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MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1, 1962

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President deValera Makes First Appearance On Telefís Eireann

GREAT HOPES IN TV SERVICE

Inaugural Programme Goes Without A Hitch

EVERYTHING went according to plan with the new Irish Television Service's first programme from the precise stroke of 7 p.m., when the St. Brigid's Cross motif vanished and viewers in Dublin and other parts of the country saw the national colours being hoisted by an Army lieutenant.

Reception in the South, however, varied from "perfect" in Limerick, to "practically none" in Cork City.

The specially-arranged music of the National Anthem was interspersed with scenes of O'Connell Street, Dublin, and various aspects of Irish endeavour, agricultural and industrial.

Then, as the music faded away, viewers saw the President, Mr. de Valera, seated in the Chair of Arus an Uachtarán. He spoke first in Irish, and then in English, welcoming the new service, in which he said he had great hopes. Then the Taoiseach, Mr. Lemass, and the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Hilliard, made short speeches in which they wished the service well.

The inaugural programme fittingly concluded with an address by his Eminence Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland.

The preliminary speeches were followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev. P. McQuinn.

Meanwhile at the Gresham Hotel, the guests of the Radio Eireann Authority had gathered for a "Columba" which was also made part of the TV programme.

Mr. Michael O'Hehir introduced the guests who toasted Telefís Eireann, and he spoke to some interesting personalities. One of these was Mr. Austin Clarke, the poet and critic. "Who did he do it for?" he asked. "I did it for you," said Mr. Clarke.

STREET SCENE

The street outside, where the snow-laden crowd braved the ice-cold weather to watch the Telefís programmes on monitors set up outside the hotel, was a scene of activity.

The Army Band and a brass band played on the street and the music served to cheer the traditional Dubliners who gathered for the occasion.

The pealing of the bells at 10.30 p.m. was heard by the 3,000 people gathered, and when the number was over, viewers saw the President, Mr. de Valera, being transported to the past.

The traditional Dubliners who gathered for the occasion were seen from the streets of the city.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of the National Television Authority, Mr. P. J. O'Connell, introduced the President, Mr. de Valera, who said: "Baill o' nua sa gearrad, agus sonas oráidín sam a' tús na n-ádh. Tá mé an-ádh gur mise an t-ádh na n-ádh ag labhairt libh."

BRITAIN 'LIKE A VAST ICEBERG'

1961 slipped away into the past like a vast iceberg, leaving a trail of snow-blocked roads and a sea of ice.

The British Isles were hit by a wave of snow-blocked roads and a sea of ice, leaving a trail of snow-blocked roads and a sea of ice.

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Germans Have Not Forgotten

The West German Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer, greeted the Irish people in an address for Irish television last night. He said the German people had not forgotten how much good Ireland did in the post-war period, especially for starving German children.

Irish television, he added, "will surely contribute to the maintenance and the spreading of the ancient Irish culture."

I also recall in this connection that it was Irish monks who Christianised a large part of present-day Germany almost 1,500 years ago.

"I greet my Irish viewers, on the threshold of the new year, and hope for them, us and the whole world, freedom and peace."



Viewers in this home at Churchfield, Cork, one of the few in the city to get good reception, settle down to enjoy the first Irish TV programme, opened last night by President de Valera, who is shown delivering the inaugural address. (Examiner)

Mystery Fire A 60-minute blaze badly damaged Marlborough College in Haysman's Green, West Derby, Liverpool, yesterday. Part of the roof of the private school, which was empty, collapsed before 30 firemen could control the fire. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Celebrities Meet



Photographed at the luncheon in Dublin to mark the launching of Telefís Eireann (L-R) Mr. Eamonn Andrews, Chairman of the Television Authority; Mr. Edward Roth, Director General; and Mr. Kenneth Adam, Director of B.B.C. T.V.

Big Freeze-up Over Ireland Continues

SNOW, frost, ice, dangerous roads, burst pipes, transport dislocation, all combined to make New Year's Eve one of the harshest days of the whole year.

More severe weather is forecast: hard frost with intermittent showers.

The Arctic conditions brought confusion to Dublin Airport yesterday. Thousands of passengers waiting for three days to fly out crowded the lounges. Others jammed the telephone lines trying to get in touch with relatives or business associates. Eventually four aircraft got away to Manchester with London-bound passengers. London Airport was closed all day.

Ninety trans-Atlantic passengers were flown to Shannon to join a Boeing jet there. Yesterday's flights were the first out of Dublin since Friday.

When fresh falls of snow closed Dublin again last evening there were still thousands of intending travellers in the lounges. Aer Lingus succeeded in sending 800 passengers away in the mail boat.

Nearly all the roads in the country are in a dangerous condition for traffic. In Dublin city damage to domestic water pipes has been so extensive that it will take weeks to repair.

In Galway gas consumers have been advised to turn off the supply till a burst main has been repaired. Sport came to a full stop yesterday and courting meetings at Galway, Bandon and Clonea, Co. Waterford, have been postponed. All sporting fixtures in Limerick were cancelled.

Particularly hard hit were the Bandon and Carey's Cross meeting and the Deise Cup, which have been re-fixed for Thursday and Friday next.

Babes In The Snow

Two babies were found in the snow in England last night—one in London, the other in Staffordshire.

A sound of whimpering from a shopping bag half-buried in snow led a 34-year-old woman and her three-year-old son to Baby No. 1, a newly born girl baby at Boleyn Road, Hammersmith, London, yesterday.

