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FOR THE DEAF



NO. 46.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1986

SWIMMING TRIUMPHS FOR IRELAND AGAIN



Our Swimmers did it again! They won a total of ten medals at the European Championships last July, including three golds by Alan Turner. Pictured above are 1-r, seated: Gaye Regan (2 bronze), June O'Mahony (IDSA Swimming Director and Team Manager), Patricia Melia (2 bronze). Standing: Patrick Quinn (Coach), John Kennedy, Michelle Campbell (2 bronze), John Kealy (1 silver, 2 bronze - he was the youngest swimmer to win a medal at the championships), Padraic Joyce (1 silver, 2 bronze), Geoffrey Foy (1 silver, 1 bronze), Alan Turner (3 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze), Michael Murphy, Paula Moules (2 bronze), Laurence Coogan (IDSA President). Report on Page 17.

RESEARCH ON IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE - Page 3

SR ANDREA - Page 7

VISIT TO MEDJUGORJE - Page 11

A WORLD WAR 2 STORY - Page 19

contact



THE VOICE OF THE IRISH DEAF

ISSN - 0332 - 2491

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September/October 1986 issue:

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Sincere thanks to Barbara LeMaster
for her generous assistance with
typing/editing for this issue.

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The latest date for receiving
reports and news items for the next
issue is 3 October.

Mr Stan Foran,
37 Offaly Road,
Cabra,
Dublin 7.

Articles, news items, letters and
photographs are always welcomed.

@@

Volunteers are urgently wanted for
work on the "Contact" magazine.
Please, see Stan Foran.

@@

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS
MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY
COINCIDE WITH THESE HELD BY
THE EDITORS.



TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION

WHAT IS ELECTRONIC MAIL?

AN electronic mailbox means, that
with the help of a computer and a
modem, you can send/receive messages
or memos (somewhat like what you can
have through the telephone for the
deaf) any time, anywhere in the
world - of course, the people with
whom you are dealing must have
similar equipment. This system is
popular with big business firms.
The following article adapted from
"Practical Computing" discusses some
facts about the electronic mailbox
service.

KEEP IN TOUCH: Electronic mail is
not just for commercial users but
for the individual with a single
micro too. The following article
explains the various systems
available.

SURVEYS confirm what we all
suspect: the postal service is in
decline. Luckily, information tech-
nology is providing a new approach
to correspondence, and one that is
often faster and cheaper than the
postman's sack.

THE answer lies in the telephone.
The telephone network operates well
below capacity for most of the time.
Apart from the peak between 11am and
11:30am during workday mornings, its
daytime use has been estimated at
around 60% of capacity. In the
small hours between midnight and 6am
the system is hardly used at all.

HENCE the present promotion of
electronic mail. You may be
thinking that the new heavyweight
technology that suits big company
budgets is not for you. For them
it is a natural development of
existing commercial services like
"telex" and "fax", and like these
two conventional communications

systems, electronic mail is out of
reach to the private person.

HOWEVER, the micro has brought
word processing down to earth, and
is about to do the same for electronic
mail. The chances are that if you
are reading this, you already have
access to the capital equipment that
represents most of the expense = THE
COMPUTER. A modem need set you
back no more than an additional £50
to £60 (in Britain) unless you want
to be fancy.

THE subscription to the electronic
mail service comes cheaply at, say,
£12 per month, (in U.K.) or even
free if you confine yourself to
correspondence via one of the many
public bulletin boards - see
"PRACTICAL COMPUTING" December 1984.
The only other expense is the cost
of telephone calls, but if your
early enthusiasm carries you away
the phone bill can come as a
terrible shock.

ALTHOUGH it is quite possible to
set up a simple two-way electronic-
messaging system by connecting a
pair of micros together via modems
and the public telephone line, true
electronic mailing comprises a
network of addresses. Like the
conventional telephone system, it
allows you to contact anyone on the
network if you know their identity
code. It is a sophisticated system
that requires at least one
intermediate computer, usually a
mainframe, which provides software
to take care of housekeeping such as
password protection, temporary stor-
age space and message routing

NORMALLY the mainframe remains in
the background and the user is given
the illusion of a straightforward
two-way connection that presents the
recipient's mailbox as a pigeonhole
where messages can be safely left
for minutes, hours or days to await
collection, technically known as
STORE-AND-FORWARD. This way
electronic mail avoids the "he's in
a meeting..." syndrome; you can get
ungarbled messages to people even if
they are not available at the same
time as you are. Correspondence is
almost as quick and casual as the
telephone, but can also be

RESEARCH ON IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE



By Barbara LeMaster.

Some Contact readers may have learned that there is an American in town who has a keen interest in studying the "old" forms of Irish Sign Language. For those of you who are interested, I thought I would write this article to tell you a bit about myself and my background, about the research that brought me to Dublin, and about a lecture series that has been proposed since my arrival.

1. ME AND MY BACKGROUND.

My home is in Santa Monica, California where I have left my husband for the three and one-half months that I will be in Dublin doing research. (You see, I must be very interested in Irish sign language to leave him behind for so long!)

I am currently in the final stages of the doctoral program in Anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.). In other words, I am a graduate student who is working toward the PhD degree. The research I am doing here in Ireland is for my dissertation (i.e., thesis) requirement.

My interest in sign language and the deaf community began 12 years ago when I became interested in studying American sign language in college.

I first used sign language as a form of entertainment by combining dance with the signing of songs on various stages and TV. As I met more and more deaf people I became interested in becoming an interpreter, and later in doing research.

I am a certified (C.S.C.) interpreter and interpreter evaluator in the United States. My work as interpreter, however, has taken a back seat to my research endeavors over the past few years.

As an undergraduate student I did work on American Sign Language (ASL) and the deaf community for my double B.A. in the fields of Linguistics, and Anthropology. While at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), I taught sign language in conjunction with a newly organized course on deaf culture.

Upon graduation from UCB I worked at the American National Association of the Deaf in the Communicative Skills Program. I was the Executive Director of the National Symposium on Sign language Research and Teaching, 1980 (NSSLRT '80). I also assisted two of my deaf bosses who ran the National Consortium of Programs for the Training of Sign Language Instructors (NCPISLI) grant, and I supervised the Sign Instructor's Guidance Network (SIGN) Coordinator.

From the NAD I went to UCLA to work as an interpreter and to help

set up support services for deaf students. Six months later I began my graduate program in Anthropology.

My M.A. focussed on American Sign Language and Deaf ethnicity. Since my visit to Ireland two years ago, I have shifted my doctoral studies to a beginning investigation of Irish Sign Language. I am in Ireland now to collect data for this research.

2. RESEARCH ON IRISH SIGN.

As a linguistic anthropologist I am interested in the interrelations between language, culture, and social identity. My primary area of interest is in language contact results (i.e., language maintenance, language change, language death, etc.)

I was lured to Dublin by the fact that there exists "male" and "female" signs in the vocabularies of older signers, and that it seems that younger people are not learning these distinctions when they do learn to sign.

My study is mostly descriptive with a two-part focus on form and use. In order to carry out this study, I have been asking older community members to sign selected vocabulary for my video camera. This type of structured sign elicitation facilitates a study of language FORM.

In order to understand the USES of sign language, I am interested in

At the invitation of the National Association for the Deaf, Ms Barbara LeMaster, a leading expert, will deliver a series of lectures on various aspects of deafness-related communication/interpretation service in the Dublin Deaf Centre, Rathmines on Saturday & Sunday 30-31 August and on Wednesday evenings 3 & 10 September. Everyone is welcome.

Further details on Page 4.

No lunch will be served at the Deaf Centre, but those, who wish, may bring their pre-packed lunches. Tea will be supplied at the Canteen.

simply observing normal everyday interaction in sign language. To this end, I hope to work very closely with 4 members of your community who are willing to share themselves with me in this way.

Naturally, I am very interested in meeting as many people as possible and in participating in the normal, everyday activities of the community so that I can begin to understand what life is like for Irish deaf people in Dublin.

=* QUESTIONNAIRE *=

I have devised a questionnaire about sign language use and attitudes in your community. If any of you have the time to fill out this questionnaire to help with my research, I would greatly appreciate receiving your input. I would be happy to publish the results of this questionnaire in Contact (if Contact is willing) so that its results will be available to all of you who are interested in this. YOU CAN PICK UP A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE FROM ME ON TUESDAY OR FRIDAY EVENINGS AT THE DUBLIN DEAF CENTRE IN RATHMINES.

For those of you who have been kind enough to help me understand sign language by slowing down for me and fingerspelling a lot, I thank you for your kind concern. I would like to ask everyone now, though, to sign to me as they would sign to another totally deaf, non-speaking person. Let me not understand you. It is the only way that I will ever understand your language. Human beings can only learn language if they have access to that language as it is used by its native users. Though I ask for normal communication in sign, I must add the hedge that when setting dates, times to meet (etc.), it is best to be sure that I understand you.

"Access to communication" brings me to the next topic - the lecture series.

3. A LECTURE SERIES ISSUES IN INTERPRETING AND THE ISSUES IN DEAF - HEARING CONTACT COMMUNITIES FOUNDATIONAL TO THE NEED FOR INTERPRETERS.

Since I have been in Dublin I have been asked to share my knowledge of interpreting, and issues of language contact and social identity as they are present in deaf communities. This sharing will take the form of lectures that are open to all interested persons, both deaf and hearing. Thanks to an honorarium offered by the Irish National Association for the Deaf, I am enabled to take time away from my research schedule to share with the community in this way.

In order to make these lectures available to the largest number of people the majority of lectures will be held in a one weekend conference on 30 and 31 August. The time for these lectures will be from

10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday, and from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday

with appropriate breaks for eye rests and eating.

