

Templeogue Sp

Nov
1972

TELEGRAPH



WANTED Lady's bicycle. Phone 906521

WANTED Bicycle to suit boy of nine upwards. Phone 909452

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL Mrs Dolores O'Brien MC.S.CH.is practising chiropody at 91 Wainsfort Rd. Phone 908588.

SALE OF WORK Our Lady's School Sat.2 Dec. 2-6 p.m. Adm.Adults 5p Children 3p.Santa will be there. Bargains galore!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Wed. 15 Nov. Physical education class started Templogue Ladies' Club. 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.
- Fri. 17 " Cypress Grove Boys' Club Dance (Blessington)
- Mon. 20 " Exhibition of Oil Paintings 38 Fortfield Pk 7.30 on.
- Wed. 22 " Monster Jumble Sale - St.Pius X Scout Unit. Whitefriar St. School Hall
- Mon. 27 " "The King and I" Terenure Coll.Hall 7.30 p.m.
- Wed. 29 " St.Pius X Scout Unit - Meeting of Parents
- Sat. 2 Dec. Christmas Sale - Our Lady's School 2 - 6 pm.
- Mon. 4 " Competition in "Templeogue Telegraph" -- closing date. Deadline for "Templeogue Telegraph" (ad.articles)
- Tue. 5 " St.Pius X N.S. Parents' Assoc (Committee meets 8.30)
- Wed. 6 " Templeogue Ladies' Club - Dinner at Airport.
- Thur. 7 " Choral Festival - National Stadium (Temp.Ladies'Club)
- Sun. 10 " Pioneers. Applications St.Pius X Church 10.15 to 11.15 a.m. (in Porch).
- Tues. 12 " Parent/Teacher Workshop - The New Primary Schools Curriculum (Templeogue Parents' Assoc.)
- Sat. 16 " Christmas Issue of "Templeogue Telegraph"
- Sun. 17 " Santa Claus will be at Templeogue College (Holy Ghost Missions)

Purple Passage Quiz (Oct.issue): The passage was submitted by Mr.Donal Healy of Cypress Grove Rd. It was from the book "Edel Quinn" by Leon-Joseph Cardinal Suenens. Only one reader correctly identified it - William Woods of 29 Fortfield Avenue. No reader submitted a "Purple Passage" for the November issue.

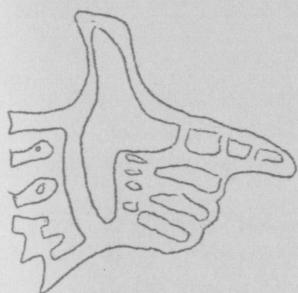
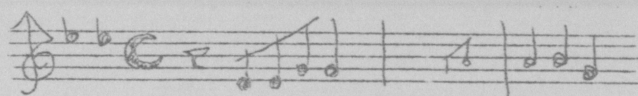
"Templeogue Telegraph" is published by Templeogue Parents' Assoc.
c/o 74 Templeville Drive Tel.909128.

Cover design was submitted by Mrs.Sheila Whittle, 36 Templeville Dr.

HAVING A DO?



BOOK



RAGWORT

FOR

WEDDINGS
PARTIES

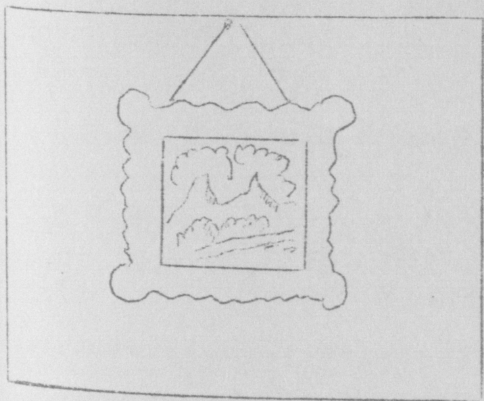
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38 FORTFIELD PK.

ST. PIUS X PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report by M. Ryan.

The Association held its 3rd Annual General Meeting on Monday, November 6th 1972 in the School Assembly Hall.

Attendance included Rev. G. Diffney, C.C., representing the Manager, Mrs. Yvonne McGrath and Mr. Michael O'Carroll of the Parent-School Movement and the Principal Mr. & Mrs. Doherty.

After the Chairman's address, Honorary Secretary's report and Honorary Treasurer's statement, Fr. Diffney addressed the meeting. He thanked the Association and the teachers for their efforts in the past year. He also commented on the greatly improved parent/teacher relationship. He congratulated the Principals on their efforts to run the school economically and he also proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Magee, the school cleaner, who does a wonderful job.

