

SOUTHILL NEWS

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HORSEPLAY IN SOUTHILL



PUBLIC MEETING. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1975.

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COVER STORY: HORSEPLAY IN SOUTHILL

FOR YEARS now the Southill community and the people of Limerick in general have been plagued by the menace of wandering horses.

S.T.A.R. (the Southill Tenants' and Residents' Association) has almost exhausted its energies in trying to tackle, and eradicate, the problem, but we always seem to come up against the proverbial blank wall so far as the local Corporation officials are concerned.

Last May we decided to round up all the horses and have them confined in the city pound. With the assistance of about forty tenants, and the cooperation of the Gardai, this operation was successfully carried out -- or so we thought at the time. On the same night the pound gates were battered down with a heavy truck and the horses were released.

So far no-one has been charged in connection with this incident.

The following month we decided on another round-up. As we herded the horses down Gerald Griffin St. a van containing three men attempted to run down members of our Committee, and these men finished up crashing into their own horses. We chased one of these men, who had left the van, and he was apprehended by the Gardai. So far as we are aware, there has still been no prosecution.

As a result of all this, we decided to go as a deputation to the City Council, where we received many promises of action. There would be a "secret" pound; a deal with C.I.E. to supply transport; and a deputation of Councillors and officials to the Department of Justice.

Since then the bandwagon has been weighed down with people look-

ing for an opportunity to gain publicity at our expense. These same people have done nothing constructive to help the people of Southill with their problem.

One interesting and illuminating aspect of the whole affair is the "political connection" --- isn't there always one in this city?

One of the horse owners (Patrick McCarthy of Kilcornan, Co. Limerick) who at the moment has about thirty horses grazing in the area, supplies horses to a Mr. McNamara of Adare. McNamara (with a grant from Bord Failte) supplies horse-drawn caravans to foreign tourists at a fair old profit to himself. Now it just so happens that McNamara is also the father-in-law of none other than Tony Brazil, Director of Bord Failte and failed Fine Gael candidate in the last Local Government elections.

So there you have it. McCarthy, McNamara, Brazil, and Fine Gael -- the four links in the chain of influence which ensures that there will be no charges brought against anyone.

Horses, as we are all aware, are big business involving many thousands of pounds.

S.T.A.R. has now decided to call a public meeting to find a final solution to this menacing problem, and to this end the following letter is being sent to all interested bodies and individuals.

S.T.A.R.

16 Maigne Way,
Carew Park,
Limerick.

Dear (Cllr./Ald./TD),

You will be aware that since the Southill Housing Estate was built over ten years ago, the people of the area have been plagued with

the problem of wandering horses.

The Tenants' Association has in these ten years attempted in every possible way to make the Limerick Corporation face up to its responsibility to rid the area of the problem, but to no avail. The problem of wandering horses, with all its attendant dangers, is however now even worse than ever it was.

The Tenants' Association has had private meetings with Corporation officials to discuss the matter. IT HAS GONE IN A DEPUTATION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL. It has cooperated with the local Gardai in rounding up and impounding the horses. Now, having exhausted all other means of dealing with the problem, the Tenants' Association has decided on one last effort to bring an end to this dangerous nuisance. The Tenants' Association has called a public meeting to discuss the matter in full.

Those being asked to attend include: all members of the City Council; local Dail Deputies; the City Manager and his officials; representatives of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions; Garda Inspector Michael Leahy; the Press; and members of the general public.

The Tenants' Association hopes that it will be possible for you to attend.

You will of course be aware that a number of Southill people, including a young child, have already been injured by these wandering horses.

Members of the Tenants' Association committee and local tenants have been threatened and intimidated by some of the owners of the horses. Do we have to have a fatal tragedy before the Corporation are moved to taking the necessary action to end this menace?

The public meeting to seek a

lasting solution to the problem will be held on Thursday, 13th of November 1975, at the Community Hall Southill. It will be attended by the General Secretary of N.A.T.O., Mr. Matt Larkin.

The Association looks forward to your attendance.

Yours faithfully,

E. FITZGERALD.

COUNCILLORS ON THE RUN

THE INFLUENCE of the "Southill News" and its value to the residents of the area were proved once again, and with great forcefulness, at a meeting of the City Council last month.

For a newspaper which they pretend is beneath their contempt, the "Southill News" seems to cause the Councillors and Aldermen of Limerick a great deal of consternation, if not indeed outright fear. Fear perhaps of the precarious hold that some of them have on the council seats that they were able to "con" from the people.

"Labour" Alderman Mick Lipper (who, without the intervention of the "Southill News", has already lost all hope of ever getting a seat in the Dail) started the ball rolling by asking for the suspension of Standing Orders so that he could condemn "the character assassination being carried out by a magazine emanating from the Southill community." He said that he himself and others had been "mentioned in reports".

Alderman Coughlan supported Alderman Lipper in his condemnation of our paper. This was hardly surprising since the "News" has never been able to find anything praiseworthy to say about this very

unintelligent and totally insignificant hack. Even his own Party are embarrassed by him and showed their contempt for him by refusing to give him even the consolation prize of a Parliamentary Secretaryship when they joined with Fine Gael to form a Government.