The 30 & 31 August lectures will focus on a discussion of the commonalities and variation existing in deaf/hearing contact communities. On Saturday the lectures will focus on "deafness in a hearing world—

resultant language variation and the issue of ACCESS to language." On Sunday morning the lectures will focus on "hearingness in a deaf world—contact communication." On Sunday afternoon the lectures will be drawn to a close with a discussion on "independence and dependency—the role of the interpreter in deaf-hearing contact communities." This afternoon session will begin to explore the job of the interpreter, i.e., interpreting versus transliteration.

On Wednesdays 3 and 10 September two more lectures will be provided. These lectures are offered to those who are interested in interpreting issues. I will discuss: "interpreters skills and competencies; role, ethics, and etiquette of interpreting; education and evaluation of interpreters; and practical considerations in employing interpreters." I will not propose any SPECIFIC interpreting policy, but rather will discuss the kinds of general issues that are present regardless of the policy chosen to implement an interpreter training program.

*** Sign Language interpreters will be provided for all lectures.

In closing, I want to thank you all for being so gracious to me and helpful to this research. I hope that the lectures and the research work will be positive contributions to your community. I appreciate all of your "Cead Meade Failte" showing me the warmth of Irish hospitality.

Darlene discusses some points about the interpretation service

10 JULY, 1986—A TALK BY DARLENE ALLEN, CO-ORDINATOR OF INTERPRETER TRAINING AT PIERCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (LA, CALIFORNIA. USA)

Darlene Allen has been teaching sign language for 14 years and teaching interpreting for 7 years. She holds a B.A. in (hearing)

theatre and a M.A. in (deaf) theatre from California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

Darlene felt very welcomed by all of you who knew about and were interested and able to attend her talk on the evening of 10 July,

1986. She and I both offer our heartfelt thanks to Jacinta O'Reilly who unselfishly gave up her role as participant to interpret for us. "Thank you, Jacko!"

For those of you who were unable to attend, following is a brief summary of her background and then a presentation of the highlights of her talk.

Darlene is the Co-ordinator of the two-year interpreter training program at Pierce Community College in a suburb of Los Angeles (I don't remember which one), California, USA. Her Irish ancestry ("O'Riley") instilled in her a longtime dream to visit Ireland which was finally realized this summer. Darlene spent 3 weeks touring Eire, and then willingly shared her last night with those of us who attended her talk.

Darlene's "talk" was really more of a question and answer session. Following are highlights from this.

1) Question from the audience (Q): Why don't I understand deaf people when they sign to me?

Answer from Darlene (A): There are several possible reasons for not understanding sign language when you have studied sign.

a) A HEARING PERSON'S EYES. Your eyes belong to a hearing person's body. Your eyes need to be trained to notice important visual distinctions in movement which can only be accomplished through total reliance on your eyesight, without any auditory crutches. (Darlene then demonstrated an eye "warm up" technique.)

b) EAR CRUTCH. Rely only on your eyes when learning sign language. People who talk while they sign to you are not helping you learn to sign. Instead, you learn to depend on their voices.

c) LANGUAGE VARIATION. Don't expect to understand every individual variation of sign language. Everyone signs with his or her own

unique style. Your teachers cannot be so clairvoyant that they will be able to teach you every variation of sign language that you will ever encounter. Don't expect this. Instead, expect to not understand people at first. Understanding will come with familiarity of individual's variations over time.

Also, don't always expect to know every single sign that someone uses. Hearing people don't expect to know every single word that is used in spoken English. We learn to understand a lot through the context of what someone is talking about. For instance, if I were to say that I went to the Blitzcreek today, you may not know what a Blitzcreek is. Yet if I told you that I saw lions, and tigers, and bears, and pandas, and birds, and monkeys, and that they were all in cages, you would probably assume that my word for zoo is BLITZCREEK! (It is not, of course. This is just a hypothetical example.)

d) BE PATIENT! Sign language learners are the most impatient language learners. Would you expect to understand, speak and be an interpreter of Russian and English after a 10 week course in the Russian language? Of course not. Then why should you expect to learn sign language any quicker?

2. Q. Why is the interpreter slower than the speaker?

A. There are several possible reasons for this. We call this time delay the TIME LAG.

a) PROCESSUAL LAG. Some of our best interpreters stay behind the speaker. We call this the "time lag." The nature of the interpreting task is such that time between the utterances of the speaker and the rendering of its interpretation into sign language requires time to perform. We must realize that the process of interpreting involves the taking of the CONCEPTS that the speaker or

signer is communicating, and then these CONCEPTS are TRANSLATED in the interpreter's brain into the most APPROPRIATE way to convey the same concepts in the words or signs of the audience's language.

b) STYLE LAG. The length of the time lag between the interpreter and speaker is often a matter of interpreter style. Some of the very best American interpreters use a very long time lag between their signing and the speaker's utterances and between the signer's utterances and their spoken rendition of the signed communication. This time lag is used to fully understand the message, the CONCEPT that the speakers are conveying BEFORE interpreting them properly. The time lag is often necessary in order to interpret the message correctly. If someone is right with the speaker, they are either transliterating, or they run the risk of misinterpreting concepts.

c) NEGATIVE SKILL LAG. In tonight's case, both interpreters are still learning your sign language—granted, one is much newer at your language than the other. Their time lag is probably mostly due to an insufficient knowledge of your language. People must be fluent in BOTH languages, and then have training or lots of experience interpreting between the two languages before they will be able to be fluent interpreters.

With this in mind, we must take a minute to recognize that neither of our interpreters came to this talk tonight AS INTERPRETERS. Each came AS A PARTICIPANT just as all of you came here tonight. It was out of a need for interpreters, some coaxing, and a final willingness on their parts that we were lucky enough to have their help as volunteers.

We needed more than one interpreter because the job is very tiring. We have learned in America that 45 minutes to an hour is the longest time that a person should interpret non-stop—it is even

better to interpret for shorter periods (20 to 30 minutes at a time). Interpreting is very hard on the brain and the body. Periodic rests are necessary.

3. Q. Shouldn't interpreters make the speakers language simple if it is too hard even for hearing people to understand?

A. DEAF RIGHTS. No. Deaf people have the right to not understand, too. It is the RIGHT and RESPONSIBILITY of deaf people to ask the speaker to change his or her language to a more simple form, or to request clarification.

The interpreter's job is to make sure that his or her signing is clear. An interpreter is not to alter the speaker's message in any way, e.g., by simplifying, by softening, etc.

4. Q. Should the interpreter make deaf people pay attention to the interpreter, and if ignored, then leave?

A. A PROFESSIONAL interpreter gets paid to be a communication facilitator, that's all. Deaf people have the right to daydream, think about their birthday party later that day, or otherwise not attend to the speaker just in the same way that hearing people have this right. The interpreter may feel unwanted, but his or her job is to stay and to interpret—even if to a wall. An interpreter gets paid to provide translations, not to censure behavior.

5. Darlene addressed the issue of the use of SMOCKS by interpreters. (A "smock" is a plain coloured jacket/top/tunic that contrasts nicely with the skin colour of the interpreter.)

SMOCKS: PROS AND CONS

Interpreters are most comfortably watched when wearing a solid coloured top (blouse, jumper, tunic...) that contrasts well with

his or her skin colour (i.e., darker colours for white people and lighter colours for black people).

PROs

1) PERSONHOOD VERSUS PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER STATUS. A smock helps to separate when your friend is signing to you for himself or herself and when your friend has become the "mouthpiece" of the speaker as interpreter. When the smock is off, the person is himself or herself—a person with individual thoughts, etc. But, when the smock is ON, the person BECOMES the interpreter and is no longer talking for himself or herself.

2) INSTANT INTERPRETER. A smock lets a person be appropriately dressed whenever the need for an interpreter arises. For instance, the interpreter may have awoken one morning thinking that he or she did not have to interpret that day and so dressed in a wild geometric patterned top. Then later in the day he or she was asked to interpret professionally. If this person has a smock then all he or she needs to do is to slip it over his/her wild geometric top and—"instant interpreter."

CONs

PATRONIZING ATTITUDE FURTHER SUPPORTED. Smocks often look

clinical (e.g., like a nurse's uniform) furthering the patronizing image of "helping the deaf."

COMMENT: A MATTER OF STYLE. There is NO REASON why interpreter smocks have to look so ugly, dowdy and clinical—they just have so far. With a stylish smock an interpreter can SHED the negative patronizing image while PRESERVING all of the benefits that a smock offers to interpreters.

FINAL COMMENT: PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER VERSUS THE HELPER WHO VOLUNTEERS TO INTERPRET WHEN NO PROFESSIONALS CAN. Our expectations of interpreter manner and skill must differ between what we expect of professionals who often get paid for their jobs, and what we expect of those friends, family members and others who are non-professional volunteers helping out.

A FINAL NOTE FROM BARBARA

As a final note, I want to say that the highlights offered here from Darlene Allen's talk are a byproduct of my memory. I did not take notes and I have not been able to check these notes with Darlene. Nonetheless, being very familiar with all of the issues raised, I feel that I have accurately represented the sentiments of Darlene's comments.

I did not bring Darlene's work address with me to Ireland. I have written to her for it, and hope to have it published in the next issue of CONTACT so that any of you wishing to contact her directly can do so.

Barbara LeMaster

EDITOR: Grateful thanks to both Barbara & Darlene for having so kindly given their precious time to share their profound expertise with us all. What we have learned will be utilised by us in the course of time. Thank you both again.

A larger part of the human brain is devoted to controlling the thumb than dealing with the chest or stomach.

N Coyne



SISTER ANDREA has been made Mother Prioress of Dominican Convent, Cabra on 17 June. That means she is no longer the Principal of the School for Deaf Girls which she has been for twelve years.