Mrs. McGrath then spoke on "Parental Involvement". Parents are all involved whether they like it or not. But to what degree?

Mr. Doherty had a word of thanks for the Association and helpers for the very practical help they had given the school in the past year. On the question of large classes he said this affects only one class in the girls' school and there was no question of overcrowding in the boys' school. This stimulated discussion on the pupil/teacher ratio.

Election of members for the new committee took place and with this the meeting concluded.

Will new committee members please note that election of officers will take place on Tuesday, December 5th, 1972 at 8.30 p.m. in the committee rooms at the left of St. Pius X Church. (*)

ST. PIUS X CHURCH

The clergy of St. Pius X Church wish to thank the parishioners for their very generous donations to the missions on Mission Sunday, 22nd October, 1972. The collection amounted to £580.

(*) P.S. Parents will be circularised with detailed minutes of the meeting.

LEGION OF MARY NEWS

Too often the Legion of Mary is passed over by young people as an organisation which caters in its membership exclusively for the older folk or whose members seem to be constantly preaching irrelevancies. Well nothing could be farther from the truth! Stated simply the object of the Legion is to help its members to become fully active Christians.

Strictly speaking this "help" to become an active Christian is something of a misnomer. It is really a process of self-development, this development centring around the fact that everything we do is an expression of our belief in the way of Christ. For the Christian, his work, study, time with his family and his time for recreation - and in fact his whole way of life - all fit into a unified pattern. Therefore to be a Christian one must be ACTIVE.

Although outwardly a large and somewhat unwieldy organisation, the strength of the Legion as a realistic force in the community depends entirely on the efforts of the individual praesidia or branches, the number in each of which seldom exceeds fifteen people. So in practice the Legion consists of small groups of people who come together regularly, who pray together and who go out to undertake various works for the community. The central idea of Christianity - the importance of both prayer and action - is therefore the central motivation of the Legion.

For young people the Legion is all the more realistic, because no one understands the great need for going out to help the poor, the lonely and the sick better than they. The Legion offers young people a chance to come together in small groups and to tackle the many problems which we all know exist, even in our own parish. It is a chance to make Christianity into something really meaningful and practical and an opportunity for self-expression and development.

Just to be specific about what has been said, there is at present one praesidium of the Legion in this parish for young people from 14 to 18 years of age. It has about twelve members who are involved each week in visiting old folk out in Crooksling and in Cork Street. The members also do some work with itinerant families.

So the message is that the Legion is a practical expression of our Christianity. For the young, it is an organisation through which they can express themselves and become a real force for Christ in the community.

Enquiries to 906794.

THE GENERATION GAP

by Rev. Desmond Carroll

"This youth is rotten from the very bottom of their hearts - the young people are malicious and lazy - they will never be as youth happened to be before; our today's youth will not be able to maintain our culture."

This is part of some writings found recently in the ruins of Old Babylon and it is said to be over 3,000 years old. It certainly suggests that there was some sort of a generation gap in those days and some people believe that such a gap still exists. For some odd reason, news always seems to be about the bad things in life, perhaps we expect people to be good and when they are not, they become news. There must have been many good young people in Old Babylon but so far we have heard nothing about them!

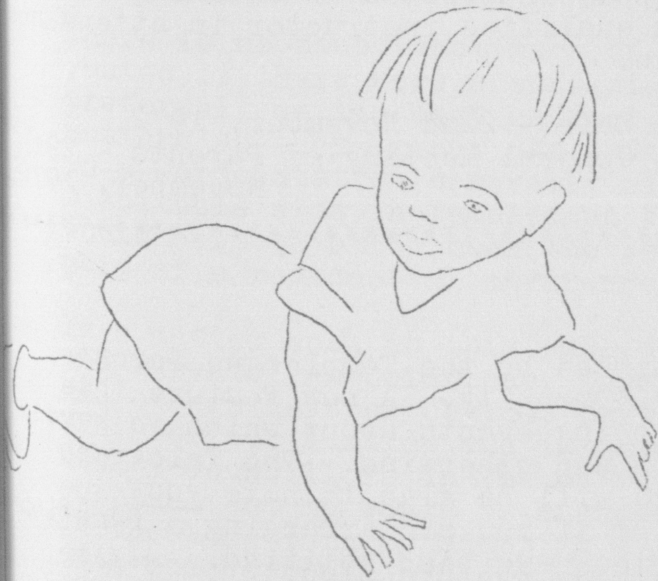
There is an old fable told by Aesop, at one time a slave in Greece, about a traveller. And the lesson of the story is that if you look for the best in people you will find it, look for the worst and you will find it too. Some people like to call the times in which we live permissive and would seem to suggest that things have never been as bad as they are now. Others feel, however, that we are just being more honest about life today, that we are prepared to have a more open approach to problems and difficulties. With more and more knowledge and information coming to us every day we are bound to have more questions to ask and this applies more especially to the young.

