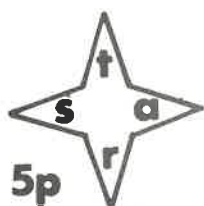


SOUTHILL NEWS

VOL. 1. NO. 9.

DECEMBER, 1975.



Christmas shopping in Limerick



'News' EXCLUSIVE

**COUGHLANS'
CORRUPTION EXPOSED**

**THE BACON CENTRE
3 PATRICK ST.
FOR BEST QUALITY BACON AND
A LARGE SELECTION OF FRESH OFFAL**

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE
ENDA GRIFFINS
19 COLLINS AVE.,
KINCORA PARK.
GROCERIES, VEGETABLES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS. ICE CREAM AND CHILDRENS TOYS.
(SHOP IN BACK).**

**COAL – BLOCKS – TURF – BRICQUETTES
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
PHONE: TONY MURPHY
Murphy's Shop,
RATHBANE. PHONE: 46838.**

**TED O'CONNOR
DRESSWEAR RENTALS
GREY MORNING SUITS, BLACK MORNING SUITS,
SEMI-MORNING SUITS (SHORT JACKET STYLE)
HATS GLOVES ETC.
PHONE: 47285.**

**FOR THE MAN IN YOUR LIFE
YOUR SURE TO FIND THE RIGHT CHRISTMAS GIFT
AT
TONY CONNOLLY'S
44, UPPER WILLIAM ST., TELEPHONE: 46337**

**WELCOME TO THE
GALVONE ARMS
MUSIC & SONG POOL RINGS DARTS
ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

**OUR ADVERTISERS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO WISH ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

COUGHLAN'S CORRUPTION EXPOSED

THE REVELATIONS contained in this story should not cause too much surprise, as many people have known for a long time just how corrupt the Coughlans really are, and always have been.

Coughlan himself has come to realise the seriousness of the situation by seeing it reflected in his ever-diminishing votes in election after election over the years.

One of the most famous exposures, as most people will recall, was when he tried to bribe Councillor Earls. Hoping to have one of his more pliable hacks co-opted onto the Council, the fraudulent Alderman offered Councillor Earls a derisory £25 bribe to resign his seat and make way for the co-option.

Since then Coughlan's corruption has been exposed on countless occasions. Another good example was the scandal of the Post Office in Clontarf Place, Limerick, which went as a prize to "The Family".

In view of this life-long career of political corruption, perhaps Coughlan senior should now shoulder the responsibility for the latest attempted act of bribery by his (so far) less expert son, Thady.

Thinking that his father's hacks had done the necessary groundwork, and that enough "paper branches" of the Party had been affiliated, Thady allowed his name to go forward for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Labour Party. But at the last minute, realising that he would lose the election, he tried, WITH A BRIBE OF £200, to arrange for the "instant affiliation" of more "paper branches".

An honest official at the Party Headquarters (who can be named if the need arises) refused the bribe.

Thady Coughlan then withdrew from the election with his tail between his legs.

This paper is confident that when the time comes the honest people of this city will remove these corrupt elements from public office. But we say right now to the National Executive of the Labour Party: YOU SHOULD ACT IMMEDIATELY TO DISOWN PEOPLE LIKE THE COUGHLANS. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR SUCH SELF-SEEKING OPPORTUNISTS IN ANY WORKERS' PARTY THAT IS WORTHY OF THE NAME.

* * * * *

WIFE-SWAPPING IN LIMERICK

By Maura

Our Waterford Correspondent

THE "Southill News" does not believe in kicking a man when he is down -- even when the man happens to be Tom Tobin, ex-Editor "Limerick Leader", ex-Editor "Limerick Weekly Echo", and ex-ghost writer for Alderman M. Lipper when the latter was Mayor of Limerick. But we do believe, nevertheless, that a few words about him would not be out of place at the present time.

Despite the fact that Tobin has been out of regular work for the past four years, and was to be seen signing-on at the local Labour Exchange three mornings a week, his enforced unemployment has obviously done little to bring about an improvement in his writing or in confronting him with the harsh realities of the capitalist world.

