

Mr O'Donovan said that his committee, the members of which "know anyone affected by the flood", will meet next week and will see who has omitted claims and will then call

had been told that the €30,000 was being distributed only for relief of families who were flooded and none was available for business people who had suffered loss.

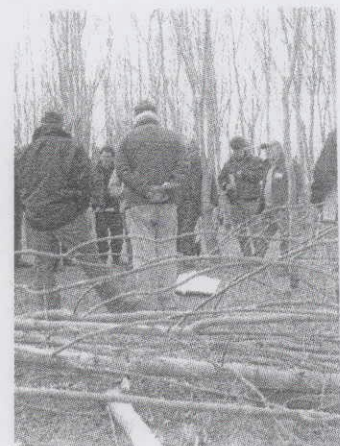
attended the scene, but no injuries were reported as the house was vacant at the time. Local councillor Jerome Scanlon described the scene as

the horrific 1926 Dromcollogher cinema fire, which killed 48 people. The parochial house is located only a few hundred yards away from where the cinema fire

anniversaries ceremony actively Local

ng Demonstration

7th September
community hall
limerick



een 11am - 12.30pm

ormation, contact:

agasc on 087-1216163
Teagasc office

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Climber Ger to be honoured in Alaska

FALLEN HERO

Norma Prendiville

GERARD McDonnell, the intrepid mountaineer who lost his life while trying to save others on K2 on August 2, will be remembered next week in Anchorage, Alaska, the city which he had made his home. Members of Gerard's family from Kilcormac are making plans to travel to Anchorage for the ceremonies which will include a memorial Mass and celebration of his life and which are being organised by Gerard's long-time partner, Annie Starkey and his friends.

Gerard moved to live in Alaska over a decade ago, working as a computer engineer with an oil company. But his real reason was the challenge of Alaska's mountains, where he worked to hone his mountaineering skills.

There his achievements included scaling the state's many peaks including McKinley, Foraker and Denali. In 1999, he was nominated for the Denali Pin, an award given to mountaineers who perform acts of heroism on Mount McKinley. He and



Gerard McDonnell holds the tricolour aloft on K2

another climber guided five exhausted climbers, including one with snow-blindness, down from the summit ridge in rapidly deteriorating weather. From Alaska too, he set out as team leader in an Antarctic expedition in honour of Irish explorers Shackleton and Crean.

In 2003, Gerard achieved one of his dreams - summing Mount Everest and on August 1 this year, he made history by becoming the first Irishman to summit K2, the world's second highest mountain.

But just hours after his triumph, a fall of ice brought death to the various climbing teams including Gerard's Norik2. Gerard was among the 11 climbers who died on K2's death zone, where he was attempting to help three others in difficulty.

The Material C Shannon-base

Mike Dwane

QUEEN of pop, Madonna, has taken her own advice in not going for second best by hiring Shannon-based air charter provider Le Bas International for her world tour.

Until now, the only connection the Material Girl had with the Mid-West was having a nightclub in Charleville named after her. But brokers Le Bas International, which employs 10 people in Shannon, have changed all that.

"This is actually her second world tour with us," explained Peter Le Bas, chief executive, Le Bas International, from London. "We did the 2006 world tour in North America and Europe and now we are doing Europe as well as North and South America. We are just back from Rome, Frankfurt and Dusseldorf and from London we are going on to Lisbon, Valencia, Paris and Athens before heading off on the North American leg." Madonna has her own private jet but is free to join her tour man-



Peter Le Bas, chief executive of Le Bas International, and one of his

agers, dancers, caterers, wardrobe and more on tour entourage on a specially adapted sourced by Le Bas.

Madonna isn't the queen to have hired Bas. Queen Elizabeth the Duke of Edinburgh clients. And Saudi r have also been t ported along with entourages to Europ the UK for holiday shopping sprees.

With Futura the airline to have hit th this week, Mr Le Bas "it's nice to have a lining amid all the and gloom about av at the moment".

It's a far cry from Dubliner Peter we find fame and fortune California as an act

Housing stand-off continue

BALLINA

Patricia Feehily

THE stand-off continued this Wednesday at Ballina between residents of Cullina and North Tipperary County Council over the €465,000 house bought by the council to accommodate a Traveller family.

The Travellers have been living in caravans in Quarry Lane for nearly 10 years, and have made friends in the village.

The residents, who say that their rights have been ignored by the county manager, Terry O Niall, have been on a 24-hour picket at the house since the weekend, with three rosters throughout the night and

between 50 and 100 people in attendance at times during the day.

A marquee has now been erected at the site and trucks are blocking the entrance. "We have maintained a constant vigil at the house and we will continue to do so until the situation is resolved," said the chairman of Cullina Residents' Association, Paddy Collins.

But now, the Irish Travellers' Movement has come out in support of the county manager in using his discretionary powers.

"This family has been on the waiting list for over 10 years, which highlights the need for all local authorities to implement local Traveller Accommodation Pro-

grammes," chairwoman Catherine Joyce said. "The reality of the situation is that Traveller accommodation programmes are not being implemented, and as we approach the end of the second four-year programme many families are forced to wait in emergency or sub-standard accommodation."

She called on local residents across the country "to support local authorities that have taken measures to secure accommodation for Traveller families who are in need of accommodation".

The Cullina residents' chairman, Mr Collins explained that they had no quarrel with the Traveller family in question.

Their stand, he said, was against the county council which had bulldozed decision through without consulting either the residents or the local council, contrary to the council's stated policy of securing local accommodation before accommodation for Travellers.

He said that the residents were not discriminatory and they supported efforts to house the Travellers. "But this house, said, is not suitable for the optimal solution to the problem."

The residents, he said, had many genuine concerns which had not been addressed by anyone not fair to the family concerned either," he said.