We as a community are rightly concerned about the abuse of drugs, but there is a tendency to limit drugs to a certain type. We advertise drugs on television - alcohol and cigarettes are taken legally by many people. 20% of the total income of the country is spent on these two things and yet we say it is wrong to take "drugs". If we want to tackle any of these problems, they must be done together - alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. It has been said that it is useless to talk to young people about drugs with a cigarette in one hand, and a gin and tonic in the other.

As a community we have got to be very honest and open about the difficulties we face. We have got to decide what are the important things we want to keep, what do we value most, into what should we be putting our energy. If we accept that society is not as it should be, we must remember that it is mainly adults who have set these standards and given the example to others. We may then be more inclined to listen to the young and to see that they are not "malicious and lazy" and that they may not wish to maintain our culture - they may have a better dream for the world and must be given a chance to shape it!



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SCOUTING

37th Dublin C.B.S.I. - Unit News.



With the "Scout Year" in full swing both sections of the Unit have received new recruits and are looking forward to a successful year.

CUB SCOUT SECTION: Cub leader Paddy Breen reports that he now has 24 Cubs in the pack. On Friday, 27th October, 1972 a Parent Evening and Halloween Party was held. Although the parental representation was somewhat small, an enjoyable time was had. During the course of the evening a presentation was made to Monica Tynan and Joan Tracey of the Ballygall Unit for their services to the 37th in the formation of the Cub Pack.

SCOUT SECTION: Following Summer Camp and the Melvin Trophy Competition, the scouts are getting back to normal again with a varied winter programme which includes hostelling, canoeing, swimming and football as well as the usual scouting activities such as hiking, nature study, signalling etc. During the past month five new boys joined the troop and we hope that they will enjoy scouting with us.

While we look forward to the coming twelve months, we look back at the last twelve months with pride. Being placed first in Dublin is no mean achievement.

UNIT NEWS: The Unit have booked the Swimming Pool in Terenure College each Friday night for the next 12 weeks from 9p.m - 10p.m. There are a few places available for anybody interested in swimming or learning to swim. There will be a qualified instructor in attendance. Subscription is £3 for the 12 weeks.

Fortcoming events include: Jumble Sale - 22nd November, 1972
Annual General Meeting of Parents - 29th November, 1972.

ABOUT THE "TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH"

The "Templeogue Telegraph" is published by the Templeogue Parents Association for the benefit of the community. A new feature this month is the Community Calendar showing events about which we have been advised through advertisements and otherwise. The Telegraph c/o 74 Templeville Drive Tel. 909128 will be glad to note your event for the Community Calendar, or if you are arranging a function to let you know what other activities have been notified.

We invite readers to submit a cover design for the Christmas 1972 number. Deadline for next issue Monday 4 December. Advertising rates are: Small ads. 5p for 2 half-lines, £1 for half page, £1.75 for full page. Extra charge for graphics if scanning required.

Law and Order

One of the most telling facts that emerged from the recent report of the Ad Hoc Committee set up to investigate the community situation, was that we now have in the Cypress Grove, Templeville, Wainsfort, College and Fortfield areas an estimated population of over eight thousand people. This number is to be shortly increased by several thousand more, so that it would not be an exaggeration to say that in the next year or two we will have over ten thousand people living in our area. There has been very little provision made for the maintenance of law and order in our midst and, while there doesn't appear to be much serious crime, most people would agree that a spirit of lawlessness prevails which is abhorrent to the ordinary resident.

Talk to local clergy and they will tell you of a fire started in the Prefabs at the back of St. Pius X Church which could have resulted in the church itself being burnt down: also money being fished out of donation boxes in the back of the church and interference with the amplification system within the church itself. Talk to local shopkeepers who have had their shopfronts damaged and their hallways used as public toilets by bands of youths intent on doing any destruction in their power. Residents of Greenlea Road complain of noise and hooliganism from teenagers coming from a nearby hall, while empty cider bottles in Bushy Park particularly after weekends bear mute testimony to the goings on there.

There is no doubt that much of this depredation could be prevented if there were a sufficient number of gardai in the area, preferably on the beat on foot, where they could deal with these matters as they arise. In order to achieve this, what we need is a Garda Station centrally situated in the area (there was a suitable site in Templeogue Village until recently) which would help to bring back the peace and quiet which should be part of a residential environment such as ours.

