

October • 2008

Burrishoole Abbey

Newport, County Mayo

Photo by Susan Mangan

Annie Moore dedication

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Father Wall to be honored

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New book, film and DVD by Houlihan

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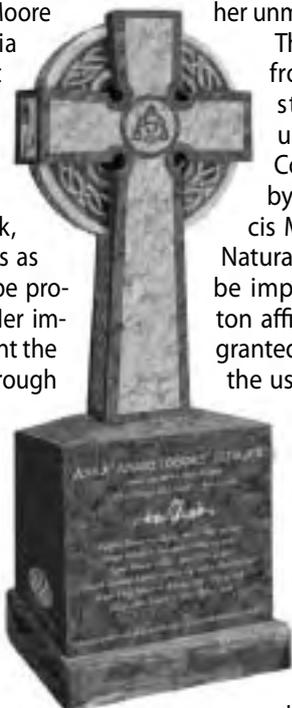
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Annie Moore Memorial Dedication

The headstone memorial dedication ceremony for the unmarked gravesite of Irish-American historic icon Annie Moore (the first immigrant through Ellis Island in 1892) has been set for Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery, Queens, 4902 Laurel Hill Blvd., Woodside, NY. Great-granddaughter and spokesperson for the Annie Moore Memorial Project, Julia Devous, announced that the event will be free and open to the public.

On January 1, 1892, Annie Moore, a teenage girl from County Cork, Ireland, made headlines as the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. Her image will forever represent the millions who passed through Ellis Island in pursuit of the American dream, and is a symbol for immigrants of all nations that have contributed to the rich fabric of the United States. On September 15, 2006 noted genealogists revealed the true identity and story of Annie and her descendants. At that time it was also discovered that Annie Moore's



remains lie in an unmarked grave in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York, along with five of her children. Led by descendant family members and supporters, the Annie Moore Memorial Project, established through the Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation of Phoenix, Arizona, was created to raise funds for a monument for her unmarked gravesite.

The monument, carved from Irish Blue Limestone, is currently under production in County Clare, Ireland by master carver Francis Mc Cormack of Irish Natural Stone, Ltd and will be imported by their Boston affiliate. Cardinal Egan granted a special waiver for the use of Irish Blue Limestone for the monument in Calvary Cemetery due to the historic nature of the project. The monument is a simple but elegant Celtic cross with elements that represent both her Irish and American heritage, and her connection to the "Ellis Island" story. www.anniemoore.net

2008 Rerum Novarum Awards



Patrick W. Flynn (l to r), vice president of International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Central Region as well as Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 710 in Chicago and this year's Rerum Novarum Award recipient representing labor, joined Jim Claus, senior vice president of Tishman Construction and Beverly resident Frank Harmon, the relationship manager with Great Lakes Advisors, at a recent reception with Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. to introduce the 2008 Rerum Novarum Award recipients.

Individuals being recognized at this year's October program along with Flynn will be the Honorable William R. Quinlan, of Quinlan & Carroll, Ltd. and Reverend John Wall, president of the

Catholic Church Extension Society. Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. will present the Rerum Novarum Awards at the 18th Annual Seminary Salute on October 28, 2008.

Tickets are available in tables of ten at \$1,750 per table or individually for \$175 per person.

Benefactor Tables of ten can also be purchased at \$2,500 each, which includes preferred seating and special recognition in the evening's program.

For more information, or to reserve tickets, call Mary Minogue at 773-973-9722. Mail orders are accepted at St. Joseph College Seminary, 6551 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago IL 60626

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Ambassador Collins Initiates Strategic Review

During his recent inaugural visit to the United States in July, the Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen, TD, recalled the exceptionally close historical and current ties between Ireland and the United States. He said that in the context of peace in Northern Ireland and Ireland's economic development the foresaw new opportunities to further develop this relationship and partnership into the future. In pursuit of this, he announced that Ambassador Michael Collins would undertake a strategic review of all the relevant issues and report to the Government by the end of the year.

Ambassador Collins said that he wishes to undertake the widest possible consultation process in reviewing ties between Ireland and the United States and as part of this

process he has invited considered contributions to the strategic review which he is undertaking.

"Relations between our two countries and peoples have never been better. The review will map out how relations can be further developed in this era of peace and economic development.

I am looking forward to receiving considered contributions from organizations and individuals across the United States by the end of October 2008."

Through October 2008, contributions should be sent via the email link on the Embassy's webpage www.embassyofireland.org or by post to Strategic Review, Embassy of Ireland, 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008-2849.

Judge Margaret McBride

Justice Margaret Stanton McBride was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, in November 1998. She is currently assigned to the Sixth Division. She has also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District and has served as a Presiding Justice in the First, Second and Sixth Divisions.

Prior to becoming a member of the Appellate Court, Judge McBride was a Circuit Court judge. She was first appointed an Associate Judge in 1987 and was elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1990. She was assigned to various divisions within the court including, First Municipal, Criminal, Law Jury, and Chancery. In 1996, Judge McBride was named the Presiding Judge of the Third Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County located in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.



Upon graduation from DePaul Law School in 1976, Judge McBride worked as an associate with a small civil law firm, and was employed as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney from 1977 until her appointment to the bench in 1987.

She lives in Cook County with her husband and 2 children.

Father Wall to be Honored by American Ireland Fund Chicago

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

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

The American Ireland Fund Chicago Dinner is a wonderfully social evening in the Irish tradition and generates support for The American Ireland Fund's important work in Ireland. Part of this year's dinner proceeds will stay right here in Chicago and be donated to the Father Jack Wall

Preservation Endowment in memory of The American Ireland Fund's former Regional Director, Ms. Bridget Hartigan Routh. This Endowment was established to insure the preservation of Old St. Patrick's, a unique historic church and one of the few examples of Celtic Renaissance Art in Chicago.

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

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Judge James Flannery, Jr.

With a belief that he could work for justice, James P. Flannery, Jr. became a Cook County Circuit Court Judge in 1988. He is seeking retention for his third six-year term on the November ballot.

