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Call for Entries

By Erin L. Wright

Remembering

Father Kevin Shanley

"One of the things I like about living in Darien is that I'm halfway to everywhere," he once said as we sped off to Milwaukee.

That was 1988 and I was considering Marquette University Journalism School. There was no better guide than our departed Reverend Doctor Kevin O'Neill Shanley, O' Carm. I was his guest at the Annual Byline Award luncheon each homecoming. It was through Fr. Kevin that I first met my would-be professor George Reedy, the former press secretary to President Johnson.

Over the years, I learned that not only did Father know everyone, but also he seemed to be everywhere. There is no question the man is in heaven because he must have had wings here on earth. For example, in addition to all of the planned meetings and events we had in common, there were many unexpected visits. Of-

ten times I would find a "stopped by & sorry I missed you" note in my mailbox—whether I was living in Joliet, IL, attending college in Milwaukee, WI or even studying in Co. Meath, Ireland! That Carmelite got miles.

Quite simply, the man helped many people everywhere. To honor him, the Manhattan Irish Fest is

memorabilia you may have from or about Fr. Kevin. There are so many "Did you know?" stories as well that we hope you send in. For example, did you know that he had a laminated card in his car's glove box that read "Clergy" on one side and "Press" on the other?

Please send all great stuff about Fr. Kevin to: Fr. Kevin Shanley Memorial, c/o Erin Wright, 491 Fairview Drive, Manhattan, IL 60442 or erinwright333@yahoo.com. Then come join us at the Manhattan Irish Fest cultural tent to sign the memorial's guest book and share in the memories of a great man. Save the dates.

Due to Father's far-reaching presence, we are currently neither putting limits on nor guaranteeing what this memorial may include. Should you have any questions, call Erin Wright at 312-683-6115.

Priest, student, teacher, lector, editor, journalist, scholar, historian, counselor, radio player, son, brother, uncle, friend. The man did so much for so many. He shall not be forgotten.



going to feature a Fr. Kevin Shanley exhibit in the cultural tent next March 6-7, 2009. IAN Publisher Cliff Carlson has agreed to allow us to reprint Fr. Kevin's "Tinker's Dam" columns to share.

And we need you, too! Please send us your photos, recycled envelopes or notes—and any other

Chicago Irish Pub Music

Meetup Group Hosts Multi-Meetup Events

The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meet Up Group is hosting a "multi meet up" event on Saturday, November 8th at 8pm at Irish Times Pub and Restaurant, 8869 Burlington Ave. in Brookfield, IL (708-485-8787); all are welcome to attend!

There will be live Irish entertainment by Paddy Homan and Friends. Paddy is a popular Chicago Irish Lyric Tenor from Co. Cork, Ireland.

Meetup is the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for everyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 2,000 groups get together in local communities each day. There are 5 million monthly visitors on meetup.com and 4.7 million members. The mission of meetup.com is to revitalize local community and help people around the world self-organize. Meetup is how people "use the internet to get off the internet."

The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup group is a group of Chicagoland Irish Pub Music Lovers. Meetups are planned at least once or twice a month in different Chicagoland Irish Pubs locations

depending on the Irish music schedules. They also meetup for outdoor Irish festivals and Irish music concerts believing life is best discussed over a pint... join in the fun!

The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group is one of 1,355 local meetup groups in the Chicagoland area. The group was established in April 2008 and has 88 members with a rapidly growing membership. They have had fifteen meetups since April and currently have six more meetups on the calendar before year end with more events being added all the time.

An RSVP on eventbrite.com is the only way to reserve your spot due to the potential size of the crowd. RSVP directly at <http://irishtimespubmultimeetup.eventbrite.com>

<http://celticmusic.meetup.com/113> (Chicago Irish Pub Music Meet Up Group)
www.irishtimespubchicago.com (Irish Times Pub and Restaurant)

See Mapquest Link
www.paddyhoman.com (Popular Chicago Irish Lyric Tenor from County Cork Ireland)
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The Sales Pitch



Cliff Carlson, Publisher



Nuggets From the Navigator

The One Constant...

Is change. We had better be willing to embrace it, as it just keeps coming.

Who would have thought gas prices would soar the way they have? That a woman could become vice president this year, or that a black man could become president this year? That the stock market would change the world as we know it? That our country, built on capitalism, would see the government buy a stake in our biggest banks? A select few. The rest of us had no clue.

Most change is out of our control. What we can control is how we react to it. We can go down kicking and screaming, or we can feint like a boxer and move out of the way. Take it all in, assimilate it in our minds and do something about what we can.

The way we get our news is

changing. Technology is changing and we have to change with it. Our newspaper isn't going anywhere. We will not only survive the change within our industry, we will profit by it, and so will you.

The major paper mills have merged, and closed plants to keep prices high, so we need to make a move too. Since I have owned Irish American News I don't believe I have ever used plain newsprint. I have used paper which is whiter and several grades better than newsprint. But, with this issue you will notice we are using newsprint. Until the demand is higher for paper, and the mills reopen and LOWER prices again, we will run on newsprint. Not quite as pretty, but it gets the job done, and allows us to hold our prices while everything around us is going up.

We have been surcharged to death by UPS and FedEx because of soaring gas prices. They post one price, but have the right to charge us more for our mailings with surcharges, and they have been. We haven't passed it on, and with the price of gas falling again, maybe we won't have to!

We are embracing the internet.

Before the end of the year, we will have a beautiful new site that incorporates relevant videos that we have taken which will bring our website to life. Each video will have it's own ad on it, very low key, and discreet. The advertisers will be Irish products and services that you are interested in. I urge you that want to advertise on the videos to call me and get the lowest prices

before I know what to charge for them! You, the reader, will watch what you want for free.

Before the end of the year, you, the reader, will be able to send us your news, your calendar items, and even your videos for posting on our community friendly site.

We will also begin selling Irish books on our site at www.theirish-bookclub.com. Soon, if there is an Irish book you are looking for, we will probably have it available. As the site develops, we hope to have an Irish Book Club up and running across the country that you can participate in. If you have an Irish book for sale, call me about being on our new site.

Stay tuned for more change.



Larry Nugent and Danny Burns opened for Solas recently at the Abbey Pub. The boys are working on a new album called North Country featuring songs from the North of Ireland. More on that later. Photo courtesy of Cathy Curry, 4girlsphotography.com.

Popular Radio Program Expands to Two Hours

The indefatigable Maureen O'Looney has decided to expand her one hour Irish radio show, American Irish Media Network, from one hour to two hours on Wednesday evenings from 8pm to 10pm. It will be broadcast to

the Northside on WSBC 1240 AM and WCFJ 1470 AM for the Southside. To call the show, dial 773-792-1240.

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The Scattering of Sliabh Ban

In a 12-part series, this narrative examines some of the more obscure events in Irish history and the effect they had on the families of a small mountain in County Roscommon. It will also reveal the incredible chain of events that led to the discovery of these people as the winds of change delivered a blight upon their main source of food.

Part One



Sliabh Ban (schleve bawn) is an otherwise unremarkable mountain in central County Roscommon. It is situated west of the Shannon and just north of Roscommon Town. The "White Mountain," which is not even a thousand feet high, knows the true story of two people whose lives become entwined in a drama that couldn't have been scripted in a Hollywood film.

While the gut wrenching heart-break of the story won't take place for a thousand years, in order to understand the compelling consequences of misfortune, we must travel back to the earliest times of Ireland.

Thanks in no small part to the CELT project from the History Department of University College - Cork, we are able to trace the events and people that shaped the small pieces of land in Ireland's central plains.



The Celts began a migration east into what was then called Hibernia by the Romans around 500 BC, with a major influx closer to 50 BC which would make the Celts the dominant people of the island. They brought with them a druid tradition that would be sustained, although weakened, by Patrick's

introduction of Christianity almost 600 years later. For a millennium after Patrick, the Celts would still celebrate the Christian seasonal holidays with rituals left from the much earlier Imbolc's first signs of spring, Beltaine's May Day, Lughnasadh's harvest festival and Samhain's Halloween traditions.

When we speak about the Christian saints in Ireland, immediately after Patrick, we are drawn to Brigid. What we never really consider is that the Celts had a pagan goddess named Brigid as well. The daughter of Dagda, she was the goddess of fire who symbolized song and poetry and was one of the Tuatha De Danann. Many believe St. Brigid to be a Christian re-creation of the fire goddess.

This warrior people also had their share of artisans and intellectuals. Fidhcheall, a form of the board game, chess, was played in ancient Ireland. Invented by Lugh, the Irish god of light, it was also played by Cuchullainn, his son. This game would predate the modern game of chess by 1500 years. The early Irish were also keen on the sports game of hurling. The game itself is older than the written history of Ireland as many of the earliest texts refer to the game. Cuchullainn, born Setanta, was said to have been an expert player, once



clans and their septs (a family that taken into the clan.)

This story doesn't involve any of the Monarchs or any of the Provincial Kings. Nor does it include any of the 'great' battles for conquest during those early years of Ireland. It is instead, a quiet reminder that great events are populated by ordinary people sometimes engaged in extraordinary activities.

From the earliest times of the manachs, or monks, of Ireland, were the scribes of Europe. Columbanus and twelve other monks would leave Ireland to spread Christianity to France, Italy, and the areas that are today called Germany and Switzerland following the fall of Rome. Brendan, Columcille and even Patrick were scribes. Columcille would establish a monastery on the Island of Iona where the Book of Kells was created and is said to have created over 300 manuscripts. It is these monks who only 50 years earlier were pagan illiterates, would band together in monasteries and copy all of the great works, religious and otherwise, while the post-Roman barbarians were busy destroying them in all of Europe.

It is the progeny of these manachs, or monks, from which this story follows. Sometime after the 4th century, a town of these manachs would combine septs and become known as O'Mannachan, or 'of the small town of monks'. This clan, already tied to the land known as the Three Tuaths, would gradually rise to be chieftains of Ui Briuin and rule for centuries from that small and innocuous mountain just west of the Shannon.



A Quick Note:

This series will introduce you to the story of Michael and Mary, two kids from the same small village in County Roscommon. A historical novel about their story entitled because they never do is the premise for a haunting screenplay entitled the Scattering. The purpose of this series is to gather support for the making of this film.


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Irish in US Opt for Passport with a Harp

Irish citizens living in the United States are applying in their thousands for Irish Passports according to new figures released by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, TD. People living in America accounted for 20% of all Irish passports issued to people abroad.

Minister Martin said: "An Irish passport is held in high regard worldwide. The fact that so many people living in the United States have opted

to travel with our passport in their pocket not only underlines its universal standing, but also that so many people living in America are proud to call themselves Irish."

Anyone considering applying for an Irish passport can get details from either the Irish Embassy in Washington, DC or the consulates in New York, Boston and San Francisco. Details are also available online at www.dfa.ie.

Rediscover Northern Ireland Program Returns to Library of Congress

"The most beautiful music of all is the music of what happens," according to an old Irish proverb. The unique geographical, cultural and musical landscape of Northern Ireland has produced many remarkable musicians, artists and folklorists living and working in the world today. As a follow-up to a successful season of cooperative events in 2007, Rediscover Northern Ireland 2008 brings three of the most respected artists to the Library of Congress for a series of free events co-sponsored by the American Folklife Center and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Len Graham presents a lecture titled "It's of My Rambles... A Journey in the Song Tradition of Ulster" on Thursday, Nov. 6, at noon in the Mary Pickford Theater on the third floor of the James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave. in Washington, DC.

S.E. Graham, a traditional singer and song collector from County Antrim in Northern Ireland, explores the folk-song tradition of his native Ulster. His talk will be interspersed with live performances of songs in English, including early classic ballads, broadside ballads and songs of love, politics and emigration. Graham has been a professional traditional singer since 1982 and has received many awards for his work, including the Sean O'Boyle Cultural

Traditions Award for his book and field recordings "It's of My Rambles..." and the Tommy Makem Keeper of the Tradition Award. In 2002 he was the first recipient of the Irish television TG4 National Music Award for Traditional Singer of the Year.

Maurice Leyden presents "I Am a Wee Weaver: Weaving and Singing in Northern Ireland" at noon on Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Mary Pickford Theater.

In 19th century Ireland, men dominated the practice of handloom weaving. The Industrial Revolution changed that, enabling women to take a more prominent role in the factory production of linen. Leyden will discuss the reasons for this historical shift and the impact of this change on the traditions of singing and songwriting among weavers. To illustrate his lecture, Leyden will sing songs composed by linen weavers between the 18th and 20th centuries, discussing folklore and customs associated with the weavers. Leyden has been collecting traditional songs since the early 1980s. He has published two books: "Belfast, City of Song" and "Boys and Girls Come Out to Play," each of which was accompanied by a cassette of songs.

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Chicago Gaelic News



Pat Hennessy



Death of a Great Galway Gael

The recent death of a great Galway gael, Michael "Malachy" Mannion, from New Town, Abbeyknockmoy, cast a cloud of sadness over Chicago gaeldom and in New York and Boston where he was also known. He was loved so well by all. Here in Chicago and the Midwest he was a well known home building contractor, a skilled carpenter, a renowned Labour leader, a wonderful humanitarian, and Fourth Degree rank in the Knights of Columbus, John F. Kennedy Division, and a great promoter of Ireland's national games of hurling and gaelic football.

Coming to Chicago in the fifties, during the reactivation of the Gaelic Athletic Association, after an absence of over 20 years, he immediately involved himself in its promotion, particularly the Harry Boland's famed hurling club. He soon met his beautiful and charming colleen, Marie Taylor from the banks of the Lee, County Cork. They were married in the fifties and raised a wonderful family in the Chicago area. Prior to his death they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, a most memorable occasion for the entire family.

The huge success of the GAA in Chicago can be attributed to a lot of people and "Malachy" ranks right up there with all of them. In the early years of the reactivation, the association struggled for existence, but in 1954 it received a great boost when the great and late John Kerry O'Donnell and the New York GAA invited a Chicago hurling and football teams to play New York in Gaelic Park. It was a tremendous success and just what the association needed. "Malachy" and other leaders never looked back after that trip.

In the early 60's tragedy struck a member of the Harry Boland club,

Bernie Ruane, when his young wife died from cancer leaving four young children to Bernie who had to act as mother and father. Unfortunately the stress of such a job was too much for him and he died shortly afterwards. It was then that the great humanitarian traits in "Malachy" began to show, and in a short time he organized a dynamic Fund Raising Committee. The fundraiser exceeded all expectations—the four young children had a home and care to remain together.

One of the children, John, became a star reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times and, a few years ago, wrote a best seller book giving "Malachy" and his hard-working committee well deserved praise for the great work they had done. The name of the book is *Parish the Thought*, which is still obtainable at many book stores and Irish import stores.

Helping the heroic sisters of the Medical Missionaries of Mary was one of his favorite jobs and together with his beloved Marie, Martin Fahey, and others, the annual fundraiser was always a big success. He believed that such a task was our small way of helping the hard working sisters in the mission fields all over the world who bring the work of God, medical help and food to many starving people. He was always happy when a good job was completed.

And then in the late 70's, Liam O'Brien, John Crean, John Lynch, "Malachy," and others set up a giant fundraiser to purchase "a green field of our own" to play Ireland's national pastimes. It was not an easy sell, but the committee kept working and eventually raised enough money to purchase 9 acres, which in time and after tremendous work by great gaeils, men and women, became Chicago Gaelic Park—now standing on 50

acres and a beehive of activity. Irish President Mary McAleese, who visited the park a few years ago, said, "Chicago Gaelic Park is the finest Gaelic Center I have seen outside of Croke Park in Dublin."

"Malachy" Mannion will long be remembered by his countless friends, not only in Chicago and the Midwest, but throughout United States Gael-dom. His name and the great work he

people from the City of Chicago and its suburbs. They came to pay their last respects and to pray for a dear friend. *Ar dheis De go raibhn.*

Members of the family travelled from Galway and Limerick, brother Billy, and his charming wife Carolan. Billy also worked in Chicago and played some great hurling for the Harry Boland Club. Another brother, Kevin was a member of the Gardai

His beautiful funeral mass at St. Patrick's in Lemont was also packed with friends and the beautiful singing of famed Catherine O'Connell brought tears from family and friends. He was laid to rest in the Hole Sepulchre Cemetery, the resting place of many of his friends—including a former Chairman of the GAA back in the 20's, Mike Mulryan, another great Gael from Oranmore, also in Galway. The legendary Richard J. Daley also rests in this hallowed spot. *Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm on all of them, may they rest in peace.*

We again extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his beloved wife Marie and her fine family and all of the Mannion family at home in Ireland. On his beautiful mass card, Malachy tells us "Weep not for me when I am gone. I've lived my life, I've sung my song. Had many friends and family too, that smoothed the way as I passed through. Weep not for me when life is done, for I have been the richest one. I will go home content to see, the ONE who gave it all to me."

Words of the great old Fenian song come back whenever his name is mentioned, "We may have great men, but we never had better." May you be sitting at the right hand of God until we all meet again. *Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.* "Lives of all great men remind us too, we can be sublime and in passing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of Time."



did in the GAA and in other fields will be discussed for many a day when friends get together. And even back in the town he loved so well, Abbeyknockmoy, as old friends of his meet his name and fame will be talked about. Here in Chicago he is a legendary figure and in the many fields of endeavor that he worked in he will never be forgotten.

Another "hat" that "Malachy" wore with great distinction was being a Fourth Degree Knight in the famed Knights of Columbus, John F. Kennedy Division, where his leadership and know-how was always greatly appreciated and recognized. His great loss to this wonderful organization is also being mourned.

His huge wake at Petkus-Lemont Funeral Home (Brady-Gill) was one of the largest we have seen in many a day. It had to be seen to be believed, as lines of friends extending down the block from the entrance waited and chatted about how long they had known him and of his great work over the years. Friends came from all over; from as far as Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and of course

in Limerick and Security chief at Shannon Airport. He also played hurling in Ireland with the famed Faughs of Dublin. Other members attending included John, son of Gerard. Also his sister, Eileen, is a member of the Holy Spirit Order in Texas. Other members included, Eileen, daughter of Bridie Deleny (sister), also Annie (Bernard) Conneely, Patrick (Greta).

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Father Wall to be Honored by American Ireland Fund Chicago

Father Jack Wall, President of the Catholic Church Extension Society, will be the honored guest for the 2008 American Ireland Fund Chicago Dinner on November 19, 2008 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The American Ireland Fund is one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations assisting Ireland-North and South. The AIF supports over 1,000 worthy causes which promote peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development. Today, they address prejudice, exclusion and inequality in Northern Ireland and is reaching out to those untouched by recent economic gains in the Republic of Ireland.

The American Ireland Fund Chicago Dinner is a wonderfully social evening in the Irish tradition and generates support for The American Ireland Fund's important work in Ireland. Part of this year's dinner proceeds will stay right here in Chicago and be donated to the Father Jack Wall Preservation Endowment in memory of The American Ireland Fund's former Regional Director, Ms. Bridget Hartigan Routh. This Endowment was established to insure the preservation of Old St. Patrick's, a unique historic church and one of the few examples of Celtic Renaissance Art in Chicago.



Fr. Jack Wall and his mother, Catherine Wall, with Mr. and Mrs. Latz.

A special addition to this year's dinner will be a performance of the Keltic Dreams: a group of 33 children ages 7-12 from a Public School in the Bronx, NY. The school is situated in a low Socio Economic area and has a 95% poverty rate. The students are all African American and Hispanic and have no background in Irish culture. Caroline Duggan from Ireland moved to New York over 4 years ago and began teaching music in the school. The students' fascination with Riverdance, especially how the show incorporated different cultures, began an Irish dancing program and the Keltic Dreams was born. Much to Caroline's surprise some of the children had never been to Manhattan. Now this dance troupe, with the support of The American Ireland Fund, has travelled to Ireland; has performed for the President of Ireland on their AIF sponsored trip; and will be travelling to Chicago for the 2008 American Ireland Fund Chicago Dinner. www.thekelticdreams.com. For more information about the dinner and The American Ireland Fund please contact Roseann LeFevour-312 419-9304.

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin T.D., speaking after recent budget approvals, expressed his satisfaction that the Government's strong commitment to its Diaspora abroad and to reconciliation on the island are being maintained despite the difficult budgetary situation. Support for Irish emigrant services will be maintained at its 2008 level (€15.183 million), a significant achievement in these difficult times. It clearly demonstrates the value the Government attaches to its communities abroad



Stop Howling at the Moon

By Eamon O'Donnell

Author, Eamon O'Donnell, has been a management consultant for over thirty years.

He knows a good story is more powerful than complex theories and dull statistics.

His book, Stop Howling at the Moon is an easy read. It puts ideas, values, and methods of accomplishing goals into concise nuggets of wisdom that are easily remembered.

If you are a teacher, consultant, manager, business person, or coach, this is a good book for you. These stories allow people to distance themselves from the blame game, to understand

the complexities of relationships, view frequently recurring problems through a fresh lens, and build an environment which encourages problem solving.

Pick up the book, turn to any page, and enjoy yourself.

Stop Howling at the Moon can be purchased at www.onstream.ie.

Irish Emigrant Services Receives Continued Support

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin T.D., speaking after recent budget approvals, expressed his satisfaction that the Government's strong commitment to its Diaspora abroad and to reconciliation on the island are being maintained despite the difficult budgetary situation. Support for Irish emigrant services will be maintained at its 2008 level (€15.183 million), a significant achievement in these difficult times. It clearly demonstrates the value the Government attaches to its communities abroad

and the firm commitment to providing direct assistance to the most vulnerable members of the Diaspora.

Funding for the Reconciliation is being maintained at €3 million. The Good Friday Agreement endorsed the need for reconciliation between the traditions on the island and the promotion of a culture of tolerance at every level of society. Some 60 groups have benefited from specific grant aid to date in 2008 and it is anticipated that a final round of grants for 2008 will be announced in the coming weeks.

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Irish Inns and Tours is a group of five Irish inns that offer both romantic and corporate accommodations for visitors to Wisconsin. You are welcome to visit our Irish hotels scattered throughout Wisconsin: St. Brendan's Inn (Green Bay), County Clare Inn (Milwaukee), 52 Stafford Inn (Plymouth) and Rochester Inn (Sheboygan Falls). We also have an inn in Ireland, perfect for that vacation getaway!



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St. Brendan's Inn, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, offers lodging accommodations, authentic Irish food, Irish drink and Irish music - all in an elegant, yet comfortable setting. Each room offers fine hardwood maple furniture, in-room whirlpool baths, walk-in rainfall showers and a high-speed internet connection are in each of our 28 guest rooms.

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Chicago Youth Hurling and Football Blitz

By Eamonn Kelly — PRO NACB



While the 2008 GAA championship playing season came to an end over the Labor Day weekend the promotion and development of Gaelic games remains active around the country. Here in Chicago, the Central Division Games Development staged a most successful Youth Football and Hurling Blitz on October 19th at Hansen Stadium on Chicago's northwest

side, the home of hurling and football in the 1960's and 70's.

Under the direction of Central Division Games Development Administrator, Tom Sheehy, this all-day fun event focused on children enjoying themselves learning and playing Gaelic games. Over 70 children between 7 and 14 participated in the blitz during which they were taught the basic skills of hurling and Gaelic

football under the guidance of several former players now retired from the games. Most satisfying at the end of a long day was seeing the results of the work done by the coaches as the kids demonstrated the various skills of football and hurling they learned earlier.

