



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Republican News which Republicans don't like to read

The following are some items of news about Irish republicans and their dark world of crime and evil which did not get the media coverage that they deserved.

#### **Fomer IRA man guilty of sex abuse**

Vincent McKenna, 37, from Haypark Avenue in Belfast was convicted of sexually abusing his daughter Sorcha over a period of eight years, between 1985 and 1993. He was named publicly on Friday after 18-year-old Sorcha waived her right to anonymity. The abuse was said to have happened when the family lived in Monaghan. A jury of seven men and five women found McKenna guilty of the charges after two hours of deliberations, and following a three-day trial at Monaghan Circuit Court. The accused was sentenced to three years in jail. McKenna was a leading spokesman of a campaign for the victims of paramilitary violence for a number of years during the very period he was victimising his own child.

#### **McGuinness 'elected by vote-rigging'**

A former Sinn Fein election organiser has claimed that Martin McGuinness got into politics, thanks to systematic vote-stealing by republicans. Willie Carlin, a key Sinn Fein worker from 1982 to 1985, says a decisive 2,700 votes were cast fraudulently for the present Northern Ireland education minister by party supporters in the 1982 Stormont assembly elections. Later, a party was organised for the election workers and Carlin alleges that a plaque was presented to the person who had voted the most times. The winner, a woman, had cast 67 ballots, just two ahead of the runner-up, he said. Carlin, who was secretly working as a British intelligence agent within Sinn Fein, said he was proud of his role and now supported Sinn Fein. Recently, he returned to Londonderry for the first time in 15 years to show a BBC camera crew how he had organised electoral malpractice with the full knowledge of his British Army paymasters, who believed it would help maintain his cover.

Carlin's revelations were broadcast in the BBC Spotlight current affairs programme. The Spotlight team has invited the two Sinn Fein leaders with whom Carlin worked most closely, McGuinness and Mitchel McLaughlin, to comment, but so far they have not. In his first crucial election in 1982 McGuinness secured 8,207 votes and was elected on the first count.

"We not only ran a system of personation and stealing votes and vote-rigging - we closed polling stations through violence at 8.05pm in Rosemount. When our vote was out, drained and exhausted, personation done, stealing done, we knew we could get no more out of it," Carlin said. "People were told to 'get up there and start a row because there are only SDLP voters left.'" Afterwards, Carlin briefed the Northern Ireland Office on how the Sinn Fein personation campaign was carried out so that it could change the law, bringing in new systems of voter identification to stamp out the abuse. In 1985, Carlin was a community leader in the Gobnascale area of Londonderry and Sinn Fein planned to make him a council candidate. "I am convinced that if I had stayed in place I would now be in Stormont with



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Martin and Mitchel." Carlin's intelligence was valuable because he was able to give his handlers an inside knowledge of Sinn Fein thinking, during a period when the government was in secret contact with the group. "I was told that my reports were sometimes read in cabinet and that they believed I would have gone right to the top of Sinn Fein if I had stayed on." There seems little doubt of that since he had all the qualifications -- a liar, a cheat and closely allied to murder! The Editor.

### **IRA shoot one of their own**

The IRA has shot the brother of Donna Maguire, one of the organisation's most notorious female activists. The shooting has provoked anger and dismay among Maguire's family, with the convicted bomber herself calling for a top-level republican inquiry into the so-called punishment attack. Malachy Maguire was abducted from his car and taken to a nearby children's play area. According to republican sources in the area, Maguire was beaten with iron bars and then shot with a handgun in both his wrists and ankles. The 35-year-old spent most of a week being treated for his injuries in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital. He was then transferred to Newry's Daisy Hill Hospital. Locals said the Provisional IRA was responsible for the attack and that among the gunmen was one of the South Armagh Brigade's most seasoned activists who once worked with Donna Maguire inside the terror group. Maguire and her father, Malachy senior, are understood to be 'furious' over the shooting.

They have demanded a meeting with the IRA leadership and Sinn Fein. One republican source in the area said: 'Donna is going mad about her brother. She's accusing those involved of not really being republicans, of being more interested in lining their own pockets.' The incident received virtually no coverage in the local press despite the relationship between the victim and one of the IRA's most feared and infamous female volunteers.