"I was an attorney first but I wanted to be a judge," he said recently during an interview in his office in the Daley Center. "We are all here to make this world a little better place if we can. I thought that (as a judge) I could do it. The saying is: If you want peace in the world, work for justice."

Flannery earned his law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1976 and practiced law for 12 years. He worked in the Corporation Counsel office for the city of Chicago, the Illinois Attorney General's office and in private practice. He has been on the bench for 20 years. He was elected Associate Judge 18 years ago, and was retained in 1996 and 2002.

Prior to his current position in the Law Division, a position he has held since 1997, he worked for the First and Fourth Municipal Districts and in the Criminal Division for five years.

Throughout his career, his service has been interesting and rewarding in different ways.

"Felony court is interesting. You see what drugs do to society," Flannery said. "Drugs cross every line of society. They do not discriminate by race or age or income. You get people who are lost, but you also get people who can be helped and rehabilitated."

"Getting them into drug programs is rewarding. You can be very creative in sentencing and make it part of the sentencing that he, or she, must get a GED or attend high school. On the other hand, you get people who are criminals and who will remain criminals. It is gratifying to get them off the street to protect society and make the world a little safer for us all."

He presides now over personal injury cases stemming from medical malpractice claims or auto accidents.

In his courtroom he sees people who are quadriplegic because of automobile accidents and have life-changing injuries because of malpractice. "Without saying who should or shouldn't win, you see people whose lives are totally devastated. There are those that win or lose their cases when they shouldn't. Just because someone is injured does not mean someone

else is at fault. We have some very, very sad cases."

The majority of his cases are jury trials, with perhaps one bench trial a year. "They go to trial because they can not settle—whether you are in civil court or criminal court. All that means is that both sides realize what a case is worth," Flannery said.

He sits in on jury selection, and acknowledges it is getting harder to get jurors. "There are few things we have to do as citizens: pay taxes and obey laws. Occasionally we are called to jury duty," he said. "Today people are too busy to serve as jurors. It is easy to get upset with people who come up with all kinds of excuses to serve," he said. "But we are better off with people who want to be there."

If he is retained, Flannery will serve on the bench until December 2014, and is looking forward to continuing in his current assignment.

Flannery and his wife, Carol, have lived in Bridgeport since 1970. They have one adult daughter.

Judge Kathleen McGury

Judge Kathleen M. McGury is seeking her third retention as a Cook County Circuit Court judge in the November election.

The McGury family businesses are law and education. McGury followed in her father's footsteps as a lawyer and judge. Two of her four sisters followed their mother's lead into education as teachers. However McGury admits she was ambiguous about a career in the law when she was a teenager working summers in her father's law office. "I saw only the boring side of the law—filing and office work." But she decided to attend law school with the sole intention of being a lawyer, and never dreamed of wanting to be a judge until her law school experience.

After earning a degree in modern languages from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, McGury earned her law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She became a lawyer in 1977 and worked in the Cook County State's Attorney Office as an assistant state's attorney from 1978-1995.

About her years in the state's attorney's office, she said, "I got into criminal litigation and it was exciting." There, she was given a federal grant to target juvenile offenders and

screen the cases for repeat offenders. "Additional prosecutors would be assigned to those cases to see that the offender would be sentenced so that he could not break the law again."

"Only a small percentage of juvenile offenders commit most of the crimes. We tried to save them from a life in the penitentiary."

She later switched from criminal to civil litigation in the state's attorney office, thus rounding out her experience that continues to help her today on the bench. "I can better understand the cases of the prosecution and defense," she said.

Her judicial career began when she was appointed a Cook County Circuit Court judge in May 1995 to

fill an unexpired term. She then ran in 1996 and won. She was retained in 2002, and is seeking another six-year retention term.

In 1997 she presided over one of the first shaken baby syndrome cases. "It was bench trial and I ruled to dismiss the petition against the baby sitter it was not proven that the abuse happened in the care of the sitter."

She now hears probate cases in her courtroom in the Daley Center, and continues to deal with juvenile law issues such as guardianship. "Some of these cases are simple, others are not. I don't have all the support services to assign to cases that I had in juvenile court."

"These cases are hard on the kids," she said, adding that she has seen 5-year-olds on anti-depressants.



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Chicago Gaelic News



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Chicago Wins Five GAA Titles at Boston

Chicago GAA hurlers and footballers, men and women captured five nationals titles in the North American GAA playoffs at Boston over Labor Day.

The proud winners are Limerick, making a great comeback in senior hurling. Parnells, another fine club took senior football honors. St. Mary's, Sr. Camogie. John MacBrides Ladies Junior Football, and great Wicklow gael, Joe Begley's pride and joy, Chicago Patriots winning Junior C Football. Congratulations all around, players, managers, parents and of course the Chicago GAA Board. Eamon is submitting a full report, with scores, opponents. etc.

Our congratulations to the charming Mary Ruane the young lady who is mainly responsible for the wonderful progress in juvenile hurling and football. She is now the GAA games Development Coordinator for the North American Board. This was a wise decision and we look forward to much more progress in the future. Beannact De ar an oibre, a cara Gael. Our thanks also to Pat Daly for her nice comments in the Gaelic Park Newsletter and

playing our favorite, "The Rose of Mooncoin" over their very popular Sunday night radio show. Gur a mile agat acairde.

Hurling Should Be Olympic Game

After watching some of the Olympic Games recently I wondered why hurling Ireland's national game, with Gaelic football and handball, is not on the Olympic Games schedule? As the Pan-American athlete said at Soldier Field in 1959 after watching an exhibition of the old caman game, "Where have the Irish been hiding this great game?" Handball is recognized and on the schedule.

Over the years the game has improved tremendously, and is a delight to watch. Just recently we watched the All-Ireland final, between Kilkenny and Waterford and although the Black and Amber clad boys from Kilkenny produced one of the most perfect performances in winning their three in a row and capturing the prestigious Liam McCarty trophy, it was a thrilling game watched with great excitement by over 82,000 spectators who roared at every great play. The lads from the Nore have

now pushed ahead in the winners circle and achieved the "bragging rights" of "Kings of the hurling world."

