



**DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF**

**35<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNUAL DAY**

**JUNE 11, 1985**  
**India International Centre, New Delhi**

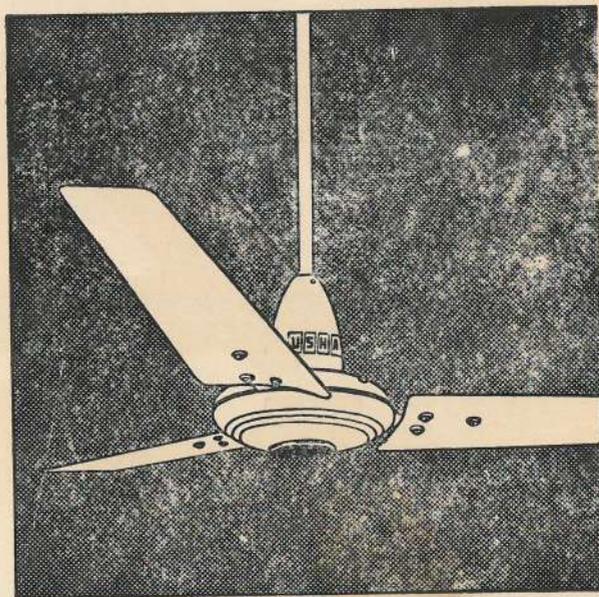
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For the year 1985-86

1986-87

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1987-88

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## —श्रद्धा सुमन—

पिछले कुछ दिनों में कई साथियों से स्थायी बिछोह हो गया है उनके असामयिक और आकस्मिक निधन से। उनकी कमी पूरी होनी कठिन है। सभा और उसके सभी सदस्य इन दिवंगत आत्माओं के प्रति श्रद्धा सुमन अर्पित करते हुए परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करते हैं कि वह दिवंगत आत्माओं को शांति प्रदान करें और उनके शोक संतप्त परिवार को यह हृदय विदारक आघात सहने का बल दें।

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श्री राज बिहारी लाल श्रीवास्तव

श्री राज बिहारी लाल श्रीवास्तव काफी दिन से बीमार थे पर इनसे इतना जल्द बिछोह हो जायेगा किसी ने सोचा तक नहीं था। ये नव वर्ष पर सभा द्वारा आयोजित मिलन में उपस्थित थे और सदस्यों को इन्होंने संबोधित भी किया था। विनोद प्रिय और मिलनसार होने से इनकी कभी सब को अखरेगी। २८-८-१९४६ को जन्में, इनका निधन १२-१-१९८५ को हुआ।



श्री केशव लाल आहूजा

सूझ बूझ के धनी और अथक परिश्रमी, श्री केशव लाल आहूजा बड़ी ही सुलभी प्रतिभा वाले थे और अपने परीश्रम से इन्होंने परिवार को पाला पोषा व योग्य बनाया। सब से मिल कर रहने में विश्वास करते थे व सब के स्नेह भाजन थे। इनको आकस्मिक मृत्यु से सब को बड़ी वेदना हुई। इनका जन्म ४-४-१९३७ को वर्तमान पाकिस्तान में हुआ था और मृत्यु २२-४-१९८५ को हुई।



## Challenges Accepted

—Dr. SURYA PRAKASH N. PURI  
Chairman

The year 1985-86 is the year of challenges. Several challenges have to be met. We have to provide our Members efficient and personalised service. They depend so much on us. Members' affairs have to be given top priority. Every thing possible has to be done to help them. Be it the question of education or training, placement or promotion, acquisition of shop or residence, the Association has to measure up to the aspirations and hopes of its Members. This should receive the top priority.

The Building Project, already badly delayed, has also to be taken up for implementation on priority basis. Since building plans already stand approved, the construction work has to be taken up in the right earnest.

This brings us to the crucial question of resources. The Association needs funds to implement its various welfare activities as also for construction purposes. Therefore, an all out effort is required to be made to obtain maximum funds. This is indeed a very big challenge but given the help and co-operation of our hundreds of members, adequate resources can be raised.

Sports promotion is yet another of the challenges that has to be met squarely and boldly. Hether to fore, not much importance has been given to practice, participation in various games and sports being the sole concern. The emphasis should now be on training and after creation of coaching facilities, participation be thought of.

