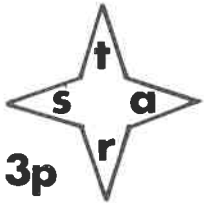


SOUTHILL NEWS

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RATS RATS and



..... more RATS



MAINTENANCE?



RANDY RATS

A RECENT report in a local paper stated that rat poison had been put in the quarry behind Salvia Court to ease the rat problem. The report goes on to state that the Community Council thanked the County Council for their prompt action. This was six weeks ago.

Since then more than thirty rats have been shot or killed in some other way by irate husbands protecting their homes and children. One mother told us that she came on a huge rat attempting to climb into the baby's pram while the child was in it. Another tenant pointed out where the rats have been gnawing away at her kitchen door. It was the general view that all the houses situated by the quarry were rat infested.

We would like to point out the following facts: The rats breed every 20 to 25 days in ideal conditions (such as a quarry). This results in up to 22 young rats at a time. The young rats are weaned in a month and are ready for breeding in three months.

The point is this: if some drastic action is not taken, and taken soon, the whole of Southill will be plagued with rats.

No congratulations from us to the County Council!

MAYORAL "SELECTION"

AN OLD SAYING has it that the less you do the more is thought of you. This must surely apply most of all to our present Mayor, Thady Coughlan, who has never in his life done anything constructive for the people of Limerick.

This latest "selection" of a Mayor makes a complete farce of democracy in local politics.

The scene was set. The local papers carried the banner headlines: "Who will be the new Mayor?" Little did the people realise that the decision had already been made in the back room of a Limerick pub, and councillors'

votes had been bought for promises of future favours. And principles were thrown to the wind. "I want my boy there," screamed Stevie, "and no more about it!" So much for "Democracy"!

A new job for Leddin. A promise of the Mayoralty for Prendergast in 1977. And what for Lipper you can well imagine.

Does all this matter? Does it mean that Stevie is grooming Thady for a seat in the Dail? His own seat, and the least effective one whilst Coughlan sits in it.

Who would have thought that Frank Prendergast, the ex-President of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, and now Branch Secretary of the I.T.G.W.U. in Shannon and Clare, could have been bought off with a promise? As far as Leddin and Lipper were concerned, there was nothing else to be expected. Make no mistake about it: it is money that matters to these sort of people.

The first action taken by the new "Labour" Mayor was to accept a huge increase in salary which guarantees him over £100 a week. And what with Stevie's fat T.D.'s salary the Coughlans now enjoy over £10,000 a year from politics. And for doing what? Thady's first speech as Mayor was on unemployment. Perhaps this prompted some people to think that the Coughlans were going to do something about the problem. This would be asking too much. They have enough hacks on their payroll already!

Let us not be afraid to take a hard look at the facts: The only thing the Coughlans have done in politics is to LINE THEIR OWN POCKETS.

MEMORIALS

THE FOLLOWING poem was composed well over 100 years ago by the Bard of Thomond. This truly reflects what great perception and foresight the Bard must have had, judging by the standard of the present Mayor of Limerick.

In this memorial age
I mean to fill a future page
With memories of the human bears
Which Limerick Town installed

as Mayors

Sure 'twas a more than comic job,
To make a Mayor of a staggering yob,
A worthless crow, a useless rook,
Like Mayor Puff that starved his cook;
And leads a priest's protected life,
Like holy Maurice that starved

his wife.

But he has mended her bill of fare,
And liberally increased her share
By catering for her every day,
A full half ounce of Peacock's tea.
Good heaven! what august men we find
To guide and teach the public mind
When such a hungry worm writes down,
The man whose bounty fed the town.
Think of the slander-scribbling

villain,

Whose penuity would starve a million,
Whose greed his creditors daily cheats
And seldom pays for what he eats,
Libelling the man whose God-like hand
Flung, like the spring rain on the land
His gold and silver to redress
The helpless children of distress.
Isn't it enough to make the stones
Fly up and smash the scoundrel's bones
And drive to everlasting mire
The dirty sanctimonious liar.

AN UNUSUAL INTERVIEW

SOUTHILL NEWS: Mr. Paddy Burns, owing to your popularity, or unpopularity, we feel the people would like to hear more of your views.

BURNS: Well, as everyone in Keyes Park knows, I'm a rent collector, and a damn good one at that.

NEWS: What qualifications do you have?

