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Erin Scheffler and Liz Thomas page 14

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Emmett's opens new restaurant in Oswego

Emmett's Ale House, featuring upscale casual American Cuisine and handcrafted beer has opened in Oswego, IL. The new location at 123 Washington Street (Hwy 34) is in downtown Oswego at the Rt. 34 bridge over the Fox River.

The warm and inviting restaurant welcomes guests with dark millwork, soothing colors on the walls and large black and white photographs of people enjoying beer and each other's company in scenes from England, Ireland and Germany. The antique-replicated bar says "come over and sit with me for a drink". Emmett's Ale House has a comfortable main dining room with large windows and a handsome stone fireplace, a spacious bar area and pub dining room, and a third dining room with a fireplace, adjacent to the main dining room, with French doors that can be closed to accommodate private parties up to fifty guests, or can be used for general dining.

Just off the pub dining room there is an outside dining area across the front of the building, facing the Fox River. The outside patio is the only place smoking is permitted in this smoke-free restaurant.

Mike Burns, General Manager of the new restaurant said, "we are delighted to be part of this fast growing Oswego community. I am most impressed with the warm reception we have received from people in town".

Emmett's menu includes fresh seafood, pork chops, steaks, lamb chops, several appetizers including Emmett's well-known artichoke and spinach dip, sandwiches, burgers and salads. All items are prepared from scratch on site by Emmett's chefs and are certain to appeal to many tastes.

Outstanding handcrafted beer brewed by Emmett's Brewmasters at Emmett's two breweries is well known in Chicagoland and beyond, as some of the finest beer available. From the Victory Pale Ale, to a mouth watering Amber Ale, to the ever-popular Emmett's Oatmeal Stout, each beer is unique and noteworthy. Many of Emmett's beers have been awarded medals in national and international competition. At any given time

you will be able to find three or four of Emmett's many beer styles on tap in Oswego, along with several carefully selected imported and domestic beers. Brewmaster Ryan Clooney, a man passionate about the beers he brews, says

Irish Independence Movie wins top Cannes Award

British director Ken Loach's movie "The Wind That Shakes the Barley," a saga set amid Ireland's struggle for independence in the early 1920s, won top honor today in a unanimous vote at the Cannes Film Festival. It was the first time veteran filmmaker Loach won the main prize after seven earlier entries in the main competition at the world's most prestigious film festival.

"The Wind That Shakes the Barley" stars Cillian Murphy as an Irish

medical student who takes up arms against a reign of terror by the Black and Tans, British troops sent in to quell calls for independence.

Loach, who previously won the third-place prize at Cannes with a 1990 movie about British collusion in Northern Ireland, "Hidden Agenda", and 1993's "Raining Stones," said he hoped the film would be a small step encouraging the British to "confront their imperial history. And maybe, if we tell the truth about the past, maybe we tell the truth about the present."

"I'm excited about now being able to provide our refreshing brews to our friends in southwest Chicagoland".

The Burns Family, owner and operator of Emmett's Ale House, operates other Emmett's restaurants in downtown West Dundee (847-426-4500) and downtown Downer's Grove (630-434-8500)

Emmett's Ale House is located at 123 Washington Street (Hwy 34) at the Fox River Bridge in downtown Oswego (630-383-2020). Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week starting at 11:30am.



Mark and Sharon Donahue, recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary at Nativity Church on Chicago's southwest side.

Donahue has been a Chicago Police Officer since 1977, serving twenty years as patrolman and Field Training Officer on the City's south side. Mark was promoted in 1996 to Youth Officer and in 1998 he became a Detective. Donahue served as President of the Illinois State Lodge from 1998 to 2002. In April of 2002 Mark was elected President of the FOP Chicago Lodge #7 which is the largest police organization the country.. Mark and Sharon are the proud parents of three children.

Heart transplant fund-raiser July 21

Last year, Patricia O'Mara, of the Ascension parish (Oak Park) O'Mara family, suffered a near-fatal heart attack while working as a teacher at Oswego High School. While she survived the initial heart attack, her heart was so severely damaged that her functioning has deteriorated dramatically, especially the past few months. At this point, her heart is operating at 15% of normal rate, which simply will not allow her to survive much longer. To this end, she is on the heart transplant list at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and hopes to receive a donor heart soon.

Patty and her husband Brian, together with her three children, PJ, Kelly and Connor, are hopeful that this transplant will finally bring some normalcy into their chaotic, stressful lives. One of the



huge stresses has been the mounting financial burden of countless tests and procedures necessary throughout this ordeal. The O'Mara siblings (Patty is one of eight children, all Ascension alumni) have decided to hold a fundraiser at Molly Malone's on Friday, July 21st at 7:30PM. The fundraiser donation of \$50 includes a full dinner, open bar and raffle chances. The fundraiser could not have been possible without the generosity of parishioners Molly and Mike Riley, owners of Molly Malone's.

If you would like to be invited to the fundraiser, please see Kevin or Sharon O'Mara or call them at 848-6871. If you would instead like to make a donation, please go to: www.aheartforpatty.com and click on the "donate" button.

Gilchrist launches big billboard project against McCain-Kennedy

First to be placed in Arizona

Minuteman Project Founder Jim Gilchrist has announced a nationwide billboard campaign to bring attention to illegal immigration and send a message that the American people are sick and tired of subsidizing the education, healthcare, and welfare of illegal aliens.

The "Minuteman Billboard Project" will be national in scope and will be targeted state-by-state, starting with members of the U.S. Senate who have expressed their support for amnesty for illegal aliens.

The first state to be targeted is Arizona, home of Senator John McCain.

Senator McCain was joined by Senator Ted Kennedy as one of the main sponsors of the amnesty proposal found in U.S. Senate Bill 2611.

"Senator McCain has been one of the most outspoken supporters of amnesty for illegal aliens," commented Minuteman Project Founder Jim Gilchrist. "It is time we sent a message to McCain and any other senator who decides to ignore the overwhelming majority of Americans: We will not sit by and watch you sell out our country. There will be a price to pay when you run for reelection or higher office."

Contact Tim Bueler (530) 401-3285 or www.minutemanproject.com



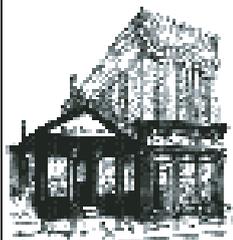
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Irish Eyed
Former Joliet teacher
has luck of recognition

By Denise M. Baran-Unland
(reprinted with some changes
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The Rev. Kevin Shanley's devotion to his Irish heritage and his ability to share that heritage with others caught the attention of Irish America magazine, which recently named him one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the country.

Shanley, 74, for years has promoted a wide variety of knowledge about the Irish experience. He is currently working on a book of short stories about his father's experiences in Ireland as part of the Irish Volunteers in the 1916 Rebellion movement and the Anglo-Irish War of Independence.

Since 1977, Shanley former English and journalism teacher and dean of students at the former Joliet Catholic High School, has written more than 300 pieces about Irish culture in his monthly column, "A Tinker's Dam," in Irish American News. The column's name is an old Irish expression that means "a container for all kinds of information," Shanley said.

He also has written press releases for Celtic News Service, and has taught the Irish Way program for



high school students at Gormaston College, just outside of Dublin.

Shanley regularly reviews plays of the Shaw Festival Theater in Canada for the Celtic News Service and offers programs on Irish history at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, where he's been a staff member since 1988.

Teacher at heart

"I guess I'm still basically a teacher," Shanley said. "I can't get away from the classroom."

Throughout the year, Shanley also celebrates a variety of Irish-heritage Masses at various locations. On March 14, Shanley celebrated one such Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet. Each month, Shanley also celebrates an Irish heritage Mass at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest.

Shanley's love of his Irish heritage is not provincial; rather, it has given him an appreciation for people from all ethnic backgrounds.

"I like history, I like people, I like learning about their cultures and I am open to their beliefs," he said. "I can empathize with people who struggle for freedom, especially immigrant groups."

Shanley's Irish pride began when he was a small boy, sitting in rapt attention at the kitchen table of his parents' Jersey City, N.J., home as his father, Michael

Shanley, told stories about his role in the Irish Volunteer Rebellion group, his imprisonment and participation in the Anglo-Irish War of Independence.

Shanley learned that his father was a bodyguard to President Eamon de Valera, a man who led the cause of Irish freedom during the Anglo-Irish War of Independence. Years later, Shanley, along with his mother Mary, had an opportunity to meet de Valera.

"He remembered my father and was very grateful for what my father did," Shanley said. "Shanley means 'old hero' in the Irish language. My father was an old hero to us."

The higher calling

Shanley's early religious experiences began in a Roman Catholic church where people of various ethnic backgrounds, including German, Polish and Italian, worshipped together. The people there had a respect for priests that bordered on reverence. Shanley absorbed their piety and responded to it by becoming a priest. He celebrated his 50th anniversary with the church on May 26, 2006.

Catch Some Free Tunes

The Grant Park Symphony will perform Hamilton Harty's "An Irish Symphony". It is part

In 1953, Shanley earned bachelor's degrees in history and philosophy from a small seminary college, St. Bonaventure University in New York.

When Shanley joined the staff of Joliet Catholic High School in 1957, he anticipated staying for only five to 10 years.

"I always said that I joined the Carmelites to see the world, and I got 30 years in Joliet," laughed Shanley. "But they were happy, happy, years. Joliet was a lot like Jersey City, and I met people from all ethnic groups."

At Joliet Catholic High School, Shanley taught journalism and English literature, the latter allowing him to incorporate Irish writers into the curriculum.

Career change

Later, Shanley received a fellowship from the Wall Street Journal that enabled him, in 1968, to receive his master's degree in journalism from Marquette University in Wisconsin.

Surprisingly, Shanley never stepped foot on Irish soil until 1968, when he visited with his then 80-year-old mother following the death of his father.

In 1987, Shanley left Joliet Catholic High School to attend the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago and pursue a career as a psychotherapist. "I had taught for 30 years and wanted to do something else with my life," Shanley said. "I felt a calling as a human being and as a priest to do something to help human beings solve their problems."

It's been eight years since Shanley visited Ireland, which followed his quadruple-bypass operation and retirement from practicing psychotherapy, and he's not sure when he'll return to Ireland.

"I'm just a little reluctant to get on a plane now," he said.



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Tinker's Dam

by Fr. Kevin O'Neill Shanley



Irish naval hero Jeremiah O'Brien and World War II U.S. Liberty Ships

Introduction

They were called the "ugly ducklings" of World War II but the 2,750 Liberty ships built by the United States helped to keep open the vital shipping lifelines that enabled America to supply its vast Armed Forces and those of its Allies around the globe and eventually emerge victorious over the Axis Powers. They were the brainchild of U.S. industrialist Henry Kaiser of assembly—line and pre-fabricated ships which could be built in a matter of weeks, and eventually in a matter of days.

But mostly they were America's answer to the German U—boats which were sinking thousands of tons of Allied merchant ships and threatening the Allied war effort with defeat in World War II.

Early Experience

As a young boy, this writer well remembers the building and launching of the Liberty Ships at the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company across Newark Bay in Kearney, N.J. Years later, sailing up the Hudson River on excursion boats to Bear Mountain in New York State, our group passed large gatherings of them moored together in the ghostly spectres of our "mothball" fleet.

And now the ships mass—produced between 1941-45 are all gone except for the "Jeremiah O'Brien" which was re-furbished and saved for posterity on the waterfront of San Francisco Bay in California. It stands proudly today in the U.S. Maritime Museum with other naval ships. It is both a national monument and a reminder of the largest merchant ship—building program in naval history.

Why the "Jeremiah O'Brien"?

But why was the "Jeremiah O'Brien" selected? The answer is simply part 'Irish' luck and part determination. Thomas Patterson, Jr., regional director of the U.S. Maritime Administration in San Francisco, founded the National Liberty Ship Memorial group to dedicate some type of a monument to the builders, seamen, troops and all those

who were part of the Liberty Ship saga during and after World War II.

Enough was known about the "Jeremiah O'Brien" to insure that it was a fitting symbol to represent all the Liberty Ships. Built in 1913 by the New England Ship Building Corporation in Maine, it hadn't been changed in any way since the day it was launched.



others decided to select one Liberty as an historical reminder of a great period in U.S. Naval History. The "Jeremiah O'Brien" was chosen because, as far as it could be determined, it is the last stock Liberty, with no alteration or modification of its design. Who Was Jeremiah O'Brien?

But who was the original Jeremiah O'Brien after whom the ship was named? Although much praise is deservedly given to Commodore John Barry of Wexford as the "Father of the American Navy," the honor of leading the very first ships into battle must go to Jeremiah O'Brien even before the American Revolution had formally begun.

The son of a Corkman, Jeremiah O'Brien and his five intrepid sons were fishermen in the State of Maine. On June 12, 1775, off the coast of Machias, Maine, Jeremiah

led his sons and other local patriots in their fishing boats to capture the British schooner "Margaretta" as the first American "prize of war."

And when the infuriated British sent two warships from Boston to punish the rebel upstarts and re-capture the "Margaretta," Jeremiah O'Brien and his "navy" obliged by capturing the two British ships, too.

So, it is fitting that the "Jeremiah O'Brien" should stand not only for an early naval hero but also for the thousands of ships which helped to bring liberty to a war—torn world in the 1940s.

"Ugly Ducklings" Name

It was actually U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt who dubbed the ships as "ugly ducklings" as a term of admiration and affection for their great wartime service. Although the ships were not beautiful at all in a design sense, they were sturdy and dependable. Their crews, though living in very uncomfortable quarters, felt they were

making a significant contribution to the Allied war effort. With an over-all length of 441 feet 6 inches, a beam of 57 feet, and a depth of 37 feet 4 inches, the Libertys had a total displacement of 14,000 tons and could carry nearly 10,000 tons of cargo. To affect mass production, the ships were welded together rather than riveted.

The first Liberty Ship, the "Patrick Henry," was launched in Baltimore, Maryland on Sept. 27, 1941 amid little fanfare.

It and thousands of others were Americas answer to the U-boats which were sinking cargo ships faster than they could be built. But within a year Liberty Ships were being built in 3 1/2 months, and by 1943 three Liberty Ships a day were being completed. The battle of the sealanes in World

War II was won by the Libertys and the men and

women who built and sailed by them.

Fitting Memorial

And now there is only the "Jeremiah O'Brien" left to represent the saga of the Libertys of World War II. The U.S. National Park Service planned a site for the ship in the Golden Gate National Recreation area in San Francisco. Piers were constructed between the city's famous Fisherman's Wharf and Fort Mason as a fitting shrine to a great ship that represents so many others. By any measurement, the Liberty Ship program was an extraordinary feat in a time of great need. It is more than fitting that the ship should bear an Irish name to remind many of their contributions to Liberty.



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Whether you are going on a dedicated golfing vacation or you just want to play a round or two while you are sampling the many other delights of an Irish holiday, check out our guide to Ireland's golf courses below. There is plenty more information available on the web at www.tourismireland.com or www.golfireland.ie, or call your local Irish travel agent if you want to speak with an expert about arranging a golfing tour tailor-made for your needs.

Links Courses:

There are only around 150 genuine links courses in the world and nearly 40 percent of them are to be found in Ireland. Links courses offer a very different type of challenge. Set by the sea, on the narrow strips of land that 'link' beaches, the golfer faces the added hazards of towering sand dunes and unpredictable sea winds. For many, the attraction of pitting their wits, skill and experience against the rugged courses and natural elements is irresistible.

Some of Ireland's links courses have been around for over a century, others are more recent—but all will have the power to enchant the golf enthusiast. Some of the world's most famous players number Irish links courses among their



favorites. Tiger Woods regularly spends the week before the British Open relaxing and practicing at Waterville or Royal County Down. Tom Watson remarked of Ballybunion: "It offers some of the finest and most demanding shots into the greens of any course."

Other fine links courses include Royal Portrush, Portmarnock, the European, Enniscrone, Lahinch, Baltray, Tralee, Doonbeg, Ballyliffin, Carne and Portstewart. As well as these familiar names there are other less famous courses to play. The bottom line is: If you're near the coast in Ireland you are not very far from a top quality links experience.

Parkland Courses:

As well as links courses Ireland boasts a huge number of inland courses that take advantage of some of the most beautiful and lush countryside and scenery that Europe has to offer. These parkland courses truly have benefitted from nature's gift. Drumlin's, hillocks formed during the Ice Age, are an integral part of many courses. A seemingly endless variety of mature trees flank fairways and provide ample punishment for those off-center drives. There are water features, meandering

Continued to page 31

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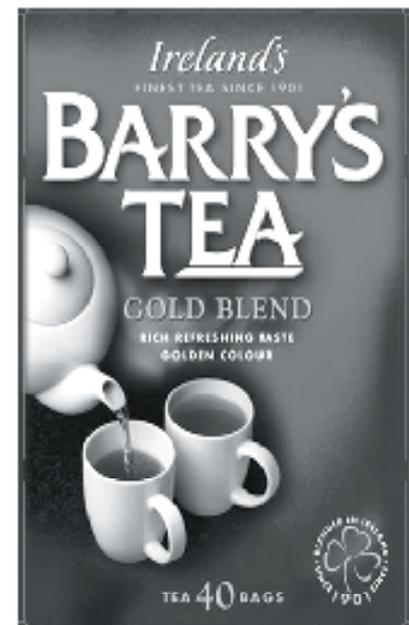
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CHICAGO Gaelic News

BY PAT HENNESSY



organization in the world). Coming from such an authority, that was some compliment.

The return of the famed Harry Boland hurlers to the fray with champions CuCuchailians and Limerick and, hopefully, Wolfe Tone, senior footballers in action against St. Brendan's and others should provide some thrilling minutes to the games each Sunday, combined with the hectic action of the juniors, ladies football, Camogie and juvenile contests. Unfortunately, because of loss of players and a tough U.S. Immigration policy, Erin's own senior hurlers are unable to field a team this year. Their loss will be a big one, but hopefully, when new immigration legislation is signed into law this year, young hurlers will be more plentiful.

The late and renowned His Grace Most Rev. J.M. Harty had this to say about the big influence of the GAA on young Irishmen and women, "Believing that the GAA has an exceedingly healthy influence on Irish life, I deem it a great honor to be a patron. I hope the association will continue its splendid work for Irish ideals and manly Irish customs." For more information on the schedule and times of the games each Sunday, call Gaelic Park at 1-708-687-9323, or listen to the fine Irish radio show from the Park each Sunday evening from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on WCEV

Hurling and Football
Once again the sweet music of the clash of the ash and the thud of the big bell (Gaelic football) can be heard all over Chicago Gaelic Park on the far southwest side of the city. And for the next several months senior hurling and football teams with juniors, Ladies football, Camogie (ladies hurling) and Juvenile contests will be on the schedule each Sunday starting at 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

Hurling and Gaelic football are Ireland's national pastimes and are considered to be "the fastest and most skillful games in the world." Hurling is mentioned in the annals of the Four Masters and said to be in existence centuries before the Olympic Games were even contemplated. Gaelic football cannot claim such antiquity but it is older than some people think. It was featured in the Ibero-Celtic Society published in 1712, about a "great game of football played at Slane" on the banks of the Boyne between young men from the Royal County of Meath,

and Louth, the smallest county in Ireland.

Early Irish emigrants brought the games with them when they arrived in the 1800's and in the largest cities of our country, New York, Boston and Chicago and others, they have been organized and promoted ever since. Here in Chicago, like other cities, the games died during the late 30's and 40's because of a deep Depression, World War II and the restrictive U.S. Immigration laws. They were reactivated again in 1949, when U.S., immigration opened up after 20 years.

Since its reactivation, which was founded on good solid grounds by great Gaels back in the early 50's, Chicago gaeldom has improved by leaps and bounds, and today can boast one of the finest Gaelic centers in the United States. Indeed, as the President of Ireland Mary McAleese said during a visit, "Gaelic Park is one of the finest Gaelic Centers that I have seen outside of Croke Park in Dublin" (headquarters of the Gaelic Association, GAA, largest amateur

1450 AM with commentators Mary Riordan, Harry Costello, and Mary Hackett.

Martin Fahey Celebrates
Celebrating 25 happy years of excellent broadcasting his "Irish Radio Hour" over station WJOB in Hammond, Indiana, doing what he loves to do, popular Mayoman Martin Fahey was recently featured by Dave Innes, Editor of the widely circulated "Calumet Press", With the legendary Tom McNamara who launched the radio show in 1956, 50

duties as host of this popular show, Mary Martin has been involved in many other projects, including helping the heroic Medical Missionaries of Maryfund their missions all over the globe. He is also a long time friend of the Columbian Fathers and their foreign missions, the very successful annual Irish Feis's run at Gaelic Park, the promotion of Ireland's national games, language and culture, and of course, his annual pride and joy, "Ireland on Parade", a musical and Irish dancing concert, featuring



Mary and Martin Fahey

years ago, Martin and Nancy Holly provided backup positions over the years until 1981, when Martin began his solo broadcasting duties.

Although Tom McNamara, who had a legion of friends on the southwest side of the city, did a herculean job of getting the show started, he somehow lacked the knowledge of traditional music and the necessary acquaintance of the many Irish musicians who visited the city over the years. As Editor Dave points out in his well-written story, Martin's takeover of the Irish Hour in 1981 so enhanced the show with his expertise and knowledge that today an ever increasing audience -- especially young Irish Americans from Chicago Gaelic Park acquaintance -- tune in Martin's show at 11:00 am each Saturday morning.

the best in Irish musicians, dancers and singers. Now staged at Gaelic Park, this popular show is in its 40th year and gets bigger with age,

Talking with Editor Dave about his life the ever modest Mayoman says, "It's a joy and a privilege to still be able to present the song, dance and music of my native land both on the radio and on stage before a constantly growing and ever changing audience, The Irish melodies seem to magically transcend age barriers generation after generation. It's the kind of music you don't have to be afraid to listen or dance to, with a bit of fable, folklore and faith thrown in."

In a parting comment Editor Dave said, "Always a true gentlemen, Fahey makes it a point to thank his show's sponsors and loyal Saturday morning listeners. They've made The Irish Hour possible for half a century".



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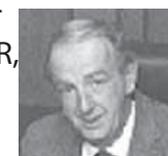
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No doubt Martin's legion of listeners will want to congratulate the genial Mayoman for his tremendous work on so many worthy Irish causes over the years. They will want to let him know, whether by get-together, phone call, a humble post card, or indeed, a prayer that he has touched so many lives, Irish and non-Irish alike; that they appreciate his great work and that of his charming Mary, herself a great judge of Irish dancing; plus his fine son and daughter; and not forgetting a charming wife, Rita, of other days. Gur a mile mait agat, a cairde agus beannact De Leat.

Did the Marchers Help or Hurt the Immigration Problem?

The thousands of people who marched in U.S. cities recently displaying flags of their different countries and shouting slogans were no doubt good intentioned. They wanted a "Fair and equitable U.S. Immigration Law." But their motives may have been misunderstood by the people, according to recent polls. The flag waving and defiant attitude may have done more harm than good.

Perhaps taking it to the streets in such large number and disrupting so much business infuriated people and the cause suffered, I have always said that the huge effort of time and money that went into the organization of such huge marches could have been better used in appealing to the people and the congressional representatives personally, by phone, letters, and visits.

Only time will tell, but as of now it seems that some of the good causes of the Kennedy/McCain may have to be dropped in order to please the House version of such a bill. In the meantime, Ray O'Hanlon, Sr. Editor of the widely read and national Irish

American, (who by the way is a strong nominee for the soon to be vacant Irish Senate seat of Jim O'Malley, who wants a strong representative of the Irish Exile's to have the seat), has come with an idea which should be studied by the Irish leaders of the Immigration Reform Movement.

Ray mentions the E3 Visas, which presently allow 10,500 annual visas for Australian applicants. The holder can bring a spouse and family and both of them are eligible to work. This means that the Aussies do not have to compete with the Irish and others for the annual allotment of U.S. Visas. The visas can be renewed every two years on an indefinite basis. If the U.S. can make such deals for the Aussies, why not for the Irish? It's worth investigating.

Chicago Remembered Bobby Sands 25 Years Ago

A lot has been said and written in Chicago and other cities recently about Bobby Sands and his brave heroes who died in a Belfast jail 25 years ago because they refused to wear Maggie Thatcher's prison garb. But 25 years ago in the midst of the action in Ulster, 5,000 Chicagoans protested at the Richard J. Daley Center and called on President Ronald Reagan to intervene and stop the killing, an appeal which was refused.

The year was 1981 when all this was happening in Ulster, and in the midst of this terrible tragedy Chicagoans were asking how they could help. An organization called the United Society of Illinois was formed for the occasion and the Protest March was planned. Over 6,000 Chicagoans jammed the Richard Daley Center, and included members of some of the prisoners' families, and their worthy representa-

tives in the Dail. Speaker after speaker called for the immediate intervention of President Reagan. A solemn requiem mass was said at nearby St. Peter's Church after the huge meeting. It was an historic occasion.

As chairman of the Chicago committee, I was commissioned to bring 6,000 signed letters to An Tsoiseach, Garrett Fitzgerald at that time, asking that he seek the help of President Reagan in stopping the killing. I gladly performed the assignment and although I did not meet with Mr. Fitzgerald, I was well received by a representative and assured that the request would be conveyed. It was, and as a result a Chicago delegation was invited to the White House to discuss the matter. The delegation consisted of Mary Cannon, secretary and her husband John, with Jim and Mrs. O'Connell. They were afforded all the formalities, picked up at the airport, etc. They met with Mr. Abermson from the State Dept., but after a lengthy discussion on the whole subject were informed that President Reagan could not intervene in the "internal affairs of another country". And although that verdict was rebutted long and hard it was the only reply from a Republican Administration.

Gentleman George

The recent death of well known Chicago political leader and proud Irish-American George Dunne, removes from the scene a famed and respected Chicago politician. Much has been said and written about this great man by far better scribes than myself. It only remains for me to express my deepest sympathy to his beloved wife and family and to cite my good story about "Gentleman George".

The year was 1967. Kilkenny hurlers had won another all-Ireland title. They were visiting Chicago thanks to the great work by John Hunt who was Chairman of the Chicago Gas at the time. We were visiting Mayor Richard M. Daley's office where he welcomed the famed athletes, and the well known Paddy Grace, hurler and secretary, thanked the Mayor and praised him for his great work. The Mayor invited the team to an official luncheon and before we left the office, accompanied the late Dan Lydon, coordinator of the St. Patrick's Day parade of those years, the mayor asked us to go visit George Dunne, "across the hall."

This we gladly did and to our surprise found President Dunne already at the door with a great big Cead Mile Failte hand. He welcomed each one of the hurlers one by one and told

them that he delighted to be welcoming such fine young Irish athletes. He accompanied us over to the Bismarck Hotel where a beautiful luncheon was enjoyed by all. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.

A Proud Mary Mulryan-McAuliffe Celebrates her 90th

Our heartiest congratulations are extended to the charming lady Mary Mulryan-McAuliffe, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She enjoyed her big day surrounded by her fine family and a legion of friends from the beautiful Mount Greenwood area and throughout the city. Mary is the daughter of the late Mike (Evergreen) Mulryan, a proud native of Oranmore, Co. Galway, and a legendary figure in the GAA and Irish causes over the years. Other members of this well-known Mulryan family include, Pat, who was the Supervisor of the Chicago Water Filtration Plant at Rainbow Beach and Loretto, both deceased, and Rita. Mary's beloved husband Tom died some years ago.

