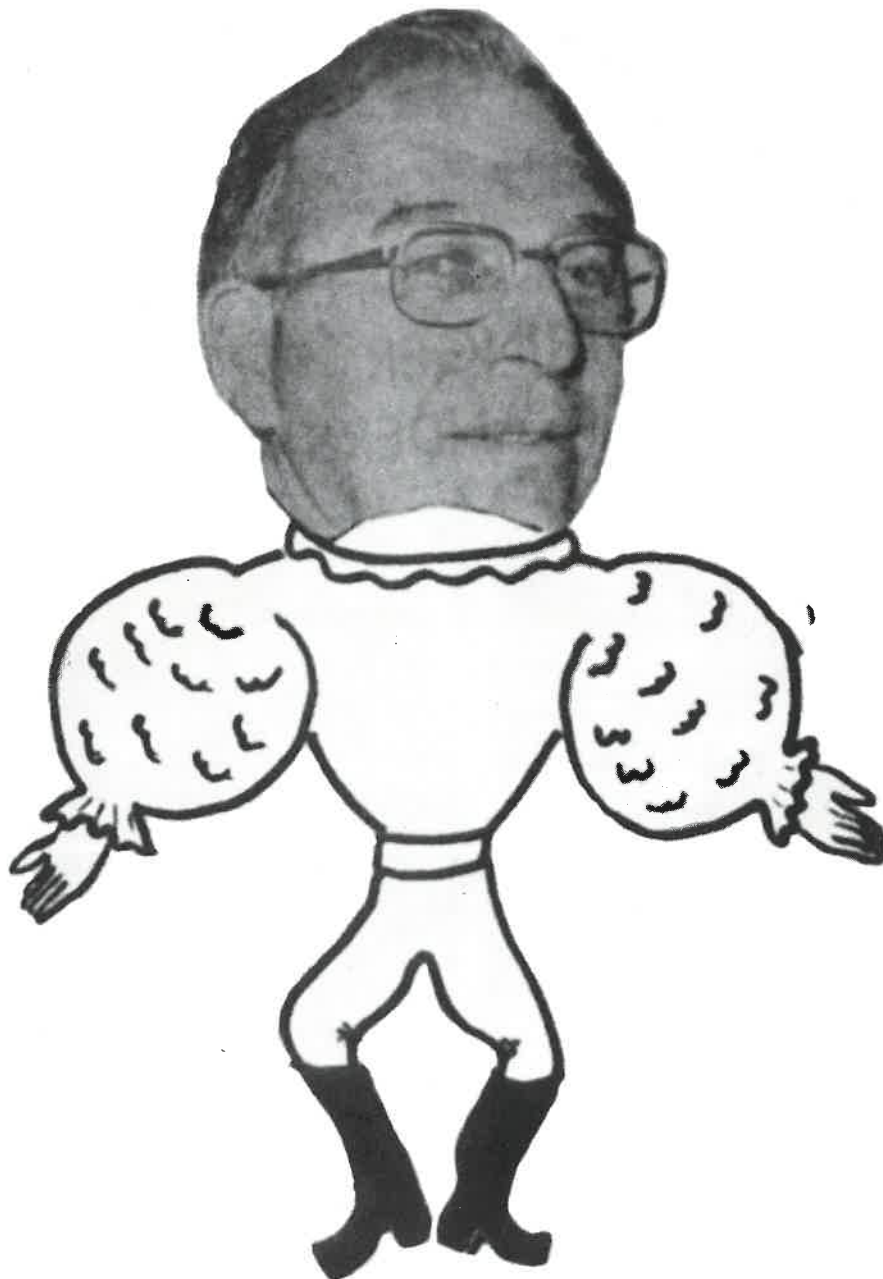
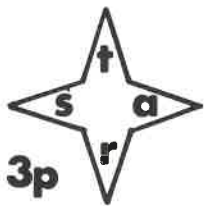


SOUTHILL NEWS

VOL. 1. NO. 6.

SEPTEMBER, 1975.

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A MODERN SLAVE TRADER

FOLLOWING HIS election as Mayor of Limerick, Thady Coughlan was invited to attend a party given by his employer to celebrate the election (or, more accurately, "selection") success.

But the employer concerned is no ordinary employer. He is Sean Hurley, a millionaire who lives like a modern rural squire at Ballymackeogh House, Newport, Co. Tipperary. Hurley's main firm is called WELLTRADE MIDDLE EAST COMPANY.

There is a name known as "Lumper" used in the building industry to describe a man who hires workers on a labour-only basis and is given a lump sum to carry out the work and to pay the workers. Hurley could be described as a "Master Lumper", who operates on a global scale.