BURNS: Don't be f---ing stupid! It's not what you know but who you know. Sure aren't I a barman for one of the councillors? Sure there you are. Bob's your uncle.

NEWS: We have had a lot of complaints about your attitude towards the tenants and your use of foul language.

BURNS: Sure that's only adopted with tenants who miss a week's rent, and as

far as I'm concerned they deserve a good f---ing!

NEWS: It is not so long ago that you were in court because of your abusive language to a tenant. What did your boss, Mr. D'Arcy, think of this?

BURNS: Sure aren't I his blue-eyed boy ever since.

NEWS: Have you any feelings at all towards the ordinary people in Keyes Park?

BURNS: Look boy, don't be f---ing stupid! The only thing I have feelings for is the commission on the rents which D'Arcy pays me.

NEWS: What do you think of the Tenants Association?

BURNS: That's a good point, I'm glad you raised that. They're a shower of bastards and they're making my job very difficult lately. The sooner the Community Council takes over the better. Now, they're lovely people.

NEWS: Do you consider that you are well paid?

BURNS: My commission is no-one's f---ing business! Sure the taxman doesn't even know that, and with my other tax-free fiddle job in Bobby's pub sure I'm f---ing laughing. And why should I pay tax when Bobby doesn't even pay his own rates, and him being a councillor!

NEWS: Mr. Burns, thank you for the interview. We won't pass any comment on your views. We will let our readers decide for themselves.

PLANNING PERMISSION -- FOR SOME!

ABOUT FIFTEEN months ago a tenant in O'Malley Park, out of sheer desperation, applied to the Corporation for planning permission to install a fireplace, because the Corporation themselves were incapable of repairing the central heating unit, the only means available for heating the home. Some time later she received a postcard from Paddy D'Arcy stating that the matter would be looked into. The planning permission has still not been granted.

Now, in contrast to this, we would

like to point out how efficient the Corporation are in dealing with certain other people who have money and influence. The following is an example

Recently a well-known Limerick doctor (Dr. J.P. Kelly) had no problems when it came to planning permission to carry out a huge extension to his city residence in Pery Square. We feel that, under normal circumstances, this type of extension would not be allowed. But then Dr. J.P. Kelly is a great friend of our City Manager, Mr. Tom MacDermott. Last year the MacDermotts and the Kellys spent their holidays together in Rome.

We wonder if the tenants of O'Malley Park would have more success if they took the MacDermotts on a holiday this year -- even if it were only to Kilkee!

A SLANTED VIEW

IN A RECENT report in the Limerick Weekly Echo headed, "Angry Scenes in Pill Rows", the reporter (Frank Hamilton, we believe) gave a very slanted account of the meeting in question.

A three-minute interruption in the two-and-a-half-hour meeting received over a hundred words of comment, whilst the rest of a very good and constructive meeting rated a mere fifty words.

This surely is very narrow and slanted reporting and not at all in keeping with Hamilton's good, constructive reporting in the past.

Over to you, Mr. Hamilton.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

ARTICLE 41.2. "The State shall therefore endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home."

If you have a good joke, send it to the Editor. If not, you can buy a whole book of them. It's called the "Irish Constitution" and it's available in local bookshops.

WE'RE NO KNOCKERS

RECENTLY some people have accused us of being "knockers". We would like to repudiate this. So here goes. We hereby congratulate the Corporation on their initiative in getting rid of Mr. Paddy D'Arcy, the Housing Officer.

A spokesman for the Corporation stated: "D'Arcy was up for grabbers, or, in layman's language, he was given a free transfer."

Fair play, Corporation! Now are we "knockers"?

STEVIE TO STEP DOWN?

It is strongly rumoured in local political circles that Deputy Steven Coughlan, the local councillor, intends to resign on medical grounds. A local Southill Labour man is strongly tipped to be co-opted on in his place.

We have heard this from very reliable sources within the Labour Party.

GENERAL RUMOURS

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS suggest the Irish Army has invented a new type of gun. A spokesman for the Department of Defence stated that the new weapon was in fact an Ox-gun.

On further enquiry it was learned that the Ox-gun fires bullshit, and all the ammunition is supplied by Stevie Coughlan.

FOLLOWING THE recent announcement by the Italian Government that all cities and towns were to be provided with Family Planning Clinics and all contraceptives to be free of charge, it was strongly rumoured that the Seven Hills of Rome were now known as the Seven Pill Hills of Rome.

