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Dungarvan Leader

AND SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT
Circulating throughout the County and City of Waterford, South Tipperary and South-East Cork

ALWAYS ASK FOR POWER ORANGE

VOL 31. No. 1625 SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1970 REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER PRICE 6d.

PENSMAN takes you Behind the Spotlight

PUBLIC OPINION WINS FIRST ROUND IN FIGHT FOR MATERNITY UNIT

I was glad to see that public opinion still counts for something and that the vox populi can still make itself heard in the world of officialdom as it did on the controversial problem of the location of the proposed maternity unit for Dungarvan which was discussed at last Monday night's meeting of the Waterford Health Authority in Dungarvan. It is a long time since such public feeling was aroused in Dungarvan and indeed throughout all West Waterford as was by this matter of the proposed conversion of the existing female wards at the District Hospital into a maternity unit.

While everyone agrees that there is an urgent need for a maternity unit to cater for the needs of a wide area around Dungarvan nobody wants to see it established at the expense of the almost total closure of the District Hospital and the removal of all surgical facilities there as was proposed in the official report submitted to the meeting by the County Manager. We all know that this is the era of centralisation and every aspect of our way of life has been subject, at some time or other in recent years, to certain reports such as the Buchanan Report, the Devlin Report and the Fitzgerald Report.

It is as a consequence of the latter that the concept of hospitalisation as most of us have known it up to this point is being changed. There are two streams flowing from it to the river. Plastic bags, papers and what have you will be washed into or blown and thrown into the river which will become a festering eyesore; also who knows what more harmful substances will, (even occasionally) be dumped and which will wipe out all fish life.

"I understand that some Government Minister has stated that he will prosecute those who destroy any part of the countryside. Well this vandalism which is being sanctioned by, for all I know, this same Minister's own Department, so I suppose we are helpless to do anything about it."

"Dungarvan has distinguished itself for European Conservation Year and those who are responsible have much to answer for."

As a humble Waterfordian myself, I must agree with the points raised by Mr. Whelan as I am afraid that what he states will in all probability occur despite the assurances of the officials of the Dungarvan Urban Council to the contrary. And even if I never took a rod and line in my hand but as a mere nature lover I still fear that what he says will come true and feel that this dump should never be located so near the banks of the river Colligan, not only because of the possibility of river pollution but of the certainty of the foul odours which are now bound to pollute the air in the locality.

But the winning of one battle does not mean final victory and the people of Dungarvan and West Waterford should bear this in mind. They have succeeded as of now in changing the official decision but the proposal to establish the maternity unit at St. Joseph's (County Home) will be subject to the sanction of Departmental officials. The pressure will have to be maintained on these gentlemen through the local Daily Depesche for a series of weekly character flights from Holland into Cork Airport commencing on Saturday, April 4 and each week through the season until the end of September. The Prim-Air Agency will fly in approximately 120 Dutch visitors and each week during this period while many will go pony-trekking and sign-seeing about 30 or 40 and spend each week in Dungarvan fishing. A special coach will be

used to transport the tourists from Cork Airport to Dungarvan. This is a major boost for tourism in Dungarvan and arrangements for accommodation have been made in hotels, guest-houses and chalets in the locality. The principal of the Prim-Air Agency, Rob Lightart, was in Dungarvan last August on a survey trip and for consultations with Mr. Casey and was back again to complete arrangements about three weeks ago. Mr. Casey will return from Holland on the first charter flight due into Cork on April 4.

EASTER COMMEMORATION
The festival of Easter is earlier than usual this year but on the great occasion on which we celebrate the triumphant Resurrection of Christ we also recall the triumph of the heroes of the Easter Insurrection of 1916. Our ballad choice this week then must appropriately be "The Dying Soldier" composed by Rev. Fr. P. MacTomais and dedicated to the leader of the Easter Rising, Padraig Pearse—

Mother Ireland! I have loved thee
With a love that knew no fear;
I have drawn the sword to free thee
At the flowering of the year.
But a hand was raised to smite me
As I stooped to kiss thy brow,
And the arm that would have freed thee
By my side hangs helpless now.