Yet another of the tasks that lie ahead and must be tackled is that of unity. Only by remaining united and increasing our membership to the maximum extent can the Association become strong and stable. A lot of mis-trust has been created among members due to the goings on in the preceding two years. This must be removed and an atmosphere of understanding and mutual co-operation has to be created.

The Association, located as it is in Delhi and having fathered both of the national organisations of the Deaf, has to play an important role on the national plane also. This can be possible if it enjoys the trust and confidence of its members and is economically stable.

Thus, there are several challenges before the Association. The present Executive Committee and the team of office bearers has accepted these challenges in all humility. It will be our endeavour to do the maximum possible on all the fronts.

In order that we may succeed, we require whole-hearted co-operation of all concerned, not only of the members alone. Our success or failure in meeting these challenges will largely depend up on the measures of this cooperation. One thing at least can be assured. We would do our best.

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“खाओ गगन रहो मगन”

“उत्तम वनास्पति के उत्पादक”

“गगन”

5 किलो, 2 किलो, 1 किलो, पौ. पै. व  
1 किलो इकोनोमी पैक

“सुनहरी तीर एवं अमृत वनास्पति”

15 किलो एवं 10 किलो टिन पैकिंग में उपलब्ध

“अमृत साबुन”

कपड़ा धोने का एक उत्तम साबुन

“अल्फा साबुन”

धुलाई का एक सर्वोत्तम साबुन

अमृत वनास्पति कम्पनी लि०

जी. टी. रोड, गाजियाबाद

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## Silent Children of God Treated as Third Class Citizens

—B. N. KAUL

Executive President

In the Bangalore Seminar on the problem of Employment for the Physically Handicapped, held by the Government of India, in 1960, my remarks in the concluding session were greatly appreciated. I said, "Well, we have got scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the less fortunate and weaker sections of population whose backwardness is due to social conditions that especially denigrated during the long centuries of our natural subjugation. The state and people are making concentered endeavours to surmount caste barriers and inequalities, and some day we shall have a casteless and classless society. But even then some weaker sections will remain, I mean the physically handicapped. At present their conditions are worse than even Harijans, the children of God. Even in an egalitarian society, the physically handicapped will continue to pose special problems of reclamation, training and rehabilitation, needing special care, special treatment and special techniques. So, from this very day we should treat them, the problem of the physically handicapped on priority basis, providing these section both requisite safeguards as well as highly skilled care".

There was the usual clapping but, of course, little heed was paid to this earnest plea, which every participant appreciated. The recommendations made by the seminar met the same fate. I don't see any appreciable progress made towards actual rehabilitation of all the physically handicapped, some window dressing both by the Government and so-called voluntary organisations not with standing. Some of the later in fact have become the instruments of shameless exploitation of these unfortunate people, whereas the Government spends more on the various offices and departments concerned with the handicapped which do very little actual work and achieve much less in solid terms than what goes to the actual benefit of those whose fate is accursed.

The blind, the orthopeadically handicapped, the deaf and deaf mutes and mentally retarded are recognised as the physically handicapped. Basically, their lot is the same, as also most of their basic problems. But in some respects the four groups need different kinds of treatment and approach. However, as far as their disabilities and consequences of the same for their life are concerned, there is not much difference among the four categories of the handicapped. The blind may be suffering more in some respects but the deaf and dumb also suffer more than those in other respects. So there can be no fundamental differences or discrimination among them.

But that is exactly what is being done now creating discrimination, and this very much officially.

True enough, while the blind or the orthopeadically handicapped may need some kind of special assistance which has no value for the deaf-mutes, say like music lessons for the blind which has no value for the deaf, who may get education by film slides which is very effective for the deaf mutes but of no use to the blind, but all these are matters of detail. Otherwise, fundamental needs of all categories of physically handicapped are the same. All need specialised training and education (of different kind and content) to adjust them to normal life. All need special financial and other assistance for rehabilitation and employment, like scholarships, admission facilities, special institutions, employment assistance and so on. In other words the basic needs are same of all of them in matter which any discrimination among them will be not only retrograde but also illegal.

Yet we see that these fundamentals are being eschewed and discrimination is being increasingly practised, especially against the deaf and deaf mutes, who are called Silent Children of God. The blind evoke special sympathy bordering pity of the normal persons. The Deaf-mutes don't grudge such sympathy to their brethren in misfortune.

In fact they have more and genuine sympathy for the blind.. But that the deaf and deaf-mutes should be treated with empathy and nature which they are not. If the blind have their special problems, The former cannot move about easily. The later can not communicate created a formidable barrier between them and all other human beings.