Hurling is played and popular in several countries, including the U.S., Canada, Australia and even in far-off Argentina. And wherever Irish missionary priests are preaching the word of God in their few spare moments they delight their flock by swinging the old caman. So, there can be no argument that the game is not played almost worldwide.

When ground hockey and "Softball," baseball with a softball is on the Olympic schedule, surely hurling deserves a chance to show the world, "The game the Irish have been hiding all those years."

Irish Emigrants Find New Champion

With the changing of the leaders in the Irish government Irish emigrants to the U.S. have apparently found a new champion of the rightful cause in the new An Taoiseach, Brian Cowan, who is a proud native of Offaly. In a recent visit to the U.S. Mr. Cowan said, "we have the responsibility to continue to lobby and to do so as effectively as we possibly can."

In signaling a new approach to the unfortunate plight of the "undocumented Irish" he said that the Irish government was prepared to look at the totality of the relationship of the two countries Ireland and the United States, and of similar difficulties of U.S. citizens living in Ireland experiencing the same difficulties. He said that the relationship between both countries should be strong enough to accommodate such a resolution.

An Taoiseach mentioned that he was prepared to look at "reciprocal visas" mentioned here on several occasions over the years, and he said "that we can perhaps be more proactive in making sure that more Americans who want to come and visit Ireland and work in Ireland get the chance to do so as well." He asked Mr. Michael Collins, Ireland's Ambassador to the United States to prepare a comprehensive assessment of what he called "the future developments of our relationship by the government. He also mentioned the Gaelic Athletic Association (the body promoting Irish games, hurling,

football, and handball, in the U.S.) as a stalwart organization of the emigrant Irish." And he saluted the work that the organization had done for the Irish undocumented over the years.

Death of Former Chicago Gael in Mayo

We learn from well-known Kerry gael in Chicago, Pat O'Connor, that Jimmy Lyons of 50's and 60's fame in Chicago, died recently in Westport, Co. Mayo. We join with Pat McDonough, and Mary his wife, the Kilroy Brothers and others, and indeed the entire Chicago gaeldom in extending our sincere sympathy and condolences to his beloved wife and the entire Lyons family.

The late Jimmy who was a native of Loughborough, Mayo was one of the sweetest halfbacks that ever graced Chicago playing fields. He reminded me of the famed Tommy Hoban with his skill and artistry. He had few equals on and off the field of play. In those formative years the going was tough to get the reactivated GAA organization off the ground, but with true gals in the committee rooms like Jimmy, progress was made and a sound foundation laid. His return to Ireland was Ireland's gain and Chicago's loss. Jimmy will always be remembered here. Ar dheis De go raibhn an ainm.

Kilkenny Peerless in Historic Win

Kilkenny, with a powerful display of notching scores from all over the field captured their third national title in a row, defeating their neighbors Waterford by a big score. The black and amber clad boys simply outclassed Waterford who seemed beaten in every sector of the field. Nevertheless the gallant lads from Mount Sion gave it everything they had, and must be admired for their gutsy game against what many describe as the best Kilkenny team ever."

In the minor game prior to the senior and before an all-time record crowd of over 82,000, Kilkenny were very lucky to snatch victory when it seemed their opponents from Galway had won. One would have to say that a tie would be a fairer result, but that is how games are won and lost. It's never over until the referee sounds the last blast. Hard luck Galway and congratulations Kilkenny.

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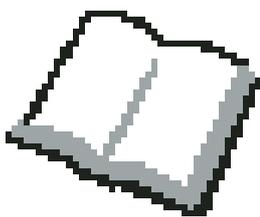
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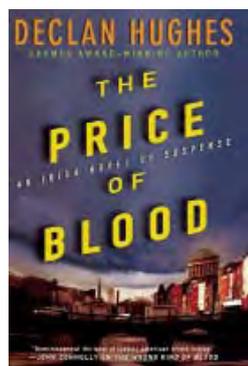


Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



“...The Past Intrudes, As It Inevitably Does...”



Declan Hughes is the author of *The Price of Blood*. He is a prolific writer of memorable and powerful noir mystery fiction.

This is the third book in this series that I have reviewed. They are all set in contemporary Ireland, if you will, the

“new” Ireland. Hughes wrote *The Wrong Kind of Blood*, then *The Color of Blood* last year, and now *The Price of Blood*.

I love reading his mystery novels. This is because of the suspenseful way they are written and the observations of people he makes with the clarity of a laser. But mainly I like reading them because Hughes writes about the real world that we live in. That means: believable characters, a clear illusionless view of life with no platitudes or bromides and with forceful and robust dialogue.

Hughes’ works are in the tradition of classic noir writing. What is noir writing? Webster’s Dictionary says: “Noir writing is characterized by lots of dialogue; with both inner and outer monologues; and a dark... view of life.”

The detective is Ed Loy. Loy is the Irish word for spade. And Loy relentlessly digs for the truth, like Dashiell Hammett’s American detective, Sam Spade. In the noir classic film, *The Maltese Falcon*, Spade is played by Humphrey Bogart.

In the mind’s eye of my imagination, Ed Loy looks like Humphrey Bogart or Jimmy Cagney.

About a private detective like Ed Loy, Hughes says: “He has to be prying and poking and stirring things up until, somehow, out falls the truth...”

One of the themes of the mystery novels of Declan Hughes is that events that happened many years ago have a powerful emotional impact on us today. Things that affected our grandparents, for example influenced us when we were being raised. The emotional residue of those experiences is with us today.

Declan Hughes was raised in Dublin and lives there now with his wife and two daughters. He studied at Trinity College, and “has spent twenty years working in Dublin theatre, as director and playwright. He has written many award winning plays and TV scripts.”

This quote is from a previous review I wrote about that theater experience: “I believe insight from his theater experience made Hughes aware of the dramatic moment and the telling detail. His work is filled with memorable observations.”

An editor, at William Morrow, says about this: “You can tell that Hughes cut his teeth in the theater as a playwright and director: his characters are psychologically complex and all too human, and his stories always give me an

anxious, pit of the stomach feeling.”