HER duties as the Prioress are enormous. She is in charge of all the schools on the Cabra grounds. Deaf Schools (St Mary's, St Pius and Holy Rosary) are included. Of course, she looks after all the nuns in the convent. She is known as the "School Manager".

HER move is a tremendous loss to the deaf - not only deaf children but the teachers and all the staff of St. Mary's and past pupils of the school. The news re her change shocked us and we were all very upset because we did not think she would ever be changed. She has been with the deaf for twenty seven years. She is one of very few nuns with rich experience about deaf education - but, alas, God's ways are strange.

SR. ANDREA came to St. Mary's in September, 1959 and began her teaching career with very young deaf children. Over the years she taught young ones, she spent a few years teaching in St. Pius School. She was appointed Principal in 1974 and had been a very efficient, caring and hard - working Principal - not only in her office, but teaching many Post Primary Classes, attending numerous meetings, listening to and giving advice to the Staff, pupils and parents all day long, etc., etc.

HER kindness to the deaf is very well known. She has been especially kind to deaf old people in

Stillorgan. Her weekly trips were a special treat to them. They always looked forward to her visits. Misses Molloy and Walsh, two retired deaf teachers have not forgotten Sr. Andrea's kindness in driving them and few others all the way to Co. Clare to visit Rose Mc Ternan R.I.P. a few times when she was ill.

SR. ANDREA has always offered her free time to interpret for the deaf at various functions, especially at our Annual Retreats in Dublin. Recently she has helped the priests and Sr. Bernadette by going down to the country to visit the deaf. We were hoping that she would be appointed to be Sr. Bernadette's helper. She has a special way with the deaf - the past pupils were hoping for another visit from her.

SR ANDREA has a wonderful understanding about the deaf. She was always very fond of the little ones, always showed consideration towards everybody - both young and old, deaf and hearing. She will be sorely missed, yet we are very proud of her being chosen as the Prioress.

WE wish Sr Andrea every success and happiness in her new job. We will always keep her in our prayers. We will be looking forward to having her back in a few year's time. We hope the Community (nuns) will not keep her for ever as she belongs to the deaf. One old nun said that Sr Andrea is God's property so we must realise that God always knows what he is doing. We all loved Sr Andrea very much and always will. We are deeply grateful to her for everything she has done for all of us.

Maura Buckley

** SR. ROSEANNE, O.P. has been appointed Principal of St Mary's. She has been a teacher of the deaf for many years. We wish her well in her new job.

Boss to Manager

TO anyone, other than the staff of Saint Mary's, Cabra, the two titles, "Boss" and "Manager" are virtually

synonymous. However, as a member of St Mary's Staff, let me assure the reader of how the recent news, that Sister Andrea, O.P., (our "Boss") was to move from the position of Headmistress to the position of Mother Prioress of Dominican Convent, Cabra (our "Manager"), was greeted by us with a mixture of consternation yet inevitable pride and satisfaction.

"CONSTERNATION"because we have been so privileged over the past 12 years to have had a "boss" who was a mixture of efficiency, fairness, consideration and caring at the "helm" of our schools (St. Pius, Holy Rosary and Saint Mary's)...attributes made possible only by one who could come out smiling from a 25 hour day, 365 days a year. Who else could give the appropriate and genuine degree of concern to a tearful profoundly deaf four year old child with a very, very "SORE" knee, (which the ordinary mortal would be hard pressed to find with a magnifying glass), while at the same time be available to lend a sympathetic ear to a member of staff, eager to off-load a worry or a moan where one was always certain of patient listening followed by sound advice.

TO come back to the second part of our reaction to the news of "The Big Move", (as it will be called henceforth)...i.e. "our pride and satisfaction" - for, while we are aware of the above-mentioned qualities of the "Boss", we now know, by this honour conferred on her, that these qualities have not gone unnoticed, and our (temporary) loss, is to be her Community's gain.

WE wish her well in our thoughts and prayers - we will find it difficult to make the transition - rumour has it that there will be some among us returning in September armed with teddy-bears and favourite blankets, to "help us through the first few days"... treat us kindly if you come across us during that difficult time. We shall be rather fragile, as we have been so well cared for during the past 12 years.

Mary Burgess.

NEWSROUND

NEW DIRECTOR

Br Bernard A McGettrick was appointed Director, Diploma Courses in Education of the Deaf and Audiology, at University College, Dublin, following the retirement of Sr M Nicholas Griffey, O.P.

Br McGettrick has been attached to the school for the deaf in Cabra since 1971. Before coming to Cabra he taught in Mullingar and Galway. He has taught in the school for the deaf in Cabra and has been a member of the assessment team in the schools for the deaf in Dublin. For the past two years he has been helping Sr Nicholas with the running of the courses for the Deaf.

He is a teacher of the deaf with experience in teaching both deaf and hearing children. He also has degrees in Psychology, and has experience in clinical and educational psychology.

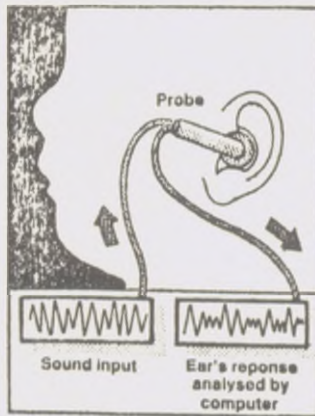
BEST WISHES from Contact to Br McGettrick in his new post.

Electronic Check on Babies' Hearing

An electronic probe minute enough to be placed in the ear of a newborn baby to check hearing has been invented by a researcher in London.

Clinical trials with more than 150 patients have indicated that the device is invaluable in helping to diagnose hearing impediments in infants and mentally retarded children who cannot give the examining doctor any assistance. The unit also provides a quick method of demonstrating to adults that their hearing is impaired.

The device has derived from work performed by Dr David Kemp at the institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology, part of London University, based at the Royal National Throat,



Nose and Ear Hospital.

The technique depends on the ear's reaction to sound. A part of the inner ear, the cochlea, translates sound waves into wave impulses for the brain. However, it not only absorbs sound but can also emit a faint echo of the original sound. The new detector collates these echoes and analyses the emitted waves.

A probe containing a loudspeaker and microphone is placed inside the ear and 50 clicking sounds per second transmitted down the probe for half a minute.

The inner ear echoes are analysed by a computer and the characteristics of the ear determined. The results will show the frequencies the ear cannot hear. Inability to hear high frequencies is a characteristic of deafness. There are seven million people in Britain with some form of hearing defect. There have also been instances of children whose hearing impediments have remained undetected for years, giving their parents and teachers a false impression of their intellectual abilities.

Tony Moore

An 11 year old deaf girl, one of the seven students attending special classes at an Ohio school has filed a suit demanding that the Ohio Board of Education integrate her into conventional classes by providing an interpreter to translate sounds into signs. According to her father federal laws require that Ohio public schools pay the cost of this service.

M Mannion

Glue Ear A STICKING POINT FOR DOCTORS.

GLUE ear is the fashionable reason for middle-class children to be less than brilliant at school. This is the cynical interpretation of one side of a heated debate in the British Medical Journal, which started earlier in the summer with an article by Dr Nick Black, a community physician from Oxford.

DR BLACK suggests a number of reasons for the current "epidemics" of glue ear (accumulation of sticky liquid in the middle ear in children under 10) and the surgical draining of the fluid and the temporary insertion of grommets to ventilate the ear, afterwards. In most children glue ear sorts itself out and, at worst, leads to a few weeks' slight deafness. In a minority the difficulties may be more permanent.

AMONG the controversial reasons Dr Black puts forward for the doubling of the rate of surgery from 1975 to 1983 in some parts of the country, is not that there is a real increase in the incidence but, rather, that glue ear is diagnosed more frequently and treated more aggressively, making the increase cosmetic.

ONE reason could be that more advanced hearing tests have become widely available in the last decade; another that surgeons had to do something to fill the vacuum caused by the decline in the number of operations to remove tonsils and adenoids, so popular in the 1960s.

THE most controversial suggestion is that glue ear may give parents a respectable medical explanation for their children's rotten school records, as dyslexia did in the past. "The high rates of surgery among higher social classes may result from middle-class parents seeking to attribute to medical reasons their child's failure to meet the expectations for development and education", Dr Black writes.

IN support of this he cites the results of a private screening

clinic for educational underachievement which reported that 99 per cent of children screened suffered from glue ear.

DR BLACK also argues that the long-term effectiveness of surgical treatment is not known and that, quite possibly, inserting grommets may do permanent damage.

THE medical profession could not take this lying down and since the original article was published the correspondence columns of the BMJ have been bursting with opposing views.

A number of correspondents agree that grommeting is carried out too often but say that it is a price worth paying: the procedure may prevent young people suffering from painful and debilitating chronic middle ear infections and it may be responsible for the current decline in adult ear operations.

ANOTHER doctor says the increase in the incidence of glue ear is real - not apparent - and can be blamed on the long-term use of antibiotics and decongestants which, far from clearing childhood ear infections, exacerbate the symptoms.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF

Successful Cycle

The National Association for the Deaf Cycle around Ireland in July, sponsored by Merrion Computer Systems and endorsed by International Cyclist, Sean Kelly was an enormous success. The cycle team completed nearly 800 miles through 23 counties in both the Republic and Northern Ireland from July 11th to 19th publicising the cause of the deaf.

The cycle was officially started by the Lord Mayor, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, at the Mansion House, and the cyclists wearing specially designed and printed Tee Shirts, were



Anton Mazer (left) presenting an inscribed picture of cycling superstar Sean Kelly to Tony Reynolds, Development Officer of NAD to promote their National Cycle from July 11 to 19.

observed by thousands and great interest was created in each town when the team halted - official receptions were held in Portlaoise, Enniscorthy, Tipperary, Galway, Castlebar, Sligo, Longford and Newry. We were warmly greeted by members of the National Association for the Deaf branches and the local deaf everywhere we went. The deaf in the various regions expressed disappointment that there were no deaf among our group but that they were delighted to meet all who were taking part.