(It was to Coughlan and Lipper that the "Limerick Weekly Echo" was referring when it editorialised about the "guttersnipe element" on the City Council.)

Councillor Leddin referred to the application by the residents of Southill for recognition as an approved Council. He spoke of the "value" of the newspaper concerned but condemned the comments, stating that these were not a true reflection of the people of the area.

It is difficult to know what Mr. Leddin bases his contention on. He obviously has not been talking to the same residents that we have. If he had been, he would realise that most of the ratepayers of Southill are firmly behind the views expressed by the "Southill News".

According to the minutes of the Council meeting, Councillor Broderick took the trouble to "disassociate" himself from the comments in the "News". That, we must hasten to state, is a great relief to all of us! This paper has no wish to be "associated" in any way whatsoever with the absentee Councillor Broderick!

We are sure that nothing would please this ex-Christian Brother more than that the "Southill News" should cease publication -- since it is we who have made the people aware of Broderick's total abdication of his responsibilities to the electors who were defrauded into voting for him.

Coughlan Junior stated that the

people of Limerick would "know their representatives" and he did not think "attacks" in this paper would change their outlook. A nice piece of wishful thinking on the part of the boy who was literally given the Mayoral seat by his father's private Mafia without possessing the slightest qualifications for the job.

Alderman Kennedy claimed that the majority of the residents in Southill "despised the comments in the magazine", and went on to ask the City Manager to give "every protection to the Corporation officials who were attacked in its pages". If there was a case for criminal action it should be taken, he said.

Kennedy is one of the humbugs who were exposed in last month's edition of this paper, and if he feels that our references to his tax-dodging private tuition and his Rachman-like activities in the sphere of property speculation are actionable, let him put his money where his mouth is. But perhaps he would rather hide behind the skirts of the City Manager.

Ex-Minister for Justice Desmond O'Malley said that he did not think any criminal action lay with the magazine. However, a civil action might arise as "they were not given any names". (Whatever that might mean). O'Malley should know as he is a solicitor -- though admittedly a very mediocre one.

But of course this threat of libel action is one of the oldest ploys in the business. It is designed to intimidate and, hopefully, silence the innocent and gullible.

BUT THE "Southill News" IS NOT IMPRESSED.

These Councillors-on-the-run must have very guilty consciences. To paraphrase the Bard of Avon,

they protest just a little bit too much.

THE SHERIFF'S DEPUTY
(OR THE STORY OF THE ONE-MAN POSSE)

PULLING STRINGS is an art in which Deputy Steve Coughlan is a past master. His touch, however, seems to be running out.

Some weeks ago he entered the Courthouse and saw a number of civil bills awaiting delivery by the Court authorities. The wily and opportunist Alderman flicks down through them and strikes gold -- or so he thinks. He comes across the name of Councillor Mick Crowe, one of the arch enemies of the Coughlan Mafia.

Delighted, Coughlan pulls out the civil bill against Crowe and pushes it to the top of the pile, thus ensuring (he hopes) an early delivery and acute embarrassment for his Council colleague.

Steve departs on his subversive way, indifferent to the gross invasion of Court procedure he has committed.

However, all was not lost for Crowe. An honest Court official, spotting the underhanded and spiteful actions of Coughlan, muttered to himself, "That dirty hypocrite of a gobshite, I'll fix him", and promptly returned Crowe's civil bill to the bottom of the pile, thus giving Crowe a temporary reprieve from the heavy hand of the Sheriff.

Coughlan is still wondering what happened. Crowe is laughing all the way to the bank. And last, but not least, poetic justice has been done.

Justice may be "blind" in the abstract, but there was nothing wrong with the eyesight of the Court official who saw the great "Catholic, Socialist" Coughlan about

his dirty business.

JACKPOT JACK

Jack Bourke pulled off quite a coup a few weeks ago by getting himself a free full-page advertisement in the "Limerick Leader" by means of a write-up in the Leisure Page. This free promotion was in respect of the hotel known as Geary's, which Bourke runs as a front-man for Eamon Andrews, OBE (Order of the British Empire).

The Leisure Page feature is of course written by one Helen Buckley daughter of one of the owners of the "Limerick Leader". With a friend like Helen Buckley, Bourke doesn't need any enemies -- not even the "Southill News".

However, we digress.

A usually reliable source tells us that the enterprising Councillor Bourke has installed a new one-armed-bandit at Geary's Hotel. We are assured that Dubliner Jack's bandit pays out a hefty "jackpot" of £25.

But then Bourke can afford to be "generous", as he has so far managed to dodge paying the licence fee for his gambling machine.

MYSTERY OF THE MONTH COMPETITION
(SEPTEMBER COVER STORY)

ALTHOUGH WE had a fantastic response to this competition (617 entries), no-one succeeded in naming the Mystery Man.

Some suggested the photograph was that of Cary Grant with a hangover, while others said it was a poor imitation of Donald Duck's uncle. One reply stated that the competition was unfair because a man with such features could not exist and it was probably an artist's impression of Dracula's

grandmother.

