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**Transcript**

COUNCIL FOR THE IRISH CENTRE.

BLESSED OLIVER PLUNKET HOUSE, 51/52,

CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, N.W.1.

EIGHT ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1962.

COMMITTEES: All three Committees, Administrative, Carey Club, and Welfare met

regularly each month and worked with energy and enthusiasm in their various

spheres of activity resulting in a more widespread knowledge of the Centre and

its work.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE like the wise father was mainly concerned with

finance and planning for more space for the increased activities. The

Balance Sheet which you have before you gives testimony to the fruits of their

labours in the financial field as the loan from the Archdiocese of Westminster

has been reduced by a further £1,500 and this loan now stands at £11,500 as

against the original £15,000. The story of their success in the planning

operations cannot be unfolded in the this report.

THE CAREY CLUB COMMITTEE played their full part in the raising of the much

needed finance by organising the Sunday evening Bingo Sessions, and the selling

of tickets for the many social functions held. Their success in increasing the

Membership of Club is very noteworthy; from just under 100 to over 600.

THE WELFARE COMMITTEE too put their shoulder to the wheel in the raising of

general finance although they had their own objective to reach the raising of

funds to meet the salary of a full time Welfare Officer, as well as having

some money to hand to meet urgent cases of distress.

 Their appointment of Miss C.A. O’Sullivan, B.A. H. Dip., as full time

Welfare Officer fulfils a longfelt need. Since she took up her appointment on

1st. September she has interviewed 125 men, 34 girls and 16 families, giving

advice in many problems and financial assistance where she judged it was

deserved. This Committee expresses a great debt of gratitude to the Cork,

Clare, Galway, Meath, Longford, Associations, and the Irish Club, National

University of Ireland Club, The London County Board, G.A.A., The Emerald

Hurling Club, The Geraldines Hurling and Football Club, to Galvin, Burgess & Co.,

to John Murphy & Sons Ltd., and to the hundreds of Irish men and women here and

at home who contributed so generously, many by Bankers Orders. The Priests too

both here and at home deserve our thanks.

PREMISES: The decorations of the Residential accommodation were completed during

the year and the Club Rooms, entrance Hall, main Stairways etc., were also

redecorated and essential new fittings were added to the bar.

RESIDENTS 696 men were given accommodation during the year, bringing the total

number of men accommodated to date to 4,941. The Ages varied from 15 to 60,

and all 32 counties were represented. Marian House continued to play its part

in the accommodation of girls, 843 for 1962 bring the total to date to 5,528.

Here again there was a wide age range 1/3 of the total number being under 18

years of age on arrival. The debt on Marian House now stands at £2,500 against

the original £6,500, plus the £6,000 spent on Central Heating, furniture and

fittings.

STAFF; With increased activity the staff both full and part time had to be

Increased. This increase in staff is reflected in the balance sheet.

 We wish to pay tribute to the loyalty of the members of the staff who have

been with us for years. Mrs. Barrington and Eithne Ivory, (Marian House), Miss

Mary Mulhearn and Mr. Lawrence Gosling at the Centre. Miss Marie Harrington,

Mrs. O’Donnell, Mr. John Geraghty and Mr. Michael Farrell joined us early in

1962, and all will agree that they have added in no uncertain manner to the

efficient working of the Centre; we hope that they will spend many happy years

with us.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS: Despite our increased staff, the organisation and enjoyment of

many functions e.g. Bacon and Cabbage Suppers would not have been so helpful

without our voluntary helpers, who have impressed all our visitors from London,

and home; perhaps we might mention Miss Nellie O’Sullivan, our longest

serving volunteer.

 /VISITORS:/