The success of this event can be attributed in part to the GAA's Overseas Games Development Program, in which the North American County Board is a participant. Under the program funding is made available for youth promotion of Gaelic Game from Croke Park and the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs.

Other NACB News

The 2008 NACB convention is scheduled for the first weekend in December to coincide with the visit of the Football All-star teams to San Francisco.

The convention hotel is the Holiday Inn @ Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. The Western Division has reserved rooms for Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights. The room rate is \$167.

Irish Dancing and Music Gets Socially Networked

Diddly.com, a social networking site for Irish dancing and music enthusiasts, has been nominated in the Best Use of Social Media category for this year's Net Visionary Awards from the Irish Internet Association.

The new website, the creation of two brothers from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, went live in April 2007. Since then, it has attracted 160,000 visitors.

The site is essentially like MySpace or Facebook, except dedicated to Irish dancing and music. Like other social networking sites, users can share videos, music, photos and create groups. But there is also a practical aspect to the Diddly. "It can really help those who are serious about improving their Irish dancing," said Shane McAvinchey, and one of the site's founders. "When members post videos of themselves practicing on their kitchen floor, others can offer tips and suggestions on how to improve their skills and techniques."

Diddly also contains an events page, which features various upcoming shows, festivals and workshops around the world.

"We have worked so hard to make Diddly.com the best place possible where people can come on and enjoy what they like most about Irish tradition," said Paul McAvinchey, Shane's brother and co-founder of the site. "There are so many people around the world that have a real passion for Ireland. A social networking site is perfect for sharing this tradition and is

ideal in helping connect the Irish Diaspora."

"I get to see most of my dancing friends only occasionally, at competitions, camps or workshops, so Diddly is great for keeping in touch with everybody," said Christine Afenzeller, a 23 year-old student from Linz, Austria. "In fact, at every competition I go to these days, I meet dancers I first got to know through the site."



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Global Gift Wrap Your Holiday Gifts

To make this year's holiday celebration even more memorable, enhance the gift giving tradition, and help Irish American families share their special cultural and family traditions with younger generations, Global Gift Wrap, a newly-launched company, created gift wrap featuring one-of-a-kind, culturally-relevant designs.

Global Gift Wrap is the first company to make high-quality gift wrap with culturally-relevant designs such as: Irish celtic crosses and the claddagh symbol, Chinese double happiness, Hispanic Christmas poinsettias and quinceanera, and Indian Diwali candle. There are more than 25 designs celebrating Asian, Latino, Indian and Irish heritage.



Co-founders, neighbors & mothers Aparna Huprikar, who is of Indian descent, and Maggie Shore, who is of Irish descent, wanted to teach their kids the significance of their cultures and family heritage, which helped spur the creation of Global Gift Wrap. www.globalgiftwrap.com.

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November Gaelic Park Events

Monthly Musical Luncheon

Gaelic Park's monthly Musical Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 5th, 2008 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is an exciting way to break up the week with an afternoon of wonderful food, dancing and music by Sean O'Donnell. Tickets are \$13 and include a delicious lunch and all entertainment.

Reservations are required so please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 to reserve seats or for more information.

Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park will begin a new season of their popular Sunday Celtic Suppers that return after the summer hiatus. The Sunday Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend an afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for large group meetings and family celebrations. For the cost of \$16 for adults, \$9.00 for kids ages 4-12 and free for kids under 3, music, dancing and a delicious,

Mass & Breakfast

Chicago Gaelic Park will hold their Monthly Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, November 9th with Mass beginning at 10am. The November Mass will be celebrated by Father Tom Griffin, an Augustinian priest who has served at St. Rita High School and Providence High School. He is presently chaplain at Holy Cross Hospital.

A delicious traditional Irish breakfast including bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more will be served following the Mass. Breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under.

hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided. This month's entertainment includes Joe Cullen on November 2nd. The buffet dinner is open from 4-7pm with music and dancing from 5-9pm.

Upcoming Celtic Supper entertainment includes The Griffins on November 9th, Joe McShane on November 16th, John Dillon on November 23rd and Gerard Haughey on November 30th.

Brendan Grace Show

Internationally acclaimed comedian Brendan Grace will appear at Gaelic Park on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, with doors opening at 8pm, show beginning at 9pm.



Mr. Grace, "Ireland's Ambassador of Comedy and Song," has worked with legends such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Liza Minelli. Brendan Grace played the part of Murphy in the 1995 movie Moondance and as father Fintan Stack in the sitcom Father Ted.

When Frank Sinatra saw a Brendan Grace comedy show, he did the applauding. A week later, Brendan was appearing at the New London Arena alongside 'Ol Blue Eyes, who later called him his "man in Europe."

Brendan Grace shows the influence of Benny Hill and Frankie Howard, a wit filled with charisma that takes you to the edge of vulgarity but never actually goes over the edge. Grace's delivery and timing do justice to the great comedic masters, Bob Hope and George Burns with hints of Groucho Marx.

Tickets to this show are \$20.

Tommy Makem Tribute Concert Benefiting The American Cancer Society

The Makem & Spain Brothers will host a special fundraising concert on Friday, November 21st, 2008, at Chicago Gaelic Park. The Concert will benefit the Tommy and Mary Makem Fund, a fund established after the passing of the legendary Tommy Makem, and is in direct support of the American Cancer Society.

The Makem & Spain Brothers consist of the three sons of the late legend, along with brothers Mickey and Liam Spain. The Makem & Spain Brothers have combine their forces to preserve and advance the folk music of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and New England. In such a way that is reminiscent of the late Clancy Brothers, the group use of strong, full-bodied three part harmonies truly capture their magic and infectious energy.

Joining the Makem & Spain Brothers at the Larkin & Moran Brothers, the Dooley



Brothers, and the Chancey Brothers, all influenced greatly by the music of Tommy Makem.

The Makem family is grateful for this opportunity to help in the fight against cancer.

Doors open for this concert at 7:30pm with the show beginning at 8pm. Tickets are \$35.00. Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323 for more information or visit www.chicagogaelpark.org.

Carraig Pub Hosts Musicians and Food Specials

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with music and delicious, mouth-watering food. The Carraig offers many daily specials including: soup and salad, 1/2 panini and soup, a reuben sandwich, BBQ ribs, beef stew, a fish and chicken special and many other entrees and appetizers. The Carraig serves food Monday through Thursday 5-9pm and Friday and Saturday 5-10pm.

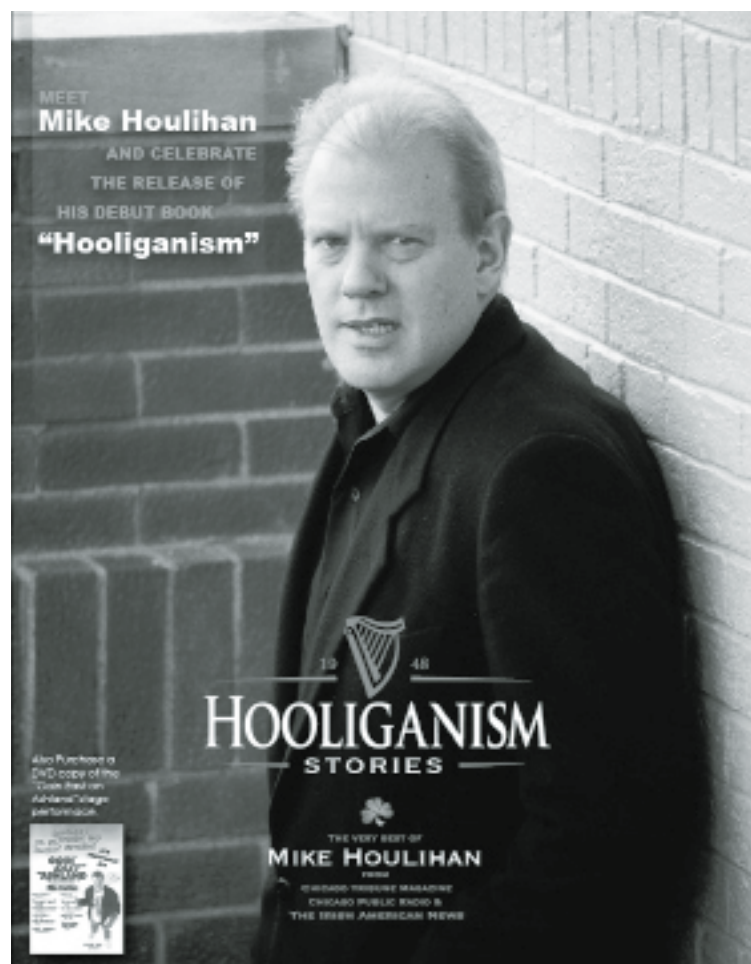
Music is also big at the Carraig with free entertainment

every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers beginning at 9:30pm. This month's entertainment includes: Raymond Gavigan, on Saturday, Nov. 1st; Week Back, on Friday, Nov. 7th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads, on Saturday, Nov. 8th; Pat Guinee, on Friday, Nov. 14th; Joe McShane, on Friday, Nov. 21st; K- Section on Saturday, Nov. 22nd; The Ploughboys, on Friday, Nov. 28th; and Gerard Haughey, on Saturday, Nov. 29th. Entertainment for Saturday, Nov. 15th, is to be announced.

Thursday evenings come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission fee.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. For a full calendar of upcoming events, special performances, information on Gaelic Park's cultural activities, and much more, call (708) 687-9323 or visit www.chicagogaelpark.org.

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A Season of Special Events at Rampant Lion

Autumn is settling in at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa Ave. in Villa Park. November and December promise to be chock-filled with special events at the store.

Celtic New Year will be celebrated on Saturday, November 1st. Special discounts on certain items, along with 10% off your purchase, will be the highlight of the day.

Saturday, November 8th brings the Irish/Folk duo Switchback to the store for a Meet and Greet and songs. Stop in between 2-4pm and meet Brian and Marty, take some photos, and get your Switchback CDs signed, all at the same time. Their CDs and DVD will be available for purchase as well.

Sharon Shea Bossard will stop in on Saturday, November 15th at Noon and will autograph her books, *Finding My Irish* and *Finding Your Chicago Irish* (featuring Rampant Lion). Ask her your questions and tell her your stories, maybe you'll be in her next book! You'll be able to purchase her books that day, if you don't have them already!

Girl Scouts invade the store on Saturday, November 22nd. A troop from DuPage County, that includes our own Caty, will be traveling to the UK in the Summer of 2009. They will have a table of handmade craft items they are selling to help fund their trip. Come on out and show your support for teen girls who choose to continue in this great organization.

We will be open over Thanksgiving weekend, so plan to stop by and find some peace and



quiet, soft music and parking while you shop for those one of a kind gifts!

Cynthia Stephens will return to our store on Saturday, December 6th, for her 3rd annual showing of her glorious Celtic Paper Art. She enjoys sharing her talent with our customers, who have come to appreciate her work and style! She'll be there by Noon, so come prepared!

The rest of December will feature a trunk show by Blarney, with all their fabulous jewelry. Stop by on the weekends and say hi to Shay and pick out something lovely for the really important people in your life!

Extended store hours and a listing of these events will be available on our website at www.rampantlion.com or call the store at 630-834-8108.

Patricia Kennedy Honored

Patricia Kennedy was honored recently for her years of philanthropic work and support of our returning troops. She joined the ranks of Italian aristocracy, and for the first time ever, they allowed cameras inside the ceremony.

She was named a "Dame of Merit with Star" in the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George (a royal order under the House of Bourbon Two-Sicilies). The ceremony was conducted by the Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal George I at St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago. Several Royals were in attendance including their Royal Highnesses Prince Carlos and Princess Camilla.

Recently, Kennedy decided to take her passion and expertise in philanthropy and fundraising to helping the cause of Veterans, founding Step Up 4 Vets (www.stepup4vets.org), with proceeds going to help Veterans as they transition to civilian life. As a secondary means of fundraising this year, she unveiled the Peace One Earth Medallion at a gala in Beverly Hills, with Wayne Newton receiving the first one on behalf of his work with the USO. The public can now buy similar Medallions, which Patricia herself designed, at www.peaceoneearth.com, with proceeds going to Step Up 4 Vets.

For over 20 years, Patricia Kennedy has been known as "The First Lady of the Joffrey Ballet," having raised millions of dollars to support one of the world's great ballet companies. Patricia is credited with saving the Joffrey, having produced, along with rockstar Prince, the landmark ballet Billboards. Billboards is considered to be the most successful ballet in recent times, and featured original music by Prince.



L-R) Francis Cardinal George and Dame Patricia Kennedy at the Investiture Mass for Patricia Kennedy, Dame of Merit with Star, The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George, St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago. IL. Photo by David Wallace Crotty.

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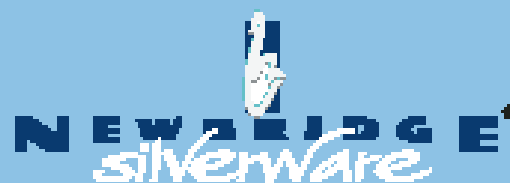
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Kieran Kelly Benefit at Abbey Pub



Kieran Kelly, a 22-year-old man from Co. Roscommon moved to Chicago a year ago with his girlfriend Edel to start a new life working in America. Unfortunately, on August 16th, 2008 Kieran had a serious fall from a three and a half story building. He suffered multiple injuries including two broken arms, a broken lower back and upper neck. He also suffered many internal injuries.

Kieran spent 4 weeks in Intensive Care at Illinois Masonic Hospital and is doing better than expected but will remain hospitalized for several months. Once released Kieran is facing several months, if not years of rehabilitative physical therapy. With this in mind, friends have gotten together to organize a benefit to help Kieran &

his family with ongoing expenses.

The main fundraising event is a Family Day Out at The Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace in Chicago, on Sunday, Nov. 30th, 2008 from 3pm-Late! Donations are voluntary at the door. All donations are tax deductible using Tax I.D. #26-3370340

Food, music and entertainment (including Santa Clause) will be provided. We ask parents to help Santa by bringing their own gift as he is very busy this year! There will be a Cash Bar and Silent Auction & Raffle (Raffle Tickets \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00) - 1st Prize: \$1,000.00; 2nd Prize: Downtown Package (Spa

Treatment, 1 night Hotel & Dinner at the Gage Restaurant); 3rd Prize: Chicago Bears Tickets (2 tickets Jacksonville Jaguars @ Soldier Field on Dec 7th.)

If you would like to help Kieran by making a donation you may send a check to:

Kieran Kelly Benefit Fund
Attn: Ella Riordan-Pacheco
Signature Bank
6400 N Northwest Highway
Chicago, IL 60641
EIN: 26-3370340

Your support is greatly appreciated. For more information visit www.kierankellybenefitfund.com.

Why We Suck

by Dr. Denis Leary

This new book by Dr. Denis Leary, *Why We Suck, A Feel Good Guide to Staying Fat, Loud, Lazy and Stupid* will be available on November 18th. It will make you laugh, chuckle, snicker, snort, guffaw, and cackle. Even if it doesn't, it makes a great coaster. Depending on the size of the drinks, this baby can keep up to four beer mugs from leaving rings atop your table. After sharing stories from his working-class Irish background, Dr. Leary also talks about love, lust, men, women, kids, God and everything in between, with special attention to his mom and her unique blunt opinions on life.

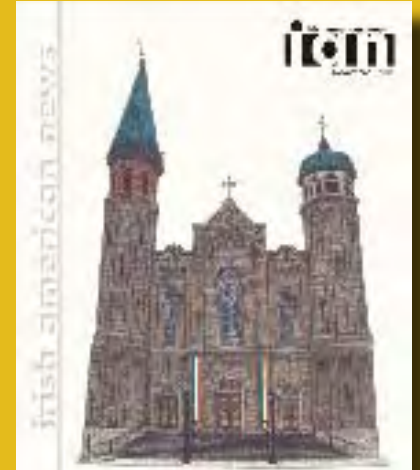
Why We Suck, A Feel Good Guide to Staying Fat, Loud, Lazy

and Stupid by Dr. Denis Leary. Viking, New York, 2008. 224 pages; \$24.95. www.penguin.com.



About Our Cover

This month's cover is a rendering of Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, by artist Pamela Murphy-Egan, dinadesigns@yahoo.com. The cover photo is being made available by Pamela in prints and in cards of various sizes.



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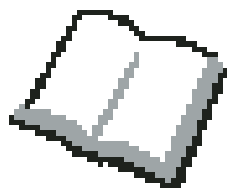
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Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West



Churchill on Shaw

As a young man in the early 1900's, Winston Churchill met George Bernard Shaw. The young Churchill had recently served with the British forces in India and the Sudan. He was a published author and a new member of Parliament, and not easy to impress. His mother invited him to have lunch with Bernard Shaw. "I was instantly attracted by the sparkle and gaiety of his conversation."

So powerful was the impression Shaw had on him, that many years later Churchill included him in his book, *Great Contemporaries*, published in 1937.

These are some of the things the great statesman (and soon to be Prime Minister) said about Shaw.

Shaw's "...main innovation was to depend for his drama not on the interplay of character and character, or of character and circumstance, but on that of argument and argument. His ideas become personages... sometimes with intense dramatic

effect. His human beings... are there for what they are to say, not for what they are to be or do."

And later he says about Shaw "...with growing assurance, his plays succeeded one another. 'Candida' riveted the attention of the intellectual world. Into the void left by the annihilation of Wilde he stepped armed with a keener wit, a tenser dialogue, a more challenging theme, a stronger construction, a deeper and a more natural comprehension. The characteristics and the idiosyncrasies of the Shavian drama are world renowned."

Churchill closes his discussion of Shaw with this observation: "Saint, sage, and clown; venerable, profound, and impressible, Bernard Shaw receives... the hand-clapping of a generation which honors him as another link in the humanities of people, and as the greatest living master of letters in the English-speaking world."



Oscar Wilde

"Mere words! Was there anything so real as words?" —Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde wrote this novel and published it in 1890. And astonishingly it is still in print one hundred and eighteen years later! The only other works still in print from that period are by another Irishman, Bernard Shaw.

I don't know of any other publications from the period of the 1890's that are in print and have retained their vibrancy and immediacy.

Shaw's plays have lengthy introductions that could almost be separate publications. They discuss ideas presented in that play. But they are in print and read today. The introduction to the play, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, is 32 pages long; to *Major Barbara* is 40 pages long; and that to *St. Joan* is 52 pages long!

We know the story of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The picture grows old and is disfigured with the guilt of Dorian's sins. But Dorian, the person, remains young and handsome. He keeps the picture locked in his attic, so that no one is aware of what is going on,

About the novel, Wilde stated in a newspaper article in 1890: "Each man sees his own sin in Dorian Gray. What Dorian Gray's sins are no one knows. He who finds them has brought them."

I recently saw a superb production of the novel, as a play. This was at Lifeline Theatre. The script was very close to the words of the book. The play, like the novel, was powerful, colorful and meaningful.



Wilde was keenly aware of being an Irishman. He believed the English aristocrats tolerated him. But they secretly despised him for his criticism of England's classes and for the inherent cruelty of that system to the rest of Britain's citizens.

Wilde was a kind and compassionate man. But we know the cruel fate that was soon to fall on him.

He was arrested in 1895, tried, and condemned to two years of hard labor. He was kept in solitary confinement but forced each day to climb a treadmill. The continuous steps on this machine were equivalent to climbing a 6,000 foot mountain. This ruined his health. And he died soon after his release from prison.

There are several other observations I made while reading this novel. There are so many comments Wilde makes on life, art, on our relations to each other, and about society. There are literally dozens

of these. So many, that I stopped writing them down after the first part of the book. Two that especially caught my attention are:

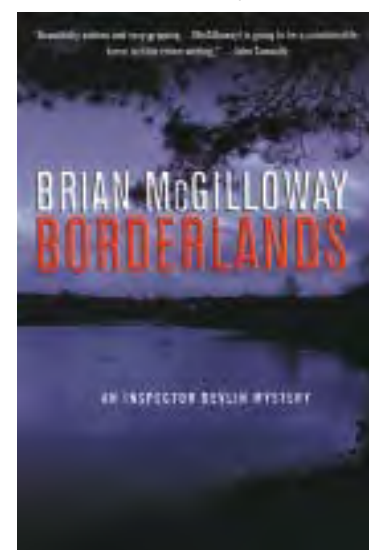
• "There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all."

• "No theory of life seemed to him to be of any importance compared to life itself."

Wilde's novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, transcended its time and society. It is relevant to people in any age. It is a close look at us poor flawed humans.

I will close this article with a comment that Oscar Wilde makes in this novel: "Live the wonderful life that is in you!"

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. Barnes and Noble Classics, New York, 2003. 248 pages; \$14.95. barnesandnoble.com/classic.



Borderlands: An Inspector Devlin Mystery

"The sky was darkening, although it was only just after four o'clock. The moon hung low in the sky, still little more a sliver of ice. Three or four stars stood out in the sky; a bulkhead of cloud building in the west promised snow by morning."

A beautiful description of nature—but in a mystery book, it is a promise of impending fate and suspense.

There had been several murders committed in a remote area of Donegal. It is Inspector Devlin's task to solve them. The area where they were committed borders on Northern Ireland. This area is called the "borderlands." Hence the book's title. But the title suggests a lot more.

The title also suggests the borderland in each person between good and evil. This is the area where moral or immoral decisions are made. What is it that permits, or makes, persons of similar environment and similar socialization to make opposite decisions about morality and behavior?

Inspector Devlin gradually uncovers the facts surrounding the crimes. But he

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—*Ivan Cooper, former MP and Civil Rights Activist*

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is personally puzzled by the question of what determines people's actions.

This book is a police procedural. This means it shows the process police use to solve crimes. A police procedural is very close to reality.

Inspector Devlin learns that an event that happened long ago—the killing of a prostitute twenty-five years ago—is the reason the murders are committed.

Brian McGilloway wrote this novel and it is the first in the Inspector Devlin series. It is so engrossing that I read the entire novel in three sittings!

I have searched for words of praise for this book. I can only say that McGilloway is a powerful and magnetic a writer as are Ken Bruen and Declan Hughes, Irish writers of marvelous mystery fiction. This is great praise, but he deserves it.

Brian McGilloway is thirty-three years old. He teaches college in Derry. And he lives near that city with his wife and two sons. We will be hearing a lot more from Brian McGilloway.

I can hardly wait.

At the scene where one of the bodies was found, Inspector Devlin muses: "The whole thing reminded me of the fairy trees people used to talk about in the west of Donegal. Locals would tie talismans of some sort around the tree and, in return, the fairies would bless them. The base of this tree was covered with Mass cards and rosary beads, sympathy cards, and flowers."

Borderlands: An Inspector Devlin Mystery by Brian McGalloway. St. Martin's Mintoaur-Thomas Dunne Books, New York, 2008. 227 pages; \$23.95. www.minotaurbooks.com.

Irish Plays in Chicago

Ireland has a rich tradition of theater. Irish playwrights display a golden sense of imagination and powerful truthfulness. To be presented soon in Chicago are:

- Dublin Carol by Conor McPherson. It will be directed by Amy Morton at the Steppenwolf Theatre from November 1 to December 21.

