

A new typing telephone puts the deaf in touch

By JO ANN STEVENSON
Times Staff Writer

Silence is not soothing or relaxing to the deaf — it separates the deaf from the hearing world, often cruelly and completely. Until recently, little was being done to bridge the gap between our community and the world of the deaf.

Corsair Public School has long had classes for hearing-impaired children who learn to cope well in an audio society, but the deaf or hearing-impaired adults were left to cope on their own.

Now, at last, there is a dramatic development. Let's go back one hundred years when Alexander Bell invented the phone, ironically as he searched for a device to help his deaf parent. But the deaf saw the telephone as a reminder of how little technology had helped them.



Times Photos by Gorm-Larsen

Mel Williams sits at the TTY, the typing telephone used by the deaf while Bill McGovern watches. Ted Browne, president of Civitan Club Mississauga, presented a cheque to purchase more TTY machines for the deaf in our community.

As is often the case, the handicapped helped themselves. Recently, a deaf American engineer took a teletype machine that was destined for the scrap heap and converted the type to a slower speed, attaching it to a coupler which translated the message into signals carried over telephone wires. The coupler on the receiving end took the acoustic message and translated it back to electronic signals which appear printed, simultaneously on both machines.

"Finally, the wonderful world of telecommunications is ours too," said Mel Williams, who is in charge of the distribution of the machines, called TTY, in Ontario.

Williams has been deaf since the age of 14 but has retained the gift of speech to which he has added a gift from his Welsh mother, a thick accent. Williams says "with the TTY the deaf (or hearing-impaired) don't have to

rely on friends and neighbors to carry out simple telephone calls between their friends or to set up appointments. Best of all they no longer need to run helplessly into the street in emergencies."

The Peel Regional Police have installed a TTY in their Brampton office which can field emergency calls to local stations in Mississauga. Sergeant Berry said, "Before we installed our TTY, it's likely that deaf people tried to call but were unable to make themselves understood. We're glad to have eliminated that problem. They use the TTY to report break-ins and accidents."

"Last winter a deaf and mute man, returning home from work at 2 a.m.,

found a little girl in the street crying. Without a TTY he would have had quite a time with that emergency situation."

However, he was able to take the little girl home, "type" his phone message on his TTY, which was transmitted and typed at police headquarters. Non-emergency calls still must be aimed at Toronto to a round-the-clock number manned by the Canadian Hearing Society. Peel Social Services and the Salvation Army are bringing that responsibility home to Mississauga within the next few weeks.

Aileen Dancy of Peel Social Services said, "Our intention is to install a TTY here in Mississauga. Our own deaf shouldn't have to call Toronto. The Toronto number receives up to 60 calls a day and the

types of requests can easily be handled by volunteer staff from Salvation Army and perhaps the Volunteer Centre."

Brigadier Honeychurch feels the deaf will feel part of Mississauga and they will use the TTY for improving their social contact, especially those who are alone or lonely.

One remaining problem for Mississauga is that all who need TTY cannot afford them. The coupler costs \$150 and installation is about \$40. The Civitan Club of Mississauga, Lions Clubs and Bell Pioneers and others have done much to provide the deaf with the TTY, but there is still a long waiting list. "Without groups like these, none of us would own a TTY and we'd still be back in the dark ages," said Williams.

Shuck the Cinderella image

If women are going to make it in the work force, they need push

By JO ANN STEVENSON
Times Staff Writer

What are the most common attitudes about women in the work force? They're pushy? Always sick or pregnant? They fold under pressure, won't travel, always on the phone to their families (or they're married to rich men or bleeding men with alimony) so they don't need a raise?

Women make up fifty two per cent of the population and forty three per cent of the

work force. Thirty six per cent of the married women in this province are working. Yet women earn less than 60 per cent compared to men doing the same jobs.

There are only two or three per cent of women in management positions. Some wonder whether women are conditioned by the books they read when they are children.

Cinderella waited passively while prince charming searched her out. Why didn't she place a want-ad for her lost shoe? She was rewarded for sitting back, not making a scene, being passive. Is it significant that nothing is known about the prince except that he owned a castle and was the most coveted man around?

Even Nancy Drew, who ploughed through many daring adventures, was continually rescued by Ned Nickerson before the book's end. And the newspaper headline read "Mr. Drew's daughter saved the day."

These were some of the observations made by Karen Fraser who owns a company called "Women Like Me." Her views are shared by Lois Scott, with Office Overload in Mississauga.

"Some women we see have their self-confidence so badly shaken they don't believe they can offer anything. Especially if they've been at home for ten or fifteen years, if they could only bluff a little, they'd find they could do more than they think."

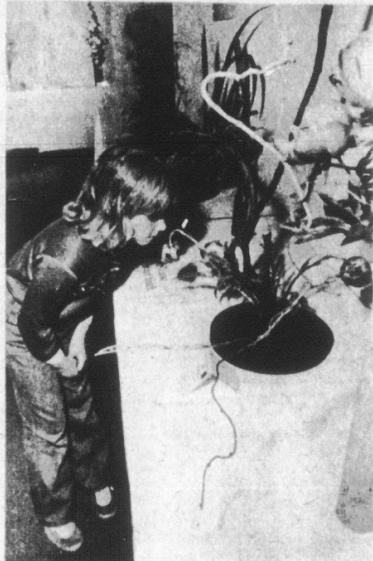
Other women that Scott interviews have the opposite problem. They have been out of the work force for up to five years and have an inflated value of their worth. Women who type 30 words a minute expect to receive top wages. Scott refuses to interview anyone who comes in jeans.

Attitudes are important too. "One girl acted as if I had asked her to come for an interview and she refused to retake a typing test in which she had accomplished the remarkable speed of 80 words a minute but with very poor accuracy," said Scott.

Madeline Froman of Mississauga, employed in personnel with Drake Personnel says, "Women who want to work should show their attitude by their dress and manner." She says, many young girls come in chewing gum or smoking cigarettes, wearing jeans or accompanied by their boyfriends. "I'd like to tell women to just relax and let a little of their personalities come through. Everyone feels nervous during an interview, so they shouldn't use that as an excuse."

She feels that many women are not aware of the salary structure today. Times are definitely tight and salaries are lower in Mississauga than in Toronto. "Be willing to start anywhere. You can't keep a good girl down."

"The most placeable women among the secretarial and clerical applicants are those with good solid skills. Even shorthanded seems to be a dying commodity, yet there is a great demand for it," said Froman.



Times Photos by Ken Kerr

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The Cloverleaf Garden Club displayed dozens of fresh ideas as well as hundreds of fresh flowers at Sheridan Mall last weekend. Suzanne Olie, 9, does a sniff test to see if the flowers are real. Mary Hooke, a member of the club, stands amidst an enormous display of ivy.



Times Photos by Ken Kerr

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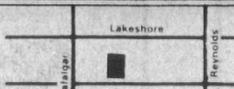
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