At a press reception on 28 July 1986 all the cyclists who took part expressed a wish that the cycle become an annual event. Martin Caffney received the Sean Kelly merit award for his part in this memorable event.

Conferences in Finland

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH. Lappeenranta, Finland, July 15-19, 1987.

The aims of the 4th International Symposium on Sign Language Research

is to gather sign language researchers from all parts of the world to discuss the structure and use of sign language and general problems related to sign language research.

Call for papers on unpublished recent research. Submit to address below by February 15, 1987. One abstract per first presenting author. Acknowledgements of acceptance or refusal mailed by April 1987.

Write to following address by November 1, 1986 for 2nd announcement and further information.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH - OFFICE
P.O. BOX 189
SF-00171 HELSINKI
FINLAND

WFD CONGRESS

The Tenth World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf will be held in Helsinki immediately following the above Symposium on July 20-28, 1987.

Deafness caused by Drug Addiction

A Doctor's wife who became a drug addict after being treated with painkillers, began forging her husband's signature on private prescriptions, Mr David Waters, prosecuting, told Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

In five years Mrs Heather Jackson, 35, of Meadowbank, Blackheath, used nearly 300 bogus prescriptions to obtain 62,000 tablets. She had become almost totally deaf as a result of side effects.

Mr Waters said that in 1980 Mrs Jackson was treated with Fortral painkillers for a wrist ailment,

tinosynovitis. After two years she became addicted and doctors put her on to Distalgesic tablets.

She became hooked on the new drug and began forging prescriptions. The offences came to light when a pharmacist told police of her suspicions.

Hospital Treatment

Mrs Jackson was admitted to hospital to be weaned off the drugs, but after three weeks she forged another prescription and was arrested.

She told police: "I started to take more and more of the tablets to get relief from pain. I realised I had become addicted but by then it was too late."

Mrs Jackson admitted eight charges of forgery and using a forged instrument between November 1980 and May 1985. She asked for a further 283 offences to be considered. She was remanded on bail for medical and probation reports.

Mr Nicholas Hoffman, defending, said that deafness was not a recognised side-effect of Distalgesic abuse. Mrs Jackson was now to be the subject of a medical paper.

Deaths

DORA DELANEY, Kildare & Dublin in her sixties, last November. She was brother of the late Harry Delaney.
JIM CONNOLLE, Clare, 79, last February.

SEAN LAWLESS, Dublin, 61, last June.
MRS SHORTLAND, 90, last June in U.K. Widow of the late Mr Shortland, Cork & Dublin - they had a family of 4.
MRS JOSIE HEALY, nee Mannix, Cork, on 26 June in London after a long illness. She was brother of the late Jerry Mannix. They were distant cousins of the famed late Archbishop Mannix of Melbourne. Father of Colette O'Sullivan, Cork last June.

MARGARET DUNNE, Cork & Dublin, in her eighties on 5 August after a long illness. She was aunt of Eugene, Gerry & Fergus Dunne.

Births

DAUGHTER for Joseph & Jennifer Stringer, Dublin on 11 July - Elizabeth, their second daughter.

DAUGHTER for John & Mary O'Connor, Cork on 2 May - Lisa Mary.

DAUGHTER for Conor & Breda (nee Hickey) Brosnan, Cork on 7 July - Alma, their first child.

Model Mary

MARY has had a lot to overcome but she hasn't let her disability ruin her life. The second youngest in a talkative family of six, she has learned to lipread very well. With partial hearing and hearing aids she has few problems of communication.

Living in Knocknaheeny, a suburb of a bustling Cork city, her interests are similar to those of any girl of her age - nightclubs, the cinema - and animals have a special niche in her heart.

INTELLIGENCE and ambition also play their role in Mary's life. The family are currently waiting for a letter from AnCO which they hope can help Mary in her wish to dress-design. And working with her for a day proved she has a good eye for style and colour.

We began the day with a visit to Peter Marks, in the Queens Old Castle centre, Grand Parade. Stylist Declan Corcoran coloured, snipped and shaped, and already we could see a model in the making.

NEXT stop was make-up. Karina Ward, of Face and Figure, Pembroke Street, took time to talk to Mary about colour and shading, and produced a look that was 18, but a glamorous 18 at that.

EXCLUSIVE

CLOTHES presented no problems at all. With Mary, her mother, and the staff of Swamp (Patrick Street), we came up with the latest in summer style - the Out-of-Africa look (which is exclusive to Swamp and presented the whole outfit to Mary after the shoot was over.

FOR the more sophisticated look we finally chose Frances Dineen, of the Savoy Centre. Her exclusive range of up-market clothes gave us the perfect choice. With Frances's help, Mary finally chose a beautiful polyester silk dress, which suited her wonderfully, matching her face and figure, and setting off the hair and make-up perfectly.



Mary O'Mahony with Lord Mayor of Cork, Mr Dan Wallace.

RELAX

NOW for the hard part - the Shoot. But difficult it was not. With glorious weather, and perfect setting, Mary was relaxed in front of the camera, and seemed to enjoy the admiring, envious glances from passers-by.

THE recently opened Bishop Lucey Park, with its green stretches and unusual fountain looked made-to-order for the Swamp Out-of-Africa look. And as Mary relaxed in the sunshine, posing for the camera seemed to come naturally.

MARY may have just been a model for a day, but let's hope her future is helped, in some way by the experience. Though her brother wrote the letter which set the ball rolling, it was Mary herself who made the day such fun. She proved that being deaf doesn't mean you can't be glamorous, or as fashion conscious as the best of the rest.

Sunday World 1/6/1986
(Sent by Valerie Moore, Cork)



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WHAT WE SAW IN MEDJUGORJE

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MY visit to Medjugorje was a marvellous and rewarding experience which left a lasting impression on me. I have been absolutely convinced of the presence of Our Lady in the Village and all the sightings reported by the young Visionaries are genuine.

THESE apparitions began some five years ago. Our Lady revealed herself to six young people on the some 300-foot high Podbrdo Hill. Her simple message said "I am the Blessed Virgin Mary".

DURING many subsequent appearances she laid particular stress on four aims viz:-

1. PRAYER
2. PENANCE
3. FASTING
4. PEACE

THESE she said were necessary to divert people from their purely Materialistic outlook of life and to devote their lives to the love of God and their Neighbour. This certainly has happened in the village of Medjugorje and the faith of the people in the area has to be seen to be believed.

OUR LADY has laid special emphasis on Prayer as part of our daily lives. The many forms it can take include prayer from the heart, reading the Bible or devotional books, attending Mass, saying the Rosary, etc.



OUR LADY OF HELP.

THE Mass is the best form of prayer, but as I cannot hear Mass, I like to say a decade of the Rosary or even a few Hail Marys when I get the chance. One thing which came across very forcibly to me at Medjugorje was the infinite love Our Lady has for all the Human Race regardless of Colour, Class or Creed. At Medjugorje I felt our Lady's presence as something, very real and close to me.

I was privileged to be in the apparition room when our Lady revealed herself to the Visionaries (but not to me) and as I left the room I felt a peace one had to experience to understand. It was a moment I will never forget.

THE many outward signs of something unusual such as dancing of the Sun, the disappearance and re-appearance of the Large Cross on the Hill all help to confirm the inward feelings once you arrive in Medjugorje (I didn't see all of these things).

THE message of Medjugorje to me can be simply summarised. Turn back to God and renounce the materialistic outlook so prevalent nowadays. Prayer, fasting and penance are essential to achieve the deep faith that is now so evident in this little Yugoslavian Village

Jack Coleman, Cork



Podbrdo hill, scene of the first apparition on 24 June 1981

A TALE OF TWO GIRLS

THE first is Vicka, smiling, laughing, full of fun. Her face is pale, though, and you will be told that she suffers from a serious illness, a cyst on the brain. At present it looks as if the illness won't be cured. And she is only about 21 years old.

I first saw Vicka on a television video. She smiled and laughed as

she was asked questions about her life. ".....The will of God is what matters. I didn't know if the Church would have such a nun as I am", she said with a charming smile. She and her friends see and speak to our Lady every day and have been doing so for the last five years. Yes, I'm writing about the visionaries of Medjugorje in Yugoslavia.

ON May 12 of this year I met Vicka in her own house in a small, mountain village not much more than a mile from the Church of St. James, Medjugorje. I had been climbing the hill of the apparitions with a lady from Co Cork called Margaret when a very Irish thing happened - it started to rain cats and dogs. We tried to shelter but that was no use. So we went back down the hill to the little village below and Margaret said to me, "I want to give Vicka a rosary beads I got for her."

HER family had already been pointed out to me so we went up to the door and knocked. Vicka answered it herself and when she saw us dripping in the rain she asked us in. We sat around the family table with Vicka's cousin and a friend about her own age who wore a small red rose in her hair just above her ear. Her cousin made coffee for us and we appreciated the warm drink inside us after the soaking we'd got outside.

MARGARET gave her the rosary she had brought as a gift and then Vicka got up and brought out a hair-dryer and began to dry Margaret's hair. While this was going on another lady from our Irish group came in and when Margaret's hair was dry, Vicka sat the next lady down and dried her hair also.

ARE you wondering whether she dried my hair too? It would have been nice, of course, but I have so little hair left that there was no real chance of it.

BY this time quite a large group of Irish people had gathered at the door of the house and Vicka went out and had her photo taken with them while the rest of us went away.