In a matter such as this public opinion as represented by Residents' and Parents' Associations, Local Clubs, College Associations and others have an obvious part to play in petitioning the Minister for Justice and in interesting our local T.Ds. and County Councillors in the matter. While it would be foolish to suppose that we would be successful overnight in this matter, in the long term by adopting a "never take no for an answer" attitude we could achieve what we set out to do.

Messrs. Crampton Bros. have received final permission to go

(Continued)

ahead with their building development at Cypress Grove South, subject to certain conditions. For the present they will not be routing their traffic through this built-up area.

Traffic lights are shortly to be erected on Wainsfort Road and the Gardai are investigating complaints of speeding on this stretch of road.

Cypress Grove Boys' Club Dance takes place in the Downshire House Hotel, Blessington, on Friday November 17th. Dinner is at 9 p.m., dancing afterwards till 2 a.m. Tickets £2.50 are available from the usual sources.

Cypress Grove Golfing Society held their Autumn outing to Newlands Golf Club on Monday, 23rd October last. There was a turn out of over thirty for a Stableford Competition played under ideal conditions. Supper and sing-song took place in the Clubhouse afterwards, presided over by the Chairman, Mr. Christy Sharpe, who presented prizes to the winners: 1st Prize, Mr. Bernard Yendole, Cypress Park, 2nd Prize Mr. Kevin Traynor Cypress Grove Road, Prize for best first nine holes, Mr. Bill Slattery, Cypress Grove Road.

ON THE SWIM SCENE

by O'D.

Swimming in Templeogue College's new 25m by 10m international pool is now in full swing and first reports would indicate that both swimmers and management are pleased with the way things are going. The pool was opened on Friday, 20th October, and swimmers were quick to observe a somewhat unique feature in its design. Instead of having the usual shallow and deep ends, both ends of the pool are shallow at 3'3". The deepest part is in the centre at 6'6". One of the obvious advantages with this arrangement is that it will greatly facilitate people learning to swim.

Another feature, which ensures that everyone gets their full hour's swim, is the dressing room system. There are four dressing areas - 2 male, 2 female. Each of these has facilities for 30-40 people. This enables a club, ready and togged, to hit the water immediately the pool has been vacated.

For those who come along to leave their children in, but are not inclined towards swimming, a tea room has been provided.

(Continued)

Here, while keeping your eye on the pool, through a large plate glass window, you can enjoy a cuppa and a sandwich. As it is expected that major events will be held at the pool, spectator accommodation is ample with a three tier seating arrangement capable of holding 250 people. Clubs hiring the pool will get one full hour's swimming for £8. This is very good value taking into account the excellent facilities available. At the moment there are still a few hours a week remaining unbooked. Enquiries should be made direct to the Pool Manager, Mr. Fintan Lawlor. The project cost ££5,000 and decorations are expected to be completed by the end of November.

A reader (name and address supplied) sends the following "food for thought":

SAY "AMEN" TO YOUR AMENITIES

There are not many institutions, lay or religious, whose private grounds are open to reasonable use by the public. The White Fathers of Cypress Grove are one such body and it must be said that their grounds, well embellished with splendid old trees, green lawns, flowers and shrubs, are a treat to the eye and a solace to the soul.

It is, of course, possible that residents of the Cypress Estate would prefer that these grounds were fortified against any intrusion! This would seem to be the only answer if people will not take more interest in seeing that the present access is not abused. Are your children among those who freely trample hedges and fences, dislodge solid masonry on gate piers or break branches from the mature trees? Or are they among those who cheek the Fathers or anyone else who remonstrates with them about such behaviour? Do yours shout and scream, disturbing the night-time quiet of the place and even the peace of the Oratory?

While we are about it, we may as well mention the lands of the Holy Ghost Fathers. Many children use the smaller public green in Cypress Estate merely as a place to launch assaults on the stonework of the Holy Ghost boundary. Have a look at those boundary walls!

Is it the case that yours are among those who during the summer played deep, deep in the "Indian country" represented by a growing crop of barley in the field next the Provincial's new house? We are sure these Fathers, too, did not resist any reasonable use of their lands by people who respected growing crops and made sure to walk only on the headlands and to use the entrances as they should be used.

It is understood this will not be an "amenity area" much longer. Maybe the decision to sell some of these lands was not unconnected with the serious trespass which was occurring.....

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TEMPLEOGUE LADIES' CLUB

Report by Moira McKevitt.

Ladies, it is coming very near our annual 'get-together' in the form of our Christmas Dinner, which is taking place on Wednesday 6th December. I hope you are all looking forward to it. The President and Committee have put a lot of thought and effort into making it a 'night to remember'. The venue is Dublin Airport. Members are asked to be at the Roundabout at 7.15 p.m. sharp, so as to be at the Airport for Dinner at 8.30 p.m. sharp. The entertainment group will be coming at 9.30 p.m. so we should be ready to get 'swinging' by then. Ladies who have not handed in their name and £2 in envelopes should do so before 22nd November, to any member of the Committee.

