

# The Irish Press

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## Keep our distinctive characteristics alive; says Mr. de Valera

# PRESIDENT OPENS IRISH TV

### Launched in confident and happy spirit

TELEFIS EIREANN was launched last evening in a happy and confident spirit. The last hours of 1961 saw the Irish television service inaugurated by the President, Mr. de Valera, and, as the first pictures flashed into thousands of homes, a new era in Irish social life had begun.

Mr. de Valera said he was confident that those in charge of the new service would do everything in their power to make it useful for the nation and that they would bear in mind that we are an old nation, that we have our distinctive characteristics and that it was desirable that these should be preserved.

Sometimes one heard, when urging higher standards in information and recreational services, that we must give the people what they want and the competition, unfortunately, led in the wrong direction, and so standards became lower and lower.

"Now, it is you, the people, who will ultimately determine what the programmes in Telefis Eireann are to be," said the President. "If you insist on having presented to you the good and the true and the beautiful, you will get these. I, for one, find it hard to be convinced that good tastes cannot be cultivated."

For the hundreds of men and women who worked behind the scenes to make the successful opening possible, and for the thousands of Irish viewers who had looked forward eagerly to New Year's Eve, it was a memorable occasion. At last, we had our own Irish television service. Homes were crowded with families to watch the birth of this new arrival.

Shortly before the appointed hour, the Kippure Test Card faded from the screen, the background music died; there was a short pause, and then, in a proud moment for the Irish people, our National Anthem rang out. Immediately after, the first person on Irish



### The people will determine the programmes

—Mr. de Valera

"NEVER before was there in the hands of man an instrument so powerful to influence the thoughts and actions of the multitude," said the President, Mr. de Valera, when he formally opened the new television service last evening. The President, who opened his address in Irish, said:—

"Ball ó Dhlú cráibh na uaisle na gearrad. Guim séan agus sonas oráibh san athbhliain agus toradh céadach ar bhur gcuid oibre. Is mór agam gur mise an chéad duine atá ag labhairt libh ar an tséirbhis nua seo agallann—Telefis Eireann. Tá súil agam go mbeifidh sibh siamsa agus aóibhneas as, agus chomh maith leis sin, teagasc agus eolas agus treoir. Ni raibh go dtí seo, i láimh an dúine, aon chumhacht chomh néachtach; agus tá dóchas agam go n-éireoidh linne i a chur chun tairbhe chóir. "As I have said, I am privileged in being the first to address you on our new service—Telefis Eireann. "I hope the service will provide for you all sources of recreation and pleasure, but, also, information, instruction and knowledge.

### Immense power

"I must admit that sometimes when I think of television and the radio and their immense power, I feel somewhat afraid. Like atomic energy it can be used for incalculable good, but it can also do irreparable harm. Never before was there in the hands of man an instrument so powerful to influence the thoughts and actions of the multitude. A persistent policy pursued over radio and television in addition to imparting knowledge, can build up the character of a whole people, inducing sturdiness and vigour and confidence. On the other hand, it can lead, through demoralisation, to decadence and dissolution. "Sometimes one hears when

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### FARMER (84) KILLED

Luke Padian (84), an unmarried farmer, Boherue, Elphin, was killed instantly on Saturday night when struck by a car at Castle Street, Boyle.

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### Pneumonia wave hits hundreds of children

THE outbreak of a pneumonia virus, aggravated by the severe weather, has struck down hundreds of children and infants in the Six Counties. Nurses are working overtime and extra supplies of oxygen tents have been laid on. In Belfast alone over 130 babies are in hospital—50 in the Ulster Hospital and over 80 in the Royal Belfast Hospital. The Central Ambulance Service reported that every available ambulance was being pressed into service throughout the Six Counties to cope with demand. Mr. E. M. Jones, secretary of the Six County Hospitals Authority, said there had been a great deal of co-operation between hospitals in dealing with the outbreak. Parents are being urged to keep children, especially infants, in an even temperature and isolated from anyone with a cold. The importance of keeping children's nurseries properly and consistently heated is also being stressed.

### SPECIAL

AS the bells rang out at midnight on New Year's Eve in the year 1899, people in the City of Waterford, in the taverns, recalled the old days, the great men and the strange happenings of the century that was drawing to a close. Their memories of the past, of famine and cholera, of risings of great soldiers and great athletes, and their hopes and fears of the years to come, are vividly re-captured by Nicholas Whittle in his book, THE GENTLE COUNTY. The first of a series of extracts from this saga of the Decies, people appears today on Page 9. Here is something you will like to read. Moving from that New Year's Eve in 1899, on pages 10, 11 and 12, we recall, in text and pictures, the people and events which made news in 1961, and we pin-point those who are likely to make news in this New Year of 1962.

### Everything to prevent war—Mr. K.

MR. KHRUSHCHEV last night played host at one of the biggest—but politically quietest—Kremlin New Year banquets in years and said: "We shall do everything to prevent a new war in 1962." He hoped more Colonial countries would get independence in the New Year, and then said 1961 had been a peaceful year. "The main achievements of the past year was that on most of the planet there was no war," he said.

