

# **SOUTHILL NEWS**

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## **WAITING TO SIGN .... BUT**



## **.... NO SIGN OF THADY**

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SOUTHILL IS one of the worst hit areas in a Limerick at present suffering the effects of the economic slump.

Strange as it may seem, we have an industrial estate adjacent to the housing scheme. If people have to have an industrial estate on their front door steps, then surely the local community should reap the benefits of this.

On his election (or "selection") as Mayor of Limerick, Thady Coughlan stated: "We will work and plan for a better Limerick where full employment will work for better prosperity, especially for the under privileged, and on that line I will have a lot more to say."

Since then Thady has said very little about the unemployed and has offered no constructive solution. Firms such as WELLTRADE MIDDLE EAST LTD. usually benefit from a high unemployment situation because they are engaged in the exportation and exploitation of Irish workers.

This is how the firm works. To fulfil the needs of foreign employers who require a large work-force on a short-term basis, WELLTRADE recruits the unemployed workers of Limerick, who are then sent to European countries to work longer hours for smaller wages than their European counterparts.

It is a well known fact that the owner of WELLTRADE, Sean P. Hurley, is a personal friend of Steve Coughlan, T.D., the local Councillor and ex-Mayor of Limerick. This probably explains why our present Mayor, Thady, is "employed" by WELLTRADE.

It would seem that Thady's answer to the unemployment problem in Limerick would be to export the unemployed workers -- and in doing so

secure a comfortable living for himself and his father's millionaire friends.

THIS OFFERS LITTLE CONSOLATION TO THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS OF LIMERICK.

## LIPPER EXPLOITS WIDOW'S TRAGEDY FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL GAIN

LOCAL "LABOUR" Alderman, Michael Lipper, in his search for political gain, has now sunk to the most repulsive means of gaining personal publicity.

A family in Southill recently suffered a very sad bereavement with the loss of the father and husband. The people of the area assisted by holding a benefit dance and showing neighbourly kindness towards the family.

Because of the undue delay by the Department of Health and Social Welfare in granting this widow her pension, she approached Mick Lipper for advice. Lipper and his journalist friend (and former "speech-writer" when Lipper was Mayor), Tom Tobin, connived together to make both political and financial gain.

Tobin wrote an article for the "Sunday World" (24.8.75.) which in a sensational and sickening manner highlighted the very personal details of how this tragedy occurred. Tobin and Lipper seemed to have had no regard for the distress this nauseating article must have caused to the widow and her family.

The Corporation acted in a very humane manner by rehousing the family. But here again Lipper tried to glorify himself by publicly claiming that he was responsible for the family being rehoused.

If this is the type of politics that Alderman Lipper wants to play, then maybe it is about time that the "Southill News" took a closer

look into HIS personal life - which might cause HIM some distress and embarrassment. And we will not need the sadistic talents of his friend Tom Tobin to expose his "affairs".

GOD SEES ALL THINGS. By Our Waterford Correspondent, Maud.

A MEMBER of the City Council and ex-Mayor of Limerick ("Labour") seems to be under the impression that there is no God in Waterford. Watch this space for further details.

#### HUMAN HERITAGE

RECENTLY the Mayor of Limerick accepted on behalf of the citizens a replica of St. John's Square. This dastardly deed, the Mayor claimed, was to commemorate European Architectural Heritage Year with the restoration of the buildings in the Square.

In his address to the "chosen few" present, the Mayor claimed that the buildings were of the utmost importance to the people of this historic city, heritage-wise. Being the youngest (so he claims himself) of his breed in the country, maybe he can be forgiven for being so naive.

When these dwellings were first built they were occupied by the so-called "Gentry" of the day, one family to each house. When the occupants allowed the houses to deteriorate far enough, working class families were moved in. But not one to each house. Oh no! Sometimes there were as many as eight families to a dwelling!

The houses were in such a state of disrepair that it would take a nimble foot indeed to get from the ground floor to the top without

some mishap. It was no use complaining to the landlord because he wasn't around; he was off somewhere in England enjoying himself with money his agent extorted from the tenants.

The agent himself was a nice fellow who called every Monday for the rent. His smiling countenance could be seen at every door, with his hand out and his ledger under his free arm. He only smiled of course when the rent was being paid. With the conditions of the buildings it was seldom if ever a Monday went by without his voice echoing throughout the shells he called houses, threatening the occupants of some of the rooms with a Court Order and Eviction Notice.

An enforced stamping ground for most of the people living in the Square was the Outpatients' Department of Barrington's Hospital. With the floorboards rotting and the halls and landings badly lighted, it is easy to visualise the reasons for the regular visits to Barrington's Hospital.

The sanitary arrangements in the Square would be laughable if it were not such a serious matter. The toilet was a sort of hut built in the centre of the back yard, measuring about three feet by five. The toilet seat was set in cement and it was cracked and stained in such a manner as to defy description.

One of the biggest hazards facing the tenants was the enormous rat population.

Even though it was accepted that the Square was a tenement slum (like lots of other parts of Limerick) successive Administrators of the adjacent St. John's Cathedral failed to highlight the fact.

