

SOUTHILL NEWS

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JANUARY, 1976.



SOUTHILL NEWS

VOL. 1. NO. 8.

NOVEMBER, 1975.



S.T.A.R. SUCCESS



**GOOD VALUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
FROM**

NOEL McMAHON & SONS

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(SHOP IN BACK).

COVER STORY: "NEWS" IN REVIEW

AS WE enter a new year and the second volume of the "Southill News", the editorial board has now decided to broaden its scope to cover the issue of Price Control.

Members of the S.T.A.R. Committee will from now on monitor prices in our local shops to ensure that all members are getting a fair service.

We will of course continue to keep our usual close watch on the many other issues that we have been dealing with in the past. Such as the vexed questions of flooding, house-repairs, bus services, policing, etc.

But now, in this first issue of the new year, we would like to take a look at some of the achievements of the "Southill News" during 1975, its first year of publication

APRIL 1975

The "News" first came on the scene in April 1975. It highlighted the financial disaster to tenants in gas centrally-heated houses. It exposed the scandalous methods used by the Corporation in issuing Notices to Quit. And for the first time it made a public issue of the rat-infested swamp in O'Malley Park

MAY 1975

The "News" announced the back-filling of the swamp. It exposed the now infamous "Belgian Booze-up" by local Councillors and Town Hall officials. It called for a Garda foot-patrol, a family planning clinic, and the extension of the city boundary. We also published a letter from the then Housing Officer, Mr. Paddy D'Arcy, to S.T.A.R. stating that there would be no

delay in the Pre-school development and that there would be no difficulty with the Mid-Western Health Board in this regard.

JUNE 1975

We exposed the corrupt way that Paddy D'Arcy had houses demolished in Miles' St. to facilitate his father. We also had the pleasure of announcing D'Arcy's departure from Limerick -- a long way to Tipperary. The "News" for the first time made its readers aware of the vandalism of the Corporation in abandoning the clinic in O'Malley Park which had cost the rate-payers £18,000 to construct. And we highlighted the unjust way that District Justice De Burca granted eviction orders against tenants.

JULY 1975

We dealt with the severe and dangerous problem of rats in Salvia quarry. The mockery of democracy in the "selection" of Coughlan Junior by his father and his cronies to be Mayor of Limerick. We announced the installation of fireplaces in Carew Park. We interviewed and exposed one Paddy Burns, the arrogant and foul-mouthed rent collector. And in a story headed, "Modern Irish Nazis", we exposed the barbaric way Michael Murphy was treated by the political police, the "Special Branch", in Limerick.

AUGUST 1975

The front page told its own story of Limerick's unemployed and of Thady Coughlan's false "promises" to solve the problem. We carried the story of Lipper and his reporter friend, Tobin, exploiting the tragedy of a widow and her children

for political and financial gain. And of course there was our first report from our Waterford Correspondent, Maura. (Enough said!) We dealt with the problem of a "Peeping Tom" in Salvia Court and we gave an interesting account of Councillor Denis ("Christian Brother") Broderick impersonating the City Engineer in an effort to win votes for his friend, Alderman Pat Kennedy. We concluded with a letter from rent collector Paddy Burns admitting that he was a bit of a bastard and castigating some of the tenants for spending their rent on drink.

SEPTEMBER 1975

The "News" started off with the Mystery of the Month Competition in which readers were asked to identify the elusive Councillor Broderick. We went on to expose Thady Coughlan's boss and the slave-trading activities of their company WELLTRADE. We won recognition in the election of our joint-editor, Ernest Fitzgerald, to the National Executive of N.A.T.O. And we brought to our readers' attention the scandalous treatment of an unfortunate widow and her children in search of a house who were forced to sleep in an abandoned car.

OCTOBER 1975

After many months of vigorous campaigning, we brought to a head the problem of wandering horses with the announcement of a public meeting which later filled the hall to capacity and was broadcast on television. We spent much of this edition defending the "Southill News" after it had been viciously attacked by Coughlan, Lipper and Kennedy, to name but a few. Lipper,

rather unwisely, had referred to the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association as a "dirty rotten mob". (No doubt he will apologise for this indiscretion before the next election.) Rather appropriately, our story was headed, "Councillors On The Run". We also discussed Jack Bourke and his unlicensed one-armed-bandit at Geary's Hotel.

NOVEMBER 1975

Our front page headlines announced, "S.T.A.R. SUCCESS", and we went on to give an account of the very successful public meeting to deal with the problem of the wandering horses. We confirmed the setting up of a Family Planning Clinic and commented on the now forgotten "outraged", "disgusted" and "shocked" posturings of the Community Council. We highlighted the threat of the "Community Government Movement" to all tenants. We reported the election of our Secretary and joint-editor, Jack Cantillon, to the National Executive of N.A.T.O., and our Treasurer John Gilligan's election as Vice-Chairman of the Munster Regional Council.