I think the reader will enjoy his unforgettable and thought provoking work too.

• “[She] had changed into wide black silk trousers and a fitted black top with just enough cleavage to ensure I would pay attention. Good for her; a healthy dose of vanity was one of the vital signs of life, particularly in a woman.”

• This quote reveals much about Irish and Irish American people. There is “... a legacy in this country, a legacy of deep rooted worthlessness that was inculcated in the individual and handed through the generations... the English enforced the idea that being Irish was an inferior state. The Catholic Church instilled a sense of fear and shame, not just about sex, about everything, about our very existence... You can’t just get rid of it. It’s, ah, ‘part of what we are.’”

• Loy observes an archbishop apologizing about the sexual abuse by Christian Brothers in industrial schools: “... a bland non apology from the archbishop of the diocese with a semolina face and a prissy, sibilant voice, who barely conceded that any abuse have been committed by priests or religious at all, in such a hurry was he to condemn ‘the wider decline in standards among society as a whole, particularly in the area of chastity.’”

• “Everyone’s allowed a past, and if we weren’t able to forgive and forget much of what went on there, our lives would run aground there on the banks of grievance and resentment. That’s what I told myself, not what I felt in my chest or my gut.”

The Price of Blood by Declan Hughes. Harper Collins-William Morrow, New York, 2008. 312 pages; \$24.95. www.harpercollins.com.

“Don’t Worry About Anything... I Will See That Justice is Done.”

Mara is back. The year is 1509 and the place is Ireland’s Burren. Mara is in her late 30’s, tall, with dark hair, smart and good looking.

The king appointed her to maintain peace and to provide impartial justice in one of his kingdoms. She is Brehon over the whole area of the Burren.

In Gaelic Ireland the Brehon, or judge, was a position of prestige, respect and power. The Brehon dispensed humane justice, was the visible representative of justice in the area, and advised the king on legal matters.

A Secret and Unlawful Killing is the second mystery novel Cora Harrison has written about the Ireland of the early 1500s with Brehon Mara as the main character.

The Burren area is about thirty miles from Galway city. (I have travelled in this impressive area.) Most of the land is covered by limestone bedrock. Life is difficult but the stony geography is beautiful, Rare, colorful plants and animals live there in the cracks and fissures of the bedrock.

For the people who live there, their word is not

only their bond but their worth. They are hardy, tough, self-reliant and quick to help each other.

There have been two murders and Mara must solve them. The murders are not only shocking, but affronts to the law and to the king’s authority.

Mara is tolerant and kind with people, but she is also relentless in pursuit of the killer or killers. She is so implacable, in fact, that the book reads like a “police procedural.”

As she thinks about possible solutions to the murders, she sees some spider webs that were damaged as birds fed on bushes where the webs were located. She observes: “... already some of them were repairing the damage. She watched them for a moment, admiring how unerringly the gossamer threads from their bodies formed the complicated wheel-like pattern, all leading to where the juicy fly could be trapped in the centre. This was what she had to do now: see the pattern and, trace back the filaments that could attach the murderer to the murdered.”

Being Brehon was delicate and difficult position to occupy in Irish society. The Brehon had to be not only completely knowledgeable of the law, but must be able to understand people, and be observant of human strengths and foibles.

As Brehon, Mara needed all of those

qualities because Irish judges had to gather the information to bring to court: almost like a district attorney today,

Like most mystery novels, the facts, or clues, are presented so the reader can solve the mystery. I couldn’t solve it. At the end of the book, I was astonished. *A Secret and Unlawful Killing* is a gripping mystery that also shows life in Gaelic Ireland. It describes the Irish legal system that worked for hundreds of years. It was humane and fair, unlike the legal system introduced by the English. The English system was often harsh, arbitrary and easily swayed by money. There were no jails, dungeons or soldiers needed to enforce Irish law!

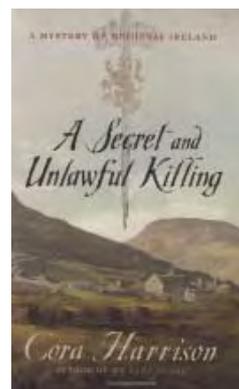
You’ll enjoy this mystery and learn much about our Irish heritage.

These are some quotes you may enjoy.

• “Justice was [the Brehon’s] affair; let the king order his political power base as he wished... she might have been appointed by the king; but she was appointed to administer the kingdom according to the laws that had been laid down over hundreds of years...”

• “... the rain was over now... The day would be fine tomorrow. That was the way it went on this western seaboard, one day wet, one day fine: the weather and sky and the landscape continually changing and shifting between light and dark. She sometimes thought that it made for a quick-witted, alert and flexible people, used to taking each day as it came, without bothering themselves by too much fruitless planning.”

A Secret and Unlawful Killing by Cora Harrison. St. Martin’s Minotaur, New York, 2008. 326 pages; \$24.95. www.minotaurbooks.com.



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Makem and Spain Brothers New DVD



Home Away From Home: Live From the Mother Lode Theatre in Butte, Montana is the new Makem and Spain Brothers DVD, released in early August. The Makem and Spain Brothers play traditional Irish and folk music. They come from a strong bloodline of musical talent. Their father is the late Tommy Makem, who died on Aug. 1st. www.makem.com.

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Mughamba Scholarship Foundation 2nd Annual Fundraiser

Last year's fundraiser for the Mughamba Scholarship Foundation, established by Father Kombo L. Peshu, was so successful that he is now able to provide further education for over 70 children from his village of Mwanda in Kenya, as well as Tanzania. After serving as the assistant pastor for St. Giles in Oak Park for six years, Father Kombo is now the pastor of St. Simeon's Church in Bellwood. His responsibility and dedication is with his new parish, but his heart remains with his people in Mwanda and their continued need for clean water, improved health care and most importantly, education for their young people.



