adopt if you want to make a success."

Amenities So far planned "amenities" include a tree-laden scene to produce a little idyllic ruralism, a car park, a children's playground, a crèche, snuggles, vouchers for old age pensioners, a weekly bulletin sheet and friendly service.

One hundred trees are to be planted in "the whole peripheral area." The farm is to be broken up by islands of trees, litter bins and seating, and a "greenery" or rockery is also on the programme. The car park, with its total area of 1,000 square feet, will, it was told, provide "the perfect balance" with its accommodation for 750 cars.

Proposals on the question of the playground are that it should be situated on a piece of present waste-ground which is the property of the Corporation, and that it should be furnished and serviced by the shopping centre. Ashbourne is willing to make the Corporation an offer for the ground, or alternatively, to run the playground there with the permission of the Corporation.

The usual negotiation round is at present under way and the plan is being sympathetically received in official quarters. If everything works out to mutual satisfaction, the centre will erect a boundary wall about the southern part of an acre plot and will swing roundabout, chutes and sandpits. "This venture," said Tom McMurray, "would be in with the whole geometry of the place." If the present plan does not materialise, possibilities may be plotted instead.

The second "amenity" item in the interests of frustrated motorists is the crèche where children will be left in the care of social attendants while mothers shop in peace. The implementation

PLANNED MIRACLE PARADISE OF THE ROXBORO' ROAD

own Roxboro centre could Limerick support three shopping centres.

"No, I don't think Limerick can carry three, not with the population. However, I'm not here to knock. I'm here to do a job." And obviously the Roxboro project manager, in expounding these words, has no temptation about his own centre's future, but was indulgently, gently chiding the foolhardiness of the aspirations of others.

Of the tangible aspects of what Roxboro shopping centre will have to offer and what will make it unique in this country is a twin cinema building: one 85 seater auditorium and one 185. Different grade films will be shown in each of the cinemas, which will be under the auspices of Mr. Jack Bourke—that man of multifarious interests and aspects ranging from the world of entertainment to that other world of paramount entertainment—local government.

Flanking the first two tiered shopping centre cinema in Ireland will be a bar with a ceramic terrace outside decorated by a canopy and fitted with seats where in the occasional burst of hot weather people may enjoy their beverages. The cinema and bar will, of course, be open in the evenings; and following the general present day pattern the shopping centre will have units of parking for cars and vans "a few nights a week."

The remaining eight acres are being devoted to embellishment, crèche, parking, etc. Of the shops themselves, the biggest will be "The Superstore," which will cover one third of an acre of ground and will be the biggest of its kind outside Dublin. The store will provide "anything that equates with household items, all household needs, including every concept of living."

"Shop & Save," another proposed shop will be selling everything from records to shampoo and nail varnish. It is a member of an American chain which is run on the lines of Britain's Boots chemist. Another innovation-type store in the centre will be "Junior Wear," which caters for the clothes needs of the "Junior Miss," and miraculously confines its prices between the limits of £1 and £6. Again, this is one of a chain which at present has two shops in Dublin.

Outside of these shops, the centre will have the usual units, such as florists, dry cleaners, boutiques, shoe shops, delicatessen. There will also be a branch of the Bank of Ireland installed, a building society will have a branch there; and there will be a dry cleaners, a laundrette, book shops, and record shops. In fact, the Roxboro complex would seem to offer, in smaller, more compact form, the facilities of any good sized town or city.

The units in the Roxboro shopping centre will be taken on an original thirty-five year lease and the centre between shop and general maintenance staff, will provide employment for three hundred people. As being responsible for "the putting in" of the tenants for this purpose, starting this month, Tom McMurray will also be overseer of "all services" waste disposal, repairs, plumbing, cleanliness, security, and "everything that is part of a gregarious community put together."

At the start, until the centre finds its equilibrium, Tom feels that he will have to take a firm hand with security. Methods will include the installation of grilles, to be pulled down at night, and the presence of guard dogs. "Two men and twenty-four hours a day," and, of course, the usual method of store detection: close circuit television, will be in operation. Tom, however, expects the many other palatable aspects of the centre to triumph over these necessary little inconveniences, and hopes while making money to turn the centre into a little Utopia for the area. His penchant for humanity, despite the former mention of methods to keep it in check, is never far from the surface. And he said, in the end, "what he said in the beginning." After all, the centre will not be just a building... it will be a human area.

And also, we presume a humane one.

