

PAVEE

THE VOICE OF THE TRAVELLING PEOPLE

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HARASSMENT

Two families who are members of the Comm. for The Rights of Travellers have come under undue harassment from Garda officers of the Government.

Nan Joyce, joint Chairperson with Tony Hackett of the Committee, is one. Nan, who has become a trailer-and-household name in demanding Rights for Travellers, has for the past few months been regularly visited by the Shades, both in and out of uniform, in the early hours of the morning, in which floodlights were blazed into the trailer and was followed by loud banging on the trailer doors. Then the doors were just pushed in, without any invitation.

And have you guessed who the second family was? Yes, the other Chairperson, Tony Hackett's. Tony and Maria, who are founder members with Nan, and in whose house meetings are held. At one such meeting an official for the Dept. of Education was present. The official was later visited by plainclothes Shades and told that Tony Hackett was well-known to them. Tony was never charged with a crime in his life, nor was Nan Joyce until her recent court case. We leave it up to our readers to make up their own minds. We ourselves must wonder is the Committee a threat to the State?



Nan & Tony stand outside the Joyces' trailer during the marches organised to rid Tallaght of Travellers. They did not succeed. Neither will State harassment.



NAN JOYCE



ARRESTED

On Monday, June 6th 1983, John and Nan Joyce and their young family were visited in the early hours of the morning by the shades. (This was a separate incident to the one reported on the front page) They took away a bangle from the trailer.

They then returned the next morning to arrest Nan, they would not allow Nan the few minutes to see her kids off to school and so the kids went off to school with tears in their eyes.

Nan was taken to Crumlin Station where she was searched and was not allowed a cigarette. She was held in a cell for 2 hours and as she told us, had to ask for the toilet to be flushed because of the overpowering smell. Nan was then charged with stealing over £3000 worth of jewelery and receiving a bangle knowing it to be stolen. Nan was then taken to the Bridewell Station.

Justice O hUaigaig was sitting in Court No. 6 and Nan was called up from the dungeon before him. He made some remarks about Nan's election, as some of the shades had done, "Oh here comes our T.D. ha ha". Nan was remanded on her own bail for one week, although the arresting shade objected. All the main papers took up the story and some even gave it front page coverage.

Nan felt all the hard work she had done had been put back a step by the extensive coverage given to a case in which she pleaded *not guilty*. But over the next week she got so much support from people, some even dropping up from Cork, to give her words of support, that she resolved to fight harder than ever before.

On Nan's next appearance in Court No. 6 the Court was packed

with supporters. The court then heard that the charge of stealing had been dropped. Nan asked that she be tried by Judge and jury. And so the case is to come up again on the 12th July. When Nan's case finished the Court nearly emptied. But of course the papers did not give the same coverage to the dropping of the stealing charge.

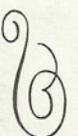


The Committée would like to take this opportunity to tell Nan that every member from Dublin to Waterford and all over the country wish her the best in her fight for the Rights of Travelling People.

P.S. We would like to thank the ban Garda who eventually begged a cigarette for Nan.



The "Bun" Connors talks with Seamus Leonard P.R.O of the Committee while some of the children look on, the interview took place in the house that "Bun" and his family built.



GRATTAN PUXON

IRISH TRAVELLERS'
CAMPAIGNER ARRESTED

Grattan Puxon, a 25 year-old journalist and pacifist who initiated a campaign on behalf of travelling people in Southern Ireland, is at present remanded on bail in the sum of £500, following his arrest in Dublin by Special Branch detectives on February 29. He is charged under Section 30 of the Offences against the State Act with possession of explosives with intent to injure or damage persons or property. The authorities claimed that they had found explosives in a garden at the rear of a house in Dublin belonging to him. He has answered that he is completely innocent of the charge.