CHORAL FESTIVAL: DECEMBER 7th.

The Choral Festival will be held in the National Stadium on Thursday, 7th December. It is something well worth attending. Tickets from Moira McKevitt, Telephone 900340.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES:

Classes will commence on Wednesday 15th November from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. There will be 5 classes before Christmas and 5 after. FEE £1.

HOLY GHOST MISSIONS:

There will be a party and a visit from Santa on Sunday 17th December in Templeogue College. 25 pence including parcel.

Cheerio for now - see you all soon D.V.

TEMPLEOGUE G.A.A.

We are happy to report the increasing success of our Under-11 team. Of 9 matches played so far in the competition 6 wins have been achieved, and losses represented by defeats of 1 point, 2 points and 4 points. It is significant that the teams that defeated us have been well established clubs with a strong tradition of under-age teams, unlike Templeogue brought together for the first time. Most encouraging to the teams' trainers has been the willingness of all the players to train. In a tribute to the entire panel we are listing all their names (in alphabetical order): P. Brady; R. Byrne; B. Brannigan; G. Conlon; E. Doherty; R. Glennon; P. Green; L. Haran; M. Kenny; K. Kenny; V. Killeen; B. Kelly; J. Lee; G. Lee; J. Lynch; D. Murphy; K. Murphy; F. Mahon; P. Muldowney; C. McCarton; P. Nicholson; M. O'Donoghue; D. O'Brien; R. Power; G. Quinlan; N. Ryan; H. Turley; P. Toolan; G. Towhey; D. Ward.

(Contd.)

Through the good offices of our Patron, Fr. Diffney, we are holding a collection after all Masses on November, 26th and we appeal for all possible support. We would also take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks to those supporters who have already contributed so generously.

The following very topical comment was the first item to reach us for the November issue of the Telegraph: from Margaret Daly, Age 12, of 133 Templeville Drive

THE COST OF LIVING

The cost of living's very high.
It makes all housewives want to cry.
It's always up and never down.
The Government smiles, the housewives frown.

The decimals are just disastrous
AND V.A.T. - we think it's monstrous!

They say it pays to advertise-
Yes, prices that still rise and rise.

And budgets come, and budgets go,
And prices go up more and more

They'll rise by fifty and one hundred per cent
For food and clothes and rates and rent.

(Thank you, Margaret. We are sure every reader of the Telegraph will be in sympathy with you. Luckily we got our own price rise in for September, but Margaret is much too kind to mention that).

PIONEERS

Sunday, 10th December, is the next date (2nd Sunday of month) for taking applications for membership of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association (Porch of St. Pius X Church, 10.15 to 11.15 a.m.). The Pioneer Council would be grateful to hear from any Pioneers living in Templeogue Parish would be prepared to give a little time in helping with the work of the Council. (Ring 900789 and ask for Mr. O'Brien).

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL PRESENTS

Sub
30p

THE KING AND I

RODGERS &
HAMMERSTEIN

TERENURE COLLEGE HALL MON 27 NOV 7.30pm

The Templeogue Parents' Association are arranging subject to their being sufficient demand a Parent/Teacher Workshop for Tuesday 12 December 8.30 to 10.30 pm to examine the working of the new Curriculum for Primary Schools. Enquiries to Tel.909128. Only a limited number of places will be available.

TEMPLEOGUE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

It is now a matter of history that the long-awaited and long-planned-for meeting of the National Council of Parents' Associations in St.Pius X National Schools Assembly Hall was "washed out" on Sunday, 12 November - a day on which 400 distress calls were received from flood-victims in Dublin alone was scarcely a day on which one ventured forth. Nevertheless about 50 parents and observers attended and the event was widely reported on the national press, radio and television. Members of three Templeogue Parents' Associations were present (the host association, St.Pius X N.S. and Our Lady's School) Also representing Dublin were Raheny and Blanchardstown Community School P.A. Galway sent representatives from Renmore, Salthill and Newcastle, while from the south came Newcastlewest and Cobh. Navan, too, braved the elements and three members of the executive of the Parent/School Movement attended. Interested readers will already have seen the press reports. There was a long debate on the Templeogue motion criticising the indifference of the Department of Education to the very large classes which could result from the operation of the pupil/teacher ratio, and members of the local associations were also drawn into a debate on corporal punishment about which little agreement was recorded.

