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CRANBERRIES' SWEET SUCCESS: P 8



'MID-WEST' STAMPS? P 10



ÉIRE 32

Blooding warning by Bord



Robert Hutchinson, who stars in the Granary Players production of Masterpieces at the Belltable from October 19 to 24.

Water call

LIMERICK Corporation were one of only two local authorities in the country who did not benefit from the £66m sanitary service fund, according to Cllr Tim Leddin.

By PATRICIA FEEHILY

BORD na gCon has described the alleged sale of rabbits for bleeding greyhounds at the Limerick dogtrack as "a reprehensible practice" which it would "in no way condone".

Bord spokesman Paddy O'Dwyer said that the organisation would take severe action against anyone involved in such "a malpractice".

Mr O'Dwyer was speaking after a Moyross man admitted in Limerick court this week that he was selling rabbits for £1 each to greyhound owners for bleeding the hounds. He had been remanded overnight in custody.

Stating that a *Limerick Leader* report of a court case concerning the alleged sale of rabbits had been noted, a statement from Mr O'Dwyer continued: "Bord na gCon wishes it to be clearly understood that it in no way condones this reprehensible practice."

"Any evidence that can be substantiated will entail severe action being taken by the BORD including warning off against person or persons concerned," the brief statement concluded.

Meanwhile, the man who admitted before Judge M. Reilly at Limerick on Wednesday to selling rabbits for bleeding hounds at the dog track, was released from custody on Thursday but was told, after his solicitor suggested a donation to the SPCA, to have £300 in court on January 14.

The defendant, John Hughes of 5, Glenagross Park, had pleaded guilty to "cruelly treating nine rabbits contrary to the Protection of Animals Act 1911 and the Control of Dogs Act, 1986."

Garda J. Stack said that he found the rabbits cramped in a milk crate in a lane off Greenhills Road, Garryowen, on October 19. Some of the animals had their ears hanging off. When asked by Judge Reilly how much he was getting "for these poor animals", the defendant replied: "£1 each."

He said that he was selling the rabbits to the owners of greyhounds at the dogtrack for bleeding hounds. He told the Judge that the rabbits were considered "vermin".

Judge Reilly said this had contradicted everything he had seen on

● P2



Slainte and Slainte again . . . Committee members at the Queen of Peace Credit Union double celebration (from left): Judy Halpin, Ber McCoy and Noreen Madden. □ Picture: OWEN SOUTH.

Here's to the Boro' on the double

By ANTHONY GALVIN

THE Queen of Peace Credit Union had a double celebration when they marked their silver jubilee and opened the extension to their Janesboro' office across the road from the church.

During the opening ceremony four people who had been involved in the credit union since its foundation were presented with clocks.

May Lawlor, Tommy Mulligan, Maureen Healey and Maurice Fitzgerald have given 25 years service.

A bouquet of flowers was also presented to treasurer Breeda Hourigan, who was the driving force behind the new extension.

The extension, which includes a modern public area and office space, has been in use for the past month but the official opening was delayed to coincide with the jubilee.

The tape was cut by Tony Cullinan, treasurer of the Irish League of Credit Unions, Mgr Liam Boyle, Vicar General, blessed the extension.

"I am very happy to be here with you on your opening, and on the jubilee of your movement," said Mgr Boyle.

"The idea of having a credit union in a parish is wonderful. It is the local people sharing their money together—and it gives a good interest rate on your savings and your loans."

"When you come into a credit union you are not a

● P2

Two men arrested

TWO Dublin men were being questioned by Gardai in Limerick this Friday after they were arrested near an engineering company at the Ennis Road, this Thursday night.

Tools worth £3,000 had been removed from the premises.

Weather

THIS Friday night will be dry and very cold in the Limerick region with temperatures falling below freezing. Saturday will start off bright, with cloud spreading to give some rain. Saturday night will be very cold. The weather will be broken up to next Tuesday with showers of sleet at times.

