

SOUTH HILL NEWS

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ON THE BUSES

NOT ONLY are the people of South-ill burdened with extra fare increases but they also have to put up with a ridiculous and inadequate bus service, especially at peak periods.

Once again the Association, together with the busmen's union, call on C.I.E. to introduce double-decker buses. The increased fares surely justify this request.

It seems C.I.E. are reluctant to provide this service as it would mean employing conductors. Surely in times of high unemployment this would be of benefit to the community. A double-decker service would also be beneficial to Southill, with its high population of young married couples who have to transport children and prams to and from the city. The assistance of a conductor under these circumstances would be appreciated.

The C.I.E. executives, with their company cars and free petrol (which we pay for) do not have to experience these problems and seem determined that the only place for a conductor is in an orchestra!

Remember the next time that you are boarding a bus and paying the increased fare of 12p or sending your child to school at 70p per week (of course the C.I.E. executives can facilitate their children in their free company cars) that shiny new "Super-Trains" are speeding to Dublin daily almost empty at our expense.

THE OIL SLICK

ISN'T IT amazing that some of our tenants have had to wait as long as five years for simple repairs such as a downpipe to be fitted, when at the stroke of a pen the Corporation can demolish three houses in Myle's St., Reeve's Path? People who know the area will be aware that prior to this a very narrow passage existed at the rear of Davis St.

Incidentally, it has now made it very convenient for the family of a Corporation official (Mr. Paddy D'Arcy, Housing Officer) to facilitate the large oil tankers which call regularly to provide fuel for central heating. The inconvenience of large oil hoses trailing through the front door, across the carpets, and out to the back garden no longer exists.

It should be pointed out that the usual procedure by the Corporation when old houses become vacant is to hole the roofs slightly to prevent squatting by homeless families.

Residents objected strongly to the demolition of these houses as it created an unsightly scene similar to a bomb site, with broken water mains causing constant flooding (and this at a time when the Government has launched a national campaign to conserve vital water supplies.)

We would like to know who authorised this demolition job while people living in Corporation houses have been waiting generations for vital repairs, i.e., St. Mary's Park, Killeely.

I'M ALL RIGHT TOO JACK

WE HAD a very encouraging response to our appeal in the April edition of the "News" calling for an end to indiscriminate and unauthorised dumping in our area.

However, during the time of the Cleansing Department dispute, a "well-known" local Councillor was observed dumping old clothes and other garbage in the quarry at the rear of Salvia Court. Later that night loud singing could be heard coming from the Galvone Arms. When this was investigated, it was found to be two tenants "dressed in old dinner jackets" celebrating their good fortune, provided by our law-breaking Councillor. At chucking-out time, they were last heard shouting, "We're all right too Jack", as they staggered up the road with a "danno" sticking out of each pocket of the

dinner jackets.

THE CLINIC

DEFINITION: Institution outside a hospital for medical or surgical examination and for treatment of patients attending it.

Who in their right frame of mind would abandon a building, which cost £18,000, for a couple of years and expect to find it in the same condition when at long last they return to complete it, and have the audacity to blame damage on young vandals when they themselves through their neglect are surely the greatest vandals?

Perhaps a dose of their own antibiotics would help these people speed up the completion of this so-called clinic.

"THE HILL" IS SLANDERED AGAIN!

AS THE "Pill Hill" controversy dies a slow and agonising death, another paper slanders the good name of South-ill. Mothers of 14 reeled with shock when they read the news. Strong men quaked with anger at this vicious attack on our fair sex. Relief organisations rushed in supplies and a Save-the-Children fund was set up.

There it was as large as life, not on a pagan Dublin newspaper, but one being printed and peddled locally. "DON'T SPEND YOUR CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE FOOLISHLY BUT BRING IT TO THE CLUB", the paper screamed.

Grannies cried as they remembered the old days when they had brought up their own children, and how they used the allowance to buy a new shirt for Johnny or a new dress for Mary. The Men's Committee all got plastered and immediately demanded an apology from Arthur Guinness. What was it all coming to, hundreds of Dicey Rily's rolling around "The Hill"? Alcoholics Anonymous reacted by putting up posters calling on all those who were on the dole not to go home until they had spent at

least three-quarters of their dole money in the Galvone. A local P.R.O. said he had no comment to make but demanded that the "Limerick Leader" print his name four times anyway.

D'ARCY'S DEPARTURE

THE LIMERICK people will lament the departure of the Corporation's Housing Officer for the greener pastures of Tipperary. While the Housing Officer's post is always considered to be a difficult one, D'Arcy's performance in this job has not been impressive. His record includes a trail of broken appointments with tenants seeking meetings with him. It has been known for some tenants to arrange five separate meetings with D'Arcy and he has failed to show up at any one of them. And even when people eventually succeeded in being "granted an audience" with him, his sneering, arrogant attitude frequently reduced women to tears.

During his period as Housing Officer, D'Arcy presented two faces, a public one to the City Council, and a private one (the real one?) to the tenants who paid his wages. At Council meetings he took great care to pose as a sincere, reasonable official, but in the privacy of his Corporation office D'Arcy's real and vicious character emerged.

Despite all the hypocritical praise lavished on D'Arcy by most of the Council members, few tenants will regret his move to Tipperary. The move is a case of, "Good riddance ... to bad rubbish!"

IN THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY GOD

THIS IS an account of a court case which took place some weeks ago and bears a resemblance to other cases brought against tenants.

The tenant's case is called. Like a clockwork soldier the rent collector marches up and enters the witness box. Without having to be briefed on procedure (because this situation is a regul-

ar occurrence) he picks up the Bible and commences. "I swear by Almighty God.." and then he goes on to put the case as to why this tenant and her children should be evicted from their home.

JUSTICE DE BURCA to tenant: "Have you any questions to ask?"