DECEMBER 1975

The "Southill News" carried the exclusive story of Thady Coughlan's attempt to bribe a top official in the Labour Party with a sum of £200 to get himself the Vice-Chairmanship of the Party and how the bribe was turned down. We had another report from our Waterford Correspondent, Maura, on wife-swapping in Limerick. We exposed the hypocrisy of some of our local politicians regarding the Herrema reception. We published an account of the injustices suffered by the soldier James Kelly at the hands of the

Defence Forces. We reminded a local shopkeeper, Mr. Harrison (the "Arrogant Huckster"), that the housewives of the area were entitled to use the footpath without hindrance from his fancy motorcar, and that these same housewives provided him with a good living. (And he did move his car!) We exposed the sham activities of the "Labour" members on the Health Committee, and they now seem to be more attentive to their duties.

And we rounded off our first year of publication by wishing all our readers "A much more just and promising new year".

EVEN IF WE SAY SO OURSELVES, WE FEEL THAT WAS A YEAR WELL SPENT.

* * * * *

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

GUILTY MEN NAMED

By Our Political Correspondent
E.E.C. MANN

IN A SENSATIONAL development this weekend, the two principal culprits in the Watergate Scandal were finally named. They are Patrick Kiely, an ex-Mayor of the city, and Desmond O'Malley, a former Minister for Justice.

The Watergate storm first broke in the middle of last year when the now notorious "Commemorative Plaque" was erected to deface the historic walls of Limerick at the site of the old Water Gate, scene of many an act of outstanding bravery during the siege of the city by King William two and a half centuries ago.

It will be remembered that many people flocked to read this plaque when it was first erected, in the

belief that it commemorated the historic siege that brought so much glory to Limerick. These citizens were shocked to discover that the plaque in fact was nothing more than an exercise in self-glorification by Kiely and O'Malley.

The two small-town politicians had used the European Economic Community as an opportunity for engraving their names in stone for posterity. Kiely had simply planted a few tawdry saplings in the vicinity of the preserved Water Gate (so called because of its proximity to the Abbey River) ostensibly to "commemorate" Ireland's accession to the European Community. Then he and his fellow Fianna Fail politician, purely on their own initiative, commissioned the three-foot-square limestone plaque to inform future generations of this insignificant act.

The message seemed to be that the planting of these few saplings would be of more interest to future historians than the famous siege itself. This, people are now saying, is megalomania gone mad. One irate Limerickman was heard to remark: "Who does Kiely think he is -- Nero?"

F.B.I. "TAKING ORDERS"

Mr. J. Edgar Spoofer, Director of the Federation of Bricklayers' Institutes, said last night that his organisation's role in the affair was a purely formal one. "We were just taking orders", he said. "If a plaque, any plaque, has to be fixed to a wall, any wall, it is our job to do it and not to reason why", he insisted.

Asked if he was embarrassed by the Watergate Scandal, Mr. Spoofer was most emphatic. "Certainly not. We are bricklayers, not plumbers.

For years we have been involved in cementing relations with the local authority (no pun intended) and we are not going to start questioning their wisdom now. But sure I might as well be talking to a brick wall as to some of you reporters. By the way, we did a fine bit of pointing on the old wall as we were at it, didn't we? A great improvement entirely. If Sarsfield had us there a couple of hundred years ago he would have kicked the shit out of King Billy."

C.I.A. DENIAL

Mr. Richard Dixon, Co-ordinator of the Combined Itinerants' Associations, last night absolved that body from all responsibility in the scandal. He told reporters that his members had no hand act or part in this act of vandalism. "We get the blame for everything," he said, "but remember our people are traditionally tinsmiths, not plumbers. Kiely and O'Malley might think they're very (expletive deleted) clever, but I've got them taped. Look, buddy, we're a tough bunch of people and we've got no room for fellow-travellers. Christ, what am I saying! Don't (expletive deleted) quote me on that!"

What did Mr. Dixon think of Councillor Kiely now, he was asked. Dixon: "That guy is like an old barn owl in search of a perch."

And Deputy O'Malley? "Well, let me put it this way. I'll buy a second-hand car from anyone, but I sure as hell wouldn't let that son-of-a-bitch drive it!"

I.R.A. "AIMING AT A TARGET"

Mr. Kevin Gardiner, P.R.O. of the Irish Ratepayers' Association, stated that his Association com-

pletely rejected the explanations offered by all the other organisations. "They're all collaborators!" he exclaimed, shaking his fist at the assembled reporters. "It is disgraceful that our people should have to foot the bill for these vain indulgences on the part of a bunch of Free State gombeen men. They're holding a gun to our heads, but two can play that game."

Did they intend to make an official protest? "Yes, we've got plans along those lines, but so far the arrangements are only provisional."

And what did Mr. Gardiner think of the plaque itself? "It's so bloody funny they should charge people a fee to look at it, and they could make a bomb!"

Would his Association consider removing the offending plaque, he was asked. "We have it in our sights."

Mr. Gardiner was next asked what should be done with the tiny graveyard adjacent to the Water Gate which has been neglected for years. Should it not be cleaned up? "Yes, of course it should", he replied. "You never know when it might be needed again."

And could he suggest an appropriate name for the restored graveyard? Mr. Gardiner replied: "Well, the Church tells us that death should be looked upon as a joyful affair. So, why not call it Mount Joy?"