In recent months Tobin has succeeded in scrambling aboard the "Sunday World" and has sent a series of freelance articles to that

paper on "social" topics in the Limerick area. Like a bullfrog trying to blow himself into a bullock, Tobin has been trying to pump up relatively minor and trivial stories into exclusive, sensational disclosures.

Four recent articles published in the "World" titled, "The Other Side of Limerick", purported to "examine" prostitution and "wife-swapping" in our city. The articles showed Tobin at the height of his "piss and wind" form.

A perusal of this "sexy side of Limerick" series predictably shows that no names, facts, or figures were revealed to support any of Tobin's allegations. The articles could have been written by any third-rate reporter from a bar-stool and are pale imitations of similar sexual "flyers" usually published in the "News of the World" and the "Sunday Mirror". The articles in fact were nothing more than a bottle of simulated sexy smoke.

But a real opportunity has been lost to say something really worthwhile about prostitution and wife-swapping in Limerick. For example, Tobin has had a first-hand knowledge of the manner in which local journalists have been prostituting themselves for years in arse-licking the Limerick "Establishment" and in guzzling free booze and grub. But then Tobin could hardly be expected to bite the hands that are allowing him to grovel for the few fallen crumbs from the Limerick press table.

As for Wife-swapping, Tobin should have had a special insight into the vast amount of "swapping" that has gone here since he first arrived in the city. A whole confraternity of Limerickmen have, in this period, been faithlessly

swapping their wives for pints of Guinness. But, again, this aspect of wife-swapping could have been a bit too near the bone (setter?) for Terrible Tom.

Incidentally, there is no truth in the rumour that Tobin's "Sunday World" articles are to be collected into one volume and published under the title, "Fairy Tales of Old Limerick".

* * * * *

THE HERREMA RECEPTION

THIS PAPER does not intend to waste much space on the civic reception accorded to Dr. Tiede Herrema, the Dutch chief executive of the Ferenka factory, following his kidnapping.

While Dr. Herrema behaved in a cool and brave way during his period in captivity, it was clear from his wife's and his own attitude that he did not want a lavish, extravagant reception. But he had no choice in the matter. Stove Coughlan exploited Dr. Herrema's return to Limerick to gain widespread publicity for his son.

The only working class voice to oppose the big, costly reception was not reported in the Limerick press. Councillor Jim Kemmy's remarks were only reported in the "Irish Times" and, as most workers do not read the "Times", a reiteration of some of his statement will help to put the reception in its right perspective.

The socialist Councillor stated that a simple, private ceremony would be more in keeping with the wishes of the people and of Dr. Herrema himself. He claimed that the Coughlans were turning the

event into a political circus to advance Thady's chances of securing his father's Dail seat.

The contrast was made between the City Council's attitude to the Herrema affair and the call by the Council, three years ago, for the unconditional release of Sean Mac Stiofain, then Chief of Staff of the Provos. But then the Provos were riding high on their bombing campaign at that time, and Stevie and Kennedy, who sponsored the motion, were merely cashing in once again on "popular" support.

The central point of Kemmy's statement has been forgotten. He said that the politicians would be better employed in spending their time and energies in getting Ferenka to pay their workers the full terms of the National Wage Agreement.

With the basic rate for general workers at Ferenka staying static at £34 per week, and with the Government attempting to impose a wages freeze, the "Southill News" supports Councillor Kemmy's call for Ferenka to pay all the stages of the wage agreement.

It is also to be hoped that the Trade Unions involved will rally strongly behind this demand.

* * * * *

A POLITICAL BALL-HOP

PEOPLE DON'T normally look for political comment on the back page of the "Limerick Chronicle". But readers of the paper's December 6th edition had an unusual surprise in store for them in, of all places, the Shannon Rugby Football Club notes. The article stated:

"A night will be held in the

club pavilion on Friday next, 12th December, to honour His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Thady Coughlan, who is a member of the club and a past committee member. As many members (as possible) are requested to attend to show their appreciation to Thady, and members might be interested to know that Thady is back in training for the past two weeks for the Junior Cup."

The "Southill News" nominates this report for the JOKE OF 1975.