- The Seafarer by Conor McPherson. It will be presented at the Steppenwolf Theatre from December 4 to February 8, and will star John Mahoney.

- Desire Under the Elms by Eugene O'Neill, and starring Brian Dennehy will be presented in January as part of the Goodman's O'Neill Festival. O'Neill's The Hairy Ape will be presented also in that Festival.

- The Lieutenant of Inishmore by Martin McDonagh will be presented at the Northlight Theatre at the end of winter. This will be a Chicago premiere.

McDonagh's movie In Bruges, was shown at the Chicago Piper's Alley last spring for the unusually

long period of March to the third week in June!

In Exile

"...time goes by so fast, and things can change. Different things call to different people."

This book is a collection of twenty-one stories written by Billy O'Callaghan. That Irish writer has received many prizes

for his subtle stories.

The common theme of them can be described by a quote from the press release: they "evoke a sense of longing for place and the familiar."

We do carry with us the impressions of people and places we saw as children. I think most people try to remain positive, and not dwell on those memories.

Intellectually we change a lot, but

emotionally we don't change much. That awareness runs through these stories. This quote shows the author's skill at recreating, and clearly showing us, this longing and soul-emptiness. The main character in one story came to Dublin from a very rural part of west Ireland where Gaelic is spoken. "Even after eight years, I can't help but feel surprised at the pace of this world. Torrents of people, the seeth-

ing hum of engine noise, the chorus of horns blazing as a car dares to cut lanes; it is all so relentless. Taking my place amid all of this I feel the way all refugees must feel wandering along in a strange place, even those of us who choose our exile."

In Exile by Billy O'Callaghan. Mercier Press, Cork, 2008. 223 pages; \$20.00 (12.99 euros.) www.mercierpress.ie.

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IRELAND, SHE WROTE

Molly Horan



Matchmaker, Matchmaker...

Departing Chicago in early September yanked this daughter of an Irish immigrant, a cheeky-lipped smarty-pants, from her family home for a 14-week exploration of the country he's sung about since long before I came crying into this world. Motivating factors for this, my recent deployment to an Internship program in Dáil Éireann centered around my desire to attain fluency in the Irish ways. Leaving home would rip me abruptly from my American nappies.

Six weeks have taken me straight into the disheartening truth that sainthood and scholarship have gone on a Wikipedian surf. No commercial development could, however, dismantle what some majestic power lay unto its Irish earth, and so this must be disclaimed:

Come to Ireland anyway. Many Western Irish towns are dependant on

tourism. It was the corporations setting up shop from America which paved expenditure for new roads, making tourism and business more accessible. However, it is visitors who subsidize the Edens of Yeats' poetry. Though the Celtic Tiger was fed on American meal, our Isle is the most vulnerable to an American recession in all of the European Union, and now the economic beast is in Hibernia-tion.

With weather still favouring humanity, I couldn't close September without doing my part to recklessly drop notes at the pubs of Ireland's west and to fulfill my allegiance while I was still in my honeymoon period.

So I bolted as soon as I could across the country to Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, where Las Vegas rules apply and all bets are off. By Las Vegas, I mean, for the protection of many decent, hard-working agricul-

turalists, there might be a hole or two detected in this story. I maintain, I was only the journalist.

Orbiting 7 times down County Clare's "Corkscrew Hill" this few weeks back brought on a mighty case of traveller's awe. Contemplating the curves a bit too literally,

This awakened me to the heights and subsequent valleys of leaving home. Dazed by the up and come Six Flags ride of the Irish Burren, one can't help but wax a bit of meaning of life stuff when they've never seen an ant-sized car reverse downhill for a bus to overtake it. This afternoon split from my mates landed me beside an 'auld fella,' whose conversation starter probed my philosophy of existence (appropriately). One principle held paramount to most others is respecting elders. This Mr. Kennedy, charmed by this endearing youngster, was rapt that hour we spent moving away from Lisdoonvarna on the bus into Galway.

His lofted questions might have bothered me if I wasn't already asking myself why I crossed a limestone mountain the night before to drink the night away at the Annual Matchmaking Festival. All for the craic of mock step dancing to the chants of "her hair was black and her eyes were blue," indeed; but why did I put 5 precious Euro into the hands of the Matchmaker himself to find me a scholar who is rich as a king?

The five euro in question also neglected to fill one last pint glass standing empty and lowly among its froth-capped friends, waiting only for the arm of a dancing fool to fling it straight down to a shattering end. My victory, however, as I walked out of the Matchmaker Pub with a memory in tact and only mild injuries from the raucous mob.

I had struck weekend five of the six weekend festival on Friday, Septem-

ber 27. 150 years of descending out on the pull, a time for country dancing to "Galway Girl" and "Belfast City," among others, and the occasional token Johnny Cash tribute characterizes the biggest singles festival in Europe. Those seeking companionship tire not at any age to have words with Willie Daly, the Matchmaker himself. His work room is tiny and smells of Guinness and sweat right inside the Matchmaker Pub. The queue is variant in length, and he is often delinquent in his cupid services, enjoying pro-bono pints from hopeless romantics on the loose.

When I shook Willie's hand, he was sunnier than the yellow shirt he conservatively buttoned. Not an ounce of moxy about the man whose honest to goodness smile was enough to soften the eyes of the harshest critic in the place. Amplify this by however many pints make the tipping point and there's nothing in the world more amusing to an American tourist than the men who faithfully pledge their love and farm to you at the hand of a local matchmaker.

"While every attempt will be made on my behalf to find you a suitable partner, desired results cannot be guaranteed," signed, Willie Daly at the bottom of his ultra-photocopied Matchmaking Application Form. Name, address, telephone number, occupation, age, marital status, and general interests and hobbies form his profile of the amorous opportunists. Space is provided for personal preferences for a partner, which were in my case unreachable since I'm still waiting for my cheeky, college educated and gainfully employed bachelor with a charming wit, love of politics, handsome good looks and health.

Escaping for air is sure to draft from one pub to the next. The sidewalk sees more activity than inside

doors, where kabob stands lure drunks and smokers out to talk where they can hear each other. Half an hour dancing to techno-Irish-folk in Meg Maguire's to the onlooking pool of middle-agers, propositions were blunt and hands were grabby. Between my girlfriends rescuing me from a Playboy of the Western World who snagged at least 3 dances from my posse, my snog-hoping mates hunting for under 30's, it was full stop an innocent exercise in a thrilling chase I was eager to leave, but also demanding a sequel.

Mistaking a minstrel for a Cork farmer whose views on something or other held my ear for an hour the night before, I caught wind of an Irish Session to be held at breakfast in Lynch's Hotel the next morning. I had some Euro left to spare, with my accommodations nabbing fewer than 22 dollars for the night. I gave my all to a Full Irish Breakfast to the tunes of two accordions. Three hours to pass before boarding my Galway bound-bus, I found the guts to stick around and make a name for myself with some a capella Spinning Wheel. Singing of the magic of young love to the children of the 40's sprung my spirit into good form, and I headed man-less, but rejuvenated.

My Western adventure did bring another kind of mister into my Irish chronicles. Mr. Kennedy, my bus-mate, was a true Ambassador of his endangered species, the independently well read prophets of the Irish West. Post their Bible laden upbringings, they forge toward new doctrines capable of repairing heartsick men to story-tell the young. If he were even twenty five years younger, I'd have a much different conclusion to my Matchmaking story.

"The timbre of your voice is very calming, the pause you take before using a word demonstrates how carefully it is chosen," said Mr. Kennedy, who pointed down to the stonewalled town he spent his early twenties as a schoolteacher. His generous ear deafened as suddenly his spin on the physical act of love brought a cold front into the conversation, five infinitely long minutes shy of my stop in Kinvara, Galway.

This was a time he remembered as lonely, when ne'er a lady crossed his path until he married the first who looked his way. Anxious for adulthood, he dove headfirst into a mismatched matrimony, telling me over fifty years later I'm smart to avoid doing the same.

As we watched the sheep speckled green, the honeymoon was disturbed by view of one lamb inspecting the backside of another, reminding us that levity is everywhere.

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Excuse me for scratching, but I've got film festival fleas.

I haven't itched this much since the day after Kathy Guzumba took me to the McCauley prom.

Popping out to Venice for a film fest sounds romantic, but lemme tell ya, this was the Other Venice Film Festival. It ain't in Italy.

My sons Bill and Paddy and I have produced an independent film, Tapioca, which is having its Chicago premiere at the Gene Siskel Film Center on November 20th. So we've been traveling the film festival circuit since January with Tapioca and hustling our indie movie.

But the Other Venice Film Festival, (OVFF), was a new low for even hardy hooligans like us. Always on the lookout for a new adventure I jumped at the chance to screen our epic in Venice Beach, California over the Columbus Day weekend.

Being in LA would give me an opportunity to see old friends and schmooze with Hollywood types about our movie. I was also looking forward to a little quality time with my boys. Our hotel was right on the beach and the entrance stood in the middle of the Venice Beach boardwalk. Billy and I bunked together in one room to save dough. As I looked over the room upon check-in I remembered

the voice of Richie Golz asking me the day before, "How come the hotel is so cheap?"

Now I knew.

Time stopped in Venice in 1968 and there is a constant parade of oddballs, weirdos, and stoned out druggies shambling up and down the boardwalk. Each block on the promenade features a dozen tattoo parlors, fortunetellers, and freak shows. The carnival atmosphere of the bohemians gets old fast.

My old pal Nookie Naughton had just bought a 1988 Volvo with a 180,000 miles on its' broken speedometer for 500 bucks and he was our wheel man for the weekend. Nookie and I met in a touring production of Much Ado About Nothing in 1978 and he's been out in Hollywood for about 20 years trying to get discovered. He's a hilarious talent, brilliant mimic, and booze-guzzling reprobate.

Unfortunately our weekend coincided with marital woes for Nookie and his lovely wife. Seems the missus wants Nookie to find a "real" job because there ain't a lot of bacon lately between acting gigs.

His rocky home front situation had put Nookie into a terrible thirst for the entire weekend and we were treated to his larger than life impersonations as the drink turned him into doppelgangers for Bogart,

Cagney, Peter O'Toole, George C. Scott, and my favorite from The Godfather, Sterling Hayden as the crooked cop McCloskey.

Of course Nookie was tapioca the entire time so he was on scholarship with us for every beer, burger, and brandy as he would burst into laughter and ogle my son Paddy's girlfriend and exclaim as Sterling Hayden, "I've frisked a thousand young punks!"

I woke up Saturday morning and jumped into the shower to get to our 11AM screening. My body felt strange, as if a bed full of bugs had bitten me.

Not a good sign I knew, but my son Billy had no bites so I figured maybe it was just nerves.

We get to the Festival and they usher us into the laundry room of the building where they've set up a makeshift screening room in the basement for Tapioca with a white sheet taped to one wall and a dozen folding chairs and a couch. I ask the guy running the fest what gives, and he says, "Well your film is part of our Underground Series."

Most of our audience is old show biz pals, folks who worked on the movie, and Chicago expatriates. At the end of the screening the fest coordinator gives me questionnaires to hand out for people to

vote on the film. He left the room and I handed each member of the audience a dozen questionnaires apiece and said, "You guys are from Chicago, you know how to vote!"

Our vote fraud was discovered later when they figured out that we couldn't possibly have gotten twelve hundred "best of fest" votes out of the fifteen people at our screening. Our entourage headed for a Venice Beach bar and it was there I discovered a bed bug bite had ballooned my hand to the size of a Ditka pork chop.

Nookie suggested we kill it with alcohol and we started in on the screwdrivers. We didn't bother to return to the fest that night for the awards ceremony because we knew our ballot stuffing had been uncovered and our chances of winning were now about as likely as an Academy Award for Pee Wee Herman.

The rest of the weekend we caromed around Hollywood in Nookie's cab and laughed til we cried at the absurdity of it all. Nookie chugged cognacs and when asked what's the buzz these days in Hollywood he told us, "Grey is the new black, fifty is the new forty, and the anus is the new vagina!"

The younger generation I'd

brought with me was sick of my "obnoxious" pal and me by Columbus Day. But Nookie could have partied for another week. As he joined us for a final booze fueled lunch before dropping us at the airport I wondered why nobody else in our party was leaving with fleas but me!

Nookie sucked the olives out of his bloody Mary and said, "It's because you're such a great host!"

Our death in Venice is now over, but we are poised to live again on Thursday November 20th at the Gene Siskel Film Center for the Chicago premiere of Tapioca. Hope to see you there.

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



This year's Dublin Theatre Festival was a lot like a fringe affair trotting out experimental new work rather than a traditional theater festival showcasing major productions and marquee names. The only big name to appear in the three weeks was Vanessa Redgrave. She was center stage in *The Year of Magical Thinking*, an adaptation by Joan Didion of her memoir of the same name. In it, Didion described coping with grief in the aftermath of the sudden death of her husband. Redgrave portrayed it well.

Apart from that strong piece, there were productions that left a lot to be desired. Plays I had never heard about before and frankly, do not expect to hear much about again. And actors with raw talent that was, well—so raw that it could have benefitted from more seasoning. A highly touted piece called *Dodgems* was put on by the CoisCeim Dance striders. The play opened with simulated sex between a Romany woman and

a man with no legs that ended with a bang. Some of the sketches were funny—such as one where a Dublin taxi driver got a couple of Muslim fares to admit they might modify their non-pork diet in extreme circumstances—and showed what might have been. But most of the numbers left the audience scratching its collective head as to what they were all about.

Off the Book

And in keeping with the Festival's "off the book theme" there was a 7.5 hour adaption—yes, it really ran more than 7 hours—of *The Great Gatsby*. It was called *Gatz* and was staged by Elevator Repair Services, a New York theater company based in Brooklyn. The presentation started at 3 in the afternoon and continued past 10 at night. However, since my behind and bladder gave out long before the play ended, I was not able to last until it was over.

The play was literally an onstage

reading of the Scott Fitzgerald novel—with some scenes from the book played out by actors. In the play, an actor came into an office and could not get his computer to boot up. Rummaging around for something to do, he found a copy of *The Great Gatsby* stuffed into a rolodex on his desk. After flipping through the pages, he began to read aloud. Other office workers appeared and went about their day's work, ignoring the reader. Then, as the narrator continued to speak they began role playing characters and scenes. They recited actual lines from the pages just as Fitzgerald penned them and the interplay between them and the narrator was for the narrator to interpose "he said" or "she said" before or after they spoke. The production was innovative and interesting at first, but grew wearisome—at least for me—long before its official end.

Quartiere Bloom

A challenge for out of town theatergoers was finding some play venues, since some productions were held in hard to find places. One particular challenge was getting to *You Are Here in the Quartiere Bloom*. For a long time I found that I really wasn't there. The program instructions said for playgoers to assemble at the "Last Supper Mural north of the Millennium Bridge." A problem was that the festival map did not list the location of the bridge or the mural and no one I asked knew the Quartiere Bloom. So much for Dubliners keeping up with their changing city!

After wandering up and down the Liffey-front like a latter-day

Leopold Bloom, I finally located the mural on an inner ally wall. Then, there was another problem. No one in the trendy sidewalk cafes knew anything about a play. But I hung around and eventually Hugh and Asling from the festival showed up. Asling told me that the play was actually being put on in someone's apartment, which was the reason for the secrecy and the audience being limited to 15.

After having a colored band placed on our wrists, all 15 of us filed after Asling along city streets and eventually up the stairs into a regular apartment. There, we stood, squished flat along the walls of various rooms, and watched as four actors depicted slices of life in modern Ireland. One couple traced the arc of an affair between a well-to-do businessman and his mistress. This stretched from sexual infatuation in the bedroom at the beginning to eventual indifference and break-up in the kitchen/living room at the close. I did not get to see much of what was going on with the other couple because my colored wrist band permitted me to see just one half of Irish life. If I wanted the other half, I had to get another ticket and return for a separate performance. Was the play any good? That's hard to say. It depicted modern Ireland like a window peeper might view it. But, as a theatergoer from Germany who had come especially to Dublin for the festival commented, "it was superficial and shallow." I was inclined to agree.

Life in London

Another fanciful production was England written and played by Tim



Crouch which was performed at the Hugh Lane Gallery in Parnell Square. In the play, Crouch and Hannah Ringham his co-performer, played the parts of art gallery docents. They recited separate but parallel lines about where they lived in England, their free-loving lifestyles and their medical challenges as though they were guiding a group through an art gallery. But as far as I could see, they connected neither with each other nor the audience. The production had all the drama of two bus passengers going into prolonged harangues about their unhappy lives to the perturbation of everyone within earshot.

Mame at Drury Lane Oakbrook

Based on the 1955 best-selling novel by Patrick Dennis and the 1956 hit Broadway play *Auntie Mame*, *Mame* will run through December 21st at Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook Terrace, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



Barbara Robertson and Liam Byrnes star in "Mame" through December 21 at Drury Land Oakbrook

Mame tells the hilarious story of an eccentric socialite who finds her chaotic Manhattan lifestyle turned upside down when she is appointed guardian of her orphaned nephew. Auntie Mame takes him on one whirlwind adventure after another, proving that "life is a banquet." The irresistible score includes the title song "Mame," "If He Walked Into My Life" and "We Need A Little Christmas."

Tickets range from \$28-\$33. Dinner packages range from \$42.75 to \$54 (depending on the day of the week). Inquire at box office or website for details and prices, 630-530-0111 or call TicketMaster at 312-559-1212 or visit www.ticketmaster.com or www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

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Grey Gardens at Northlight Theatre

The Chicago premiere of the Tony Award-winning musical *Grey Gardens*, book by Doug Wright, lyrics by Michael Korie and music by Scott Frankel, has already been extended and will now run November 12-December 28, 2008, at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie.

This brand new musical comes to Chicago after its 2007 Tony Award-winning Broadway run, giving Northlight audiences the chance to rub elbows with Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter "Little Edie," Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' most scandalous relatives! Once the highest of high society, the two have become East Hampton's most notorious recluses, living in a dilapidated 28-room mansion with 51 cats for company. Set in two eras—1941 when the celebrated estate was the picture of wealth and sophistication, and 1973 after it had been reduced to squalor—*Grey Gardens* is a brilliant and heartbreaking look at two indomitable women.

Tickets range from \$25-\$59. (847) 673-6300 or www.northlight.org.

Village Players Present Betrayal

Kicking off the new season in the Village Players Blackbox is *Betrayal*, an intimate three person look at relationships by Harold Pinter. *Betrayal* is Pinter's award-winning drama following the tangled love affair of Emma, the doomed romantic, her husband Robert, and his best friend Jerry portrayed from its poignant ending to its wicked first kiss.

The play opens in a dimly lit pub with two ex-lovers reminiscing about the past. What happens next? The audience journeys back in time to discover how everything began to fall apart.

The Village Players Performing Arts Center is located at 1010 Madison St., Oak Park. Plenty of parking and handicap accessible; www.village-players.org or 866-764-1010.

The Screwtape Letters at The Mercury Theater

Fellowship for the Performing Arts is presenting the acclaimed hit drama *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis at The Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Avenue. The production runs through November 9th.

The Screwtape Letters offers a funny and provocative look into C.S. Lewis' brilliant novel that explores the theme of spiritual warfare from a demon's point of view. The play follows a senior devil, Screwtape, and his secretary, Toadpipe, as they train an apprentice demon, Wormwood, on how to "undermine faith and prevent the formation of virtues" in a young man who has just converted to Christianity.

312-902-1500 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Meet Me in St. Louis at Drury Lane Water Tower Place

The charming musical classic *Meet Me in St. Louis* has been brought back by popular demand to Drury Lane in perfect time for the holidays. It will open November 19th and run through January 4th at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place, 175 E. Chestnut Street in Chicago. *Meet Me in St. Louis* is an utterly entertaining experience that the whole family will enjoy.

Travel back to the turn of the century St. Louis, where the World's Fair is coming soon—and so is a world of changes for the Smith family. While older sisters Rose and Esther dream of happily-ever-after with their handsome beaux, the younger girls, Agnes and Tootie, spend their hours dreaming up mischief. When their father announces the family is moving to



(L-R) Yvonne Gougelet stars as "Toadpipe" and Max McLean as "Screwtape" in *The Screwtape Letters*. Photo by Johnny Knight.



New York, will all those dreams become one big nightmare?

312.642.2000. www.ticketmaster.com. www.drurylanewatertower.com.

The Apple Cart at ShawChicago

ShawChicago is presenting the intriguing political comedy, *The Apple Cart*. First presented in 1929 and set in 'the future,' Shaw presents his own inimitable view of political promises and the fight for power—a perfect foil for our own current political climate. *The Apple Cart* runs through November 10th at the Ruth Page Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn in Chicago. 312-587-7390 or www.shaw-chicago.org.

Free Staged Reading of Ordinary Miracles at Apple Tree Theatre

A free staged reading of the drama *Ordinary Miracles*, a Catholic nun's story that sets the sacred versus the profane, written by Wilmette playwright Joe Bendy and directed by Lisa Dodson will be presented at Apple Tree Theatre, 1850 Green Bay Road, #100 in Highland Park, IL on Nov. 3rd, 2008 with a reception at 7pm; the reading begins at 7:30pm.

Amidst her struggle to keep the venerable college she heads viable in the face

of drastic cultural change, modern-day feminist Sister Felicity must deal with the brash ideas of the school's newly hired young publicist, an overbearing and unscrupulous businessman trustee, and, most daunting, the unwelcome visit of an apostate pop-music icona whose global celebrity and surprise gift proposal force her to make a faith-testing moral choice. 847-432-4335. www.appletreetheatre.com.

A House With No Walls at Timeline Theatre

Timeline Theatre Company, 615 W. Wellington Ave. in Chicago, is presenting the Chicago premiere of *A House With No Walls* by Thomas Gibbons through December 21st.

From the author of *Bee-Luther-Hatchee* and *Permanent Collection* comes an inspired-by-real-life drama. Philadelphia wants to build its new American Museum of Liberty on the grounds of George Washington's Philadelphia home and slave quarters. Soon a conservative academic

star and a liberal political activist are confronting each other with polarizing questions of African-American legacy and identity. Elegantly juxtaposed with this contemporary conflict is the true story of one of Washington's slaves as she contemplates escape. The result is a thought-provoking drama that asks vital questions about where we've been and where we go next.

For performance times and tickets, call 773-281-8463 or visit www.timelinetheatre.com.

Ruined at Goodman Theatre

Set in the present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo, *Ruined* follows a young woman's nightmarish path to Mama Nadi, a savvy businesswoman who—in the midst of a complex civil war—both protects and profits from the women whose bodies have become battlegrounds. At once heartbreaking and captivating, *Ruined* pays homage to the

courageous and resilient women who must piece themselves together after the ruin.

The Goodman Theatre will present the world premiere of *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage beginning November 8th (opening night is November 17) and running through December 7th at the Goodman Theatre, 170 North Dearborn Street in Chicago. Tickets are \$10-\$39. www.goodmantheatre.org or 312.443.3800.