And what about Kiely and O'Malley? Did he think they should be sacked from the Council? "Oh yes, definitely. Give them the bullet!"

Neither Councillor Kiely nor Deputy O'Malley were available for comment at the weekend. Both men appear to have dropped completely out of sight.

THE ARREST OF JACK CANTILLON

JACK CANTILLON, the joint-editor of the "Southill News" and secretary of the local Tenants' and Residents' Association, is a familiar figure to most Southill people. He is also a well-known trade unionist and has been one of the leading shop stewards in the city in recent years. Jack Cantillon is not a member of any political party, and has never been charged with any kind of offence in his life.

As he was walking home to his dinner at 2.45 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd December, he was suddenly surrounded and arrested by four policemen. Two of these Gardai were Special Branch men, Detective Sergeant Christopher Hallissey and Detective Ben O'Sullivan, and one of the other two was a uniformed Garda.

The arrest was made under the provisions of Section 30 of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, which gives power to the police to hold a person for up to 48 hours without charge. So, despite the fact that he was innocent of any crime, Jack Cantillon was taken into custody and brought to William St. Barracks.

The arrest was also carried out in full view of a busload of Christmas shoppers and people in the immediate vicinity of Southill. This action was obviously designed to damage the credibility of Jack Cantillon in his local community and to lead people to think that he was being arrested as some sort of petty criminal.

Before the arrest, Jack Cantillon's house at Star Court, Carew Park, had been ransacked by four other policemen and his files and papers upset. The search was watched by his wife, who was confined to bed with a heavy cold, and by his

children. But whatever purpose the police had in raiding the house they were clearly disappointed and the search drew a complete blank.

In the period prior to the raid a police ~~squad~~ car had made five different visits to Jack Cantillon's house on the pretext of collecting a £2 parking fine! The calls only ceased when his wife pointed out that this fine had already been paid and produced a receipt to prove it.

At the police station Jack Cantillon was subjected to a series of interrogations, one session, involving seven detectives, lasting for about five hours. Many people will be surprised at the type of questions posed. Jack Cantillon was asked about the printing and circulation of the "Southill News" and how the paper was financed. He was also questioned on the circulation of the "Limerick Socialist" and the influence of this paper among local workers. And, surprisingly enough, he was also queried on the number of copies of the Dublin magazine, "Hibernia", sold in Limerick.

He was accused of organising dances and collections without permits to raise funds for the "Southill News". He was questioned about his movements over the past three years, and the police also sought information about a number of robberies in the area in this period.

Jack Cantillon was kept in a cold, dirty cell, the walls of which were spattered with congealed blood. In the corner of the cell was a broken lavatory bowl encased in concrete, and this unit does not appear to have been cleaned since the British left way back in 1922.

After Jack Cantillon had been a day and a night in captivity, the

police began to break through to the conclusion that he was innocent of any crime.

After a token threat that if he did not give satisfactory answers he would be brought before the Special Criminal Court, the police were reduced to advising him to "look after his wife and children" and not to be getting involved in public issues.

After he had been photographed and fingerprinted, the police abruptly called off their interrogation and at 2.40 p.m. on Christmas Eve, just twenty-four hours after his arrest, he was told he was free to go home. During this time he was given three cups of tea, two corned beef sandwiches, and two brawn sandwiches, though his wife and brothers were allowed to visit him and to bring him extra food.

So, after being taken away from his wife and children without a charge or trial and being held in custody for twenty-four hours during Christmas week, Jack Cantillon was again a "free" man. But the story should not end there. The harassment of Cantillon and his family is not an isolated incident; it is merely part of a number of other moves against members of the committee of the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association.

These moves have mainly taken the form of hold-ups of payment of social welfare benefits at the Limerick Employment Exchange. As in the case of Jack Cantillon, it is clear that these hold-ups have been caused by hidden pressures being brought to bear by a few local Labour politicians who have been criticised in the pages of the "Southill News" in recent months. These politicians are so desperate to silence our paper that they are using the police and local civil

servants to do their vicious, dirty work.

But the "Southill News" has more news for the Coughlans and Lippers and all the other politicians who have lived off the backs of the Limerick workers for far too long. This paper is not going to be silenced by any of these forces -- politicians, police, or civil servants -- and the recent intimidation of Jack Cantillon and his colleagues has only served as a stimulus rather than a deterrent to our efforts to expose the hypocrisy and corruption so rampant all around us.

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PRICE WATCH

AS ALREADY stated on page one, the "Southill News" has now decided to monitor the prices of all commodities in shops in the community. This decision has resulted from the numerous complaints received by S.T.A.R. (The Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association) over the months from members who feel that they are being overcharged on certain commodities. Already in the past twelve months at least two shopkeepers have been prosecuted for overcharging.

This paper feels that, especially now with recession in industry resulting in a lowering of living standards, short working weeks and high unemployment, these grocery outlets who overcharge are helping to create a great deal of misery.

Every month from now on the "Southill News" will keep its readers informed of all price changes.

We begin next month.