Fr. Peshu

On Friday, October 17, 2008, the 2nd annual fundraiser will held from 7-10pm at Molly Malone's Pub, 7652 Madison Street in Forest Park. There will be an appetizer buffet, cash bar (2 complimentary drink tickets with purchase of ticket) and a silent auction. Tickets at

the Door are \$45. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a donation, make checks payable to the Mughamba Scholarship Foundation and send to Barbara Moch, 1100 N. Lombard, Oak Park, IL, 60302. www.mwandachildren.com.

Ireland 2007/2008
 See Athlone & District Tourist Guide
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Lillian Reasor 3rd in Ireland Competition

Lillian Reasor recently competed at the Fleadh cheoil na h'Eireann in Tullemore, Ireland, and took third place in solo harp. Lillian was one of only eight American competitors who placed in solo competition. There were 68 solo comps where Americans had qualified.

Lillian has been playing Irish harp for seven years. She first heard the harp at Irish School at the Irish American Heritage Center. That was all she needed... Congratulations Lillian!

For more info visit www.Lillianroreaseor.weebly.com.



Benefit for the Hansen Children

The Hansen children need your help. James (15), Matthew (12), and Kiersten (9) Hansen experienced the unthinkable when they lost both of their parents within a year. Their mother, Pat, passed away in May 2007, and their father, Bob, in March 2008. The children hail from a family devoted to public service and have deep

roots in the Beverly/Mount Greenwood community.

Bob was a sergeant and 18-year veteran of the Cook County Sheriff's Department, and Pat was a devoted mother and an avid animal lover who worked at the Evergreen Park Animal Hospital for almost 20 years.

The children have shown great courage and they need your support to realize the bright future they so deserve.

A benefit will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at



James (rear), Kiersten and Matthew Hansen

115 Bourbon Street, 3359 W. 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL from 1-5pm. There will be food, refreshments, raffles, a silent auction and free valet parking. The cost is a \$25 donation per person.

Donations may be made directly to: Robert & Patricia Hansen Children Founders Bank
 3052 West 111th Street
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 Attn: Lindy Lode



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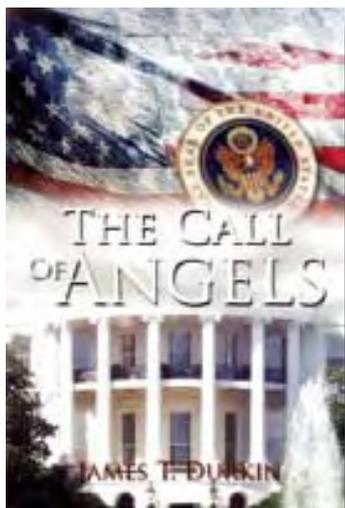
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Durkin to Sign Latest Novel at DVT Awareness Town Hall Meeting

James T. Durkin's second novel, *The Call of Angels*, has been published. In his first fictional novel titled *In My Dreams*, Durkin writes how a young man from the suburbs of Chicago is elected President of the U.S. It is an educational and inspirational story about a young man, Robert Hamlin, who wins the lottery and makes a positive contribution to society. In this sequel, *The Call of Angels* details his main character's one term in office and a second presidential campaign. Hamlin encourages American citizens to believe in the political system we have.



Most importantly, *The Call of Angels* is educational in nature by describing the symptoms of Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT), where a blood clot forms in the deep vein of the leg. If it travels to the lungs, heart, or brain it may result in a pulmonary embolism, heart attack, or stroke, respectively. Complications from blood clots kill more than 200,000 Americans each year. According to various websites, symptoms of DVT may include sharp pain or swelling in the leg, normally starting in the calf. The skin may be tender, discolored and/or is warm to the touch. Identifying the symptoms of DVT can help save the life of

you or a family member.

To raise public awareness for DVT, Durkin will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday October 11th from 9:30am-Noon at the Naperville Public Library, 2035 S. Naper Blvd., (630) 961-4100. This event will feature an informational session with James Durkin about the symptoms and severity of this medical health issue.

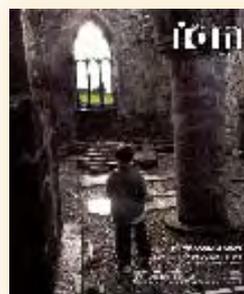
Afterwards, Durkin will be signing copies of *The Call of Angels* from 1-3pm at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in downtown Naperville, 47 E. Chicago Ave., (630) 579-0200.

John Hegarty R.I.P.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of John Hegarty. John has been a part of the Irish American giftware market for decades and will be sadly missed by his many friends both in Ireland and throughout North America. Ar dheis Dé go raib a anam



HEGARTY (Dublin) Sept. 20, 2008, (peacefully), in the loving care of the staff of Our Lady's Ward, St. Vincent's University Hospital, John, much loved husband of Francie and the late May; sadly missed by his loving wife, sons Jimmy and John, daughters, Eileen, Maria, Deirdre and Michelle, step-children Deirdre, Helen and Stephen, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister Lucy, brother-in-law, his fifteen grandchildren, relatives and friends. Rest in peace.



About Our Cover

the Photo by Susan Mangan At Burrishoole Abbey, outside of Newport, County Mayo, a mass is held yearly to remember those who died and to pay tribute to their memories. The mass is held outside, in and around the ruins of the fifteenth-century Dominican abbey.

Susan writes a column in our ianOHIO paper which features this photo.

Her latest column can be viewed online at www.ianohio.com.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor,
I picked up a the August 2008 copy of the "Irish American News" and sat on my front porch and enjoyed a casual hour of reading. I felt I received great information and entertainment, until I got to page 42. My experience ended on a very disappointing note thanks to Chris Fogarty's "For the Republic" editorial. His Freedom Fighter logo "Eire" gun in hand, is really a joke. He is not fighting for freedom from economic or political tyranny. He is simply spewing hate without any facts to back up any of his ranting. I am an dual citizen and proud of my Irish heritage. I found his presence in your publication an embarrassment. I believe in freedom of speech, but his words are just filled with hatred of the United States of America. I just cannot trust a publication that is so careless with its contents.