His method of securing many of his contracts in foreign countries is to set up bogus or "front" companies which operate from his own house at Ballymackeogh. One such company is T.W.H. (MAINTENANCE) LTD. The nominal "Managing Director" of this "company" is Michael Hayes, a "personal assistant" to Hurley. Like his fellow-employee, Thady Coughlan, Hayes is a member of the Labour Party and is the Chairman of the non-existent St. Mary's (paper) Branch of that Party.

A recent circular letter was sent by Hurley in Hayes's name to prospective foreign customers. The letter is interesting and gives some useful information concerning the business "ethics" of WELLTRADE. It states:-

T.W.H..(MAINTENANCE) LTD.
BALLYMACKEOGH HOUSE,
NEWPORT,
CO. TIPPERARY.

Attention: The Production Manager.
REF: MH/2

Dear Sir,

My company is a member of a group of companies, which specialise in the supply of skilled and unskilled personnel throughout the world.

On our books we have some 5,000 men of every trade and almost every profession in industry. We can provide at relatively short notice, personnel to help your own workforce overcome those peak periods in your labour requirements.

We will hire our skilled staff to you at a fixed hourly rate. This hourly rate includes overtime, travelling costs, accommodation, social security, insurance, shift work, night work, Sunday or public holiday working.

We offer you a further bonus. Any of our men who may wish to transfer to your own permanent payroll, are available to you after a three month hire trial period. In other words, you can hire the men for three months, and afterwards you may keep the best - send home the rest. We make absolutely no charge for this.

Just inform us what type of men you require. We will send you an immediate quotation and a guarantee. This will cost you nothing and save you time and recruiting costs.

Why not drop us a line? Or better still, phone or telex, and find out more about us.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
T.W.H. (Maintenance) Ltd.

Michael Hayes
M.F. HAYES
Managing Director

The paragraph about "keeping the best and sending home the rest" should appeal to the pocketbooks of the foreign employers. And with this type of labour-only set-up there should be plenty of enquiries about the modern slave market being operated by Hurley.

We expect old-fashioned capitalists to behave in this manner -- but what about the members of the "Labour" Party who serve Hurley as "personal assistants" and "Managing Directors"?

Brendan Corish, the leader of the Labour Party, prophesied in 1969 that the "Seventies would be Socialist". We are still a long way from socialism in Ireland, but some of the leading members of the "Labour" Party in Limerick seem to be more familiar with slave-trading than with socialism -- even the St. Vincent de Paul kind advocated by Steve Coughlan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Are you still alive? Alderman Mick Lipper has been going around Limerick saying that he is going to kill you. Where does the "God help us" Alderman bury his dead?

However, on second thoughts, it is doubtful if "Dobber" could fit in a little bit of killing on the side -- much as he fancies his "on-the-side" activities.

But just in case the "Labour" ex-Mayor should cut loose and wipe out the whole editorial board of the "Southill News", wouldn't it be wise for you to take up judo or boxing lessons? Or perhaps you could start a self-defence column in your paper. Be sure to let me know when the execution takes place.

--- "A Worried Reader".

COVER STORY: A COMPETITION

OUR FRONT page this month carries a picture of a member of the Limerick City Council. If you can identify this man, drop a card to the Editor. The first correct entry to be drawn out of the hat will receive the sum of 10p.

Here are some clues.

- * He is never seen in the area for which he was elected (Southill).
- * He never helps the people.
- * He is a stooge for Pa Kennedy and a Fine Gael "gouger".
- * He works as a bouncer in the George Hotel (at the rate of £3 per session.)
- * He is an ex-Christian Brother.
- * Some people think he is a dummy and consequently he is known as the "Silent Councillor".
- * He won the award of the Salvia Quarry Rat for impersonating the City Engineer.
- * He boasts that he conned the people into voting for him and he already knows that they won't vote for him again unless he gets off his fat arse and works for the people.

WHO IS HE?

S.T.A.R. RECOGNITION

THE CHAIRMAN of S.T.A.R. (Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association) and joint Editor of the "Southill News", Mr. Ernest Fitzgerald, has been elected to the National Executive of N.A.T.O. (National Association of Tenants' Organisations.)

Mr. Fitzgerald has achieved this position by his hard work and his dedication to the tenants' cause. Ernest, an ex-shop steward and member of the E.T.U., has always been noted for his outspokenness. He is fearlessly progressive and hopes to

push through some reforms during his term of office.

Ernest is available after working hours at 16 Maigne Way, Carew Park.

PLACE AN AD. WITH THE "NEWS"

IN ORDER to avoid having to charge for our paper, the "Southill News" has now decided to take advertising.

With a print of 1,5000 and guaranteed distribution to every house in Southill (the only paper in Limerick that can guarantee this) we are definitely a worthwhile medium.

The "News" is also widely read in Trade Union circles and at many factories and building sites.