Five months ago Grattan Puxon and his wife started a campaign on behalf of travelling people based on recommendations made by a Government commission. They formed an Itinerant Action Group among 200 travellers camped on the outskirts of Dublin and set up home with the people. They organised demonstrations in Dublin using caravans and carts, demanding the setting-up of recognised caravan parks with running water, sanitary arrangements and facilities for teaching as had been advocated by the Government report, but official reaction was one of annoyance.

At Christmas the Action Group decided to build a school, and this was erected illegally on land belonging to the City Corporation and opened by a writer, Peadar O'Donnell. At dawn a week later two lorry loads of Corporation workmen accompanied by fifty policemen arrived at the camp to carry out an eviction and tear down the school. The itinerants decided to offer no resistance, but they refused to yoke up the horses to their caravans. The caravans were lined up on the side of the road, and, as the itinerants moved away some hours later, the school and six shacks built by families who had no other covering burned behind them.

Since that day the itinerants have been forcibly removed eight times from Corporation sites. Despite protests, the authorities have used trade union labour

to have their wagons dragged off the land and tents pulled down. They have been manhandled by men ordered against their consciences to do this work by officials. Some of the men have refused and walked off the job. This steadfast passive resistance, carried out by people easily aroused to violence, has provoked questions in the Dail (the Parliament of the Republic of Ireland). The demonstrations have had the support of many students and trade unionists. (An account of action by students to block the authorities at one of the evictions appeared in Peace News on January 31).

After his arrest Grattan Puxon was detained for 57 hours; later, he was transferred to hospital suffering from two poisoned fingers. A constant guard was maintained outside the ward while he received ten days' treatment, including a minor operation. He was re-arrested on leaving hospital and was granted bail when he appeared at a magistrates' court on March 11. Depositions are to be taken on April 14.

The itinerants believed until recently that their campaign would be successful. They have been shaken by the arrest of Grattan Puxon and the charges brought against him, and they fear that the authorities will defeat them by breaking up the Itinerant Action Group and discrediting Puxon's name. However, a barrister has offered his services free and the Civil Liberties Association is giving assistance as are a number of quite prominent people. Grattan Puxon feels, nevertheless, that the police may well obtain a conviction.

*Taken from Peace News
April 10th 1964*

APOLOGY

Due to circumstances beyond our control we are sorry we could not produce the June issue of Pavee. Anyone wanting a 12 months supply of the magazine please contact the Committee for details.

CLEAN UP

DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council have been busy in the Dublin County area. They have been cleaning up the Travellers sites. We ask the question is this purely for the benefit of the Travellers, or is it because before every other Council election the Council pushed on Travellers so as to catch the local vote. Since the Rosela McDonald case they can no longer push on Travellers unless they offer suitable alternative accommodation, which they have not supplied. So they do the next best thing and clean up the sites. We say to them, keep it up after the election, but leave the Travellers with their useable scrap.



NO JOY

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers met with the County Council during the month of May. We found the meeting useless and although we do not wish to let the Council off the hook, we found the Councillors all baring a few more worried about their votes rather than the miserable conditions Travellers are forced to live in. We see no hope of the County Council ever taking their job seriously. And so again we call for a Government Dept. or Minister to oversee the development of Travellers.



PRICE OF PAVEE

We have to charge 30p for each copy of Pavee just to come out even. The cost to print 800 Pavees is: Printing £180.00, Type-setting £24.00, Photos £24.00, Letraset £5.00, other expenses £20.00. Total £253.00.





NAVAN



WHAT NOW

IS THERE LIFE AFTER "NAVAN" AND THE REVIEW BODY REPORT?

Coming one week after the Review Body Report was handed to the Government the annual Conference of the National Committee for Travelling People was held in the Ardboyne Hotel in Navan.

Travellers who attended were outnumbered by about 50 to 1 and some of them told "Pavee" that they felt ill at ease and out of place in such grand surroundings, as did some of the settled people there, who are also unused to going to Hotels.