Fire and brimstone sermons delivered every Sunday dealt with everything from adultery to mastur-

bation, but never with the ghetto that was John's Square.

Also adjacent to the Square is the St. John's Church of Ireland building. And woe betide any young fellow caught inside the walls! The threat of course came not from the Church of Ireland people but from the mothers and fathers of the Catholic boys. Things like, "You'll go to hell if God sees you inside the Protestant walls", kept the youngsters at bay.

Once a pupil of St. John's C.B.S. is reputed to have asked a Christian Brother: "If God is everywhere, sir, does that mean that he is in the Protestant church?" "He is", the Brother solemnly replied. "Then what is he doing there? He's our God, isn't he?"

Most of the male children living in the Square went to John St. C.B.S. The Brothers of course never taught the pupils to be Christians -- only to be Catholics. Which belied the misnomer that they were "Christian" Brothers at all.

Monday evenings between eight and nine o'clock brought a mild pandemonium to the Square. The event was the appearance of the "Men". The "Men" were the representatives of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who presented some of the most destitute of the inhabitants with food vouchers worth 7/6d (37½p). Some tenants were also issued with tickets worth 2d each (less than one New Penny). With these tickets a member of the family would be sent to the old Wembley Hall to collect what was called the "Penny Dinners". What was most embarrassing was the long wait in the queue, often in bad weather, with two billycans, one for the potatoes and the other for what was called soup. Where large families were concerned, several trips to the

hall were required.

Some families who were fortunate enough to acquire lino for the floor, or a radio, were disqualified from receiving the vouchers.

Not a penny was spent on repairs while working class families occupied these houses. But now "Many thousands of pounds" of the rate-payers' money is being spent before some of these houses are handed back to the modern "Gentry".

We wonder if the "Labour" Mayor, when he makes his pompous speech at the official opening ceremony, will make any reference to the destitution and deprivation of those poor unfortunate people who lived in St. John's Square not so very long ago.

#### PEEPING TOMS

IT HAS been reported to the "Southill News" that concern and inconvenience is being caused by a Peeping Tom in Keyes Park in recent weeks. A report has been made to the Gardai but so far they have failed to act.

The Peeping Tom is usually seen at the back of Rose's Court but always disappears before he can be apprehended. One housewife complained to the "News" that she is "Scared out of her wits" in case she might be attacked some night. Another housewife stated: "While my husband is on nightwork my brother stays with me in the house."

S.T.A.R. (the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association) will be taking this matter up with the Garda authorities, but in the meantime we would like to alleviate the fears of the housewives in the area. It is an established fact that apart from the inconvenience caused by them, Peeping Toms are usually sick and harmless people.

Perhaps if something were done about the bad street lighting in Keyes Park (some of it attributable to vandalism) there would be less opportunity for Peeping Toms to indulge their strange pastimes.

#### THAT PLANNING PERMISSION

WE REFERRED last month to the speed with which the planning application for a big extension to the Pery Square house of Dr. J.P. Kelly went through the Corporation's Planning Department. The benevolent and personal interest shown by the otherwise cautious City Manager, Tom McDermott, has not gone unnoticed.

Dr. Kelly's wife, Ena, is known privately to some sniggering Corporation officials as "the hostess with the mostest", and their consensus is that her activities in this sphere had not gone unrewarded.

Watch this space for further details in this ongoing story.

#### ENGINEERING THE VOTES

THERE WERE no awards at the Academy Presentations for Limerick City Councillor, Denis Broderick. But then maybe the judges did not hear about his prize-winning performance in Wolfe Tone Street.

When it comes to taking off the City Engineer, there is no-one to beat Broderick. He played the part to perfection, until "Action Man" Thady Coughlan got after him.

The story has come to the "Southill News" from a resident of the area who was confused for a time by all the play-acting behaviour.

The opening scene is when two men enter the Wolfe Tone St. area. One is the well-known Alderman Pat Kennedy and the other is an "Offic-

ial" from the Corporation.

Pa is taking the "Official" on a conducted tour of the area and asking residents if they have any complaints, as the "City Engineer" is on the spot. People poured out their complaints and the "Official" duly noted their opinions and comments.

Word of the visit of the "City Engineer" reaches Coughlan country in Eric Lynch's pub and immediately Thady is suspicious when a resident describes a "City Engineer" who is far different from the "real" one.

"Action Man" takes off. He produces a picture of the "real" City Engineer and one of the "Official". The residents reject the photo of the "real" City Engineer, and all go for... none other than Councillor Denis Broderick!

This happened of course before Broderick was elected to the Council. Still, it was a performance which should not go unrecognised. Broderick played the part so well that he did not even open his mouth. Just like the "real" City Engineer!

So, in recognition of his outstanding talent, his sheer hard neck and willingness to do what he is told, the "Southill News" hereby awards to Councillor Denis (Brando) Broderick the Order of the Salvia Quarry Rat.

#### BRODERICK THE BOUNCER

IT WILL come as a surprise to many people living in Southill to know that they are represented on the City Council by a Fine Gael Councillor named Denis Broderick. For his performance over the last year Broderick has earned himself the title of the "Silent Councillor".