I have lived and loved and laboured
With a patriot's heart and will,
That the dawning years might find thee
Fearless and unfettered still.
I am vanquished, and my comrades
In the glorious fight have bled;
And the dauntless hearts that loved thee
Rest among the silent dead.

But 'twere nobler thus to perish,
Thus to wipe away thy tears,
With the distant voice of Freedom
Echoing in their dying ears,
Than to stand as fawning minions
Of the sneering conqueror's race,
With the clanking chains of bondage
Telling of our deep disgrace.

When the deathless glow of freedom
Flitters through the gloom of years,
Shall we flash upon the hiltops,
Conquerors of gloom and tears;
When a future age shall find thee,
Freemen standing by thy side,
Mother Ireland, O remember
'Twas for Freedom's cause they died.

They are gone, and I must follow
To the goldenfields above,
Where the mighty God of Justice
Shall reward a patriot's love.
Sweet it were to live and love thee,
Sweeter far for thee to die,
With the flower-cad hills around me
Echoing back my last good-bye.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
In addition to the kind readers whom I mentioned last week for sending me the words of the poem "Bingen On The Rhine," I also wish to acknowledge the co-operation of Mr. Michael Noonan, of Camphire, Cappoquin, who also sent me a copy of the words. This did not reach me in time for mention in last week's column.

Deputation Alters Official Decision On Dungarvan Maternity Unit

SURGICAL FACILITIES SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The interest which had been aroused by the controversial decision to convert the top female block at the District Hospital, Dungarvan, into a 6-8 bed maternity unit was evidenced at a meeting of the Waterford Health Authority held in Dungarvan last Monday night at which the matter was down for discussion. An eleven strong deputation (six women and five men) representing various interests in the town attended the meeting and put their views to the members and eventually succeeded in having the official decision altered.

The members of the Authority had started to discuss proposals for the reconstruction of the County Home and the erection of a new 100-bed Geriatric hospital together with a Convalescent and a Nurses Home there and also a new 40-unit Welfare Home for ambulant patients across the road at Springmount.

The report of the Manager prompted Mr. T. Galvin to remark that no provision was made in the plan for what he called the "casual caller or Knight Of The Road." These people, said Mr. Galvin were outcasts from their families and the Health Authority had a moral and social duty to provide accommodation for them, otherwise their bodies could well be found in the rivers.

Mr. C. A. O'Connor, Co. Manager, replied that under the new plan the old concept of the County Home would end and casuals would have to be accommodated elsewhere in hostels.

The Manager's report was approved and it was at this stage that the discussion on the proposed new maternity unit was opened by Mr. C. Curran, Howth, Co. Dub., Chairman. He pointed out that the matter of its place on the agenda would require the suspension of standing orders before it could be discussed.

The members agreed to this procedure. Mr. Curran then said that they would have to face this matter realistically. In accordance with the Fitzgerald Report, the concept of the District Hospital in Dungarvan would have to change sometime but he felt they were jumping the gun in the proposals of the Manager to convert the top block into a maternity unit. He felt that the solution to the problem lay in the County Home and that a maternity unit could be established there without interfering with the surgical facilities at the District Hospital.

There was a need for the continuation of such facilities there even on a limited basis. He had been told by people who were competent to say so that the location of a maternity unit in the top floor of the District Hospital would be unsuitable as it would make conditions for male patients in the lower floors of the hospital unbearable. He had also been told that a number of mentally handicapped children who were at present at the County Home should not be there as the environment for them was wrong.

"There is a strong objection by the public to the removal of the surgical unit from the District Hospital," he said, "and I think it would be a disastrous decision to remove it at this stage. Thousands of lives have been saved there and we are most lucky in that we have one of the outstanding surgeons in

behalf of the deputation and said that she was at present a patient at the District Hospital. She felt that it would be unfair if the present accommodation in the female section was taken away. She could not praise highly enough the care and attention which patients received at the hospital.