Some of the most important decisions of the day were those taken at a meeting of the Executive of the National Council in a private morning session attended by PSM representatives. Arrangements were made to issue at a later date a statement clarifying the respective roles of the National Council and the Parent/School Movement. It was decided, beginning early in 1972, to attempt the production of a national magazine for parents which would be of considerable help as an organ of communication between parents' groups.

The Templeogue Parents' Association is extremely grateful to all who worked so hard to make the function a success, and to the many individuals and clubs who lent equipment for the day. A special word of thanks to Father Diffney who gave the use of the Assembly Hall and every possible facility for making ready. So kind was everyone that for a time it seemed that "Murphy's Law" (everything that can go wrong will go wrong) had been suspended. But the Weather Clerk saw to all that in the end!

On the night previous to the Council meeting a splendid night's entertainment was held in the Four Courts Hotel (report in next edition).

NOVEMBER UNDER-14 COMPETITION:

This month we take you on a journey to the stars. Over you will see if you read downwards the word "stars" in the 1st column. What you must do is rearrange the letters beneath so that columns 2,3,4 and 5 (reading downwards) will contain words which every astronaut should know.

- (a) S P E V S
- (b) T A L E P
- (c) A N U R A
- (d) R U C T T
- (e) S H O E S

	1	2	3	4	5
(a)	S				
(b)	T				
(c)	A				
(d)	R				
(e)	S				

Send in solutions not later than Monday 4 December to the Telegraph c/o 74 Templeville Drive. Give your name, address and date of birth (age limit operates as on closing date). Use a sealed envelope marked "Competition". 50p will be sent to the senders of the first three correct solutions to be opened.

A Christmas Arrangement and
FLORAL DEMONSTRATION

will be given by

Mrs Nuala Hegarty

(MEMBER R.H.S.I. AND CHAIRMAN OF N DUBLIN FLOWER CLUB)

In Terenure College Theatre
On Monday 11 Dec. at 8p.m.

Admission 30p

"CONTENTMENT REGAINED".

by Emer Lenehan

"How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable seem to me" all the household chores at times! Ever dreaming of riches and fulfilment, I answered the small ads.

"HOME SELLING OPPORTUNITIES..." went the ad. I appeared for interview, having paid for a hairdo, babysitter and bus-fare. They had a tape recorder for sale and tapes which dealt with all types of marital problems. For a mere £256 this could be mine! If I could sell a similar one to a friend, I would receive £5 commission. The subject matter on the tapes was very good. However, I feared it would not help the new "marital problem" I would have, if I spent £256 in an effort to earn a few fivers.

"EARN MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS..." next caught my attention. My interviewer came to the house. She was so nice I accepted the job. I was appointed Supervisor of Sales. My job was to deliver supplies of Christmas cards to ten organisers, and allocate Sales Personnel to the organiser in each district, then collect sales money weekly. Each organiser was responsible for 12,000 Christmas cards and a generous commission was offered to me, organisers and sales people. For no clear single reason the cards didn't sell. I had to collect the unsold cards and try to pacify all concerned. Our employer paid our expenses out of his own pocket, as there was no profit on sales!

"SPARE TIME ENVELOPE-ADDRESSING AT HOME..." said the next ad. I rushed into the G.P.O. to put an English stamp on a self-addressed envelope. I received in reply an ad for a box of Christmas toys plus details of Homeworkers' packs. These cost from £2 - £5 depending on contents and would contain detailed information on firms to contact about envelope-addressing at home. As well as the £5, I was asked to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.....

How safe, secure and satisfying seem all my home duties recently!

"MISSING LETTER" COMPETITION. The missing letters were: I, P and L, in that order. The first three correct solutions to be opened were from: First - Fergal Lynch, 82 Templeville Drive (8) Second - Emer Healy, 1 Springfield Park (9½) and Conan Lynch, 82 Templeville Drive (10). Each receive 50p. Many thanks to all who competed.

NOVEMBER UNDER-14 COMPETITION: See opposite page.

Dublin - Atlantis of the Future

On every journey into town
Another building has come down:
And with the great bulldozer's roar
Streets that ne'er saw the light before
Are shown up in their shabby state.
But they will not have long to wait
Before the office block appears -
Cement and glass in artless tiers
Higher than what once stood there
Keeping out more light, more air.
Surely some of those buildings rare
Could have been left-in peace!

"The Royal" is gone for many years,
Reminding us of laughter, tears -
The pantomimes we all enjoyed,
The many people they employed.
"The Queens" is gone into the dust!
Its passing, it was long discussed
But in the end bulldozers came.
Theatre lovers lost the game.
The City's in a sorry mess -
What next is anybody's guess!
While for our money we get less -
And rates and rents increase.