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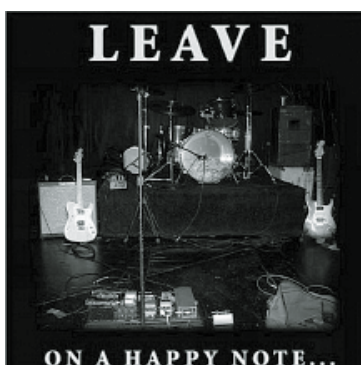
Andy Williams Christmas Show

Leave's On a Happy Note — Mike Murphy's Last CD

In the six months prior to the hit and run accident that took his life, Mike Murphy, along with his fellow band members—Jim Latsis, Joe Herrmann, and Terry Keating—spent many hours recording the third album of Murphy's band, LEAVE. The twelve song offering entitled, On a Happy Note, was released on October 20.

Murphy, who was also a member of the Larkin and Moran Brothers, was extremely happy with the sound of the new songs and was very much looking forward to the CD release.

"It took a while to wrap it up, but we are proud to finally have it finished. We hope that you will enjoy it. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund. Murphy worked very, very hard on this disc. He put a great deal of his time and soul into its production. The last song

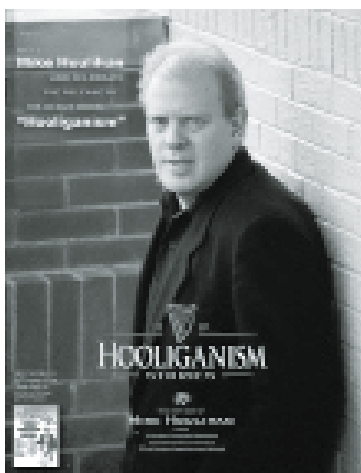


we recorded for the album, 'Down The Line,' was tracked from top to bottom just two days before the accident, and it's one of our personal favorites."—Terry Keating

The CD will be available at www.cdbaby.com and www.notlame.com and will be sold at Larkin and Moran Brothers shows. A glimpse of this CD can be seen on Leave's Myspace site at www.myspace.com/leavechicago.

Mike Houlihan Book Signing

Meet Mike Houlihan to celebrate the launch of his new book, Hooliganism, on Thursday, November 6th at Fado Irish Pub, 100 West Grand Avenue in Chicago. Mike will give a brief performance and sign copies of his book, Hooliganism, the very best of Mike Houlihan from Chicago Tribune Magazine, Chicago Public Radio, and the Irish American News. 15th Anniversary DVDs of Goin' East On Ashland will also be available at the event, from 6-8pm upstairs in front of the fireplace. Slainte!



What's an Irish Band doing in a Mexican Holiday?

Switchback, the duo of Marty McCormack and Brian FitzGerald, will be celebrating the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos with a concert at the Pine Room of Ascension Parish on Saturday, Nov. 8th. The show starts at 8pm and is located at 601 Van Buren Street. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available for purchase. This year marks the seventh annual show for this duo's musical act, which boasts "American Roots Music with Celtic Soul".

"Switchback began hosting the Day of the Dead Show to celebrate the Mexican custom of honoring those who have passed on to the next world," says Brian FitzGerald. "The tradition has roots in the pagan practices of Mexico and is similar in intent to the Celtic feast of Samhain (pronounced sow-wen). In both traditions, the veil separating the dead and the living is at its thinnest, thus offering people a chance to honor the spirits of their ancestors. It's much closer to tradition than the Halloween that is marketed today."

Dia De Los Muertos is a colorful event. The people believe that heaven is opened on midnight of October 31 and the spirits of the deceased children are allowed to celebrate with the living. Later on November 1st and 2nd, the adults who have passed on are allowed to celebrate with the living.

And it is quite a party. Altars are made in each home and decorated with candles, marigolds, tortillas, fruit, mole and a special bread called



Election de los Muertos artwork ©2008 by Anne de Courtenay

"pan de muerto." In addition, alcohol, chocolate, toys and cigarettes are left for the spirits. Special sugar skulls are decorated and placed on the altar in honor of the deceased. It is believed that the happy spirits protect and bless those who honor their memory.

The traditional altar or "Ofrenda" will be in place at the show, and everyone is asked to bring a picture of a loved one who has passed on. Sugar skulls will be in place, and all are invited to visit their local Mexican store and purchase and decorate skulls of their own for the altar. Notes are also encouraged to be written and placed on the Ofrenda.

"We're back from our annual fall tour of Ireland on November 5th, and so we're celebrating Dia de los Muertos a little later than usual," says FitzGerald. "We're sure the spirits will stick around."

www.waygoodmusic.com.

Switchback's 7th Annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Show Date: Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008 Time: 8 p.m.

Place: Pinewood Room of Ascension Parish, 601 Van Buren St, Oak Park, IL, 60304

Admission: \$15. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

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Live Music at Celtic Knot Public House

The Celtic Knot Public House located at 626 Church Street in the heart of Evanston is offering a wide array of live music in November.

Every Monday a band called The Mudflapps (playing American Roots Music) starts at 8pm and every Tuesday they host an Irish Music Session with Gus and Friends from 7pm until 10pm.

On Saturday, November 8th, Breakin' Up A Dogfight (Modern Bluegrass) will perform at 10pm; and on Saturday, November 22nd, The Creek Road Ramblers (Country/Roots/Rock) go on at 10pm.

They also have music on other nights; call 847-864-1679 for details. There is never a cover at the Public House.

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



and Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago



Imagine a year without Catholic Charities...

No emergency food pantries... no emergency shelters. No way for seniors to find the dignity of protection from the vulnerabilities of aging. No means of healing and new life for homeless families. No access to affordable housing, and job-readiness training for armed forces veterans who are homeless after valiantly serving our country.

Last year, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago touched the lives of more than 1.1 million people in Cook and Lake Counties. This means that one in eight people who live anywhere from the Wisconsin border to the Indiana state line were positively impacted by the services provided locally by Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities yearly provides more than 5 million meals and answers over 80,000 calls for emergency food, clothing, shelter, rent and utility assistance. Last year 1,500 children received childcare through our Childhood and Family Strengthening Centers. Our 17 beautiful apartment buildings provide safe, secure housing for 1,335 seniors. Our 18 nutrition centers in Chicago nourished 126,125 low-income women, infants and children with more than 2,800,000 food packages and many supportive services.

Since 1917, Catholic Charities has been the safety net for thousands of unemployed, low-income and working poor families and individuals in

hundreds of communities—for anyone in need—exerting a tremendous, positive impact on the community and the economy, in addition to representing a significant cost savings to taxpayers. Catholic Charities provides the “safety network” for hundreds of communities.

But for some months, demand for human services among everyone—from the poorest of the poor to the “working poor”—has been increasing. The gap between rich and poor is growing, and the traditionally “middle class” population is quickly dwindling.

Here is a quick look at the negative factors that affect the people we serve:

- In 2008, one billion dollars was cut from the Illinois State budget for programs that provide support to the poor, leaving those who bear the brunt of poverty even more vulnerable.

- In July 2008, the Illinois unemployment rate reached 7.3 percent, the highest it has been in almost 15 years.

- Similarly, the Chicago-area unemployment rate was at 7.3 percent for July 2008, up from 5.4 percent in June 2007.

- In August, 2008, the national unemployment rate reached a five-year high of 6.1 percent.

- The number of American full-time jobs cut to part-time has swelled to more than 3.7 million—the largest since the government began tracking

such data.

- Food prices are rising at the rate of 5.8 percent, a pace not seen in almost 20 years.

- A record of 1.3 million Illinois households now receive food stamps.

- 49 percent of Chicago-area renters can't afford the median rent.

As a result, we see more people at our food pantries and clothing rooms, and more families struggling to stay housed.

As Catholic Charities releases its 2008-2009 statement: “The Impact of Catholic Charities,” the situation has not improved. In fact, the recent financial upheaval in our country has deepened the crisis and further threatened Catholic Charities’ ability to provide services to those in need; even while the number of people needing our help grows.

In spite of these setbacks, we continue to make the greatest possible use of our resources.

At Catholic Charities, 92 cents of every dollar goes directly to help people of all ages, backgrounds and religions. And Catholic Charities saves money by solving—and preventing—problems:

- For example, the \$2 million Catholic Charities distributed to prevent homelessness saved \$24 million taxpayer dollars that would have been spent for housing the same number of people in shelters.

- It costs Medicaid (and therefore taxpayers) \$43,000 per senior, per year to provide care in a nursing home.

But it costs Catholic Charities only:

- \$6,461 per senior, per year to provide adult daycare;

- \$1,188 to provide home-delivered meals; and \$4,028 to provide home-maker services.

Any one of these in-home services can allow the senior to live independently in their own home as opposed to being placed in a nursing home.

To assist our professional, committed staff, Catholic Charities has gratefully harnessed the power of 10,000 dedicated and generous volunteers who annually devote their talents to help those who come to us. From dedicated board members to professionals who provide unique skill-based services to assist our clients; to servers and donors of our six weekly dinners for the homeless in the city and suburbs—to committee members who organize our 18 annual regional and agency fund-raisers—Catholic Charities is blessed with friends who reach out a helping hand to their neighbors in need.

However, Catholic Charities must raise \$20 million annually in supplemental funding each year to provide our comprehensive, wrap-around services to our clients.

Therefore, so that we can meet the growing demand for our services in a weakened economy, Catholic Charities is reaching out to the corporate and philanthropic communities, as

well as to the parishes and communities we serve, to educate, advocate and fund-raise on behalf of people in need. If you wish to join us in our mission of charity and strengthen the safety net, please call (312) 948-6865.

To read Catholic Charities’ 2008-2009 Report: “The Impact of Catholic Charities,” visit www.catholiccharities.net/publications.

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Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day, Nov. 11th, is the day we honor American veterans of all wars. World War II required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen in our nation's history. One of the war's most significant battles took place in the Pacific on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima

The Battle lasted from February 19, 1945 to March 26, 1945 and was the first attack on Japan's home islands. 21,000 Japanese soldiers were defending the well fortified island that had well over 11 miles of tunnels; 20,000 of them would die in the battle. The U.S. invasion was called "Operation Detachment." The mission was to capture the island and its two airfields from which the U.S. Army Air Corps could launch attacks directly on Japan. 6,800 Marines and Corpsmen died and 19,000 were wounded on Iwo Jima.

The 4th and 5th Marine Division would land on the southeastern beach and concentrate on securing Mt. Suribachi and the airfields to the south and the west coast. Once in control they would be reinforced by the 3rd Marine Division. Serving with the 4th Marine Division was the son of Irish immigrants, John J. Kenny and Margaret Harrity from Killasser, Co. Mayo—1st Lt. John E. Kenny, who wrote this letter to his mother in Chicago:

Central Pacific,
30 March, 1945

Dear Mom,

Haven't had anything to write about or the urge to do so, so have neglected writing. Received a letter from Margie sent from St. Louis, also one from you, one from Pop, one from Viv, one from Clara, and an Easter Card from Viv. Thanks to all of you. The mail has been arriving in inverse order. I received mail of March 5, 6, 7 the other day, while those of March 12-13, arrived over a week ago. It was good of Joe and Dick to visit all of you and I appreciate the Masses. Got to Mass and Communion yesterday—also got to Mass last Sunday evening.

Margie stated that I hadn't given much information on my activities here or since the battle began. Will attempt a resume now. We have an uneventful crossing, with a few stops and plenty of miscellaneous duties. The food was excellent aboard ship and I got to Mass very often.

D Day came and we thought our unit would not be called in. We watched the first few hours of battle from the bridge of our ship and it was like a large entertainment. When we received the call—I had charge of one landing unit—and in we went, laden with machine guns and explosives besides our personal gear. We were loaded own. About three hundred yards from shore we received

machine gun fire and one mortar shell. They were misses, but only by a few feet. Some of the machine gun bullets were but inches off the target. When we hit the beach, the ramp went down and getting out I fell on my face when the boat lurched. A shell burst just then and I guess I was fortunate being in the prone position.

We got up the first terrace of the beach and that was our bivouac area. I had to get to the tractors and get them to help bring stalled vehicles up the terraces and get ammunition to the infantry. Bob Williams and I were foxhole mates the first two nights. We didn't get settled until about nine the first night—then mortar fire and machine gun fire from Mt. Suribachi dropped all around us and caved in our foxhole on



my side—burying me. I was never so frightened. The barrage continued at intervals throughout the night and we got very little rest. At daybreak I had to go on a reconnaissance patrol to pick out routes for roadways. The Colonel led the way. Got back about eleven in the morning, after spending two hours in foxholes during mortar barrages by the Japs. We had some snipers fire at us, but they were minor distractions. The next evening we went through another mortar barrage and I was saying my prayers as fast as I could. I thought that the next shell would be the one to get me. Went on another patrol the next morning toward Mt. Suribachi. Nothing except sniper fire interrupted us but caused no trouble.

The first few days I ate a few chocolate bars and that was all I could eat. I opened my can of turkey and had to give it away. The third day we moved to a new area just below the first airfield. That night there was some shelling and persistent sniper fire, so that when we jumped from our holes, we had to move fast. The Japs would always cut loose with a few shots and you could see the dirt fly at the point you had just left. We stayed in that area two nights, then moved to the other side of the island

and the main group never departed from there. It was at this place that I was chosen to be in charge of one defense sector and had to move again. The men and machine guns of my section were my responsibility. There was much action for a few nights, about ten Japs being killed trying to come through our lines. After that I stayed about a week longer in that area.

With about twenty men I was moved to an area below the second airport and brought the equipment forward. This was my bailiwick for about two weeks. In all the time we were there, only a few shells fell in our area. However, the other night—or morning—Monday at five—a terrific amount of firing began. Some colored troops going for ammunition told us that about two hundred Japs were attacking just over the ridge forward of our position. I gave the order to stay in foxholes and get firing positions. The battle lasted for three hours and not one Jap got closer than 50-75 yards. Approximately 200 were killed by the unit in front of us—the Pioneers. I didn't realize the seriousness of the situation until it became light and I could see and hear what was going on. The Lord was with us, as not one of my men was hurt. Every time I put my head up out of my hole, bullets were whizzing by, so I stayed low throughout the major part of the engagement. I had a rifle and an automatic pistol and ammunition in every pocket, plus a dozen hand grenades at my feet, so was well equipped for the assault. I am very happy they were all killed before getting to us. That was the last organized resistance by the Japs. There were news reports on the incident.

Can't realize that Easter is but two days away. Hope to get to Stations today and Mass Sunday. Read that the stock market cracked. Did you sell my stocks? Probably you have the deal on our old house closed and the money in hand. Hope the War in Europe ends soon. From the press reports we get, it looks very good for the Allies at present.

Haven't heard from or written to REB, so presume that she thought my last letter a good farewell. After the last five weeks of agony, I know I have more important things to do in life than waste my time.

Think I have written enough, so will rest for a few days.

Love to all,

John

1st Lt. USMCR

Less than five months after the battle of Iwo Jima, we entered the Atomic Age. On August 6, 1945, we dropped the "A" bomb, nicknamed "Little Boy," on Nagasaki. On August 8, 1945, another bomb nicknamed "Fat Man" fell on Hiroshima. Japan sur-

rendered on August 15th, 1945. It was Tuesday, Aug. 14th, in the States and VJ-Day (Victory in Japan) was written into the history books. The formal surrender came on September 2, 1945, on the deck of the USS Missouri.

Not quite seven years old, I remember VJ-Day well. Jim Mulroy's father was the janitor at St. Mary's school in Des Plaines, IL, and he unlocked the school so we could get the American flag from the stage and the bass drum. We marched all through town and people joined in along the way. We marched up Center St., east on Elinwood St., over the railroad tracks at Pearson St., and onto Miner St. It seemed as though half the town was out in front of the Sugar Bowl restaurant and the Zephyr Cafe. Excitement rippled through the town and people were buying candy for kids, hugging and kissing each other. Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines would be coming home.

When Lt. John E. Kenny came home, he was wearing a bronze star and a purple heart on his chest. He eventually married Rosalie Casey and joined the family business, Kenny Construction Company. One of his sons, James C. Kenny, went on to become the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland.

The Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation

On Tuesday, Sept. 16th, I attended the U.S. Marine Corps - Law Enforcement Foundation Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. This organization provides any child of any Marine, Navy SEAL, or Navy Corpsman, as well as federal law enforcement officers who die in the line of duty, with \$30,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds for their college tuition. I was guest of Capt. James Sloan, USMC, who served three tours of duty in Iraq along with his parents, Jima and Rose Sloan. Also at the table was Terry McCarthy, the Federal Defender of Northern Illinois, who also served in the USMC.

The honoree was General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second highest ranking military officer in our country, who is originally from Rockford, Illinois.

His opening remark was "We are at war." He went on to say something even more profound when referring to the events of 9/11, he said, "They would have killed three million of us if they knew how." That hit home with me because I, like most people, never thought of it in those terms. It was an extraordinary evening and the esprit de corps was palpable in the room. Each guest was presented with a hardcover copy of the book, The Strongest Tribe by Bing West.

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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

Top O' the Morning with an Irish Fry Up

There are few things outside of Guinness, Jameson, and painted sheep that say Ireland more than the hearty Irish breakfast fry up. This original 'heart attack on a plate' was designed by the great Irish mothers who had to feed her boys and husband a breakfast that would stick with them throughout their day in the field or out on the bog. It is also a good remedy for the morning after and a sore head... but I digress. This Irish breakfast, or fry up, can keep the consumers satisfied throughout the morning and well into the afternoon.

How can a simple breakfast do all this, you ask? Let me detail the wonderful list of ingredients. To start, three different forms of breakfast meat are served: bangers, which is loosely translated as Irish link sausage (but we'll talk about that later), rashers, (talk about that later), and black and white pudding (definitely talk about that later!) On the same plate, add one half of a grilled tomato, two eggs over easy, and two slices of fresh brown soda bread (no potatoes, please). Side that with steaming Irish tea, and you have the best breakfast since grandma on the farm.

To travel to Ireland and have that kind of breakfast first-hand makes the fry up aficionado want, almost need, that type of feast every once and again. Some folks are lucky to be living in an area where they may have a local Irish pub or restaurant that will proudly serve the full Irish breakfast on their all day menu. Others just might have a specialty market that sells Irish bangers next to clotted cream and scones. I found the real article from a company that makes, sells, and efficiently, expertly sends its products from California so you can make this great traditional meal with very little local grocery shopping. Just let the U.S. mail do the work, and by tomorrow morning your table could be proudly offering an Irish fry up.

Many years ago (about 6), I searched the internet for Irish breakfast food and discovered a company called Shannon Valley Traditional Irish style Meats. I was very happy to find them, as at that time I was preparing an Irish breakfast for the local Hibernian club. I was on Shannon Valley Traditional website almost every day, looking at their products, emailing

the company and trying to find out as much as I could about their products. One evening I got a call from Bernard, the owner of the company. He started with a thick Waterford accent, "Hello Julianna! It's Bernard from Irishgrub.com!" (All of his sentences ended with exclamation marks.) He told me all about himself, his training and the company he started. He sounded happy to be doing what he loved, which was feeding people a traditional Irish breakfast, even if it was in their own kitchens many miles away. We talked for a bit, he took my order for the breakfast and I promised him a report. I sent a thank you for his great products, all his help, and assured him I'd keep him in mind for any other events.

Over the years and as I began to write for IAN Ohio, I knew I wanted to revisit Shannon Valley Meats and talk with Bernard about his work. Just a few days ago, I got the chance again to 'have tea' with a great person and brilliant cook, though just through the lines of Ma Bell.

Bernard Kavanagh was born and grew up in 1950's Co. Waterford, Ireland, where he went to school with the Holy Ghost Fathers. He learned his trade in the kitchen at Rockwell starting around age 14 and, though it was VERY challenging, he loved it. He made his way over to the States in the early 1970's and landed on the West Coast where he worked as executive chef for large corporations such as Hilton and the like. Though he enjoyed American life, he missed traditional Irish foods especially the breakfast meats. A few restaurants served the breakfast and he relished the meals of home. Over time, Bernard formulated a business plan to make traditional Irish meats and to have them available on the internet. But first, he felt he needed a little more education so he went back to Ireland.

Bernard studied the methodology of preparing the many different kinds of products, how to tradition-

ally brine the pork, and the right combination of rusk, a bread filling, and spices for his quality end product. After six months of techniques and recipes, Bernard returned to the States and started Shannon Valley Traditional meats.

Bernard could not have done all this alone, mind you. He had his beautiful bride of many years, Rose Marie Kimball Kavanagh by his side. She worked with him on his business, and even designed the Shannon Valley logo that is displayed on all of the products. Bernard told me Rosie took the design seriously, knowing the label had to be perfect, down to

the exact shade of green. I could tell in his voice he was proud of her and all her work for the business and their life together. What a woman to have her husband say one day, "Love of my life, I want to make sausage!"

Speaking of sausage, Bernard told me about the products and said technically the bangers could not be called 'sausage' since rusk was added. It is this bread filling that gives the links its distinctive texture. And, he continued, as the meat cooks and the rusk, salt and water make the link expand, there is a 'bang' when the casing splits. He said that is where the name 'banger' comes from. The rasher is taken from the lean loin, making it a low fat morning meat. Though sometimes called bacon, it is not like American bacon. That would actually be called 'streaky bacon'. And then there's black and white pudding, AKA blood sausage. The white pudding is pork, oatmeal and spices, whereas the black has pork blood. A unique flavor, but well loved by many.

As I finished my conversation with Bernard he told me his lovely, spirited wife passed away October 31, 2003. After five years, he missed her still and yet had a smile in his voice any time he mentioned

her name. Miss Tara, his faithful, furry, four legged friend of 17 years died last year but Bernard still was optimistic. "Maybe I'll find a puppy to follow me home from the pound!" Smelling like bangers and rashers, I'm sure he will.

A huge thank you to Mr. Bernard Kavanagh for his time and storytelling. You are a cook and a seanachai.

For the best Irish breakfast meats and more, please go to www.Irishgrub.com. They ship 1- and 2-day all over the USA.

Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron. During "The Green Season" at the Brown St. Hibernian Club, she prepares her favorite Irish dishes, to the delight of many. Julianna can be contacted at julileber@hotmail.com.



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IAHC November Events

Music at the Fifth Province Pub

The Fifth Province will host several bands in November:

Saturday, 11/1 - Joe McShane; Friday, 11/7 - Ceili Dancing with Ceoltoiri Chicago; Saturday, 11/8 - Pat Daly; Friday, 11/14 - Paddy Hogan's Band; Saturday, 11/15 - Celtic Groundhogs; Friday, 11/21 - Dennis O'Rourke; Saturday, 11/22 - Dennis O'Rourke; Friday, 11/28 - Anish; and on Saturday, 11/29 - The Dooley Brothers.



Annual Samhain/Day of the Dead Art Exhibit

The IAHC and Windy City Arts present the annual art exhibit of the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (sow-en) and the Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations. Artist Frank Crowley is the curator of the exhibit.

Samhain/Day of the Dead... thinking about Persephone is a mixed media group show that celebrates the festivals, Samhain and the Mexican Day of the Dead. Both festivals participate in the birth, death and resurrection cycle. This year's exhibit again includes similar traditions of other cultural groups, including the Greek culture. The art will be presented by sculpture, paintings and installations.