Being a paper based on unshakable principles, we will only accept advertising from companies and businesses which we feel will give a good service to our customers.

So we ask all our members to support our advertisers.

Information on rates, etc., can be obtained from Jack Cantillon, 82 Star Court, Carew Park, Southill.

THE BOUNDARY EXTENSION

THE Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association (S.T.A.R.) believes that the people of Southill, and of Limerick City generally, should take a greater interest in the proposed extension of the borough boundary, as this has a significant bearing on the amount of rates they pay with their rent.

In a submission prepared by the City Manager on behalf of the Limerick Corporation, and sent to the Minister for Local Government, it is proposed to extend the City Boundary to take in areas such as Caherdavin on the Clare side and Dooradoyle and Raheen on the County Lim-

erick side. This will mean that these areas will have to pay their fair share of the rates for the services they enjoy.

So far, most of the agitation and publicity about this question has been one way. The County Councils of Limerick and Clare have come out strongly against the proposal. The Limerick City Council is by no means united on the matter and a number of Councillors, including Deputy Des O'Malley, have opposed the extension.

The residents of Dooradoyle and Raheen have also held meetings and have written to the local Press totally opposing the City Manager's plan. The opposition of these residents is based mainly on the fact that the boundary extension will mean that they will have to pay higher rates.

The Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association supports the boundary extension and believes the opposition of the County residents to be ill-founded. S.T.A.R. also believes that for far too long these residents have had their rates (and their services) on the cheap, at our expense, while at the same time they are enjoying the advantages of the various City services such as roads, lights, schools, shops and other similar facilities.

GENERAL RUMOUR

THERE WAS intense Garda activity in the Kennedy Park/Southill area of Limerick this week when over 200 men combed the houses and roads of the Estates.

Puzzled people wondered what was wrong, for in spite of the Garda overtime cutback, the men were still there at midnight. Road-blocks were placed all around the area and shortly after teatime a unit of

soldiers were called out from Sarsfield Barracks.

A reporter from a local newspaper, Mr. Billy Smelly, approached the officer in charge and was told that the purpose of the search was to find Councillor Denis Broderick. "He has not been seen here since the Election", explained the Garda spokesman, "and so far our search has failed to locate him."

SINCE THE inauguration of the Bishop of Limerick, Dr. Jeremiah Newman, as President of the Pork Butchers' Society, it is strongly rumoured that from now on all Limerick bacon is to be smoked in the burning ruins of Belfast and cured in Lourdes.

AT A RECENT Council meeting there was chaos and disruption when the Councillors were debating the placing of "yellow lines" in Rutland Street. "What do you know about um?" shouted Thady Coughlan at Jack Bourke. "All you know about is making money, you bloody capitalist you!"

Bourke rose to reply. There was fire in his eyes and venom on his trembling lips as he stared at Coughlan. In his anger he ripped one of the lapels from his expensive Continental jacket.

"You son of a Jew-hater, do you see what you made me do?" screamed Bourke at the young Mayor. "Now I'll have to increase my already expensive liquor to cover the cost of this. The only contribution your ould-fella and you have made to Limerick is the financial burden you have been on the people."

A DEPUTATION which was organised by the local Nature Club complained to the City Manager this week about the effect all the rain was having

on their activities. The City Manager stated that, "although some people have been under an impression to the contrary, I am not in fact God", and he went on to blame the rain on the weather.

A LETTER FROM JACK BOURKE

Geary's Hotel
Thomas St.,
Limerick.

Dear Editor,

If you would allow me some space in your magazine I would like to make a few points.

First of all as far as my new lounge bar is concerned your comments were untrue. The Dublin builder you referred to was employed not by me but by the real owner of the hotel, Eamon Andrews. As you are probably aware, I am only a front-man for Andrews in Limerick (for tax and other purposes.)

You seem to be well informed about the affairs of most of us Councillors, but why do you not publish the scandalous way in which Alderman Pa Kennedy is cashing in on the housing shortage? Kennedy, as you well know, has bought two luxury houses in Ballinacurra for more than £17,000 which he has converted into flats. Why do you not inquire into the amount of rent he charges? I did and I was shocked! I thought I was bad!

You are probably wondering where Pa got his money from, well he really cashed in last year when he was Mayor. Did you not know that he was on paid leave of absence from his job as a schoolmaster for his term as Mayor?

This might even shock you more. You might have thought Pa Kennedy was honest, well I can tell you now that Pa gives private tuition to the sons of wealthy Limerickmen at

the rate of £2.50 per hour and he does not declare this to the Taxman. Sure you can see him yourself driving around in his new Mercedes which cost him more than £3,000. And did you see the number plate? VIP (very important person!) You're probably saying to yourself that the homeless people of Limerick will be better off when this is changed to R.I.P.!