After the untimely death of Mrs. Mike Mulryan, Mary took charge of the younger family of her father, who was a well known Chicago Police detective active on several big cases in the 30's and 40's. He was also a well known Irish Nationalist and when

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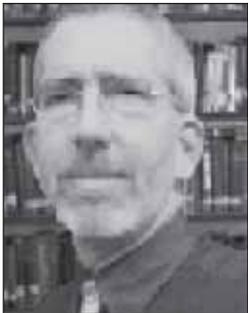
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the famed Irish freedom fighter, Harry Boland, came to Chicago with Eamon DeValera on a fund-raising mission, he stayed at the Mulryan home. During his brief visit Boland played in a hurling game at old Gaelic Park, 4700 So. California Ave. and left several souvenirs with the Mulryan family when he left for home.

Shortly after his return to Ireland he was killed in Civil War strife. His loss was a big one for Ireland. Shortly afterwards in 1925, Mike Mulryan and his many friends formed a hurling and football club and named it after the fallen hero. It is the only one in the Gaelic world bearing his name, and is still going strong in the Chicago area, winning City and American Board championships. We join with her countless friends in wishing the charming Mary God's blessings and many more happy and healthy days. Beannact De leat a cara agus slainte. (God bless you my friend and best wishes.)

Times They Are A'Changing
There was a time in our history when Irish emigrants almost walked from the boat into the ranks of U.S. city's Police and Fire departments. They were big, they were strong and they spoke the King's language. They had a keen sense of humor, were able to deal with people and possessed a fair education.

Such men were Pat Collins from Cork, a brother of the legendary

Michael, famed Irish fighter in the War of Independence, Mike Ahern from Garryowen, on the banks of the Shannon and Bill Hennessy, from the Marble City of Kilkenny. After gallant and distinguished service for Uncle Sam in the first World War, they joined the Chicago Police Department and served Chicagoans in the infamous days of John Dillinger, Al Capone and Dave O'Banion. All three made the honors list during the years and all three became captains in respective bureaus. Pat Collins in Homicide, Mike Ahern in Traffic and Bill Hennessy in the Bomb Squad.

I mention these three because I knew them. They were many others who also joined the ranks of both departments and who no doubt also served with equal bravery and honor. And throughout the United States I am sure that many more wore the uniforms with valor. Such was the way it was back then. The emigrant boats were all leaving from Cobh, Co. Cork. The young Irishmen and women were leaving Ireland not because they wanted to leave their native land, but because, for the most part there was no work.

Today, tanum cun De (thank God), it's a different story. "Times they are a'changing." We read with pleasure of the abundance of work now available for workers in Ireland. Emigrants

from other European countries are flocking to the Emerald Isle just like the Irish did in other days to other lands. Ireland's economy is booming, one of the best in Europe. Young men and women are even going back from our own great country,

Even Boston's Police Commission, Kathleen O'Toole, recently announced that she had accepted a high level position with the Irish Police Department and is presently serving in that position, Commissioner O'Toole is of course no stranger, and she and her husband are frequent visitors to the Emerald Isle and their daughter is a student at Galway University.

Apparently Commissioner O'Toole's new position for the Garda Inspectorate was created recently by the government as a result of allegations of mismanagement. It will review policies and practices. Having served on the Patten Commission in the 1990's which finalized recommendations for the restructure of the police department in Ulster, she will bring lots of expertise to this very important post. We wish her and the Gardai Siochain every success.

Successful Festival
Almost ideal weather over the long Memorial Day weekend brought huge crowds to Chicago's Gaelic Park for its annual Irish Festival. And, as usual, Frank Bradley and his wonder-

ful committee had arrangements in perfect order for the "Big Show". As hardworking John Griffin tells us, this Fest has been a financial success 19 times in a row, and this, no doubt, will make it 20.

Some of the best Irish entertainment this side of Atlantic was presented, 40 delightful hours on 5 large stages, with Anthony Kearns, Tommy Makem, Black 47, Dierdre Reilly and her band, the Larkin and Moran Brothers, and many more, kept the large attendances in festive moods. The unlimited carnival was also a big draw as well as various other attractions. This has to be one of the largest and best of such Irish Festivals staged in the Midwest. Our congratulations to all concerned,

Papal Blessing for O'Dea
Our own P.J. O'Dea, well known U.S. and indeed Gaelic world gael got a nice surprise recently in the form of the Papal Blessing on his 80th birthday. His Holiness Pope John Benedict "cordially imparts the Apostolic Blessing on P.J. through the good office of FR. John Sullivan, Pastor and Chaplain, CC, SP, St. John's Catholic Church, Glenwood, Illinois.

The popular "Man from Clare" needs no accolades from me. He is a legendary GAA figure, on and off the hurling and football fields in three countries, Ireland, England and the U.S. During his playing career he

fielded out with over 50 teams, in the three countries and that in itself must be a Gaelic world record, perhaps



P.J. O'Dea

enough to qualify for a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Above and beyond that fine career P.J., who is attached to Sheriff Michael Sheahan's office in the Public Relations Department, is a well known figure in the Chicago area political world and is well known and respected by all of the political leaders including Mayor Richard J. Daley, Alderman Eddie Burke, Pat O'Connor and others.

With his countless friends all over the gaelic world, we join in congratulating P.J. on being recipient of this great honor. We wish our good friend P.J. many more happy and healthy birthdays. Beannact De leat a cairde.

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Emotional Pressure Cookerx

The Naomh Barbara and crew will have finished their historic journey from Chicago to Ireland by the time you read this. Coley Newell is the author. I wanted to take this trip with the lads, but I couldn't have done any better than Coley in describing to the world what the trip was like. (Cliff Carlson)

MONDAY JUNE 19th - 17:00 HRS. C.S.T. - 23:00 HRS G.M.T.- 22:00 HRS LOCAL TIME. SHIPS POSITION - N 45*14. W018*36. WIND - 30 - 35 kts PRESSURE - 1022 mbs. TEMPERATURE - 50* WAVES - 20-25 ft. WATER TEMPERATURE - 51* MILES TO GO TO MAUMEEN - 625.

Steve told me a couple of weeks ago, while the two of us were working a shift together, that he sometimes feels the pressures involving the responsibility and well being of the lives of the crew. It was during some fairly scary seas, and he was at the tiller. We're all grown men, physically anyway, and I tried to reassure him that there's nothing to worry about, that were very prepared etc. It did no good of course, but now I know why. Because I felt the very same pressures today.

The seas, the wind, everything picked up a notch again today, the third day in a row of escalating conditions, over the previous day. As I was at the tiller this morning, I felt the same feeling that Steve described to me. When the boat is in rough weather, and you're trying to keep course, you're constantly battling the swells, the wind and the waves. From time to time, one of them will get

boats were designed for the brutal North Atlantic and the hazardous coastline of the west coast of Ireland, and I know for a fact that when Steve was building this boat, he stepped up the specifications nearly twofold. These conditions will not get the better of this boat and crew. Besides, we've been through worse, and we know how to handle it. But it does get the mind going though. The day goes by much quicker during these conditions, everyone is alert and watching weather patterns as soon as they come up on the computers, watching the radar because visibility is limited because of rain or high seas or watching the Ocean for any sudden changes that may have an immediate effect on us. These are the times we enjoy. There's action and suspense and everyone is on their toes.

Breakfast today was whatever you grab out of the fridge and hold onto. Dinner was a mixture of canned chili and packet soup, made in a big pot with the usual bungee cords holding it down. Our side dish this evening was bread and served with a very nice vintage bottled water. That was as lavish as it was going to get today. Too much rocking and rolling to deal with. Of course, there's the sweets and chocolates that complimented dinner quite well. The only one that's going to make any money out of this trip is the dentist.

Throughout the course of our journey, I've had the opportunity to experience a completely new set of sensations and emotional highs. And lows also. Today was a pretty good example of an emotional cement mixer. Some of the emotions are fantastic, and I wish everyone could be a part of. Others are emotions



Naomh Barbara leaves New York for Ireland the better of you and the boat will list, or lean at an angle that would frighten all but the most experienced men of the sea. An angle of 15* is enough to let you know that your going. But when you're angle reaches 30* or 35*, it may not sound like much, but trust me, it's very, very frightening. Especially when you're at the tiller and you're in the drivers seat. You know the families of everyone on board and you're friendly with them all. The water is at the top of the lee board, (the boat is almost in the sea) at 40*. When there's 25 tons of boat under you at that angle, you have a 600 pound rudder to fight from going the way it wants to go, swells that are pushing you there and a nearly 40 mph wind that's determined to put you down, that's when you start to worry about the lives of your fellow crewmates and their families. Of course, these

that I wanted to experience for myself. A lot of them though, many people will never get the chance to be a part of. People everyday, live very full lives without these experiences. I have my own personal reasons for wanting to push the envelope, so to speak, and am very happy that I got the chance to realize these last couple of months, taking emotions and fears and real life challenges to a different level than most people will ever experience. I'm thankful for many things in my life, but being a part of this historical journey that we're on and everything that goes with it, is one that I will always be thankful to Steve and the St. Barbara for.

Slán, Coley
P.S. There's a very special girl out there celebrating her 5th birthday today. Her name is Aoife Mulkerrins, and Dada wants to wish you a very happy birthday and wishes he could be there with you to celebrate. He also wants to thank, Steven Jr., Roisin, and Aoife (Agnes of course also) for the wonderful Fathers day wishes!

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Kerry Blue Terriers: Ireland's Quintessential Dogs

By John Mooney

Although the Irish Wolfhounds annually are given the honor of kicking off the St. Patrick's Day parade with The Fighting 69th, one could argue that the Kerry Blue Terrier is the quintessential Irish dog.

For starters, only the upper classes were permitted to own the Irish Wolfhound. Meanwhile, Irish farmers bred Kerries to meet their needs. Like the Irish themselves, Kerries are handsome, feisty and strong, display a touch of showmanship, and love to have fun.

The dogs have traditionally provided a variety of services: herding, hunting and retrieving, and chasing rodents. They make

superb watchdogs, but warm up to visitors fairly quickly. Beyond their utility, Kerries are loyal companions and excellent family dogs. They are playful and tolerant of small children, partly because they are sturdy and do not injure easily. Kerries are also non-shedding, which makes them a good choice for people with allergies.

The Big Fella

As a distinct breed, the Kerry Blue Terrier appeared later than its cousins, the Irish and Wheaten terriers, in the 1800's. As their name indicates, they were particularly popular in the southwest of Ireland. Michael Collins owned and showed his dog, Convict 224, and was a member of the newly founded



Michael Collins. "The Big Fella" owned and showed Kerry Blue Terriers and wanted the breed to be named Ireland's National Dog.

Irish Blue Terrier Club in the early 1920s. The club sponsored its first dog show in 1920 outside the jurisdiction of the English Kennel Club, a bold move at the time. Competitors included Captain Wyndham Quinn, a representative of the Crown, which demonstrates how strong devotion to the breed can be. "The Big Fella" reportedly sponsored legislation in the Dail Eireann to recognize the Kerry Blue Terrier as the National Dog of Ireland. However, no official record exists and any momentum for the initiative was lost following Collins's death.

Other famous owners include Samuel Beckett, who mentioned his dogs in several works, Truman Capote, Bill Cosby, heavyweight champions Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, and film legends John Barrymore and Mickey Rooney. Directors John Huston and Alfred Hitchcock both were fans of the breed. In fact, Hitchcock entitled an episode of his popular 1960s TV series, "The Kerry Blue." Jeff Ansell, president of Iams, the pet food giant, has owned Kerry Blue Terriers for over 30 years. He showed his first dog as a teenager in Rockland County and earned a CD (companion dog) title for obedience.

Legendary Mick

Established in 1877, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is the second longest continuously held sporting event in this country, just one year behind the Kentucky Derby. More than 2,500 purebred dogs compete in 162 different breeds from mighty Mastiffs to tiny Chihuahuas for the top prize, "Best in Show." The competition is the highest rated program on cable's USA Network and has brought the world of purebred dogs

into millions of television homes across America.

Perhaps no other animal influenced the interest and popularity of a breed than Mick, the magnificent Kerry Blue that won Westminster's "Best in Show" in 2003. Mick is officially registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) as Ch. Torums Scarf Michael (the Ch designation indicates a champion, while Torum is the name of the kennel where he was bred). He was named top dog among the winners in seven categories: Sporting Group (Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Irish setters, and others); Hound Group (Beagles, Bloodhounds, Dachshunds, Irish Wolfhounds, etc.); Working Group (Rottweilers, Boxers, Siberian Huskies, and Doberman Pinschers); Terrier Group (Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Fox Wire Terriers, Airedales, etc.); Toy Group (Pugs, Pekingese, Shih Tzus, Toy Poodles, and other small dogs)

Non-Sporting Group (Standard Poodles, Dalmatians, Bulldogs, and others); Herding Group (Old English Sheepdogs, Border Collies, Welsh Corgis, German Shepherds, etc.).



Ch. Bluebeard's The Answer, (A.K.A. "Allen") won the Kerry Blue Terrier breed at Westminster, the country's top dog show, last February. Owned by Carol Brown, a Philadelphia area breeder, Allen is the son of the legendary Mick, who won "Best in Show" at Westminster in 2003.

Owned by Marilu Hansen and handled by Bill McFadden, Mick was one of only two champions to ever win both Westminster and Crufts, the largest dog show in the world, held in England. Mick also won the Terrier group at Westminster in 2001 and 2002 before taking "Best in Show" the next year. He is quite a stud, as well. Mick's son, Ch. Bluebeard's The Answer (affectionately known as Allen), owned by Philadelphia area breeder Carol Brown, was the top Kerry Blue Terrier at Westminster in 2006.

"The legacy of Mick is incredible. Anyone who did not take their female and breed with Mick

is out of the loop totally," said Carol Brown, who fell in love with Kerries in 1964 at a dog show New York. "There has NEVER been a better Kerry Blue. As a matter of fact, I don't ever remember seeing a better dog of any breed."

"Kerry Blue Terriers are wonderful dogs with children and terrific pets. They want to be constant companions," added Mrs. Brown, whose one of the top breeders in the country. "Kerries have a lot of personality. They are fun."

Caring for Kerries

The U.S. Kerry Blue Terrier Club is the only national representative officially sanctioned by the AKC. The club promotes responsible ownership and breeding, rescue operations, education and events. It cautions potential owners from buying Kerry Blue Terriers from pet stores and "puppy mills" that over-breed the dogs. Instead, members advocate meeting a reputable breeder (essentially it's an audition for ownership) and learning the characteristics of Kerries and what it is like to live with them.

Kerry Blue Terriers are intelligent, fun-loving and people-oriented, but do not mix well with other dogs. They are loyal and playful, making them excellent playmates and guardians for children. Like most terriers, they make great watchdogs, but can be noisy and their instinct causes them to fiercely chase squirrels and other rodents. No small investment, a purebred Kerry can cost upwards of \$2,000.

Adult Kerries stand 18-20 inches tall and weigh about 35 pounds. They are black at birth and begin to change color during their first year to a silver-blue tint or an almost navy blue color. While their soft, non-shedding coat is a big selling point for people whose allergies worsen from dog hairs, the down side is they require frequent brushing to prevent knotting and should be bathed regularly. The breed is easily housetrained and can live in an apartment if given enough exercise. Daily walks help keep these athletic dogs fit and provide the stimulation and socialization necessary to keep them happy, active and alert. Owners maintain that proper training is necessary to have a good experience with the breed. Because Kerry Blue Terriers have for the most part been bred responsibly, they have few genetic problems. They tend to live longer than other dogs, generally 15 years or more.

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and should be taken very seriously. Most reputable breeders will take a dog back if its owner cannot handle ownership. In some cases, the owners did not devote adequate time to evaluate the Kerry's temperament and behavior. This usually happens with animals purchased at pet shops or from "puppy mills." In fact, reputable breeders are quite

diligent in checking out families who want to purchase a dog. When necessary, the U.S. Kerry Blue Terrier Club also is involved in rescue operation that finds new homes for animals that are no longer wanted.

To find out more about Kerry Blue Terriers, visit <http://www.uskbtcc.com> or <http://www.kerryblues.info>.

Entertainment Calendar—No Cover

July 5	Irish Session w/ Davey & Declan 7P
July 6	Live Irish Music Session 7P
July 7	The Floughrags 8P
July 12	Irish Session w/ Davey & Declan 7P
July 13	Live Irish Music Session 7P
July 14	Kennedy's Klever 8P
July 19	Irish Session w/ Davey & Declan 7P
July 20	Live Irish Music Session 7P
July 22	Maie Sullivan Band, 8P
July 26	Irish Session w/ Davey & Declan 7P
July 27	Live Irish Music Session 7P
July 28	Amaly, 9P

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Irish Music School of Chicago musicians win top honors at fleadh

Love of traditional music, dedication to their craft, and countless hours of practice and rehearsal helped young musicians from the Irish Music School of Chicago win top honors at the Midwest Regional Fleadh Cheoil, held in St. Louis on May 12th and 13th. The school's two ensemble groups grabbed top honors in the ages 12-15 and 15-18 Grupai Cheoil competitions. The school's Johnny McGreevey Ceili Band placed first in the ages 15-18 ceili band competition, while its Joe Shannon Ceili Band tied for first in the ages 12-15 ceili band competition, and its Frank Thornton Ceili Band placed third in that same category.

To help pay for their travel to Ireland to compete in the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, the musicians from the Irish Music School of Chicago will hold a benefit concert on July 23, 2006, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The concert will be held in the Fifth Province at the Irish American Heritage Center. It will feature performances by the award-winning students and teachers of the Irish Music School of Chicago as well as many of Chicago's top Irish musicians among them world famous fiddler Liz Carroll. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids seventeen and younger, with a \$75 maximum for a family of 5 or more. There

will also be a cash raffle. Those interested in attending this concert should contact Sean Cleland at 773-412-6166 or www.irishmusicschool.com.

While very proud of their individual accomplishments at the Midwest Fleadh, ask any member of this talented group what they enjoyed the most about competing in St. Louis and they will tell you the group competitions are what it is all about for them. For tin whistle and concertina student Monica Severance, the Midwest Fleadh was fun and exciting, and the best part was competing with her Grupai Cheoil ensemble. Fiddler Katie Harkin was nervous but thrilled when she competed in the Grupai Cheoil and ceili band competitions. She said, "We had worked so hard, I was happy and proud that we did so well." Kathleen Turek had fun competing with her friends and listening to all the other bands. For cellist Emily Howard, in addition to the fun of the group competitions, the best thing about the Fleadh was getting to know and play with her duet partner, award-winning harpist Lillian Reasor.

For some musicians from the Irish Music School, the Fleadh was not about competition at all, but about getting together



Left to Right, Margaret Duffy, Lillian Reasor and Erin Scheffler

with other musicians and having fun. Erin Scheffler said just playing music with other kids in informal sessions at the Fleadh was "a blast." She met three young musicians from another Irish music school in Cincinnati and has been keeping in touch with them since the Fleadh. Fellow musicians Julie Harkin and Kevin Carey agree. Harkin said, "The most fun was staying up late and playing in different sessions around the hotel. It was fun to get to play with musicians from around the Midwest." Carey, who took first place in concert flute, was happy with how he performed in the solo and group competitions, but said that he enjoyed making new friends and playing in sessions with kids from other states. Young bodhran player Jason Trinidad, attending his first Midwest

Fleadh, had the time of his life playing in impromptu sessions until the wee hours of the morning.

It appears these young musicians are taking to heart the mission of their music school. The Irish Music School encourages its students to play in "sessions," a social gathering of Irish musicians, where the tunes, conversation and camaraderie are all essential components of a unique learning experience. Sessions give young musicians a chance to play with, and learn from, experienced Irish musicians outside their age range. In fact, with its rich history of traditional Irish music, Chicago is a fantastic place for students of Irish music to attend sessions and learn from the masters. This is one way that the Irish Music School of Chicago continues the proud tradition



Left to Right; 1st row: Lillian Reasor, John Severance, Randy Dziak, Kevin Carey, Julie Harkin 2nd row: Erin Scheffler and Emily

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of passing on Irish music. The school's motto is "Ó Ghlúin go Glúin," or "From Generation to Generation."

For fiddle champion Maggie Danaher, playing in sessions gives "the making new friends. Fiddler Danielle DeCosmo is looking forward to traveling to Ireland for the first time. She feels "very lucky" that she, along with her sister, Sarah, is getting the chance to make this trip. "After all," says DeCosmo, "it is just incredible that we are getting to compete in the world championship with our friends."

Irish Music School of Chicago students winning honors in solo categories were: Danielle DeCosmo (third place fiddle,

(second place bodhran, under 12); Margaret Coad (second place piano accompaniment, ages 12-15); Sarah DeCosmo and John Severance (second place duet, under 12); Grace Howard and Kathleen Turek (second place duet, ages 12-15); Kirsten Bern and Maggie Danaher (second place duet, ages 15-18); Emily Howard, Grace Howard and Kathleen Turek (first place trio, ages 12-15); Kirsten Bern, Kevin Carey and Maggie Danaher (third place trio, ages 15-18).

The Irish Music School of Chicago is dedicated to teaching and preserving traditional Irish music. Sean Cleland founded the school in 2003 to teach traditional Irish music the old-fashioned



L to R: Orla Carey, Monica Severance, and Maebh Sutton

under 12); Maggie Danaher (third place fiddle, ages 12-15, first place mandolin, ages 12-15); Margaret Duffy (first place button accordion, ages 12-15); Randy Dziak (second place concert flute, under 12); Maebh Sutton (third place concert flute, under 12); Kevin Carey (first place concert flute, ages 12-15); Kieran Ruane (third place tin whistle, under 12); Grace Howard (second place concertina, ages 12-15, first place piano, ages 12-15, first place bodhran, ages 12-15, first place piano accompaniment, ages 12-15); Emily Howard (third place concertina, ages 12-15, first place miscellaneous (cello), ages 12-15); Seline Trinidad (second place harp, under 12); Justin Severance (first place bodhran, under 12); Jason Trinidad

way: predominately by ear, with lots of interactions with older, vital Irish musicians living and playing in Chicago. Students learn in group and individual lessons as well as in educational and informal jam sessions (called sessions), where seasoned older players, many originally from Ireland, mix with novices, sharing tunes, stories, and techniques. The school is a cooperative effort among many Chicago Irish music teachers including Sean and Clodagh Ryan, Pat Finnegan, Marta Cook and Devin Shepherd. Classes are offered throughout the Chicago area and include fiddle, flute, tin whistle, accordion, harp, concertina, guitar and bodhran as well as ensembles. The school's students play and perform for fun regularly throughout the Chicago area.

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Boyle the Kettle

By Tom Boyle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

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Chocolate City
Everything in our world seems to be black and white. Every time I turn on the news there is some new complaint. One that comes to mind is that there are now fewer African-Americans in law school. Is there a conspiracy we don't know about? What's keeping them out? Are the academic require-

ments too rigid? How are so many others getting into law school?
Mayor C. Ray Nagin came out with his now famous "Chocolate City" remark in New Orleans. The apologies followed after he realized what he said was so offensive. There isn't much to be gained by playing the race card, again, and again.



C. Ray Nagin

Morgan Freeman has the right slant on things. He said in an interview on CBS "60 Minutes," "I don't want a Black history month. Black history is American history." "The only way to get rid of racism is to stop talking about it."

Negro History

Week was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson to mark the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, and Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was born into slavery. His mother was Harriet Bailey. His father was a white man. The narrative of his life that I read, was written by Frederick Douglass himself. In the preface of the book he makes a reference to Daniel O'Connell, referring to him as the distinguished advocate of universal emancipation, and the mightiest champion of prostate, but not conquered Ireland. In a speech on March 31, 1845 "No matter," said Mr. O'Connell. "Under what specious term it may disguise itself, slavery is still hideous. It has a natural, and inevitable tendency to brutalize every noble faculty of man."

Douglass recognized O'Connell as "The Great Liberator." You can be sure Daniel O'Connell knew of and admired Frederick Douglass. Douglass visited Ireland in 1845 on a lecture tour. Only 27 years old, he became known as the Black O'Connell.

Douglass once told a group of African American students in Talbot County, Maryland, "What was possible for me is possible for you. Do not think because you are colored you cannot accomplish anything. Strive earnestly to add to your knowledge. So long as you remain in ignorance, so long will you fail to command the respect of your fellow men."

Douglass became a leader in the abolitionist movement and the first black citizen to hold high rank (as U.S. minister and Consul General to Haiti) in the U.S. government.

The political factions in Cook County are in an uproar over whether

or not John Stroger is well enough to run for election following his stroke. The only replacements being mentioned are all African-Americans. Bobbie Steele, Danny Davis, Todd Stroger, et. al. Does the presidency of the Cook County Board belong to the African-American community? Chicago Sun-Times columnist Neil Steinberg in his column Wednesday, June, 7, 2006 was right on! In a perfect world Forest Claypool should be the Democratic Parties' choice for Cook County Board President having won 48% of the vote in the March primary. Maybe a little time in a tanning booth would help him get the nod.

If you're not happy with the Rainbow Push Coalition slogan, "Free but not equal," I'll bet Morgan Freeman isn't happy either.

While watching America's Black Forum at 5 am. on Sunday morning, recently, they revisited the horror of growing up in Cabrini Green. The worst plan every conceived was high-rise public housing, and it failed all over the world, Chicago, Dublin, St. Louis, and Belfast. So, let's move on!

I recently spoke to a group from the Chicago Public School's Community Partnership Staff. They were astounded when I told them about that chapter in U.S. history when the "No Nothings" used to lynch Irish Catholics, burn their houses and their churches. No, we are not talking about the Klu Klux Klan.

The "No Nothing Party" was formed to oppose immigration and the election of Roman Catholics to public office. The following were a part of their political platform.

1. Repeal naturalization laws.
 2. None but native Americans for office.
 3. A pure American common school system
 4. War to the hilt on political Romanism.
- It goes on. There

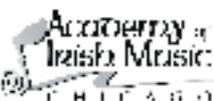


Thomas and Josephine Boyle

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are fifteen points all together.
So, let's cut the crap. Virtually every ethnic group or religion has looked down the barrel of bias and hatred.

Sharpen your pencils, and dip your pens in the ink well, write and call me a racist, it just isn't so! Oh, by the way, Mayor C. Ray Nagin did it again at the Rainbow Push Coalition Convention in Rosemont, Illinois with a reference to "chocolate men." A sign on the Casa D' Ice Restaurant and Lounge at 1901 Lincoln Highway, in North Versailles, Pennsylvania "If New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin wants a chocolate city, then he should ask Nestle Company to rebuild it. Nestles makes the very best chocolate." www.casadice.com.

Somehow I keep thinking about Forrest Gump.... who had a uniquely positive perspective of life.

Chicago Cubs
Want a winner? Clean house! Get rid of our two fragile prima donna's. Mark Pryor and Kerry Wood. Wood is getting 12 million this year, for what? While they're at it. They can shave off their wispy little beards.