Since the deaf and dumb can neither express themselves nor what others want to communicate to them, they have become a particular stood lot, an enigma for the normal. This communication gap stumbling block in their education and training. That is why while b persist and have preservance, get doctorates, become lawyers and doctors the deaf-mutes can not even get higher secondary education. No f education for them exist even now.

Again emotional and social problems of the deaf and deaf-mutes acute and complicated in their case than in case of the blind and orthopaedically handicapped.

However, the most pertinent fact in our country is that except a small minority placed in more favourable socio-economic settings, who are able to take advantage of some of the inadequate schemes and assistance offered by the Government because of the persistent efforts of their parents and thus attain some education and proficiency in some crafts otherwise the overwhelming majority of all categories of the physically handicapped remain neglected and suffer the worst of the life. Indeed, they as a whole are now treated just second class citizens—actually like third class of the railway labelled as second.

But now, instead of realising this abject failure to solve the problem of all the physically handicapped and lessen to some extent the heavy backlog, the Government has started practising discrimination among the various categories of these unfortunate people.

For instance, the deaf-mutes now get, if some of them are lucky to get it at all, less scholarships and stipends than other categories. The scholarships and stipends should be need based, which don't vary much among the various categories of the physically handicapped.

The deaf and deaf-mutes get less opportunities in recruitment to government, quasi government, public sector and private sector jobs. Again, they are paid much less than not only the so-called normals, despite being very skilled, but less than even other categories of the handicapped.

Similarly, the voluntary bodies of the deaf and dumb (who are better placed in matter of self-help and gaining self-reliance) or these who work for them and their uplift, get much less and lower grants and other facilities although the percentage of the deaf and deaf mute population is the highest. Since there is no cure for deafness or loss of speech, the incidence of deafness and muteness is on the increase, whereas since most kinds of eye diseases including total loss of sight is curable, the incidence of blindness is in the decrease. Similarly the incidence of orthopaedically handicapped can also be reduced.

Now the latest and the most glaring example is that while the blind and orthopaedically handicapped have been granted 75 percent cut in the fares for railway travel (the blind can also take along one normal companion at 25% of the ticket value) the deaf and dumb have belatedly been grudgingly given facility to travel at half fares but only if they have total hearing as well as speech loss. No such condition has been laid for orthopaedically handicapped that they must suffer from the loss of both limbs to be eligible for concession.

Taking a full view of the whole picture, it is obvious that while other physically handicapped may be second class citizens in this country where as per Constitution all citizens have equal rights and the backward and suffering have special rights, the deaf mutes are treated as third class citizen that too of the lowest rung. If you want to see the real face of this neglect, go and see the deaf and dumb living in slums, jhughies, pavements and katras of Delhi, Their conditions are worse than beggars. Most of them have become mentally retarded too.

How long will they remain neglected, forced to lead sub-human lives, these Silent Children of God, whom even the so-called organisations of the deaf or for the deaf have forsaken, who pander only to few vested interests, only God knows.



## *Hony: Secretary's Report*

--D.S. CHAUHAN

### Ladies & Gentlemen

I am at a loss how to begin my Annual Report. The year gone by has seen such monumental changes. The country lost its most beloved leader and the physically handicapped their patron-saint in Shrimati Indira Gandhi in the most tragic circumstances. In this hour of grief emerged a youthful leader—Shri Rajiv Gandhi who can be counted up on to steer the nation's ship through the troubled waters.

Because of the tragic circumstances referred to above, the Association's one of the most ambitious projects—holding of 10th National Games of the Deaf had to be abandoned. This however in no way spared the Association from the expenses which had to be incurred in boarding and lodging of hundreds of deaf athletes who had flocked from all over the country to participate in these Games.

The Association, because of the misguided elements within its ranks also had to under go traumatic experience. I will, however, not dwell on this painful aspect.

Also, since the present set-up has taken over the helm only a few months ago and more over as, full charge has not yet been handed over by the previous office bearers, who are deliberately withholding important records of the Association which they had removed from the office unauthorisedly, I am not in a position to dwell upon the previous year's performance, lack-lustre as it has been.

With your permission, I shall, therefore, share our future programmes with you and hope that these will interest you and obtain for us your involvement in our activities and of course, your valued support.

Our prime objective now is to attend to the personal grievances of hundreds of our members, who can neither speak nor hear. Also, in most cases, they can not even write to express themselves, and have to do it in gestures. They have numerous problems and it has become our bouden duty to attend to the same.

