

work: city men out

Y. MORONEY

"A lot of this is due to the fact that the unions have not been playing as big a part as they should."

"By law, each factory is enabled to have a safety committee. The new Minister, Mr. Michael O'Leary, says he will increase the inspectorate. "There are a lot of things like noise, pollution, dust and dirt."

"Many people finish up physical wrecks."

"In my own job, there is not one retired man with a sound chest."

Mr. Finnan: "There is great resentment on the part of the ordinary workers to taking safety measures."

He was backed by Mr. Paddy King: "I am on a safety committee for years, but it is not always management's fault, but also that of workers."

After the president said that a man should not be employed if he would not wear a safety helmet as required, Mr. Kenny closed the debate with the point that there was a natural reluctance on the part of workers to bring matters to management for fear of being victimised.

benefits

Benefit and Invalidation Pension

where a person has been working in a State, liability for payment of entry in which the person was last on at present receiving disability benefit was in the United Kingdom (eligible for Irish disability benefit may qualify for United Kingdom Pensions receiving Irish invalidity benefit for United Kingdom invalidity pensions, but they may opt to continue disability pensions instead. The person informed individually of their rights they must take.

WILL BE AFFECTED

allowances

ntly going to work in any other State should claim family allowances (entitlement of the country in which they live) their families may continue to reside in another member State.

insurance who takes an insurable or member State may, where necessary, combine in unemployment benefit claimed in

unemployment benefit in this country member State in search of work conditions, continue to receive Irish benefit Exchange in that country, for

apply to insured persons coming c. from other member States.

Validity Pension, Maternity

benefits from persons in Ireland should be part of Social Welfare, which their steps should be taken.

t of benefit rests with the country in which last insurable employed and payable to him by the competent institution. Insurance in another member State into account, if this is necessary for satisfying the contribution conditions for

Benefits

ment of the benefits rests with the claimant is insured. In the case of a country, the benefits should be part of Social Welfare. Insured person member States in the course of covered for these benefits.

Helen Buckley's Leisure Page

The Strand Fishermen's vanishing silver catch

SITTING on the Strand wall, the Shannon screaming wildly over the Curraghgower Falls and with the grey towered walls of historic King John's Castle as a backdrop to the scene, veteran Strand Fishermen like Johnny McInerney, Tim Tobin and Victor Grimes will tell you about the great catches of silver salmon caught by them in the Shannon Estuary up to 40 years ago.

Times were brightly different for Strand Fishermen, Johnny and Tim and Victor will recall nostalgically, in those days, before a contraption called the E.S.B. Power House, up-river at Ardara, interfered with the great flow of the Shannon and the stocks of salmon—and their catches diminished year by year.

The Strand Fishermen's use of gondolas (flat-bottomed, versatile and brave little craft) invincible against the winds, tides and mudflats of the Lower Shannon would sail down under (now) Sandfield Bridge on the night of 12th February, in the bright times, up to 40 years ago.

"We'd do very well, catching 40, 42 and 44 pound salmon—the usual weights in those times—got one of 50 pounds, and my brother, Dan McInerney, got a 44-pound salmon," Johnny remembers.

"And," Tim Tobin chimed in, "we'd be down catching salmon herrings from November to January—there's a vanished delicacy for you!"

There was an abundance of another type of Lower Shannon fish to keep the Strand Fishermen busy: flat fish, plaice or flounders or, verily, "Beke." August was the season for the flatfish.

Lower Shannon

They're nearly all gone from the Lower Shannon (as the Strand Fishermen call the stretch of the estuary, from below Coonagh to Ringmoyle Pier, near Beigh Island, pollution is killing them," according to Johnny, Tim and Victor—and these veteran fishermen pronounce pollution has a dirty word.

Back to the sad decline of the Lower Shannon salmon fishery. Legally, our season runs on 1st February and ends on 20th July—but we fish better, going fishing now and in June," Johnny and Tim and Victor, spokesmen of the depressed (their word) Strand Fishermen, said with a sad emphasis.

And "The Peal"—a late spring salmon, smaller than the salmon are they still plentiful. The same fate as the salmon has befallen "The Peal." Up to 40 years ago, the Strand Men went down for the Peal (pronounced Pale) in February—now the numbers are less and the actual season is shortened, from 12th February to 20th July.

The cost of boats (and gear) has risen.

A gondola now costs at least £80, and a net £60," said Johnny, who is also a famous boatwright. In fact, Johnny is an international reputation as a boatwright. A few years ago he built a 20-foot motorboat for a Mr. Lewis of New York—who called personally to Johnny's workshop above the Curraghgower Falls to commission the

motorboat.

"It cost £38 to ship it from Dublin to New York, where it arrived on a Saturday—and nearly every Limerickman and woman in New York turned out to see it being launched," said the 84-year-old boatwright with justifiable pride.

While Johnny McInerney's talents as a boatwright bring an international clientele to his boatshed, he sighs for the nights when he was guide-boatman to wild geese shooters on the Lower Shannon.