Patricia Kelleher Hudetz
Naperville, IL

BEFORE SUNDAY
The Life Stories of the Bloody Sunday Victims

"They were alive you know. Before he was murdered, my brother said. Do you think you could write about their lives?"
This was the request from a family member that author Jennifer Faus fulfills brilliantly in this poignant book of character sketches.
-*Verbal Magazine*

"Extraordinary. Reaching into the heart of this violent and controversial event, Jennifer Faus allows us to hear, as if for the first time, the innocent voices of those who died and those who were left behind."
-*Paul Greengrass, Director, Bloody Sunday, United Kingdom*

"This book conveys a very touching insight into the personalities who were taken from us on Bloody Sunday. Jennifer Faus, in this book, has personalized our loss. Her commitment to the relatives of those who died has been unflinching."
-*Ivan Cooper, former MP and Civil Rights Activist*

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IAHC October Events
Shapeshifters' The Day Patient

Shapeshifters Theatre of the Irish American Heritage Center continues the world premiere of its fall production, *The Day Patient*, this October at the IAHC.

The *Day Patient*, written by Irish American News columnist J. Sean Callan, tells the story of a Dublin housewife who falls into a coma after complications during routine surgery. Searching for answers, her husband tries to find the cause of her disastrous situation, but finds himself up against the forces of both an arrogant surgeon and a hospital executive more concerned on the hospital's image and insurance premiums. The husband's refusal to back down and his struggle to help his wife is both powerful and inspiring. *The Day Patient* demonstrates how the power of love and faith in the quest for truth can overcome the most tremendous of odds.

The Day Patient runs through Sunday, Oct. 19th. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members and \$15 for the general public and are available by calling IAHC office 773-282-7035 ext. 10 or can be purchased at the box office.

IAHC Book Discussion Group

The Center continues its book discussion group this fall, called Great Irish American Books and Authors.

It runs through May 2009 in the IAHC Library on the second Sunday of the month at

2pm, except for May, which will be the first Sunday of the month. The discussion is free and open to the public.

The discussion is 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. The schedule follows: 10/12-The Last Hurrah, Edwin O'Connor and Boss, Mike Royko; 11/9-The Light of Evening, Edna O'Brien; 12/14-An Irish Christmas, John B. Keane and How the Irish Invented Slang, Daniel Cassidy; 1/11-The Whitest Flower, Brendan Graham; 2/8-Natural History, Maureen Howard; 3/8-The Poor Mouth, Flann O'Brien; 4/12-Roscoe, William Kennedy; 5/3-The Snapper, Roddy Doyle.

Annual Samhain/Day Of The Dead Art Exhibit

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



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

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

The exhibit runs from Oct. 18 through Nov. 16 at the Center. Gallery hours are 1-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays and during the week by appointment only. There will be a free opening reception on Friday, Oct. 17 from 6-9pm, which will include Irish storytellers and roving poets entertaining visitors and special exhibit hours on Friday Oct. 31 from 6-9pm.

Concert Presents Next Generation of Irish Talent

The IAHC, along with the Francis O'Neill Club, the Irish Musicians Association and the Chicago chapter of Ceoltóirí Éireann will present *Echoes of Erin*, the 2008 Comhaltas North American Concert Tour at the Center this fall on Saturday, October 18 at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 for the general public, \$17 for IAHC and CCE Branch Members and \$15 for seniors and students under 18 years old.

This concert features the finest in traditional Irish music, song and dance by the next generation of artists in Ireland. This year's *Echoes of Erin* tour visits nine cities across North Ameri-

ca and wraps up in Chicago at the IAHC.

Irish musicians and singers, as well as dancers, will take the stage on fiddle, harp, flute, accordion, banjo and more. There are 18 performers that hail from 10 different counties in Ireland as well as one performer from Liverpool, England.

For tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

Irish Heritage Singers

Annual Fall Show Nov. 15

Save the date for the Irish Heritage Singers' annual fall show, *Cead Mille Fáilte/One Hundred Thousand Welcomes* on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008 at 7:30pm at the IAHC.

This concert features a small orchestra accompanying the Singers and selections will include arrangements from their recent performance at the Chicago Theatre, with Frank McNamara, former producer, arranger and director of the Irish Tenors and include favorites from the past 20 years mixed with new selections and guest musicians.

Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members, \$15 for the general public, \$5 for students aged 12-18 and free for children 11 and under. Group rates discounts are available for \$10 for groups of 10 or more, but must be reserved in advance by calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. For more information about any of these programs or for schedules or ticket information call 773-282-7035.



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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.



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 eight 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.

Use Care When Starting an Exercise Program

When starting an exercise program, getting medical approval is always a good idea for those who have physical limitations or health issues. But another important consideration is the exercise equipment to be used in the program.

Dangerous Exercise Equipment

In the last 15 years, Americans have increased use of exercise equipment and facilities. While the benefits of exercise is undisputed, one unfortunate consequence is

that users of exercise equipment are more often injured due to faulty, ill-designed, improperly assembled or maintained equipment. Machines common in home and at health clubs and physical therapy facilities pose serious risks, mostly overlooked because users believe, wrongly, that they are well designed, manufactured and maintained.

Since these machines and devices often involve moving weights or supporting the weight of the user, mishaps can cause serious injuries.

Faulty Design

Since the dawn of the commercialized exercise industry, gimmick and Rube Goldberg contraptions have pervaded the market. A view of late-night T.V. infomercials confirms that these machines and devices are aggressively marketed and represent a large, lucrative market.

Machines designed and marketed to the home exercise segment of the market are especially susceptible to faulty design. These machines are typically manufactured overseas, based on designs that are untested or ill conceived. Our firm represented a tradesman who was injured when a cable failed on a pulley/weight machine he purchased for home exercise. When the cable failed, he suffered a back injury requiring surgery. Investigation by an expert revealed that the cable provided with the machine was not suited for the application, and it failed after 2 months of home use.

Because the market is largely unregulated and so competitive, manufacturers often skimp on materials and, in some cases, copy design features from one another to avoid expensive research and development costs. This can lead to problems such as the ones encountered by our client who suffered a low back injury while using a commonly available rowing machine design. The manufacturer copied the design from a competitor, but failed to manufacture the rowing machine so that the foot platform could pivot. The lack of freedom to pivot was well known in the exercise industry to cause injury, but the copycat manufacturer did not incorporate it.