Employment assistance is naturally the first of our several tasks. A large number of our members, despite having had their names registered with the special employment exchange for physically handicapped for as long as 12 years, have yet not secured any gainful work which is indeed a pity considering that they make exceptionally good employees.

The other problems faced by our members are of mundane nature. Safe-guarding their interests in division of property in which the shares of deaf-mute members are often usurped taking advantage of their handicap, attending to various agencies of the Administration, obtaining for them rehabilitation assistance in the shape of shop, kiosks, loans, and smoothening other rough spots as are experienced by majority of our members, are some of the items that are receiving our whole-hearted attention. Daily almost 50 members come to us with their different grievances and we do what

ever is possible to help them.

Presently we are working from very cramped quarters. Our membership, during the past two months has risen by over a hundred. We now have over four hundred deaf-mute members and their numbers would rise to six hundred in the next 2-3 months. To attend to all of them from the present space of 10'—15' is almost impossible. We are looking out for a roomier accomodation and would welcome any assistance in this respect.

In this context, I would like to state that we are already acutely conscious of the sad fact that we lack a place of our own. As a matter of fact, after years of efforts we had succeeded in securing a plot of land in Masjid Moth from Delhi Development Authority and plans for construction purpose had also been got prepared. Before the execution of the project could be taken up, the area's Residents' Association mistakenly raised objections and scared away our then timid office bearers who promptly applied for an alternative plot, instead of sticking to what the Association had purchased after paying for it in hard cash which was raised by the poor members from their meagre resources. For the past 2-3 years, under the erst-while Executive Committee, the Building Project of the Association has remained in the cold storage. We have since resurrected it, have already held a meeting with the Lt. Governor, Delhi in this respect, now propose to meet the representatives of the Residents' Association and explain them the benefits that would accure them as a result of our building project, and persuade them to withdraw their objections more so as our claim is legitimate.

While all these matters can and will be sorted out in due course, the problem of money would persist. The Association, therefore, looks to its patrons and well wishers for the bulk of expenditure involved in the implementation of its Rs. 15 lac building project.

Among other of our priorities is a greater co-operation also, collaboration to the extent possible, with other social service organisations, more with those engaged in the welfare of hearing impaired. This is because of our growing realisation that we can not live in isolation and have to work hand-in-hand with others. A beginning has already been made by teaming up with Prabha Institute to launch the National Theatre of the Deaf in India.

In the next month, i.e. June 1985, about 50 of our members would be going to Kashmir to attend a Holiday-Cum-Educational Camp being organised by us there. We have been fortunate enough to receive financial assistance and support from the State Government in the past and are grateful.

Come winter, we propose to organise a trip to Kanya Kumari for our members. Efforts will be made to visit as many institutions and organisations of the deaf while going to and returning from Kanya Kumari. A programme is being drawn up in consultation with the State organisations of the Deaf.

Among other projects to be taken up shortly are : quick maturing self-employment projects for our members, the Association contributing towards the bulk of financial out lay, an organ (journal) of its own, provision of more and better recreational facilities and resumption of evening classes.

Given your good will, co-operation and assistance, we hope to do all these and much more. Before, concluding, I would like to thank you for the kindness that you have been good enough to show us be joining us on this happy occasion, the 35th Anniversary of our Association.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Delhi Association of the Deaf places on record its deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to :