Samhain was a Celtic festival in northern Europe that took place after the harvest and the beginning of winter. This was the season of the "world's death." This world and the "otherworld" became equal to each other and no barriers existed between the dead and living. There were grave questions about the coming season that could be very difficult. Rituals must be performed in the hope that it would not be devastating.

The emphasis of this year's exhibit focuses on Persephone who is also a life-death-rebirth deity. But this Greek story introduces a new dimension to the cycle-of-life myths; it tells of how the ancient gods interfered with the "natural order" and actually created new conditions which resulted in a season of growth and harvest and a season of dormancy and death.

Exhibiting artists include Sean Culver, Charlie Thorne, Laura Coyle, Kim Laurel, Fletcher Hayes, Lourdes Guerreo, Miguel Lopez-Lemus, Kapra Fleming and Pauline Kochanski.

Samhain/Day of the Dead... thinking about Persephone runs through November 16 at the Irish American Heritage Center. Gallery hours are 1pm-4pm on Saturday and Sundays and during the week by appointment only.

Benefit Concert to Honor The Late Irish Musician Tommy Makem

The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund are proud to team up with the Chicago and Irish community to present a night of music, honoring

the great Irish musician, Tommy Makem.

On November 22nd at 8pm, a special fundraiser featuring a night of song and music in tribute to the man who brought the love of Irish music to millions will be held at the Center.

Tommy Makem was an internationally celebrated Irish folk musician, artist, poet and storyteller, best known as a member of The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. He died in 2007 after a long battle with lung cancer.

The Makem and Spain Brothers, featuring Tommy's own sons, along with several local bands who have been directly influenced by Tommy's music and legend: The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers and The Dooley Brothers will perform.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10, or visit <https://tommymakemtribute.ticketleap.com>.

All proceeds will go directly to the Tommy and Mary Makem Fund in direct support of The American Cancer Society. The Tommy and Mary Makem Fund was established by the Makem family after the death of their father in 2007.

Liz Carroll to Appear With Irish Heritage Singers at Fall Concert

The Irish Heritage Singers will hold their annual concert this fall at the Irish American Heritage Center.

The theme of the concert; Céad Míle Fáilte/ One Hundred Thousand Welcomes centers around people who have emigrated from Ireland to the United States. Many of the groups'

song arrangements are by Frank McNamara, internationally known arranger, conductor, composer and pianist from Ireland. The Singers recently performed with McNamara at the Chicago Theatre in March 2008.

The group will be joined by guest performers fiddle player, Liz Carroll and The Royal Chamber Orchestra, directed by Phil Feo.

Céad Míle Fáilte/ One Hundred Thousand Welcomes is Saturday, November 15 at 7:30pm at the IAHC. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$12 for IAHC members and children 11 and under are free.



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Celtic Thunder Releases Act Two

The companion to Celtic Thunder (which sold over 150,000 CDs and DVDs combined), Celtic Thunder: Act Two musically completes the collection of songs that have been included in one of the most successful PBS programs ever. Celtic Thunder: Act Two includes an eclectic mix of songs ranging from the Moody Blues classic "Nights In White Satin," Paul McCartney's "Mull Of Kintyre" to the classic "Danny Boy."



The ensemble numbers on Celtic Thunder: Act Two reflect the power of the vocalists, who range in age from 14 to 40, and feature songs that celebrate a common Celtic heritage. \$18.98.

The phenomenal Celtic Thunder live tour continues through December 17th. For a full list of tour dates, check out www.celtictThunder.ie.

Irish Furniture Designer Debuts New Line at International Art Show

By Nicole Marie Berg

If the wardrobe in C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* had been made by Joseph Walsh, the children never would have gotten to Narnia, they would've just stayed in the Walsh designed wardrobe. His work is that captivating.

Joseph Walsh, a self-taught furniture maker from Ireland, has had

and beauty. Chicagoans can see Walsh's work at the upcoming, three-day SOFA CHICAGO show where his newest work, "Prism," will be presented by National Craft Gallery of Ireland.

Walsh is hardly a routine furniture designer. Engineering principles such as weight displacement and



"The Three Sisters," 2006; walnut, 33"h x 68"d; by Joseph Walsh (represented by the National Craft Gallery of Ireland, Kilkenny, Ireland.) Photo by Andrew Bradley.

a studio in County Cork since 1999. His furniture, created from pieces of walnut, sycamore and ash, amongst other trees, is often constructed in the precise order the wood was cut, resulting in furniture that seems to defy both gravity and logic, yet beckons with the serenity of comfort

joint compression are as integral to his work as is his use of proportion, shape, form and negative space. In them one finds the calm of a lake, the stillness of a forest: the geography of Ireland distilled into each remarkably crafted creation. "My work is an expression of my values," says Walsh, "how I see things and imagine them to be." The resulting craftsmanship combines to create furniture not only of aesthetic intrigue, but also significant structural strength.

Last year, Walsh became the first Irish furniture maker selected to participate in SOFA, the world's leading exposition of sculptural objects and functional art where galleries and dealers present one-of-a-kind collectable objects which bridge the decorative and fine arts. His ethereal designs received accolades and caught the eye of John Bryan, Millennium Park chairman and a formidable collector of prize decorative arts and design from the 19th and 20th centuries. His work has also captured the attention of the National Museum of Ireland, the Dublin Embassy of Japan as well as a host of global corporations.

Furniture created by Joseph Walsh as well as art from 22 other Irish artists can be seen at SOFA CHICAGO held Nov. 7-9 at Navy Pier's Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and include lectures, films and special exhibits. For tickets and general information call 800-563-SOFA (7632) or 773-506-8860.

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—RADRAIG YEATES *The Independent*

"There is a ring of the American writer, Steinbeck, in the way this book moves along. I hope that word of mouth shall see it a best seller on both sides of the Atlantic. It is one of the best books I have ever read."
—NELL McCAFFERTY *Irish Journalist and writer*

"...this book forces one to reassess what good literature is... I am not sure which category of English literature in Ireland will accommodate it - but whatever its genre, it deserves a place on everyone's shelves."
—EILIS NIDHURBHINE *The Irish Times*

"An unadorned, searing tale that reclaims from the often brutal and brutalizing conditions in remote rural Ireland the buried history of one woman's struggle to survive and rear her children. *The Donegal Woman* pulls no punches. It is a just memorial to courage and perseverance, shot through with sunbeams of innocence, love and natural beauty. A disturbing, unforgettable portrait."
—GERALD DAWE
Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, Essayist and Poet

"We have had stories before on the harshness of the life for the unwelcoming of Donegal in past times, the aching eloquence of Patrick McGill, the forensic anger of Padraig O'Donnell, but nothing like this. Nothing as steady-eyed in its gaze or as relentless in its detail, as unflinching in its depiction of the class and gender contradictions that distorted humanity and stunted sexual and spiritual growth from generation to generation, like a dark curse passed down, a dimly inevitable condition never to be mentioned. This is the most powerful piece of new writing I've encountered in 2006."
—EAMONN MCCANN *The Belfast Telegraph*

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—Tim O'Malley, President, www.findyourirish.com

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Frank Carroll: A Lust for Life Part Two

I'm continuing with the memories of 79-year old Frank Carroll. In his own words...

When winter came with the frost and snow we could make some great slides on the road. You could slide all night without being interrupted by a single car. Indeed, the only interruption would be when you made too much noise and some neighbour would come out to you.

Then there was the railway junction at Cabra with the wagons on the siding. Here was where cowboy films that we had seen in the Plaza, Volta or the Phibsboro picture houses would be re-enacted with us running along the wagons, locking the girls in them and pushing hard against the buffers. Needless to say, the railway was out of bounds, but of course we never informed our parents as to where we were. The Liffy Junction was a mass of railway sidings and was a place where we could really have a good time.

There were other days that we would spend rambling up to Finglas and Blanchardstown by way of Cardiff Bridge and Jerry Moffot's Hill where there were great orchards and boxing the fox [taking apples] was always on the cards. On the way back, if you had your swimming trunks, you could have a swim in the broken arch, quarry or canal.

At night you played knick-knack, which entailed attaching a black thread to a knocker on a hall door, hiding in the next-door garden and pulling the string. When someone came out to see who was knocking then as soon as they closed the door you would pull again. If they noticed the string you could be sure of a good chase!

After that you went up the passage-way that was a part of the estate and had a great time telling jokes or having a good sing-song. After a while a small fire would be lit and then someone would enter a garden and get potatoes. We would put these on the

fire to cook and often they would be half raw when you ate them, but it was great fun. Marbles and Jackstones were other activities that could be enjoyed by both boys and girls.

The Silver Spoon on the Ballyboggan Road was another favourite spot for families to go on Sunday for a picnic, because it was safe. It got the name because it was located in a beautiful tree-covered area along the banks of the Tolka River, at the bot-



tom of Broombridge. On the opposite side, which led to Finglas there was a ruin that was believed to be part of the fortification of Seagraves Castle. This was where King James is reported to have stayed when he fled the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The area was called the "Broken Arch" and wasn't far from where a tunnel led up the hill, made naturally by trees, bushes and brambles. It made the location an adventure land for children.

Who can forget the lovely row of cottages that was at Cardiff Bridge? Or the walk to the Finglas Road where one could see the huge Meriville Dairy, where they processed and distributed its products throughout the city?

There are so many memories that I could recount about the people and the fun that made Cabra such a place

to be proud of.

Before Cabra West was built you had nothing but green fields all the way up to the Ratoath Road and when horse dealers brought their horses they would put them up there for days before sending them off to France or Belgium. Many are the nights that we would get some rope to make a bridle and ride the horses. Of course, if we were to be caught by a man named Cole we were in right trouble.

These were big open fields that attracted many gypsies who parked their caravans all over the place, especially up at the top of Bannow Road at Broomsbridge. These caravans were not the beautiful motorised caravans that you see today, but they were clean and some were painted in the most

wonderful colours. The gypsies kept the area around them clean and tidy, and it was a huge bonus for them as most of them were horse traders and so had free grazing as well as being near to the horse market at Smithfield.

Then there was Mr. Gaines, on whose field he would allow the local teams to play their football matches. One that stands out for me was the road league, which the adults had organised. I played on the St. Attracta Road team that beat Cuala Road in the final. The reason why it stands out is that we changed in Sweetman's shed on Attracta Road and that garden backed on to the railway, so we only

had to get over a little wall and down the bank on to the railway up at the far side of the field. The ball was lost in the heavy gorse that surrounded the field. Then, as we were on our way back to Sweetman's shed we heard that they had got the ball back, so we went and continued the match.

When they started building Cabra West they put all the roads in first and then proceeded to put the foundations in for the houses [Wish they had the brains to do that today rather than the other way around—Brady]. A track was then laid along the road where bogies [apparently a kind of level platform that transported equipment and ran on tracks] would deliver the bricks and mortar to the builders and naturally these became another challenge, as someone would distract the watchman while the other would put a bogie on the track and go speeding along. It was fun while it lasted.

I left school at 14 to work in Briody's Grocery Store on Phibsboro Road for 5 shillings a week. It was great to see all the farmers who brought their hay to Smithfield Market and, on their way home to the Naul in Garristown and Ashbourne, would stop at the shop and fill up with their groceries.

I then went to work in Smith's Butcher Shop on the Shandon Road. After a few more moves I worked as a butcher's porter for three years in John Plunkett's butcher shop in Summerhill. Monday was our half-day and Tommy Ward R.I.P. and myself would go to the Capitol Cinema where a stage show and film was the order of the day, with J. Doherty and his band and with Joe Bonny on drums they were great to listen to. On Thursday we would go out to Gleeson Slaughter House in Finglas to kill cattle and sheep for the shop. On leaving Plunkett's I commenced work in the Electricity Supply Board in 1948.

I'll continue with Frank's memories—and what a memory he has!—in the December issue of Irish American News.

Roisin O' Shea Fine Artist

Superb Fine art prints by internationally published Irish artist Roisin O' Shea featuring the 32 counties in Ireland now available through Maggie Shea at www.celticshamrock.com, the sole authorised distributor of Roisin O' Shea prints in the United States and on-line. See Roisin O' Shea original paintings for sale through her gallery 'Manifesto' in Waterford City Ireland. www.manifesto.ie

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Hawthorne Race Course Bids for 10th Casino License in Stickney

Tim Carey, President and General Manager of Hawthorne Race Course, along with Chicago sports icon Mike Ditka and Stickney Mayor Donald Tabor, recently announced plans for Champions Casino and Resort, a \$500 million premiere entertainment destination in an unprecedented bid for Illinois' tenth casino license. The ownership group of Hawthorne has partnered with Altium Development Group and Merit Gaming Group to redevelop the use of its 136-acre real estate holdings between Cicero and Laramie Avenues to create a comprehensive entertainment destination, the first such entertainment destination in the nation to also feature live horseracing, will include: a 40,000 sq. ft. casino with 1,150 slot positions, 50 table games and poker room; a 300-room casino hotel and conference center; a 140,000 sq. ft. entertainment district; 8-12 restaurants; a multi-screen movie theater; a 25,000 sq. ft. bowling lounge; a 150,000 sq. ft. water park resort with 400 all-inclusive suites; and a 4,800 seat outdoor subterranean amphitheater.

The project will bring hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue to the state of Illinois and revitalize the south suburban economy and Midway Airport Corridor with the creation of over 3,000 jobs.

2008 GFC Players of the Year

The 2008 AOH Div. 32 Picnic took place on Saturday, September 6.

Congratulations to the 2008 Chicago Celtics Players of the Year and Club People of the Year!

- U16 Players of the Year: Declan Geraghty & Kevin Murphy
- U14 Players of the Year: Will Braubach & Johnny Fleming
- U12 Players of the Year: Brendan O'Leary & Danny Renkosiak
- U10 Players of the Year: Oliver Kearns & Declan O'Leary
- U8 Players of the Year: Martin Murphy & Fiona Rowan

For more information on the Chicago Celtic Youth GFC, please visit: www.chicagocelticyouth.com.



(L-R) Ken Sullivan-AOH Div. 32 (Trophy Sponsors), Conor Geraghty (accepting award for his brother, Declan, Danny Renkosiak, Martin Murphy, Will Braubach, Fiona Rowan and Kevin Murphy. (Not shown are: Johnny Fleming, Brendan O'Leary and Oliver Kearns

Watch Your Sweet Treats



With Halloween quickly approaching, I'm reminded of a situation that occurred 25 years ago when I started my dental practice on the Southside of Chicago. Being a conscientious doctor, I decided to give out toothbrushes to the kids who rang my doorbell that night, unfortunately none of them seemed too pleased.

I have since conceded that sweets are an integral part of Halloween and now I give candy to the little goblins at my door. The parents should be aware of the dangers of their kids overdoing a good thing. There is an ongoing war in our mouths between acid producing bacteria that eats the sugars in candy and the salts in our saliva that remineralize the enamel of the teeth. The frequency of exposure to sticky, sugary candy and soda pop increases the likelihood of cavities.

In addition to candy, cookies and pop, there are many hidden sugars in the foods we eat. Our country is in an increasing epidemic of obesity fueled by lack of exercise and poor eating habits that begin in childhood. I treat adults with dental appliances for Obstructive Sleep Apnea and many of them have life threatening cardiovascular disease. Obesity is one of the primary causes of Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

My brother-in-law has a good approach to his kid's candy bags. He takes one handful of candy out each night, when they are sleeping and will get rid of the rest after one week. I also recommend they brush their teeth for at least 2 minutes before they go to bed. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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Sporting Log



Sean Og. O Ceallachain



There is a marked change in the rules governing the International games between Ireland and the Australian Rules teams for the series which get under way later this month. Two years ago when the games were played at Croke Park, the Australians introduced physical tactics which outstepped the canons of sporting behaviour and very nearly led to the abandonment of the series. The series were revived after a meeting between the GAA and the AFL earlier this year when new guidelines were brought in to eliminate the unsavoury scenes which marked the games at Croke Park two years ago. This year the GAA are sending a team to contest the new series in Melbourne in the hope that sportsmanship will prevail in order that the Australians will be welcomed back in 2009 to Croke Park.

A very important aspect of the game's continuance is the decision to stage the Coca-Cola International Rules series on a biennial basis instead of the current annual arrangement. When the two bodies meet during the current tour to Australia the subject of future series will be on the agenda. The current Irish manager for the tour is Meath's Sean Boylan who was scathing in his remarks about the tactics used by the Aussies two years ago in Croke Park which nearly ended the series between the two countries. Sean remarked "We were 'hockeyed' in Croke Park the last day, but we weren't 'hockeyed' when we played them in Galway that year. If you remember, the last time we didn't have the interchange players (the second day). I hope we have learned a lot from what happened before, and I suppose you won't know until you go out there and try your best. The Irish management team have not yet decided if they will have a preparation game ahead of the first Test in Perth. The Irish captain Sean Cavanagh believes the greater emphasis on tackling in preparations this year puts Ireland on a much firmer footing against the Aussies. Cavanagh predicted a far greater improvement now that the Australians have committed to a new set of rules and protocols.

The only problem facing Sean Boylan as team manager, is the fact that his panel contains a number of very inexperienced players. It includes about seven or eight players who have tasted the fire and brimstones

of International Rules football but quite a number of experienced players are not available because they are contesting local championship matches at present here at home. He said, before the team departed 'down under' "It is quite an inexperienced team. We have to go on the consistency that was shown, the way people adapted to it and the commitment they showed to it. This is not a junket—we are going out to Australia to represent Ireland in a very serious competition." The popular Meath team official hopes that Ireland can be more competitive than they were in 2006.

On the subject of team managers, which I mentioned in this column last month, the Dublin county Board, after a long search, have appointed Jack Gilroy to the hot seat left vacant by John "Pillar" Caffrey who stepped down after this year's inter county championship. Gilroy won an All-Ireland club championship medal this year and also figured with his club St. Vincents, who regained the Dublin senior football championship title after a lapse of 25 years.

He will have as his team coach, Mickey Whelan, from his own club, who was behind their two major victories this year. The latest team manager to lose his job is former Clare boss Ger Loughane. He was appointed by Galway as their team manager for a three year term when he was appointed two years ago. He proclaimed at the time he would be gone if he didn't deliver Galway's first All-Ireland hurling title since 1988. However a very intensive behind the scenes campaign was mounted in the county

for his head and it ended a few weeks ago when the county hurling Board voted 28 to 26 to dispense with his services, much to the surprise of many in the County. Candidly, he was a very good team mentor and deserved to be allowed complete his three year term of office. Kerry football manager Pat O Shea, following Kerry's defeat by Tyrone in this year's All-Ireland football final has stepped down from the position, and a new manager is being sought.

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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



the group's name is NOT capitalized, so save the e-mails and phone calls—especially from my eighth grade grammar teacher, Miss Kathy Gramp. bo-

hola is, of course, Jimmy Keane on piano accordion and Pat Broaders on "bouzar". Yup. "Bouzar." It was made for Pat by master instrument maker, Joe Foley, in Dublin. It has a bouzouki's neck and a guitar body. Great sound, and it is unique. Beautifully played. And, Jimmy? Well, let's just let it suffice that he is the best piano accordion player in the business, no debate. More importantly, he has a real musician's set of ears, and is very, very tasteful. Both of them have played so much trad for so long it is now an intuition, rather than an effort. They have also reached that point where they really don't have to worry about how they are going to "make the notes" in a technical sense, but they can rather just concentrate on the ambience and feeling they seek to convey. Only the best can do this. The new album is simply entitled, bohola Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders. Hard to believe they have been together 10 years, already. Ain't it funny how time slips away?

This album follows the longer format the boys have been employing the last few years. While there are only nine selections, they cover an astounding 1:14! It takes a real sense of musicality to pull this off. So many try to play longer pieces of music, with lots of changes, dips and rills. Few succeed. We still think the best are the



Piperlink held at the Irish American Heritage Center recently. photo courtesy of Cathy Curry, 4girlsphotography.com

bass, Sean Cleland on fiddle, Mary Broaders and one of our all-time faves, Kat Eggleston on vocals. Our favorite cut? "Gweneen," in memory of the great Gwen Sales. All true musicians and singers keep growing and getting better, even when that doesn't seem possible. So, here it is. bohola's newest, and it is magic. Rampant Lion, Paddy's on the Square, locally—and cdBaby on the net are sure to have it. Jimmy is very good at getting

it out—so this album should be widely available. Rest assured it will be on our Christmas Top 10. Rating: Four Harps

Wait! Why wait? We are doubly lucky to have a SECOND bohola release. A Christmas album. Called, bo-Ho-Ho-hola, it is easily the best Christmas album of the year. Get it ordered. Wow! Everything we said above is also true here. Fab. Brill. The best. This is really, really fun. There are songs and tunes aplenty. And, magically, some really wonderful poetry, comedic bits, and lots of memories of real Irish Christmases

past. This one should get some close listening to get the full measure. Great love and care is in evidence here. This is no throw it together piece of Christmas commercialism. We think it joins the Chieftains' Bells of Dublin and Kathy Cowan's A Kiltartan Road Christmas as the best of this format. Great music and lots of laughs, tender recollections and a real, true sense of the season. As we stated at the top of this month's column—these are not the best of times. All the more important that this album is available. This album IS Christmas, well, from an Irish perspective, anyway. We have loved bohola from the first note 10

years ago, but never more so than on this Holiday treat. You'll find it at the same places listed above for the other album. Get 'em both. Enjoy. Rating: Four Harps

Notes:

• Congrats to all—especially Kieran O'Hare, Pat Broaders and the man himself, Kevin Henry on the Piperlink event last month at the Irish American Heritage Center. Magic, and a great chance to see some old friends, such as Tommy Keane from Orranmore, Galway, who performed as part of it all. (Little known secret—Tommy is an avid Cubs fan.) Gay McKeown was fab with his playing, also. The only complaint? Muireann nic Amhlaoibh did not get to sing more piping tunes. She is a gift. (Also, finally, we got to meet the great Liz Knowles, one of the best Irish fiddlers in the world!)

• Are you tuning in? WDCB—Monday nights—7-9pm—90.9fm. www.wdcb.org—Blarney on the Air. I am joined by Shay Clarke as we continue to offer the best Irish music from across the sea and across the board. A wee bit of everything for the fan!

Ta!

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



What a great year for Irish festivals as organizers stepped up to the plate and treated us to an abundance of great events, with some magical musical moments. It was terrific.

The secret of success has been hard earned by these experienced organizers, who continue to get the mix right and strike the perfect balance between entertainment and culture, trad' and folk, old and new, local and touring bands, in an effort to provide top class entertainment to both soothe and stir the Gaelic heart.

With the economy as it is, it was great to see people come out in their tens of thousands to support Irish events and this season posted more up's than down's.

The big ones, for the most part were lucky with weather, but others, not so lucky this year were drenched and deluged. In Muskegon and Bethlehem, where it rained most of the time, the faithful arrived anyway and made the best of it, in a flurry of umbrellas, plastic ponchos and rain gear. The show must go on, and there they were enjoying the music and proving yet again that us Celts are a hardy race.

Milwaukee, Dublin, IAHC Chicago, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Cleveland and Gaelic Park were all awesome events this year.

Dayton and Minneapolis hosted the most improved events and even the Fox Valley Irish festival staged a comeback this year.....well done all concerned.