Diane Shaffer
The world premiere of Viva La Vida will be held July 22, 2006 at the Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York which is near the Hamptons. Viva La Vida, written by my very talented niece, Diane Shaffer, is described by Playbill as "A Frida Kahlo bio play." (the famous Mexican artist.) Sybil Burton, and Murphy Davis are producing the play, and Susana Tubert will direct. Mercedes Ruehl plays Frida Kahlo, and Rene Pereya will appear as Diego Rivera, while Liza Colon-Zayas plays the part of Rosita.

I plan to be there for opening night! Some of you may recall Diane's first play, "Sacrilege," opened on Broadway at the Belasco Theatre in November, 1995. Break a leg honey! Opening night is sold out at Bay Street.

Chicago City Hall
The heat is on and it's gonna get hotter!

Karl Rove
We all new he was an innocent little lamb.

Iraq
If you think the death of Al-Zarqawi is the beginning of the end, be ready for more of the same.

Banker of the Year
Thomas P. Boyle, president of the State Bank of Countryside, was named "Banker of the Year" by the Illinois Banker's Association at their convention in San Diego, California. Congratulations cousin Tom!

Stratford, Ontario -- A little Irish In Canada's festival city

By Ed Lowe. Photos by Lois A. Lowe

Probably the most British part of Canada can be found in Ontario. Yet, just a bit below the surface, there's a strong Irish influence. It's not all that hard to find in the festival city of Stratford, about three hours northeast of Detroit. We discovered this on a recent trip where we stopped at one of the 200 bed and breakfast establishments that have sprung up in the city. The Old Rectory is next to a church and, though it was never used as housing for the clergy, it has had the name for decades.

Presiding over this spotless establishment are Kim and Kevin Gormley and their five year old son, Conor. They have operated the property for the past nine years. For a year before that, their early effort went into renovating and remodeling the century old house. A native of Belfast, when he was a youngster, Kevin's parents moved the family south to keep out of harm's way. He attended culinary school in Killarney and worked in the kitchen of London's exclusive Savoy Hotel. Finally, he was hired by the Kildare Country Club back in Ireland.

It was at a resort in northern Ontario that Kim and Kevin met, fell in love and later married. Kim had traveled the world as a steward and chef on a private yacht. She had been born in Stratford and, after a visit there, their decision was made to settle in the community. In the early years, Kevin worked as a Chef at "The Church," one of Stratford's most exclusive restaurants. Finishing his shift, he would come home to The Old Rectory. During the various stages of converting the 1902 structure into a bed and breakfast, there's no doubt that whether in The Church or in The Old Rectory, there was less prayer than there was hard work.

You could also pay a visit to Molly Bloom's Irish Pub, just off the town's main street. The pub, named for the character in James Joyce's famous novel, "Ulysses," features a Celtic group every Friday and Saturday and on the first Sunday of each month, there's a Celtic jam session for locals and anyone with the price of a pint. According to Molly Bloom's Irish Pub owner, Randy Flanagan, those jam sessions are packed with folks visiting the Stratford theatrical venues.

Perhaps Stratford's most Irish identity lies in the development of the festival. It all started this way: In the early 1950's, the only industry in Stratford was a huge railway repair shop serving all three of Canada's rail lines. The shop abruptly closed leaving hundreds out of work and with nowhere to turn for a living. Local resident, Tom Patterson, anticipated



Stratford Old Rectory

the demise of the railroad industry and was concerned about the impact on his town. Organizing a committee to create the Stratford Festival of Canada, he sought out the world famous director and producer, Dubliner Tyrone Guthrie with his idea.

"Why not start a Shakespearean Festival in Stratford?" Patterson asked. Guthrie agreed to come to Canada and head the first several seasons of the Festival. With him, for the opening production of Shakespeare's Richard III in 1953, came actors Alec Guinness

and Irene Worth. Word spread about the quality of theatrical presentations in this previously obscure Canadian town located on the Avon River and the Festival grew from its humble beginnings to one of the world's largest and certainly most prestigious theatrical events.

This season, a total of fifteen different shows are being presented. Formal openings begin in June and continue through early November. Stratford is an eight hour drive from Chicago, mostly on limited access highways. You could also fly into Toronto and hire a car

for the 1 ¼ hour drive to Stratford or you could take a shuttle bus that runs from the Toronto airport to the middle of Stratford four or five times a day. However you get there, you can be sure of one thing. The folks in Stratford will meet you with "Cead Mile Failte -- 100,000 welcomes."

Stratford Festival of Canada: 1-800-567-1600 www.stratford-festival.ca. Stratford Visitor's Bureau: 1-800-561-7926 www.city.stratford.on.ca. The Old Rectory: 1-519-271-7498 www.oldrectorystratford.com © 2006 Edward S. Lowe

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Beyond the Abbey

BY SEAN CALLAN



The Good Thief: Review

The final production of the Gift Theatre's 2005-2006 season The Good Thief is remarkable

in two ways. The first is that Conor McPherson, a Dublin northsider, could write such an engaging tale about a Dublin inner city hood. The second is that Michael Thornton, a recovering quadriplegic, could give such a captivating performance in the role of the hood. Thornton, who moves with considerable difficulty since a series of strokes three years ago, was on stage throughout the seventy minute play.

The play consists of a monologue recounting a day in the life of the anonymous Dublin hood. It is a day when things go terribly wrong. The hood's first challenge is that his tarty girlfriend Greta has taken up with Joe Murray, ostensibly a respectable businessman. But Murray has a less savory side. He fences stolen goods and shakes down citizens for fun and profit, mostly the latter. Murray does not do his own dirty work but hires others to do it for him. One of the enforcers he recruits is the hood. The hood is dispatched to threaten an individual who is behind on his protection payments.

On his way to the strong arm job, the hood makes it clear that he is not a murderer and never intends that anyone should get killed. He simply strong arms and intimidates people who need it. But the hood walks into an ambush and a spectacular shoot out ensues. Several men end up dead and the hood, who somehow survives the mayhem, is forced to go on the lam. He avoids the police and flees across the rustic midlands of Ireland to Leitrim. With him goes the not so grieving widow of the man who was behind in his payments. Then, as the hood and the less than heart broken widow loll in bucolic bliss on the banks of the River Shannon, Murray's henchmen show up. They exact a grim toll but spare the hood's life. Both were courtesy of Greta. She told Murray where the hood could be found but wanted his life spared. Murray obliged. The hood was simply beaten up and framed for murder. He ends up doing time and so the story ends.

Playwright McPherson, who was born in 1971 (though the New York Times insists he is still 29,) wrote this story nearly 15 years ago. It was first staged in 1994 and predates The Weir, The Lime Street Bower, St. Nicholas and other

work. It had its American premiere in 2001. The play flows easily and demonstrates that a well told monologue can be just as engaging as dialogue when delivered by a talented actor. Michael Thornton, who plays the role of the hood, is nothing if not that. After shuffling slowly on stage with the assistance of a metal walker, he sits and deliberately flings the frame away. Then, he gives an exquisitely calibrated performance using a soft voice and understated delivery. He is able to create empathy for the hood even when describing scenes that are ugly and violent.

There are certain parallels in the careers of McPherson and Thornton. Both are relatively young and yet were afflicted by serious life-threatening illnesses. Both started their own theaters. McPherson created the Fly By Night Theater in working class Dublin in 1992. Thornton also had a theatrical vision and organized The Gift in blue collar Jefferson Park two years ago.

In 2001, McPherson collapsed from pancreatitis in England on the opening night of his new play "Port Authority." He was taken to a London hospital's intensive care unit where he floated in and out of consciousness for weeks. "I thought it was over" he told the New York Times. Since then he has changed his lifestyle and recovered. He is thankful to be alive.

In 2003, Michael Thornton was stricken by a sudden sharp pain in his neck. He collapsed and when he came to, was on life support in a Chicago area hospital. There was no definite diagnosis. A week or so later he had a recurrence and became quadriplegic. He lost the power of his upper and lower limbs. He was placed in intensive care and doctors doubted that he would ever walk again. But Michael was determined to do so. He embarked on a course of intensive physical rehabilitation and has made excellent strides. Like McPherson, Michael considers himself lucky to be alive. That the latter is not only alive but able to engage an audience as well as he does is certainly remarkable.

The Good Thief marks the end of The Gift Theatre's first season in its Jefferson Park space. Ambitious plans are underway for next year's six play season. Productions will consist of Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill, The Halloween Show by The Gift Ensemble, The Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh, Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward, A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare and Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov. Season subscriptions may be obtained for as little as \$70 by contacting The Gift at 773-283-7071.

13th Acting Irish International Theater Festival

Milwaukee Irish Arts took two of the three top prizes at the 13th Acting Irish International Theater Festival held in Toronto, Canada this year. Its presentation of An Irish Play by Dan O'Brien directed by James J. Gallagher was judged the Best Overall Production. Keith Tamsett in the role of Declan in the play received the Best Male Performer award. The Best Female Performer award was shared by Jackie Murphy and Grainne Jordan as Maureen and Meg Folan in The Beauty Queen of Leenane by The Estuary Players, Dublin. Best Supporting Male performer went to Robert Wall as Stephen in The Tara Players of Winnipeg's Poor Beast in the Rain by Billy Roche. Crystal Marie Taylor as Rose was adjudicated the Best Supporting Female Performer in Dancing at Lughnasa by The Irish Players of Rochester, NY. Second and third places in the Best Play Production category went respectively to The Beauty Queen of Leenane directed by Myra Maguire and Dancing at Lughnasa directed by Jean Gordon Ryon. A special adjudicators award went to Innisfree Irish Theatre Company of Delray Beach, FL for The Shaugraun directed by Imelda Wellington.

Awarding the top prize to An Irish Play took some by surprise. It is a nontraditional Irish play with several shortcomings. It is billed as a comedy but much of it is not. The play was written by Dan O'Brien, a young American playwright, when he was a graduate student in Cork, Ireland in the late 1990s. The play incorporates some of the social changes taking place in Ireland at that time.

In the play a group of amateur actors are getting together at their local pub-theater for the first read through of a new script. None of the group is aware that the play has been written by an American and that a black man has been cast in the lead. During the evening members of the cast squabble which is the genesis of the play. They debate the merits and shortcomings of the work, who will play which part, and whether or not to do the play at all. They wonder if an American could write a real Irish play.

Characters include Ed, the director and producer. He is a single father and first selected the script. There is Martha, the stage-manager; who may or may not have an eating or drinking disorder since she produces bags of food and a bottle of vodka at the outset but never ingests anything throughout the evening. Michael, a would-be playwright and suspected homosexual, flirts with Cynthia, an aging vamp. Willie an old-timer wonders if there is a role for him in the play and by extension the new Ireland. Joachim, who is black, says that he just recently

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Had dinner in Gotham with boxing legend Angelo Dundee last month. Yeah, it was pretty cool. Mike "Pickle" Joyce set it up. It was the eve of Tommy Zbikowski's professional boxing debut at Madison Square Garden. Tommy is captain of the fighting Irish football squad and he was fighting on the under card of the Cotto vs. Malagnaggi welterweight championship of the world. Pickle represents Tommy and a few other contenders.



After a gigantic steak and couple of Manhattans I rode back to their hotel with Pick and Ang.

The colossal black limo cruised down Broadway through Times Square and I looked at the ...cont'd

returned to his native Ireland from America. In the play he was born in Tralee. Finally, there is Declan, an angry young man, who lashes into everyone. The origins of his anger are not revealed until the very end and by then the exposition comes too late.

In 2000, An Irish Play was awarded The Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Comedy Playwriting Award. That award goes to the best student-written full length comedy play each year. O'Brien was a student at Brown University, Providence, RI, at the time.

Overall, the Festival, which was held at the Young Center for the Performing Arts in Toronto's refurbished Distillery District, was a great success. The Toronto Irish Players organizing committee under the leadership of Alan Hunt and Gina Taylor and fundraising of Peggy Delaney made sure everything ran smoothly. They are indebted to The Ireland Fund of Canada for financial support. The adjudicators were Mary Durkan of Toronto who teaches at Humber College and John P. Kelly of Ottawa. Next year's festival will be held in Milwaukee.

his boyhood and how he originally got into the boxing game. I said, "So Ang, are you any relation to Crocodile Dundee?"

My wisecrack fell flatter than Tyson kissing the canvas at the hands of Buster Douglas.

We smoked a cigar at the hotel and Angelo hit the hay. Pickle had the limo all night so we hopped back in and met up with a colorful crew of Chicago characters who were in town for the fight.

Earlier that night I had called Pickle's cell phone and the guy on the other end said, "Pickle's busy, this is Killer, who's this?"

Killer turned out to be south sider John Kilmartin, Pickle's head of security assigned to keep the girls away from his fighter. Pat Santoro, father and son, were in town for the fight. So were Marty and Oliver McGarry, Danny Joyce, and a murder's row of south side characters. Even Tyson's former ring man Kevin Rooney stumbled through our midst.

On the Peninsula Hotel terrace we quenched our thirst, looked out at the Manhattan skyline and traded boxing stories. I went to the bar for a beer and the bartender said, "That'll be thirteen dollars."

Thirteen bucks for a light beer?
"That's right."

Where's your gun pal, because thirteen bucks for a beer is criminal behavior. I paid up and told the guy, "That's a ten dollar tip in Chicago." and strolled back outside in search of a host. Brad O'Halloran told me he bought a round that cost him a mortgage payment. Only suckers beef.

I took it on the Arthur T. Duffy, weaved to the elevators, and out into the streets. My weekend in Gotham was in full tilt.

The Fitzpatrick Hotel at 56th and Lexington was my headquarters, thanks to the great hospitality of John Fitzpatrick. He sold the inn he owned in Chicago but John has a pair of jewels in Manhattan, where Irish welcomes keep you comfortable in the elegance of Fitz's castles.

My suite was palatial, with a wet bar, canopy bed, and a bathroom the size of Giant's Causeway. Terrific toilet paper too.

I dropped by the Garden Saturday morning and picked up press credentials for my ringside seats, covering the event for the millions of Irish American News readers. Ace photographer and

pugilistic mugs of Dundee and Joyce, descending generations of the sweet science. Angelo talked of horseplayer Chris Hart came in from New Jersey to represent the IA News as well. There were eleven fights on the card that night, but Tommy Z was our main event. Tommy was the last fight before the actual main event and the Notre Dame hype had built this contest into something bigger than the return of the Gipper.

Somebody was doing a helluva promotion job and Pickle Joyce's fingerprints were all over this brilliant brouhaha. Pickle coaches the Leo high school boxing team as well as managing a number of fighters with Marty McGarry. Joyce is also an attorney and it was his keen Irish logic that convinced the NCAA that Zbikowski should go pro. ND football coach Charlie Weiss said, "It's a great summer job for the kid."

So Tommy Zbikowski, a kid who quarterbacked Buffalo Grove high school, was stepping out on the world's stage. My pal, veteran newspaperman "Stormy", summed it up perfectly when he said, "A great place America. Here's a certified Polack in an predominately Irish-German lily-white suburb who goes to high school with a bunch of Jewish princesses and winds up as a head-banging football jock at Notre Dame. Now the story gets better. He's bordering on stardom at South Bend and hooks up with a South Side boxing guru and the next thing you know he's scheduled for his first professional fight, not in Palookaville but in the Valhalla of boxing greats...New Yawks Madison Square Garden, da Godden no less."

Yeah Stormy, it's a movie. Cue Barbara Stanwyck.

Tommy Z's opponent at the Garden that night seemed like an afterthought. Big black dude who outweighed the ND captain by a dozen pounds. Tommy knocked the bum out in 49 seconds.

We all headed down the street to Foley's bar for the victory party where it looked like the entire Fighting Irish football squad was holding court while waiting for Tommy and Pickle. It was strange seeing the loser's corner man at the party, and he was loaded to the gills to boot. Corner man took a swing at my pal Bubba Lee, whereupon the football team grabbed the mope and threw him into a cab outta town before Tommy's entourage tore him to pieces. I'm standing in front of the bar with Pat Hickey watching all this nonsense when Mark Vanecko walks up with Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong, yeah ol' one ball himself. What a night!

But the man of the hour, the night, and the entire weekend was Mike Pickle Joyce. You should have seen him in the ring at the Garden wearing shades as he draped a towel over the victorious

shoulders of Tommy Z. He had orchestrated this entire experience with panache and a cast of characters right out of a Damon Runyon story. I've seen some theatrical extravaganzas in my day, but the weekend in Gotham for the Tommy Z. fight was nonpareil. Thanks Pickle.

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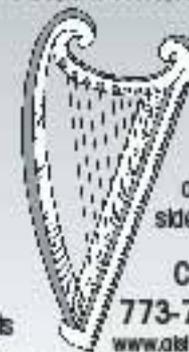
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Talking to Stephen Hayes

In a recent article I included a comment on the changing face of Ireland from my friend and neighbor, Stephen Hayes. Last week, during a long conversation with him, I realized that he may just represent the Silent Majority. With his kind permission, here are some of his comments.

I am an Irishman, a 50-year-old Irishman who loves his country but asks: what has happened to it?

I am an Irishman, a 26-county Irishman who in his lifetime has seen terrorists walk with princes, hospitals reduced to ruin, children no longer being taught and democracy crumble; and I don't for the life of me know why or how. Did anyone ask me to consign our children to sub-standard, rat-infested schoolrooms while the nation wallows in the gains of the ill-defined "Celtic Tiger"? No, they didn't. Did anyone ask me if I thought it was a good thing that the national reserve of talent that is our elderly should have to suffer the indignity of lying on trolleys in hospital corridors while the 'elite' invest 60 million per acre on speculation just to prove they can? Of course not.

Why should my nation, which for years held out the begging bowl to Europe, suddenly decide that it has become a 'player'? Let's face it. We exist on a dot on the backside of Europe. Has it now become a right of passage for us to attempt to behave like the Big Boys?

The health service: the British messed theirs up, so let's do the same! The drugs epidemic: the Americans and then the British started with the compassionate approach, so let's ape our betters and damn the fact that fellow countrymen and women die. That's all right, the thugs come from disadvantaged homes. Their victims are just unfortunate. We're talking about Ireland, the super-power in it's own mind where fantasy has become reality.

I am an Irishman and I love my country. I love the ideal of my country; I love the essentially mystic essence of it. I love the dig-

nity, the latent compassion and the genuine goodness that can still be found. Of course it's not fashionable to talk like this. Not now that we can walk with giants, can influence world opinion, cure the ills of Africa, sort out events in the Middle East and solve the problems of Aids and hunger and lost luggage. We boast of our special relationship with the other power, America. It's obviously a very close one. We get to give the President a bowl of shamrock once a year, our cabinet ministers get to visit places that they're too mean to visit at their own expense and the Americans in return try to find us on a map between Iceland and Antarctica. That about sums up the reality of how important we are.

When did we decide that it would be a good idea to take from the taxpayer at the expense of the non-payer? To allow our citizens to die for want of a hospital bed? To

squander our wealth, borrowed or otherwise on pipedreams like computer systems that don't work; and to shrug our shoulders and excuse the inexcusable when it comes to our ministers wasting our money on vanity projects? Projects that don't only seem ludicrous to us but must make us a laughing stock to anyone who happens to be visiting here and watching the news with bemusement?

I am an Irishman who loves his country and I want it back.

Whew!

I've written elsewhere that somewhere along the way we allowed our politicians to forget that they work for us. Obviously that feeling is growing. I'm also beginning to realize how many disillusioned people there are; and how shameful it is to be made to feel betrayed and alienated in the country of one's own birth.

Colleen's Angels for Prader-Willi Syndrome Fundraiser

Colleen Doherty was a beloved individual whose purpose in life was to make people happy. She loved life, wanted to be with her family, sit around and talk, and have a cup of coffee. She was in love with a man where she lived at a residential care facility and at 39 years old, she was a typical girl giddy over a guy. Typical, of course, except that Colleen had Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS) which took her life on December 27, 2005.

In Colleen's memory, her family will hold a fundraising event, Colleen's Angels for Prader-Willi Syndrome, November 19, 2006 at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, IL, to benefit the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA) (PWSA (USA)). We hope that you can help those still living with PWS by donating an exciting item or service that will be part of an in-house raffle at this special event.

Funds raised will be used for medical awareness and support of a new 24 hour a day medical crisis support system.

Colleen's legacy was to make the world aware of this very serious syndrome. Prader-Willi syndrome is the most common known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity. Because of a deletion on the 15th chromosome caused by unknown reasons, the hypothalamus in the brain, which regulates many of the body's systems, does not

function properly. Babies born with PWS typically are "failure to thrive" or "content to starve" because they have low muscle tone and do not have energy to wake, eat, move, or cry.

The infant with PWS continues to improve, but ironically, at about three to five years of age, the second stage of the syndrome, "thriving too well," begins and the hallmark characteristics of PWS appear—an involuntary and uncontrollable drive to eat because the brain is constantly sending signals that they body is starving, and rapid weight gain on very few calories because of a malfunction in the metabolic system. Those who live with PWS need strict external controls in place, like padlocking access to food, so they do not overeat to the point of death. There are many other aspects to this syndrome, such as developmental delays, possible cognitive impairment, and potential behavior issues. We invite you to learn more about PWS by visiting the PWSA (USA) website at www.pwsausa.org.

For questions or more information, please do not hesitate to call us: Connie and Bill Devitt (Colleen's sister and brother-in-law), Volunteer Event Coordinators, (219) 322-0228 or (708) 372-1737 or John O'Connell, Event Chairman, (708) 489-6727.

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Irish American Heritage Festival to host Irish American Idol Contest for young talent

Is your child a budding pop star? Does he or she have what it takes to be an Irish American Idol?

Back by popular demand, the Irish American Heritage Center will hold its third annual Irish American Idol Contest during its annual Irish Fest July 7-9.

Like the popular television show, contestants will perform a song for a panel of judges. The contest is broken down into two categories: children under 12 and a teen category for kids, ages 13 -18. All contestants must complete a registration form and have a parent or guardian's signature to compete in the contest. Forms must be turned in no later than Saturday, July 8 at 1:30pm.

All contestants must prepare an Irish song of their choice that is under 3 minutes long. Preliminary auditions will begin at 2pm on Saturday, July 8 and will be judged by a panel of judges. Five finalists will be

announced Saturday at 6 pm. This contest is open to amateur contestants only.

On Sunday, the five finalists will perform on the theatre stage at 1:30-2pm. Further judging will be based on scores from a panel of judges and audience response. The winner, who will receive generous prizes, will be announced on the Main Stage at 3:15am and will perform his or her winning song.

Each Idol finalist will be given two tickets for parents or guardians for Sunday's competition. Parents must pay for admission to Saturday's auditions.

Tickets for the Irish American Heritage Festival are \$12, or \$8 pre-sale if purchased by July 6. Admission for seniors is \$7 and children under 12 are free with a paying adult.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Also appearing with be fantastic tribute artist acts of Cher, Tom Jones, Ray Charles and others. An attendance of 10,000 is expected.

The fest will be held at Shady Riverside Park, Depot Town, Ypsilanti, Michigan (Take I-94 9.5 miles West of I-275 or 5 miles East of US 23 to Exit 183, go North and follow the

signs), Friday, July 7, 5 PM - Midnight and Saturday, July 8, Noon to Midnight.

Activities include a children's play area, face painting, clowns, magic acts, stilt walkers, kid karaoke, space walk, animal exhibits, crafts and rock climb-



ing, Elvis merchandise, beer tent, raffles, great tasting food, classic car show and Viva Las Vegas Tent (Texas Hold'em and black Jack).

For more information contact Mary Decker, Festival Director, 734-480-3974 Ext. 2.

Fall Book Club Discussion Group

The IAHC will offer a book club discussion group this fall. The group, called Great Irish American Books and Authors will run from September 2006-May 2007 in the IAHC Library on the second Sunday of the month at 2pm. The discussion is free and open to the public.

The discussion will be led by moderator, Virginia Gibbons, a teacher at Oakton Community College. Gibbons has taught at Oakton Community College since 1989, as a writing and ESL teacher. She has also taught Modern Irish Literature and Chicago literature. Gibbons is a member of the Geneva Writers' Group and holds a B.A. from Loyola University and an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Northeastern Illinois University.

Some of the books that will be dis-

cussed will be Testimony of An Irish Slave Girl by Kate McCafferty, Empire Rising by Thomas Kelly and Pearl by Mary Gordon. 773-282-7035, ext. 19.

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IAHC to host poetry reading - workshop

The IAHC's poetry committee is pleased to present an afternoon of Irish poetry in July. Voices South, Voices North: Irish Poetry from Yeats to the Present will take place on Sunday, July 16 from 2 -5pm in the Shamrock American Room.

Poet Fran Quinn, whose roots go back to County Mayo, will host the reading and conduct a post-reading poetry workshop. Quinn was poet-in-residence and director of the internationally known Visiting Writers Series at Butler University for fifteen years. He was a founding member of the Worcester County Poetry Association, and has given numerous workshops and readings throughout the country. His poetry has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes and won the Hopewell Prize. He has published three books of poetry, most recently The Goblet Crying for Wine. Quinn's latest book is A Horse of Blue Ink (Blue Sofa Press) and he conducts workshops in Boston, New York and Indianapolis.

The cost for Voices South, Voices North is \$10 at the door and includes the reading, workshop and refreshments. For more information, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

BY FRANK WEST



McCullough won the Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Harry Truman, Truman. He has written five other books about American history, and received numerous prizes for them.

He was born in 1933; attended Yale; and lives in Pittsburgh.

But what about an Irish aspect of this great patriot for the Irish American News?

Adams was a self-reliant and independent person reflecting the values of New England. He lived near Boston, Massachusetts. He was a constant and ardent advocate for American independence from Britain.

He felt that the American colonists had taken big risks to establish themselves in North America. They had gotten little help from the British king who now wanted to tax them.

In a series of articles published in the Boston Gazette in the 1770's "...Adams argued that Americans had every right to determine their own destiny... America, Adams warned, could face subjugation of the kind inflicted on

Ireland. Unless America took action, and at once... they faced the prospect of living like the Irish on potatoes and water."

John Adams and Ireland

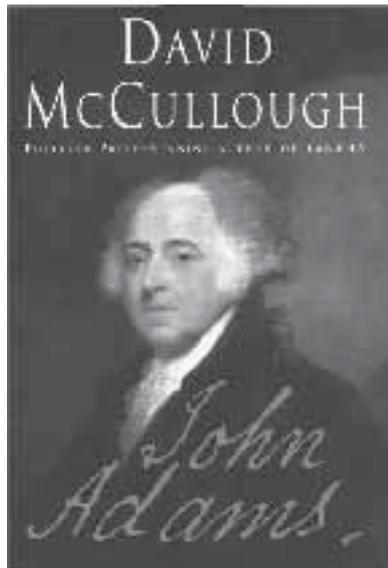
July fourth is the day we celebrate independence from Britain. The colonists in America resolved to separate from the government of the King of England. They wanted to rule themselves in a republic: an elected form of government.

Author, David McCullough, will discuss John Adams at a benefit for the "Adams Memorial Foundation" in Quincy, Massachusetts. Friends, Sharon and Kris Larsen, have invited me to attend.

John Adams was a strong and stalwart patriot, and served as president after George Washington.

McCullough will discuss his biography of him: John Adams by David McCullough. Simon and Schuster, New York. 752 pages, \$35.00.

The scholarship is impeccable. John Adams has 46 pages of Source Notes and a 23 page Bibliography.