I wondered whether she gets tired of being pestered? I know there are times when the cyst on her brain gives her terrible headaches and she has to lie down for days on end. Yet she was very pleasant and

welcoming with all the visitors who came and that is part of what Our Lady asked of the visionaries. It is particularly Vicka's gift in spite of her illness.

LATER that day I saw her in the sacristy as we were vesting for Mass. She came in smiling and shaking hands with the priests she knew. Then two of the altar-boys, two brothers from Co Meath, came over to give her a kiss and she kissed them on both cheeks.

:+++++:++++:

AND what about Maria (spelt Marija)? Twenty-one years old, quiet, shy, afraid of publicity but deeply involved in the events of Medjugorje, deep in faith and prayer.

SLIGHTLY afraid to say hello to me when I passed her on the road one evening, afraid of being pestered, perhaps, or afraid of extraordinary requests being made of her. A few evenings later I saw that she had good reason. As she emerged from the room after the apparitions two Italian ladies forced themselves on her. One of them caught her hand and tried to place it on some pious material she carried in a plastic bag. Maria had to be protected by a fairly bulky Franciscan priest as she hurried down the steps leaving the two Italian women groaning in protest and one Frenchwoman stranded before she had even got launched.

A few minutes afterwards I met Maria in the sacristy where she was giving out the red stoles for the concelebrated Mass of St. Matthias. Her face was still radiant from her vision and prayer, her cheeks flushed, her eyes shining. Not surprising really, considering the intensity of prayer in the room of the apparitions.

THE four Irish priests in our group were invited into the room of the apparitions one evening. We

were Frs Con Murphy, a Columban working in Korea, Richard Hurley, the leader of our Pilgrimage, and Denis Cashman, both of Cork diocese, and myself. Others in the room included one French priest, one American, two Italian and Fr Slavko, a Franciscan from Medjugorje. About nine or ten lay pilgrims completed our numbers with one of the Franciscan sisters and Maria, the only visionary present.

FOR about three-quarters of an hour we prayed the rosary and sang hymns. The person giving out the decade did so in his own language and then we all answered in our native tongue. So the decades were given out in Croatian, Italian, French, English and Irish. Meanwhile outside the window in the yard below a large crowd had gathered to pray and sing in union with us.

ALL this preparation of prayer reflects the teaching of Our Lady at Medjugorje. Because we are so wrapped up in our own projects and interests we need time to 'tune in' to God by prayer. So as the time came to 6.45pm, Maria got up and stood in front of a bookshelf where as well as books there are some religious pictures and statues. Maria began the Our Father in her own Croatian language but she had only got about half-way through when she stopped suddenly and fell on her knees. She prayed in complete silence and stillness for the next fifteen minutes or so. Everybody in the room did the same.

I closed my eyes to pray, but I opened them once or twice to see whether the vision might appear to me. It did not. So I closed my eyes again and the strongest prayer that came to me was:

"Lord, fill me with your love.
Mary, fill me with your love.
Lord, fill me with your love."

I repeated these over and over again and felt my heart go quite warm. I

Peace on Earth



shall remember Maria and Medjugorje.

Fr Bill Clarke, C.M.
St Vincent's, Sunday's Well, Cork.

Sunday Mass in Cork

Sunday Masses in St Catherine's Club, 5 McCurtain St., Cork will be resumed every 1st Sunday of the month at 5pm, starting on Sunday 7 September, 5 October, 2 November, 7 December.



A happy and proud couple, Dean and Kathleen McDonagh with their daughter Maeve on the day of her baptism.
Fr Doyle.



Tony Griffin and Marion McMorow, all smiles on their wedding day in Ballybunion. I'm sorry I have not got a photo showing the surprise on their face when they arrived at their honeymoon hotel in Salthill to find Fr Gerry Doyle, who officiated at their wedding, and ten other Deaf people were already booked in before them. We wish them well in America, but hope they'll come safely home in three years time.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 7 Mass 7.30pm Dublin club
Mass 5.00pm Cork Club
Sun 14 Limerick Retreat
Sat 27 Feast of St Vincent De Paul

OCTOBER

- Sun 5 School T.V. Mass
Mass 5 pm Cork Club
Sun 5 DUBLIN RETREAT 7.30pm
The Retreat continues each evening except Wednesday at 8.00pm.
Sun 12 Close of Dublin retreat at 7.30pm.

Fr Eamon Cowan C.M. will give the retreat this year. As usual, it will be held in St Mary's College, Rathmines.

Itinerary of the Birmingham Pilgrimage to Knock

August

- 30 Coach arrives in Dublin
31 Leaves Dublin at 9.30 am for Signed Mass & Lunch in Athlone Arrives Orena Hotel, Co Mayo at 5pm.

Sept

- 1 Tour of Claremorris, (Signed

- Mass in Cong), Westport & Castlebar.
2 Knock Shrine
3 Galway (Warwick Hotel, Salthill)
4 Tour to Clare
Mass in Lisdoonvarna
5 Coach leaves for Dublin at 9.30am
6 All day in Dublin
7 Departure for England

Tony Moore

CLUBSCENE

ENNIS

POOLS & DARTS TOURNAMENT

POOLS & DARTS Tourney will be held in Ennis on Saturday 1 November, followed by a buffet dance. Everyone is welcome.

J. T. Neylon

BALLINASLOE

DINNER DANCE

BALLINASLOE Midlands Club is hosting a dinner dance in Hayden's Hotel, Ballinasloe on Saturday 1 November at 8pm sharp. Admission by ticket - £12. Disco, spot prizes, games, etc. Book with me at 18 St Michael's Place, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

WE enjoyed attending the T.T. tournament in Galway - congrats to that stalwart champ, Peter Nea. Thanks to the Galway Deaf Club for giving us an enjoyable buffet disco.

OUR Annual retreat attracted over 30 people including Tom Burke, London, Jim Barrett of Mullingar, Mick Rooney of Bundoran & Matt Sweeney, Roscommon.

CONGRATULATIONS to Frank Gannon & Mary Monks who married recently. BEST Wishes to the recently re-opened Limerick Deaf Club.

OUR Club is open on Fridays, 7.30pm - 11 pm and on 3rd Sunday of the month 3pm - 11pm. All welcome. M. Flaherty

BELFAST WEDDING

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to John McGouran, Belfast and Ann Murphy, Monaghan & Belfast who have married recently.

KILKENNY

WELCOME TO THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT
OUR Club is delighted to welcome the players taking part in Leinster 5-a-side Indoor Football and Ladies' Basketball competitions, starting at 10 am on Saturday 20 September - in the Leisure Centre at St Kieran's College, Kilkenny. Also, there will be open Pitch & Putt as well as a match between Leinster & Munster in St Canice's Hospital grounds.

THEN, there will be a Dinner-dance in Club House Hotel from 8pm - 2am. Be seeing you all there. Michael Muldowney, Organiser.

CORK

OUR annual outing on 21 June last was to Bunratty Castle of great historical interest, near Shannon Airport. We also visited the Craggaunowen Project and Lahinch - no one went for a swim as the sea was too choppy, but, still, we enjoyed the day in spite of the cloudy skies and showers. CONGRATULATIONS to John & Mary O'Connor and Conor & Breda Brosnan who have become proud parents recently.

BEST Wishes to Nellie O'Sullivan of Glengariff (nee Murphy) who is recovering after suffering two fractures in her leg. Mary Moynihan.

DUBLIN

APPEAL

IN order to keep abreast with The Hearing Friends in fund-raising for the building of a New Centre, every deaf person in Dublin have a duty to help the DDF by giving £50 from either a personal donation or fund-raising activities. In this way, the fund will grow rapidly, it is not difficult..

(See any DDF committee member for details)



John L Stuart, England and Catherine Power, Dublin who were married on 14 June.



New Parents: Bernard & Susan O'Reilly with their son, Shane.

ANNUAL SPORTS

IT was nice to see a good number of visitors from the country mingling with the Dublin crowd at the Annual Sports which were held in showery conditions.

CONGRATULATIONS to two newcomers, Anne Newe and David Walsh on winning the Perpetual Trophies for Best Female and Male Athletes

BARBARA LE MASTER of USA who is doing the research of Sign Language in Ireland for 3 months, presented the prizes.



At the Farewell Party for Sr Andrea: with her are l-r, (Seated) Alice Kidd, Breda Murtagh, Eileen Dineen. (Standing) Anne McArdle, Claire Ruddy & Peggy Foran, all on the St Mary's, Cabra staff.

CONGRATULATIONS

THE young People's Club is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this September and is now expanding with some 70 members on its roll. Keep it up.

WELL DONE I.D.S.A

THE Swimmers won a total of 10 medals in the European Championships in which two of our members Patricia Melia and Gaye Regan participated - the first time ever, adults had successful participation.

OVER to you, the footballers, now it is your turn to win the medals. Con Lynch



Their happy day: The pupils of St Joseph's, Cabra after making their First Communion last June. Photo by Fr Doyle.

FOR YOUR DIARY

ENNIS

NOVEMBER

- 1 Pools & Darts Tournament, followed by a buffet disco.

BALLINASLOE

NOVEMBER

- 1 Dinner dance in Ballinasloe - see Clubscene

DUBLIN DEAF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST

- 23 Football Club Review/Social meeting - photograph Session in Rathmines at 8pm.

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Young People's Club 10th Anniversary Banquet in Gresham Hotel from 7.30pm
Tickets £25 from John Duggan.

- 13 Ladies Club - Talk on "Insurance" in Rathmines 8pm.
21 Old Folks Social in Rathmines from 3pm - 7pm.

OCTOBER

- 4 Ladies Basketball Club 8-hour Basketball Marathon at the venue to be announced.
Sponsorship cards from Aileen O'Flanagan

Then "GRAND DISCO" in Rathmines from 10pm - 1.00am.