Miss Gabriel Draper said that it was not feasible to place a maternity unit over the male section in the hospital. She also said that all the female accommodation there was required and added that space for the maternity unit could be found in the County Home by shifting the handicapped children and the geriatrics in the centre block to other parts of the building.

Mr. T. F. Lynch, Ballylemon, said he was shocked when he heard about the change and questioned the cost of the proposal to convert the female section of the District Hospital into a maternity unit. The accommodation at the hospital was needed not only for Dungarvan but for all West Waterford as far up as Tallow.

MEMBERS' VIEWS
Mr. Curran then proposed and Mr. N. Walsh seconded a resolution that the maternity unit be established at the County Home.

Ald. T. Brennan said that they should lend wholehearted support to this proposal as having listened to the people most familiar with the position they should now proceed to ask the Manager to have a report available for their next meeting for the setting up of the unit as outlined in the proposal.

Mr. S. Whelan said that people all over West Waterford were very concerned that 14 female beds were to be taken from the District Hospital. He asked if this was done where the female patients would be treated for the future. He felt that the members of the deputation had expressed a very just grievance.

Mr. H. R. Dowd said that having listened to the deputation he felt the appeal by the local people was worthy of the full support of all the members. Mr. P. Kenneally and Mr. J. Keane also supported the deputation, the latter remarking that from personal experience of the maternity unit which had been at the County Home he had found the highest skill and efficiency together with sympathy and understanding.

He hoped that the new unit would be developed there again. Mr. N. Walsh said he also felt that the unit should be established in the County Home and not in the District Hospital but if there was an official objection to the County Home he suggested that the unit should then be located at Priory House. It certainly should not be placed at the District Hospital which was already earmarked as a community centre.

Mr. O'Connor, County Manager said he was very glad that such a full and frank discussion had taken place on the matter. He said that the easiest solution to the problem was to erect a new maternity unit in the grounds of either the County Home or District Hospital but no grants would be available for such a scheme. He felt in the circumstances that the latter hardship would be caused by transferring the surgical cases at the District Hospital to Ardkeen and this would give the accommodation for the provision of the maternity unit on the top storey. In regard to future treatment of female patients at the hospital he said that 2 beds for females could be provided on the ground floor where there was now a private room and 6 other female patients could be accommodated in the middle block and the remainder of the beds could be transferred to the back block at the County Home. The idea would be to keep a balance between the number of male and female patients to be treated at the District Hospital.

If the members wanted now to locate the maternity unit at the County Home he would require their approval to discontinue the treatment of the mentally handicapped children and ill infants which was now being carried out in the block which would be required there for the maternity unit.

Mr. N. Walsh suggested that alternative accommodation for all these could be found in the County Home.

CUMANN COR IS COIRIUL DUNGARVAN DUNGARVAN MUSICAL & CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

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PRICES 6/- (bookable) and 3/6.

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"CHRISTIAN DIOR" SEA-WEED TIGHTS in Black & White ONLY 19/11.

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MONSTER BANK HOLIDAY ATTRACTION
"LOOK" ITS FANTASTIC PRIZE MONEY £305
JACKPOT £130 ON 54 CALLS.
FLOOR PRIZES £175.
2 Buses Depart Dungarvan 7.20 p.m., Cappogh 7.35 p.m.
Affane Cross 7.45 p.m., Cappoquin 7.55 p.m. Lismore 8.10 p.m.
Doors open 8 p.m. Books 10/-, 12/-, 15/-.
Follow the crowd to Tallow on Monday night the Jackpot could be yours.