Gus refuses key

FOLLOWING on the decision of the protocol committee of Limerick City Council to reallocate party rooms at the City Hall, Fine Gael claim that the locks on the office doors have been changed and new keys issued.

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll told the *Limerick Leader* that they have been moved from room No 1 (the room with a view) to room No 2 to make way for Labour who had insisted on getting occupancy of room No 1.

Cllr O'Driscoll, the FG leader in the council, said he has refused to accept the key given to him for access to room No 2.

"We do not intend putting the people to further

expense by taking this matter to court, although we have got legal advice that the protocol committee had no right to take the decision it took. If you were to take that decision further, they could vote to move the manager out of his office," said Cllr O'Driscoll.

He said Fine Gael would be making a full statement in the coming days on their attitude to the row which broke out when Labour pressed to be moved into room No 1 from room No 4. Initially they demanded that as the biggest party on the council, they should have the biggest room.

After the rooms were measured it was discovered that room No 3 occupied by PD councillors was the biggest, and Fine Gael told Labour they should talk to the PDs about moving into their room.

But Labour said they were demanding choice of room and their preference was for room No 1.

They called a special meeting of the protocol committee of the council which is made up of the entire council, but which meets in private. They passed a motion agreeing to give Labour use of room No 1. Fine Gael members left the meeting.

Since then the rooms have been reallocated with Labour getting use of room No 1.

Fine Gael sources claim that the reason Labour were set on getting room No 1 was its panoramic view of the Curragh Falls.

Phones are provided in the party rooms and council members can make local calls free of charge.

Cllr O'Driscoll said: "What has happened is a dangerous precedent."

A spokesperson for Limerick Corporation confirmed this Friday that the locks on the party room doors have been changed.

Chief Supt Liam Quinn

SUPT Liam Quinn of Roxboro Garda Station is among the list of new Chief Superintendents announced by the Garda Commissioner this Thursday.

Aged 45, the new Chief Superintendent lives at Castletroy. He was one of the youngest members of the force promoted to Superintendent six years ago.

Chief Supt Quinn is a native of Co. Kilkenny. His wife Angela is a native of Pallaskenny and their sons are well-known oarsmen with Shannon Rowing Club.

FULL REPORT: P3

Limerick water crisis in Senate

THE Minister for the Environment must intervene in the Limerick water crisis before the city reservoir at Newcastle, Castletroy, collapses, Senator Pat Kennedy told the Senate this Thursday.

He put down a motion for special emergency debate because "a crisis has arisen."

He said: "The present reservoir, which was constructed as far back as 1881, and which stores about 10 million gallons of water was extremely porous, and the collapse or breakdown of the reservoir would leave 100,000 people and factories and industrial enterprises in Limerick without water."

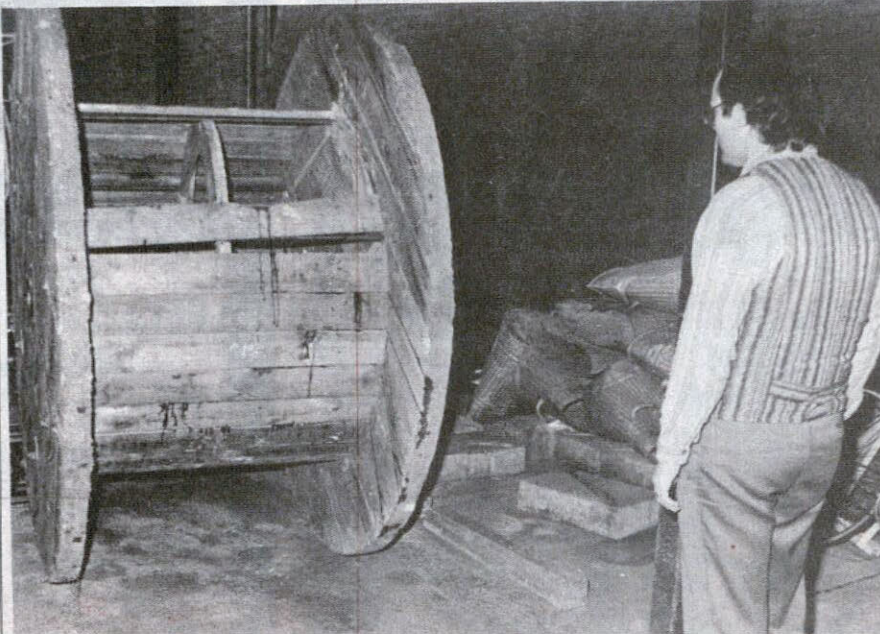
He said the Minister must have his officials investigate the loss of over 1.3 million gallons of water per day costing £120,000 annually, and this was "surely a scandal by any standards."