A local so-called Southill Committee calls on the people to boycott Rome for their holidays and demands an apology from the Pope. The statement goes on: "This was gutter sensationalism. It was evident that the Italian Government did not research their facts properly but took at face value what the majority of the people wanted!"

The committee goes on to state that the Italian Government represents nobody -- only houses. Despite the many important, praiseworthy happenings in the world, only the sordid and scurrilous details of a few unpleasant incidents are highlighted.

The statement was signed by a local P.R.O.

RUMOUR HAS it that the County Council has threatened to resign in block over the proposed contraction of the city boundary, which would mean that Southill would come under their jurisdiction.

THE GOGGLE BOX

THE EXECUTIVE of the Tenants' Association supports the campaign for the re-broadcasting of B.B.C. We feel it is about time that we had the same choice as the citizens of Dublin and the east coast who have the pick of three or four channels and pay the same licence fee as us.

We get a little sick of watching R.T.E.'s dull and unimaginative fare while the people of Dublin have the opportunity of enjoying the very best in current affairs, world-class football, and a choice of three or four films any night of the week.

At a public meeting held recently in the Connolly Hall and attended by over 400 people, an overall majority voted in favour of the re-broadcasting of B.B.C.

A TALE OF TWO COMMITTEES

AN ARTICLE on the Community Council's Old Folk's Committee published in a recent edition of a local paper stated that funds collected by any other groups in the parish for the old folk (for example, the Galvone Organising Committee) will not be for the Southill Old Folk's Committee.

We, the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association (S.T.A.R.), regret that this statement ever appeared, as it gave the false impression that money collected by the Galvone Old

Folk's Committee does not go to the old folk in Southill. On the contrary, the Galvone O.F.C. is one of the hardest working groups in the area and has done more work for the old folk than any other committee, past or present.

The following is a brief account of their activities over the past twelve months:-

(1) Last Christmas a free dinner and dance was held in the Parkway. All drink, cigarettes and transport were provided. (Incidentally, those old folk who could not attend were given a gift of £5).

(2) During the year, two functions for the old folk were held in the Galvone lounge, where again everything was provided, including entertainment.

(3) The Galvone committee are at present organising an all-expenses-paid trip (which will include meals and drinks, etc.) to Kilkee -- and no means test is required!

All funds are collected in the Galvone Arms through the generosity of its patrons. The Galvone Old Folk's Committee offered to amalgamate with the Community Council Old Folk's Committee but this offer was turned down. They also offered £60 cash, but this too was rejected.

A spokesman for the Galvone O.F.C. posed the question: "If the Community Council O.F.C. are volunteers, why don't they work instead of sending the old people themselves from door to door collecting money?"

Surely the activities of the Galvone O.F.C. prove what a wonderful asset they are to the old people of the community. Special praise is due to Paddy Higgins, Noel Kelly and the manager of the Galvone Arms.

The S.T.A.R. feel that the statement which appeared in the local paper should be retracted and that an apology is due to the Galvone O.F.C.

FAMILY PLANNING

FOLLOWING A recent public meeting held in Limerick, which was chaired by

Councillor Jim Kemmy and addressed by two doctors from Dublin and Mrs. Lawrence Elliot (administration officer for the Irish Family Planning Association), a steering committee of fifty members was organised to set up a family planning clinic in Limerick.

Included on this committee were Ernest Fitzgerald, Jack Cantillon and Vincent Finnan, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association.

We can now announce that Limerick will have its own family planning clinic in the autumn, and special facilities will be available for medical card holders.

SOUTHILL R.F.C. ACTIVITIES

THE FOLLOWING is a statement released to the Southill News by the P.R.O., Bernie Boland.

"The first meeting of the new season produced spirited enthusiasm to tackle the coming season. A full attendance put many new ideas forward for achieving success.

It was decided to enter teams of under-12s and under-14s in the league as these were our most successful grades last season. A large number of boys between the ages of 12 and sixteen were catered for last season. Most of these were introduced to rugby for the first time. This was achieved through the dedication of men like A. McNamara, t. McInerney, P. McGuirk, M. Kenihan, N. Tobin and P. McNamara, to mention but a few.

A 9-a-side street competition will start shortly and no energy will be spared by the committee in this venture. Boys who are interested should contact the P.R.O."