- 18 Ladies Club Social in Rathmines 8 p.m.

- 18-20 Young People's Club - Cycle Rally in aid of D.D.F.
Get your sponsorship card from Edward Power or Philip Grehan.

- 20 Old Folds Social in Rathmines - 3 pm - 7 pm.

- 31 Ladies' Basketball Club holds "Halloween Disco" in Rathmines 9pm - 1.30am.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Football Club - Talk on "SPORTS INJURIES" in Rathmines at 8 pm.



Terry beat the World Champion

Mention in the last issue of "Contact" of the world famed Billiards Champion, Horace Lindrum of Australia, brought forth the following story:-

On 10 March 1958, in the Commercial Reading Rooms, Drogheda, Horace Lindrum played an exhibition game with six players from the host club and two guest players.

Terry Kelly was picked to play against him. Each player played off 28; Terry & the other player beat the World Champion, who afterwards gave a wonderful display of trick shots.

It was one of the best exhibition games ever seen in Drogheda. Patrons paid 30p each to see him at play - the club paid him 26 guineas for the night - a lot of money at that time.



Photo shows young Terry Kelly with World Champion Horace Lindrum after they played the challenge game of snooker.

Cathal wins again

Cathal McDonagh was the pride of Navan last weekend after he arrived home from the World Cerebral Palsy Games in Gits, Belgium, where he set a world record when winning the 100 metres freestyle in 2 mins. 48 secs. In doing so, the popular young man from St. Mary's Park knocked two seconds off his own record which he set in Vienna last year. Cathal was a member of a 26-strong Irish team which spent almost two weeks in the Belgian town and



figured among the medals in a number of different sports.

He also contested the 100-metre backstroke and took the silver medal when second to an Italian. Cathal was the only swimmer on the Irish team which competed against 19 other countries.

Cathal, who was chosen as "Meath Personality of the Year, 1985," was training six nights a week before the Games and can now look forward to the Olympics in Korea in 1988. His proud mother, Tera, travelled to Belgium with her son and described Cathal's victory as "the most fantastic experience I have ever had."

The McDonaghs have thanked all those who sponsored Cathal on his trip - Mullens Drapery, Heaton's, Michael Denning, Tom Dunne, Lynch's Sportsworld, Jack Kiernan, Geoghegan's, Navan O'Mahonys GAA club, Colm O'Rourke Sport, Dunnes Stores and Peter McKenna.

Meath Chronicle

IRISH DEAF SPORTS ASSOCIATION



Swimmers' European Triumphs

Our swimmers did us proud again - this time in the European Championships at Crystal Palace, London on 20-26 July.

Alan Turner emerged as Ireland's standard bearer with 3 golds, 2 silvers and 1 bronze plus 2 NEW WORLD RECORDS' Just previously he was on the Ireland hearing squad in Israel.

In London, the other 7 participating nations sighed a relief at the news that Paul Keating, our Los Angeles double gold medallist, and Katherine O'Grady were absent, otherwise the Irish would have dominated the men's events throughout and doubled our haul of medals.

P Keating was unable to compete in defence of his European titles because of an injury to his finger while at work. Hard luck, Paul!

Splendid performances were evident when Ireland took their share of the medals—3 golds, 2 silvers & 5 bronzes.

** The most thrilling race was the men's 4x100 freestyle relay where Alan took over the last leg some 40 metres last, he ploughed through the water like a hovercraft that would have given him another world record, swallowing the big deficit only to miss the silver by 3/100th of a second (the size of your nails).

Everyone said another 6 inches and he would have pulled off an amazing feat. However, the lads had sweet

revenge in the 4x100 medley team relay when they gained the silver medal from West Germany. The Irish team in these relay events: A Turner & G Foy (both from Dublin), P Joyce (Aran Islands) and J Kealy (Arklow).

Turner achieved the gold medals in:- mens 100m breaststroke (1.08.07 - new world & european records); mens 200m breaststroke (2.29.54 - new wr & edr); and mens 100m freestyle (55.07).

Also the silver in mens 400m individual medley (4.54.07).

Joyce collected the bronze in the mens 100m freestyle.

14 years old Kealy won the bronze in mens 200m backstroke (2.36.59), becoming the youngest swimmer to win a medal.

The girls, who won the bronze in the 4x100 freestyle and again in the 4x100 medley, were Moules (Dublin), Campbell (Tipperary), Regan (Waterford) and Melia (Galway).

The Irish team was completed with M Murphy (Wexford) and J Kennedy (Meath).

Patrick Quinn was the team coach and June O'Mahony, the team Manager. Laurence Coogan, President, accompanied the team.

LONDON

While in London, we stayed in Goldsmith University - far deep south. The Royal Wedding went on during our stay without any attention from us. There were no special events to mark the occasion except TV/press coverage and sales of souvenirs.

Travelling around London would amaze you at how big it really is. We met many Irish deaf residents who came to support us. Thanks to them.

WE thank the British Deaf Sports Council for organising the Championships in such a way that everything went so smoothly. The spirit of friendship and co-operation was great among all the deaf participants.

Laurence Coogan and June O'Mahony



THE Swim Relay Silver Medallists:
1-r, Back: P Joyce and J Kealy.
Front: G Foy and A Turner.

MEDAL TABLE:	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
W. Germany	14	12	8
G. Britain	11	5	8
Ireland	3	2	5
Italy	2	4	4
Sweden	-	7	4
Turkey	-	1	-
Spain	-	-	-
France	-	-	-

A Johnston, GB, broke 3 world and 5 European records.

C.I.S.S.

World and European records are issued by the CISS every year in January and according to its book, Alan Turner is the holder of 2 world records in both 100 & 200 metres breaststroke and 3 European records in both breaststroke events and 100m freestyle.

Paul Keating is the holder of one world record in 100m backstroke and 2 European records in both 100 and 200m backstroke.

Congratulations and well done to the swimming team for its wonderful performance in London.

Coming Events

IDSAs AGM:

The 18th AGM of the IDSA will take place in the Dublin Deaf Centre, on Saturday, 22 November at 1:30pm.

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

The Regional Councils will have their annual meetings in October:
11th October Munster ARM - Cork
11th October Ulster ARM - Belfast
17th October Leinster ARM - Dublin

The Connacht Council has not yet decided on a date which is most likely in October.

SEPTEMBER

- 20 Leinster 5-a-side football & dinner/dance - Kilkenny.
 - 27 Leinster closed T.T.-Dublin
- ### OCTOBER
- 4 Interprovincial T.T.-Dublin

DIARY for 1987

FEBRUARY

- 7-14 World Winter Games for the Deaf. Oslo, Norway.

MARCH

- 28 European Cross Country C-ships Switzerland.

May

- European T.T. Budapest.
- 22-24 (not yet confirmed)
European Football U.21
London

JULY/AUGUST

- 29-1st European Athletics, Munich.
Kevin Lynch, Gen. Secretary.

The skins of buck deer were normally used as currency in pioneer (early) America - which is why dollar notes are often called "bucks".

The human body has about 60,000 miles of veins, arteries and capillaries.
N Coyne

Dear Editor,

IDENTITY CARDS FOR DEAF PEOPLE?

Last week, I was with hearing friends in Salthill, Galway; One of them noticed three deaf people who were using their hands and he told me about it, so off I went over to them and I told them I was hard of hearing and could do sign language. But they looked frightened and went away. What could I do, but my friends said the deaf people had seen me talking earlier on. Still, I think there should be something like an identity card with your photo on it to prove that you are deaf - something like a cheap club membership card won't do - this I.D. card should be recognised all the world over, so that deaf people will accept one another.

I think the deaf people I encountered in Salthill were from Germany or Holland. I hope you will put this letter in "Contact" so that something can be done.

Stephen Curran, Galway.

PROTEST

I have been asked by the IDSA Committee to express their displeasure at the article by Munster Regional Council in the May/June 1986 issue of Contact. We are asking that all Regional Council would send their correspondence and articles for Contact through the Secretary of the IDSA; this reminder is being sent out to the Regional Councils. We hope that we will not have to complain again in the future. Thanking you.

Laurence Coogan

EDITOR: Fair enough; but Contact readers have the obvious right to

express their views on deafness-related matters, provided there is no libellous reference to the people involved.

Public organisations must accept fair criticism for what are seen to be bad mistakes - even when these bodies don't accept their actions as 'mistakes' - the committee members should not take criticism personally, because such expression is not usually aimed at the person, but rather at the action taken OR omission of action that should have been taken.

Further, public bodies have a special duty to ensure that their actions do not result in avoidable lowering of the Image of the Deaf as had unfortunately been the case in the matters referred to in the above-mentioned Munster article - i.e. the Manager of Thomond College declaring that he would not deal with deaf people again (he did not say "the IDSA" - he said "deaf people") which shows that groups of deaf people are viewed as deaf people NOT as deaf organisations....

The bitterness of the deaf people and their friends in Limerick and in Cork is understandable in the circumstances. Let it be repeated that these comments are directed at the organisations, NOT at any committee member.

THE READERS WISHING TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR OPINIONS ON ANYTHING CAN EXPRESS THEM IN LETTERS TO CONTACT ANY TIME, OF COURSE.

SR NICHOLAS

May I wish, through Contact, every blessing and happiness to Sr. Nicholas in her retirement. I remember her well from my first years in St. Mary's and through the years, I found her to be a kind and understanding person. I recall clearly when she started the Oral Classes, using some of us - it was only once a week, but it was the start of great things she had done since then.

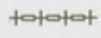
She certainly earned her laurels and her rest. Blessings and happiness to you, dear Sr. Nicholas

Kay McCord 1938-1949.