The speeches which were long and delivered in flat uninspired voices were mainly about the Review Body Report, were clapped out of sympathy and relief that they had ended.

There was a good deal of talk from the Leadership of the Nat. Committee, but few of them could point to any gains made by the Travellers in their struggle to be accepted as human beings.

Many fine words of wisdom spoken from the Heart came from Travellers such as Peter Donohue, Neil McDonagh, Mary Morriaty, Chrissie Ward, Michael McCann and the final speech of Spirit, Defiance and Understanding that brought all in the hall to their feet in applause was by our own Nan Joyce of the Committee for the Rights of Travellers who urged Travellers all over Ireland to stand up for their Rights, speak out and Demand that the Government do it's duty by Travellers.

The Government, who were represented by Mr. Ruari Quinn T.D., didn't get off to a great start when Mr. Quinn confessed at the dinner on Sat. night that he knew nothing about Travellers, despite the fact that there have been Travellers living in his constituency for years and some

of them such as the McCann's are better known in the constituency than the Minister is. It was very heartning to note that many Settled members of Committees from around the Country spoke a lot of Civil and Humane Rights for Travellers, and less of Settlement although some of the Nuns and Priests still seem to rely on "Good will" and "Charity" towards Travellers as if Civil and Human Rights were a bad word. It is not for the Comm. for the Rights of Travellers to tell the Nat. Comm. for Travelling People how to conduct their Annual Conference but as we were invited as "observers" could we make some observations? Why not a Nat. Comm. OF Travelling People? Why not make the Conference less formal and in surroundings that would encourage more Travellers to attend? Why not a bit of music and a bit of Crack for the children? Hotels are grand if you are used to eating and drinking there all the time, but for most Travellers they are a place where you have to be on guard all the time and can't relax.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF TRAVELLERS LEAD THE WAY

On the day that the Review Body Report was given to the Government in the Dail it might have been the same as any other day and the Report might have gone the same way as any other report to the shelves to gather dust but The Committee for the Rights of Travellers were outside the Dail and had alerted the newspapers and T.V.

On that evening's RTE news the main story was of the Report and what was expected of the Government with a filmed interview with two members of the Committee, Nan Joyce and Michael McCann, who left the Government and the public at large in no doubt that the Committee would not allow them to sit back and do nothing for Travellers except give sweet talk.

Nan Joyce and Michael McCann came over so well on television as Travellers talking as Travellers that for the first time Buffers in the pubs around the country stopped drinking to watch and listened as they have never done before.

The lesson to be learned is that Travellers should do as Nan and Michael do: talk up and join the Committee for the Rights of Travellers....



A section of the crowd at the National Committee for Travelling People annual Conference.

"BUN" CONNORS

A RIGHT TO LIFE

Tom "Bun" Connors with his wife Maggie and 11 of their children aged from 19 down to 2 year-old Ellen, live on a bit of Co. Council property at Ballynoggin, in conditions that could not and would not be inflicted on any family in Europe unless they were Travellers in Ireland.

Maggie, who was a Moorehouse before she married, was like "Bun" born in Wexford, and as an Irish mother of 19 children she deserves better than she has at the moment.

The "Bun" and his family lived in St. Francis Park where he and Maggie both agree that things were alright, but they found the fights and the noise at night too much to bear and moved out and are now determined that they will never live in a site again.

Group Housing "Bun" says may be a good idea for some Travellers, but he believes that it wouldn't work for him because he couldn't keep his few Goats and Fowl, which he has always had since he was a Sublea and if he had to give them up he might as well give up living.

The place where "Bun" is camped now is a Rat-infested Swamp beside the official site at Ballynoggin, and as "Bun" says "The rats play soccer in broad daylight" and yet bad as this Hell Hole is, "Bun" Connors has tried to make it as good as he can for his family by building two cabins which give a bit of shelter and comfort and he did it without any help from the Council or the Government.