Dr. M. E. O'Neill, Assistant Chief Medical Officer, said that it was a feasible plan to set up a maternity unit in the top floor of the District Hospital. In the back block of the County Home where there had been a 2-bed maternity unit there was a children's ward with 8 cots and an 8-10 bed geriatric unit. As the position now stood a maternity unit could not be set up there unless the children and geriatrics were removed elsewhere. He had tried without success so far to find other placements for the 3 or 4 mentally handicapped children there and he said that he would like to see these children placed in proper care outside the County Home which would be more suitable for them.

The long discussion ended when the County Manager stated that he would seek sanction from the Department for permission to convert the back block at the County Home into a maternity unit and to move the geriatrics and mentally handicapped children. He warned the members that as a result of this decision that a lot of problems in regard to the plans for the new geriatric unit at the County Home could arise.

Mr. T. J. Dolan on behalf of the members of the deputation thanked the Chairman and members and the Co. Manager for receiving them and listening to their case. He said that he had felt that public officials were 'soul-less and heartless people but the result of the discussion at the meeting had proved this to be otherwise.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The following is the text of the report by the County Manager, Mr. C. A. O'Connor, circulated to the members before the meeting.

"There are about 200 births per annum in the Dispensary area of Dungarvan. Up to the present over half of such births took place in private nursing homes in Dungarvan. This was a satisfactory arrangement. For a number of years the Health Authority has provided two maternity beds in the back block of St. Joseph's Home, Dungarvan.

Information has now come to hand that the private maternity home will not be in use after March 31 and as a result, an urgent problem is posed for the Health Authority in connection with the provision of maternity beds. The two-bed unit at St. Joseph's Home was closed recently because of a lack of sufficient number of nurses with C.M.B. qualifications to provide a 24-hour service. At the time it was decided to close the unit, no information was available in relation to the proposed closure of the private maternity home. The matter has been fully considered and discussions have taken place with representatives from the medical profession. I now submit the following proposals for your approval—

(a) Maternity Unit (6-8 beds) to be provided in the top floor of the District Hospital, together with ancillary services (i.e. Milk Kitchen, Nursery and Delivery Room).

(b) The present theatre at the District Hospital to be converted into a Delivery Room.

"The patients normally in the top floor of the District Hospital are geriatric patients and arrangements will have to be made to accommodate, as far as possible, the displaced patients at St. Joseph's Home.

"These arrangements would mean that surgery would be discontinued at the District Hospital and would be concentrated at Ardkeen. It should be pointed out that over the years there has been a diminution in the amount of surgery taking place in Dungarvan and records show that during the last few years a substantial number of patients from West Waterford have availed of surgical treatment at Ardkeen.

"The provision of a maternity unit in Dungarvan conforms with the recommendations of what is known as the 'Fitzgerald Report' on Hospital Services generally. Discussions are in progress with the Medical Missionaries of Mary with a view to the provision of a High Risk Maternity Unit in Waterford which would be served by two Obstetric-Gynaecologists. Specialist Obstetrical Out-patient Clinics would be held in Dungarvan as an adjunct to the Maternity Unit at Dungarvan.

ABBEY PROMOTIONS PRESENT—
NOEL TOUHY & His All-Stars
BOATHOUSE BALLROOM, CAPPOQUIN, ON EASTER SUNDAY NIGHT MARCH 29
COUNTRY AND WESTERN, CEILI AND OLD TIME AND MODERN ★
DANCING 9 — 1.30 a.m. — AMMISSION 8/-

C.S.M. BALLROOM
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★ EASTER SUNDAY NIGHT ★
28th MARCH
VIN BROGAN & THE SAN - ANTONES
THE BIG SOUND IN THE COUNTRY AND WESTERN FIELD
DANCING 10 — 2 FULLY LICENSED BAR AMMISSION 8/-

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FOR HIRE 4 Row Milton... Best Soccer and Band Sprayer... Also Storage Hoe and Ridger.

FOR SALE - 1969 Ford Escort... 1.4 '69, 15,000 miles... in spotless condition.

PUMP ATTENDANTS - Boys or Girls Wanted immediately.

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IN MEMORIAM

BELL - First Anniversary - In loving memory of Nicholas Bell, St. Mary Street, Dungarvan, who died March 25th, 1969.