They took the sound for an animal cry and expecting to find a trapped dog or cat, first searched underneath a car and then scraped snow off a car window to look inside before finding the bag containing the baby lying alongside one of a number of parked cars.

The baby was taken to Hammersmith Hospital and put in an oxygen tent.

Baby No. 2 was a six-month-old girl found in the snow outside the entrance to Tamworth general Hospital last night.

A man walking along Hospital Street there heard the baby crying and took it into the hospital.

The baby is described as well nourished, with thick dark brown hair, blue eyes and a chubby face.

A Chilly Welcome To The New Year

THE old year slipped gracefully out last night, and all over the country the new and promising year of 1962 was welcomed in fervent and traditional manner. The New Year made a chilly entrance, but the bells, the ships' sirens, the rail engines' hooters, and the car horns came strongly across the cold midnight air.

In many parts of the country, the New Year was given a traditional welcome. But this incoming year was special in that it marked the opening of Telefís Eireann, and the inaugural programme last night was a historic one.

The usual Watchnight Service was held at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, where his Lordship, Right Rev. Dr. R. G. Perdue, presided.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Canon C. B. Mills, Christ Church, in the afternoon. Dr. Perdue attended a school service for children, at which he gave the blessing. The lesson was read by the children.

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To all our Readers we wish a Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous New Year

LOWEST EVER TEMPERATURE

New weather records, in sunshine, rainfall, and temperatures, were set up in Britain in 1961, states the British Meteorological Office in their report on the main weather features of the year, issued last night.

The latest record to be broken was a new low temperature of minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit recorded at Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire, in the afternoon. The previous record was 8 degrees F in 1912.

SOVIET PRESIDENT SENDS US GREETINGS

President Leonid Brezhnev, of the Soviet Union, has sent New Year greetings to President de Valera and the people of Ireland, Moscow Radio reported last night.

He expressed the hope that in the New Year all necessary efforts would be made to develop relations between the Soviet Union and Ireland for the benefit of the peoples of both countries and in the interests of strengthening peace.

SHANDON SING-SONG

Even the coldness of the night did not deter a small gathering of people at the foot of the Shandon steeple for the customary sing-song, as the famous bells pealed out their traditional welcome.

Nevertheless, whatever memories the passing of 1961 evoked, last night's celebrations were in the traditional manner. Most of the younger folk danced the New Year in and the Old Year out, and in all cases dancing was suspended at midnight for the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

DUBLIN MAN ESCAPES FROM OPEN PRISON

Patrick Byrne (26) of Dublin, serving a three-year sentence for burglary and larceny, imposed at Birmingham Quarter Sessions last April, last night, walked out of Suddbury Open Prison, near Derby.

RUSSIAN SEAMAN DIVES FROM SHIP

A 19-year-old Russian seaman dived into the sea from his ship, the Soviet freighter Soyvet, as it sailed through the Bosphorus yesterday.

When he vanished, he was wearing a brown check overcoat over a blue suit and a beret. Both his arms are heavily tattooed.

Iraq Will Free Kuwait

General Kassem, Iraqi Prime Minister, said yesterday that recent British troop movements in the Middle East "combined with a renewed mutiny in Northern Iraq." In an interview published in the newspaper "Al-Thawra," General Kassem said the "mutineers" exploited a sudden snowfall and the withdrawal of some army detachments from the area to "renew their criminal acts, such as attacking Government offices, policemen and civilians."

The Iraqi Prime Minister said that the new mutiny took place "when we were preparing to meet new developments resulting from the threats and provocations of imperialism," again proved that the "mutineers up north were in league with the imperialists in the south and provocations would not prevent Iraq carrying out her mission to "liberate" Kuwait.

Pope John Greets Roman Workers

The din of car horns and noise-makers filled St. Peter's Square last night as 5,000 people paraded by torchlight to wish Pope John XXIII a "Happy New Year."

The 80-year-old Pontiff responded to the traditional greeting by Rome street-cleaners, bus and trolley workers and other city workers by imparting his blessing.

The pontifical procession, silent as the Pope raised his hands in benediction and wished that "the Lord accompany you through all the next 12 months."

Pope John said he gave his blessings especially for the families of the workers and for any families with sick or suffering children.

The jubilant crowd, which had first attended Mass, then made its way by car, truck and on foot into the huge square.

1961 Best Year Yet In Tourist Industry

A SURVEY of 1961 by Bord Fáilte indicates that tourist revenue is likely to have increased under all headings, making it the best year yet for the industry. Bord Fáilte believes that total spending by visitors will prove to have been in the region of £47,000,000. Should this be confirmed by final statistics, it will represent an increase of roughly 11 per cent on 1960, and of 45 per cent on 1957.

This improved position is likely to have been achieved in each of our three principal markets—Britain, North America and the Six Counties. While an increase in British traffic was expected, it is something of a pleasant surprise that U.S. traffic held up well during a period in which Europe generally was experiencing a recession in this regard.

Some of the highlights which helped Bord Fáilte in making its survey of the year reported fewer Americans, but on the other hand direct arrivals from the U.S. in the first nine months of 1961 were up by 14 per cent on 1960.

There was a considerable increase in cross-Border car traffic last year, but as much of this was made up of day-trippers the rise in tourist revenue is not expected to be spectacular.

During the first nine months of 1961, the number of passengers arriving in the State by sea and air exceeded one million, the first time that arrivals in the first three quarters of any year passed the million mark.

The most important development in the provision of travel facilities was the opening of Cork Airport in October. Important improvements were carried out at Dublin and Shannon Airports, and at Dun Laoghaire, Rosslare and Cobh.

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