"The Capitol" is now no more.
Its passing leaves a gaping sore.
"The Metropole" will soon come tumbling
And with the ceaseless, reckless crumbling
Dreams of the past will crumble too -
Of a meeting place that once we knew.
Findlater's waited in shabby gown,
But it too has come toppling down.
Not a trace of Pim's remains
Nor Harcourt Street with its many trains.
To me the losses outnumber the gains,
Where will the butchering cease.

Sheila Whittle
(Copyright)

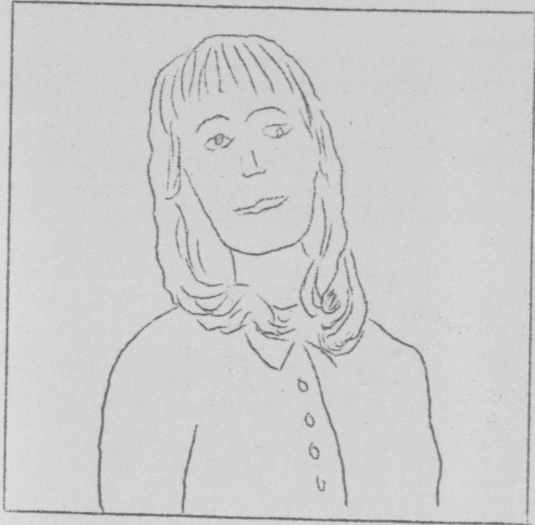
Watch out in our Christmas Number for two delightful contributions
by Sheila Whittle entitled "The Night the Ads Went Wrong" and
"TeleConFusion".

Memory Lane - the very title holds me spellbound for hours. Thoughts waft like thistledown on a summer breeze. And always it is summer... and the sun is shining. Looking back is like gazing into a kaleidoscope - thoughts come tumbling fast, one more colourful, more cherished than the next. One we will hold for a few moments because it is no more.

The annual fairday, which was held in the village of B----- on September 19th each year was looked forward to by young and old alike. A festive air seemed to hang like bunting from all the windows of the twelve houses on the main street. The three shopkeepers, who were also publicans, got in lots of interesting items for the Big Day. The general excitement was most prevalent among the younger folk. Not only did we get a whole day off from school, but we also had a chance to collect money easily - this we called our "farings".

The farmers who had spent weeks fattening their cattle for the market came along to bargain for top prices. As soon as the deal was made by spitting on the palm of the hand, followed by a firm handshake, they retired to the comfort of the pub to seal the bargain over a pint, and no doubt to settle the affairs of the whole country into the bargain. This was our big chance: to collect our "farings" by minding the farmer's cows until his return. Fortified by a big blackthorn stick we watched over the cows at a safe distance. It was fascinating to study them as they gazed out through their beautiful long lazy lashes. The swish of their tails meant "swoosh" to many a fly. Our "farings" could mean one, two, three or even sixpence, depending on how long the farmer had been or how mellow he had become. Once we were given 2/6d. in mistake for a penny (the coins being the same size) by a man who had become very mellow indeed. We debated whether to return it, and when we did he quickly replaced it with a penny. However, we did very well on the whole by collecting as many as 6 or 8 "farings" in the day. The spending power of the penny in the thirties was enormous. In one shop the Missus would count out carefully 10 peppermints into a cone shaped newspaper bag, but if Himself was there you were sure to get a fistful of twenty or thirty into the palm of your hand. So in time we learned to ask for bananas, which we knew they didn't sell, if only the Missus was there. I wonder did she ever guess?

Towards the close of the long happy day, when most of the business had been concluded, and the street was fairly deserted, one of the local publicans (a character if ever there was one) used to come to the door of his pub and scatter a shower of pennies in mid-air to be caught by those of us who knew the ropes. I can still hear the tinkle of the odd penny that nearly got away. I can hear the call of the curlew, the gentle note of the soft summer breeze, the wail of the banshee, but of that another tale another time. In the meantime remember to tread softly for you tread on my dreams.....



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Polly Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, Katherine Eddowes and Mary Kelly. These were the names of five middle-aged London prostitutes who earned themselves a place in the pages of history for no reason other than the fact that they were the victims of one of the most elusive and notorious murderers of the last century. The murderer was never caught yet he shall always be remembered as "Jack the Ripper".

September, 1888 saw the Whitechapel district of the East end of London, as its usual sprawling poverty-stricken self. The vast slum dwellings of the area housed a large immigrant population, while the narrow badly-lit alleyways formed the hunting grounds for prostitutes and petty criminals. Amid this vast and surging throng of humanity lurked one man who, in the words of George Bernard Shaw, "by simply murdering and disembowelling four women converted the proprietary press into an inept sort of communism". This rather exaggerated statement was in substance true, for as a result of the murders, the public were forced to ask themselves what type of social conditions had motivated them originally.