DALTON - Second Anniversary - In loving memory of our dear mother, Mrs. A. Dalton, 14 St. Canan's Terrace, Dungarvan, who died 29th March, 1968.

DESMOND - Tenth Anniversary - In loving memory of John Desmond, Main Street, Dungarvan, who died on 24th March, 1960.

MURRAY - First Anniversary - In loving memory of my dear gentle daddy, Bernard A. Murray, late of Main Street, Dungarvan, who died 25th March, 1969.

MURRAY - Sixth Anniversary - In loving memory of John Murray, 21, Tibbly Close, Peckham, London, and Collegan, Tallow, who died on the 2nd March, 1964.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - AHEARNE - Miss M. Kayes, New Street, Dungarvan, wishes to thank most sincerely all those who sympathized with her on the occasion of the recent death of Mr. James Ahearne.

FLYNN - The wife, 'Dona, daughter, sisters and relatives of the late John Flynn, Tourmaline, Dungarvan, desire to return very sincere thanks to all those who sympathized with them in their recent bereavement.

WATERS - The mother, brothers and sister of the late Richard Waters, London and Abbeystead, Dungarvan, wish to thank all those who sympathized with them in their recent bereavement.

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Health Authority Member Demands Apology Or Will Call For Sworn Inquiry

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN COMPLAINT ABOUT AMBULANCE DELAY - Following the reading of a report from the County Manager of the monthly meeting of the Waterford Health Authority in Dungarvan last Monday night on the alleged delay of the arrival of an ambulance at the scene of an accident which occurred at Mocollop, Ballyduff, on Sunday, January 25, Mr. J. Quirk, who originally raised the matter, said that the report was not worth the paper it was written on.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Mr. C. A. O'Donnor, County Manager, gave the following report of his investigation into the complaint: - The complaint was made at the last meeting that there was undue delay in the arrival of an ambulance from Dungarvan to the scene of an accident in West Waterford. It was agreed that the complaint would be investigated and that a report should be made available for this meeting.

AT SCENE OF ACCIDENT - Following the reading of the report, Mr. Quirk said that it was not worth the paper it was written on. He was on the spot when the accident occurred at Mocollop and was there when the ambulance arrived which was 7.46 p.m. according to his watch.

DUNGARVAN AUGUSTINIAN ORDAINED IN ROME - Saturday, March 14, was a joyful day for the McCarthy family, Western Terrace, Dungarvan, for it marked the occasion of the ordination of Rev. Patrick Vincent McCarthy, O.S.A., in St. Patrick's College in Rome.

THE NATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL CLUB draw which was held on Sunday next, March 29th has been extended to Sunday, April 5th.

PHILIP QUINN - The National and Commercial Club draw which was held on Sunday next, March 29th has been extended to Sunday, April 5th.

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Dungarvan Leader

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1970

News Of The Town And Round About

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES IN DUNGARVAN - ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH - Holy Thursday - Confessions 12 to 6 p.m.

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Political Debate & Dance

IN ST. CATHERINE'S HALL, TALLOW ON THURSDAY NIGHT NEXT, 2nd APRIL

THREE T.D.'S INVITED TO ATTEND COMMENCING 8.30 p.m. Dancing 10.30 to 1.30

MUSIC BY THE FASHIONS SHOWBAND

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Electricity Supply Board

IN ORDER to carry out essential repairs to E.S.B. networks the Board regrets to inform consumers that supply will be interrupted in the following Townlands on TUESDAY, 31st MARCH, 1970, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

And in the following Townlands on THURSDAY, 2nd APRIL, 1970, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Consumers are warned that supply may be restored temporarily during this period for short purposes.

Under no circumstances should consumers assume that their own installations will remain "dead" during this time.