Cinema

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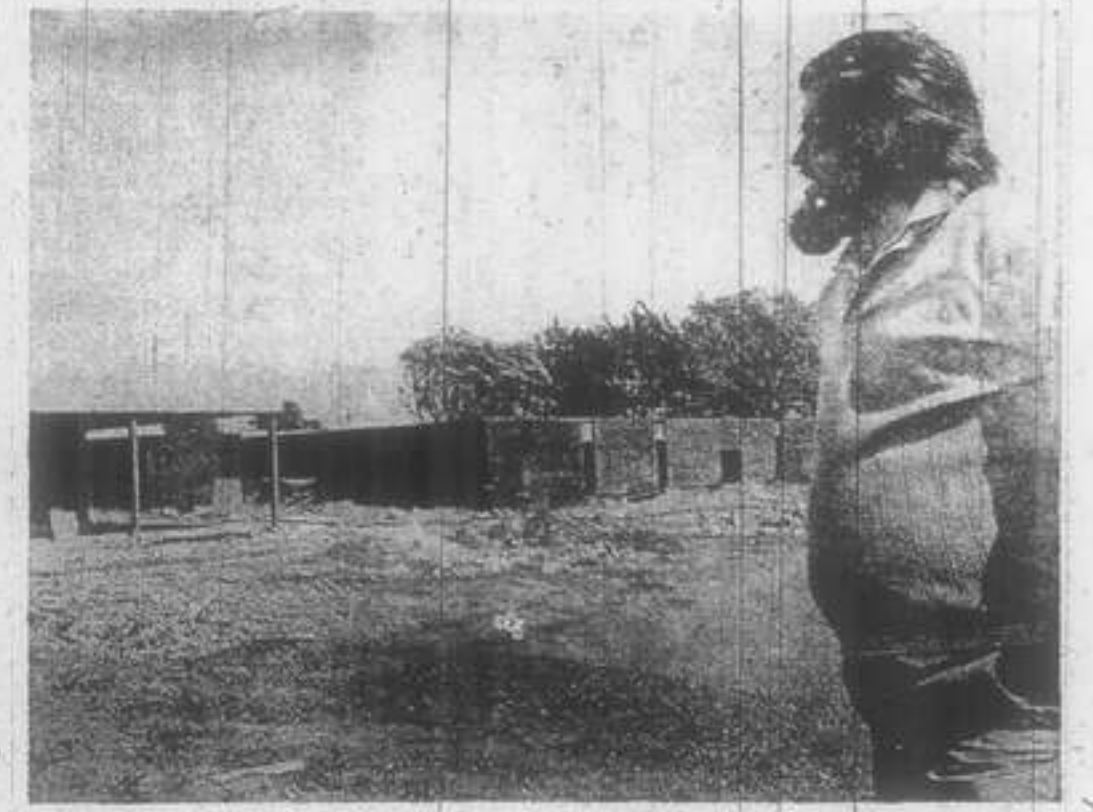
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James Moran, site foreman, surveys the nearly completed Roxboro Shopping Centre. LL photo

Dynamic singing star

THE retention for a second week of "I Do, I Do!", the romantic comedy musical at the City Theatre has given a great many more Limerick Festival of Theatre patrons another chance to see a 'dynamic' American singing star in action—in the person of vivacious Kitty Sullivan, who with Milo O'Shea, co-stars in the show.

She's played in almost all the great musicals, among them being "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Carousel," "South Pacific," and "The Fantasticks"—the last named being written by Tom Jones, and Harvey Schmidt, the co-author of "I Do, I Do!" Later, she's been appearing in revues at one of New York's top night spots, The Plaza. Her only previous appearance in this country, was in Dublin, in the Gaiety Theatre production of "The Sound of Music."

Kitty Sullivan, though she has extensive television experience, prefers the stage as a medium, and says that "she likes to get the feel of each audience she plays to." On this particular point, she says that Irish audiences are honest, "because, if they don't like you, they'll soon let you know." In Dublin and now in Limerick, audiences have liked her.



Kitty Sullivan, American singing star of "I Do, I Do!", the Limerick Festival of Theatre presentation at the City Theatre.

Advertisement for C.I.E. Freedom of the City. It features a large key graphic and a C.I.E. Validation Card. The text promotes the benefits of the Freedom of the City, including unlimited travel, savings on fares, and the convenience of a C.I.E. Commuter Ticket. It also includes contact information for the C.I.E. Area Sales Office in Limerick.