The story of "Jack the Ripper" has over the years formed the nucleus of many popular films. These films, have as a rule, tended to glamourise the five murder victims who were in fact nothing but female tramps and alcoholics, who sold their bodies for the price of a drink. The first victim, Polly Nichols was forty-two years old with a history of alcoholism and petty crime. On the evening of the 31st August, a Spitalfields market porter found her disembowelled body in Buck's Row. Eight days later the horribly mutilated body of Annie Chapman was found in the backyard of 29 Hanbury Street. She, too had been disembowelled and her head virtually severed from her body. The victim's rings and a few coppers lay in a neat pile at her feet. The murder had been committed unnoticed in the backyard of a house where no fewer than sixteen people were staying on the night of the crime. Annie Chapman's murder sparked off a wave of near-panic in the area. Rumours circulated that the murderer was foreign. In view of the large immigrant population in the district, these rumours created nothing but chaos. The police made hundreds of indiscriminate arrests with no direct evidence to support them.

On September 27th, two days after the inquest on Annie Chapman closed, the Central News Agency received a letter, written in red ink and signed "Jack the Ripper". The contents of the letter gave a relatively accurate prediction of the killer's next crime. This turned out to be the double murder of 29th and 30th. At 1 a.m. on Sunday September 30th the body of Elizabeth Stride was found with her throat cut. Three quarters of an hour later Katherine Eddowes was found murdered in Mitre Square, about ten minutes' walk from the scene of the first crime. As with the previous killings the murderer was never seen.

(Contd.)

On the morning of the 9th November, the eve of the Lord Mayor's annual procession, the Ripper's last victim was found in a dingy tenement room in Miller's Court. The body of Mary Kelly was so badly mutilated that it was barely recognisable as a human form. The police estimated that it must have taken the Ripper at least two hours to complete his hideous task. Yet nobody heard or saw anything.

Jack the Ripper was never caught. Nobody knows who or what he was. Some suggest that he may have been an unbalanced medical student. The expert way in which the bodies were dissected certainly hints towards this direction. Did he dabble in black magic? The removal in the cases of four of the five victims of the sexual organs suggested an association with the more sinister forms of the Black Arts. Was "Jack the Ripper" as many believe, not a man at all but in fact a woman? These are questions that can never be answered. One thing is certain, however, "Jack the Ripper" will never be forgotten, but will remain forever that elusive shadowy figure lurking behind every corner in the depths of our imaginations.

Source: "History Makers".

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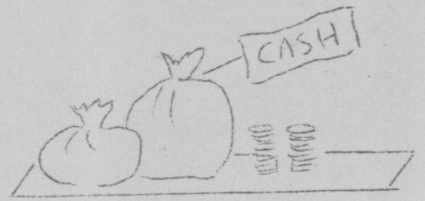
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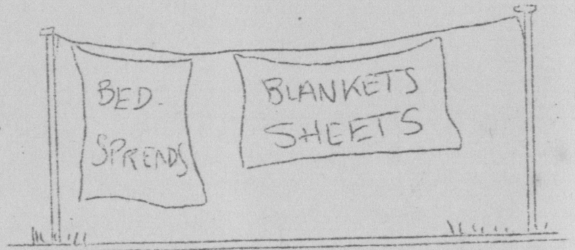
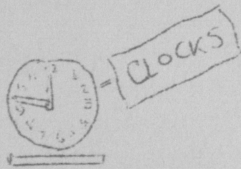
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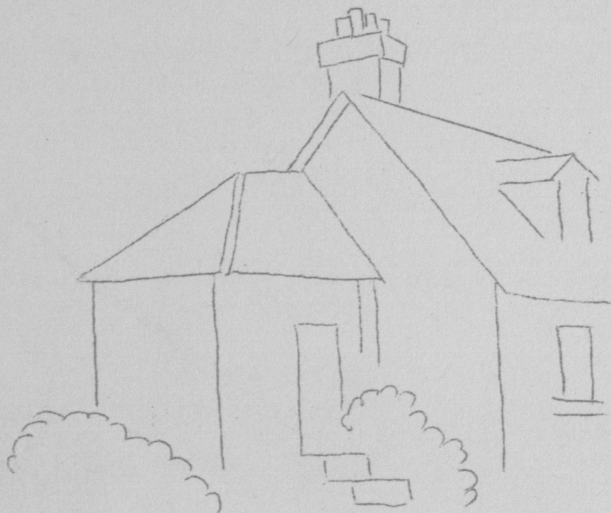
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