

# Magdalen Home To Close Down After 134 Years

**FORTY EMPLOYEES** at the city's 134 years old Magdalen Home Laundry, which is run by the Sisters of Mercy, are to lose their jobs in a closedown of the business scheduled for next month.

*But for some of them the November 16 closedown will mean more than the loss of a job — some of the women working there have lived in Magdalen Home for forty years.*

Among the forty are seventeen women who lived full-time at the Magdalen Home at Forster Street and for whom a new home will have to be found by the Sisters of Mercy after the November 16 deadline for closure.

Some of the women had lived in

the Magdalen Home since they were teenagers and among them are three or four old age pensioners.

The Sisters of Mercy, who run the laundry and home, though they have officially refused to comment, say they are looking after arrangements for the women after the November closure.

The Magdalen Laundry, which is the city's oldest, also ran a dry cleaning service. It serviced customers from as far away as Roscommon, Offaly, Achill, Castlebar and Lisdoonvarna.

Of the other 23 workers, only 17 are members of the I.T.&G.W.U. The women who are residents of the

Home are not members of any union.

The union is now negotiating redundancy payments for its members at the Laundry. Though the union has demanded a five week claim for every year of service, it is believed that it now has accepted redundancy of one and a half weeks for each year of service.

The Laundry will continue its business as usual until November 16. Already some of the workers have ended their employment with the Magdalen Home Laundry.

Sister Annunciata, the Sister-in-Charge, had no official comment to make on the redundancies.