To be fair to our readers, we are not too sure ourselves, but we believe it's Councillor Denis Broderick. It is so long since he was seen in the area that it is really very hard to tell.

The Editor has now decided to contribute the 10p prize money to the Corporation's maintenance fund in the hope that it may be used to replace back gates in Keyes' Park.

"HIBERNIA" AND THE LIMERICK COUNCIL

THIS ITEM was submitted to the "Southill News" (unsolicited) by a concerned reader.

"HIBERNIA" IS a current affairs magazine published in Dublin which deals mainly with political and literary matters. The magazine is not widely read in Southill, or in Limerick, so that many local people will have missed the recent reference to the "Southill News" in that journal.

The item dealt with a "discussion" at a Limerick City Council meeting during which the "Southill News" was roundly castigated by the so-called "Labour" members, Steve Coughlan and Mick Lipper. The fact that this "debate" went on for over an hour and a half, whilst the city outside and around the Councillors continued to crumble to the ground and the unemployment figures go soaring upwards, is a good indication of the priorities of the Corporation.

"Hibernia" correctly criticised this play-acting and ridiculed the two members who raised this "item of great importance". The article (October 3rd) stated:

THE REDS are out from under the bed -- and Alderman Mick Lipper, of

Limerick, doesn't like it. At last week's meeting of the City Council he launched into a bitter attack on "Southill News", claiming he was being "blackmailed" by "a filthy rotten mob". Limerick people who have rushed out to buy a copy of the paper, which is published by the Tenants' Association in Southill, have been bewildered to find an obscure reference to an ex-Labour Mayor's alleged non-belief in a God in Waterford. I have my ideas what that's about; Lipper, who drives a train from Limerick to Waterford, obviously knows; but most of the readers must be a bit confused.

Anyway, this "item of great importance" stirred up quite a debate in the Council. I'll just give you a flavour of it from the "Limerick Leader" report.

LIPPER: "My family have all our lives been hard-working people and we always tried to make friends as we went through life. These Rolls Royce Communists are not under the bed any more. They are not out to do any good".

STEVIE COUGHLAN: "The backstabbing and the character assassins are at large in our midst and they are pouring their literature into the homes of charitable and Christian people. This publication is delivered through the letter boxes of the people of Southill, which is an area of young married couples and the language in it is disgraceful".

Not altogether surprisingly, Coughlan rounded on the nearest Red to hand, JIM KEMMY, and accused him of being responsible for the paper (wrong), of using a false passport to visit Russia (wrong), of being the first man he ever saw wearing a mohair suit (?), of drinking non-Irish Carlsberg lager and of being

an "assassination reptile".

I must remember to stick scurrilous publications only through the letter-boxes of old-age bachelors in future.

(End of "Hibernia" article)

The hallmark of Steve Coughlan's politics has been the ability to throw personal abuse and to involve himself in all kinds of stunts and gimmicks to boost his career. In this way he has succeeded in gulling many people into believing that he represents the political interests of the working class and that he is a champion of the underdog.

Lipper, who served his political apprenticeship to Coughlan in the Clann na Poblachta party, is also no slouch when it comes to throwing the dirt. Like Coughlan, he has attempted to use religion to advance his political career, while at the same time some of his "extra-curricular" activities have been in marked contrast to his "pious" image and his constant invocation of the name of God.

How he reconciles these activities with his "goody-goody" image speaks volumes for the flexibility between his private and public postures.

Coughlan and Lipper have shown themselves to be seasoned campaigners in the criticism of their political opponents. Many people, therefore, may have been surprised at the "sensitive" way they reacted to the criticism of themselves in the "Southill News".

The reasons for the bitterness of their attacks on this paper are not difficult to explain. For years Coughlan and Lipper have had a completely free hand in representing themselves as the political representatives of Limerick tenants and workers. No tenants' newspaper

or workers' Councillor existed to point out the deception of the "Labour" Aldermen.

The real fear of Coughlan and Lipper then is that other tenants' newspapers will emerge to monitor their political "policies". They are afraid that, in this situation, other representatives will come forward, expose them, and eventually replace them on the City Council.

In an editorial the "Limerick Weekly Echo" described Coughlan and Lipper as the "guttersnipe elements" of Limerick politics.

IT IS TIME TO RID OUR CITY OF THESE ELEMENTS.

MEMO TO ALDERMEN STEVE COUGHLAN AND MICK LIPPER

"GUILT"

"GUILT IS a poor helpless dependant being. Without the alliance of able, diligent, and, let me add, fortunate fraud, it is inevitably undone. If the guilty culprit is obstinately silent, it forms a deadly presumption against him; if he speaks, talking tends only to his discovery, and his very defence often furnishes the materials for his conviction."

— Junius.

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

THE "Southill News" would like to thank its many advertisers for their loyal support. The demand for this paper increases every month, and again we have been obliged to print several hundred extra copies to meet this demand.

Although it is distributed FREE to every house in Southill, contributions would, nevertheless, be welcome to our publication fund.