From the files of the Limerick Chronicle, founded in 1768, the Republic's oldest newspaper

30 YEARS AGO

LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE PLAN IS SHELVED

THE Carey's Road Community and Athletic Club has abandoned the idea of building a £24,000 community centre for the moment - because of lack of interest from local people - and instead a room will be rented to cater for some 40 young people in the area.

The decision to defer the building of the centre was announced at a recent press conference.

If the response from the young people is significant then the club will take a fresh look at the possibility of building the community centre on the old Carey's Road quarry.

Up to now the interest in the erection of a centre has been poor and this led to the club changing its mind about pushing ahead with the project.

From September last the club has received permission from the Limerick Corporation to build on the old quarry.

The PRO, Mrs Una Hartley, said that they had not received the support they had expected from the parents in the area. Now they hoped they were going to start again with the young people and hoped to generate the necessary interest to re-activate the community centre project.

HOUSEHOLDS ARE FACING CHAOS

ABOUT 12,000 people living in the suburbs of Limerick city are beginning to feel the effects of the local authority engineers' work-to-rule.

Refuse collections are being hit in some areas and public unrest was reported from outlying city areas serviced by the county council.

And it has been announced that the Corporation engineers are joining their colleagues throughout the country in the industrial action.

So from next week services throughout the city and county will be adversely effected.

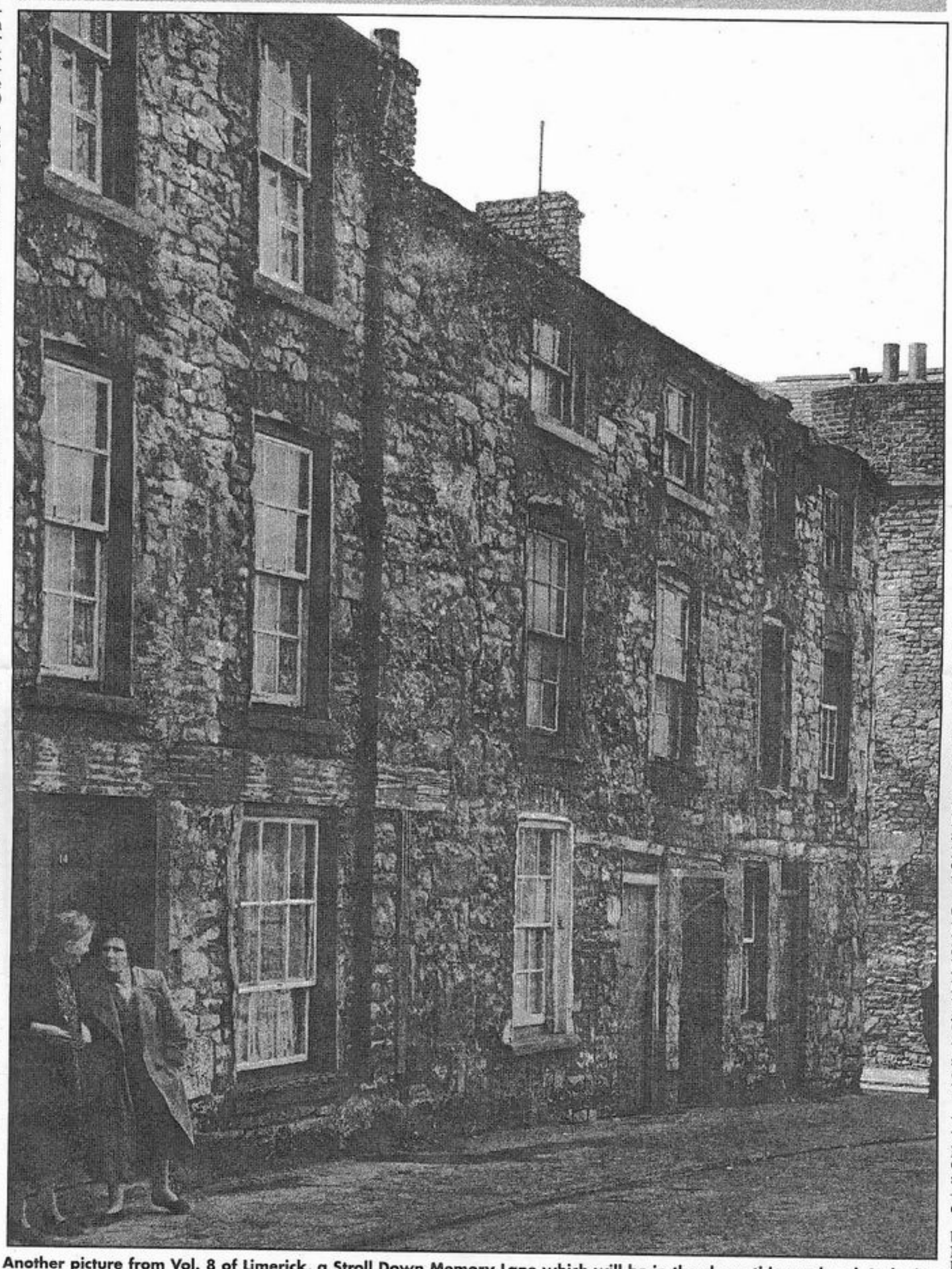
The most noticeable services facing disruption will be water supplies, traffic lights, public lighting and, in areas serviced by the county council, refuse collections.