Shri Ashok Gehlot  
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For sparing so much of his valuable time  
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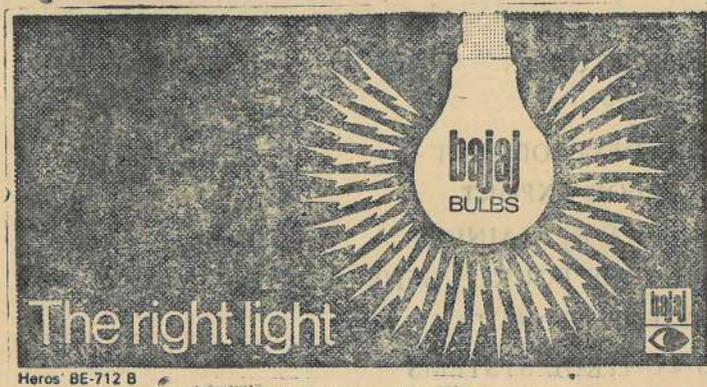
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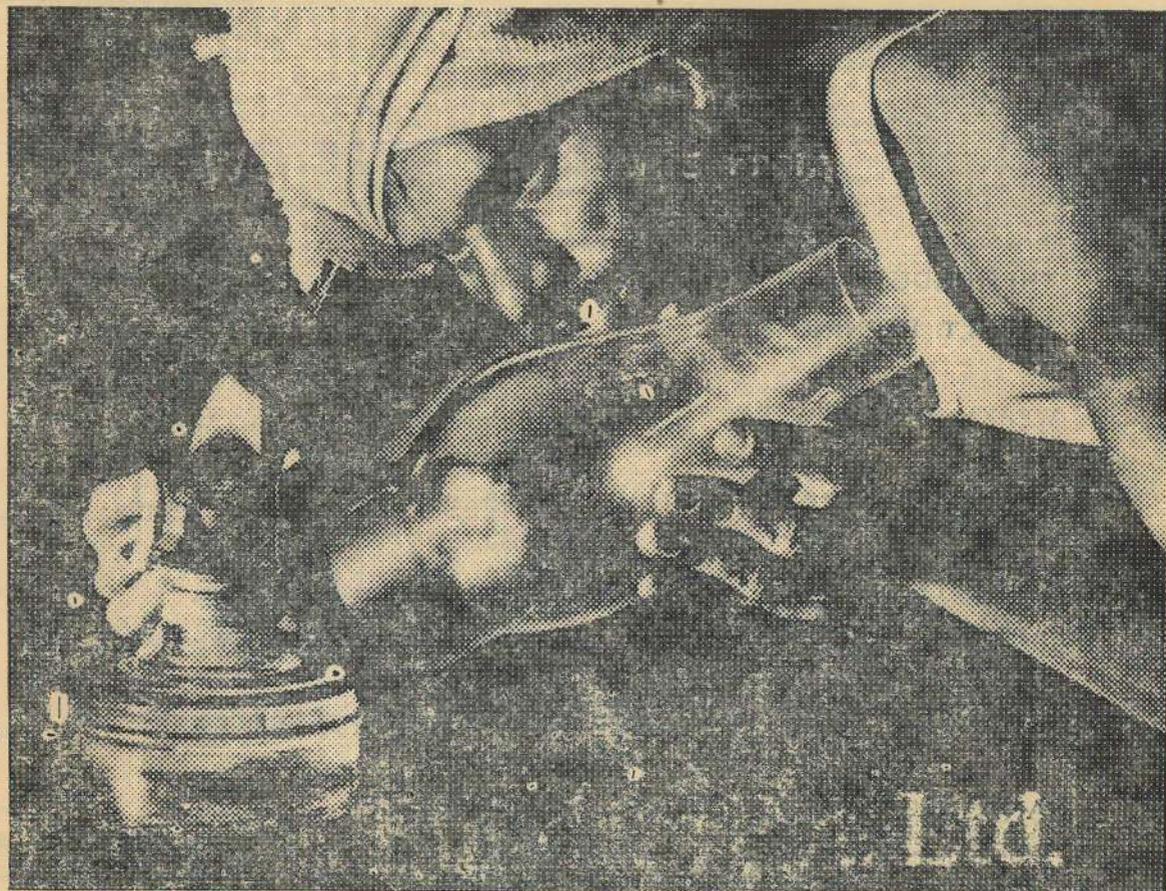
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How are computers going to affect his life?

In countless ways. But let's take one concrete example.

Electricity reached his village over ten years ago. But there's such a shortage of power that he has to revert to kerosene lamps half the time.

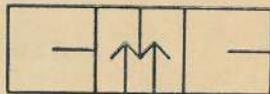
So what are computers and applications software going to do? Generate more power? No. We'll leave that to the new thermal, hydro or nuclear projects.

What CMC can do is design software that makes the most effective use of available power. That ensures continuous power free from voltage and frequency fluctuations. That reduces losses in transmission and safeguards the security of the system. At the most economical price and the least ecological cost.

Castles in the air? Hardly. Under a U.N. sponsored project called Interact, CMC was given the signal honour of leading teams from 21 nations and has already developed a real-time system for electric power management. Not to mention on-line systems for railway freight management. And a satellite image processing system for meteorological applications.

