

# SOUTHILL NEWS

VOL. 1. NO. 2.

MAY 1975



## BELGIAN BOOZE-UP

Later this month six representatives of the Limerick Corporation will leave the city on an all-expenses-paid trip to Belgium. Described as, "Limerick's first ever local government deputation to the E.E.C.", the delegation is made up of the following people: the City Manager, T. McDermott; the Mayor, Ald. P. Kennedy (Fine Gael); the Corporation's chief planning officer, L. Coyle; and members of the City Council, Senator T. Russell (Fine Gael); Cllr. C. Casey (Fianna Fail); and Cllr. F. Leddin (Labour).

According to the newspaper report, five of the men will first travel to Bruges, "the Venice of the North", to attend an international conference on the renovation of the historical cities. After their stay at Bruges, they will journey to Brussels where they will be joined by the City Manager in putting the Mid-West's case for aid to top E.E.C. officials". We are told that the members of the team are also likely "to highlight the tourist attractions of North Munster".

When the selection of the delegation was discussed at a City Council meeting the "old boys" formula of one member from each of the three main political parties once again surfaced. Now, however, this three-man team has miraculously expanded to six, with the City Manager, the Mayor and the chief planning officer apparently going along for the joy-ride. The facts have not been disclosed to the public as to how these three extra delegates were co-opted onto the party.

During a time of high unemployment, widespread poverty and a serious housing shortage, the Southill Tenants' Association believes this trip to be a gross and irresponsible waste of ratepayers' money. The sincerity of the four politicians' sudden concern for historic buildings may be judged by the failure of even one of them to serve on the Corporation's own National Monuments Advisory Committee. The further extension of the Belgian visit to take in Brussels is an extravagant and thinly-disguised spree.

Few people will swallow the guff about the highlighting of the tourist attractions of North Munster. This Tenants' Association considers that it would be enough for Limerick to be represented at the historical cities conference in Belgium by one member of the City Council. When the total cost of this skite is totted up it should make interesting and expensive reading.

## WILL THE REAL PADDY D'ARCY PLEASE STAND UP

In a recent letter received from the Limerick Housing Officer, Paddy D'Arcy, regarding an article titled "Notice to Quit" published in the April edition of the "Southill News", Mr. D'Arcy seems to have taken exception to the accusation that the "Notices" were or are signed in bulk and being used indiscriminately by various rent collectors. Mr. D'Arcy stated that the "Notices" in fact were signed individually and that he is fully aware as to why they are being served.

We wonder if the mother of seventeen who recently received a "Notice to Quit" because she was in arrears of rent to the extent of £8.50 would agree with our Housing Officer. (Of course it is only logical to expect that the "Notices" are signed individually; no-one has accused Mr. D'Arcy of having the talents of an octopus.)

In a second letter received from Mr. D'Arcy, he states that "there is no delay in the Pre-School development nor is there any difficulty with the Mid-

Western Health Board." The people of Southill can draw their own conclusions from this statement, since not a single sod has yet been turned on the long-awaited Pre-School site. (Incidentally, the letters on the "Notice to Quit" article and the Pre-School bear individually inscribed signatures. However, the signature on one letter is completely different from that on the other. We wonder how many Paddy D'Aarcys are employed by the people of Limerick!)

#### BLINKERS ON OFFICIALDOM

No doubt the people of Southill are aware of the recent action organised on their behalf by the Tenants' Association in ridding the area of wandering horses, following a serious injury to a four-year-old child. The majority of these horses are owned by resident horse breeders who take advantage of the free grazing provided by our greens and gardens at the expense and to the annoyance of the people. It is obvious that big business is involved when they went to the extreme of smashing down the heavy steel gates of the city pound. We hope that, at long last, the blinkers have been removed from officialdom and that prompt action will be taken.

#### THE BANKS ARE BUILT WITH MARBLE, THERE'S A GUARD ON EVERY DOOR

You may have noticed in recent weeks the introduction of Garda foot-patrols in the area. This resulted from a deputation from our Association to the Chief Superintendent and other Garda officials. It is hoped that the foot-patrol can be continued on a permanent basis. It was pointed out to the deputation that a more extensive policing by foot-patrols was not practicable owing to the shortage of manpower. We cannot help observing that with regard to private enterprise, such as banks, etc., this shortage is not so obvious.

#### GOOD NEWS!

Southill will be saying goodbye to one of its most infamous landmarks with the back-filling of the swamp adjacent to the Community Centre. This is indeed a fine example of prompt action by the local Authority when sufficient pressure is brought to bear by the people in an organised manner through their Tenants' Association.

We must congratulate our Housing Officer and our Maintenance Department on the recent installation of a few downpipes in O'Malley Park -- AFTER FIVE LONG YEARS AND NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS! If this is Corporation "efficiency", it makes one almost despair!

#### BOUNDARY EXTENSION

The Tenants' Association has passed a resolution supporting in principle the extension of the Limerick City boundary. It was decided to call a special meeting and further information will be made available through the local Press.