He said the contract for the new reservoir at Castletroy was put out to tender in early 1991, and a contractor was selected and recommended to the department earlier this year.

"But so far there has been a deafening silence from the Minister," he said.

He said the new reservoir would cost £3.5m and take two years to complete, but 50 per cent would be financed by the EC structural fund.

"It would alleviate the problem and give worthwhile employment," he added.



The tragedy reel this Friday

□ Picture: OWEN SOUTH.

Weeping over Christopher, 11

By PAUL WRIGHT

THE funeral took place this Friday afternoon of Christopher McNamara, 11, of 105 St Munchin's Street, St Mary's Park, who was killed on Tuesday night in a freak accident as he played in a big cable reel near his home.

He was son of Mr and Mrs Michael McNamara.

Christopher was crushed as the reel rolled down a rough slope and crashed into a wall. He was dead on arrival at Limerick Regional Hospital.

Garda inquiries are continuing. Young friends of Christopher wept in the crowded congregation at St John's Cathedral when Requiem Mass was celebrated this Friday at

12 o'clock.

The removal of the remains took place from Cross's funeral home to St John's Cathedral on this Thursday. Christopher was laid to rest at Mount St Oliver Cemetery.

There were many floral tributes to the popular young boy.

Frantic efforts to revive Christopher after the accident failed and he was found to be dead on arrival at Limerick Regional Hospital.

It is believed that Christopher had manoeuvred into the hollow centre of the spool and it rolled down an incline, hitting a wall.

The *ESB, Telecom and Westward Cables* told the *Limerick Leader* that the cable reel involved in the accident did not belong to them.

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Just another town . . . Johnny Duhan returns



JOHNNY DUHAN is a name that's well known to Limerick music lovers and his exploits as lead singer with local rockers Granny's Intentions will always be remembered.

However, when he was 26, Johnny stopped the world and got off! The rock circus, as always, rolled on, leaving him behind on a farm in County Galway.

In an overloaded Transit van and on buses, trains and planes, he had travelled to the heart of the hype that is the music business — the record deal and the myth of absolute freedom . . . however, he found only emptiness.

Isn't it a pity he decided, at that time, to call it a day . . . one can only wonder what might have been?

The journey Johnny needed to make, according to himself, was inward. He had to trust his inner sense of direction and work the stubborn ground of his own experience. If he could be true to himself then others might find echoes of their own lives in his music.

His new album, *Just Another Town*, which is currently on release, has taken many years to put together. I get the feeling that this struggle was as much personal as the actual business hassle of getting the product on the shop shelves — that ordeal is hard enough in itself.

By the way, the 'town' in question is Limerick.

The album contains songs which have all been inspired by memories of his youth and his formative years in Limerick.

One of the first tracks to come from those early mornings on the land was the title track, "Just Another Town", and it's a boy's eye view of the vibrant Limerick he had been brought up in.

A series of songs of memory and reflection on his youth followed the initial track . . . topics such as his friends' light-hearted exploration of sexuality ("In The Garden"); the exhilaration of first love with a girl from the wrong side of town ("Margaret"), and his own and

the community's experience and celebration of the sacred ("A Winter's Night" and "Benediction"), are happenings, among others, that are covered.