So you see what our power package could do is help him to get a constant supply of electricity. Truly, the scope and possibilities for designing relevant and highly useful software in the core sectors are infinite. Which is why CMC is busy working on

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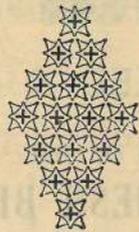
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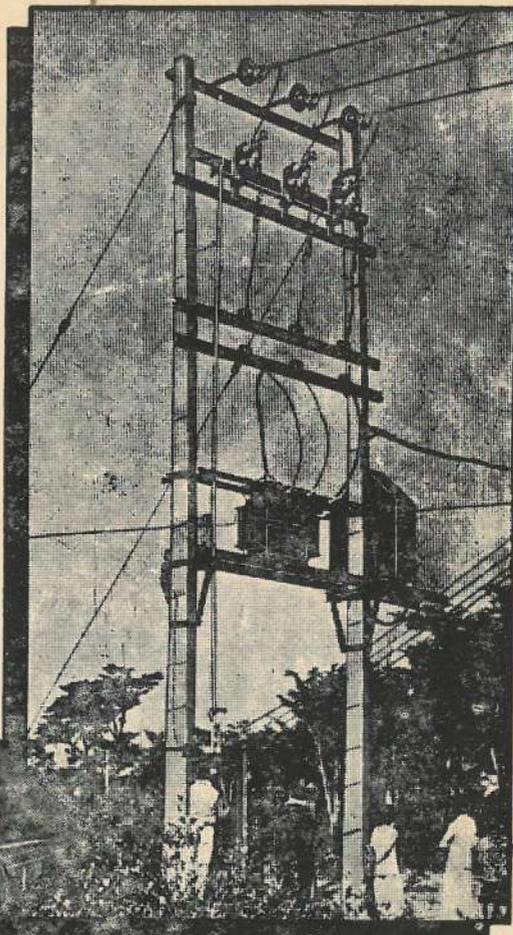
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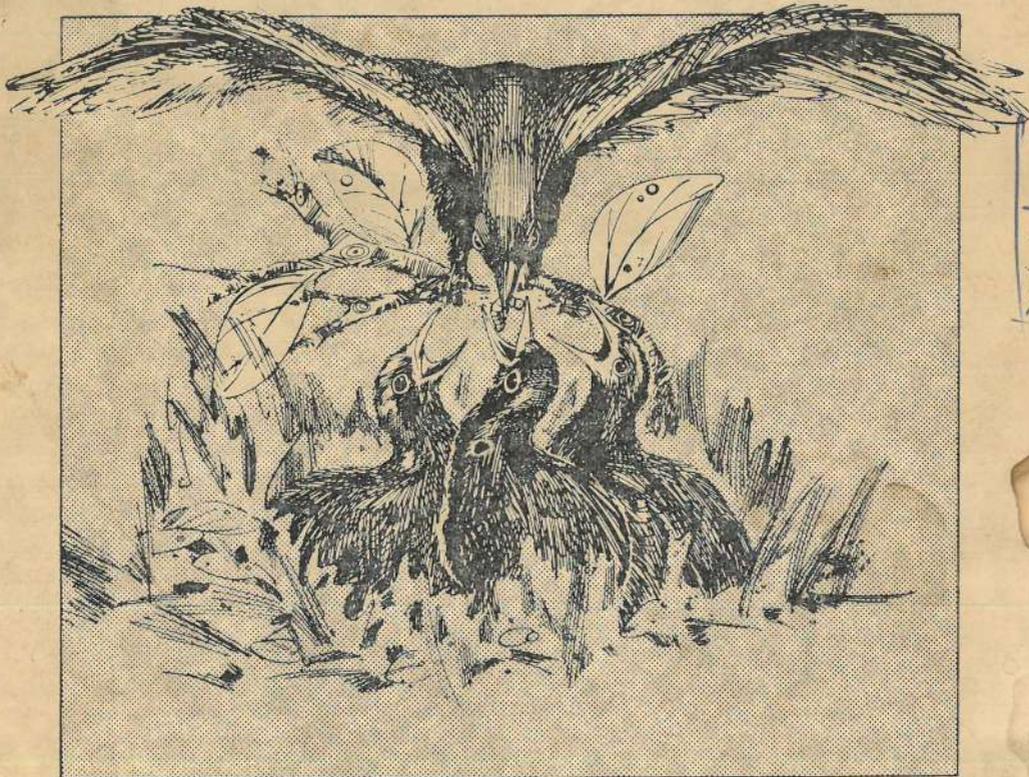
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