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The Wrong Kind of Blood
 The text message read: "Gone to house, meet me there NOW! Love L xxx".
 "I was there in four minutes. I rang her number on the way, but it went straight to voicemail. I still had the keypad to open the security gates [and] the key to her house..."
 "I was too late. When I got to Linda's house her beautiful corpse was still warm, but as dead as if it had lain in the cold earth for a thousand years. Outside the police car sirens howled a Dies Irae that blew about the hills like dust on the wind."
 This quote is from The Wrong Kind of

Blood by Declan Hughes. William Morrow/Harper Collins; 212-207-7011; New York, 2006, 312 pages, \$23.95. This is an extraordinarily powerful novel of noir detective fiction.

Declan Hughes has worked in the theater in Dublin as a director and playwright since 1984. This is the first novel he has published.

When the author of the "Peter McGarr Mysteries" died a few years ago, I thought that was the end of great Irish detective fiction. Bartholomew Sill wrote that beautiful series. But I was wrong.

There are several new and outstanding authors now writing in the Irish mystery genre. Their novels are set in Ireland and feature Irish characters, Irish society and the Irish landscape.

What a wealth of fine writing! The names of the authors writing in this genre are: Declan Hughes, Adrian McKinty and Ken Bruen.

Hughes is artistic director of a Dublin theater. He directed 16 productions there and wrote the award-winning play I Can't Get Started. He wrote "...numerous plays that have been performed in Europe and the US" before writing this book. It is part of an intended trilogy featuring Ed Loy as the detective.

Hughes writes in the noir mystery tradition of Dashiell Hammett, Cornell Woolrich and Raymond Chandler.

In my imagination I picture Ed Loy as looking like famous noir film detectives Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum and Elliot Gould.

Like another private detective, Sam Spade, Loy constantly digs for information. He is named for an Irish spade: a loy. It is "... a spade that can dig, a blade that can kill."

Ed Loy describes a private detective to a client: "He's too shabby and disreputable and... ordinary to make the grade at your charity balls and grand-a-plate dinners, and that suits him fine, because that way he can get on with what he's been hired to do. That's the only point of him really... He's got to be prying and probing and stirring things up, until somehow, out falls the truth..."

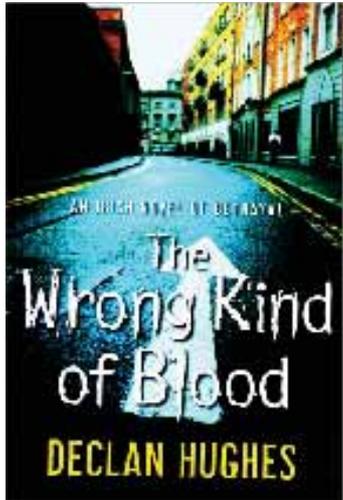
That could have been said by Humphrey Bogart in The Maltese Falcon. But

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that was 1941 and this is 2006 and is said by Declan Hughes.

Ed Loy lives in Los Angeles, where he is a private investigator. He left Ireland twenty years ago and now returns to Dublin for his mother's funeral. He is amazed at the prosperity in Ireland. He "...finds a city familiar and yet changed utterly..."

Enjoy these quotes from The Wrong Kind of Blood. They were written by a master.

The police detective tries to belittle Ed Loy: "A private dick, is it? Fast cars and bourbon chasers and a forty-five, what? Is that the way it is, Ed, shoot-outs and double crosses and dames?..."

"No, I said, that's not the way it is..."

"Mostly it's a case of sitting in a car all night drinking stale coffee and eating damp sandwiches and pissing in a bottle..."

As she hires the private detective she says: "Since you are going to be working for me, I suppose we better sort the practical side out first..."

"Last job I worked I got a thousand dollars a day."

"A thousand dollars? I thought you said you were the monkey. You helped the organ grinder out."

"That's how it started."

"And then what happened?"

"The organ grinder died, and

the monkey took his place."

"[Her] hand went to her throat, and her eyes widened."

"...How did your boss die?"

"He was murdered."

"Did you get the guy who killed him?"

"His wife killed him."

Meeting a pretentious crime boss: He "...snipped the end of a large Cohiba, ran it under his nose and sniffed. It made a scrabbling sound as it chaffed against his moustache, like a small animal trapped behind drywall. I thought of ramming the cigar up his nose. It would pass the time, but it wouldn't help to crack the case."

Loy observes: "I... looked past the gray limestone dome of the Custom House to the new cathedral of economic prosperity in Dublin: the International Financial Services Centre, a gleaming complex of blue-tinted plate glass and gray steel. It was a power house for banks and brokers... it made Dublin look like any other city, I guess that was the point: at one stage in our history, we tried to assert a unique Irish identity by isolating ourselves from the outside world. All that did was cause half the population to emigrate."

Saint Patrick's Battalion

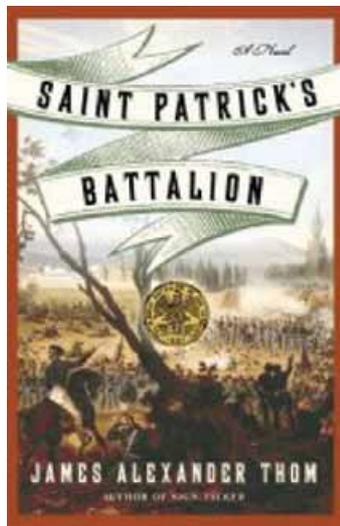
By James Alexander Thom
Ballantine Books; \$24.95; ISBN 0-345-44556-2
www.amazon.com

Thom tells the remarkable real-life story of John Riley, an Irishman who led his men to desert the American military during the Mexican-American War. Riley rattles camp hierarchy when he rails against the brutal treatment of Irish soldiers, but soon he goes further, and switched sides where he leads a corps of Irishmen called the San Patricios (St. Patrick's Battalion).

But when they are captured, their resolve is tested in the extreme.

Alternating between Paddy's account and that of Mexican soldier Augustin Juvero, Thom constructs a gripping novel that questions our concepts of war, duty, loyalty and national identity and draws intriguing parallels to our current conflict in Iraq.

James Alexander Thom was formerly a US marine, a newspaper and magazine editor, and a member of the faculty at the Indiana University Journalism School. He lives in Indiana hill country near Bloomington with his wife Dark Rain Thom.



Bornholm Night-Ferry

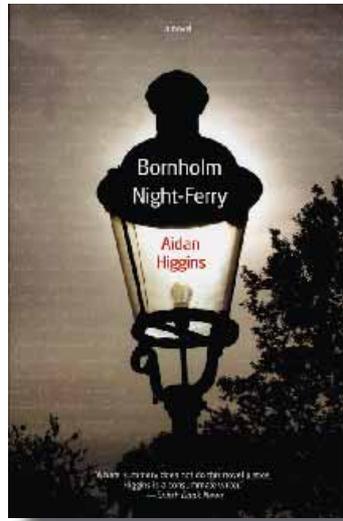
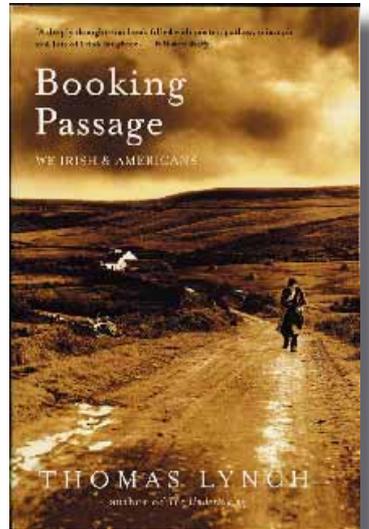
By Aidan Higgins
Dalkey Archive Press; \$12.95; ISBN 1-56478-415-0
www.amazon.com

During the five years of their adulterous affair, Finn Fitzgerald and Elin Marstrander spend only 47 days and nights together. At each of their meetings, they try desperately to live up to the passionate letters they've exchanged while apart. But as life inevitably interferes, they each become desperate to steal some last little time together before

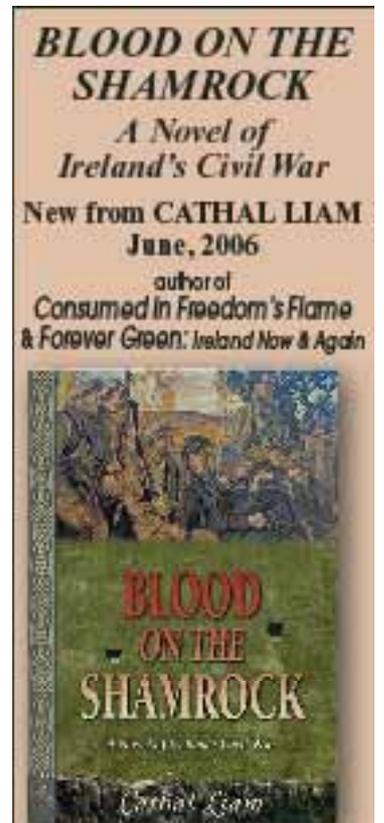
Booking Passage: We Irish and Americans

By Thomas Lynch
WW Norton & Co; \$14.95; ISBN 0-393-32857-0
www.amazon.com

For thirty-five years Thomas Lynch has kept returning to his ancestral home in West Clare, Ireland. Booking Passage is divided into nine chapters, each of which describes and explores the life in rural Moveen and suburban Michigan – and how that life relates to Irish-America, America-at-large and the larger world. One chapter follows the Lynch family from Ireland to America and back and one examines the workings of Irish Catholicism in Lynch's family and the wider culture and measures the distance between private faith and public scandal. As Lynch makes abundantly clear in this witty and wise collection, we are all fellow pilgrims passing through life, eager to leave a record of our having been there.
www.thomaslynch.com



the dream ends. One of Ireland's most accomplished writers, Aidan Higgins is the author of more than a dozen books.



The tragedy of Easter, 1916 lies behind Aron Roe O'Neill and his determined comrades, both imagined and historical. Spurred on by the euphoric boom of London's willingness to negotiate a settlement ending the Irish War of Independence (1918-1921), Ireland finally seizes its stand on the brink of triumph, autonomy from British rule. But almost overnight, the green hills of Eireann turn red again – blood red – as the bitter drags of Anglo-Irish politics erupt into unholy Civil War, the repercussions of which are destined to stultify the dream of Irish unity for years to come.

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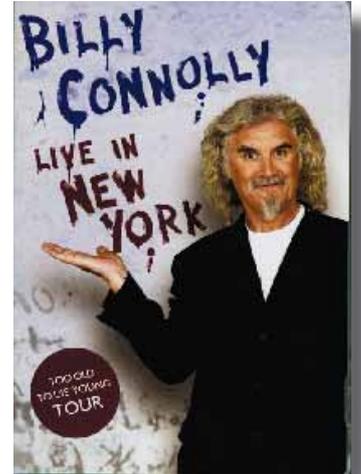
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Billy Connolly: Live in New York

www.amazon.com

Straight from the record-breaking sales of his DVD in the U.K. and a sold-out tour of Australia and New Zealand, Billy Connolly is taking aim at the U.S. market. Rykodisc will release his new DVD "Billy Connolly Live in New York" in the U.S. Recorded during a special two-night engagement at New York City's Town Hall in early 2005, "Billy Connolly Live in New York" was released late last year in Europe where it racked up impressive DVD sales of more than 750,000 copies in the U.K. alone.



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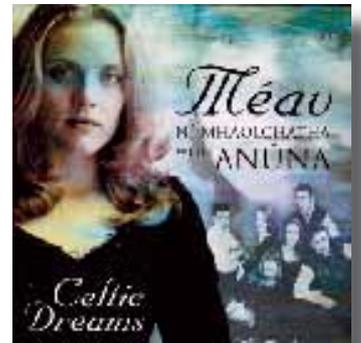
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highly successful and critically acclaimed solo CD's, 2002's Méav and 2004's Silver Sea. Recently she has been a featured vocalist on the PBS special Celtic Woman and international tour of the same name.

The band recorded and released the single "Riverdance" which spent 18 weeks at the top of the Irish music charts and became a top ten hit in the UK. The group was featured on four tracks of Riverdance which eventually sold over a million copies and received a Grammy® 1997.

Celtic Dreams is a compilation of previously unreleased music that Anuna recorded with Méav during the Riverdance sessions. These traditional Celtic and classical pieces showcase Méav's pure voice and her effortless interpretation and present the best of her early career with the group which helped to launch her to international acclaim.

Méav went on to record two

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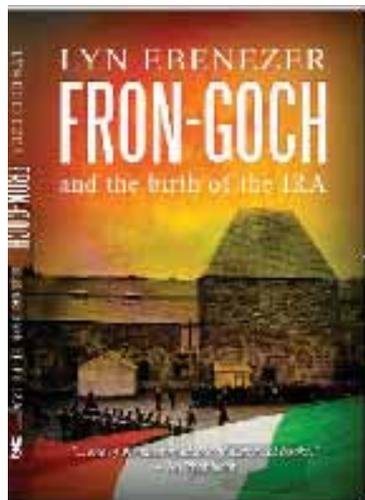
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After The Rising ... 'Fron-goch and the Birth of the IRA'

ISBN: 086381977X Price: £7.75 Published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 12 Iard yr Orsaf, Llanrwst, Conwy, Wales, LL26 0EH Tel: 01492 642031 E-mail: books@carreg-gwalch.co.uk

A new book by Welsh journalist Lyn Ebenezer re-examines the legacy of the British government's decision to intern nearly 1,900 insurgents after it crushed the Easter Rising. One consequence: shaping the esprit of the Irish Republican Army. By Kieron C. Punch / TheWild-Geese.com

After the suppression of the Easter Rising 90 years ago, those Irish prisoners not among the 15 executed by British authorities were loaded onto cattle boats and shipped across the Irish Sea to Britain. Once there, the leaders were weeded out and sent to high-security prisons, while the junior officers and rank-and-file were interned in north Wales. In



"Fron-goch and the Birth of the IRA," author Lyn Ebenezer, a Welsh journalist, broadcaster and



The author with Joe Clarke in Dublin in the late 1960s. Clarke served under Eamon de Valera, at the defense of Mount Street Bridge, and spent seven months in Fron-goch.

self-confessed "unashamed Hibernophile," relates how a former whisky distillery at Fron-goch became a concentration camp for these 1,863 Irish internees. Their experiences there, Ebenezer's book makes clear, helped transform prisoners such as Michael Collins, Dick McKee and Richard Mulcahy into the driving force behind the Irish War of Independence.

Ebenezer's book differs from previous histories of Fron-goch in its Welsh perspective, making full use of Welsh language sources to place the camp firmly within the context of the Welsh-speaking, nationalist stronghold of north Wales. Indeed, the first third of the book is a fascinating and accessible history of the Bala area and the Rhiwlas Estate where the Fron-goch camp was located. We learn that although Wales was a loyal pillar of the British Empire, and Welsh soldiers had fought and died on the streets of Dublin during the Rising, the region of Wales in which the Irish prisoners found themselves ironically bore many similarities to Ireland. While the barren, mountainous countryside surrounding the camp was reminiscent of rural Ireland, the local population had also suffered from evictions and enforced emigration at the hands of greedy landlords. Ebenezer describes how, in the late 1800s, nationally minded Welshmen drew inspiration from their Irish counterparts, establishing a Land Commission modelled on the Land League, and daringly inviting Michael Davitt to address a meeting at Blana Ffestiniog.

It is with justifiable pride, therefore, that Ebenezer recounts how, in turn, the stubborn streak of independence displayed by the people of the Bala area, many of whom worked in the Fron-goch camp, inspired and impressed the Irish internees. In the words of Batt O'Connor, "We marvelled at the fine national spirit of those men, and their love for their native tongue, that they should have been able to preserve it, and they living alongside the English without

even a bay between." It is with little surprise that we learn, therefore, that when the prisoners' General Council began to organize lecture classes on military tactics, guerrilla warfare, and other subjects, the study of the Welsh language was added to the curriculum.

Although life in the camp was arduous, with prisoners forced to endure malnourishment, unsanitary conditions and a constant battle of wills with the British authorities, readers may be surprised to learn that not one escape attempt was undertaken. On the contrary, when prisoners were permitted to extend their exercise with route marches across the Welsh countryside, some of the internees volunteered to carry the guns of the tired guards, who were either veterans recuperating from war wounds or too old to fight in France.

Lyn Ebenezer provides an explanation for this apparent passivity in his narration of how Fron-goch was transformed from a prison for a defeated, leaderless, rebel army into a "University of Revolution," the graduates of which were "... the hard core of people who led the subsequent guerrilla war campaign in Ireland." By concentrating the cream of the Irish Volunteers in Fron-goch the British had inadvertently advanced the cause of Irish Republicanism. Men from Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht, who under normal circumstances would never have met in Ireland, were gathered in Wales, where they exchanged ideas and worked out the blueprint for revolution. In the words of Irish National Party M.P., Tim Healy,

with the establishment of the concentration camp at Fron-goch, the Home Secretary had created a "Sinn Fein University" for the inmates, with their education paid for by the British.

Ebenezer's account of how new life was breathed into the post-Rising Republican movement at Fron-goch should be compulsory reading for all students of the Irish War of Independence. His liberal use of internees' personal recollections provides fascinating biographical information about many of the men who were destined to dominate the Irish political and military arenas both during the war and in the decades that followed.

A wealth of anecdotes is also effectively employed to illustrate the prisoners' day-to-day existence in the camp and the series of events they organized to break the tedium and maintain moral. These ranged from fancy dress competitions to open-air concerts and from seasonal games at Halloween to sporting challenge matches. A typical example was the athletics day held August 8, 1916, when Michael Collins won the 100 yards in 10.8 seconds, "a feat that was quoted in the House of Commons to refute the charge that the prisoners were under-nourished."

Lyn Ebenezer's sweeping history of Fron-goch should have concluded with the camp's closure and the repatriation of the prisoners in December 1916. Unfortunately, however, Ebenezer devotes the final quarter of his book to an unnecessary, poorly organized and disjointed description of the subsequent careers of the leading internees. This falls somewhere between biography and history lesson, but fails in both. This section of the book not only repeats previously raised issues, leaving readers with an unsettling sense of *deja vu*, but is also riddled with serious historical errors, including a gross overestimation of Michael Collins' role and importance during the War of Independence.

Despite these failings, Ebenezer has crafted a highly readable and informative book. He greatly enhances our understanding of the processes by which a disparate band of rebels was irrevocably welded together at Fron-goch into an efficient and effective revolutionary movement. Readers will also be left with a greater understanding of the relationship that existed between Wales and Ireland, two small nations struggling to survive on the Celtic fringe of the British Empire. WGT



Tom Barry.tif: The author with IRA commander Tom Barry in Cork City in 1979.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard

by Breandán Magee, guest columnist



By the time this edition goes to print we will have a better understanding of where the current debate on immigration stands in Washington. Advocates for comprehensive immigration reform have been taking stock after the Senate approved a bill that would allow undocumented workers to earn legalized status with the prospect of eventual citizenship. The bill also calls for a guest worker program and a strengthening of our borders. The Senate should be congratulated for showing true bipartisan leadership on this issue and for trying to fix our broken immigration system.

The battleground for comprehensive immigration reform has now shifted back to the House where commentators expect a much rougher ride than the bill weathered in the Senate. The bill that came out of the Senate must now go in to Conference before it can make an appearance in the House, and all indications are that the conference committee will be up and running by July. Only after a successful vote in the House would the bill go before the President to be signed in to law.

The bill is expected to face an uphill battle in the House which only months



ago passed an alternative bill that advocated tough penalties for infringements of immigration law. The Sensenbrenner Bill unleashed a protest movement not witnessed in this country for decades, with hundreds of thousands taking to the streets of Chicago and countless other cities denouncing its narrow enforcement only provisions.

With mid-term elections in November House Republicans are edgy and many are fearful that immigration will cost them control of the floor. The party is evenly split between proponents of big business who support comprehensive immigration reform and the restrictionists who feel their constituents are calling for tougher sanctions against undocumented workers.

During this crucial time in the debate we ask you to keep up the pressure and contact your local representatives to urge them to support comprehensive immigration reform. The Irish voice has been an important part of this debate and it has been heard loud and clear in the corridors of power in Washington. We have an historic opportunity to make a difference in the legislative process and to make a real difference in the lives of those living in the shadows. Log on to www.cc-ir.net and support the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. You do not have to be a citizen to contact the Representative in your area.

For those fortunate enough to have a green card I urge you to take the next step and naturalize. The biggest advantages

to having citizenship as opposed to legal permanent residency are that you can never be deported and more importantly you can vote! According to immigration officials, immigrants across the country are applying for citizenship in record numbers with 251,385 petitions filed between January and April, an increase of 18% on the same period last year. Irish green card holders should be following suit and engaging in the process by applying for citizenship. Call our office on 312-337-8445 for details of our next workshop and information on how to naturalize. Politicians listen more intently when you have a vote to cast so let your voice be counted!

Fraternal Order of Police Health Fair

William Dougherty, 1st Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, who is also chairman of the Health Fair to be sponsored by the Chicago Chapter, announced that there will be a Health Risk Assessment Fair on Friday, July 21 at the 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski



and Tuesday, July 25 at the 20th District Police Station, 5400 N. Lincoln. All F.O.P. Lodge #7 members (active, disabled and retired) are eligible to participate.

Contact Cheryl Grendahl at 1-800-811-0174 for an appointment, which you must have in order to attend. The hours are 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas welcomed young players of the Chicago Celtic Youth Football Club to her office recently. She presented a certificate parising the organization for its contribution to youth in Irish sports. Tom Byrne, chair of the club, received the award. From left top: John Grealy, Treasurer Pappas, Tom Byrne and Katie Byrne. From left front: Sean Hynes, Niamh Ryan, Maggie Byrne, Megan Grealy, Matthew Ryan, T.J. Byrne and Martin Byrne.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

In the June edition of IAN a reader named Tony O'Connor wrote complaining that Chris Fogarty's column For the Republic so often includes as many issues regarding the US as Ireland. To which I say the name of the magazine is Irish American News. Both Ireland and the US are republics and for Irish Americans issues that affect either republic is Irish American news. I for one appreciate that Chris includes news of the US and Ireland in his column. Keep up the good work, Chris.

Joseph Murphy

The Gilhooly's Present . . .

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Now, fresh baked soda bread at home

By Ed Lowe

Have you ever had a craving for some genuine Irish Soda Bread at a time when the stores give you a blank stare should you ask for it? You've got a couple of alternatives. You can dig into grandma's recipe files and start the process from scratch or you can go to your friendly Irish bakery and learn that they'll have a batch

some time next March.

Now, there's a third option to help satisfy this craving that's a close as your computer keyboard. We met Matt Naughton recently at Chicago's Fancy Food Show. It was his first experience at this huge trade show and he was a bit overwhelmed by it. He was there to try to develop markets for his products and we tasted them.

They had an authentic, home baked flavor which we really appreciated. Matt had dug into his family recipe book and, with the help of some food scientists, has come up with a simple mix that, when you add some butter, an egg and some buttermilk or whole milk and bake, you have something that has the taste of the auld sod.

The company came into being when they found the recipe in their grandmother, Katie Reilly's cook-

book. Katie, by any standard, was a piece of work, a feisty legend, and a character. She had six children, each of whom knew with absolute certainty that he or she was mom's favorite. Katie's kitchen was a place of nourishment and giving and, with Katie's firm control, it was a haven from rejection and a warm place to gossip. That kitchen was a library of memories of her long life with all its triumphs and tears. She was always

able to lift spirits with a hot cup of tea, an open heart of love, a smile and a large slab of freshly baked Irish soda bread with butter on top.

Matt's firm, Celtic Passions LLC is based in Nutley N.J. Taking Katie's recipe and packaging it carefully with the raisins packed separately from the flour mix, they have recreated the product of Katie's kitchen in a package that's suitable for our busy times. They have also created a similar packaging for some delightful scones.

Their website makes it easy to order the mix for the soda bread and scones, www.celticpassions.com or, if you're really in a hurry, phone the company at 973-865-7046 with a credit card in hand and they'll ship out the mix in a variety of packaging each with Katie Reilly's smiling face on the package.

Aer Lingus to leave Oneworld Alliance

Aer Lingus has decided to leave the oneworld™ Alliance. The decision was approved at the airline's Board meeting recently. Aer Lingus joined the oneworld Alliance on June 1, 2000. Since then, Aer Lingus' business strategy has changed fundamentally and the airline has successfully repositioned itself as a profitable low fares point-to-point carrier. The airline has reported strong operating profits since 2001 and has launched 48 new European routes in that time. As a result, Aer Lingus connecting passenger numbers to/from partner airlines have declined by more than 50%, as more customers avail of our new direct services.

Aer Lingus Chief Executive Dermot Mannion said:

"Alliance membership has inevitably become less relevant for the airline over time, with an increasing number of customers availing of our new direct services at low fares. Emphasis in the future will be to continue to expand our range of destinations from Ireland, both short haul and long haul. Our recently commenced non-stop Dubai service represents the first strand of this strategy.

Jack Foley, Executive Vice President North America added, "Aer Lingus will continue as a full member of the oneworld alliance until an agreed exit date has been reached with our alliance partners. Aer Lingus will therefore continue to support the oneworld brand and deliver on an ongoing basis the oneworld customer benefits."

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Investment Ideas

When Is It Time To Retire?

Most of us work our whole lives with the dreams of one day retiring and spending our days traveling, practicing our hobbies or participating in activities we enjoy. We plan for retirement, both financially and mentally, and know that it will be a wonderful reward after a lifetime of hard work. But when is the best time to retire?

It may be a difficult decision to leave the working world and be confident that we are financially ready to forego our steady income. There are many factors to look at when deciding whether or not to retire – your family situation, your health, and your financial stability, among many others. If you're getting close to retirement and not certain if you're financially ready, you may want to consider working a little longer.

Staying on the job for just one or two more years could help you achieve the same retirement goals and increase the possibility that your funds will last longer. It will give you another year to add to your retirement savings before you start taking withdrawals. In addition, maximizing your contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k) plan, can help boost your retirement nest egg.

Waiting another year also offers the opportunity to give your retirement savings more time to potentially grow. Likewise, you'll be meeting your expenses from your earnings, not by tapping into your retirement portfolio. This will allow the money in your retirement accounts to compound for a while longer.

Postponing your retirement may have some impact on your Social Security benefits. The formula for calculating these benefits is complex, but adding another year of income may increase the size of your overall benefit.

However, you may not want to – or be able to – wait any longer to retire and decide that now is the time. Many investment vehicles make it difficult for you to access your funds without tax penalties before age 59. But if you are considering retiring before age 59, you may want to dip into some income from your IRA.

If you decide to take some money out of your IRA, you'll want to try to avoid the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty that the IRS may impose on the amount you withdraw. One way to do so is by taking what's known as 72(t) distributions, which are essentially a series of substantially equal periodic

payments. This strategy requires you to take – at least annually – substantially equal withdrawals that you compute based on IRS life expectancy tables and methodologies. You must continue these withdrawals for five years or until you reach age 59, whichever is longer.