SOUTHILL BENEFIT DANCE

The organisers of the Southill benefit dance which was held recently and which was very successful, would like to thank all those who supported in any way. All donations will be

acknowledged as soon as a final account can be made. All outstanding moneys and tickets should be sent to Bernie Boland, 570 O'Malley Park.

S.T.A.R. would like to congratulate the organising committee and the community in general for the wonderful spirit shown in helping neighbours in distress.

COMMUNITY GAMES

THE FOLLOWING statement was submitted by the Secretary of the Southill Community Games, John Kiely.

"The Southill Community Games Committee wish to thank all the people who helped to make the sportsday a big success, especially those who are not from Southill.

The winning boys and girls will be representing Southill in the Limerick Community Games on August 7th, 8th and 9th at the Gaelic Grounds. We hope they will be successful, and proud to represent their community.

We would like to remind the parents of the qualifying children to have them down for training at the Crescent field on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m.

A special word of thanks to all our sponsors, for without their help our task would have been very difficult.

We also have boys and girls training for the swimming gala which will be held at the Roxboro swimming pool on Saturday July 26th."

S.T.A.R. would like to congratulate all the young boys and girls who took part in the games for their great sportsmanship, and a special word of praise to the organisers for the wonderful dedication shown on their part.

Best of luck in the finals!

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SPORTS ROUNDUP of the season so far reads as follows.

In Gaelic games the Southill Stars reached the Kerryman Cup semi-final in football. They also reached the

semi-finals of a tournament run by Cappamore. The Stars were defeated by Na Piarsiaig in the junior football championship. In hurling they are in training for the first game to be played shortly.

In soccer the two local clubs did reasonably well in their respective leagues. Carew Park did well also in the Division III cup by reaching the semi-final.

In schoolboy football Southill United are going great guns. To date both the under-16s and under-13s teams are unbeaten, so any day now they could have a trophy on their sideboard!

In the Community Games the Southill boys did the area proud when, after getting to the semi-finals proper, they were narrowly beaten by near-neighbours Kennedy Park.

In rugby the Southill club had some fine performances to their credit. They put up a great show before going under to the ultimate Limerick under-12s champions, Young Munsters.

FIREPLACES FOR CAREW PARK

FOLLOWING RECENT agitation, and a deputation to the City Manager by tenants of the Carew Park centrally heated houses (organised and assisted by S.T.A.R. and Councillor Kemmy), the following statement was read to the last Council meeting:

"I wish to advise the members of the City Council that the Corporation has accepted a quotation for the installation of prefabricated fire places with back boilers to the centrally heated houses in John Carew Park.

The cost of installing these fire places is £523.78 plus V.A.T. for 5-apartment dwellings and £437.34 plus V.A.T. for 2-apartment dwellings. The total cost for the 27 5-apartment houses and 18 2-apartment houses would be £22,014.18 plus V.A.T."

The statement was signed by T.P. MacDiarmada, City Manager.

F.S. We would like to say a special word of thanks to John O'Neill (City Architect) for his services, and we would also like to thank Councillor

Jim Kemmy for his help.

MODERN IRISH NAZIS

MICHAEL MURPHY was arrested at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning and taken to Edward St Police Barracks where he was abused and tortured before being finally released at 11.30 p.m. It is important that the facts of his arrest be published as it concerns all of us.

Mick, who comes from a strong Republican family in the city, has not been a member of any party for some time, so his arrest came as a complete surprise to him.

He was questioned by a number of Special Branch detectives, who travelled from Cork for the occasion, about a number of robberies in the Cork and Limerick area. Mick denied all knowledge of these robberies and demanded that the police substantiate their allegations. But, as the Branch had no proof whatsoever, this was not done.

At this stage the Branch, in true Gestapo fashion, started to punch him and stated that they would break him like they had broken his friends. They spoke of the noise and lights they had used to obtain statements - which Mick pointed out were useless when got in this way. They continued to punch him and when he told them that he would report their actions to the Press, one of the policemen went completely berserk. He grabbed a piece of wood which he used like a hurly on the prisoner. The torture went on all day.

Mick later reported to the Press, and also tried to have the matter raised at the local Council. Only four Councillors voted to hear his case, so it was not heard. These same Councillors spend a great deal of their time mouthing about violence, yet when a citizen is subjected to Nazi-like treatment by the servants of the State they condone it by their silence.

When a citizen can be treated like this in Limerick City in 1975, more than the victim suffers. WE HAVE ALL LOST A TERRIBLE LOT.