A man of many words "Bun" will tell you that he no longer trusts the "Gammon" because he says it is now known to too many people and most Shades know a good bit of it, and if used by Travellers in Pubs it draws attention to them and gets the Settled People's backs up.

Known by thousands of people

from Fermanagh to Cork, both Traveller and Settled, "Bun" is a man who knows what he wants and what his family needs, a bit of land with a house on it, even an old one that he could repair himself, and a small laudoon where he could keep his few goats and fowl.

he was made an offer of a single site on the North side of Dublin, but it would have meant him breaking away from the rest of his family and taking his five children out of School in Milltown.

The County Council own a piece of land in Tallaght with a cottage on it which "Bun" says would put him "on top of the world" if he could get it and even if the Council would level and drain the place where he is at present and helped him to build a house on it there would be at least 13 Irish Citizens taken out of misery and given something to live for.

Why not make a start now by giving one family a chance to improve their health and outlook in life instead of waiting until it's too late to improve either?

The "Bun" is not an unreasonable man, and at this stage in their lives he and Maggie know what will work for their family and what won't, so why don't the officials listen to their advice

and act on it?

If this Government and all the Political leaders are genuine in all their talk of "A Right to Life", let them start by giving the children of "Bun" Connors "A Chance of Life" instead of what they have now: a squalid existence and an uncertain one at that.

If the Review Body Report is to be taken seriously by the Government, then the *particular* needs of *particular* families such as that of "Bun" Connors will have to be met or it's back to the road again for another generation.

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers are only too well aware of the difficulties facing "Bun" Connors' family and many more like them, and will continue through "Pavee" and if needs be taking to the Streets and marching to fight for Government *action* to put things right.

Talk is cheap and if they get away with it, the Government will do nothing but Travellers must be prepared to push their case by joining the Committee and buying "Pavee" and if called upon turn out and march or picket.

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers is answerable *only* to Travellers. It cannot be bought and will not be beaten...



A common sight in and around the Dublin County area. (Photo Tallaght Ecco)

THE BIGOT'S SONG

O for Omagh

A New Song on the Travellers of
Omagh Town

(Please note: Dedicated to Counsellor
Brendan Lynch our Liberty Boy, who
wins this month's prize for Bigot of
the Month.)

(Air: "I long for to get married" — a
fast-moving version of the well-known
"Molly Bawn").

*Oh, Omagh is a famous town,
the jewel of sweet Tyrone.
But forty thieving tinker tribes,
they have made it their home.
We built a fine convenience there
for ladies of high degree,
And tinkers' wives and daughters
shall not share their company.*

*As I went down through Omagh
town, 'twas not so long ago,
There were seven little gipsy
boys, all squatting in a row.
"The toilets are forbid us, sir,
as very well you know,
Our mammy's gone a-begging,
and we've no place else to go"*

*I turned away and chanced to
stray close by the fine Town Hall.
There we seven town councillors and
their Clerk, the bravest of them all.
"Bad cess to all these tinkermen,
their daughters and their mummies,
Their wives and all their aunties,
their nieces and their grannies.
"Why should they use our toilets
when they don't pay any rates?
We'll send them to their residences
outside Omagh's gates
And if they are rude, them and their
brood, we'll clap them all in clink,
For never may the tourists say
the streets of Omagh stink.*

*"Why should we pay for sites I say,
with water and with flush?
'Tis well-known that a tinkerman
is not inclined to wash.
They shouldn't come a-begging
here all for their daily bread.
If they have lack of bread or brack,
can't they eat cake instead?"*

*"On Sunday when we go to church —
this is a Christian town —
We pray for the sick and all the poor,
and them that is trod down.
Likewise we pray for the tinkers,
as sure as God is good,
That they were a hundred miles away,
then we'd love them as we should!"*

THIRD WORLD

TROCAIRE FOR TRAVELLERS

For the first time in its 10 years history Trocaire, who works with deprived peoples of the now-called Third World countries, were brought home to the realities of similar conditions occurring here in Ireland.