Listen:

"There were the times when I'd take wild geese shooters down in my gangle, as the evening light was going, and we'd hide below in the sedges of the Ballinacurra Creek... we'd hear the geese coming in cackling... and they'd drop down on to the main river outside the creek... out we'd go silently in the moonlight... and what fine bags of geese we'd sail up with... Ah, the geese are nearly gone, too."

Families

Johnny and Tim and Victor recited the names of the families who made up the flourishing Strand Fishermen's guild in the good old days: the Dorans, the Farrells the Sullivans, the Tyrells and, of course, the Tobins, the Grimes (also in the Coonagh guild) and the McInerneys.

"The Government in Dublin should hear about the water being taken off and the pollution and maybe they'd all be back at the fishing again," the trio said.

They recalled poetically the fishing grounds between Coonagh and Ringmoyle Pier and their hospitable fellow-fishermen on the Lower Shannon—and up the Clare River, as they call the Fergus Estuary. They fished (and still fish) The Flats, the Point of Crag Island, Sandybank and Quay Island.

The Lower Shannon is a lonelier place for the Strand Men these days, with all their former fishermen friends at Newtown (below Clatina) and Clarecastle (on the Clare River) and the Lower Shannon Islands hit by bad times—and gone from the trade and the islands.

"There were seven crews fishing out of Newtown... the Lynchs, the Byrnes, the Gavins, the Coughlans and the O'Briens," Johnny McInerney recalled, but there isn't anything near that now. And Clarecastle once had 14 crews, he added. The sad thing was that just as the E.S.B. began to take off the water (40

years ago) "whole fleets of young fellows were taking up fishing," said Johnny.

The islands of the Lower Shannon and the Clare River are deserted by the fisherfolk.

"The McInerneys of Saint's Island, in the Clare River, always gave us a great welcome... the island people are all gone."

Only one islandman—Johnny Greene, on Greene's Island, just off Bunratty Creek—maintains an island home and ways.

Johnny Greene personifies all that the island people of the Lower Shannon and the Clare River meant to Johnny: maintains an island home and ways.

"Like all the people on the islands on the Lower Shannon and the Clare River, in the good old days, Johnny Greene—who still lives on Greene's Island—is a very nice fellow. He's the last of the Greeses on that island all the rest of the family migrated to a farm near Bunratty some years ago."

Still, despite diminished water and pollution, the Lower Shannon, and its mystique of salmon fishing casts its spell on the eager young who live within the sound of the Curraghgower Falls.

As Johnny, Tim and Victor talked to me, a 16-year-old boy came along and sat beside Johnny—with all the assured air of a Strand Fishermen's Guild member.

"This is Donal Peters," said Johnny McInerney, "and he's our youngest Strand Fisherman."

Nephew

Donal is a nephew of Johnny McInerney's, but he has so much esteem for Johnny, he calls him "grandfather."

While Johnny doesn't go down fishing in the gondola anymore, Tim Tobin and Victor Grimes find Donal an enthusiastic apprentice to the ancient trade of salmon fishing.

Donal (a Leaving Cert. student at Sexton Street CBS) spends his summer holidays down at all the fishing grounds, which Johnny fished with Tim Tobin and Victor Grimes.

Donal, who has been fishing for the past three years, says he loves it—and proudly says he netted a 30-pound salmon while fishing off Cratloe.

While salmon continue to come up into the Lower Shannon, the magic of the great, silvery fish will call young fishermen like Donal down to places like The Flats and the Point of Crag Island and Sandybank.

● JIM QUEALLY (Bunratty Castle actor and World Theatre business manager and set designer) as The Director in Joe McCarthy's film send-up of television advertising. "They said they did, didn't they," which won an award in the "documentary section" at the Cork Film Festival '72. See story below.



A typical Strand fisherman's son, Johnny McInerney (84), Tim Tobin, I

Why Johnny heads are in Limerick,

SEAMUS MURPHY, with a pin-point stare before him (and properly homely content to our sophisticated drinks) held a Stone's Court of Fine Arts with myself, the poet-girl, in a nook of Dunraven Arms (recently writes a correspondent).

The Cork stone sculptor finished about many of famous whose heads he done in stone and bronze (including a former Archbishop of Dublin, who sent him to have his eyes tested).

Free glasses

"To be fair to the bishop—it was Archibald John McQuaid sent me to the best eye surgeon in Dublin, and I got the best pair of glasses free of it," said Seamus, who like a country stone cut for a pint to get the dust of his throat.

It happened, Seamus "injured" because Archibald McQuaid thought the bishop's head sculpture, emblem in the early stages of St. Murphy's chiselling did the Archbishop his monumental justice.

Seamus went on quiz. "I'll be having the head of the greatest Bruree no, it's not Dev. It isn't Mainchin Seoihe in my Felle na Maighibition."

Not wishing to let do artistic reputation of Limerick Leader, I sh with: "It's Dr. Richard H



IRVING LIP A LEADING OF THEATRE