At the time when the Mayor was supposed to be in training for Shannon, he was over in Paris swilling exotic French beverages at the expense of the people of Limerick. (He was supposedly attending a housing conference.)

Thady's few attempts to play rugby have not been a success. Nowadays, he confines his training to games of pocket-billiards during boring City Council meetings. He is now an acknowledged expert at this intricate game.

* * * * *

A SOLDIER'S STORY

THE "Southill News" is always interested in information about injustices to people in all walks of life. The paper is especially concerned with cases of unfair treatment to tenants living in the Southill area. One such case recently came to our attention.

James Kelly, of 9 Lilac Court, Keyes Park, joined the Irish Army in 1949. Because of dampness and wettings caused by sleeping under canvas and other such activities of the day, he was stricken with TB of the lungs in 1958. He was sent for treatment to the Cork Military

Hospital and later spent six months at St. Bricin's Hospital, Dublin. On discharge from this hospital, he resumed his soldiering duties.

In 1964, a cavity developed in his lung from the earlier TB illness. He was again transferred to Cork Military Hospital. He was then moved on to St. Bricin's once more, and later to St. Camillus' Hospital Limerick. A report issued by the Chest Unit of the latter hospital stated:

"James Kelly was admitted from St. Bricin's Hospital to the Chest Unit, St. Camillus' Hospital, suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis on 21. 1. 65. He was hospitalised for approximately six months and had tuberculosis chemotherapy for approximately eight months after this, as an outpatient. Since then he has attended the Chest Clinic here for check-ups. He also gives a history of having epileptic fits"

James Kelly got one month's leave of absence when he came out of St. Camillus' Hospital and then resumed his Army career. Since 1956 he had been serving in the Officers' Bar at Sarsfield Barracks. Apart from his work as a barman at the Officers' Bar, he was also obliged to work as a petrol pump attendant for the officers and to bring bags of fuel and light fires in their quarters.

Sometimes his day's work lasted from 9 a.m. on one morning to 3, 4 or 5 a.m. on the following morning. Officers drinking in hotels and bars around the city would frequently phone him and ask him to stay on and keep the Officers' Bar open to enable them to continue drinking right through the night. Occasionally, officers would request the keys of the bar for themselves and would abuse him "in their cups" if he did not immediately hand over

the keys. James Kelly also spent three periods at Kilworth Camp doing two-week stints as a barman.

In 1966, following his discharge from St. Camillus' Hospital, he had resumed his duties as barman at the Officers' Bar at Sarsfield Barracks. Despite his serious ill-health he tried, as best he could, to do his "normal" work. But soon the tuberculosis and the strain of the long hours proved too much for him.

After he had unsuccessfully sought a transfer to less strenuous duties, he refused to serve any longer in the Officers' Bar and was immediately sent out "square-bashing" as a punishment for his refusal. After about four hours of this non-stop marching, his health broke and he began to haemorrhage severely. He collapsed on the square and was taken to St. Camillus' Hospital.

After a few days in hospital, sick and depressed, he applied for his discharge from the Army. He was duly discharged on October 20th 1966. The testimonial in his Discharge Book reads:

"James Kelly served in the Defence Forces for seventeen years. He was found to be honest and reliable."

So, after over seventeen years' service, mainly catering for the officers' drinking, heating and petrol needs, James Kelly found himself back in Civvy Street.

Since then (1966) he has been unable to work because of his ill-health and has spent the past nine years in vainly seeking a pension from the Minister for Defence.

He has sought help in this quest from, among other people, Desmond O'Malley, Steve Coughlan, Tom O'Donnell, and some City Councillors. But James Kelly had not served overseas, and because his service had been less than twenty years he

has failed to secure a pension.

Only a few weeks ago, during a Dail debate, Steve Coughlan nearly tied himself in knots in heaping praise on the present Minister for Defence, Paddy Donegan. But he failed to mention the Kelly case. Though James Kelly called on Coughlan on three occasions, the "Labour" Deputy made no attempt to do anything to help him.