On stage, Gaelic Storm, still top my list of festival bands. I see them improve constantly. Their incredible stage presence, amazing talents and continuous innovation make each and every show special. It's chemistry and it works. Pat, Twigger, Pete, Ryan and Jessie have been on fire this year as they toured to support their best selling album "What's the Rumpus". As festival vendors, we know, that Gaelic Storm can draw thousands of their fans to any festival.

Scythian, with their Gypsy Celtic mix, made huge strides on this year's festival circuit and deservedly so. Their talent and energy have earned them a huge fan base and top billing at many events.

Slide, from Dublin, toured this summer and seemed to be everywhere. They also, made many new fans, with their youthful exuber-

ance and their stand-up, blistering take on trad' music. Excellent show boys.

When it comes to stage presence, Paulie B. rules with Brigid's Cross. Their unique blend of talent and humor bring crowds to their feet, as they bring their headline show to events everywhere. They are unstoppable.

Martin de Cogain and his Fuchsia Band from Cork, are always a great treat and were huge favorites at events this summer, as were The Screaming Orphans, Barleyjuice and Enter the Haggis.

The Elders from Kansas City are masters at stagecraft, as Ian Byrne, surrounded by major musical talent, continued to deliver, as one of the best Celtic Rock bands in the country. They give lyrics and harmony to Celtic Rock...it's a rare thing.

Local bands are the cornerstone of most events and our very own, Larkin and Moran Brothers are brilliant. This Celtic Rat Pack should be touring more. Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane brought a huge crowd to the Fox Valley Irish Festival and the Dayton festival without Dulahan, would not be the same. At Weston, MO, it's Ellis Island and Bob Reeder that keep it all going, and there are dozens of other bands who deserve our respect and admiration, but I can only comment on who I see and hear. Mossy Moran, huge in Ohio, should be on the national stage and how could I forget Switchback who are everywhere, even at the Celtic fest in Hawaii this year. But, the hardest working superstar in the whole business is the irrepressible Seamus Kennedy, who seems to have the energy of ten men, the craic has never been better and it is in the good hands of Seamus Kennedy.

New Albums to check out

Jimmy Keane and Pat Broaders; Bohola Clandestine; Red Celtic Thunder; Act Two Mick O'Brien; The Ancient Voice of Ireland Dave Rowe Trio; Three's a Charm Todd Menton; The Dolman Field Marc Dunlop; Islands of the Moon James Keane, Randall Bays, Daithi Sproule Fingal

Neil Emberg; Rise and Follow Findlay Napier; Out All Night Damien Dempsey; The Rocky Road

These are all new albums that we have been featuring recently on our radio show, Blarney on the Air. We broadcast on WDCB, 90.9 FM in Chicago, every Monday from 7-9 (central time) and on the web at wdcbb.org

Most of these albums are available from Rampant Lion Celtic Traders at 630-834-8108 or online at rampantlion.com

Yet to be Released

Jiggernaut; True North

Deanna Scotland, the voice of Jiggernaut has written a beautiful song in tribute to the late Tommy Makem called "The Man Who Dug the Well". It's a beautiful song and I have had the pleasure of playing it on our radio show from a pre release copy that she gave me.

Deanna tells me that the song "was inspired by Mairtin de Cogain. Mairtin was speaking to a group of musicians shortly after Tommy's death, and reminded them that the well at which we all drink was dug by Tommy Makem and men and women just like him. I wasn't actually there, but I heard about it from Gayle Baker, and I thought it was a great line for a song."

Deanna went on to say "Celtic music has come a long way since the folk revival of the 1960's, when Tommy and the Clancy Brothers made a name for themselves. We have seen Celtic music and culture thrive and gain popularity for many decades. Celtic music and celtic musicians owe a debt of gratitude to Tommy Makem, his energy and passion for Trad music has inspired countless musicians and his spirit and guiding hand can be felt at so many Irish Festivals around this county, and in fact around the world. All of us who play celtic music, from the troubador to the pub singers to celtic rock bands have felt Tommy's influence. Not only do we drink from his well, we stand upon the stage that he built. So I dedicate "The Man Who Dug The Well" To Tommy Makem for all the years he spent with a shovel in his hands, and to Mairtin de Cogain for the grace to recognize it. I only hope that it is a tribute worthy of them both."

The album, True North, will of course have this song on it but in the meantime you can check it out on You Tube. What a great voice.

The album is due for release January 2009. From Freestate Records, Soldier's Song: The Irish Abroad and Soldiering by Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band -

This is the new name for Mairtin de Cogain

and Jimmy Crowley who have been traveling together for some time and have put together this album of war and soldier songs. It contains Tommy Sand's Civil War song "Who Knows Where the Wind Blows", "Meagher's Brigade" and "Ireland Boys Hurrah" among others. We look forward to having this on the shelves very soon. In the meantime you can check it out at captainmackey.com

With these two Cork boys collaborating, it should be a great album.

And Finally

We would like to congratulate Ryan Lacey from Gaelic Storm on his wedding to Bridget Reidy, by the time you read this they will be a happily married couple, we wish them luck.

And next month, another good man goes as Mairtin de Cogain marries his beloved Mitra Pabidian, in his hometown of Cork.

We at the IAN, and Blarney on the Air wish you all congratulations and the very best of luck.

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Recent Home Buyers (and Sellers!) Beware

The following column is an introduction to the laws in Illinois which regulate sales of residential homes and the mandatory disclosures of material defects by sellers.

To begin, I'd like to relate some facts from a hypothetical situation to put the following discussion of the laws into context. I'll call

the hypothetical client, John Do-novan (get it? "John Doe").

John Donovan and his wife, Jane Donovan, bought a home approximately four (4) years ago, in August 2004. It was a typical brick ranch house in a typical Chicago ethnic enclave. Prior to purchase, the seller mentioned verbally to John Donovan over the phone that the basement of the home gets some water when it rains. But the seller did not say how much, made it seem trivial, and John Donovan figured the seller meant no more than that most basements get moisture from time to time in Chicago, especially older homes. By the way, the seller was a former grammar school classmate of John and Jane so John trusted the seller.

When John and Jane moved in, the seller

had moved out but left some "gifts" in the basement. For example, an old electric lawn mower and a gas oven range. Also, there was a heavy iron shelving unit covering one wall in the unfinished part of the basement that was still lined with old paint cans and solvents, etc. John and Jane did not make a fuss because, again, the seller was a former grammar school classmate so they assumed the seller did not have the time or manpower to move the heavy objects from the basement and left the matter alone.

As it later turns out, the basement floor in the finished part of the basement gets wet every time it rains. The portion of the floor that gets wet is against the same basement/foundation wall as the shelving unit left behind by the seller. As it turns out, the shelving unit and all the paint cans and solvents conveniently cover the cracks in the wall of the basement/foundation behind the shelving unit.

Fast forward three years from purchase to August 2007 and you get heavy rains and the basement floods approximately three inches from an overworked sewer in front of the house. The carpeting need to be removed and the insurance covers up to \$5000 and new carpeting is installed.

Fast forward four years from purchase to July 2008 and you get heavy rains and the basement floods again approximately three or four inches and the new carpet has to be removed again. Now, John Donovan is furious while the water is gushing out of the toilet and shower drain in the basement and, if he could find his old phone book between trips to salvage his belongings in the basement, he'd call his former classmate and tell him to go to hell, or tell him something else.

As it turns out in our hypothetical scenario,

John Donovan did not go to the closing when they bought the home. Jane Donovan was the one taking care of it. The seller, and former classmate of Jane and John, acted as his own seller. The seller was an attorney, not a real estate attorney, but a former states attorney now handling criminal defense matters like DUIs, etc. As it turns out, the seller never included with the closing documents any mandatory disclosures of any known material defects. The Donovans were never made aware that the seller knew of any flooding and constant water leaking in the basement.

Fast forward again to September 2008 and you get record rainfall and the Donovans get 12 inches of water in their basement, lose their furniture (valued at \$4000), their treadmill (\$1500), their gas water heater, refrigerator, electronics, personal effects, etc. The neighbors all pretty much this time share the fate of the Donovans. The Donovans learn that their home, the last on a dead end street, is in a flood plain due to the slope of the street which ends in front of their home where the manhole to the sewer sits in the middle of the street in front of their home. It turns out that a large field of grass adjacent to the Donovans has a retention pond that is sloped in a way so it spills over into the same manhole in the middle of the street in front of their home. It turns out that a similar flooding occurred, only worse, in 2001, when the seller and former grammar school classmate occupied the Donovan's home, and that the neighbors have a pending class action against the City of Chicago over the infamous rain blockers placed by the City in the sewers which exasperated flooding of the streets and neighbors' homes by decreasing, rather than increasing, the rate at which the rain water drained from the streets into the main sewer. It turns out that the neighbors also have been aware and had previously complained to the owners of the property with the field and retention pond adjacent to the Donovan's home.

So, why didn't the seller tell the Donovans about the flooding and constant water leakage problems in the basement. Was it enough that, prior to purchase, the seller mentioned verbally to John Donovan over the phone that the basement of the home gets some water when it rains, even though the seller did not say how much water, made it seem trivial, and John Donovan thought that most basements get moisture from time to time in Chicago, especially older homes.

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The Residential Real Property Disclosure Act

The Residential Real Property Disclosure Act ("Act") mandates specific conduct on the part of any seller of residential real property. The first thing it mandates is that a seller of residential real property shall issue to the buyer prior to closing a written disclosure statement. The contents of the written disclosure statement are also mandated by the Act. Many people reading this column have seen the mandatory disclosure statement, either when they sold or when they bought a personal residence. The Act requires that "the seller shall disclose material defects of which the seller has actual knowledge" but that "the seller is not obligated by this Act to make any specific investigation or inquiry in an effort to complete the disclosure statement." So, basically, the seller must disclose any material defects of which he has knowledge at the time of sale. But he does not have to go looking for defects of which he does not have knowledge. But, nonetheless, the seller has to provide the written disclosure statement indicating knowledge of, or lack of knowledge of, material defects.

The mandatory disclosures mandated by the Act begin with the following:

"Seller has occupied the property within the last 12 months." Yes? No? N/A?

"[Seller is] aware of flooding or recurring leakage problems in the crawl space or basement." Yes? No? N/A?

"[Seller is] aware that the property is located in a flood plain or that I currently have flood hazard insurance on the property." Yes? No? N/A?

"[Seller is] aware of material defects in the basement or foundation (including cracks or bulges)." Yes? No? N/A?

There are many more mandatory disclosures mandated by the Act regarding the plumbing, electrical, septic, and various other systems in the residential real property, but the fact that flooding and water are the first would tend to indicate that they are foremost.

So, the Donovans, four years after purchase, learn that the seller did not provide any mandatory disclosures under the Act, the seller was his own attorney at the closing so, arguably, the seller willfully, and with fraudulent intent, concealed the flood-

ing and water leaking from the Donovans, which is further evidenced by the shelving unit with all the paint cans and solvents which conveniently covered the cracks in the wall of the basement/foundation behind the shelving unit.

What can the Donovans do? Is it too late due to any applicable statutes of limitation?

With regard to the Act, for the Donovans in this hypothetical scenario, there's good news and bad news. The bad news is that the Act has a one-year statute of limitations. The Act states: "No action for violation of this Act may be commenced later than one year from the earlier of the date of possession, date of occupancy, or date of recording of an instrument of conveyance [e.g., a warranty deed issues at closing] of the residential real property." The good news for the Donovans is that the Act is not an exclusive remedy in their case where they can show fraud on the part of the seller. The Act states: "This Act is not intended to limit or modify any obligation to disclose created by any other statute or that may exist in common law in order to avoid fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit in the transaction."

The Act, if the failure to disclose is discovered within one year, provides the following protections to new home buyers. If the seller fails or refuses to provide the disclosure statement prior to the closing, the buyer has the right to terminate the contract. So, the Donovans, had they discovered the failure of the seller to provide them with the written disclosure statement prior to the closing, could have terminated the contract. Makes you wonder where the Donovans' attorney's head was at prior to and at the time of closing. Sounds like a case of malpractice on their attorney's part in addition to fraud by the seller. Or where was their real estate agent prior to and at the time of closing?

The Act also provides that a seller who knowingly violates or fails to perform any duty mandated by the Act or who discloses any information on the Residential Real Property Disclosure Report that he knows to be false, shall be liable in the amount of actual damages and court costs, and the court may award reasonable attorney fees incurred by the prevailing party. So, the Donovans, had they discovered the flooding and foundation leaks and the failure of

the seller to provide the mandatory written disclosures within one year of the purchase, could have sued for the costs of repair (for example, installation of overhead sewer system and reparation of the foundation cracks and leaks) and their costs and reasonable attorney fees.

So, where does this leave the Donovans? Again, the good news for the Donovans is that the Act is not an exclusive remedy where, as in their case, they can show fraud on the part of the seller.

The Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act

More importantly, the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practice Act ("Consumer Fraud Act"), which has been discussed in many of my previous columns, provides a remedy. First, it defines "trade" and "commerce" as follows:

"the advertising, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any services and any property, tangible or intangible, real, personal or mixed, and any other article, commodity, or thing of value wherever situated, and shall include any trade or commerce directly or indirectly affecting the people of this State."

Next, the Consumer Fraud Act declares as unlawful the following: "any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation or the concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact, with intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact, ... in the conduct of any trade or commerce are hereby declared unlawful."

So, the Consumer Fraud Act provides a remedy. It also provides for costs and attorney fees to the prevailing consumer. The Consumer Fraud Act has a three year statute of limitations. Does this mean the Donovans are out of luck? Although outside the scope of this column, a statute of limitations will not begin to run where the defendant (in this case the seller) fraudulently concealed the injury – i.e., took steps to prevent the Donovans from detecting the water leaking (by covering the cracked and leaking basement/foundation wall with an old shelving unit). Also, there's a "discovery rule" whereby a statute of limitations does not begin to run until the plaintiff knew or should have known of the injury. So, the Donovans should not have known about the

recurring flooding until a heavy rain or, in their case, August of 2007. So, the statute of limitations would not begin to run until August of 2007 in the case of the Donovans and this would give them three years within which to file a lawsuit against the seller under the Consumer Fraud Act.

For those of you with little sympathy for the Donovans in light of the flooding so many experienced this last September in Chicago, keep in mind that the Donovans will have to pay for extensive plumbing work, like overhead sewers and foundation repairs, and will have to disclose to any future buyer that which was not disclosed to them by their seller. The difference between the Donovans and their neighbors is (1) the Donovans flooded three times in the past year whereas their neighbors flooded only once when Chicago recorded the most rainfall ever in a day (more than August 1987), and (2) the Donovans paid for a home that did not have material defects and the price they paid reflected that. That's why the seller did not disclose the flooding and constant water leaks—i.e., material defects—in the basement. The seller defrauded the Donovans for money. Former grammar school classmate or not, the love of money is the root of all evil. 1 Timothy 6:10.

Disclaimer: The above is an abbreviated description of the law and is not intended to convey legal advice or to be a comprehensive overview of the law. You should consult with an attorney to determine whether or not you have a case under any applicable law(s), including, but not limited to, the Home Repair & Remodeling Act and the Home Repair Fraud Act.

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Mick

Mike Morley



Slightest Sights

Writing three weeks before the historic election, I feel it is time to illuminate yet another ill-rewarded episode in American history. It concerns an emigrant who shed blood for his adopted country, always placed it first, and refused to betray America though offered a fortune to do so. He arose from obscurity and has returned there.

Search online for "Revolutionary War Patriots" and the top website that pops up, "Patriots of the Revolution-

ary War" cites a short politically correct list: Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, John Paul Jones, Thomas Paine, Paul Revere, Molly Pitcher, James Lafayette, Abigail Adams, and Ethan Allen.

Ask most educated people if they've ever heard of John Barry. Most will draw a blank, even if you add his title, "Commodore." Irish American groups like the AOH had to fight cultural bias to restore to Barry the appellation: "Father of the

American Navy."

Cultural bias? Over the years there have been 16 major movies and 11 TV productions on Queen Elizabeth I... not one on John Barry.

The only John Barry to show up in movies is a celebrated English composer of that name.

Check this mocking item in pre-war, pre-CNN, TIME, Sept. 6, 1937:

In the U.S., the Ancient Order of Hibernians is an association of Irish-born zealots, sensitive as Jews to the slightest slight to their kind. In a world preoccupied by other matters, for instance, it frequently appears to good Hibernians that the impact of the Irish on U. S. history is belittled or neglected. In Rochester last week, where the Hibernians of New York State were holding convention, fiery charges were heard that U. S. schoolbooks are unfair to the Irish. "We need a real American history!" shouted wispy, grey John McAdam, State Chairman of Irish History.

Among ignored Irish patriots, McAdam cited Commodore John Barry. And despite changes in political politeness that now render the above item unprintable in any major American magazine, the years have not changed some media conventions.

It wasn't until 2000, three decades after his death, that Audie Murphy, another hero of Irish descent, was finally honored on a US postage stamp. But Murphy's memory had to wait while the postal service awarded individual stamps to other American heroes: Elvis, Bugs Bunny, Marilyn and Daffy Duck. And when his turn arrived, Murphy was short-sheeted, sharing a pane with three other noted military men. The government appeared to be clearing its decks of requests for war heroes on its postage.

Barry's likeness was placed on a 1 cent US postcard stamp in 1936, just prior to that TIME article. Sharing the stamp with Barry: John Paul

Jones, a contentious and controversial seaman, whose name now is now associated by most every schoolchild with the term: "Father of the American Navy".

Jack Barry was born in 1745 at Ballysampion on Our Lady's Island, Tacumshin Parish, County Wexford. What did life hold for the Barrys in that time and place? It's worth reflecting on while seated at the Thanksgiving table.

Because of the brutal Penal Laws imposed by Britain, Irish Catholics then owned barely 5% of Irish land. Catholic worship and schools were outlawed, and priests who did not conform might be branded on the face or castrated.

The laws of the land made it a crime for Irish Catholics to attend Mass; receive an education; enter a profession; hold public office; vote; engage in commerce; live within 5 miles of a corporate town; own land, lease land worth more than 30 shillings a year, or take; inherit anything, especially land, from a Protestant. A Catholic could not educate his own children or have them educated by a Catholic. He was compelled to pay 10% of his meager wages to the Protestant Church of Ireland, and could not, when dead or dying, leave his infant children under Catholic guardianship. He was forbidden, under any circumstances, to possess a weapon to defend himself or his family.

British professor W. E. H. Leckey later belabored the obvious, saying the object of the Penal Laws was "To deprive Catholics of all civil life; to reduce them to a condition of extreme, brutal ignorance; and, to disassociate them from the soil." The fourth objective was "To expatriate the race." ... Ethnic cleansing.

When the Barrys were evicted from their tenant farm by their British landlord, the family moved over to Rosslare, where Jack began working for his uncle, Nicholas Barry, captain of a fishing skiff.

In 1760 the family decided to leave Ireland, sailing to another Brit-

ish colony, America, and settling in Philadelphia, a city of above-average religious tolerance. Starting as a cabin boy, Barry sailed with the city's merchant fleets out of Delaware Bay. And at the age of 21 he was given his first command: a 60 ton schooner, "Barbadoes."

By 1775, Barry was a skilled captain, and returning to Philadelphia just as Congress was establishing a Navy, he was put in charge of outfitting its first ships. On December 7 of that year, Barry was also granted the first commission issued by the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress: captain of the first Continental armed cruiser, "Lexington." In a short time, Barry was sailing into port with the H.M.S. Edward, the first English prize taken back to Philadelphia.

He was then given command of a 36-gun frigate under construction, the Effingham. But with the Brits blockading the Delaware, Barry offered to serve in the Army. He collected a group of volunteers to man artillery and went up over Christmas 1776 to support Washington's victory at Trenton. About this time he was approached by someone he knew with Tory sympathies, who offered 15,000 guineas in gold or 20,000 pounds sterling, plus a command in the Royal Navy, if he would turn Effingham over to the British. Barry was highly insulted. Speaking of the incident later he said, in his brogue: "I spurned the eyedee of being a traitor." The formal version of his reply to the bribe quotes him: "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can lure me from the cause of my country." The Effingham was later scuttled as the British approached Philadelphia.

While commanding the frigate "Alliance," Barry engaged two Royal Navy ships, HMS Atlanta and HMS Trepassey in a famed four-hour battle on May 28th 1780.

During his Naval service he captured over 20 ships, and won the last sea battle of the Revolution, against the HMS Sybille, March 10, 1783.

We plan to devote more time to Barry and Jones in this space, and the efforts of Irish groups to restore to the Commodore the recognition he deserves.

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Maeve Cleary, of Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, home to the world famous Belleek Pottery, will be personalizing the 2008 Kilkenny Castle Vase at signing events in Chicago and St. Louis in November.

Ms. Cleary, an official tour guide at Belleek's award winning Visitor Centre, welcomes visitors and introduces them to the world of Belleek Parian China. Maeve will personalize with family name on the bottom of the limited edition vase or any other piece of Belleek purchased.

She is scheduled to be at Donegal Imports, 5358 W. Devon Ave. in Chicago (773-792-2377) from 4-7pm on Friday, November 14th.

On Saturday, November 15th, Maeve will be at South Side Irish Imports, 3446 W. 111th

St. in Chicago (773-881-8585) from 11-4pm and also personalize with family name and 2008 on the back of the exclusive South Side Irish Belleek ornament; a perfect personalized gift for Christmas (\$30 each.) Quantities are limited; reserve your pieces today.

Maeve will also be signing Belleek at The Kerry Cottage, 2119 S. Big Bend Blvd. in Saint Louis, MO (314-647-0166) from 4-7pm on Thursday, November 13th.



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MICHIGAN

Irish American Candidate Makes History at University of Michigan



By Neil Mullally

The presidential race is hotly contested and the country is closely divided. The polls are separated by less than a leprechaun's whisker.

Millions have watched the televised debates. One candidate is a younger charismatic speaker who especially attracts the youth vote. The other candidate is a political pro from the West who has long been part of Washington politics.

Michigan is a battleground state coveted by both political parties. But the year is 1960, not 2008. The Democrat nominee is John Fitzgerald Kennedy, age 43, who will become the first Irish American Catholic elected President of the United States. The Republican candidate is Richard Milhouse Nixon, age 47, the Vice-President of the United States.

As October rolls on, both candidates criss-cross the nation trying to



Photo provided by University of Michigan News Service.

garner votes in what would turn out to be one of the closest presidential elections in American history.

Thursday, October 13, 1960, was a big news day for the media. That is the day when Nikita Krushchev banged his shoe on his table at the U.N., while famously exclaiming, "We will bury you!"

And that is the day when the Pitts-

burg Pirates defeated the Yankees, 10-9, to win the World Series in what many sports writers still call the greatest contest in World Series history.

That night Kennedy and Nixon held their third nation-wide debate. The third debate was interesting from a logistical perspective. The candidates were not in the same room: Nixon was in Los Angeles and

Kennedy was in New York.

After the debate, Kennedy flew through the night to Michigan to campaign, and his first destination was the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and its some 40,000 students.

Kennedy did not arrive at the university until 2am on the 14th. Most of the reporters had retired for the night. But Kennedy and his campaign staff were

surprised to find an eager audience of 10,000 awaiting him at the Michigan student union, the main campus gathering spot. On the front steps Kennedy delivered an inspiring speech outlining the concept of the Peace Corps, and challenged the students to participate. Because of the late hour, the speech did not receive wide coverage.