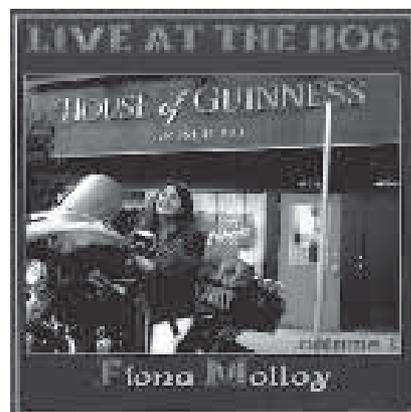
For example, if at age 50 you begin taking these periodic withdrawals, you must continue them until age 59. If you start the withdrawals at age 58, you would have to continue them for at least five years from the first payment date or until age 63.

If you use this strategy, you might consider splitting your IRA in two – one for withdrawals and the other to continue to potentially grow and act as a fallback in case of emergency.

A solid retirement plan and a good understanding of your goals will not only help you prepare for your future, but also give you an idea of where you stand financially. You should work closely with your financial consultant to plan for retirement as well as to determine when the best time may be for you to step into your golden years.

Check out Fiona Malloy

IAN caught up with Fiona Malloy at the Irish Cottage recently and were impressed with her voice and her repertoire. Fiona has several CD's out, each recorded live.



If you would like to catch her act, here are some of her future appearances.

Friday, July 28, The House Of Guinness, Waukesha, WI.
Saturday, July 29, The Pub, Oconomowoc, WI.
Friday/Saturday/Sunday

August 11th, 12th, 13th at the LaCrosse Irish Festival, La Crosse, WI. August 18 - 20, IrishFest Milwaukee (days/times unknown). Friday, August 25, The House Of Guinness, Waukesha, WI. Friday/Saturday September 8th, 9th at the Jameson's Irish Pub in Waterloo, IA. Friday/Saturday September 15th, 16, The Irish Cottage, Galena, IL, and Saturday, September 23, Harvest Festival in North Prairie, WI.

To buy any of Fiona's CDs, just send her an email at DoireOne@aol.com. The cost per CD is \$15, with a \$3 shipping fee per order. www.fionamolloy.homestead.com

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T

radition In Review



By Bill Margeson



Lots of news and reviews this month. First, the flog. Are you listening every Monday night from 7-9 to WDCB 90.9 fm, or www.wdcb.org? If not, you are missing all the Irish music, and all the fun

on Blarney On The Air, as co-host Shay Clarke joins us in playing the best in Irish music. Well, to be perfectly honest, we play the best. We are not sure of what Shay is playing. He occasionally offers something that sounds as if it might be Irish, but we humor him, try to work with him, and educate him. It is not easy. But, it is fun!

First up is a neat, new album from Dave Munnely, Philip Masure and Helen Flaherty. Helen is a lovely singer, Masure plays a fine guitar with some very nice vocals, and Munnely is one of the top button box players in the world, The regular reader already knows how much we love Munnely and his band. But, this album, Whenever, is a great addition to his library and his career. Munnely and Flaherty have long shared projects. Masure's addition here is a welcome one. There are 16 selections featuring wonderful songs, tunes and harmonies. It is on the Frea label. A big winner. And, a must-have for the Munnely fans, of whom there are growing legions! Rating: 3 1/2 Harps

There are many, many Irish music lovers who consider Mise Eire (I Am Ireland) as the most important piece of Irish music ever written. The music was written as a score for the movie of the same name. Mise Eire was a documentary produced in Ireland in the late 1950's about the period of Irish history from 1896-1918. The film, rumored for a re-release soon, is about those tumultuous years and considered a classic documentary to this day. Again and again when the reader comes to a common thread of genius and importance in Irish music the name Sean O'Riada comes to the fore, and so it is here. O'Riada, then at the peak of his amazing powers, wrote this musical accompaniment to the film by George Morrison in partnership with Gael Linn. The entire venture became seminal in Irish history, and here is the re-mastered and digitized film score. O'Riada is in full control here, directing the orchestra through 58 separate pieces of music. Some were only seconds long and were used only once. Others were longer, and the titled theme song for the movie is still taught in Irish schools. A true masterpiece which is worth the price, alone. As so much of the documentary film was in bits and fragments, so is the music accompanying it. Many times as the reader will listen to the selections, it will be noted that they, indeed, have a disconnected aural quality. However, in conjunction with the film, this score joins Bernstein's, Victory At Sea as the greatest documentary scores of all time. Friend Alan O'Leary at the wonderful London-based Copperplate Music sent us this treasure. Find it. It is the alpha and omega of Irish music, as is O'Riada himself. Rating: Four Harps, obviously!

We really, really like Ceide. Mayo-based, this group has a growing rep with other musicians, and a slowly but steadily growing American audience, as well. Big future, based on the fact that they are wonderful now! A talented sextet they offer some thumpin' great tunes, lovely airs and some fine singing from recent addition, Marianne Knight. The album is titled, Out of Their Shell. Also got it from the aforementioned Copperplate. This is terrific, traditional music played with gusto and understanding—a rare combination. It got us dancing around the room, and with this arthritis, that ain't

easy! Go Ceide!! Rating 3 1/2 Harps.

Okay, this is apparently a Copperplate month, as friend Alan also sent along a wondrous new album from a brand new talent on the scene. It is on the legendary Gael Linn label. Niamh de Burca is the name, and one to remember. What a voice! The album, in English, is titled, Where Your Heart Lies. Well, our heart lies now with this amazingly gifted singer! Great, great side musicians on this one. A singer's voice is a very subjective listening experience. Duh! But, it is hard to imagine anyone not being enchanted by this quality. This woman has a gift. Track down this album, and you will love it. Google her name, or Gael Linn. Surely, she will have a great career—if there is any justice. A magical voice. Rating : Four Harps

Another great, great voice is out of Scotland on the wonderful Greentrax label. Kathleen MacInnes is apparently a well-known presenter of Scottish programming, and an actress. Not important to us. What matters is that she is also an incredible singer with a knock-down, beautiful voice. Wow! All the tunes are in Scots Gaelic, but no matter. Full translations are thankfully provided. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely. If you are a Scottish singer or band, you want to be on Greentrax. They can have their choice, and they picked well with this one. It is titled, og-Mhadainn Shamhraidh (Summer Dawn). Sounds like the dawn of a great singing career to us. Ask us if we would prefer the above mentioned, Niamh de Burca, or Kathleen MacInnes. We would reply—don't be silly. Get online and get both. This is great stuff, to be sure, to be sure. Rating: Four Harps!

Out of time and space. Next month is our annual Milwaukee Fest column, the most-read column we offer each year. We will be telling you about the best of the best at Milwaukee, and what the trad fan should not miss. Milwaukee has done it AGAIN this year. Amazing Fest, amazing staff and volunteers.

BTW, Dublin, Ohio is a huge winner this year with their annual Festival the first weekend in August. The Bridies, Cathie Ryan, Bohola, Ragus, Mick Moloney's Green Fields of America, and Brendan Dolan and Brian Conway. Lots of rock acts not important to us, but the children and Shay Clarke will love them. Dublin is an amazing and wonderful Festival, and we cannot praise it enough. Well, well worth the drive from Chicago. A few hours—and heaven! This Festival is now a major force on the scene, and rightfully so. Wonderful.

Notes: *Best wishes to the Irish Music School of Chicago in its big fundraiser July 23rd at the Irish American Heritage Center. It is from 4-7:00 p.m. Guest stars like Liz Carroll, Marty Fahey, John Daly and the man, Sean Cleland himself, will join the 20 young musicians going to the August World Championships in Donegal in a musical afternoon that should be a ball. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids 17 and under, and \$75 for a family of five or more. The School has been killer dillers in competitions representing Chicago. There will also be a raffle—look—there is too much info for here. It will be a ball. See you there. Go to www.irishmusicschool.com or call Sean Cleland at 773 412 6166. *Ta

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Saturday, 7/8	Irish American Heritage Festival 12pm—12am
Sunday, 7/9	Irish American Heritage Festival 12pm—11pm
Friday, 7/14	Mulligan Hour
Saturday, 7/15	Midwest Green
Friday, 7/21	Seamus O'Keefe and Jerry Moore
Saturday, 7/22	Arty O'Leary and Friends
Friday, 7/28	TWK
Saturday, 7/29	The MacEoin Band

All shows start after 9 p.m.

Stop by the Irish American Heritage Center for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music. Customer lounge for the Fifth Province on Chicago from 4pm-1am and Saturday from 7pm-1am. Pub food is served from 6pm-11pm on Fridays and 7pm-10pm on Saturdays.

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Golfer's Paradise

Continued from page 6

streams, rivers and lakes. There are courses built on old country estates and even some in the shadows of medieval castles. The Old Head of Kinsale course is more heathland than either parkland or links but is a bewitching experience perched atop a promontory that stretches out to where the Irish Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean.

There are some famous golfing minds behind the design of many of Ireland's inland courses. Christy O'Connor Jr created the New Course at Headfort, in County Meath, and is also responsible for Glasson, a beautiful lakeside course near Athlone at the geographical heart of the island. Jack Nicklaus designed the magnificent Mount Juliet course in Thomastown, County Kilkenny, and his friend and great rival Arnold Palmer is the 'architect' of the K Club in County Kildare, home of the 2006 Ryder Cup.

Championship Courses:

Ireland has its own very special place in the heritage of the game of golf. The country has produced some of the world's true greats, among them Christy O'Connor Senior—known simply as 'himself'—who played in ten successive Ryder Cup matches. Also Fred Daly, who won The Open Championship back in 1947. There are more recent stars of the Irish game too, players such as Paul McGinley, Darren Clarke and Padraig Harrington, who many experts believe is just now reaching his peak.

These players honed their skills in Ireland on the Championship courses of Ireland. You can play the same courses that helped shape these champions, and you can play courses that gave golf's international stars some of their proudest moments.

Royal Portrush and Royal County Down offer the golfer tests of the highest caliber. Portmarnock's par 3 fifteenth hole is widely recognized as one of the best short holes in golf. Portmarnock has enchanted some of the game's top talents. Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer, Jose Maria Olazabal and Ben Crenshaw—all winners of the US Masters—have the common distinction of winning the Irish Open on this magnificent stretch of links just north of Dublin.

There is also Royal Dublin, on Bull Island, a nature reserve that came about only because of the role played by a certain Captain Bligh of the Bounty fame. Killarney is a fabulous parkland championship course. Nick Faldo won back to back Irish Open titles here in 1991 and 1992, with the backdrop of the MacGillycuddy Reeks as an inspiration to players and spectators alike, and then achieved a hat-trick of titles when the Open moved to Mount Juliet in 1993. "This is how all golf courses on the European Tour should be," remarked Faldo of the magnificent conditioning of the Jack Nicklaus-designed Kilkenny course.

Widower seeks lady of warm heart, high intellect and character (50s, nonsmoker), for purposeful, devoted life. PO Box 971, Glenview IL 60025-0971

Frank Feighery passes

Frank Feighery (pronounced fury) the Editor of the Hibernian Digest dies Sunday, June 25th. He was named Editor by National President Tom Gilligan in 1998 and presided over the complete transformation of the paper. He was a Past President of the United Irish Counties Assn and a devoted supporter of Gaelic games particularly hurling. His roots were in County Offaly.

Hunger Strike Testimonial Dinner Dance August 12th

The Irish Freedom Committee cordially invites you to the Chicago Hunger Strike Commemoration Committee Testimonial Dinner Dance in memory of the 25th Anniversary of the 1981 Long Kesh Hunger Strike Martyrs; Saturday, August 12, 2006; The Blackthorn Manor, Chicago, IL; Dinner tickets \$40; Music by Joe Monahan. Featured Speakers: Former political prisoner and hunger striker, Frank O'Neill; Founder and co-chair NY H-Block/Armagh Committee, Seoirse McLaughlin; and other guests to be announced. For more information: www.irishfreedomcommittee.net.

18th Annual Marine Corps Scholarship Golf Tournament

The 18th Annual Marine Corps Foundation Golf Tournament will be held Monday, August 14, 2006 at the Boulder Ridge Country Club, 350 Boulder Drive in Lake in the Hills, Illinois.

Formed in 1962 by veterans who realized that many Marines (some of whom had been killed in World War II and Korea) could not afford to send their children to college, to date the foundation has granted over \$29 million in scholarships to over 19,000 individuals. Their pledge this year is to provide a \$20,000 scholarship to every son or daughter of a Marine or Navy Corpsmen (who served with the Marines) who is killed in our war on terrorism -- 288 children of Marines and 14 children of Corpsmen as of mid-June. These are in addition to the merit scholarships for any son or daughter of the armed forces whose family meets the financial qualifications.

You can show your support by attending or sending a donation. Information and reservations, Bill Nerburn at 847-516-3773 or email billn@mitchellair.com.

Raised On Songs and Stories

By Shay Clarke



On assignment, back in August, 2006



"I would like to thank Switchback for an excellent concert of my bar (Mick Malloy's) on Bridge St., Woodport, Co., Mayo, Ireland. A great show by the club members and singers. We are looking forward to your next visit. My congratulations also on your new CD, *Endless*. Excellent stuff. "The life's still humming" Keep it up! My best wishes for the future. Yours sincerely, Mick Malloy."

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www.BrookfieldJazz.org

Take Me Out to the Ball Game
Saturday, July 22, 2006
Chicago White Sox vs. Texas Rangers
 Meet at Irish Times at 4:30 p.m. Luxury Coach provided to and from White Sox Park. Check out the website for further details and updates.

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July 7	Traditional Irish Music
July 12	The Flannery Brothers
July 13	Don McBelmont
July 14	Traditional Irish Music
July 19	Acoustic Thing
July 20	The Kohn Brothers & Emerald Duo
July 21	Traditional Irish Music
July 26	The Flannery Brothers
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Why I returned to Ireland

By John Gurhy

I am now home six months and the question from all my friends in Chicago - am I settled? The answer is "Yes, very much so". This was not a sudden or rush decision. I always planned to come home when I reached 50. Do I miss Chicago? Truthfully not at all. Sure, I miss my close friends, but I have been very busy setting up my new business. Gurhy Property and Financial Services was opened by Eamon Coughlan on May 5th. True I didn't save as much money as those guys who think there will be a trailer after their hearse but contrary to the experts, I didn't come home with nothing either.

Of the nineteen years I spent in Chicago the last four were really unhappy. I took several hard knocks in business, however, I have never blamed anyone other than the man I see in the mirror every morning.



l-r: Michelle Gildea, Eamonn Coughlan, John Gurhy and Mike Maloney (formally of 2fm now with Ocean FM.) at the opening of the new office in Sligo - Gurhy Property and Financial Services.

Of course it was devastation to lose in three deals with personal friends, one of which I grew up with and helped get started in Chicago. Don't get me wrong - I have several happy stories which I intend to tell in a forthcoming book which I hope to start by year's end. Later I will tell you the highs and lows of my time in the Windy City. I suppose I was burned out and needed a new challenge. I guess the main reason I haven't suffered a shock change is that I came home ninety-four times in all. It's a totally different Ireland to the one I left in 1986. Unlike Chicago, it's not all about work. Most people work hard but not on weekends. I suppose I never lost the homesickness at weekends because of my love of sport. Last weekend I spent 3 days in Liverpool, came home on Sunday and went to Doncaster on Tuesday to buy a horse. I sat back and said, "God I am so happy, this is the life". Sometimes I forget myself in the morning and think I am stopping for breakfast at Johnny O'Hagans. I've been observing what the rich are doing with their money over here. Many have a passion for horses like myself, others are investing sums of money in foreign property unlike those guys who think there will be a trailer behind the hearse. They spend their morning drinking coffee, gazing into space and chomping their nails off trying to figure out how some young Irish have become as rich as them but in a shorter time. Since I was a kid I believed jealousy to be the worst of the deadly sins and many of the rich Irish suffer from it. Sure money can make your life happy but it can't make you classy or generous if it's not bred in you. I hate people who tell young Irish people, "I can get you the big break or I can call your boss and he will fire you."

This reminds me of a good friend of mine, Enda Geraghty, when he first came to Chicago with his lovely wife Ann. Like all of us he was raw and shy at first and one night in the Goal Post a famous Irish builder decided to tell him who was boss of Chicago. He said "Enda I own this town and one phone call from me to your boss will have you out of a

job". Geraghty didn't panic but calmly replied: "It is a lovely tidy town and anyone would like to own it!" A priceless reaction from the other gentleman - "We didn't have a camera". The problems undocumented young Irish are facing now goes back to those who have made it big but have stayed away from political functions because they might have to put their hand in their pocket. This has resulted in Irish born people having no influence on our politicians and while Richie Daley and Eddie Burke wear a green tie neither could tell you how many counties are in Ireland. In 1987 we had a movement which resulted in the Morrison bill being passed and he takes the credit for legalizing thousands. In reality the thanks should go to Eugene Nestor who worked night and day going to and from other cities without receiving a penny. Father Michael Leonard won't mind that the next bill is not named after him and I pray for this to pass.

I want to wake up to the sound of a helicopter on my lawn and out comes Davy, John, Edel, and Caroline. As Paul O'Reilly always puts it "pure, magic boss."

Another thing that upsets me is people who look as if they are so charitable but are really just looking for a piece of the limelight. They attend every charity auction, bid but don't ever buy, take a job on every benefit committee and don't spend a penny. Let's look at a few reasons why last year's Good Morning Ireland Awards Ceremony didn't get as big a crowd as 2004. Namely, Sunday isn't a good day, Hilton Ballroom too big, hunting seasons were spoiling Dublin people like we did Galway people in 2004, John Gurhy is on television too much, we don't support charities until the trailer is full.

During my time in Chicago I was delighted to be involved in managing the Wolfe Tones and St. Brendan's, founding the Sligo Association, The Radio Show, The Good Morning Ireland Foundation, The Irish Builders Lobby Group and others.

My worst memories of my time in Chicago were being married. Anthony Tohill hit by a stone at Gaelic Park, a fellow county man stealing 26,000 dollars from me, Kieran Gorman dieing in 9-11 attack, a so called friend inventing a charge against me even though I kept quiet about his sexual preferences. I would need several pages of this wonderful publication to name all of the good people I've met in Chicago and I can honestly say that anyone who has helped me will not regret it. Timing really is everything no matter what you do in life and one name that comes to mind is Mark Trevor a real decent man.

In another world Mark would come to Ireland every year and play golf with me. On our way to the golf course we would pass a council truck with four men on it that I introduced to Mark and now are very rich, but in that other world they would be shovelling chippings into pot holes and thinking it was Christmas every time they got a jumbo breakfast roll. The lads who think there is a trailer behind the hearse would not have made it back here. Did you know the Irish are the only ethnic community not to have their own credit union? Remember the deadly sin I mentioned? Finally, I want to thank Sean Ginnelly for his tireless work to keep the radio show going. He deserves your support. I must go now as I am working on a patent for a trailer hitch. It allows the money to unlatch as the coffin enters the fire.

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Get Your Irish Up ...North!

By James McClure



Baked in Alaska 24 Hours A Day!

Working in the television news business has always allowed me to indulge in my favorite fantasy...eating really bad takeout food. Or as they call it in London...takeaway.

In Anchorage, Alaska getting your fix for food has its own unique aspect. One of the first things that impressed me was how late you could get it. It could have something to do with Alaska being the Land of the Midnight Sun, especially this time of year, when the dusk lasts until the wee hours.

While there is much familiar, in terms of food, in this most remote corner of the United States (Denny's, Domino's, Subway and Taster-Freeze), the 24-hour availability is quite remarkable. The most prevalent, surprisingly, is round-the-clock delivery.

New York may have its thin crust, Chicago its thick crust and California its Hawaiian pineapple and ham toppings, but Alaska has it...always available. From the moment you turn on a television set, open the newspaper or listen on the radio, you are inundated with ads for Sicily's Pizza, which delivers all over metropolitan Anchorage 24-hours a day.

It may be catchy if not appropriate, the ad jingle (and phone number) is sung over and over to can-can music. Perhaps French bread pizza will one day be on the menu as well.

I was especially surprised having moved from Chicago: home of the not-open-until-4 p.m. neighborhood pizzeria. Sicily's Pizza is the home team in Anchorage and though it has multiple locations to serve the all-night denizens of this city of nearly 300,000... after-midnight-Insomnia-Central turns to a nondescript location in down-at-the-heel Spenard. This central area of the city, once a separate town of 70,000 houses, is the location of the one Sicily's which stays open overnight.

When I entered the facility one night at 3 a.m. I expected to find one man asleep in the manner of the Maytag Repairman. Not so. Five dough-tossing pizzamen were hard at it, answering the calls switched to their location, while preparing flat-breads and salad en masse. Naturally I asked the question, "Who the heck is ordering at this hour?!"

The manager gave a bit of a lesson on the economy of Anchorage and a populace that includes people tied to the oil industry and uncertain hours of when they might return to the big city from remote jobs in the bush. Add in overnight workers, college students, pilots (much of what comes to Anchorage is flown-in) and you have a ready-made set of consumers craving made-to-order pizza at all hours. "Sometimes you just want a pizza at 5 a.m.," the manager explained.

Which is funny because that is usually about the time I am waiting to buy Egg McMuffins for the studio crew when I'm scheduled to fill-in anchoring the morning news. Other all-night options include Irving's 24-hour diner (like certain White Castles the people-

watching can be entertaining if not hazardous), Village Inn (an arctic sister of Baker's Square which they never bothered to rename), the expected Denny's and the not expected 24-hour McDonald's drive-thru. The McDonald's is noteworthy for having window staff that patiently wait for you to open your door up to pay for and receive your order, given that it's not uncommon in January to have the weather-stripping on your window freeze shut.

If you don't happen to feel like pizza, pecan pie or pancakes in the pre-dawn (which lasts from 4 p.m. in the winter), one other continuous delivery option is Chinese food. In perhaps the most infamous television commercial of Anchorage's restaurants, a white collar worker is shown in his Anchorage high-rise when a earthquake of epic proportions, rivaling the 1964 Good Friday Earthquakes, rumbles forth: the epicenter being his grumbling stomach. He lunges for the office phone and shouts "China Garden! It's an emergency!"

I fought the urge to do the same every time I called the all-night provider for my breakfast time mu-

shu pork, but it did arrive amazingly fresh and hot.

In a town that boasts reindeer sausage, haddock fish & chips and surprisingly, not very much Alaskan king crab, when your standards are low, the availability of fast food, whenever you want

it, is as high as the mountains that ring this unique land.

Jim McClure is a television news reporter and anchor when not freelancing for Irish American News, and walking off all-night pizza and Chinese. He may be e-mailed at JimMcClure71@aol.com

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Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago recently spoke before the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker Retirees, Local 134 at union headquarters, 600 W. Washington. O'Brien currently serves as Chairman of the Judiciary and Real Estate Development Committees and Vice Chairman of the Federal Legislation and Municipalities Committees. (l to r): Don Mahoney, Secretary, and Bob Mersch, President of IBEW Retirees Local 134, and Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien.

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Draw, paint In Ireland 8-26 to 9-2

Two Chicago artists, Ed Hinkley and Bob Horn, are returning to Ireland this August to teach painting and drawing at the Allihies Language and Art Centre. Located near the tip of the beautiful Beara peninsula, in West Cork, Allihies is a small farming and fishing community of forty people, whose turn of the century schoolhouse was renovated into the Centre over 15 years ago by Dave Caffrey. Caffrey directs operations and schedules schools and universities from Europe and the United States, as well as independent study groups to participate in their writing, art, music and cultural programs.

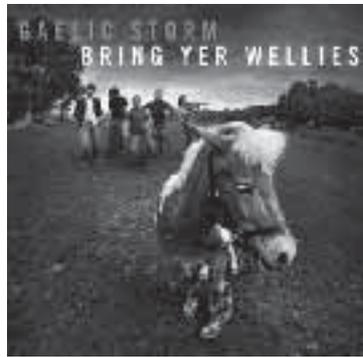
The Beara peninsula is a rugged, mountainous, windswept land, home to many artists and writers, several of whom are directly involved with life at the centre. The itinerary will include drawing and painting in watercolor and perhaps oil, around the town, in the studio and on location. There will be side trips to some of the many

historic and archeological sites as well as lectures by local historians. There will also be general fellowship with artists, writers, and musicians in and around the village and its lively pubs, which host a constant stream of mostly European travelers. There is great hiking around the village and throughout the peninsula. Participants will be lodged and fed in the homes of local families or bed and breakfasts, and will literally walk to school each day, thus insuring a total immersion in community life.

Our group will consist of 12-20 individuals who are genuinely interested in experiencing a country and its culture: who are just as capable of working amicably as a group or independently: who are travelers with a good degree of stamina and flexibility to allow for the unpredictability of Irish weather, landscape and time. For information call Ed Hinkley Studio 773-539-6047, or edhinkley@msn.com. The Allihies Language and Art Centre's web site is www.allihies.ie.

Gaelic Storm headline Irish American Heritage Fest 7-9

An engaging and charismatic live band, Gaelic Storm have hit the summer tour circuit to support their latest release Bring



Yer Wellies, out July 25. On Sunday, July 9, the band will headline the Irish American Heritage Festival in Chicago – returning to the city where the band recorded their 2006 DVD, appropriately titled, "Gaelic Storm Live In Chicago."

In a genre cluttered with recycled cover tunes, Gaelic Storm once again deliver a unique acoustic sound with original songs crafted so tightly that they may well become standards. Bring Yer Wellies exemplifies the signature Irish-inspired, worldly

folk/pop tunes that have made the popular band a stand-out at Irish festivals and featured venues across the country.

Formed in 1997 at O'Brien's Pub in Santa Monica, California, Gaelic Storm gained instant notoriety with an appearance in the blockbuster film "Titanic" even before the release of 1998's self-titled debut on Higher Octave/Virgin-EMI. Bring Yer Wellies is the band's fifth studio album and second on their independent label Lost Again Records.

Cherish the Ladies, Tommy Makem, Frances Black to Entertain on 16th Irish Festival Cruise to Panama Canal

More than A Score of Top Irish Entertainers Provide 50 Hours of Nightly Concerts and Workshops

More than 50 hours of traditional Irish entertainment will highlight the 16th Annual Irish Festival Cruise aboard Holland America Line's Volendam departing from Fort Lauderdale on January 22, 2007.

This 10 night cruise to five tropical ports of call -- Half Moon Cay, Aruba, Curaçao, The Panama Canal, Colón and Costa Rica -- combines the best in Irish music, dance and culture with luxurious Caribbean cruising.

Performers include Tommy Makem, Paddy Reilly, Frances Black, Michael Black, Cherish the Ladies, Phil Cunningham and Aly

Bain, Bogside Rogues, balladeers Tom Sweeney and Liam Tiernan. Also, Dermot Henry, Brennan and McGillian, raconteur John Gleeson, Aoife and Eoghan Scott, comedian Conal Gallen and world champion Irish dancers.

Mary Rowley, executive director of Irish Festival Cruises, says that "a highlight of all Irish Festival Cruises is the enjoyment guests derive from the informal socializing with the performers." In addition to the nightly concerts, there will be a variety of workshops on all things Irish...from learning to dance a jig or speak the Irish language to instructions on the tin whistle and bodhran.

In addition to the Irish Festival activities, guests can also enjoy

all the luxury facilities, dining and amenities of the world class Volendam. The cruise ship features an array of on-board activities including casino gambling, golf at sea, swimming, bingo, scuba lessons, fashion shows and more. Many staterooms have private verandahs.