M. J. SARGENT & SONS OPEL MAIN DEALERS, CAPPOQUIN

* GREAT NEWS FOR MOTORISTS * IF YOU AVAIL OF OUR USUAL DISCOUNT OFFER ON TYRES - 20% OFF LIST PRICE OF NEW TYRES AND 25% OFF LIST PRICE OF REMOVALS - YOU CAN ALSO BUY SEAT BELTS AT 35/- EACH.

EASTER "WEEK-END ENTERTAINMENT" AT CUMMINS' LOUNGE, LISMORE

EASTER SUNDAY - EASTER MONDAY NIGHT - "THE ABBEY FOLK"

BECHER'S FOR VALUE JUST A FEW OF OUR GREAT MONEY SAVING OFFERS - 1/4 per pound of P.G. Tips Tea, 8/- per pound, save 1/4 now 6/8.

BECHER'S V.G. FOODMARKET TALLOW. 'PHONE 29.

ARCH Ballroom TALLOW

MIKE MUNRO and the CHESSMEN are playing in the Live "ARCH" TALLOW next week Friday, 3rd April.

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James Kiely, & Sons COMPLETE FUNERAL FURNISHERS

Tallow and Round About Notes

Retreat - A one-week retreat... Dungarvan A.C. Promoter John... Easter is with us again... Retiree - A one-week retreat... Dungarvan A.C. Promoter John... Easter is with us again... Retiree - A one-week retreat... Dungarvan A.C. Promoter John... Easter is with us again...



Prizewinners in the Waterford county final of the Bord Iascaigh Mhara National Fish Cookery Competition photographed with the Mayor of Waterford Aid. W. Jones...

Athletic Notes (B.L.E.)

ELIZABETH MOUNTAIN LEADS WATERFORD GIRLS TO IMPRESSIVE WIN... Some top-class performances by Co. Waterford athletes...

DUNGARVAN FRIAR BASKETBALL AND HURLING NOTES

Senior Hurling Semi-final - St. Declan's took their big step towards the Inter-House senior hurling cup when they defeated...

DUNGARVAN LEATHERS INCREASES DIVIDEND

As expected, Dungarvan Leathers has produced results for the year ended December 31st, 1969, similar to those of the previous year...

SCOUT NOTES

11th WATERFORD (Dungarvan) On behalf of the Troop we wish to congratulate Fr. McCarthy on his ordination to the Priesthood...

BEEF CATTLE INCENTIVE SCHEME

The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Neil J. Blaney, P.D., invites herdowners with 3 or more cows, who are not already participating in the Beef Cattle Incentive Scheme...

SENIOR LEAGUE

Next Sunday the next round of the Senior League commences at Tramore, and now that Whelan (Lismore) has drawn level with Jimmy O'Sullivan (Ring), there should be a great race for individual honours...

Did You Know That . . .

Bananna plants grow to a height of about twenty feet. Their leaves are about ten feet long and two feet wide. Crops are raised if the speed of the wind exceeds twenty to twenty-five miles an hour.

Obituary

Miss Sheila Towler Deep regret was occasioned in Dungarvan and the surrounding areas at news of the rather sudden death of Miss Sheila Towler...

Miss Nan Dwyer

Miss Nan Dwyer, 62, O'Connell Street, Dungarvan, whose death took place, following a long illness, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dungarvan, on Friday, March 26th...

Mr. Patrick Whelan

A very highly esteemed member of the community in Dungarvan, Mr. Patrick Whelan, of Ballynagall, Ring, died at the Ring, Dungarvan, on Saturday, March 21st...

Mr. Patrick Curran

We regret to record the death of Mr. Patrick Curran, C.P., who died at his residence, Ballynagall, Dungarvan, on Saturday, March 21st...

Cappoquin News

Holy Week Ceremonies - Wednesday: Mass 8.30 a.m., Good Friday: Mass 8 p.m., Saturday: Confessions 12 noon and 7 p.m., Holy Mass 8 p.m., Sunday: Confessions 12 noon and 7 p.m., Holy Mass 8 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Evensong) and Mass at 8 p.m.