Just Another Town is an artistic achievement that deserves critical consideration at the highest level . . . a portrait of the song-writer as a young boy in the Limerick of the early '60s. The past is made present and we are there in the streets with him — from the bright mornings to the moon rising over the city at night.

Johnny, of course, is a renowned song-writer and his songs have previously been recorded by Mary Black, Dolores Keane, Mary Coughlan, Freddy White and Christy Moore. However, you get the feeling, without even listening, that this collection of 11 songs is definitely as personal a song-writing project as you could ever hope to hear . . . a diary of sorts that features 11 very unique chapters!

A concept album with a difference —

and about Limerick . . . whatever next?

The album is made up entirely of slow, very reflective sounding ballads with Johnny's deep voice seemingly just right for these type of songs. Each one is just like a very descriptive short story and the lyrics, as you'd expect, are of utmost importance to a project of this nature.

After a few listens you get the feeling that the 'short story' description is actually selling these songs short — if the memories, which are amazingly vivid in places, have lived with him all these years then they're probably a lot more than just short stories — precious thoughts of a by-gone era.

Each and every song has something different to say and, even though fairly similar structurally, each one has something very different to offer.

The highlights for me were "Another Morning", a very fine song with a really nice chorus and some lovely brass; "In The Garden"; a great tale of fumbling young love that's beautifully depicted

with music and lyrics and includes some fine keyboards, and the title track, "Just Another Town", a very big sounding effort with a superb string section and some lovely piano.

Others that really impressed were "Margaret", a beautifully melodic song with excellently emotive lyrics that most young men could relate to, and, last but definitely not least, the track of the album for me, "Benediction". This is a terrifically melodic track that features some excellent vocal interaction throughout and is perfectly hooked by a very fine chorus. It's a song that I definitely think should be picked up on and recorded by quite a few other artists.

These songs were the ones that, after a few listens, immediately wedged their presence in my memory banks. The album has a very constant flow to it and, really and truly, there isn't one bad track included. His many Limerick fans and friends should love the album and it will hopefully be a substantial hit for him.

LIMERICK MUSIC SPECIAL

Limerick has always been a city steeped in a strong musical tradition and this week SHANE FOLEY (*Hitz'n'Bitz*) takes a brief look at a very contrasting trio of local music-makers . . . the return of Johnny Duhan; the rise to national and international prominence of The Cranberries, and The Charming, a band surely destined for bigger things.

Dreams do come true

DREAMS is the second major release for Limerick band The Cranberries and it's also an excellent foretaste for their eagerly-awaited debut album, *Everyone Else Is Doing It, Why Can't We?*, which is due to be released, on Island Records, in January of next year.

The band began life as The Cranberry Saw Us in 1990 and, at the beginning, were an all-male four-piece. The "all-male" line-up didn't last long and, after the band decided their material was 'too feminine' for such interpretation, they placed a newspaper ad looking for a female singer. While still at school, Delores O'Riordan heard of the available position and, as many of you

will know, the rest is now part of Cranberry history.

Writing songs, for her own diversion, since her early teens, Delores, believe it or not, held little regard for popular music when she was growing up. However, after joining the lads — Noel Hogan, guitars; Mike Hogan, bass, and Fergal Lawler on drums — she brought her very fine lyrics to bear on the melodies the group had been fashioning without her. As if like magic something close to miraculous began to occur.

That magic first surfaced — in the recorded form — with a highly-acclaimed demo tape and then on their debut cassette single, *Nothing Left At All*, on local independent label Xeric Records. At this point in time they were still known as The Cranberry Saw Us and the songs included on that cassette were "Nothing Left At All", "Pathetic Senses" and "Shine

Down".

Following this release, the band found themselves catapulted centre stage with a flood of music press coverage characterised by such quotes as "no band since The Smiths have sounded quite so spectacularly vulnerable" and "these are the most beautiful high notes you'll ever get to hear outside of La Scala".