Irish Festival Cruise accommodations, for January 22nd through February 1st, start in price from \$1,499.00 per person (based on double occupancy). The price includes all ship-board accommodations, meals and entertainment. The package can only be booked through Irish Festival Cruises, Ltd. at 1-800-441-HARP. The website is www.irishtours.com.

Wide Angles' "Mixed Blessings"

Tuesday, July 18 at 8 p.m. CST*

While green fields still adorn the walls of tourist offices, Ireland is rapidly becoming an urbanized, secularized, and giddily flush society. The "Celtic tiger" boom of the '90s doubled average income and transformed one of Europe's worst-performing economies to one of its best in a single generation.

This dizzying transformation has triggered an identity crisis that is forcing Ireland to contend with the flip side of wealth. And the traditional social fabric is fraying fast. In a rigidly Catholic country that only legalized divorce in 1997, more than one third of all children are now born out of wedlock. Ireland now attracts droves of foreign workers flooding in from Latvia, Brazil, and Nigeria – and Irish returnees – seeking jobs in a high-tech sector led by Intel, Dell, and Google.

Our story is set in the iconic city of Limerick. Once a slum

known as "stab city," and the impoverished setting of "Angela's Ashes," the Limerick of today has all the main ingredients of change: American investment, a mini property boom, a burgeoning services industry, childcare shortages, high levels of immigration from neighboring EU states, and numerous new shopping developments popping up like daffodils in spring. Profiling five or six characters whose lives are caught up and conflicted by this avalanche of change, Mixed Blessings captures the new Irish zeitgeist. We experience the final, poignant days of a Jesuit church that is being auctioned off to the highest bidder in the face of plummeting church attendance. Across the street from the church we board the Dell company bus, meeting dozens of non-English speaking Eastern European workers who confront rising hostility towards economic migrants as they help

make this the computer giant's most productive factory in the world. Arriving at Dell headquarters, the elevator carries us to the senior vice president's suite to meet a "reverse" migrant, an Irish citizen lured home after years abroad to cash in on new opportunities – only to face a changed homeland and a spiraling cost of living that justifies the nickname "rip-off Ireland." Other narratives take us on a road trip with a Guinness representative responsible for maintaining the traditional image of Ireland's most iconic brand while answering to a multinational beverage conglomerate; and to a small dairy farm just outside the city borders where EU-imposed bureaucratic procedures may be ringing the death knell of traditional Irish industries.

Wide Angle is a production of Thirteen/WNET New York for PBS. Contact branley@thirteen.org for more information. *Check local listings.

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Darren Holden in "Movin' Out"

By Mike Danahey

As the lyrics go, you're all alone, you'll have to answer to your own. Yeah, that's "Pressure," and for Darren Holden it meant



Darren Holden. photo: Joan Marcus performing in front of Billy Joel, the man who penned the aforementioned words (and the music that goes with them) – on Broadway, no less, with the Piano Man sitting in the third row.

It was Holden's third night taking over as the bandleader, singing and tickling the ivories in "Movin' Out," the Tony-winning musical that uses Joel's songs played live by a band and the choreography of Twyla Tharp to tell its tale.

Actually, Joel "jumped on the bandstand just before the curtain went up" to introduce himself, said Holden.

Things turned out OK, though, as Holden has been with the production for more than two-and-a-half years, most of that time on the road with a tour that stops in Chicago at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 East Congress Parkway of Roosevelt University from June 28 until July 9.

The County Kilkenny native still sees Joel every few months or so, with Joel checking up on the show and occasionally joining Holden on-stage for an impromptu encore.

Holden has been getting good notices for his interpretations of Joel's hits: "I knew from the beginning that if I was going to do this, I was not going to imitate Billy Joel. That would get boring fast," Holden said.

In fact, Joel advised him, "don't be a clone or do karaoke versions of the songs," Holden recalled. It turned out the dancers appreciated his approach, keeping them on their toes and performances fresh, too, Holden agreed.

Joel also introduced Holden to musicians from his own band who appear on Holden's new album, "Roadworks" (available online at www.darrenholden.com), which is

set to be released on the indie label, JRH, sometime during the show's run in Chicago.

The "Movin' Out" stage band backs up Holden on his disc, too, but don't expect a Joel-ish effort. Holden, who travels with his family, wrote original pop-rock numbers "on the road in hotels," while on the tour with the production and took advantage of the latest portable technology to record it.

Holden has been at the music game since he was 16 and playing with his first band, the country-tinged Tweed, which seemed a natural fit growing up in a house hearing Glen Campbell and Johnny Cash on the radio.

By 1995, Holden was on the road opening for the Irish boy band, Boyzone. From that experience with glossy pop Holden "quickly realized that it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life," and, with a couple hits in Ireland under his belt, he wound up taking two years off from the music business.

By 1998, Holden returned and was touring and/or working with the likes of Paul Young, Peter Andre, Belinda Carlisle, country artist Rodney Crowell and R&B hip-hop artist Montell Jordan.

His debut album, "Suddenly," came out that year and three of its tunes hit the Irish Top 20. Shortly thereafter he wound up in "Riverdance," on tour and on the Great White Way.

The Michael Flatley vehicle led to Holden meeting producer/writer Don DiNicola, with whom he collaborate on a country-influenced album, "Live & Learn," which again spawned several hits back in Ireland. Actually, Holden has had songs on the charts in several countries, including making the Top 20 in Finland and the Top 30 in Indonesia.

After leaving "Riverdance," Holden landed an audition for "Movin' Out," and "within an hour I had the job," he said.

Holden said he's been a lifelong fan of the New Yorker's music, which when he was a kid, "you couldn't really escape... I enjoy that whole piano-based thing with rock and roll, from Little Richard to Elton John. And with Joel there is an extra quality to the songwriting. I dug it all."

As for Ireland, how it influences his music and career, "I grew up listening to the ballads, so I guess that's in there naturally," he said. And Ireland keeps him grounded, too.

"I could call home and say I just sold a million albums, and they would say, 'Hey, did you know the neighbor down the block died,'" he said.

Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?

The charming Broadway hit, will open Thursday, July 13 at 8 p.m. at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana and close August 13. Featuring a hysterical and heartwarming score Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up?, directed by Bill Pullinsi, is a bittersweet journey of friendships old and new.

This funny coming-of-age show explores the trials and tribulations of attending catholic school in the 1950s.

The story follows eight students who are childhood best friends experiencing confession for the first time, teenage lovers attending their senior prom, and finally adults embarking on different paths in life. Stars are Ryan Gardner as Eddie Ryan, Amy Olsen as the

Secretary, Meg Miller as Becky, Ann McMann as Sister Helen and Iris Lieberman as Sister Lee.

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana located off I-80/94, just 35 minutes from downtown Chicago.

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B Full Irish Breakfast

by Maureen Callahan



Revisit Long Ago at Fadó Irish Pub

Long ago...often these words locate a corner in our memories where we've stashed our favorite places and days gone past. Fadó, (said "f'doe") the first word in many ancient Celtic folklore stories, reminds us exactly of what it means in Irish, "long ago." Despite it's modern situation on the near north side, Fadó aims to bring patrons back to several different memorable eras in Irish history. Manager Kieran Ahern ensures an authentic Irish experience.

The menu is an interesting mix of traditional pub favorites with new twists. You'd expect to find boxtys on this menu, but they're the first I've seen to so closely resemble chicken quesadillas with melted pepper jack cheese, red chili aoli, pico, sour cream and salsa. The pint size sandwiches—small ham, bacon and turkey with cheese on sourdough—are

perfect if you're not starving or as a starter to share. The cheddar cheese dip with boxtys wedges will get you through those nail-biting World Cup games. All matches are shown here daily. If you miss them on the first run, stop by later in the evening for the replay.

Fadó offers a wide selection of salads and sandwiches. The chicken bistro or bleu crunch salads are worth checking out for the light eater. Sandwiches are a fusion of standards with an Irish twist. The chicken cordon bleu or southwest rollógs are similar to wraps bearing items reflected in their names. The turkey RLT is an Irish version of the traditional BLT served with rashers (Irish bacon), lettuce and tomato. The buffalo chicken sandwich or Guinness BBQ chicken sandwich will accompany any one of the vast selection of 14 draft beers, 13 of which are European imports.

For more traditional fare, there are a selection of standard pub favorites such as the customer favorite lightly battered cod fish and thick cut chips, bangers and mash, chicken pot pie, corned beef and cabbage and meatloaf with tomato gravy. The boxtys, particularly the shrimp and chicken boxty, are also excellent choices. No worries if you're late for the start of any Gaelic Athletic Association matches, either. Irish breakfast is always available, regardless of the start time of the 6 Nation Rugby or hurling match. Accompany that with a pint or 6 of the excellent Guinness while cheering for the English Premier League. With experience spanning back to Dublin's Temple Bar, bartender Phillip Quinlan will serve you nothing less than the perfect pint every time.

and caramel sauces atop a warm fudge brownie.

The pub itself is worth a look with its five sections to remind you of long ago Ireland. Walk up to the second floor ship's deck setting, and you might as well have wandered back to the days when the Celts ruled the seas of Northern Europe. You can't miss the replica of early explorer St. Brendan's ship and the murals painted to depict his monks and

traditional Irish music sessions every Thursday from September through April from 7-9 p.m. The third floor also has a cottage-like hearth setting perfect for a party, rehearsal dinner or reunion. If you're in the mood for some great food, excellent Guinness, lively music and a visit to days gone past, enjoy the craic at Fadó Irish Pub, located at 100 W. Grand St (corner of Clark and Grand, River North, Chicago).



Sweet endings abound, but for something unique, try the Brown Bread Ice Cream. This aptly named throwback to the depression era of caramelized brown bread crumbs whipped through vanilla ice cream and drizzled with carmel sauce must have made hard economic times a little easier to stomach. The black and tan brownie with Guinness ice cream is a huge mound of Guinness vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, pecans and chocolate

their seafaring voyages on the wall behind it. Turn around to see the life-size currach (fishing vessel)—a tribute to Ireland's rich maritime history.

The third floor is a look at the Victorian era, featuring an 1800s bar shipped to Chicago from the Pretty Kitchen, a Dublin pub. You'll hear live bands up here. Consult the website for an updated music schedule (www.fadoirishpub.com or call the pub at 312.836.0066). Fadó hosts

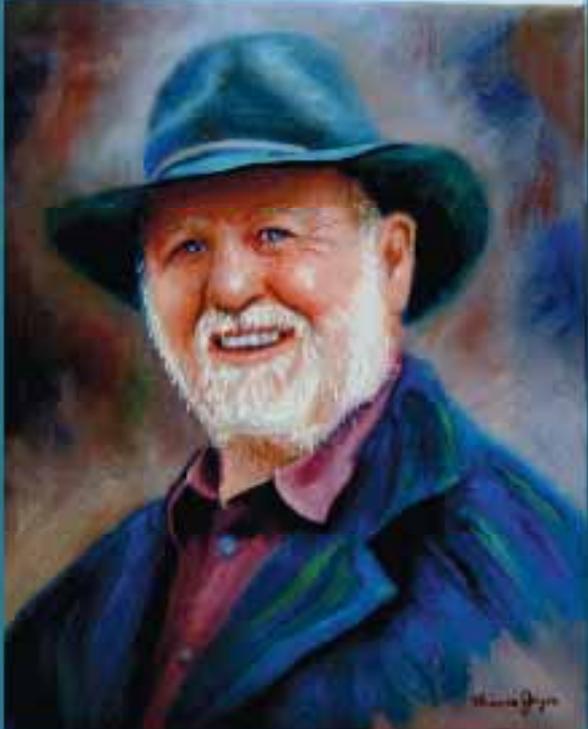
Celtic Woman & Ronan Tynan one show only

The international Irish music sensation, Celtic Woman, will play in Chicago for one performance only on July 11 at 7:30 P.M. at Charter One Pavilion at Northerly Island. They welcome very special guest and famed Irish tenor, Ronan Tynan.

Celtic Woman features 5 beautiful performers: 4 gifted vocalists Chloe, Lisa, Orla and Meav -- and Mairead, a brilliant fiddler. The group has made a tremendous impression on US audiences, quickly selling out shows at major venues such as Carnegie Hall over the past year. Ronan Tynan's singular voice and irresistible appeal have led him to strike out on his own, resulting in a successful and meaningful solo career.

Tickets are available at the Charter One Pavilion Box Office, all Ticketmaster Outlets, online at www.LiveNation.com, www.Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone at 312-559-1212. Proceeds from Charter One Pavilion will support the development of Northerly Island Nature Park. The Chicago Park District welcomes suggestions to shape Northerly Island into a world-class nature park for all Chicagoans to enjoy.

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T. Colm O'Callaghan brings a warm "Cead Mile Failte" to the Conrad Chicago

By Maureen Callahan

Last November, Chicago welcomed a new hotel to its River North Area. The modern and luxurious Conrad Hotel now occupies the former site of Le Meridian Hotel at 521 North Rush Street. The ideal location, originally the historic McGraw-Hill publishing building, makes it a perfect place for out-of-town guests to enjoy Chicago. The Conrad is connected to the Nordstrom and Westfield North Bridge shopping center, with the hotel actually occupying the 5th to 17th floors.

Behind the hotel's huge renovation project is general manager T. Colm O'Callaghan, most recently the former manager of The Peninsula Chicago. Colm brings greater than 20 years of hotel management experience with him to the Conrad. Besides credentials spanning stateside from the St. Regis in New York to the Mandarin Oriental in San Francisco, Colm also gained a

valuable European perspective through working in hotels in England and Switzerland. He holds degrees both from the Shannon College of Hotel Management and a graduate certificate from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Perhaps his most valuable knowledge, however, came from his earliest vocation. The important lessons of "being honest, down to earth and looking after people," necessary to succeed in this business stem from his family's 15 room inn, the Failte on Cottage Street in Killarney, Ireland. His father still works behind the bar and his mother in the restaurant. "I learned very early that if you hire the right person for the job and train him or her well, you see success." As for his crew at the Conrad, "I was lucky to come into such a fantastic group of talented people," he says.

With 311 guest rooms and 33

suites, the Conrad ensures a classy respite for the weary traveler. When the renovations are complete, all rooms will have plasma HD televisions, 500 thread-count Pratesi bed linens, towels and bathrobes, wine and champagne glasses and hi-fi Bose 3-2-1 entertainment systems. iPod docking stations and Xbox 360 game consoles are also available upon request.

The Restaurant at Conrad is full service and open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., offering a fusion of international cuisine. Celebrate la joie de vivre with a chocolate martini or choose from a

selection of wines at the Rendez-Vous lounge right off of the main lobby. Enjoy the view and nice weather with global tapas on The Terrace at Conrad, open May through September. This brand new, beautiful outdoor addition to the building is a perfect warm-weather spot to meet for drinks en plein air.

The Conrad is an ideal and convenient place for meetings and events. 12 meeting rooms all named for various French cities add up to greater than 13,000 square feet of meeting space. The executive boardroom, Avignon, offers a 42 inch plasma screen TV and

oversized leather chairs. The hotel also offers a full-service business center and wireless Internet access from all public areas. The menu options vary greatly to avoid culinary monotony during multi-day meetings. Besides a functional meeting space, the Conrad is a stylish setting for a wedding ceremony or reception, rehearsal dinner or brunch. The French architecturally designed Ile-de-France grand ballroom can accommodate up to 180 guests for a seated dinner. Plans to expand the ballroom to include a beautiful view of the city are in motion.



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Healy Law

By Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Senior Partner



any business, are for-profit entities, not charities. Therefore, they may attempt to minimize the nature and/or extent of your injury. You would be well served to seek legal advice to ensure you receive full and fair worker's compensation benefits.

Who Will Help Pay Passenger's Medical Bills?

Q: Recently, my son was a passenger in a friend's car when the car was in an accident. The car was struck by another car whose driver was apparently drinking. My son broke his leg and had surgery requiring a steel rod to be inserted. The medical bills are mounting fast and our health insurance is only paying 80%. Are there other ways to pay these bills?

A: Yes. This presents a classic multi-liability scenario. Depending on the unique facts of your case, there could be multiple sources of recovery: the other driver who was drinking, the drinking establishment who served that other driver, the driver of the car in which your son was a passenger, and your son's own (or your own if he is a dependent living in your home) insurance policy's uninsured or underinsured motorist and medical payment provisions.

If there is evidence that indicates that the other driver failed to obey traffic laws, then some liability will be attributed to him. If there is evidence that the other driver was drinking, this is even more reason to attribute liability to him. If the other driver was over-served

at a tavern prior to the accident, then the tavern might be partially responsible.

If there is evidence that the driver of the car in which your son was a passenger failed to obey traffic laws, then the driver may be partially liable to his passengers for their injuries.

However, even if the driver, the other driver, and the tavern are partially liable, they may be unable to fully compensate (through their own insurance or otherwise) your son for his injuries. If so, then the underinsured (UIM) provision of your son's auto insurance policy is triggered. In Illinois, when one purchases auto insurance, he or she must be offered UIM coverage. Your son should seek UIM coverage when the at-fault party or parties have inadequate coverage to pay for his injuries.

Keep in mind that the medical

payments coverage provision in an auto insurance policy is also available. Typically, medical payment coverage is much smaller, often between \$5,000 and \$50,000, but it is readily accessible to an injured party because it is paid out regardless of who is at fault.

If after reading your insurance policy, you find yourself dizzy, forward it to your attorney and he or she can make sense of it.

This general discussion of rights and responsibilities in worker's compensation claims and personal injury actions should not be considered a substitute for individual legal advice.

By: Matthew Healy,
The Healy Law Firm
Matthew is a newer associate attorney at the Healy Law Firm. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame, B.A. cum laude and the University of Illinois, J.D.

This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. Each month we will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

The Healy Law Firm is comprised of nine trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyLawFirm.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law. The following are answers to questions that may be of interest:

Employer Initially Generous, Then...

Q: I injured my lower back while lifting heavy equipment at work. I immediately reported the injury to my supervisor. That day he took me to the company doctor and that doctor recommended I not return to work until I recover. My employer has been fairly good to me: they paid me a portion of my usual paycheck and covered some of my medical bills, but I have heard nothing further from them. After some physical therapy, my own doctor told me this was as good as my back was going to get. I have since returned to work but my back is just not as stable or strong as it used to be. What are my rights?

A: First of all, your employer (or employer's insurer) did the right thing under worker's compensation law by paying you wages while you were off work due to an on-the-job injury. If your employer paid you two-thirds of your average weekly wage, based on your wages for the period of 52 weeks before the date of the occurrence, then you have received the correct amount to which you are entitled under the law. Any amount less is inadequate under the law. In addition, some employees (e.g. City of Chicago and Cook County) get pension benefits which are added on to the two-thirds from the employer.

Second, if your employer is not disputing that your injury was job-related, nor disputing the extent of your injury, then the employer should cover the medical expenses related to that injury. Under no circumstances should the employee be required to pay medical expenses for undisputed work-related injuries.

Third, if your doctor believes that your injury is permanent, then you are entitled to a permanency award. Typically, doctors rely on tests such as MRIs and CT scans, and to a lesser extent, X-rays, to best determine objective evidence of permanency. For example, objective evidence of a herniated disk in the lower back is more likely to be

seen on an MRI rather than an X-ray. Although MRIs are more expensive than X-rays, they tend to show the extent of an injury in greater detail. If the test results are positive, your doctor will likely give an opinion that your job-related injury is permanent. Under this scenario, your employer is responsible for this disability and you will be entitled to a settlement or an award for permanency.

If you have sustained a permanent injury, it is in your best interests to retain an attorney who specialized in this field to advise you of the fair value of your claim.

Note that employer's insurers, like

IAHC art exhibit ends July 10

The IAHC presents the pastel paintings and drawings of artist Alice McMahon White. Her exhibit, Green Groves of Erin, runs from June 15-July 10 in the IAHC Gallery.

Alice McMahon White's paintings and drawings are a celebration of a culture caught between the ancient and the modern and of the Diaspora in Chicago. She lives in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago, has a studio in the Fine Arts Building and is a member of the Fine Arts Building Gallery. Her portraits and landscapes are in numerous collections and have been exhibited and won awards in regional, national and international exhibitions. She studied art at St. Xavier University.

Green Groves of Erin runs from June 15-July 10 on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm and during the week by appointment. The center is at 4626 North Knox Avenue. 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



SUMMER EVENING of TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC
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A Word With Father Boland



The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Administrator, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

We'll call him Joe. He is a combat veteran who lived in his van in the woods or at shelters, halfway houses or a friend's place for several years. He was in and out of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs substance abuse programs and had been diagnosed with depression and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). He frequently needed VA or emergency room services. Because he was rarely sober, Joe could not stay in most shelters and did not qualify for a transitional or long-term housing program. His health was deteriorating.

Recently, thanks to our new program for the chronically homeless based on the "housing first" concept, Catholic Charities Lake County Services took Joe out of the forest preserves and put him in an apartment—before he entered a substance abuse program. This "home of his own" provided him such stability that he underwent treatment for alcohol addiction, and is on his way back to living independently with his dignity restored. He hasn't visited an emergency room since.

Reaching out to the homeless has been a long tradition at Catholic Charities. Just before our founding in 1917, Cardinal Mundelein established the Mission of the Holy Cross in the West Loop to house the homeless men of Skid Row in what became Catholic Charities' first headquarters. There it was that Monsignor Ignatius McDermott launched his ministry to the street homeless in the 1940s.

For decades, Catholic Charities has housed homeless families and individuals in our shelters, and welcomed women and men in recovery from substance abuse to our Forever Free and Cooke's Manor residences in Chicago and suburbs.

Today, in our "New Hope Apartments" throughout the suburbs, we house 150 formerly homeless families who experienced financial, family or health disasters, as they achieve employment, learn to budget, and solve their problems. Our case workers walk with these families every step of the way. As each family becomes independent and self-sufficient, we find an additional apartment to furnish for another family that needs a new start.

Unfortunately, the numbers of homeless individuals are on the rise and so are the costs of caring for them if they stay on the street. In addition to the Gospel mandate to shelter the

homeless, there is a great cost-benefit to the community in helping the homeless to become housed. Experience shows that in a case like Joe's, for example, it is 10 times cheaper for government and community agencies to pay for his rent and social services in the course of a year, than to pay for his recurrent trips to the emergency room.

According to a Chicago Continuum of Care survey conducted last December, 9,687 people were estimated to be homeless in the city of Chicago at any given point in time. As Catholic Charities and other agencies can attest, the most difficult population to reach and to help is the 26 percent—or 2,531 homeless persons—who, like Joe, reside on the streets or in public spaces such as parks, abandoned buildings, public transportation or vehicles. Sixteen percent or 276 of "street homeless" are veterans.

In the last four years, we have met many of these "street homeless" persons at our weekly suppers for 130 hungry and homeless men and women. During this time, Catholic Charities has searched with other community agencies for a new way to care for the street homeless. We believe that our innovative "Streets to Home" program is an effective solution. Through this outreach, we can offer chronically homeless people a fresh start in life—by establishing them in an apartment as the first step. Fifteen individuals are now reclaiming their lives in Catholic Charities' Lake County program, and the first 12 of 25 Catholic Charities "Streets to Home" clients in the Chicago area are already in their apartments.

Most of us with secure housing may take it for granted, but the foundation of renewed health and stability for each homeless person is a home. For Joe it is a safe, private studio apartment, for which he pays 30% of the rent from his Social Security. Catholic Charities worked out the lease between Joe, the landlord and the Chicago non-profit funding agency paying the remainder of the rent. Catholic Charities provides the furniture, food and case management services.

The chronically homeless lose more than their homes. They literally lose their identity. One of the first jobs of each Catholic Charities case manager is to help his client regain his or her identity. The ordinary, necessary documents lost in the disorganization of homelessness need to be re-applied

for: birth certificate, driver's license, Social Security card, health insurance, bus pass, and others that require a permanent address. With these documents, formerly homeless individuals like Joe can re-assert their membership in the community, and once again access all the rights and privileges that go with it.

With the help of the Catholic Charities case manager, who meets frequently with each client, and guides the process, each formerly homeless person gradually re-learns independent living skills: to care for himself and organize his life. A schedule is set up for each participant: food shopping, doctor and dentist visits, counseling appointments, recovery meetings, attendance at our Tuesday Night Suppers. It may take months, but eventually renewed health and the firm structure of supportive services will help Joe and his companions develop the confidence to become completely self-sufficient and re-integrated into society.

The Catholic Charities "Streets to Home" program seeks out the homeless who are in most desperate need of housing. Our mission has always been to serve the poorest of the poor—the least fortunate. The people who

are called "the street homeless" fit that description.

As the director of the "Streets to Home" program points out: "I think the mission of Catholic Charities is a 'second chance!' And here's an excellent opportunity for us to give this popula-

tion a second chance to get on their feet and be successful citizens!"

New twin sheets, new towels and flatware are urgently needed items for Catholic Charities' "Streets to Home" program. To donate, please call: 312-655-7138.

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MICK

By Mike Morley



Winners of the "Who's in this Photo" are Bernard Brice and Dierdre Fennessey who said it was Whitey Bolger in the photo running in place of mine in the last few issues.

Bring Back The Tans

A while back I ran across a piece in "Scotland on Sunday" on plans being hatched by the INA. This little-known group is hoping to mount a mass campaign in the UK. Are we witnessing the rise of an "Irish Nationalist Army"? This group is far from undercover.

The article by Nicola Byrne was about a group of Irish naturists protesting against the Irish government, which they claim is giving them a "raw deal". Ireland is the only country in Europe which still bans nude bathing, and the Irish Naturist Association wanted a change in the law... a return to natural law, if you will.

I haven't seen any follow-up news on the campaign; so I'm assuming that unless the nudists decided to

go completely under wraps, we might be victims of yet another British press cover-up. Then again, it could be the enthusiasm of INA members for further exposure has simply... petered out.

The INA has been around for over 30 years, making it a product of the swingin' seventies, and acts as an "umbrella" organization for various smaller groups of sun worshipers. How many members are under the umbrella? About 1000 are claimed. Back in '03 the Irish Tourist Board was reportedly "bombarded with e-mails from hundreds of nudists living in Ireland and across the continent" urging the board to help designate a beach "for those in search of an all-body tan". They hoped the tourist board would push local authorities to designate a nudist beach that would attract tourists from "France, Holland and Germany, which have a combined total of 4.6 million registered naturists". For free-lancers, the Irish Naturist Association warns that in Ireland it is considered an offence, "both under statute and at common law, for a man or a woman to expose him or herself in a public place, including private lands seen from a public place". There

are no beaches or other public places officially approved for the practice of naturism there. So the INA accepts no responsibility if you get pinched.

Nevertheless, no INA member has yet been prosecuted. The peelers don't appear interested in taking action against those who choose to peel their textiles "in a responsible and considerate manner". The group warns that responsible nude swimming or sunbathing means the use of a recommended bathing place or a suitably secluded area. The "considerate" aspect is not spelled out, but I imagine an honest reality check would help. You may fancy yourself a Roger Moore, when those around you see a Michael Moore.

The INA lists some interestingly named Irish beaches that are suitable for activities in the full Monty vein. Inch: This beach with the very modest handle is aptly located on the Dingle peninsula. The books say it is more than two miles long, backed by sand dunes, and one of the best in Ireland. You are advised to walk about half a mile or so to get beyond tiresome "textile" bathers.

