

# Ashbourne Shopping Centre is open

**WITH THE** opening of Lipton's Superstore, the newest Limerick branch of Connacht Laundry Ltd., a new Bank of Ireland branch and a book shop, the first phase in the development of the giant Ashbourne Shopping Centre at Roxboro, Limerick, was completed this week.

Most of the other firms who will begin trading at the new centre early in the New Year are now busy fitting out their premises, and it is expected that the centre will be fully operational within the next few weeks.

It covers 75,000 square feet, with parking space for about 1,000 cars, and, says a statement, "when complete will be the first fully comprehensive shopping and amenity development in the South of Ireland. The full range of facilities will include two superstores, drapery shops, boutiques, a lounge bar, a restaurant, a crèche and a children's playground.

In addition, Ashbourne will be the first shopping centre in Ireland with twin cinemas, and the cinemas will also be the first of their kind in Limerick.

"An unique aspect of the entire development will be a Housing Department office and public library run by the Limerick Corporation, both of which will be open to serve the residents of the Roxboro area in mid-January."

Lipton's superstore occupies 18,000 square feet, and will be managed by Mr. C. McMahon, with Mr. S. Foley as assistant manager. The butchery section of the store will be under the management of Mr. K. Locker. Mr. F. F. Dunbar, director and general manager, Lipton Ltd., and Mr. Felix McTiernan, the company's shops director, were in Limerick specially for the store's first day of trading this week.

The new Connacht Laundry dry cleaning service brings the firm's chain of shops in the Limerick area to five, apart from its depot at Ballysimon Road. Miss Margaret Moore is the manageress of the Ashbourne Centre shop, where she will be assisted by Miss Margaret Conway.

Mr. Dermot Kelly, assistant manager in charge of the Bank of Ireland branch at Ashbourne, will need no introduction to Limerick hurling followers, for he was one of the county's outstanding

players in the 1950's. The new branch which he will be running will provide a comprehensive banking service for both shoppers and traders.

Another service in the centre is the news agency and book store owned by Mr. Gerry O'Kane, which will also supply specialist lines of fruit and vegetables.

## Builders

The builders of the centre are J. Lydon & Co. Ltd. of Dublin; the architect is Mr. Mathew Moran, and the letting agents and managers are Messrs. O'Dwyer Beckett Collier Ltd. of Dublin and Limerick.

Mr. Tom McMurray of O'Dwyer Beckett Collier Ltd., commenting on the completion of the first phase of development of the centre, said that the emphasis at Ashbourne was on amenities.

Ashbourne was being developed as a community centre, which would provide in time a wide range of amenities for a large and growing hinterland.

Mr. McMurray pointed out that as many as possible of the mature trees growing in the immediate area of the site had been left standing, and stressed the fact that the developers had planted new trees throughout the vast car park to give a pleasant sylvan effect. In the interests of safety and to facilitate access, a total of four entrances for motorists and several more for pedestrians had been provided.

Welcoming the centre, the city manager, Mr. T. P. Mac Diarmada, said that it would serve an area where Limerick Corporation had provided about 1,200 houses over the past five years.

"The facilities being provided further enhance the development of this locality, which is now one of the most advanced in the city," he said.

"The area now has its own industrial estate, good road linkage, new and comprehensive educational facilities, recreational facilities, and the Corporation is about to open a 25-metre heated swimming pool.

"The resultant developments should provide a better place for the citizens of Limerick in which to live, work and shop.

"Limerick Corporation welcomes the Ashbourne Shopping Centre as another adjunct to the development of this area in meeting the needs of the population in the south side of the city."

An official opening of the centre is to be held early in the New Year.

## Supervisor for county group water schemes?

**LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL** are to send a deputation to the Minister for Local Government request finances for the employment of a supervisor for group water schemes.

The Minister has turned down a request by the council to pay 50% of the supervisor's salary—the council paying the other half.

County secretary, Mr. Michael Dillon suggested that the Oireachtas representatives in the council should meet the Minister.

Cllr. Con O'Neill, chairman, remarked that a budget would be introduced shortly, and he could not see why the Minister couldn't make provision for such money.

## Reception

Mr. Richard Haslam, county manager, said it was something the council should "not drop."

He complained that when he went to the Department about the matter, he was very badly received. In fact, it was the worst reception he ever got on visiting the Department.

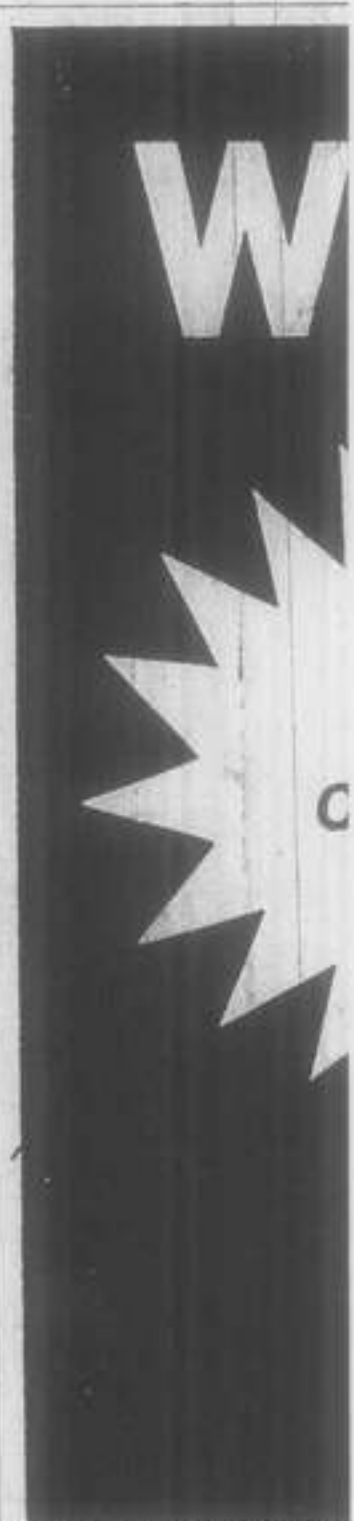
"We are making a very sensible suggestion to the Department—we are willing to go halves in the payment of a supervisor's salary," he added.

Mr. Haslam pointed out that the council had to go to the aid of two schemes which went into difficulties through lack of supervision.

Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., stated that the matter was important enough to justify the sending of a deputation to the Minister.

Cllr. Martin Carroll remarked that the lack of supervision on schemes was always a big snag. He knew of a particular scheme where hundreds of pounds had been lost because the work was not supervised.

Cllr. Brendan Danagher alleged that £4,000 had been lost on another scheme, under similar circumstances.



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