The mass of attention now being accorded this little known Limerick band was bordering on unreal and, true or otherwise, this attention evaporated the group's plans for a low-key entry into the fray and their aptly titled debut EP, *Uncertain*, fell short of both critical expectations and the band's sky-scraping potential. *Uncertain* included the tracks "Uncertain", "Nothing Left At All", "Pathetic Senses" and "Them".

In musical terms it's been quite a while since that debut EP and its accompanying UK tours with Moose and Top. In the interim The Cranberries have parted company with their Limerick manager, Pearse Gilmore; been picked up as the first band ever managed by Rough Trade supreme and 'knower of a good thing when he hears it', Geoff Travis; formally signed with one of the bewildering number of major companies chasing their signatures (namely Island), and learned that having Select say "The Cranberries are very much the future. They're going to mean a hell of a lot", can be as much a curse as a blessing.

As stated earlier, *Dreams*, their first release on Island Records, is currently in the shops and it's more than amply whetted the appetite for *Everyone Else Is Doing It, Why Can't We?* — the debut album. Stephen Street, the producer, in surely his finest work since The Smiths, has, it is stated, extracted every ounce of nuance from



The Cranberries: sweet success.

the cranberries
dreams



Sleeve of Dreams.

each instrument in turn and left this 'grazed, brave and wounded' voice free to both roam and reign.

The Cranberries are something very special and, if all goes according to plan, they'll put Limerick firmly on the music map, thus opening the door for future A & R people to come looking for their successors.

Dreams (the CD single) features three songs "Dreams", "What You Were" and "Liar". "Dreams", the title track, is a typical Cranberries effort . . . restrained enough in parts to give the majestic vocals more than enough room to breathe and also powerfully positive at times to give it those necessary

dramatic punctuation points. I don't exactly know how it's doing in the UK charts (it's not in the Top 40) but wherever it is it should be doing much better. It's a quality track with superb backing and lead vocals and guitars included. Delores' vocals would register 10 out of 10 even on a bad day — and I doubt if she has many of those . . . superb!

"What You Were" is the second song on the CD single and it's a much quieter track than the opener. The lovely acoustic guitar blends very nicely both with the vocals and electric guitars. Delores' voice lends an almost haunting feel to the whole thing which is nothing short of totally

relaxing as well as being a really great song.

"Liar", the extra track on the CD single, winds things up very nicely. The bass and drum combination keep the whole thing moving along at a restrained pace and, even though the song isn't anywhere near blindingly speedy, you could imagine a 'live' crowd getting well into this one. If they can afford to come up with 'extra CD tracks' of such quality then they must surely have a positive bag-full of real goodies lined up for this eagerly awaited album.

The entire effort is worthy of being a very big success and should win them quite a lot of new fans.

Campus Notes

THE academic year at the University of Limerick is now in its third week, and clubs, societies and other groups have started their activities for the year. Most groups have been busy recruiting members from among the 1,400 first year students who have arrived on campus.

The GAA Football Club report that among their new signees for the year is Donegal minor, Paul Diver.

President of the ladies soccer club, Donna Rohan from Castleconnell, says the club expects to field two full teams this year with over 70 new members signed up in the first two weeks. The Games Society report they have recruited

thirty new members.

However, all clubs and societies are aware that many 'freshers' sign-up in the first two weeks, only to disappear as the term wears on. Aideen Carey of the Film Society says that to counter that trend, she encourages new members to become actively involved in the running of the society from the beginning. As an example she cites European Studies student Martin Ross, who has joined the society's Review Committee.

Not all of the activity has been in student based clubs or societies. The University Choir has recruited over 35 members, while the Chamber Orchestra, under the guidance of Ann Ross, has recruited eight new members, including German exchange student Christiane Berg (violin) and

'natives' Conor O'Sullivan (flute) and Paula Ruttle (clarinet).

On the political side, the students' union president, Diarmuid Scully, has spearheaded a drive to get students to register to vote at their university addresses. Students now have a right to be registered at both their home and college addresses following a supreme court ruling last year, although at election time they may use only one of these votes. The local voter registration authorities have produced a special form for use by students in Limerick.