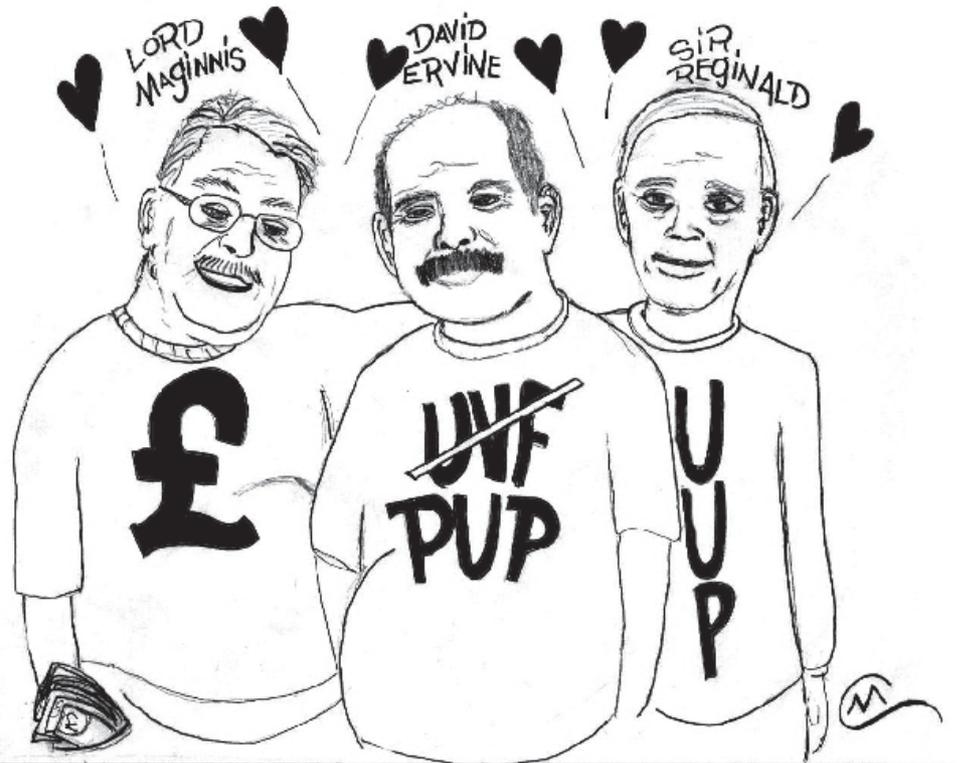
Curraclloe: north of Wexford on the R741 road. Walk down to the sand dunes. Advice-"You can go nude here without any problems."

Ballinoulart: west of Gorey on R742 through Kilmuckridge village toward Courtown. Advice-"You can go nude almost anywhere here, it's a very quiet beach but well worth a visit".

Dollymount: an encouraging name, 3km from Dublin City Centre, half way along the peninsula via St. Annes Causeway.

Balbriggan: perhaps not quite so encouragingly named. Going north on the N1 Dublin to Belfast road, take the second exit to Balbriggan.

Hundreds reportedly break the law by stripping during the summer at some 20 beaches around the country. INA president Pat Gallagher said a nude beach in Ireland is long overdue and would attract thousands



By Colin

PUP Love

of overseas visitors every year. "Irish tourism is missing out on a great opportunity... Lots of Europeans would love to come here, play a round of golf and then retire to a nude beach. That's why we've asked them to flood the tourist board with e-mails."

Nudity was made for sports. What's nudism without volleyball? In fact, the word "gymnasium" comes from the Greek "gymnos," meaning "nude", because athletes there routinely practiced and performed naked. There's another idea to pump up flagging attendance at sporting events.

Elsewhere in Europe are resorts that take their nudity seriously. Want to bank in the nude? Eat naked? Cap d'Age is the French naked city for you. Clothing on the beach there is actually banned, and optional everywhere else.

Frank Quilter, a Kerry businessman also involved in the INA campaign, claimed that Irish tourist bosses are missing out on a chance to give their business a big boost. (I'd say he's not far from the mark there.) "All they seem to talk about is heritage centers," he said. "I don't think anyone packs their bag and says, 'I can't wait to get to Ireland to visit a heritage center'." "But if there was a nudist beach, they really would be in a hurry to get here. There's nothing perverted about it, it's totally natural, and respectable members of the community are involved." (Getting to see some respectable members would surely be a big draw.)

Soon after his financial affairs were exposed by the McCracken tribunal, the late Charles Haughey tried to rent his island, Inisvickillane, as a nudist colony. It seemed a proper turnabout. When exposed; give the exposers a fair chance in the spotlight as well.

Listing with an exclusive London leasing agency, Mr. Haughey offered potential clients an opportunity, at £10,000. a pop, to "live like a noble Celtic chieftain for a week". He didn't find any takers, and to cover the tax bills resulting from the Moriarty tribunal, had to sell his entire Kinsealy mansion and estate for €45 million.

Blue Men Group: Speaking of Celtic chieftains, in Roman times Celtic warriors traditionally strode into battle naked, their bodies painted blue... perhaps a handy tactic to relieve the heat of battle. Mel Gibson wore blue face paint in "Braveheart", although he and his clansmen also wore kilts and animal skins. Had Gibson set his tale in the earlier epoch, he'd have saved a bundle on wardrobe.

Such pagan displays were frowned upon by the early Church. But that attitude may be changing. The INA claims to actually have the backing of four nudist priests. Judas Priest!

Watch IRISH TV JOURNAL: Chicago-All cable systems: Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM; Comcast- (Elmhurst billing) 41 West suburbs - Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30 PM; Comcast- (Skokie billing) 24 North suburbs- Ch. 19 (or 35): Tuesday, 6PM -- E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net © Mike Morley 2006

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Born in Dublin, Pat began playing traditional Irish music at age 12. While in Ireland, he was a member of the bands An Beal Bocht, which toured Europe with the Chieftains, In Tua Nua and Cry Before Dawn.

In Chicago, Pat performs with the groups Bohola and Moore & Broaders, and has performed and recorded with Liz Carroll, Dennis Cahill, Kat Eggleston, Martin Hayes, Larry Nugent, Paddy O'Brien, Robbie O'Connell and John Williams.

"Pat Broaders is an outstanding Uilleann piper in addition to being one of the finest Irish bouzouki players and singers in Irish trad today." - Irish American News

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Kerry Association Elects Officers

The Kerry Association of Chicago held its 27th Annual Convention and Election of Officers on Sunday, February 26, 2006. This year's officers are as follows: Chaplain, Fr. Dan O'Sullivan; Honorary President, John Fitzmaurice; President, John O'Connell; Vice President, T.J. Daly; Recording Secretary, Patricia Griffin; Corresponding Secretary, Patricia O'Connell; Treasurer, John Carmody; Assistant Treasurer, Bridie Murphy; Warden, John Joe Griffin; Trustees, Mike Moran and Gerry Gorman.

President O'Connell thanked all of the members for their continuous support of all of the club functions throughout the year. He thanked outgoing officer Nora Cooke for her help not only while in office but also whenever she is called upon. Nearly two hundred members were in atten-

dance at the Convention that was held at Chicago Gaelic Park. After voting for the election of officers the members continued the evening with dinner and dancing.

On March 12, the Kerry Association was honored to have the Mayor of Kerry, Toireasa Ferris join them on their float in the Southside St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mayor Ferris and her entourage were greatly impressed with the parade and the celebrations being held in Chicago. She said the people of Ireland could learn from the celebrations being held in this country for St. Patrick's Day. She attended the Mass and Breakfast at Gaelic Park, visited the Irish Heritage Center and several of the sights in downtown Chicago. The Officers of the Kerry Association made a presentation to Mayor Ferris at a dinner held in her honor. After leaving



Left to right: Mike Moran, Patricia O'Connell, John Carmody, Bridie Murphy, Toireasa Ferris (Mayor of Kerry), Patricia Griffin, Jerry Gorman, John Fitzmaurice, John Joe Griffin, Bill Devitt, (front): John O'Connell, T.J. Daly.

Catskills Irish Arts Week July 10-14

Every July the Irish American hamlet of East Durham, New York becomes the Mecca of traditional Irish Music and Dance in North America for the Catskills Irish Arts Week. The prestigious summer school runs from July 10-14 featuring over 60 classes in traditional music, song, dance and Celtic crafts. In addition to the classes there are daily concerts at the Michael J. Quill Festival Grounds and dances - called Ceilithe (kaylees) along with multiple music sessions throughout most of the Irish resorts and roadhouses in the greater East Durham area that are also open to the general public beyond the registered students. Admission is just \$10 for the evening concerts and dances. Daily lectures on the music

of Clare, Sligo, Sliabh Luachra and Boston will be offered. The largest school of its kind in North America invites the finest teachers from Ireland and the United States who are well known in the traditional community as both teachers and performers creating a true cultural Crossroads. From Ireland fiddlers Matt Cranitch and Maevie Donnelly are returning as teachers as are Jackie Daly and David Munnely on accordions, Micheal O'Raghallaigh on concertina, June McCormack and Catherine McEvoy on flutes and Michael Rooney on harp. Tim Denehy and Muireann nic Amhbloaich will teach singing in Irish and English and Dancing Masters Mick Mulkerrin and Mairead Casey will do set dance

Welsh Events

August 25th, 12:15pm; The Penrhyn Welsh Male Voice Choir, The Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street, Chicago

See the choir on the first of their Chicago dates at the free lunchtime concert.

August 27th, 7:00pm; The Penrhyn Welsh Male Voice Choir,

Berry Memorial United Church, 4754 N. Leavitt St, Chicago

See the choir perform at this beautiful Lincoln Park area church, proceeds to benefit the Lincoln Square Arts Center. Tickets are only \$10; call 773-275-7930 for availability.

The Penrhyn Choir are no strangers to Chicago (although it's been far too long)! Their first performance here was in 1893 at the Columbian World Exposition, where they competed against the Mormon Tabernacle choir (among many others) in the first Eisteddfod held outside of Wales. In 1993 they returned to Chicago to take part in the centenary celebration of the world fair

at Chicago's 4th Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue.

This year, the choir will be performing two concerts in Chicago. The first will be a free lunchtime show at the Chicago Cultural Center on the corner of Michigan and Randolph on Friday August 25th, and the second will be on Sunday August 27th at 7:00pm at Berry Methodist Church (4754 North Leavitt Street, Chicago) as a fundraiser for the Lincoln Square Arts Center. Tickets are only \$10; call 773-275-7930 for availability.

August 26th, 6:00pm (location TBA)

The 3rd Annual Chicago Celtic Cousins Pub Night

August 26th will be our 3rd annual pan Celtic get-together with our friends in the Irish, Scottish, Cornish, Breton and Manx societies. Welsh musicians Hogia'r Bonc are scheduled to perform at the event, which has proven to be a great way to bring us all together, young and old, and celebrate our Celtic heritage.

Chicago Mayor Ferris was attending celebrations in Springfield, Massachusetts, Boston and New York.

The Kerry Assn. would like to

remind members and friends about their Annual Raffle Dance on Friday, July 21, 2006 at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th St. in Oak Forest, IL.

Tickets for the raffle can be purchased from John O'Connell-(708) 489-6727, T.J. Daly-(815) 469-1973 or any officer of the club.

and sean nos (old style) step dancing. Senior musicians Chris Droney from County Clare, Peter Horan from County Sligo and Josephine Keegan will also be our special guests at the Summer School this year in recognition of their lifelong achievements.

A spotlight on the Boston area will be a highlight with Seamus Connolly, Robbie O'Connell, Bridget Fitzgerald, Aoife Clancy, Jimmy Noonan, Writer Aine Greaney and Boston Comhaltas

Ceili Band featuring Larry Reynolds all making an appearance. Boston dance teachers Ger Cooney (sets) and Kieran Jordan (ceili and Cape Breton) will be there along with Beth Sweeney of the Boston College Irish Music Archive.

An outstanding array of American teachers led by Joanie Madden, Tony Demarco, Billy McComiskey, Myron Bretholz, Willie Kelly, Mary Coogan, Patrick Ourceau and many more will be on hand. Stepdancer Donny Golden will

teach and perform. A children's program is also available during class times.

Saturday, from 12 noon until 8 p.m. the stellar faculty will be joined by the David Munnely Band, Chulrua, Draught, Brian Conway, Boston Comhaltas and the Sean O' Riada CCE from Albany and local Catskill Dance School Scoil Rince Christ an Ri. Admission \$15, free to for 12 and under.

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fogarty For The Republic

By Chris Fogarty



Why Ireland Is Unfree, Cont'd
I believe that this column's purpose (education) is best advanced this month by ceding its space to the following oration at the grave of Wolfe Tone in Bodinstown, Co. Kildare this June 11. The corporate news media will not publish it as it constitutes a true report on Ireland's current status. Save it. It was authored and delivered by Dr. Seán Maguire, son of the late Comdt-General Tom Maguire, last faithful survivor of the Second Dáil Eireann.

A cháirdé:
"We have come to the holiest place in Ireland: holier to us than the place where Patrick sleeps in Down. Patrick brought us life, but this man died for us. And though many before him and some since have died in testimony of the truth of Ireland's claim to nationhood Wolfe Tone was the greatest of all that have died for Ireland whether in old time or in new. He was the greatest of Irish nationalists. I believe he was the greatest of Irish men. And if I am right in this I am right in saying that we stand in the holiest place in Ireland and the holiest sod of a nation's soil is the sod where the greatest of her dead lies buried."

That is the first paragraph of the address delivered by Pádraig Pearse at this spot on June 12, 1913.

Pearse spoke again in Glasnevin Cemetery on August 1915 at the grave of another unconquerable man, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. During that address he said; "Our foes are strong and wise and wary, but strong and wise and wary as they are they cannot undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men the seeds sown by the young men of another generation."

Pearse continued; "Life springs from death, and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations."

At Wolfe Tone's grave we are at

the source of all of the seeds sown by all of the generations and we have the unbroken sequence of loyalty and fidelity to Tone's teachings right down to the present day.

Tone had a close friend and comrade, Thomas Russell, a Cork Protestant who is remembered in the famous ballad as "The Man From God Knows Where." He was interned without trial in the 1790s and was with Emmet who sent him to the North to organize the 1803 Rising there.

Those are the first three links in the chain; Tone, Russell, and Emmet. Michael Dwyer carried on in Co. Wicklow.

Thomas Davis, the Young Irelander, visited Bodinstown and found Tone's grave unmarked but guarded by the local blacksmith who would allow nobody to set foot on it. The blacksmiths were one group who suffered excessively in '98 because it was they who made the pikes. Through the blacksmiths we have the connection and sequence with the local people - unbroken all the time.

Tone was captured on a French warship in Lough Swilly, brought to Dublin and sentenced to death. While he was awaiting execution his captors made a botched attempt to cut his throat and tried to brand him as a suicide, a travesty which I do not believe. They tried to destroy his character as well as his body. They adopted the same manoeuvre with Roger Casement later on.

When Tone's body was released for burial an attempt was made to keep the people away. It failed. The people would not tolerate his body being hijacked. The same treatment was given to Terence MacSwiney. His funeral was hijacked also and we saw the same in our own day in the case of Frank Stagg.

Davis, a Young Irelander, was here. The Fenians were here and that brings us to Pearse as I have said already.

We know Pearse's faithful disciples, Liam Mellows, Brian O'Higgins, Mrs. Margaret Buckley and Miss Mary MacSwiney, Seán Russell and Dáithí O Conaill, among others, spoke here. (I, too, once had that honor. CF)

Pearse proclaimed the Republic at Easter, 1916. The Proclamation was ratified by the people in the 1918 election and the deputies assembled in the Mansion House in January, 1919. This was the first Dáil Eireann. It was the functioning sovereign Parliament of the 32 Counties.

There was another election in 1921, which elected the Second Dáil Eireann. There were six women elected to it. The members - Teachta Dála - swore to defend the Republic against all enemies foreign and domestic. The term, Dáil Eireann, by definition refers to the sovereign parliament of the 32 County United Ireland. The present occupants of Leinster House call themselves the 29th Dáil Eireann when, in fact, they are the 27th 26-County Assembly.

The second Dáil Eireann voted on the Treaty of 1921 and by a majority of seven voted to accept that Treaty which would give them a Home Rule type of government with the King of England at its head. Those who voted for the Treaty reneged on their oath which was freely given and thereby committed perjury which was and is a poor foundation for any enterprise, and signs on them. None of the six women voted for the Treaty.

The faithful members of the Second Dáil continued the sequence that had been legitimately established and kept their unbroken links and sequence back to Wolfe Tone. They continued to strive to achieve his motto "to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all of our political evils and to unite Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter."

Permit me an interesting deviation. In 1983 Brian Inglis wrote a book on Roger Casement. The book was reviewed by AJP Taylor, Professor of History at Oxford University. This is what he wrote; "Here is Casement's message for the present day. There is no Irish problem without solution. The problem that had marked Ireland for centuries is the British presence in Ireland. That problem can be solved only by British withdrawal." That is an independent Englishman's opinion.

Having reneged on the Republic, the Free State assembly attacked the faithful Republican forces in the Four Courts and released the Free State Reign of Terror. The Republican Sinn Féin members of the Second Dáil continued to meet and organize but life was not easy and numbers began to dwindle as deaths took place. In 1938 at a Sinn Féin meeting Miss Mary MacSwiney proposed that the authority of the

Second (All-Ireland) Dáil be passed on to the Army Council of the Irish Republican Army. This is a procedure recognized in international law, that when a legitimate government is under attack it can transfer its powers.

The speaker here in Bodinstown in 1930 was one of the faithful members who voted for Miss MacSwiney's motion. He lived on to become the last surviving member of Second (All-Ireland) Dáil Eireann. In 1969 he endorsed the Provisional Movement but when the Provisionals reneged and became the partitionist party that endorsement was promptly withdrawn in 1986. He recognized and endorsed the Continuity Movement as the successors of the Second (All-Ireland) Dáil Eireann and the lineal descendants of 1916, 1867, 1848, 1803 and 1798, right back to Wolfe Tone.

One of the arguments in favour of accepting the Treaty of Surrender is that the Irish Republican Army would be unable to carry on the fight any longer. Dom Brian Murphy OSB in his book Patrick Pearse and the Lost Republican Ideal refuted this theory and quoted from IRA leaders in the south and west and he also quotes a memorandum from the British Army Commander, General Macready, to the British Cabinet, written on May 23, 1921: "I am convinced that by October, unless a peaceful solution has been reached, it will not be safe to ask the troops to continue there another winter under the conditions which obtained during the last."

The 25th anniversary of the Belfast hunger strike is with us, and those who reneged on Republicanism and became Stormont parliamentarians tell us that the hunger strikers were the beginning of their moves to accept the Good Friday surrender. Who do these persons think they are that they can deceive people into their way of thinking? No matter how often Mr. Adams and his hangers-on perform the Pontius Pilate manoeuvre and wash their hands in public they will convince nobody that Bobby Sands and his comrades died on hunger strike rather than wear a prison uniform no more than he died on hunger strike in order that young men and women could join the RUC/PSNI and wear a peeler's uniform.

Participation in a partition parliament attempts to deny the sovereignty of the Irish people. Sovereignty is unalienable and cannot be voted away no matter how great the majority.

The referendum which purports to withdraw the claim to the Six Counties is invalid because the Six Counties are an integral part of the ancient Irish nation. The Six Counties are as much a part of Cricoch Foghla as any other county.

Mr. Adams must try again because,

to quote an American aphorism, you can't fool all of the people all of the time. My only comment is what Pearse said; "Let no man blaspheme the cause that the dead generations of Ireland served." We can trace back through all the years and all of the vicissitudes right back to Wolfe Tone. The chain is unbroken and it behoves us as faithful inheritors of a glorious past to pass on our inheritance clean and unsullied to our children and grandchildren and generations to come.

Let the generations be able to look back on us and say they were faithful and they left us a priceless legacy.

We saw that Thomas Russell and his comrades were prisoners during the 1790s, and today we have Republicans held as prisoners in both partitioned areas of our country. We send them our warmest greetings and we will remain faithful to the principles for which they are suffering. ENDS. (I suggest that this is an historic oration whose value will become more apparent as time passes.)

Among The Hero-prisoners Dr. Maguire refers to is Michael McKeivitt who was framed by MI5, Chicago FBI agent Patrick "Ed" Buckley and Buckley's mole, David Rupert. Key "witness" Rupert was described as "a lifelong criminal" by NY State police in a sworn affidavit. Before double-agent Buckley went to Ireland for his MI5 handlers in the '90s he had terrorized Irish Chicago, especially its undocumented Irish immigrants. He unsuccessfully framed my Mary, two others and me in US Case 91CR911 He had earlier attempted to frame me for the massacre of the Langert family in Winnetka while covering for the perpetrator, David Biro, whose murder weapon was FBI agent Lewis's 357 Magnum. Biro saved me by blabbing through his FBI cover to Life Without Parole. Like those republicans imprisoned in both parts of partitioned Ireland, we seek justice.

So Does Patrick Cullinane

From earlier columns you will remember how ex-Limerickman, Patrick Cullinane was robbed of his residence in London by Britain's Inland Revenue (its IRS). He has forwarded a copy of a letter he received from the Mayor of London. In it the Mayor informs Mr. Cullinane that "it is beyond his powers to intervene in this type of matter." But the mayor suggests a course of action and highlighted Mr. Cullinane's complaint by incorporating it in bolded type in the body of his letter. That constructive act exemplifies the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone. Who can forget how he came to Chicago in 1989 and testified at an Illinois Senate hearing in favor of passage of the MacBride Principles. Bravo Mayor Livingstone! So what if your foes smear you as "Red Ken"?



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SHARING A PINT

By Scott Powers

American history has never seemed all that interesting.

Maybe it's because it was the subject forced upon me through boring textbooks and teachers who I viewed as the enemy. Yes, I now realize the value of an education, and yes, I'm grateful to have it, but no, I still would never repeat the

— I was introduced to Cathal Liam and his newest novel, *Blood On The Shamrock*, a historical fiction about Ireland's Civil War.

Because Liam is based in Cincinnati, we were unable to get together for a literal Sharing a Pint, but through the phone we shared figurative ones.

be rough on the eyes. Liam mixed it to perfection.

When I picked up the book, my main desire was for the history. Michael Collins, Eamon de Valera, the negotiations with the British and the civil war were the topics that interested me. I wanted more knowledge of the period. I was pleased to discover that was what Liam pushed.

The historical events, the dates, the people involved ... I got what I wanted. But at the same time, I was entertained by the fictional side of

their curiosity and hopefully interest them to read more about it."

"I've had people come up to me and say, 'My grandfather lived through that, but never spoke about it. I'm going to go back and ask him about it.' That feels good."

Since Liam began the first book in 1995, he never stopped writing the series. The first book took five years and the second just as long. He also had a collection of various stories, essays and poems published in a book called *Forever Green: Ireland Now & Again* dur-

ing that time.

Now that he's done with the series, he has a few ideas that he's already working on. A biography of Tom Cullen, a close friend to Michael Collins, is among the possibilities.

It's sure to be something I'd be interested in reading ... well, as long as he doesn't assign it to me.

Blood on the Shamrock and Cathal Liam's other books are available on Amazon.com and other book online sites. It can also be ordered and purchased at your local bookstore. Personally-signed copies are available at www.cathalliam.com, his personal Web site that also includes more information about the author and his books.

If you have any comments or suggestions for a Sharing a Pint, e-mail Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.



← Since Scott couldn't share a pint with Cathal Liam, we thought we would show Cathal "Sharing a Pint" with some of his friends. Pictured (l to r): John Fitzgerald, Ilene Moss, Dan Lynch, Rita Fitzgerald, Edmund Sullivan and Cathal Liam at Sam Maguire's in Orland Park, IL.

process. To this day — more than five years out of the classroom — I'm still haunted by school-related nightmares.

(If my parents who paid for my education are reading this, they can skip the following paragraph. By the way, I love you.)

Reading, writing and arithmetic were as I saw it mandatory tasks ordered by dictators, otherwise known as teachers. I love to read, but never wanted to do so when it was an assignment. I'm not sure if I ever completed a book in college. I got by and that was my goal. I graduated and moved on to my journalism career.

Along these lines was how I came to be disinterested in American history and fell in love with Ireland's past. The teachers were ordering me to read U.S. stuff, so I was picking up the Irish stuff. It didn't take long for me to be hooked. *Black 47*, the 1916 Easter Rising, Michael Collins, the civil war, Northern Ireland's Troubles ... it all captivated me and the over the years has continued to fill my bookshelves.

This past month, I added a new author and book to my collection. Thanks to the recommendation of fellow IAN columnist Frank West — the authority on Irish literature

Blood On The Shamrock, which was released in June, is the follow-up to *Consumed in Freedom's Flame: A Novel of Ireland's Struggle for Freedom*. The first novel ranges from 1916-1921 and the second one takes over after the Easter Rising and the War of Independence

Centered around the life of Aran Roe O'Neil, a fictional character nicknamed "The Irish Rebel", Liam's two books weave mostly the truth (although with an Irish bias) with some fiction.

How much is true? How much is fiction?

"There are 30 pages of descriptions of historical people," said Liam, who is 65. "There are five pages of imaginary people. The book is slanted toward history."

"I like historical fiction because you can be as true and accurate with the history as you want to be. Having fiction as part of the books freed myself as a writer to allow my imaginary figures do things that the others didn't do. If I had Michael Collins do something that he didn't do, it would be a falsehood."

That's where I loved this book. While I do enjoy reading history, it can be bland at times. Facts, dates and names are important, but can

it. O'Neil, Gabriel McCracken, Richard "Shadow" Doyle and Liam's other imaginary characters brought life to the true events. They gave Collins and other historical figures people to interact with. While Collins may not have really said something to someone named Aran Roe O'Neil, Liam is able to use the dialogue to display Collins' personality and his thoughts.

"I hoped to portray Collins and the other characters as historically correct as I could," said Liam, who was born in the United States, went to school here and spent most of his adulthood in Galway before returning in 1998. "I wanted the history to come alive. It makes it interesting for people to read. They may not feel like they're reading history. They feel like it's a story. That's what history is, a story."

Liam also wrote the book to bring awareness to the time period.

"I didn't want to stir up memories of distrust or stir flames," Liam said. "I wanted to present it in a factual and human way. In Irish schooling, history stops with the War of Independence. People didn't know how to explain what happened afterward. I'm trying to open that door a wee bit to peak

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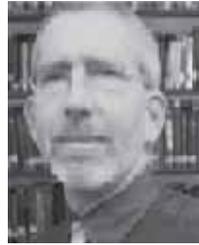
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Voice of the Immigrant

By John W. Kearns, Attorney at Law



More on the immigration front

Attorney Kearns practices immigration law and general practice from Chicago, Illinois.

We have all heard about the recent arrests of illegal workers and the business managers that employed them. Before that were stories about midnight raids at Walmarts across the country to arrest the subcontractor cleaning crews, mostly illegal workers. Before that, it was common knowledge that the immigration service would sometimes raid factories or warehouses known to employ large numbers of illegals. But that is only what was in the papers. Actually, those latest raids never stopped. The enforcement side of the immigration service, "ICE," meaning Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (including deportation officers), for example, spent quite a bit of time and personnel "helping out"

with disaster relief in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, by arresting lots of illegal Mexican workers who showed up there to find jobs in the reconstruction effort. In fact, the word is that Mexicans and other Latinos are repopulating those areas left devastated by those disasters (remember there were two hurricanes?), whose displaced populations do not seem to be returning home. This probably explains why so many deportation officers even from the Chicago office are still "out of town" and not to be found.

