

THE MONT CLARE-LEYDEN

Herald

TEN CENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, 1952

'SCHOOLS ARE YOURS,' BOARD TELLS RESIDENTS

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A Girl and Her Pal



What could be a better reminder of National Dog Week than this pretty picture of Miss Sandra Lee Mickow, 15, of 7819 Sunset drive, Elmwood Park, and her pet Irish setter, Mickey? Sandra, a sophomore at Oak Park high, is like thousands of other youngsters, she loves her dog. Her mother, Mrs. Roy Mickow, is local chairman of National Dog Week. Photographer Gordon Greigh caught this pose for HERALD readers. Mickey served with civilian defense for 18 months during World War II.

Honor Heroic Telephone Operator



River Grove Chief to be Cited at Luncheon for Life Saving Act

In January 4 last year, a Leyden township telephone subscriber picked up her telephone to make an emergency call to her husband at work. Their 3-year old son had just spilled a pan of boiling hot water over his body, scalding himself severely.

In the events which followed, the role played by Chief Operator Cora McGuin, of the River Grove telephone office, helped to save the little boy's life.

The boy was Thomas Kruse, then three years old. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Marvin C. Kruse, 2051 North Emerson, Leyden township.

Mrs. McGuin will be honored tomorrow for her prompt action, at a luncheon meeting in the Oak Park Arms, Oak Park. At the luncheon she will be presented with one of the highest honors the telephone company can give an employee—the Theodore N. Vail Award for Noteworthy Public Service.

Mrs. McGuin, who lives in Forest Park, has been with the telephone company 30 years this Octo-

ber. She started as an operator in the Oak Park office in 1922. She left Oak Park in September, 1935, and came to River Grove as a supervisor. She was appointed chief operator on August 15, 1937.

A. F. Stephenson, General Traffic Manager for the telephone company, presented the honorable mention citation to Mrs. McGuin as various telephone company and civic officials looked on.

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REPRESENTING the telephone company besides Mr. Stephenson, were E. E. Mark, General Traffic Personnel Supervisor; F. W. Braden, General Personnel Manager; J. E. Wax, Secretary, Employees Benefit Committee; J. F. Pause, Division Traffic Superintendent; W. H. McCormac, Division Traffic Supervisor; L. G. Scheidt, District Traffic Superintendent; and J. Soucek, Jr., Telephone company manager for this area.

Attending the luncheon from River Grove were Village President Harry Smith and Mrs. Sam-

uel Smith, president of the River Grove Women's club.

According to Scheidt, the Vail Award winners are chosen for the many instances of individual accomplishment and devotion to the industry's highest ideals which take place annually throughout the country.

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A SEVEN MEMBER Illinois Bell Vail Award Committee, chosen by the company's president, decides on the basis of available evidence which meritorious acts of the year call for awards. Quick thinking and prompt action by Mrs. McGuin were credited by Scheidt as being responsible for her selection.

It was about 8:35 when the River Grove subscriber dialed
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Honor Heroic Telephone Operator

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"Operator" for help. As the operator answered, the woman's sobs and the anguished screams of the little boy were plainly audible.

Realizing the possibility of an emergency, she completed the subscriber's call to the International Harvester company where the father worked. She then obtained the number of the River Grove resident, and summoned her supervisor Mrs. McGuin.

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THE CHIEF Operator, Mrs. McGuin, then took over. Calling Mrs. Kruse, the customer, back to offer further help if needed, Mrs. McGuin, when told that the little boy had been badly burned, suggested placing a heavy coating of petroleum jelly on the burns. She also offered to call the doctor, but the mother said her husband would be home shortly to take him to the doctor.

She then called the company where the father worked to verify that he was on his way home. When the father arrived home he rushed his son to a local doctor and then to the hospital. Although the boy was near death for five days, he eventually recovered.

The doctor at the hospital said, in a letter to Illinois Bell, that the first aid treatment suggested by Mrs. McGuin was the best that could be given and helped to contribute toward saving Tommy's life. The grateful father said simply, "My wife and I both thank you from the bottom of our hearts as we feel this operator on duty saved our son's life."