#### THE VIEW FROM SALVIA COURT

We have been informed by the Limerick County Council that the ridiculous sum of £600 has been made available to close the quarry at the rear of Salvia Court. We feel that the low wall being constructed will not be a deterrent to some of the irresponsible Limerick shopkeepers who have consistently used the quarry as an unofficial dump. This quarry is not only a danger to children who use it as an adventure playground (with the old cars dangerously tilted) but is also a

very serious health hazard because of decaying foodstuffs which have created a breeding ground for rats. We intend to make further representations to the County Council and the Health Authority.

### GENERAL RUMOURS

Due to the shortage of top-soil, the Corporation are back-filling the swamp with discarded (and disregarded!) "Notices to Quit".

Rumour has it that the Corporation has stated that the playing fields in Carew Park will be finished before the 1984 Olympics

There is no truth in the rumour that our beloved Housing Officer, Paddy D'Arcy, will be leaving for Tipperary in the early hours of the morning to avoid the farewell party being organised by the homeless multitudes of Limerick.

### THE PILL

The Tenants' Association has passed a resolution supporting the right of the individual to practise family planning.

The United Nations has set 1975 as International Women's Year. This move is long overdue. Women are generally treated as second-class citizens -- except in Ireland, where they are regarded as even less.

The discrimination against women to confine them to lowly positions in life takes many forms. It starts at the early age of four or five when they commence their inferior education on the grounds that, "Ah, sure, they are only going to grow up and get married anyway". Between their leaving school and getting married, women are exploited in lowly paid jobs with little chance of advancement, and end up as "has-beens" at an early age. Our society encourages women to have large families on moral grounds, but this moral code does not explain to these women how they are going to feed and clothe the children as they would wish.

This year in particular we call on the people to support the most basic right of women: the right to control the functions of their own body. Some people, for religious or moral reasons, do not agree with contraception, but this should not prevent them from supporting the establishment of a Family Planning Clinic in this area for those people who wish to practise birth control.

The Association has been in touch with the Irish Family Planning Association and has offered them every assistance in setting up a clinic in this area.

### ANIMAL CRACKERS

Some time ago, a very interesting record was released in America about the children who were killed or maimed when adults, who should of course have known better, allowed what is known as "Monkey Bars" to be erected in playgrounds. "Monkey Bars" are climbing frames which children are supposed to climb about in and, in general, have great fun with. Unfortunately, children being children, tend every now and again to fall and hurt themselves, and there the fun ends.

In one of our playgrounds the Corporation, in their wisdom, have decided to erect one of these frames. They call it a "Crocodile". This comprises four ladders which run to a height of approximately seven feet, straighten out, and then descend to a central platform a few feet above the ground. And what about some platforms up there on top at the highest points? Evidently, that would



take more common sense than the designers seem to have. So, when a child climbs to the top of the ladders, he has to either walk or crawl across the rungs before making his descent to the platform below.

This would be a relatively easy job if you were a monkey or an apprentice acrobat. But if you are only four or five years of age, and you are seven feet from the ground, it is a long way down if you fall. Extra platforms and rails fitted to the frame at its highest point would help to make it safe. Crocodile tears from the Corporation when a child is injured isn't going to help anyone.

#### DE BURCA'S BOY

It would seem that the formality of issueing summonses by the Corporation is no longer necessary. The reason we state this is that not so long ago the following incident occurred. A rent collector called at a tenant's house and instructed the tenant to appear in Court the following morning. The tenant, being a competent person, immediately approached the Association who in turn discovered that the tenant had been grossly misled by the collector. The Association on making further enquiries were informed that no such case was before the Court. Surely if tenants are to be misled by incompetent rent collectors, then the possibility may arise where the whole population of Southill could find themselves summoned to "appear". And what would District Justice De Burca have to say about that?

#### PRE-SCHOOL

On Wednesday last, May 7th, a delegation travelled to Dublin to impress upon the Minister for Health the urgent need for the provision of a Pre-School for Southill. We feel this is a very pressing matter and we hope that there will be results in the very near future.

#### COMMUNITY GAMES

For the fifth successive year Southill are again prominent in the Community Games. Teams have already been entered in Gaelic football, hurling, rugby, handball (and for boys and girls, soccer, chess, swimming and athletics.) Up to now they have been very competitive and the results have been very satisfactory. Southill has the greatest number of children taking part in the Games. The organisers would welcome further adult support. Would any interested adults please contact the Secretary: John Kiely, 7 Donough Crescent, Carew Park.

#### SOUTHILL UNITED A.F.C.

A very interesting "Street League" for boys between the ages of eight and twelve years has been organised by the Southill United A.F.C. Over 200 young competitors are taking part in the League and further participants are welcome. Southill United has also entered teams in the Limerick Schoolboy League which is already in progress, and results so far have been very favourable.