Even relatively innocent looking and simple devices can cause serious injuries. Our firm currently represents a man using a "Swiss Ball" or inflatable exercise ball while

performing physical therapy after a work injury at a large, well known physical therapy clinic. While he was lifting weights per the instructions of the physical therapist, the ball burst under him. He suffered severe fractures to both arms, resulting in permanent nerve damage. Investigation shows that the ball was not well maintained, and had been exposed to poking and scratching in the past. The manufacturer was sued because for 5 years before this ball was sold, it had been manufacturing balls that deflate slowly if punctured. The "burst-resistant," slow deflating balls were sold about the same as the ones that deflate immediately when burst.

Poor Construction

The intensely competitive market predictably results in manufacturers cutting corners on materials and construction. Missing, broken, improperly installed or unsuitable component parts are common occurrences. Occasionally, these parts fail or, when missing, eliminate important safety measures in machines that often involve heavy weights or moving parts. Because of shortcuts in design and construction, normal attention to guarding, pinch-point elimination or safety features are often omitted or improperly done.

Lack of Adequate Industry Oversight

Although the exercise equipment industry is regulated by the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), recent events have confirmed that this amounts to, in effect, little regulation at all. The CPSC is notoriously under-funded and ineffective. Manufacturers and retailers are required to self-report incidents. However, it is all too common for manufacturers and retailers to ig-

nore their obligations and take their chances in delaying or refusing to report in order to avoid costly recalls. The CPSC website lists numerous enforcement actions where fines and penalties were in the many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Recently the CPSC, which also regulates baby cribs and similar equipment has been in the news. The Chicago Tribune recently ran a series of investigative reports regarding baby bassinets that were fatally defective. Numerous consumer complaints and reports of injuries and deaths were reportedly covered-up by manufacturers and retailers and ignored by CPSC personnel. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office reportedly encountered resistance and delays in forcing the manufacturer to issue warnings and eventually recall the dangerous bassinets. Even after the recall, the Tribune found that the bassinets were still being sold at local retailers.

The bassinet example is illustrative of the lack of industry or governmental control and oversight. Consumers and users must be vigilant in order to stay safe while using exercise equipment.

Tip For Safe Use

The first line of defense in staying safe is prevention: Frequent inspection of equipment to identify wear, loosening components and missing or bent parts is crucial.

Additionally, proper assembly and use according to the included user manuals and assembly instruction is important. However, since these materials may be too general, lacking in detail or inadequate, common sense must be applied to each situation. If you suspect that equipment is not safe, don't use it.

Because of the nature of the home exercise equipment market, manufacturers are often difficult to identify after a problem arises. Since manufacturers are often located overseas and change ownership frequently, identifying them is crucial to making a recovery when their equipment causes injury. Keep the sales receipt, instruction manual and assembly manual for purchased equipment in a safe place for later reference.

If an injury should occur, be sure to keep the machine and all pieces, including broken parts and hardware together in a safe place. Do not attempt to repair, disassemble or reassemble the device until it has been thoroughly examined and investigated. If a lawsuit has to be filed, it is important that these things are available. David P. Huber

WANNA PLAY?

Young musicians come together to play Irish Music... and have a great time too!

The Academy of Irish Music students meet once a week at the Irish-American Heritage Center in Chicago. Students are divided into beginner, intermediate, and senior groups based on ability and experience. The children come from all over the Metropolitan area. Most of them participate in school bands and orchestras; many are Suzuki trained. These kids enjoy playing Irish music and making new friends.



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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



I'm about to launch an e-commerce section on my website so I can sell my used underwear online.

Supposedly Michael Jackson's soiled tidy whiteys are on sale on eBay with an asking opening bid of one million bucks. Those are some expensive skid marks.

What's really scary is that some rich perv will probably purchase the pansy's panties.

I've also heard of porn actresses making loads of dough selling their unmentionables. So what the hell, I thought I'd give it a whirl. I'm looking for that niche market of weirdos who crave the boxers of smelly old farts like me.

If anybody bites, I'll sell 'em by the bushel.

Seriously folks, I am currently updating my website to sell some classic memorabilia. So I met with a guy the other day, a young man who represents an Internet development company.

So this kid was telling me about the people who run his company. He handed me a very stylish brochure for his technological empire. I scanned it for any recognizable names. A cursory glance confirmed that I am not very familiar with the geek elite.

This was not really a surprise. I love computers but I have no idea how they work. Just like I

love liver sausage but haven't ever devoted any appreciable time to educating myself on the exact recipe.

And then my eyes recognized an Irish name on the list of founders, Moloney. Ah, this might be the man to negotiate the cost of these Internet services. I told the young man, "Tell Moloney I want the Irish discount!"

"The Irish discount."

Is there such a thing? Probably not in Ireland, since you'd have to give it to every Paddy who walked in your door. But I'm proud to say I have benefited from the Irish discount in the USA throughout my life.

It's a courtesy exchanged by fellow Hibernians in recognition of our ancestral roots. The Irish Discount celebrates our kinship in the greatest tribe of all.

You'll also see imposters trying to take advantage of the Irish discount on most Cook County

election days when many judicial candidates suddenly sprout Irish names, like Rufus "Kelly" Washington.

Unfortunately there are some who don't honor the Irish discount. Ask for it and they will smile and tell you, "Sure I'll give you the Irish discount. Bend over!"

This is known as the "Irish bugger" and unfortunately I've been on the receiving end of that one more times than I care to mention. Nobody screws you like your own. The dastardly deeds done by a Goldberg to a Lipschitz are child's play compared to some of the things that a Murphy will sometimes do to a Flynn.

Fortunately for me, my new friend Moloney has agreed to give me the Irish Discount on the Internet website development deal. Bless you Moloney and thank you.

And in an act of incredible

magnanimity I am going to extend the Irish Discount to anyone visiting my website to purchase some of my products.