Yes, you should get your priorities right. "My" lounge is one thing but the scandalous conduct of old Kennedy is something that should be exposed. People do not have to drink in "my" lounge (where I admittedly over-charge and am breaking the law by not displaying a price-list) but people through desperation are compelled to rent flats from Kennedy.

I'm hoping that in the interests of fair play you will publish this letter.

Your humble servant,
Jack Bourke.

P.S.

I came from a humble home and never learned to spell my name properly. My father could not afford someone like Kennedy to give me private tuition. J.B.

OUR CITY "FATHERS"

A LOT of controversy has arisen as a result of the contents of some of the articles in the August edition of the "Southill News".

The main contention seems to be that we are too critical of some of our City "Fathers" (Councillors). Remarks like, "His personal life is his own business", and, "So what if Dr. Kelly 'pulled strings' to get planning permission, why knock the City Manager, McDermott?" and again "Thady is only a youngfella, why don't you give him a chance?", seem

to be the standard rebuke from these sensitive souls.

Listening to these comments, the only conclusion we can come to is that the people of this Estate and of Limerick as a whole are becoming apathetic.

Surely by now we must realise that these same "public figures" are our servants, not our masters. It is we who pay their wages and salaries and expenses through our rates and taxes. No-one forced these people to accept their present positions. Was it not these same Councillors who canvassed our support, using various and often devious methods to achieve their ambitions? As far as the "Southill News" is concerned, the City Councillors and Corporation officials are there for one purpose and one purpose only: to serve the people of this community.

If they are not doing their appointed jobs to our satisfaction, we shall not hesitate to remind them of the fact. If they become corrupt, we shall expose them.

Fair enough, their personal lives are their own business. But if their personal lives happen to have an adverse effect on the life of the community, we shall not be afraid to say so.

As the late President Truman once said: IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

HOUSING THE FAMILY

Article 41. 1.2. & 2.1.

"The State therefore guarantees to protect the family in its constitution and authority as the necessary basis of social order and as indispensable to the welfare of the Nation and State.

In particular the State recognises that by her life within the

home, woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved."

Now read how our local authorities and politicians respond to these noble ideals. Let us take a close look at a real emergency case as, for example, one concerning the vexed question of housing and the inhumanity of our local officials and public representatives in this field.

November 1974. A widow and her family of four children return to Limerick from England hoping to settle in their native city. She goes through the motions of applying for a local authority house, but to no avail.

Her own relations are (quite understandably) unable to accommodate her and so she is compelled to return to England. Back on the other side of the Channel, her circumstances deteriorate beyond human endurance, and she is forced to return "home" once again.

Being a widow with four children, she finds it difficult to find even temporary accommodation. In effect, there is "no room at the Inn". She applies once more for local authority housing -- and up to this moment she has not been given it.

She sets out on the familiar foot-slogging itinerary around to the local "salts-of-the-earth". Her first approach is to Alderman Mick "Dobber" Lipper whose much-publicised concern for all widows is well known (thanks to his journalist friend, Tom Tobin.) In this instance his "concern" brings immed-

iate promises of quick action. "Dobber" is very accomplished in the "Promises Department".

Next on the list is the philanthropic cake-maker, the redoubtable George Edward Russell. Short and sweet came the baker's reply: "I'll do my best."

Limerick's "favourite son", Big Daddy's gift to the people, the "bookie's runner" himself, the "Honourable" Thady Coughlan, is the next port of call for the weary widow. From him she gets the usual "crap" -- the impersonal representation to the Housing Officer (Flan O'Neill). "I'll do my best", etc., etc.

Thady kicks the ball to Coughlan senior, which results in a letter from Daddy inviting the widow to present herself at his new "dispensary" in O'Malley Park and relate her tale of woe to him in person.

In the meantime, this unfortunate family takes up residence behind the Holy Rosary church in Weston where they stay for five nights exposed to the elements. Their next abode is an old car at the back of O'Malley Park.

Finally, one very kind family, appalled at the sight of children sleeping in an old car, offered to take in the family until such time as the flint-hearted officials woke up to their obligations in this genuine emergency case.

This paper demands instant action. No promises. No crap. But CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE for this dreadfully unfortunate widow and her children.

THE COST OF PUBLISHING THE "Southill News" EACH MONTH IS RELATIVELY HIGH AND IT IS A STRAIN ON THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF THE TENANTS' ASSOCIATION. DEMAND FOR THIS PAPER HAS INCREASED SO DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT WEEKS THAT, AS FROM THIS ISSUE, WE SHALL BE PRINTING AN EXTRA 500 COPIES EACH MONTH. IT IS OF COURSE DELIVERED FREE TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE ESTATE. ANY TENANTS WHO FEEL THEY WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION WOULD BE VERY WELCOME.