But this tongue-tied teacher has obviously more to him than meets the eye. At a time of high unem-



ployment, the "one-man-one-job" principle has found little favour with him.

But his choice of a "tom-job" will come as a surprise to most people. During the Sunday afternoon teenage dances held in autumn and winter by the "Limerick Students' Association" at the Royal George Hotel, Broderick has been acting as the hall's leading bouncer.

The two previous bouncers, paid at the rate of £3 per afternoon, were sacked to make way for Alderman P. Kennedy and Councillor Broderick.

The "Limerick Students' Association" is a totally undemocratic and class-ridden group founded by Kennedy to promote his own political career. Working class teenagers are discouraged from attending these Sunday afternoon dances, though Kennedy gets most of his votes from the working class families of Prospect and Ballinacurra Weston.

Broderick, an ex-Christian Brother who lives a long way from Southill in Ward Four, clearly believes in finding another and profitable outlet for all the strict training and discipline pumped into him by the "Brothers" before he opted out.

#### GENERAL RUMOUR

THERE WERE sad and moving scenes at the removal of the remains of Alderman Steve Coughlan from the City Council this month. Red-robed Councillors cried openly in the Chamber and the Council bell tolled mournfully and re-echoed throughout the building.

No-one volunteered to shoulder out the Deputy. Councillor Jim Kemmy said that the Coughlan Mafia had never given anything to Limer-

ick, and he was not going to lend a hand now.

So "Action Man" Thady was left to struggle home with his father who, on passing South's pub, opened his eyes and licked his lips.

"That's the last time you have one for the road", said "Action Man" as he plodded on into O'Connell Avenue. The remains had arrived home in good shape.

IT IS strongly rumoured that Sean Bourke is writing a book about Dr. Rose Dugdale entitled, "A Rose in the Jug". A spokesman for the Bourke Foundation denied all knowledge of this.

#### I'M ALL RIGHT (JACK)

THE MOST popular topic being loudly discussed at the moment by local Councillors in an attempt to gain publicity is the tragically high unemployment situation. They are all putting forward their ideas and contributions on how to "solve" the situation.

One of the most ambitious and aspiring politicians who comes to the forefront is none other than our local representative, Councillor Jack Bourke.

While addressing the Council in an upright pose with his thumbs secured to his lapels, he speaks of his great concern for the vast unemployed of Limerick. On witnessing this spectacle from the public gallery it would seem that one should be in no doubt about his sincerity and his deep awareness of the hardship brought about by the long dole queues of this fair city -- if it were not for the fact that we are only too well aware of Bourke's own contributions to the unemployment problem in Limerick.

Bourke recently spared no ex-

pense in renovating his hotel, which is now claimed to be one of the most luxurious of its kind not only in Limerick but in Ireland. It attracts "only the best" clientele.

Of course Jack has not forgotten the unemployed, and his contribution to solving the problem is to engage the services of a Dublin firm of builders and a would-be painting contractor from Galway (a notorious exploiter of human labour) to carry out the renovations.

But the "Great Jack" offers a further contribution to the unemployed workers of Limerick by engaging the services of 13 and 14-year-old children on his staff, at the rate of £1 per night to wait upon the jaded palets of Limerick's nocturnal tobers till the early hours of the morning.

Bewitched, beguzzled and steamed to the gills on expensive liquor, the merry lads dig deep, cough up and question not the "Master's" prices.

Ah, wait! All is not lost. Bourke will once again stand in an upright pose, with his thumbs on the lapels of his expensive Continental jacket, and give a great oration to his fellow Councillors on how to solve the unemployment problem in Limerick.

#### LETTER FROM A RENT COLLECTOR

Housing Dept.  
Town Hall,  
Rutland St.,  
Limerick.

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article which you published in the July issue of the "Southill News", I would like to raise the following points.

You are quite correct when you state that we rent collectors work

on a commission basis and that our basic salary is far from what could be classed as a realistic wage. The Corporation's policy on rent collection compels us to use any means at our disposal to extract the rent from tenants in order to exist ourselves.

As for being D'Arcy's "blue-eyed boy", I never had any time for that despicable bastard. He never had to rely on commission to subsidise his pay-packet. Plenty of time off at the tenants' expense regarding rugby matches (and receiving tax-free payment for this) and dossing around in general. I'm as glad as you are that he's gone.

Admittedly I might have been a bit of a bastard to some tenants, but some of these same tenants can spend half of their day drinking in the Galvone. I know that there are a lot of genuine cases and I do my best to make exceptions especially now with the high unemployment rate in the city. But I'm answerable to the Corporation and they couldn't care less about ordinary working people. Just get the rent in and that's all they care about.

You should not generalise so much with your references to the officials, or in other words you should not tar everyone with the same brush. Surely S.T.A.R. have always been received in a courteous manner by Marie Cantillon, and according to the "Southill News" you have been ably assisted by the City Architect.

As far as I'm concerned, I'll try to be more polite in future in my dealings with tenants, and I especially want to take this opportunity to apologise most profusely to the tenant whose front door glass panel I broke a few weeks ago.

Yours etc.,

Paddy Burns.