But at that time and place JFK gave life to the Peace Corps, which still today remains a strong presence of our country's good work around the globe.

We do not hear now as much as we should about the Peace Corps, and it needs to get its message out more about all it accomplishes.

Today at the front entrance of the Michigan Union building, there is a plaque commemorating this historic event, and imbedded in the top step where JFK stood, there is a medallion.

Thousands pass by every year, and are reminded of this shining moment from our Irish American President, John F. Kennedy.



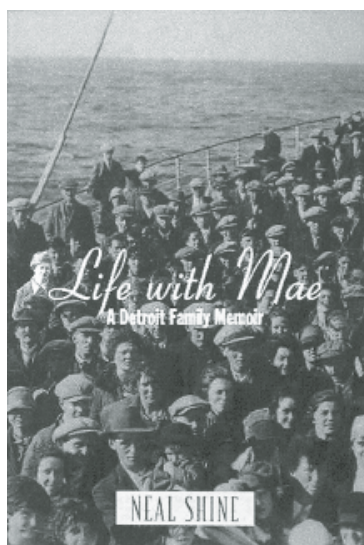
Wayne State Publishes Life with Mae: A Detroit Family Memoir

By Neil Mullally

Mae Conlon was born the eldest of thirteen children in Ireland in 1909, in the small town of Carrickon-Shannon, County Leitrim. At age 14 she was employed as a domestic servant, and realized she had little opportunity in Ireland beyond that work. From her wages she managed to save enough for a one-way passage to the U.S., and at age 18 she found her way to relatives in Minnesota, and then moved to Detroit.

In Detroit she married Patrick Shine, and they had three sons. Neal Shine was the oldest, born in 1930. Starting in 1950 as a copy boy, Neal Shine rose through the ranks to eventually become the Editor and later the Publisher of the Detroit Free Press, the largest, most influential newspaper in Michigan.

Mae, known in the Detroit Irish American community as "Ma Shine," was at once loving, outspoken, and feisty. She died in 1987 at age 78. Before his own death last year, Neal Shine wrote a memoir of his mother, which was recently published by the Wayne State University Press



in Detroit. Life with Mae: A Detroit Family Memoir, depicts pre and post World War II Detroit, and reveals Ma Shine's strength of character as the Shine family found its path through those years. Neal Shine tells Mae's story through a series of chapters of incidents that took place over her lifetime.

Here from the book is a brief excerpt that reveals much about Ma

Shine's values and attitudes. The setting is a reception where she had a conversation with a British consulate staff member named Bill Somerset. The year was 1974, and Mae was then 65 years old:

He (Somerset) said to my mother: "Am I to understand, Mrs. Shine, that you have no love for the queen?"

"That's not so," she said. "Love might be the wrong word, but I certainly admire her for the job she does. She carries an enormous burden, and I'm sure it's all very difficult. I respect her for the way she handles her responsibilities."

Somerset, pleased by her response, smiled and nodded.

That went well enough, I thought. This whole thing might not be as painful as I imagined.

Then, unwilling as always to leave well enough alone, Ma added: "But I'd never bend my knee to her. No curtsying, no bowing. None of that."

"You wouldn't?" Somerset said, not smiling anymore.

... continued on next page

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"No. But I'd be pleased to shake her hand, woman to woman, and tell her I respect and admire her, but I hear you can't touch any of the royals without permission."

Somerset came right back. "Well, then, would you bend your knee to the pope?" he asked.

"I would not," she said emphatically. "I would shake his hand as well, tell him how much I respected him for the difficult job he has. But I wouldn't kiss his ring or bow to him."

"I spent the early part of my life curtsying and bowing, 'Yes, milady, no milady, right away, milady,' backing out of rooms with my head down," she said. She told him how she worried constantly about pleasing her "mistress" and how she feared her disapproval for even the smallest lapses.

By this time everyone in the room was listening to the conversation. She continued, telling Somerset about how the people in Carrick stepped off the footpath, tipping their caps and tugging at their forelocks whenever one of the gentry passed. If they, in turn, acknowledged the townspeople at all, it was often with a slight nod in their direction. "Getting away from that was one of the reasons I came to this country. It's not what we do here," she said.

It was, we all agreed, a splendid statement.

Somerset was quiet again.

Then my mother said to him, "I'll tell you what I will do. I'll offer a toast to the queen."

She raised her glass of André and said brightly, "To the queen!"

Every glass in the room was raised smartly, and the guests responded in unison: "To the queen!"

People were taking their first sips of champagne when my mother offered this additional thought: "Up her kilt!"

Mitch Albom, the Detroit author of the bestsellers Tuesdays with Morrie and For One More, says this about Life with Mae:

"Neal Shine was good at many things, but he was best at storytelling. Here in these pages is his final proof of that—a sweeping, emotional, charming, and dutifully honest account of Mae Shine and her family, which glows with nostalgia and love and proves the hypothesis that remarkable sons usually come from remarkable mothers."

Life with Mae can be ordered directly from the Wayne State University Press at www.wsupress.wayne.edu, or the toll free order number is 1-800-978-7323. It is now on sale there for \$20.00. It can also be ordered through Amazon and other booksellers. The book's ISBN is 9780814332986.

41st Annual Pallotine Fathers Dinner Dance Scheduled

The 41st Irish Pallotine Fathers Annual Dinner Dance has been scheduled for Detroit area Irish on Friday, November 14. A highlight of the evening will be honoring Una Bonner as Woman of the Year and Walter Walsh as Man of the Year. Entertainment will be by Brian Bonner and the band Arranmore. Proceeds from the event go toward the sup-

port of the Pallotine missions in East Africa. The dinner dance will be held at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia, MI 48152. The doors will open at 7pm for cocktails, followed by dinner at 8pm and dancing at 9pm. The ticket price is \$55 per person. To purchase tickets for this fine charitable event, call Pallotine House at 734-285-2966.

Dublin Carol at Steppenwolf

Steppenwolf Theatre Company is adding five additional performances to its special engagement of Dublin Carol by Conor McPherson.

Dublin Carol runs November 6 through December 28.

John, a man whose life was nearly

destroyed by drinking, now holds a steady job at a Dublin undertaker's office. When his daughter appears on Christmas Eve with disturbing news, it sets off a series of painful confessions that ultimately offer John a chance to escape the burden of his past.

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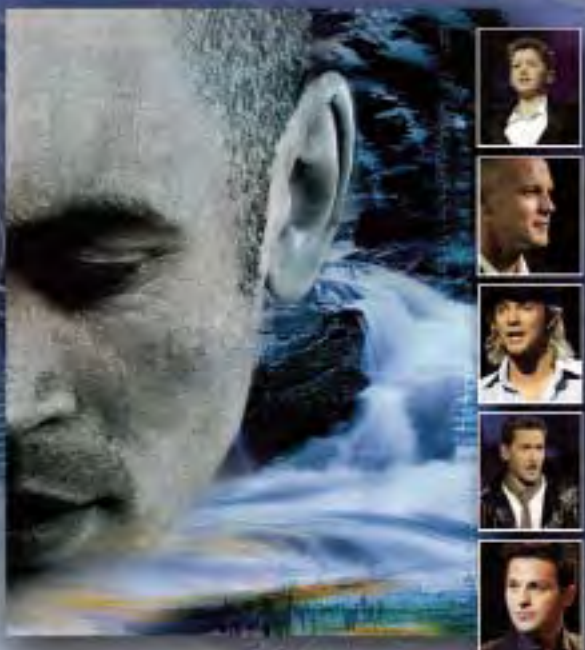
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Chicago Premiere of Mike Houlihan's Indie Film Tapioca

The Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 North State Street, will present the Chicago premiere of Irish American News columnist Mike Houlihan's independent feature film, Tapioca, on Thursday, November 20th at 8pm.

Tapioca stars Broadway legend Ben Vereen as well as Mike Houlihan and his family and friends. In a story as timely as news of our bottoming-out

economy, abrasive blowhard Pipes McGonnigle (Houlihan), TV hawker for a Chicago car dealership, loses his job, gets kicked out by his wife, and runs afoul of a Streetwise vendor (Vereen) with supernatural powers, who consigns him to life as a bum by way of a hex. Writer/actor Houlihan expanded his stand-up show of the same title and cast a host of veteran Chicago

actors including David Pasquesi, Paul Kelly, and Mark Borchardt for this comic allegory of redemption set entirely in the grittiest and most authentic of urban locations.

Royal families of acting like the Booths, Baldwins, and Barrymores have nothing on the Houlihanes. Former Chicago Sun-Times features columnist, veteran stage and screen actor and theatre producer Mike Houlihan recruited his entire family to join him in his debut feature as writer, producer, and star of the comedy Tapioca.

Twin son Paddy Houlihan directed the film and his brother Bill Houlihan is executive producer of Tapioca. Both sons also have featured roles in the film as actors. Mary Carney, Mike's wife and the twins' mother, stars in the film as Clotilde, a blessed bag lady.

Mike and Mary met onstage in Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well in the late seventies. Mary Carney went on to star in the daytime soap opera Ryan's Hope as well as performing in the classics all over the country and in England. The Houlihan brothers officially began their acting careers with their father on the stage of the Beverly Art Center in Chicago in 2004 when they mounted Tapioca as a comedy experiment. But Mike says, "They've been clowns since the day they were born!"

Houlihan also recruited an extended family of actors and comics to join the cast. "Most of my pals are in the film." Tapioca features Ben Vereen, Saturday Night Live alum Tim Kazurinsky, Greg Hollimon from Strangers With Candy, as well as Jimmy Carrane, Michael McNeal, Jack McCabe, and several other Second City veterans.


Tapioca premiered at the Park City Film Music Festival in Park City, Utah on January 19, 2008. It's a road trip the men in the family will never forget. Paddy says, "We were in Park City during the Sundance Film Festival so we schooled all the Hollywood big shots in the 'Chicago way!'"



While most of the films at Sundance had multi-million dollar budgets, Tapioca came in at a fraction of that. Tapioca features an original score by Chicago jazz composer Ryan Cohan and contributions from Gospel legends Otis Clay and Lena McLin.

The Houlihanes have screened Tapioca all over the film festival circuit including The Texas Black Film Festival, First Take Film Festival, and The Other Venice Film Festival, and coming up November 8th at the Geneva Film Fest. Vanguard Cinema has picked up Tapioca for worldwide distribution and DVD release is scheduled for February 2009. Mike says, "Tapioca is proof that you don't need a million dollars to make a cool little movie."

Tickets for the Chicago premiere at the Gene Siskel Film Center can be obtained through Ticket Master 312-575-8000 or at the Siskel Center box office, 164 North State Street. www.siskelfilmcenter.org.



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Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: You are taking a much needed hiatus this month of November 2008. Recharging your batteries for the surge of activity ahead is just what the doctor ordered. The holiday season is fast approaching and extra energy is needed.

TAURUS: Even though the emphasis is on the opposite sign of Scorpio this month your sign has special significance. You will have more than the usual amount of activity with significant others, direct rivals or the public in general.

GEMINI: Your finances are a concern this month and possibly for months to come. Along with many people you are not alone. Cutting back on unnecessary spending and focusing on simplifying life style can greatly improve your financial outlook.

CANCER: The emphasis this month is in your 5th sector of children, games of chance, and for some romance. You may encounter moments for better or worse in any of these areas. You know where you are in these areas because they have been brewing for a while.

LEO: This month your focus will be on your home life and family roots. If there is some dispute going on it could well be resolved now. Mars meets with the new moon which will possibly force issues but also offer a solution for conflict.

VIRGO: You will be involved with many comings and goings. A flurry of activity will be your lot for this month. Many errands, short trips and dealings with neighbors. Make sure you have few disputes with you neighbors as this could be the rub for the month.

LIBRA: You could have close and passionate encounters with others this month.

These interactions could be pleasing or vexing depending on what you have been developing with others in your sphere. If you have been working on good and proper relationships, you know where you are going.

SCORPIO: The highlight of the month will be you. You are under the spotlight so make the most of it. The powers that be will be watching you and what you do and say. At work and in society you will be scrutinized. Do well, be well.

SAGITTARIUS: Venus and Pluto meet at the tail end of your sign. This duo will no doubt bring some bare bone issues into the open. You will have to look at problems that may well have been swept under the rug.

CAPRICORN: Like Sagittarius, your neighbor, Pluto and Venus are on the cusp of your sign. This pair bring to light some of the hidden factors of truth that cannot be ignored. Do not forsake the truth for the status quo. You could suffer enormously if you do not acknowledge the reality of your feelings in a very personal issue.

AQUARIUS: You could find yourself in a quandary at work with the new moon in your 10th sector of career and public image. Mars also goes along with all of this. Don't put your foot in your mouth and do not be tempted to commit any faux pas socially or professionally.

PISCES: You have a bit of a wild card this month with the Mars and Uranus trine that is supporting you this time. You may come away winning a coup that you did not expect. You could be the recipient of recognition that has been missing of late.

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Wisconsin Shamrock Club News

State Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from August 14.

"The Wisconsin Shamrock Club State Advisory Board met at Trinity Three Irish Pubs on August 16, 2008. Members from South Central, LaFayette County, Milwaukee and Dane County. President John Delmore called the meeting to order. The minutes from the May 4 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Clubs present shared current activities and concerns. The LaCrosse Irish Fest was a great success. So great that they even ran out of tickets on Saturday and had to use up some from last year. They exceeded their expectations, had absolutely beautiful weather, excellent entertainment and lots of people came to enjoy the event. Our congratulations to the LaCrosse Irish Fest for a successful event and fun-filled weekend.

Assignment To All Clubs: Brian Witt suggested that the Board set up a display at Irish Fest in the cultural tent. The Board would like to go ahead with this idea but we need input from the clubs as to what you would like to have put on the display. Some suggestions were to display our mission, show the Wisconsin map and show where all the clubs are, attach or have available club brochures or information, list the Boards responsibilities. The size will be determined after we decide what to place on the board.

Arthur Cola, author of Papa and the Leprechaun King – Novel and Audio Book and Papa and the Gingerbread Man, was a guest at the meeting. He presented a wonderful overview of his books. They are available to clubs to sell as fundraisers. If anyone is interested in information on the books and fundraising or his presentation, please

contact Arthur at arthurcola@yahoo.com or at 262-308-0743.

Many thanks to Brian Witt for coordinating the meeting and to Cate Harris for the Irish Fest passes that she gave to each of us. Trinity Three Irish Pubs is located at 125 E. Juneau in Milwaukee.

Shamrock Club of La Crosse upcoming events include: November 19 General Meeting at Cedar Creek Country Club; November 22, the Rotary Nights Tree Trimming. November 28 - Rotary Lights Parade; December 3 - Christmas Party at the FreightHouse Restaurant. And to be announce, the LAX Shamrock Club in December from 4:45-10:15pm - Shamrock Club hosts Rotary Lights. Volunteers needed. Call Sharon Candahl at 715-784-7101.

South Central – The November 9th Meeting will feature the nominations of Irish Rose and Irishman of 2009, that are due that night. Please, fill out the nomination forms to the best of your knowledge so that your vote counts! The meeting begins at 4pm at the Voyageur in Reedsburg, WI. The Christmas Party is set for December 14th beginning at Noon. It will be held at the Reedsburg Country Club. The St. Patrick's Day Party and Banquet will be held on March 21st at the Voyageur Inn, Reedsburg, WI.

A committee has been formed to establish a scholarship for an individual who wishes to pursue a career in teaching with emphasis on special education. The Committee is comprised of John Delmore, Bill Wilde, Robert (Bob) Hanes, and Tom Scanlon. The details are being fine-tuned but it is with great pride that the scholarship awarded will be named "Marguerite I. Murray Scholarship."

Benefit for Cailinn Lynch November 15

The Milwaukee Hurling Club will be holding a benefit on November 15th, 2008 to raise funds for Cailinn Lynch. The event will be held at Waynz World of Recreation from 6-10pm. 568W22665 National Ave. (Hwy E5) Big Bend, WI.

Cailinn was born on May 8th with an extremely rare, chromosomal disorder, Unbalance Chromosomal Translocation, which has kept Cailinn in the hospital most of her very young life. The proceeds from this benefit will go directly to helping Brian and Kelly, Cailinn's parents, cover the medical costs associated with her treatment.

The evening will include beer-

ages, food, silent auction, and some games (including volleyball, beanbag toss, and ping pong). The cost is \$25/person.

Brian and Kelly Lynch have been active members of the Milwaukee Hurling Club and Milwaukee's Irish Community for many years.

RSVP to Michael Stickney: 630-802-1380. Donations and raffle prizes can be sent to Michael at: 1569 South Carriage Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151

Cailinn's website is www.caringbridge.org/visit/cailinnlynch Password: Babylynch. For directions to the event visit www.waynzworld.net.



ICHC Hallamór Fall Series

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center's Fall Hallamór Series is set. Seamus Kennedy will be performing on November 15. Opening for him will be the Synergy Dancers, a group of senior dancers that train with the Glencastle Irish Dance School. The Tony Kenny Christmas in Ireland Revue, with Joe Cuddy and the Dublin Dancers is performing on Wednesday, December 10, with no opening acts. Doors open at 7pm, and opening acts start at 7:15, with the main acts going on at 8pm. The ICHC is located at 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Milwaukee, on the western edge of the Marquette University campus.

There are also ceilis on the First Friday and third Saturday, as well as

Set Dances on the fourth Saturday of each month. In addition, Friday night sessions take place the second and third Fridays of the month. The ICHC is also having a movie series. Upcoming flicks include: October 10-Braveheart; November 14-An Everlasting Piece; January 9-The Dead; February 13-War of the Buttons. Films start at 8pm in the Hallamór Screening Room.

On December 6, the ICHC Christmas Fair, featuring a number of vendors who will be selling Celtic Christmas Crafts and Gifts. It will run 8am-4pm. Lunch with Santa is also available.

For more information, call the ICHC at 414-345-8800, or go to the website at <http://www.ichc.net>.

A Safe Place

— A Worthy Cause

Victims of domestic violence have been coming to A Safe Place since 1980. Community built and community supported, each year A Safe Place provides emergency shelter, affordable housing, and comprehensive counseling services for adult and child victims survivors, community outreach programs, and court advocacy for more than 11,000 residents of Lake, McHenry and northern Cook counties as well as parts of Wisconsin. There are no fees charged for victims services and no one is ever turned away.

Each year, over 400 children come to A Safe Place having experienced domestic violence in their homes. Whether they have been physically abused or not, these children suffer the trauma of witnessing violence. A Safe Place provides individual, group and family counseling services to help these children recover from the trauma and plan for their own future safety.

Waterford Wedgwood has supported the efforts of this great service for many years. Most times children arrive with nothing, not even the essentials like pajamas. They need your help! Customers are asked to come to the store during the biggest shopping weekend, November 28th-30th, and donate new children- or teen-sized pajamas. In return for your donation you will be able to enter a drawing for a great Waterford item for your effort. Prime Outlets of Pleasant Prairie has also donated a gift card for a drawing from the names of those that donated.

Pajamas can be dropped off starting at 12:00 midnight just after the Thanksgiving Day feast at the Waterford Wedgwood Company Store at Prime Outlets, 11211 120th Ave. in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. Kids deserve warm pajamas for the cold winter nights. Especially when they are in the situation that brings them with their mothers to A Safe Place. Please call 1-800-648-1609 with any questions.

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Concerts in Wisconsin

Here is a list of upcoming concerts by national acts in Wisconsin through the end of December:

- Nov. 15 — [Milwaukee]; Seamus Kennedy; Hallamor Concert #2 Irish Cultural and Heritage Center; 7:30pm
- Dec. 2 — [Green Bay]; Leahy; A Leahy Family Christmas;

WeidnerCenter Auditorium; 8pm

- Dec. 3 — [Whitewater]; Leahy; A Leahy Family Christmas; Young Auditorium; 8pm
- Dec. 7 — [La Crosse]; K a r a n

Casey;
U W L a
Crosse; Va-
halla Theater;
7pm

- Dec. 10 — [Milwaukee]; Tony Kenny Christmas Show; Hallamor Concert #4 Irish Cultural and Heritage Center; 7:30pm
- Dec. 12 — [Madison]; The Cur-
rach; The Brocach; 5:30pm

- Dec. 13 — [Green Bay]; MPK Band; MPK Christian Celtic Band; Cup O Joy Coffee House, 232 S. Broadway St.; 7:30pm; 920-435-3269

- Dec. 14 — [Wausau]; Boys of the Lough; ArtsBlock: Grand Theater; 7:30pm

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Thunder; Mil-
kee Theatre; 8pm

- Dec. 20 — [Green Lake]; Switchback - A Midwestern Christmas; Thrasher Opera House; 8pm



Holiday Folk Fair

The Shamrock Club will again be a part of the Holiday Folk Fair in 2008. The theme for this year is "The Culture of Language." The potato will also be featured. The 2008 Holiday Folk Fair will take place November 21-23, 2008, at State Fair Park, 8100 W. Greenfield Ave., in West Allis, Wisconsin.

The Holiday Folk Fair is open during the following times. Friday, Nov. 21 — 3-11pm; Saturday, Nov. 22 — 10am-10pm; Sunday, Nov. 23 — 10am-7pm.

Volunteers are needed for the annual Holiday Folk Fair in November. Please offer to help at our Sales, Food, or Cultural booths. If you would like to work a four hour shift at the Holiday Folk Fair, please contact the Shamrock Club's Holiday Folk Fair Chairmen, (Food) Mary Culver at [redheadgardener@hotmail.com]; (Sales) Noreen Barclay at (262) 695-8563 or [nabarclay@earthlink.net]; or (Cultural) Heather Majusiak, aengusiwmommy@yahoo.com, heather@kiltedheather.com.

Milwaukee Division AOH

The Milwaukee division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians meets most months at Derry's Pub, 54 and Bluemound in Milwaukee. Wednesday, November 12 - AOH Milwaukee Division Meeting at Derry's at 7:15pm. Wednesday, December 10 - AOH Milwaukee Division New Member Initiation and Christmas Party at ICHC at 6pm. Call Tim O'Brien for reservations - 414-444-1989. Wednesday, January 14, 2009 - AOH Milwaukee Division Meeting at 7:15pm; February 11 - AOH Milwaukee Division Meeting at 7:15pm. March 11 - AOH Milwaukee Division Meeting at 7:15pm. Saturday, March 14 - Mass for Feast of St. Patrick and St. Patrick's Day Parades. April 8 - AOH Milwaukee Division Meeting at 7:15pm. <http://www.aohmilwaukee.com>. Myspace at <http://www.myspace.com/aohmilwaukee>.

Milwaukee Hurling Club

Junior B Hurling - NACB 2008 Recap

The annual North American County Board Finals took place over Labor Day weekend in Canton, MA at the Irish Cultural Centre. Here is a recap of the weekend.