Sr. Nicholas had great devotion to the Deaf and we are sure she is glad to be free from all very hard work she had been doing for many years. She still looks younger than all that. We wish her a happy long retirement.

Margaret & Mary Kavanagh, Carlow.



I remember Sr Nicholas as a postulant in a white veil, and the surprise we had when she came back to St Gabriel's School after 3 years in Belfast. Even though it is a good many years since I left school, she is still the same either in the old habit or the new one.

I'm sure that my old classmates join with me in offering our grateful thanks to her for all these years of teaching and in wishing her many happy years of retirement. God bless her.

Mary Moynihan, Cork

My visit to the warships

I would like to tell your readers about the wonderful visit I made to the German Warships when they were on a courtesy call in Dublin last May. I could not believe their huge size and was impressed with what I saw while touring the ships. They looked so solid that you would think they could not be damaged at all... The crew members were very courteous, and I'm sure they enjoyed their visit to Dublin.

Mrs Mary Sweeney, Dublin

What makes you think this rabbit's foot is lucky? My wife came across it in my trouser pocket and thought it was a mouse.

R McElligott.

A SPECIAL MOTHER

Out just in case you are feeling down today, here is a story sent by a reader. It is about handicapped parents and was written by the famous American Emma Bombeck.

"Did you ever wonder how mothers of handicapped children are chosen?", she asked.

"Somehow, I visualise God hovering over earth selecting His instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As He observes, He instructs his angels to make notes in a giant ledger.

"Armstrong, Beth, son. Patron saint, Matthew.

"Forest, Majorie, daughter. Patron saint, Cecilia.

"Rutledge, Carrie, twins. Patron saint ... give her Gerard. He's used to profanity.

Finally, He passes a name to an angel and smiles,

"Give her a handicapped child."

The angel is curious.

"Why this one, God? She's so happy."

"Exactly", smiles God. "Could I give a handicapped child a mother who does not know laughter? That would be cruel."

"But does she have patience?" Asked the Angel.

"I don't want her to have too much patience, or she will drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wear off, she'll handle it.

"I watched her today. She has that

sense of self and independence that are so rare and so necessary in a mother. You see the child I'm going to give her has his own world. She has to make it live in her world and that's not going to be easy."

"But Lord, I don't think she even believes in you."

PERFECT

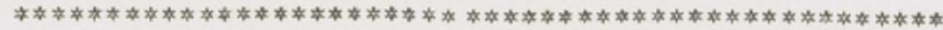
God smiles. "No matter, I can fix that. This one is perfect. She has just enough selfishness." The angel gasps. "Selfishness? Is that a virtue?"

God nods. "If she can't separate herself from the child occasionally, She'll never survive. Yes, Here is a woman whom I will bless with a child less than perfect. She doesn't realise it yet, but she is to be envied."

She will never take for granted a spoken word. She will never consider a step ordinary. When her child says "Momma" for the first time, she will be witness to a miracle and knows it. When she describes a tree or a sunset to her blind child, she will see it as few people ever see my creations."

"I will permit her to see clearly the things I see - ignorance, cruelty, prejudice - and allow her to rise above them. She will never be alone. I will be at her side every minute of every day of her life because she is doing my work as surely as she is here by my side."

"And what about her patron saint? ask the angel, his pen poised in mid-air. God smiles, "A mirror will suffice."



A World War 2 Story

IT was December, before Christmas in 1940 when it happened. I still remember it very well.

ONE evening when it was quite dark, James Thresh came to my house to see me. He said "Want to go to the Deaf Club?" I said "Yes" so together we went to the Deaf Club on my motorbike. I lived in Salford and the Deaf Club was at 368 Chester

Road, Old Trafford (not 431 Chester Rd).

WHEN we reached Chester Road and nearly there, we saw a policeman on the road who put his hand up to stop us, I stopped the motorbike and the policeman said something to us. We didn't know what he was saying, so we pointed to our ears and said "Deaf". The policeman realised and he pointed to the light of my motorbike and said "Light out, please". It was now dark. The

policeman pointed to the sky; I had forgotten about the blackout. Without thinking, I looked up and I could see a few aeroplanes in the distance. Then the policeman said "Where are you going?" We said "Going to the Deaf Club, Not far". We pointed down the road to show where the Club was. Then he nodded and said "O.K. but no light". A few minutes later we arrived and I parked my motorbike at the front of the Club. I remember my bike standing perfectly upright.

WHEN we went in, Canon Hayward was there with Frank Nevin, and James Daley. Outside the aeroplanes were beginning to bomb Manchester and it went on all evening. It became worse and worse and we were getting a bit worried. We stayed together and then suddenly, very late in the evening, or perhaps early in the morning, the window shattered. A bomb exploded outside in the street and was so strong it blew the window frame out of the wall into the room. James Daley's neck was hurt from broken glass. The Canon decided that we should go into the cellar so we went down. The Canon got the lead and held his dog because he was frightened of the noise outside. We took turns holding the lead to look after the dog.

WE were in the cellar a long time when suddenly we felt a big bang and the whole house shook. We could feel strong vibrations and looked at each other. We were numb with fear and couldn't say or sign anything. Then all the lights went out. In fact, what we didn't know was that we probably saved our lives going down to the cellar. The bomb landed on the house across the road and completely flattened the house.

A lot of people were killed in that house and more houses along the street were badly damaged. All windows were shattered. While we were in the cellar, in the dark, not sure what we should do, the dog was so mad with fright he chewed and chewed the lead until the lead broke and the dog ran out of the Club. He came back later.

EVERYTHING was covered in black soot and dust. A little orange light came into the Club from the fires outside. I could barely see, the smoke was in the air. I remember walking around in the hall trying to find the others but couldn't find them. There was a lot of damage, so I went out to the back garden and found the shelter there.

WHEN I went in I saw all of them there. They were waiting for me. So we sat and waited. It was getting quiet outside and there were no more bombs. After a while, Canon Hayward and Frank Nevin decided to go out to see if it was safe. They saw a car in the street and could see three men inside. They went over and opened the door but were shocked because one man fell out. He was dead. They had all been killed in the blast. We could still see fires all around and the orange and red glows in the sky. We came back to the shelter.

WE were beginning to be very hungry and thirsty. Again, Canon Hayward and Frank Nevin went out to try and get something to eat from the kitchen but they couldn't get through. So Canon Hayward went to the Chapel and there he found a bottle of altar wine and brought it back. I remember it was dark in the shelter but I could see the Canon blowing the bottle because it was dirty. Then he opened the bottle and gave it to Frank to drink. There were no cups, Frank drank from the bottle and he gave it to James Thresh and James Daley. Then I got the bottle and I was so thirsty I drank and finished it off.

THEN we tried to have a look again, so we came out of the shelter and Frank said "What is that?" There was something looking very funny in the back. We went over to have a look and our eyes popped. We were amazed especially the Canon. It was the altar cloths from the Chapel. The force of the bomb threw the altar cloths through the window and out into the back garden, many, many yards away, on top of the Anderson shelter. We looked around at the

mess and it was then that we realised we could easily have been killed if we weren't in the cellar.

EVENTUALLY, it was morning and we saw the Home Guard in the street; he was wearing a helmet. He looked at us and then said "Where do you come from? You should not be here.

It's not safe." The Canon asked "Why?" The Home Guard said: There's an unexploded bomb in this street and we've moved the people out. The street is closed. You should not be here". Of course we didn't know. We were deaf and the Canon was deaf too. He said to us "You can go now".

I went to my motorbike and to my surprise it was still standing upright.

MARVELLOUS. Two big bombs during the night and my motorbike was still there? I was very pleased, so I said to James Thresh, "I can give you a lift to Victoria Station in the town". I started the motorbike O.K. and we went to Victoria Station and it was alright. When James Thresh got off and I headed home, my bike began to splutter. It was becoming difficult to ride it and I realised it was because the black soot and the dust had got in the engine. I arrived home, but I was sorry because I knew that the engine of my motorbike was spoilt. The first thing my Dad said was "Look in the mirror". I did not know why, but when I looked in the mirror, I was shocked. My face was all black.

SOME weeks later, Larry Gunning came to see me. He told me that the Deaf Club had moved to 431 Chester Road.

ABOUT 20 years later, I was talking to Canon Hollywood and I was shocked to hear what he said about Canon Hayward. Canon Hayward had told him about that night and how he gave a bottle of altar wine to us to drink. He said "But this fellow, Gerard McDonough emptied the bottle and finished it off. I never had a drop".

Poor man. He was so kind, so good. Gerard McDonough

(By courtesy of OUTLOOK, the magazine for the Catholic Deaf, Britain)



The NAD National Cycle. Above: the cyclists with parents and some of the deaf outside the Town Hall in Newry, prior to the official reception. Right: some of the cyclists with NAD Directors Maura Buckley and Doris Nelson (partly hidden at right) outside the Mansion House, prior to the official reception by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD before the start of the Cycle.



At the Dublin Deaf Association Sports Day.
Left: the Penalty Kick competition.
Bottom left: children resting between games.
Below: Moss Leen, Pat Power, Barbara LeMaster(USA)
and Peggy Foran.



HOUSE HUNTING

A GUIDE TO WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR WHEN HOUSEHUNTING

WHEN YOU go to view a house, it is essential to have a mental or written checklist of what you want. Otherwise you may allow one or two favourable features to influence you into buying (or almost buying) a house which is unsuitable for other reasons.

THE prime consideration must be whether the house is big enough for your requirements now and in the future. If you are tempted to buy a relatively small house and to move on to a bigger one in a few years' time, remember that you cannot predict what your circumstances will be, nor how house prices will go. So if you are buying a smaller house than you expect to need in the future, try to get the best of both worlds - possibly one with room for an extension.