James Kelly's story can be collaborated by many people, including Dr. Andrew McCann, a major stationed at Sarsfield Barracks, Father Condon, then local chaplain to the Defence Forces, and Father Shinnors, another former Army chaplain.

The "Southill News" does not claim to have any influence with the Minister for Defence, but the officers of the Tenants' Association are sending a copy of this article to the Minister, with a covering letter, requesting him to review James Kelly's application for a pension.

We will, in due course, publish the Minister's reply to our article and letter.

* * * * *

THE ARROGANT SHOPKEEPER

FOLLOWING complaints from residents concerning the parking of Mr. Harrison's car on the public footpath outside his shop (compelling the public to walk on the muddy green in bad weather), two officers of S.T.A.R. (Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association) approached Mr. Harrison.

After hearing the complaints from the officers, Mr. Harrison reacted in a very abusive manner,

referring to the residents who complained as "ignorant bitches", and adding that as far as he was concerned his car would stay put. Having tried vainly to reason with Harrison, the officers were left with no alternative but to call the Gardai.

Since then, as our readers will have noticed, the ill-mannered Mr. Harrison no longer parks his car on the footpath.

The point we would like to make is this. Mr. Harrison (the owner two sportscars) makes a very good living from the people of this community, and in future these same people would like a little more consideration and cooperation from this shopkeeper as well as unrestricted access to the public footpath.

Mr. Harrison, take note!

* * * * *

THE BEST OF HEALTH

AT A RECENT meeting of the Limerick Health Committee, which discussed, among other things, family planning, free medical treatment and the lack of it, it was interesting to note that not one member of the "Labour" Party was present.

Now in contrast to this, a few months ago at the annual general meeting of the same Committee, the "Labour" Party were there in strength to secure the chairmanship of the Health Committee -- which they successfully pulled off with the election of Councillor Frank Leddin.

The point of course is very obvious to all of us by now. Nevertheless, it might not come amiss if, next time we happen to meet Councillor Leddin, we should enquire

after his health -- even though he does not seem to care about ours!

* * * * *

ADVERTISEMENT

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER TO ALL READERS OF "Southill News"

LARGE ECONOMY packs of "Instant Revolution" are now available to all our readers. This offer has been made possible by an amalgamation of the following parties:

I.R.S.P. (Irish Republican Socialist Party); Sinn Fein (Gardner St); Sinn Fein (Kevin St.)

A spokesman for the new Company stated that, "owing to the economic recession and our own political bankruptcy, this offer cannot be repeated."

The Organising Manager of the Company is Mr. T. Gill; the Distribution Manager is Mr. R. Brady; and the Complaints Manager is Mr. S. Costello.

The Company has issued the following caution: "Beware of imitations; only OUR commodity carries the "Tír na nÓg" brand."

* * * * *

N.A.T.O. RESOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING is a selection of the many resolutions passed at the Annual Convention of N.A.T.O. (National Association of Tenants' Organisations). They will be vigorously pursued by N.A.T.O. in the coming year.

1. That N.A.T.O. calls on the Minister for Social Welfare to forward

by post the Social Welfare benefits of Old Age Pensioners.

2. That N.A.T.O. calls on the Minister for Social Welfare to introduce the agreed free delivery of the cheap fuel.

3. That N.A.T.O. calls on the Minister for Local Government to instruct local authorities to give the public access to Council meetings.

4. That local authorities, when commissioning the building of new housing schemes, should insist that Community Halls, playgrounds, and other facilities should be built in conjunction with the houses.

5. That the Department of Local Government be requested to send a Department Engineer to inspect all future housing schemes when completed and before being handed over to the Local Authority.

6. That N.A.T.O. seek representation on a special committee to be set up by the Department of Local Government and N.A.T.O. for the future planning of all local authority estates and that a percentage of women be members of this committee.

7. That N.A.T.O. calls on the Minister for Local Government to direct all local authorities to retain all existing green-space areas that were planned as such in housing schemes and that these green-space areas shall not be allocated for private building purposes.

* * * * *

TO OUR READERS

THE EDITORS and staff of the "Southill News" wish all their readers a very pleasant Christmas and a much more just and promising New Year.