Milwaukee's Junior C team kicked off the Milwaukee schedule Friday morning and played very well against Robert Emmets from the Twin Cities. Although Minneapolis was undermanned, they put up a strong fight. Milwaukee was able to create and capitalize on many opportunities and they were able to move on to Friday afternoon with a win. Advancing from Friday morning, Milwaukee's Junior C played a newcomer to the tournament at 3pm, the New Hampshire Barley House Wolves. Milwaukee was able to use its experience to overcome a spirited Barley Wolves team and was able to advance to a match with Indianapolis on Saturday. On Saturday, the Junior C team went up against a very talented and eventual tournament champion Indy Hurling team. Although Milwaukee fought hard and played very well in the second half, Indy had established a lead that it would not relinquish and was victorious by a score of 6-13 to 1-7.

Milwaukee's Junior B hurling team lined up against Robert Emmets from the Twin Cities. This was a rematch from last year's Junior B championship match. Milwaukee

was able to jump out to a lead that they wouldn't give up. Milwaukee advanced with a 2-15 to 1-4 victory.

Next up was Seattle, a team that Milwaukee first faced in last year's tournament. Milwaukee was able to fight off a late rush by Seattle and was victorious by a slim margin of 5 (1-15 to 2-7).

Milwaukee would face Washington DC in the Junior B final by virtue of DC's victory over Denver on Friday. Milwaukee found themselves on the short end of the stick early on as DC was able to find the back of

the net twice within the first 10 minutes and Milwaukee couldn't quite find their stride. Soon though, Milwaukee woke up and started moving the ball well themselves and capitalized on some nice movement and teamwork. After the halftime whistle, Milwaukee was able to take control of the flow of the game and started putting points on the board without response from DC. The teams traded goals and DC scored a late one, but it wasn't enough as Milwaukee came out on top at full-time by a score of 3-16 to 3-6, thus claiming the Junior B Champions title for a second year in a row.

Congratulations to both Milwaukee teams and all its supporters that traveled to Boston for the weekend—a grand time was had by all. And a hearty "cheers" to all the teams and individuals that continue to make the NAGAA the organization it is.



Milwaukee Shamrock Club News

2008 Holiday Folk Fair

The Shamrock Club must sell 125 Holiday Folk Fair Tickets. Any unsold tickets must be purchased by the club at full value. To order, mail your request to: Muriel Crowley, 1020 Georges Ave., Brookfield, WI 53045. Include your name, address, number of tickets (at \$8 each) and a check made payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. Tickets will be sent to you by return mail and are good on any of the three days of Folk Fair.

If you are a teacher, please contact us on advance tickets for your school trips for the festival.

Shamrock Club Upcoming

at noon on 3rd and Wisconsin, and preceding to Water and Highland. It is the largest parade of any kind in the State of Wisconsin, with 170 units. The annual Post Parade Party is at 1pm at the ICHC. It is the largest St Patrick's celebration under one roof.

Shamrock Club's 50th Anniversary Committee

The Shamrock Club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. A committee has been established to for events for the big year. A trip to Ireland, a dinner dance in September, 2010, and other events are planned. If you have any ideas, please contact com-



Shamrock Club of Wisconsin

Founded March 1958, Milwaukee Wisconsin

meetings

The Shamrock Club meets the first Thursday of the month, usually at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. Upcoming meetings will include the following entertainers: November 6 - ICHC - The Hootanizers, under the direction of Liz Tylenda, will perform; December 4 - Shamrock Club Christmas Party - ICHC; The Irish Fest Choir and Santa and Mrs. Santa. 6pm. January 8 - Barry Stapleton, director of the Ward Irish Music Archives, will speak. Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Avenue; 7pm. February - ICHC; John Gleeson, from UWM will speak. ICHC. March 5 - Shamrock Club's 49th birthday party. Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will present a concert; April 2 - Irish Fest School of Music; Irish Fest Center; 7pm; May 7 - ICHC; Yealry elections start at 6:30pm; Mary Culver will be doing a slide show of "Scenes of Ireland". June 4 - One of Milwaukee's Irish Dance Schools. August 6 - ICHC - Jane Anderson from Milwaukee's Irish Fest.

Shamrock Club March 2009 events

The Shamrock Club will have a number of events in March. On March 5, the Shamrock Club will have its 49th birthday party at the ICHC. The Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will be performing in the Hallamor. On Saturday, March 14, we will have our annual Mass in Honor of Saint Patrick at St. Patrick's Church, 723 S 7 Street at 8:30am. The 43rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will step off

committee chair Josh Walton at joshwalton1@yahoo.com. If you have any memories of the Shamrock Club, please contact us at info@shamrockclubwis.com

Scholarship winners 2008

The Shamrock Club annual Irish Studies winners have been announced. Kenton Pharmed, Sarah Kortsch, and Julie Pikulek received their \$500 checks at the July meeting. They all used their winnings to study at the Irish Language school, Oideas Gael, in Glencolmille, Co. Donegal. In addition, The Shamrock Club and the Milwaukee chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians issued a scholarship to Joseph Nelson in the same amount. Joe also used his money to study at the Oideas Gael. Congratulations to all.

In addition, the Shamrock Club awarded Ted Nestor Scholarships to Color Guard members Kylie Mervin, Sean Cavanaugh, and JJ Garsombkie for the annual Milwaukee School of Piping and Drumming, held in June at Alverno College. Dave Culver was awarded a scholarship for his Bands of America appointment, which will result in his appearing in the 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Money for the scholarship is raised via the annual St Patrick's raffle. Which is run from January until the drawing in April. College level students can apply for the scholarship.

The Club is looking for underwriters for the printing of their tickets, as well as prizes for the raffle itself. <http://shamrockclubwis.com>. http://www.myspace.com/shamrock_club_of_wi.



The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Book Brings New View of JFK and Family

I'll never forget the day my cousin became a celebrity. Especially since it was just a few weeks ago. North Shore native Linda Corley and I grew up 200 miles apart and never quite seemed to get together much because of the distance. Even during high school years when I was at Loyola Academy in Wilmette reading every JFK book I could get my hands on in the school library (I was born on his election day) and Linda was just a few miles down Lake Street at Regina Dominican our paths rarely crossed except for big family functions.

But I found myself driving down the Edens toward downtown Chicago and contemplating that my same-age cousin was about to become a house-

hold name or at least get more than her 15 minutes of fame. Linda was about to start a whirlwind national book tour with a book signing on State Street. How many times had I made this trip to see and meet the like of Bill Kurtis and Oliver North, Leonard Nimoy and Charles Osgood?

Our American History Cousin

In between several signings in Chicago and multiple news media appearances (a second round comes later this month) I got to meet anew the great granddaughter of the Corleys of County Mayo and the new author of the very November-appropriate *The Kennedy Family Album* (2008 Running Press), a

remarkable collection of mostly private photographs taken by Palm Beach society photographer Bob Davidoff.

Before his death in 2004, Linda was chronicling his story and unique photographs from nearly 50 years as part of her 20-year career as a producer, writer and occasional show host for the PBS station in Miami. A winner of six Emmys and the brains behind the decidedly Miami version of Chicago's wildly popular *Check, Please!*, Linda would sift through time and photographs with Davidoff, who was befriended by Rose Kennedy in 1959 and gained entrée to the inner circle of private family gatherings ever after.

Although all the Kennedy siblings, offspring and elders peak out from behind the color and black and white heretofore undocumented history of all things outside the Beltway Kennedy... the most poignant memories in the book call up fresh images of the nation's fallen president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot to death in November 1963 in Dallas Texas... far from the leisure and quiet intimacy of the presidential couple secretly embracing good-bye near the end aboard Jack and Jacqueline's yacht the *Honey Fitz*.

November 22nd, 1963

"It really goes back to my first memory," Linda Corley recalls. "I remember my Mom and I watching Walter Cronkite announce that the President was dead. I'm not sure I fully understood (Corley had just turned 3) but I clearly remember how stunned my mom was by the news."

The book reveals a little known fact among the idyllic palms and vacation scenes of South Florida... a man had aborted at the last minute an attempt to assassinate then President-elect JFK with a car bomb. Security was tight thereafter near what became known as the Winter White House.

Most of the Davidoff photographs of the Kennedy family now reside in the archives and displays of the



Cousin Writer and Kennedy Chronicler Linda Corley

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. One Kennedy opens the book with a forward that speaks to the promise of the future and the pleasant reflections on the past.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy writes, "Bob Davidoff was a magnificent photographer and a loyal friend. His remarkable personality and charming sense of humor had us all smiling whenever he aimed his

world," she remarks on a late Fort Lauderdale evening, where she now resides with children and a cruise ship captain husband. "I was doing a book signing at the JFK library last month and I heard the most wonderful Irish accents approaching. As they introduced themselves I learned they were an Irish couple that were so moved by his visit that they had to come to America and see his accomplishments on display. That tells you what his impact was."

The Last Photograph

As Linda returns home to Chicago later this month to sign more books and tell tales on radio, TV and in print, one image in the book seems especially heartrending. It's the tale of a homecoming that never was.

A confident and smiling Kennedy, holding his Florida sunglasses as he strides for Air Force One in a dark suit, had some last handshakes and greetings to attend to, as Linda Corley writes,

As Kennedy approached the plane, he shook hands and said good-bye to a few of the Florida statesmen that stood on the tarmac. "I raised my hand in a farewell wave, still clicking away," recalled Davidoff. "And with a big smile upon his face he returned the gesture and said 'see you in a couple weeks.'"

Four days later, the president flew to Texas.

Corley's words and Davidoff's photographs remind us of the preciousness of time and the enduring bonds of family. Each day counts and every memory dear. We never really know how much time God has granted us on the Earth, only that He wants us to live for each other. So when Linda comes back to Chicago this month I'll make time to see her and have a big smile for a cousin and kindred spirit who seems more like a long-lost twin than a distant cousin.

See ya Linda. See you in a couple of weeks.

E-mail Jim McClure at IrishRoverJim@aol.com



camera our way."

In weaving a tapestry of the private side of the Kennedys with her words sparingly yet descriptively telling the many facets of private and public life, Corley also gained a unique insight into what happened when "Camelot-by-the-Sea" went overseas.

"When JFK made his famous trip back to Ireland it had a tremendous impact on those people, to see one of their own as leader of the free

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



November is here at last and soon the presidential election will be history. I, for one, will be happy to see the end of the campaign. Hopefully we'll be able to get down to business and erase the mistakes of the last 8 years. I have no inside line on which way the voting will go but if the Irish and Scottish voters are any measure, Obama's got it. At every festival this year, all I saw was Obama buttons, stickers, T-shirts and only one poor guy wearing a McCain shirt, but I knew him and he comes from money so there you are! I also heard from more Republicans who were fed up with their party and voting Democratic.

Enough politics.

Politicians come and go but, thank heaven, our music is always here to salve our souls when the insanity of the everyday grinds raw spots. We have heard some very fine music these days. The yearly Celtic Classic held in Bethlehem, PA (last weekend in September) is usually good for some nice new music but this year there was a bushel of it. Even though it rained all three days, the folks who run the Classic prepare well for the rain and, being a free festival, the crowds show up. Seamus Kennedy is usually a fixture at Bethlehem and this year released his newest CD, *Sailing Ships and Sailing Men*. Featuring 19 sea songs in Seamus' vibrant baritone, backed by an all-star cast of supporting musicians, this album takes its place in his collection of popular CDs.

All of Seamus Kennedy's CDs come with a full lyric sheet, making it easy to sing along. I don't think Seamus Kennedy has ever done a bad CD; we love them all and play them all.

At Bethlehem this year Seamus Kennedy came by to introduce us to a hot new singer on the circuit and we are ever so grateful that he did. Dave Rowe, of the Dave Rowe Trio and son of Tom Rowe of Schooner Fare was a real delight to meet and hear. Here's a singer that has grown up immersed in the

music with real talent to boot. He dropped off a couple of his CDs for us to listen to and we were blown away. New fresh and original arrangements of traditional songs. We find ourselves slapping them into the CD player on a daily basis. We will be stocking all five of Dave's CDs in the store and hope



to see him get some gigs in the Chicago area. Here's a fresh face that can really perform.

One of the bands performing at Bethlehem this year, that was very well received by the crowds, was a band we haven't seen much of in the states, Malinky. I was looking forward to seeing them since I've really enjoyed their three CDs, *Last Leaves* (their first), *Three Ravens* (their second) and *The Unseen Hours* (the most recent). Their lead singer, Mark Dunlop, had also recently released his first solo, *Islands on the Moon*, and it was a super effort, too. I should mention that, as with most great recordings from Scotland these days, the CDs were all released on Greentrax. As luck would have it, I never got to see them perform. Our helper at the show pulled up sick and I was stuck in the booth all day. I did get to meet Mark Dunlop, who stopped by the booth and showed that he is as gracious as he is talented. Had a wonderful chat and heard from many customers who did get to see Malinky perform. To a man (person?) they all enjoyed them immensely. I highly recommend Mark's solo CD and the 9th cut on it, "The Quaker's Song", which is worth the price of admission.

Got a call a week or so ago from the wilds of Vankleek Hill, Ontario. It was my friend Neil Emberg, lead

singer for the band Hadrian's Wall. He let me know that the new CD was ready and asked if I wanted any. Naturally I said yes and he shipped them out. Well, I've got to tell you, I have enjoyed everything that Neil and Hadrian's Wall have put out over the years but this is the best yet. Neil, along with having a great voice and a talent for guitar, pulls together some of the most innovative arrangements of traditional tunes that I've ever heard. The 14 tracks on this CD include such favorites as "Sound the Pibroch," "Courtin' in the Kitchen," "You Couldn't Have Come at a Better Time," "She Moved Through the Fair," all arranged in new ways that you'll love. This kid is a genius, though I guess I should stop calling him a kid since he's a dad now. He finishes up the recording with his original "The Underwear Song," a fun tune that tells the joy of touring. At some shows now where Neil is well-known, folks pitch packages of underwear on-stage when he performs this song. It has been my

distinct pleasure to know Neil Emberg and Hadrian's Wall for a long time and I can truly say that this is a band that just keeps getting better. One of my favorite fiddlers, Ashley MacLeod, now plays with the band and her unique talents definitely add to the band's rich sound. The rest of the crew are Dave Gossage on Irish flute, whistles, guitar, keyboards and harmonica; Jonathan Moorman, fiddle and bouzouki; Bill Gossage, double bass; Richard Irwin, backing vocals, drums, cajon, tambourine, bodhran and percussion. They've worked long and hard to achieve this sound and it's a pleasure to hear them.

The World Pipe Band Championships have been released, as they usually are at this time of the year and contain, not surprisingly, the absolute best that the piping world has to offer. In case you hadn't heard, Simon Fraser University took first, Field Marshall Montgomery second and Shotts was third. The competition was released, as usual, on three CDs, volume one has the first 6 bands in order, volume two has the next 7 bands and the qualifying heat has 14 other bands. The competition also is released on DVD. Well filmed and with excellent sound, the DVDs are also in volume one and two, with the same bands as on the CDs.

Cops in Kilts

Back to the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem PA where we've spent the last weekend in September for the last 21 years. This is a great festival in a great town. Bethlehem is a very beautiful city, historic and definitely worth a visit. One of the finest things about Bethlehem is their Police Department. Under the direction of Police Commissioner Randy Miller, the officers do a tremendous job of maintaining order in a most friendly and courteous manner. A few years ago Sergeant Scott Parry decided that he wanted to show off his Scottish ancestry by incorporating a kilt into his regular uniform. After clearing it with the chief, Sgt. Parry performed his patrol duty at the festival in kilt. It was a huge hit both with the people of Bethlehem and visitors to the Celtic Classic. As years passed, more officers joined Sergeant Parry in donning the kilt with their uniform. Now nearly half of the police officers patrolling the Celtic Classic are kilted. Sergeant Scott Parry retired this last year but still serves with the Bethlehem Police as a Chaplain, a kilted chaplain, of course.

Thanks to all my readers for your words of encouragement, thanks to Tom & CJ & the llamas for your hospitality and the beer. Slainte!

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and other financial institutions. They sold fraudulent "insurance" against default by institutions issuing financial instruments. These "insurance" instruments are called Credit Default Swaps (CDS). The crime consists of issuing an insurance guarantee backed by collateral that is but a tiny fraction of what is required; the perpetrators sold and got paid for CDS that "insured" against all loss obligations that totaled into the \$ tens of trillions.

FREE ENTERPRISE is not the problem; it did not ruin our economy. Crime did. The way was cleared for the criminals by the Commodities Futures Modernization Act introduced in 1999 by Congressman Phil Gramm (now a McCain economics advisor) and signed into law by Pres. Clinton. It abolished the Glass-Steagall Act that, since 1933, protected our nation from the practices that led to the 1929 Crash and depression. There were innumerable cases of mismanagement here and throughout the world, but much of what the politically-connected officers of Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac did was not mere mismanagement—it was blatant crime. One of the worst perpetrators has personally gotten away with half a \$billion since 2000. Others received tens and hundreds of \$millions. Instead of going to jail, some of them, as part of the rescue plan, are now distributing \$billions in our names to their accomplices.

THE PATTERN continues, as follows: As the neo-cons who lied us into the Iraq war became the TV experts lying to us about how well we are doing there, so the financial perps who created the \$trillions of fraudu-

lent CDOs and CDSs are now either distributing or receiving additional \$billions charged to us.

OUTDOING BIN LADEN. Bin Laden's men, at a cost of about \$250,000, did approximately \$2 billion damage to us on 9/11. It probably required us to pursue Osama in Afghanistan, at a cost of a few tens of \$billions. Who could have foreseen that the Bush gang would use 9/11 as an excuse to attack and occupy Iraq which costs us an additional \$400 million per day. It will ultimately cost us \$3 trillion according to economics Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. The deaths of 4,181 of our troops, the deaths of millions of Iraqi innocents, the millions of them made refugees, the destruction of their country and robbery of their petroleum comprise one of the greatest atrocities of all time. Yet, this massive crime seems to bother only the more patriotic Americans. But the \$ trillions thrown away on war in Iraq has weakened our nation even more than the \$trillions in fraudulent debt obligations that contaminate our financial system.

HOW WE GOT HERE. Our leaders, especially Repubs, partly in reaction to communism's follies, followed an extremist version of Milton Friedman's economics. Before destroying our economy it had destroyed Chile and Argentina. More recently it destroyed Ireland's. Wherever adopted it favored financial predation over production. We could have avoided all the impoverishment and destruction had we heeded, instead, the above-mentioned Stiglitz and brand new Nobel laureate Paul Krugman. For the past decade or more both Stiglitz and Krugman have been publicly denouncing the practices that caused our current national plight. Their warnings fell on ears made deaf by the arrogance of the newly "rich." We were all becoming bubble millionaires off the houses we lived in. That same arrogance was abetted by an administration willing to "shoot first and ask questions later." We would teach those foreigners a lesson - bomb them into democracy and, incidentally, grab their oil. (A "minor" quibble; so far as I know, the estimable Stiglitz and Krugman don't object to the starvation-causing practice of converting corn into auto fuel). WHAT'S BEING DONE. For now, the gov't is avoiding the underlying problem by trying to reinflate the bubble. It might succeed and keep the whole predatory scam staggering along for a few more months or years. But by reinflating, they are accelerating the destruction of the dollar without putting the economy onto a sustainable course. Note well that the \$billions are being put into the hands of those who created the problem in the first place,

and is not being used to alleviate the loss of purchasing power of the people or their pension funds. It is hard to believe that our gov't, instead of arresting the creators of these fraudulent CDOs and CDSs had begun to buy them in our name at face value from their criminal creators until shown up by Buffet and the Europeans. In principle, the perps might as well have been counterfeiters of \$million bills that they sold at \$900,000 apiece to pension funds across the world. They ran into trouble only because they had not unloaded it all onto the world and still had \$trillions left on their own hands when their worthlessness became obvious to all.

WHAT TO DO. We must replace the perps so woefully representing us now. We must simultaneously incarcerate our nation's destroyers, even if we have to make space for them by releasing the dope-convict half of our prison population. With the traitors behind bars we must prosecute their complicit accountants, appraisers, raters, lawyers, perps and abettors in the news media. We must establish ethics-based licensing of the professions involved. That accomplished, we must begin to educate toward productive careers, physicists and other scientists, engineers, architects, crafts and away from pension fund-looting careers. The jobs must create wealth instead of expanding the wealth gap. To shrink the growing wealth gap we need fewer lawyers and accountants working for predators and the super-rich and fewer prisons, police, soldiers, prison guards and security guards and systems. Only then can we begin to restore US prosperity by producing honest goods vital to our lives.

MEDJUGORJE surprise. Here next month.

RADIO TELEFIS EIREANN (RTE), Ireland's State TV company is exposed as treasonous. Last year it aired a false "documentary" that slurred the people of Co. Offaly by claiming that they had murdered a Protestant family, the Pearsons, as part of an Anti-British ethnic cleansing in 1921. On Nov. 6 Paddy Heaney's new book; "Coolacrease; The True Story of the Pearson Executions" will be launched at the Offaly History Society, Tullamore. Its blurb says; "This is a shocking story of low standards, lies and propaganda-mongering by the Irish national broadcasting agency. Read this book!" Contact me; I'll locate a vendor.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See terrorism-ireland.org.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See irishholocaust.org. Factual corrections invited. Contact 312-664-7651 or fogarty@att.net.

TURBULENT TIMES. Today as I write this the Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped by \$733.08, the largest one-day point-loss in history. Two days ago it rose by \$936.42, the largest one-day move ever. The previous week saw its greatest ever one-week loss. Some of America's biggest banks have collapsed or been taken over while their officers who led them into disaster get away with \$tens of millions. Our gov't, in our names, is giving those financial institutions well over \$one trillion to make good part of the damage their bosses did. Our gov't was giving them the money as a grant until Warren Buffet helped to rescue Goldman Sachs and European gov'ts began rescuing their banks. Rebuked by the good deals negotiated by Buffet and the European gov'ts, our gov't began buying into, instead of donating our \$billions to, the banks; but got deals for us only half as good as Buffet's and the Europeans'.

BUBBLE "WEALTH" is evaporating. Gone is some 40 percent of stock value, almost \$9 trillion. Also gone is some \$5 trillion in property values. But these bubble values indicated only the declining value of the dollar. It is ridiculous that houses I built and sold in the 1950s for \$17,500 and \$18,000 were recently selling, with 80% of their lives used up, for \$250,000. The "growing wealth" could have continued for many more years but for

FINANCIAL FRAUD. What are called "mistakes" and "mismanagement" were actually deliberate frauds. Here is proof: 1) Poor people were given mortgages beyond their ability to repay. The deals violated basic arithmetic. 2) The predators loaded many arbitrary "fees" onto those mortgages. 3) The valuations of the houses were inflated by complicit "appraisers." 4) The perpetrators bundled those fraudulent mortgages into negotiable financial instruments called Collateral Debt Obligations (CDO) making them difficult to connect to specific properties. 5) The perps then bribed rating agencies to give their fraudulent CDOs AAA ratings; and 6) the perpetrators then sold those "AAA-Rated" CDOs to pension fund managers and other banks across the world. The evidence is watertight. Each of the above six steps is criminal, as are the accomplices at each step. From the planners of the whole scheme to those who loaded the mortgages with "fees," to the "appraisers," bundlers and rating agencies, they have together perpetrated one of the greatest financial crimes in history. Had those institutions acted like traditional lenders keeping those mortgages on their own books they would have never taken any of those six fraudulent steps.

A BIGGER SCAM yet was simultaneously being perpetrated by these



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