GIVE some thought to storage space as well. You will need places to store fuel, clothes, bedding, tools, brushes, vacuum cleaner and other useful or useless objects.

THE size of the kitchen is obviously particularly important. The more time you are going to spend there the more space you should have - especially if, like many families, you are going to use it as a living room, leaving the living room proper for special occasions.

SOME modern houses amalgamate the kitchen and living/dinning room. There may be no door between them, or no wall. Bear in mind that this open-plan approach has the effect of creating fairly large room which could be expensive to heat.

WHEN viewing a house it is worth establishing which rooms face north. These will be gloomy compared to rooms facing in other directions. If you are a keen gardener, check if

the garden is to the North of the house and if other buildings or trees are likely to put the garden in the shade.

THINK of the house in relation to useful services. How far is it from shops, bus stops, etc? Is there a pub or a restaurant beside it and will drunken patrons serenade you in the early hours of the morning? If there is a car repair service close to the house, remember that you may have to listen to engines roaring endlessly during the day.

ANOTHER important point about the surroundings is whether the local authority intends to build a motorway through the front garden. The way to find this out is to go and ask the local authority - county council or corporation as the case may be - and you should also check if planning permissions have been given for any private developments in the area.

WHILE looking at the house, ask about the cost of heating. You may not be told the whole truth, but at least you will get some idea on which to base your calculations. It is also worth checking whether the wiring is old. If the house has to be rewired, it can be quite expensive.

WE frequently tell our readers to get a surveyor or valuer to look at the house before they buy. To fail to do so is to ask for trouble. The building society will send its own surveyor to look at it but his only concern is whether the society could get back, on the open market, the portion of the price of the house which it is lending to you. You can normally contact valuers and surveyors through auctioneers' offices.

YOU can make a quick preliminary check yourself if there is woodworm. Tiny holes in the woodwork may indicate that there is woodworm in the house. The mortar between the bricks should be firm and will have to be replaced if it has worn away. Cracks in the wall may not be serious, but if they go all the way through they need further



investigation. If it is an old house, there may be no damp-proof course. This is often visible about six inches above the ground, between the bricks and without it you are likely to have a problem with rising damp.

DON'T be taken in by decoration - it may be there for your benefit. Turn on taps to check the water pressure. Take a look at the roof. Are there slates or tiles missing which will have to be replaced?

IF there is an extension, you will have to check whether planning permission was required and received for it and whether it breaks any of the building by-laws. The building society will check it out if you are getting a mortgage.

FINALLY, to avoid a nasty shock when you move in, clarify what the previous owners are going to take with them when they go. We have heard of a buyer who moved into a house to discover that even the taps had been removed from the bath by the previous owner. Generally speaking, items which are attached to the walls and which could only be removed with damage to the walls should be left behind.

WHEN you are moving into the house, do so as early in the day as possible. That way you will have time to buy light bulbs, taps, possibly a kitchen sink and anything else that may be missing when you arrive.

Sent by Mrs Therese O'Reagan

IRISH DEAF SOCIETY

Our preparation for the Irish Deaf Awareness Week on the 25-27 September '86 (sorry for dates error in last issue) is going well. The Sign Language Marathon is on 27th September '86 at 9am - 6pm = 9 hours. If you wish to join the signing team, give your name to Tim Grace and ask for sponsor papers from the IDS directors. We are grateful for the help and ideas given to us, keep up and success will follow - Show them "the deaf can do it". The motto for the Irish Deaf Awareness Week is "WE ASKED TO BE HEARD". If you have been denied further education, get a poster done and write a few words.

There will be a window display in Arnotts front window, so come everyone even school children should have an outing to visit it and support it. "ONE DEAF HELPS ANOTHER".

On the 27th Sept '86 - 8pm to 10pm in the Deaf Centre, there will be our workshops exhibition. Edward Power will show a video - the deaf in their own business, the deaf at college and deaf families.

The Irish Deaf Youth Association will have a meeting in Sept - possible date is 6th - to form a sub-committee. Every young person is welcome and please try to have one from every club or county. Edward Power is the organiser, check with him for the date, time in afternoon and place of the meeting. He will have a lot of interesting things to say.

Kevin Stanley, John Bosco Conama and Martinia Mc Cormack are back from Belgium. They were at the second European Youth Camp for a week doing "Leadership courses" with

thirty-seven other deaf from Belgium, Portugal, Holland, West Germany and United Kingdom sponsored by Euroaction. Ask them about it. Next year, the third European Youth Camp will be held in Ireland.

We have some details of the World Federation of the Deaf Congress '87 in Helsinki, Finland on the 20 - 28th July '87, closing date for pre-registration is 1st October '86. We will arrange one week and two weeks holidays cum meetings. If you are interested, contact the IDS Directors or call to the Deaf Centre on the third Friday of the month.

Welcome to Barbara LeMaster from California on her three months visit to Ireland. She got a grant in the U.S.A. only to do research on the Irish Sign Language - not the signs from the book. She would like to meet as many senior adults as possible. If you would like to meet her, give your name to the IDS and arrangement will be made. Her friend, Darlene Allen from California too, was here for three dayne evening she gave a talk on "Interpreting Training", it will be in the next issue. The IDS is working on the Interpreting situation and we have services so if you need an interpreter for any place for a few hours, ask the IDS.

- List of directors:
Chairman Vivian Mulloy,
Vice-chairman Edward Power,
Hon. Secretary Helena Saunders,
Hon. Treasurer Teresa Lynch,
Stephen Bates, Patrick Power,
Felix Brazil, Tim Grace, Josephine O'Leary and Niall Mc Cormack.

Only two angels are mentioned by name in the Bible - Michael and Gabriel.

In 1930 you could buy kits to build TV sets for just over £20.

WHAT IS ELECTRONIC MAILBOX?

Continued from Page 2

informally documented if you save your messages and replies on disc.

SOME systems also allow the users direct access to the power of the mainframe. You can run remote maths programs, play games or even cross-compile down the telephone line. Few such activities come under the heading of electronic mail, but there is a cluster of programs, roughly classified as electronic office software, that behaves like an extension of the communications facilities.

EIRMAIL

EIRMAIL is the name of the Electronic Mailbox service operated by Telecom Eireann, and has access to more than 15 countries so far. The minimum call charge is £37.50, which is rather expensive for the private user who do not have opportunity to use it often.

So of course, it will be worthwhile subscribing to Eirmail ONLY if there are sufficient numbers of private individuals using it - which is not a fact yet, unless you are prepared to throw away money. The possibility of this system becoming popular among the public at large is remote obviously.



A 25-year-old man living in a city in the South, would like to hear from a deaf girl or girls of about the same age, who would be interested in forming a friendship. He is in a fulltime job and is a non-smoker.

Replies to Box 140 c/o Contact, St Peter's, Phibsboro, Dublin 7 will be sent unopened to the advertiser.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

HOW SOON WILL I QUALIFY FOR DENTAL BENEFIT?

Q I started work last March. How soon will I qualify for Dental Benefit?

A. The speed with which you qualify for dental, optical and aural (hearing) benefits depends upon your age and the number of social insurance contributions you have. Permanent and pensionable public and civil servants and part-time workers pay social insurance at a rate that does not cover them for these benefits. Assuming that you are not in these categories you qualify for dental benefit as follows.

a) If you are under 21 years you will qualify after 26 weeks of insurable employment.

b) If you are between 21 and 23 years you need to have 26 weeks of insurable employment. If you claim in 1985 you will also need to have 26 social insurance contributions registered with the Department of Social Welfare for the tax year April 1983 to April 1984. If you claim in 1986 the relevant tax year is April 1984 to April 1985.

Social Insurance contributions registered in the relevant tax year include credited contributions (which may be given during periods of unemployment, sickness, maternity

leave and when you first became insured).

c) If you are over 23 years you must have 156 contributions (3 years insurable employment) paid at some time and 26 contributions paid or credited in the relevant

contribution year (see above).

Since July 1985 cover for dental, optical and aural services has been extended to the pregnant wives of insured workers provided the above conditions are satisfied on the husband's insurance.

FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT (F.I.S.)

F.I.S. is designed to supplement the income of low wage earners in full-time employment. Since April FIS of up to £26 per week can be paid to low income families with five or more children. To qualify you must have dependent children for whom you receive the Child Benefit (formerly Children's Allowance). It was originally intended to abolish FIS with the introduction of Child Benefit. However its abolition is deferred until the full Child Benefit Scheme comes into effect next year.

FIS was improved in the Budget and the improved scheme took effect on April 10, 1986. Those already receiving FIS at that date will continue to receive FIS at the old rate until a year from the time when

they first started to receive it. When they have to re-apply at that stage, they will then get the new rates. FIS is dependent on family size and family income. The amount of FIS you get is one third the difference between your weekly income and the maximum income for each family size. This may be further restricted by a maximum supplement based on family size. For example, a family with two children and a gross income of £90 per week would get a supplement of £10 per week: -

Maximum income for 2 child family	£120
actual family income	£ 90
difference	£ 30
divided by three	£ 10

(max. supplement for 2 child family = £14)

The new income limits and maximum supplements payable from April 10 1986 are:-

Family	Income above which no FIS is payable	Income below which max. FIS is payable	Max. Supplement
1 child	100	70	10
2 child	120	78	14
3 child	140	86	18
4 child	160	94	22
5 or more	180	102	26

HAVE YOU A QUESTION ABOUT TAX? SOCIAL WELFARE? HOUSING? ANYTHING?

Get the answer by writing or calling at
The Information Centre,

Dublin Deaf Centre, 31 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6.



We have helped hundreds of people. Let us help you, too.

All our service is private and free

Published by "Contact", St Peter's, Phibsboro, Dublin 7.