## Snow and ice halt traffic

ROAD, sea and air traffic was badly hit and thousands of passengers were stranded as snow and ice yesterday gripped many parts of the country. This followed Saturday night's frost—the heaviest for 80 years.

While children skated and snowballed on frozen rivers and lakes, plumbers, electricians and post office engineers were flooded out with calls to repair burst pipes and power and telephone services.

Road conditions, the worst since 1947, reduced traffic to a crawl and thousands of cars were left abandoned. Dublin Airport, which was closed down on Saturday, was again crammed yesterday as thousands waited for outgoing flights. The airport became operational at noon, but was closed again when snow fell soon afterwards. Only six Aer Lingus flights took off.

By boat  
 Airport officials later arranged accommodation for 800 passengers on the Dun Laoghaire boat, and a fleet of ten buses ferried the travellers to the rail link at Westland Row. The boat was delayed nearly two hours to accommodate them. Extra staff was enlisted at the airport as phone calls poured in at a rate of one every two seconds. About 7,000 passengers were affected by the Airport's weekend shutdown, and officials

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### Greetings to our readers

WE wish all our readers a Happy New Year.

### Safe chief robbed

JOHN MOSLER was almost as embarrassed as he was angry yesterday when two armed bandits held up his car and robbed him and his wife of jewels valued at 44,700 dollars (£15,000). He is president of the Mosler Safe Corporation.

### Carrolls Number 1—easily the most popular tipped cigarette. Real smokers want the rich full flavour of fine Virginia tobacco. That's why the trend is to Carrolls Number 1—the cigarette that gives you true flavour—every time. Carrolls Number 1—fine cigarettes indeed. Enjoy them soon, enjoy true flavour.

FOR REAL SMOKERS

2/10 for 20

CARROLLS OF DUNDALK  
 MAKERS OF FINE VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

### Drink dearer in Galway

The 130 members of Galway Licensed Traders' Association decided last night to increase the price of the pint of stout to 2d. to 1/6 as from today. Half pints will cost 10d. (old price 6d.) and bottles of stout (10d.). The only increase in spirits will be for Scotch Whisky at 2/2 a half glass (2/-).

### Weather

A COLD northerly airstream covers Ireland. Forecast 6 a.m. to midnight: mainly fine but some snow covers in northern areas. Light to moderate northerly winds but fresh at times in the north. Cold with sharp, or severe frost at first and a lull after dark and slight frost all day in any inland areas. Further outlook: Continuing mild with scattered snow showers.

### TODAY'S TIDES

Dublin 7.15, 7.33, 7.49, 7.57  
 Can Ross 7.01; Sals 4.47  
 Lighting-up Time: 4.47.  
 Dixon, Hempenstall, 111 Grafton, Dublin 2—Barometrists (Adv.)

### OUR SCEALA

### DEATHS

MURRAY (Dublin) January 1, 1962. William Joseph Murray, 17 Serpentine Road, Balbriggan, deeply missed by family and friends. R.I.F. funeral arrangements later.

### Pearse, Yeats

The first moments of entertainment from the new service were provided by Siobhan McKenna and Micheal Mac Liammoir. Their selections were from the writings of Padraic Pearse. The cameras flashed back then to last October, to give viewers an idea of the pioneer work that went into the emergence of Telefis Eireann, and at 8 p.m. they went over to the Gresham Hotel for the first live broadcast of the new service. Within the gaily decorated hotel, it was in a happy mood that the 600 guests from Ireland, and from abroad, rose to their feet to drink the toast of Telefis Eireann. For the chairman of the Authority, Mr. Eamonn Andrews, and the Director-General of the new service, Mr. Edward J. Roth, it was a particularly proud moment.

### Songs, dancing

Variety, news and a look-back at events of the past year in Ireland followed until shortly after 10 o'clock, when the cameras went over to O'Connell Street where crowds of cheering people greeted the coming of Telefis Eireann. The happy crowds inside and outside the Gresham Hotel entered into the spirit of the occasion. There was dancing, singing and music. Probably never before was any television service started in such a spirit of goodwill. At midnight, the crowds in the street had swelled to great proportions and as the Artane Boys' Band played the New Year in, a great cheer for 1962 and for Telefis Eireann rang out. A thousand balloons went sailing into the air. At the same time, another thousand balloons were released inside in the ballroom of the hotel.

### The Cardinal

Shortly after midnight, in a fitting climax to a unique occasion, His Eminence Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, spoke to the Irish people over Telefis Eireann in the first hour of 1962. In the gay spirit that greets a New Year, Telefis Eireann had been born, and everybody wished the new arrival well. (See the Cardinal's message on Page 5).



The first baby of the New Year—a girl weighing 7 lb. 4 ozs—was born to Mrs. Joan Treacher, of 41 Belgrave Place, at one minute after midnight in the Rotunda Hospital. Picture shows Nurse Mary Carroll with the baby, and Nurses Kay Sheehy, Pegg Grant and Mary McCabe.