Housing loans and planning applications will also face serious delays.

The dispute has come to a head because of the alleged failure of the management side to come to a realistic settlement of a pay claim, which has been pending for some four years.

Spokesmen for both county council and Corporation engineers have stated that they regret any inconvenience they might cause the public as a result of their action.

However, they feel that after a four-year wait, they have been put in the position that they have to take some militant action to force a solution to their claim.



Another picture from Vol. 8 of Limerick, a Stroll Down Memory Lane which will be in the shops this weekend. It depicts a portion of Windmill Street in the early 1960s before the entire left side of the street was demolished.

40 YEARS AGO

CIVILIAN ACTION 'IRRESPONSIBLE'

THE rescue of three guests by members of the public when Cruise's Hotel, Limerick, went ablaze could have ended in death.

This is stated by Leading Fireman C. Moloney in a report which has been circulated to members of the City Council for tonight's debate.

Describing the methods used by civilians in the rescue bid, he said: "In my opinion, this was an irresponsible act, and could quite easily have led to a fatal accident."

"It was during the period of evacuation and rescue inside the hotel that three members of the brigade who were outside elevated a ladder to a third storey window to try and rescue three girls from a window ledge," says L/F Moloney.

"Even the ladder fully extended to its safety lock could not reach the window. The man abandoned the operation, donned breathing apparatus and went to their assistance through the hotel.

"As the ladder was left unattended, some civilians took it upon themselves to operate an unlocked ladder by extending it beyond its safety margin to gain the extra height necessary to reach the three guests."

L/F Moloney states that if the girls had remained calm as they were told to do, they could have been brought down the main staircase which was unaffected by fire, the same as the rest of the guests.

"In my opinion, the only danger to the girls was from themselves," he concludes.

CHALLENGE TO MUNSTER GUNMEN

DETAILS of a novel scheme to help preserve Munster game stocks were announced at a press conference in Limerick today by Shannonside tourism.

Six tagged grey crows will be released from secret locations in Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Clare.

There is a reward of £15 for each ringed crow shot with an additional bonus of £10 for the first bird shot.

The bounty will be paid on the production of ring to the secretary of the game council of the county in which the bird is shot.

The grey crow, often described as the scawl crow is common to all parts of Ireland. And during the breeding season, it does untold damage to game stocks. He feeds on the eggs of all species of game birds as well as their young. The principal victims include pheasant grouse and wild duck. It is estimated that there are at least a half a million grey crows in Munster alone. Over 60 years ago, this species was unknown to the country.

It is hoped by this new scheme, to encourage the 15,000 licensed sportsmen in the Munster area to take special interest in helping to eradicate the numbers of grey crows and possibly helping themselves to a handsome bounty.

Speaking at the reception, Major Gale, of Murroe, Co Limerick said: "One of the most pleasing features of this exercise is that, with the cooperation of the regional tourism organisations, the whole province of Munster has been brought into this scheme.

"We hope that our example will be followed throughout the country so a determined effort can be made to protect game stocks, and we look forward to the day when the grey crow will be wiped out in Ireland."

50 YEARS AGO

BUILDING BOOM HAS PASSED AND LOCAL LABOUR CLAUSE ESSENTIAL

THE necessity of re-introducing a local labour clause in future housing contracts was emphasised by Ald GE Russell, TD, at last night's meeting of the City Council but he was told by the manager (Mr M Macken) that contractors would not tender under such conditions.

During a discussion on housing Ald Russell said the boom in the building trade had passed and there was serious unemployment amongst the operatives.

They were getting below the target of 200 houses per year and the time was opportune to consider the insertion of a local labour clause in future contracts.

It had always been the wish of the council that priority of work should be given to local residents.

He understood that the local labour clause had recently been reintroduced in Dublin and Clonmel.

His suggestion was that the Mayor should call a meeting with local contractors to restore the clause, which operated some time ago.

Mayor: "I will do that at the first opportunity.

"I will call a conference to see if agreement can be reached on the employment of local workers."

The City Manager said that as a way out he could nothing. The condition of housing contracts had been standardised for a number of years and if a local labour clause was inserted the contractors would not tender.

CECILIAN SOCIETY HAVE PRODUCED A SPARKLING 'SHOW BOAT' MUSICAL

LIMERICK'S first introduction to Oscar Hammerstein and Jerome Kerns Musical "Show Boat" was by way of the first "Talkie" film ever screened in the city at the Grand Central Cinema way back in the late 20s.

One of the principals of that film, whom we know today as Paul Robeson, played the rather insignificant role of "Joe," but his singing of the theme song –"Ole Man River" – skyrocketed him to fame overnight.

Since then this song has become a popular number on Radio, Stage and Screen and has been beautifully rendered by many well-known artists down the years.

But the singing of the melody by Michael Yelverton in the current production of "Show Boat" as the Crescent Concert Hall has seldom been bettered.

It was indeed a most pleasant treat, which I and the packed audience shall always remember.

It fully justified the prolonged and sustained applause that greeted this old favourite ably assisted by an excellent men's chorus.

In Conclusion I congratulate the Cecilian Musical Society for presenting such a lavish production.

There were 29 musical numbers, which necessitated a huge cast, taxing somewhat stage limitations.