Nan Joyce, joint-Chairperson of the Committee spoke on behalf of the Travellers. Nan got a standing ovation after a six minute speech, in which she told the Cardinals, Bishops, Government and other members of the Irish delegation to move on the injustices here in Ireland. The Conference had representatives from 22 other countries who understood Nan's speech because it brought them back to the countries they had just come from. And they could not believe this outrage was happening in Holy Ireland. We now wait to see the response from Trocaire.

We hear Paddy McDonagh from Coolock, who is well known for his craft work all over the country, has been ill in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

QUESTION: What did Dick Spring say to Ruari Quinn when Ruari handed him the Review Body Report.

ANSWER: Ah! thanks just get the cleaner to dust off the 1963 Report and stick that one on top. (Only one thing wrong Dick the Travellers Rights Group will not let the dust settle this time.)

THANKS

We would like to thank those people who sent us letters and words of support after Nan's recent ordeal. Because there were so many we have not the time to answer them all. Keep them coming in though, it keeps the heart up. Thanks again!



Some of the trailers that were on the Tallaght by-pass (Photo Tallaght Ecco)



CITY NEWS

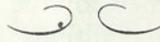
Michael McDonagh, his wife Bridget and their six children (2 boys, 4 girls) who stop in an auld trailer in a molly in Marrowbone Lane, Dublin, got a surprise visit from two nurses on Tuesday 10 May '83. They were enquiring on how healthy their children were. So Michael told them in no polite manner that his children were as healthy as they were, even though the conditions he's forced to live in are very harsh for a 20th century world. So Michael told Pavee, he originally comes from the west of Ireland but has lived in and around Dublin for the last 20 years. So, its not nurses he wants: its a decent suitable place to live. As Travellers we understand the McDonagh's hardships but do the housing authority people sitting in their air-conditioned offices, or are the McDonaghs just another case of Itinerants P....ing against the Wind?



MAYNOOTH

Denis Mahon, who at the time of our report was living in Moyclare Road, Maynooth, and who has reported to the Committee members in Maynooth than in January of this year at 12 midnight, a mob of buffers stood at their trailers after coming home from the local pub, and started to shout "Knackers leave or we will burn ye out of it". They drove up and down a few times, and knocked over their water-cans, and were talking very bad. In the day time they came

back and sped up and down the road. "They don't seem to care about our Children" said Denis. He went on to say that the Committee in Maynooth were the first to stand with them.



APPEAL

The Committee for the Rights of Travellers is made up of both travelling and settled voluntary Rights Workers, with no funding from any group. We would like to make an appeal for funds from you, our readers. You may send your contributions to Pavee or give to your local Pavee dealer.



Pavee is produced by the Committee for the Rights of Travellers at 701 Virginia Heights, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.

COMMITTEE WINS ON TALLAGHT BY-PASS!

After writing to the County Council informing them that an injunction would be taken out against them by the Committee on behalf of the Travellers living on the Tallaght by-pass, the County Council have done the sensible thing and saved money and time - which is unusual for them! They have opened up the three fields which they had previously closed at a cost of thousands of pounds to stop Travellers moving into them. They are not the alternative sites, but they show the power of organising ourselves.

As one voice through the Comm. for the Rights of Travellers, the Travellers are now in the fields at the invitation of the County Council, and will not move on until suitable alternative accommodation is offered.



Mrs Magret Connors from St Francis Park, Rathfarnham with her daughter Kathleen who made her First Holy Communion. Also in the picture is her sisters Elizabeth, Alice, Threasa and her cousin Magaret.

→ REVIEW BODY REPORT

DON'T LET IT LIE ON THE SHELVES LIKE THE 1963 REPORT.

DEMAND ACTION NOW.



Title: Pavee, No. 3

Organisation: Committee for the Rights of Travellers

Date: 1983

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