The Limerick Leader telephone number is: **315233**

Too Charming to be unsigned

THE Charming are the 'future' part of this Limerick musical tale. Formed about 18 months ago — April '91 — Magda Joyce, vocals; John Drennan, keyboards; Donnacha Toomey, guitars; Brian Kelly, bass, and Lorcan Byrne on drums are the five individuals who bond so beautifully to make *The Charming* one of the finest prospects that Limerick music has ever had. It also surely makes their collective signatures on a recording contract a much sought after prize for the many hunting companies.

Following their formation, they spent the rest of '91 coming to terms with the lack of recognition and 'hard' times that usually goes hand in hand with being a young, unestablished band.

However, in December of last year they used their pocket money to record their first three-track demo tape. This demo, which included the excellent tracks "Never Know", "Something Blue" and "Make No Mistake", was a turning point for the band. The ensuing media excitement was more than enough to help the band realise that they were more than capable of writing very fine songs. Suddenly, things were up and running for *The Charming*.

In April of this year they recorded a session for Dave Fanning's prestigious 2FM Rock Show and this produced four more songs and another bout of media excitement.

They took May and June off to study for exams. However, while they stayed in at night getting acquainted with their chosen subjects, their tapes were beginning to arouse a lot of interest within the music industry. The band didn't realise what was going on until July when a plane-load of A & R folk arrived in Limerick to see them playing live.

The Charming wanted to record more of their songs so, this time around, someone else funded the session. Three new tracks were recorded in August, and this latest demo — including the tracks "Delicious Days", "Jump In" and "Smile" — is, putting it very mildly, another cracker of an effort. An open-air gig at Kilkenny Castle, later in August, further emphasised what the group had to offer. Whatever it is, music industry gurus pronounced, *The Charming* have it!

The band spent last month writing songs and Magda, the group's very talented lead vocalist, went on holiday to Uganda. The new songs are now ready and they'll be getting an airing during the band's bout of October gigs in Limerick, Kilkenny and Cork. November and December will, hopefully, see the band playing some shows in the company of established Irish rockers A-House, while next January will see *The Charming* stepping into the world of record-releasing.

Two Charming tracks — "Never

Know" and "Delicious Days" — will feature on the debut release from the Metropolitan label . . . Metropolitan are a new London-based independent label with the might of Rough Trade's manufacturing and distribution network behind them. The actual release is a CD compilation of new music from the UK, the US and Ireland, the latter being represented by *The Charming*.

In the meantime, *The Charming* continue to talk to people from London to Los Angeles . . . after all, if you're not in, you can't win!

According to a fairly substantial and informative press release I received on *The Charming*, it stated that they play "supersonic pop music for the 21st century and everyone wants some of that". To be totally honest, I'd have to agree wholeheartedly with that fairly substantial statement.

Things are surely 'just beginning' for *The Charming*!

The current demo, referred to earlier, was recorded at Xeric Studios here in Limerick and was produced by Ralph

Lindheim. "Delicious Days", the opening track, is a positively powerful start. It elevates the word 'pop' to a new height and the best thing for me is that *The Charming* seem to have developed their own unique way of presenting this particular sound.

It's a tremendous song and, as always, the vocals of Magda are quite wonderful. There's a hint of a Deacon Blue influence tucked in there somewhere and this, as far as I'm concerned, is nothing short of a giant compliment. The keyboard and guitar work excellently together throughout and, without waffling on forever, it's just a great track!

"Jump In" is the second of the new songs. It's another very lively offering that seems to have all the musicians working very tightly together and providing the perfect melodic backing for the vocals to work over. Another fine song!

"Smile" or "Wild Smile" is the final song — there's two mixes of this included — and, to be honest, both had something different to offer. I think, though, I preferred the less busy one, "Smile". It's a powerful rhythm-driven track that tended to remind me of the way They Might Be Giants might tackle such a song . . . very catchy, very marketable and very, very good.

It was a toss up between "Smile" and "Delicious Days" for the track of the demo.



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