TENANT: "My husband has been idle since last year, sir, and we found things very difficult with trying to feed and clothe the children."

JUSTICE: "I didn't ask you to make a statement, I asked you had you any questions to ask."

TENANT: "No, sir."

JUSTICE: "Is there any reason why I should not grant a decree?"

TENANT: "No, sir."

JUSTICE: "Then why are you here?"

TENANT: "Because I was summoned, sir."

JUSTICE: "Decree granted!"

...In the name of Almighty God!

AN UNUSUAL INTERVIEW

SOUTHILL NEWS: Mr. D'Arcy, we have received a lot of complaints about your inefficiency.

D'ARCY: Well, you can tell these people to go to hell. All they do is complain.

NEWS: But these people seem to have some very valid complaints. Such as, for example, dangerous swamps, repairs, public lighting, arrogant rentmen, wrong assessment of rents, overcrowding, plagued with rats, no drainage, to name just a few.

D'ARCY: They always harp on the same old things. These problems have always been with us. Sure most of the Councillors who have no politics and are elected on these issues wouldn't like to have these problems eradicated. That's why they have great time for me.

NEWS: So you admit to being inefficient?

D'ARCY: Certainly not. Have you ever known a week when my rentmen did not call? Ask any tenant who has missed a couple of weeks' rent how

efficient I am in bringing them before the Courts and securing an Eviction Order.

NEWS: We have to admit that you are very efficient in that field.

We hope to interview D'Arcy again next month, if he is still in Limerick.

GENERAL RUMOURS

IT WAS rumoured that the Mayor, Pa Kennedy, returned from Belgium with a lovely tan. A spokesman for the Mayor's office stated: "Pa in fact was blushing because the Belgian booze-up had been exposed by the Southill News."

There is no truth in the rumour that the Corporation are providing stilts for the wandering horses so they can graze on the long grass growing in the shutters on the roofs.

CAUGHT AGAIN

THE NEWS that a family planning clinic was to be set up in Limerick was greeted by a man who has been in Labour for some time in a very strange way. Here is an area pregnant with possibilities which, unfortunately, he slipped up on, so he developed a pain in his lower abdomen which a local doctor diagnosed as acute bellyaching. Flowers, bunches of grass, and stray horses were sent when it was learned that he had given birth to a bouncing baby "Lie", which he hopes will grow to be a "Whopper".

THE MIND BOGGLES

SOME WEEKS ago a certain political party held a national collection outside all Catholic churches. Now this same party some time back had a candidate in the Presidential election with the slogan: "A President for ALL the people." Wouldn't it make you wonder?

COUNCIL CAPERS

AGAIN WE witnessed an hilarious

evening's entertainment as we sat in the public gallery and watched the monthly Council meeting in progress. The antics of some of our Councillors would be very funny if it were not for the fact that they were dealing with very serious matters which affect the everyday lives of the people of Limerick.

As a discussion took place on the provision of a local radio station for Limerick, the young slip of a boy, Thady Coughlan, was having some difficulty reading the sports columns of the "Leader". Then up jumps the "Octopus" D'Arcy himself to the corner and puts on the lights. Probably his most constructive act since the previous month.

The discussion soon changed to the cleansing of our city. An ingenious suggestion put forward by Dennie Broderick (known to have spoken on rare occasions at past meetings) to the effect that something should be done about all the sweet-papers thrown by children in Post Office Lane. Such pettiness coming from a Councillor who represents people in the largest estate in Limerick (Southill) will be of no consolation to these ratepayers, waiting patiently for a proper cleansing service and an end to unlawful and rat-infested dumps in their area.

FAIR EXCHANGE

AT A City Council meeting recently a proposal was put forward in the name of Councillor Clem Casey, F.F., who was absent on what they tell us was important business for this ancient and historic city of ours. Clem, as you will recall, was one of the lucky few who picked themselves for an all-expenses-paid trip to Belgium at our expense, but we were not forgotten for Clem decided we should all share the "good things in life", and so to his proposal.

He asked that the Corporation have the grass cut in "Poor man's Kilkee"! Well, fair play, Clem, the Docks is

nearer our station in life. 'Tis far from the bright lights of Brussels we were reared. We can't even understand how ye intend to preserve Limerick from the Continent. We just foot the bill. Only our good upbringing prevents us from telling you what you can do with all the cut grass -- and it's not feed it to the horses in Southill!

MONUMENTAL IGNORANCE IN THE TOWN HALL

IT IS reliably reported that the recent reconstruction of the parapets on Sarsfield Bridge cost something in the region of £40,000. The quality of the work is such that no-one could deny it was worth every penny of it.

The actual work was carried out by a firm from another county specialising in this type of operation. Limerick's own modest contribution was the simple task of arranging the sculpting of the commemorative plaques. And what a monumental mess they made of it!

Between the two plaques there is a total of THREE spelling mistakes; FIVE full-stops missing; THREE commas missing; ONE hyphen missing.

The plaque on the left has the word "INTRODUCED" spelt with a "G" instead of a "C". The word "HONOURABLE" is spelt without the "U" (not, one hopes, for the benefit of our American tourists!) The plaque on the right tells us that in 1883 William Boyd was the High Sherief. Even the Americans spell it with two "Fs".

If the City Manager, Mr. T.P. McDermott, or the City Engineer, Mr. M. MacCurtain, or the City Architect, Mr. J. O'Neill, have taken the trouble to read the work they themselves commissioned, they are either illiterate or arrogantly indifferent to the impression that this disgraceful performance must give to visitors to our city.

This magnificent bridge, so scandalously vandalised by our Town Hall officials, was "re-opened" by Alderman Patrick Kennedy, Mayor of Limerick. Wait for it! Yes, he is a schoolmaster!