Now, the latest news is, in certain neighborhoods in San Diego, California, ICE officers in plain clothes and unmarked police cars, are questioning and arresting people walking down the street or watering their lawns who cannot prove legal immigration status. In a 19-day sweep, since May 26, ICE arrested 2,179 illegal immigrants, including 400 in San Diego, more than any other city. People are now afraid to walk their children to school or go out to the store. What is going on? This is the work of so-called "fugitive task forces," who are supposed to be tracking down high-priority targets, such as people with final orders of removal, and other "criminals," such as convicted child molesters, those convicted of assault, drug trafficking, kidnapping – anyone with a final order of removal or deportation or a criminal conviction. There is an estimate of 590,000 such fugitives, and so ICE has increased its fugitive task forces from 18 to 38 since last fall. There are supposed to be 52 by the end of this year, and eventually a total of 70 such fugitive task force units roaming the streets looking for fugitive immigrants. The new thing is that, as long as they are walking down the street, they are hauling away everybody they can. Enforcement is real.

Frequently Asked Question: "Will I qualify under the new amnesty when they pass it?" or "Should I drop my marriage case / asylum case / student visa NOW, because there will soon be an amnesty?" Answer: "There is no 'new amnesty'; there will not BE an amnesty; there MAY be a new program or programs for which a person may be able to qualify (after an application process, payment of substantial fines and fees, and an interview), but we do NOT know what that is or may be because it has not happened yet and may never happen. The devil will be

in the details, meaning that the final details for qualification are going to make a BIG difference about whether the new 'earned legalization' or 'guest worker' programs are to be recommended or not, or whether particular individuals will qualify or not. So should you drop whatever other application process you are currently involved in, or visa status you may be trying to maintain? Absolutely NO, for two reasons: 1.) Because there is NO new program, may never be any new program, and we aren't going to know whether you qualify for it or whether we can recommend it until it passes and Bush signs it. So you are going to need that backup plan; and 2.) You must maintain credibility, and if you drop whatever you are involved in now, why do you think the government is not going to consider it fraudulent? Or maybe you think the government won't notice that you filed papers for marriage or asylum or that you were 'studying' apparently just to maintain status without any serious intent to be a student. Or did you think that was supposed to be a joke? "Two general principles: 1.) Avoid fraud or the finding of fraud on your case. 2.) Maintain status whenever possible. Have a backup plan for when status expires.

Maintaining Credibility: In light of many clear examples of how the government treats the people, it would be extremely wise not to depend too much on any favors from Uncle Sam. Let me explain something. Suppose you have a marriage case, where you are married to an American citizen. Let us say that the marriage is not necessarily a good one, but it is a real one. If you are before the interview, let us say, for example, that you are having trouble accumulating sufficient documentation of your bona fide (real) marriage relationship, that you think you are going to have trouble at the interview. Or, if your case is post-interview, let's say that because your marriage may not be the best, the interviewer decided it also wasn't bona fide. Is that a correct decision? We have had cases where the interview itself, or the interference of the government because of the immigrant visa application process, itself, was the precipitating factor in the final breakdown of the marital relationship: "the straw that broke the camel's back."

Drop the case? (After all, maybe they will pass the amnesty this fall, right?) Answer: No. A denial of the Marriage Petition (I-130) because the Officer proclaims that you have failed to carry the burden of proving your marriage genuine, is a decision on the merits. This is a finding of fraud. They will always refer back to this case, no matter what else happens to you, and you will be forever barred for life from any immigration benefit, no matter if they pass an earned legaliza-

tion program or you later marry a U.S. citizen and have seven U.S.C. kids and a mortgage. No one can afford to let a finding of fraud stand on his or her record, without thoroughly rebutting the negative evidence or inferences, and without procedurally challenging any such finding through appeal or motions to reopen or reconsider. Rather than dropping the case, to the contrary, you have no choice but to vigorously fight for the case.

Does that mean you have to WIN the case? Does that mean you are fighting for the green card, and anything short of getting the green card will mean the finding of fraud will stand? No. Years from now, when you are standing once again in front of them and they are referring back to this file, you want to show that you did everything you could to fight the denial on the merits. At that time, you will be asked about evidence from this earlier case, and you, for example, want to have all the evidence of record that you can, and to have maintained and kept your own file on this case. It will be too late to go back and try to resurrect evidence of a bona fide relationship. And that WILL be the topic of discussion, as you sit there with your next U.S. citizen wife, seven kids and mortgage. They will not even look at the second case until they have cleared up the first case, because you must first overcome the finding of fraud.

The same principles could apply to asylum or employment cases as well. I am not speaking in abstract; I probably get about two or three consultations per day on cases like this. People with screwed up cases generally don't seem to understand that the No. 1 goal is NOT to get the green card. The No. 1 goal is to scrub the fraud, second is to get them out of the case clean, and only No. 3 is to get the green card. Nevertheless (let me be clear), getting the green card is a definite possibility if goal No. 1 is accomplished, and the parties can do what is necessary to obtain a positive decision.

Having said all that, at this stage of the consultation, the person looks at me, and exhibiting that he or she has not absorbed a word I have said, asks, "But can I just drop the case?" The answer is: "Yes! But after that you will never again be eligible for anything except removal (deportation)." So, that means the answer is "No!" There are ways to exit the case gracefully, but they all involve rebutting the negative evidence and inferences. Once you file the papers, you have got to prove the marriage. Even if you never file the papers, the government will want to know what happened. Most people at this stage do not want to hear that they now have to give one last big fight for their case. They, like so many who come to waste my time, just come to the lawyer to get a confirmation of what they want to hear,

what they have already decided. I won't give that confirmation that it is OK to "just drop" the case. That is against the person's legal best interests, meaning that the person can be awakened in the middle of the night, dragged off to jail, and then deported, all with a finding of fraud and bad moral character which will prohibit any form of relief except an expedited removal. People ask me all the time, "if they deny my marriage case, will I be put into removal proceedings?" The answer is there is no reason on God's Earth why not, but we never see it (in Chicago), as a practical matter. However, I expect to see it starting any time soon, and probably others have seen it happen where someone denied in an interview is placed into removal proceedings. After all, since ICE is walking the streets of the nation just picking off people watering their lawns, why aren't they checking adjustment denials? That day will come.

Please notice that I emphasize the importance of following through and completing the case ESPECIALLY if they pass an earned legalization program. That program might be a real answer to our prayers, so it would be a shame to not only NOT qualify for it because of a prior fraud, but to be placed into removal proceedings BECAUSE of applying for it. I see these cases now, but we will see tons of such cases if they pass a new legalization program. Like I said, PREPARE NOW for that moment, and do not expect any favors from this government. YOU have to be ready!

In a future article we will discuss Motions to reopen and if you qualify. Also we will get back on the subject of finance and investment, how to avoid taxes when you sell real estate, what's going on since they changed the bankruptcy law.

The information provided in this article should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion on any specific facts or circumstances. While the statements contained herein reflect the opinions of the author only, and not the publication or its editors, the information provided may be a summary or compilation from other sources, who are gratefully acknowledged hereby. The contents are intended for general information purposes only, and you are urged to consult with a lawyer concerning your own situation and any specific legal questions you may have.

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St. Louis Cardinals and Celts

By Mike Danahey

While the enemy of your enemy doesn't necessarily have to be your friend, Chicago White Sox fans should have a special place in their South Side hearts for the St. Louis Cardinals and their followers.

T-shirts hawked around "Busch III" (what some call the brand spanking retro-new ballpark) before the early June series with the Cubs prove the point: the North Siders are as reviled as a rival along the banks of the Mississippi as they are in Bridgeport.

All of which means Pale Hose supporters should find a trip to the Gateway City worth their while. And if you happen to be South Side Irish -- and are willing to make like urban Lewis and Clarks and explore beyond the redeveloping downtown -- you can find Celtic places for imbibing and enjoying.



Cousins Kevin and Mike Danahey seeing Red.

But back to America's pastime -- the one played on a diamond, not served in pint glasses, if at least for a few paragraphs.

Along with Cub contempt, the Sox and Cardinals share other things in common. Cardinal skipper Tony LaRussa once managed the White Sox. Sox workhorse pitcher Mark Buehrle hails from the Saint Louis area. And former Sox radio guy John Rooney now works Cards games.

In fact, at Mike Shannon's Steaks and Seafood (620 Market Street; phone: 314.421.1540; Web site: www.shannonsteak.com), just a very short walk from the stadium, named after and owned by the longtime Cardinal broadcaster) one of Buehrle's autographed jerseys is on display in a glass case, along with a signed Wheaties box from the 2005 championship season. He's friends with the Shannon family and donated the items to the restaurant's extensive collection of (mostly Cardinal) memorabilia.

Rooney, who wears his Sox World Series ring, frequently holds court in the upscale restaurant from which 550 AM, KTRS, the new talk radio home for the team, broadcasts a live remote after games (and for which you are supposed to have a dinner reservation to sit, listen and eat).

Rooney is enjoying his new gig, and says that unlike Chicago with its divided Cubs-Sox loyalties, and football's Bears seemingly taking precedence over all pro teams, St. Louis "is a baseball city."

While an Irish place in name and announcers' names, if not menu, Shannon's does, indeed, have snugs along with its steaks, the rooms named after players -- and where some come to dine.

For fans more into pounding back a brew than fine dining, the eatery has an outdoor patio area with rock and dance music and flowing taps for before and after-game festivities.

There's more of that noise to be found on the other side of the stadium, past home plate and an overpass. There you find bars similar in feel to Wrigleyville (and if that's your sort of thing you can cab it to Laclede's Landing, a river front district filled with bars and restaurants and found on the Web at www.laclede'slanding.com).

Actually, the places along and past the parking lots aren't quite as yuppie as Cubland ones. The wall-to-wallness, the booming bad 80s music make Kilroy's, The Bird House and Al Hrabosky's are more like college bars.

The party palace closest to the overpass, at 618 S. 7th Street, is

called Paddy O's (Phone: 314.588.7313), and it does serve Guinness and Smithwicks along with the pretty much required assortment of Anheuser Busch products to be found in the company's hometown.

An actual Irish place, The Dubliner Bistro & Pub, is supposed to open at 1025 Washington Ave. downtown sometime this summer. The menu will include free range chicken, which as all true Hibernians know, is a staple of the Irish diet, right there with the potato.

For other post game Celtic fun, a ride on the city's one and only MetroLink is in order. A stop is close to the ballpark, and to the Central West End it's only \$1.75. From there you can walk about 15-20 minutes to a couple Welsh pubs, Llywelyn's (4747 McPherson; phone 314-361-3003, Web site www.llywelynpub.com, and pronounced Lou Ellens) and Dressel's Pub (419 N. Euclid; phone: 314 361-1060).

Lou's is the older of the two, and at least on a recent Tuesday evening, was serving Double Dragon and playing 70s and 80s music (which you

can't seem to get away from in most places in the Midwest). At one time this pub was owned by John Dressel, who sold it, then opened Dressel's, which is just around the corner in the Central West End neighborhood (so called as it butts up against fabled Forest Park. One of the biggest urban parks in the United States,

Forest Park is 500 acres larger than Central Park in New York.)

Dressel's is like a college bar, too -- for the smart kids and the professors. After all, Dressel's GM Torre Alsup says the bar motto is "Where food loves drink and art and life embrace" -- which apparently is allowed, even though Missouri is a Red State.

The walls are lined with portraits of artists, writers, poets, Welshman, and historical figures. Jazz music plays in the background when there isn't a piano player or Celtic band. And the upstairs Gaslight Pub would be a great place to read James Joyce aloud while taking a shot of Jameson every time you can't figure out what the hell he's talking about.

Speaking of whiskey -- or more correctly whisky -- another 20 minute walk from Dressel's is The Scottish Arms (6-10 S. Sarah St.; phone: 314.535.0551; Web site: www.thescottisharms.com) which way back in the day was an Italian watering hole.

Another sign of St. Louis' redevelopment, the Arms is about a year old, which makes it significantly younger than most of the 100 whiskies owner Alastair Nisbet keeps on hand. Those include 88 single malts, among them a 1975, \$800 bottle of Bowmore, the nectar of the Highlands.

An Aberdeen expat, Nisbet is happy to show you the breathing technique for savoring whisky and to point out how water opens up its earthy flavors. (Earthier still: the haggis fritters appetizer, a sweet beer batter coating organ meat, and the very filling Scottish eggs.)

From the Arms, you can cab it to John D. McGurk's, 1200 Russell (Phone: 314.776.8309; Web site: www.mcgurks.com) in Souard (Soo Lard, like what you might call a really fat pig). This neighborhood is the home of the city's Mardi Gras festivities, including an annual wiener dog race (no jokes about this being because of the two gay bars in the eclectic neighborhood, please).

McGurk's is as fine an Irish pub as you will find in the Midwest, if just because they have live music every night. Waitress Megan Martin pointed out that McGurk's even puts up the musicians at a house next door during their stay.

Here you'll find a cozy kind of huge, with one of the rooms predating the Civil War -- and then you find the beer garden, which is Louisiana Purchase big, and Dublin inviting.

Speaking of a Dublin sort of place, in attitude if not "authentic" style, The Royale, 3132 S. Kingshighway (Phone: 314.772.3600; Web site: www.theroyale.com) in the Tower Grove South neigh-

borhood fits the bill. Pictures of JFK and his brother Bobby hang behind the bar, and a crowd of grad student types hangs out talking about bands and listening to left of the dial music.

Proprietor Steven Fitzpatrick Smith dresses like he's seen Swingers or knows Quentin Tarantino. He also manages a boxing club and can fill you in on the history of the Irish in St. Louis and neighborhoods such as Dogtown. That means Smith has stories and knows characters, and stories and characters are part of what make this an Irish place.

Not far from the Missouri Botanical Garden nor from The Royale is the trad-Irish O'Connell's Pub (4652 Shaw Ave; phone: 314.773.6600; Web site: www.saucemagazine.com/oconnells).

According to the Web site, O'Connell's Pub first opened in 1962, in an area known as Gaslight Square. It moved to the current building, which is more than 100 years old in the 1970s and which, like a lot of St. Louis, has ties to a chieftain of sorts named Henry Shaw.

They filmed a Bud commercial here, more than likely because it has the feel of a nice neighborhood joint, even though it seems to sit on a lonely street.

Continued to next page



Dressel's Pub



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Baseball

Continued from previous page
In fact, that's one of the things you might notice, coming from Chicago, about St. Louis -- that especially on a weeknight, there isn't that snap, crackle and pop or any other Rice Krispies-type commotion you find along the Windy City's bustling blocks.

And that's not such a bad thing: The ability to find parking, not to have to wait a half hour for a table, not to stand sardine can close to strangers (which usually means at least one obnoxious idiot on a cell phone, at the very least), and to easily find a place to park it for a pint or two, is nothing to complain about.

(They do put "provel" a pseudo-provolone on their pizzas, as witness Joanie's Pizzeria, 2101 Menard St. in Soulard, and Caleco's downtown at 101 North Broadway, and a chain called Imo's but that's another story. And that's not half bad either, come to think of it.)

That not-quite-as-lively feeling is true of the downtown, too. The stadium, of course, is part of the plans to change that, a jewel luring in tourists and tenants.

Not that the Cardinals, one of MLB's consistently best teams, have had any problems drawing or keeping its loyal fan base.

"It's a different kind of sports crazy here," said native New Yorker Frank Viverito, president of the St. Louis Sports Commission. "The fans have a personal and passionate relationship

with the team, but not the edge like in New York. St. Louis is an old, tough, gritty sports town, colored by the hometown, personal nature of the fans. And there is a less transient nature to the fan base here, too."

The new digs apparently will make some of them want to live nearby, too. Conversions to lofts have been steadily building in the area, while just across the street from Busch III center field will stand Ballpark Village, a combo platter of sports-related fun things to do and luxury living overlooking the diamond. Ultimately it will block the stadium's post card view of the historic court house but not the great look at the Gateway Arch. And it will give the nearby Hilton a run for its money for spectacular rooms with a view).

Luxury is part of what the new park is about, with its exclusive Cardinal Club seats behind home plate, where season tickets average out to well more than \$200 a game -- but that includes food and beverages. And concession stand beers are Chicago prices, at \$7.75 a pop.

At those rates, there is an attention to detail here. Nice touches include "Bird on Bat" plaques throughout on myriad walls of various incarnations of the Cardinal logo (one of 1955's bird "beefed up" in that magical way long before Mark McGwire came to town); and a Ford Plaza family area features pitching and making bats and one day maybe even Whiffle ball games).

They did keep center field open, giving passers by a glimpse from the street -- and put a large screen TV facing the street, too. And though tickets are hard to come by, the team maintains a swap program on its Web site, (www.stlcardinals.com) while radio station KTRS has a game day grab bag promotion to get seats at bargain rates (see www.ktrs.com for details).

Come to think of it, this newness and grand plans for growth are a bit like what's going on in Ireland, or in Chicago for that matter. After all, the park is off Clark Street, much to a Sox fan's dismay.

Note: If you're planning a trip to St. Louis, Celtic or otherwise, a good place to start is with the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission. Phone: 800.325.7962; Web site: www.explorestlouis.com.

Maria Hickey contributed to this story.



Band Playing at McGurk's

West Virginia Irish Road Bowling

The best players from Boston, New York, and West Virginia (the three organized leagues in North America where this old sport is played) will meet August 12 and 13 in one-on-one and doubles competition. Winners will advance this autumn across the ocean to the "2006 All Irelands," the 52nd annual World Series of Irish Road Bowling. There will also be an open ladies competition.

"The Old Game" has been played for over 300 years on country roads in Co. Armagh and Co. Cork, Ireland. Older than baseball, football or golf, a 28-ounce iron and steel "bowl" about the size of a tennis ball is thrown underhand over a one or two mile country road, fewest shots to the finish wins. Good shots can travel 200 yards or more. The record in West Virginia is 422 yards on Wildcat Road, Ireland, WV.

Irish troops played road bowling between battles in West Virginia during the American Civil War. It's an exciting sport anyone can easily learn but only a few play really well, perfect for the scenic country roads of West Virginia. Some of the top bowlers in the US: West Virginia - Travis Craig, Jerod Putnam, Ireland, WV, Shannon Gear, Elkins, Ken McClintic, Holly River, Justin Shaffer, Horse Shoe Run; Boston - Roger O' Riordan, Con O' Callaghan, Brendan and Mike Fleming, Barry Curran, Florrie O Mahoney, John Twomey, Mossie Dore, Mike O Donovan, Jehr Kerry; New York - Adrian Lappin, Eoin O' Riordan, Mick Moloney, Magella McCabe, Paul Lavery, Kevin O'Keefe, Noel Cronin.

See www.wvirishroadbowling.com, www.newyorkroadbowling.com or David Powell 202-387-1680.

Irish Racing Driver Announces Support from ACS Enterprises, Inc.

Irish Racer, Ian Sweeney announced today that ACS Enterprises Inc., a nation wide movie-theater industry service company, will provide support for his 2006 race season and beyond. Speaking from Oakland, California, Ian enthused, "I'm delighted to be associated with ACS Enterprises. Their energy and vision is a perfect match for the fast paced environment I operate in. It's an honor to be their representative."

VP of Sales and Marketing, Patrick Artiaga added "We are a young company and pride ourselves on being forward looking and finding premium opportunities. The partnership will allow us to entertain our clients in a high caliber environment and with a high caliber driver such as Ian Sweeney".

With ACS Enterprises' support Ian will continue his focus on making a full-time move to the Professional Motor Racing ranks. Hailing from Ireland and having raced both in Europe and the US, Ian has a long history of winning. In recent years, racing primarily in the US, he has competed on the SCCA National Tour, including three appearances at the famed National Runoffs. For 2007, Ian is in discussion with teams from the IMSA-Lite Sportsracer Series, "Sirius Satellite Radio" Pro-Spec Miata Series and "Cooper Tires" FF2000 Series.

Starting his career in 1997 in his native Ireland, Ian won Rookie of the year in the Irish National Fiat Championship with a win and several podium finishes. Since then Ian has raced Formula Vee in Ireland, the UK and the US, picking up many wins and championships along the way. Recent campaigns have yielded top finishes in the SCCA's Northern Pacific Division and the SCCA's National Runoffs. For further information please visit www.iansweeney.com.

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Sporting Log

By Sean Og. O Ceallachain



D J Carey, winner of five All-Ireland senior hurling medals and nine All Star Awards and scorer of some of the greatest goals in modern day hurling history has finally decided to call it a day. One of the most illustrious hurlers ever to don the fabled black and amber colours of his native Kilkenny, has deemed the time is right for him to opt out of the game he has adorned for the past 16 years. Said DJ "I just haven't had the urge. I haven't been bursting to get out so that's a good indication that the time is right" he said. Carey's last game with Kilkenny was the All-Ireland semi final defeat to Galway last August. He admitted he could have announced his retirement after that game and had the chance again earlier in the year. He decided to wait and see if he had regained his appetite for the game he loves.

He wasn't chosen for the National

hurling League final which Kilkenny won, beating Limerick in the final. The big question which needed an answer was, could he commit himself to the hard grind of training for another year? Naturally team trainer and coach, Brian Cody had left the door open for him to rejoin the panel. He was still playing

good hurling with his club Young Irelands in local competitions. But he contacted manager Cody and having discussed the situation thought it wiser not to start another championship campaign. Being a very unselfish player he felt that it was only fair to everyone connected with the team, Brian Cody and the players, that he take the decision to stand down.

Carey quit briefly in 1998 but returned six weeks later and made an unexpected return to the game to win a fourth All-Ireland title, capturing his ninth All-Star Award into the bargain.

He had the honour and the distinction of captaining Kilkenny to their last All-Ireland success in 2003. His after match comment said it all, "This is without any shadow of doubt my biggest ever honour, whether it was by default or not".

Carey made his first appearance at senior level in 1989 and quickly became a household name. His deft strokes, his swift solo dashes and his hurling artistry helped to make him one of the best in the game. He always maintained that he was a player's man, and became one of the founders of the Gaelic Players Association and feels very proud of that step. He makes no secret of the fact the arrival of such young stars as Henry Shefflin, Martin Comerford, Eddie Brennan and others proved a wonderful boost for him personally. They took a lot of the pressure off him and he was able to concentrate on his own game. DJ in his own right could well be termed a superstar, a term applied to a player who has given more to the game in which he excelled. Kilkenny have always been in the unique position of being automatic favourites to qualify for the Leinster final.

I had the privilege of playing against some of the great stars of the 40's up to the late 50's and I have to admit that the name of D J Carey would rank with the greats of that time, Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, Jimmy Doyle, Nick Rackard,

John Doyle, Jack Lynch, Terry Leahy, to mention some. His wrist work in delivering a ball always had been a feature of his play. His solo runs with the ball on the hurley were akin to a magician doing his tricks for spectators who were in awe of that same magic. He reminded me at times of a great adversary of mine, in my playing days, Jimmy Langton of Kilkenny. D J was easily of his class.

There was another factor which made D J Carey a giant among men of his era and that was his honesty as a player. No task was too great for him... He never shirked a challenge and rarely failed to lay off a pass to a better placed colleague. He was probably one of the best liked individuals needed by the media for important match quotes. He didn't mince his words either. If he felt that he had a below standard game he was the first to admit it. He never spoke ill of any player he came up against, and was honest at all times in his commitment to hurling and those who promoted the game.

He commanded attention both on and off the field of play and benefited greatly from the fact that he was a non-drinker and non-smoker. He had a passion for the game of golf and was a low handicap player. Naturally he was on first name terms with some of golf's leading figures, Padraig Harrington, Colm

Montgomerie and even the great Tiger Woods. He is still an active member of "Goal", an Irish charity organization which raises huge amounts of money for the poor countries in Africa.

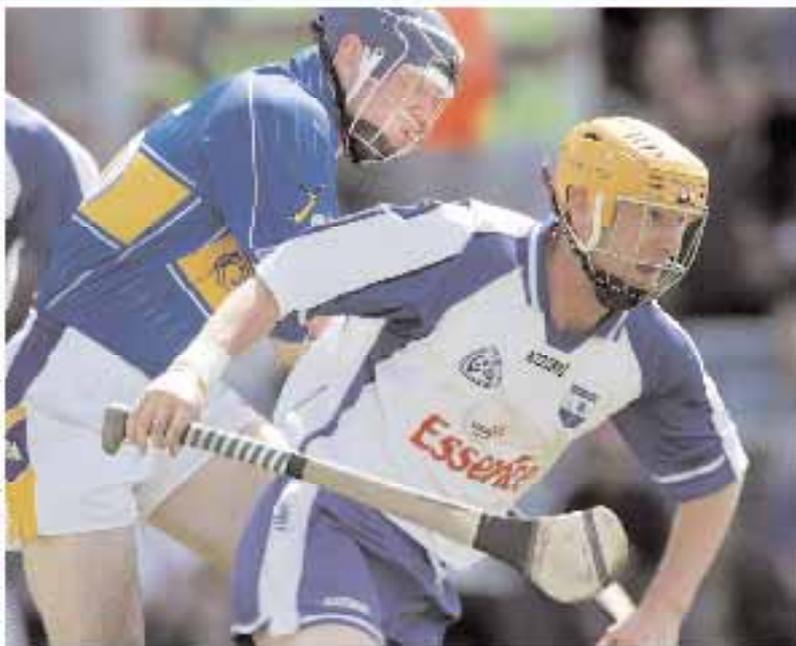
D J's job entails driving over 70,000 miles a year to every county in Ireland. That imposed a lot of pressure when he was an active player, training four nights a week. The Kilkenny star had to take time off for countless charity promotions. It played havoc with his domestic life and led to a breakdown of his marriage.

When he was very young he would go into woods where he lived in south Kilkenny looking for ash trees from which to make his own hurleys. Living in Gowran, where he was born in 1970, he had his own heroes in Eddie Keher, Noel Skehan and Billy Fitzpatrick and of course, his grand uncle, Paddy Phelan was one of the great defenders on the 1930 All-Ireland winning teams.

He has left a legacy which anyone can enjoy - a video of his life and career which turned out to be a huge financial success on the commercial market. On the playing side he has broken every finger on his right hand while pins hold his left thumb and fingers together. All for the love of a sport he mastered and became one of its Kings. Former great star Eddie Kehir said of him, "that he was the most complete hurler he had ever seen and had mastered all of the hurling skills".

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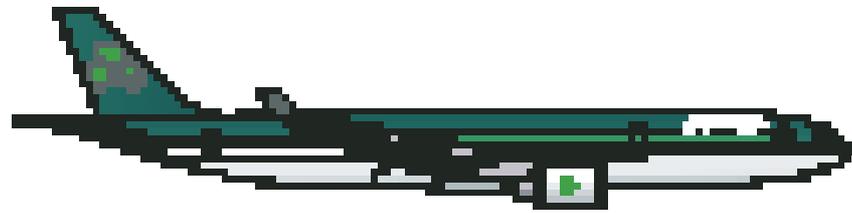


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