What's for sale? My brand new book, Hooliganism, an anthology covering 15 years of columns from the IA News, Chicago Tribune, and Chicago Public Radio. And, (drum roll here), the 15th Anniversary edition of GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND, now on DVD.

The book retails for \$25 and the DVD is \$35, but for all my Irish pals you can order both for only fifty bucks. These are the perfect stocking stuffers and should be available online by mid-October.

So check it out soon at www.mikehoulihan.com.

Unfortunately we cannot offer the Irish Discount on any underwear purchases because hey, a man has to make a living somehow!

Mike Houlihan Hitting 60 with New Book, Film & DVD

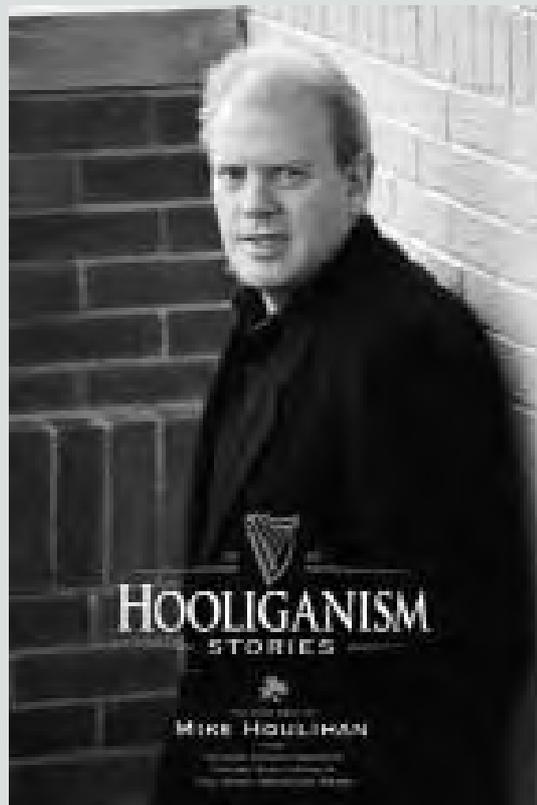
Irish American News and former Chicago Sun-Times features columnist, actor, playwright, producer, and filmmaker Mike Houlihan is approaching his 60th birthday in December with retrospective and original releases.

On a personal appearance tour of pubs, parishes, gift shops, theatres, and libraries Houlihan will perform and sign copies of his new book, "Hooliganism." The book is an anthology covering 15 years of Mike Houlihan's best bits from The Irish American News, the Chicago Tribune Magazine, and Chicago Public Radio, capturing the best stories from one of Irish America's funniest raconteurs. Houlihan takes the reader on a picaresque journey as he recounts his travels in show biz as a Shakespearian clown; his days as proprietor of The Hooley-Dooley, an Irish gin mill in Rockaway Beach, NY; his adventures as a theatre and film producer chasing investors; memories of growing up Irish-Catholic on the south side of Chicago; and his day to day tightrope walk as an itinerant actor, father, and husband. "Hooliganism" also revisits and reinvents several Irish American urban myths and fables featuring a stock company of rogues, scoundrels, and boozers. Filled with Irish jokes, anecdotes, and preposterous tales, "Hooliganism" is like enjoying a pint of your favorite stout.

Also being released with the book is a 15th Anniversary DVD of Goin' East On Ashland, which Houlihan performed in sold-out theatres all over Chicago for six years. Shot live at the Beverly Art Center on the south side, the show is a nostalgic romp, Mike's hilarious memoir of growing up Irish in Chicago. The Sun-Times called it "a tour de force" and "extremely funny" and the Tribune called it "a one-man laughathon". This classic has never been available on DVD until now.

But wait! There's more!

Vanguard Cinema is releasing the DVD of Mike Houlihan's independent feature film, Tapioca, a



homeless comedy starring Broadway legend Ben Vereen, Saturday Night Live alum Tim Kazurinsky, and a crazy cast of Second City veterans. Tapioca is a funny, raunchy romp, a quirky, comic tale of redemption currently playing the festival circuit. Shot in Chicago, the film premiered in Park City, Utah in January and has played the Dallas Black Film Festival, First Take Film Festival, and the Other Venice Film Festival. See the trailer at www.TapiocaTheMovie.com.

The book and DVDs will all be available in mid-October at www.mikehoulihan.com. To request a personal appearance by Mike Houlihan at your event, call 312-431-8700.

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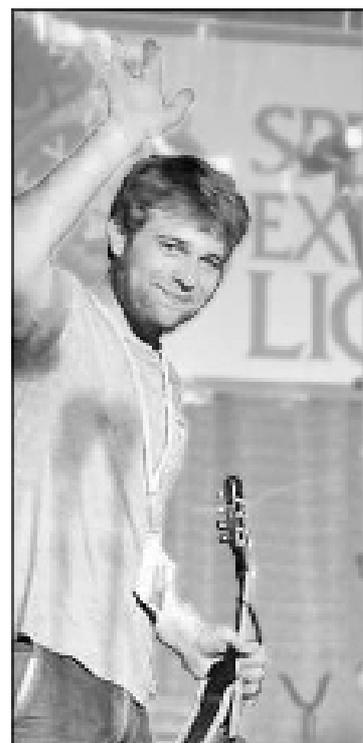
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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



Since my play *The Day Patient* is currently being staged by the Shapeshifters theater company at the Irish American Heritage Center, I thought I might provide some insights into how plays are written. Or at least how my playwriting process works. Firstly, I need to be relaxed and seated in my usual work area at home. In my day job I travel a lot, but I have found that no matter how hard I try, I cannot write on the road. A hotel room—no matter how comfortable or the opposite—is no substitute for my own space and the touch of my regular keyboard. I simply need my familiar surroundings.

Next, there must be a large chunk of unbroken time at my disposal. My creative thoughts remain dammed up unless I have a minimum of four uninterrupted hours, and preferably more available. Less than that and my mind can find all sorts of reasons not to start writing at all. It will prod me about this undone errand and that

outstanding chore and before I know it, the time for writing is all eaten up. It is amazing how many roadblocks that can be created on the way to creativity.

Then, assuming I have surmounted the various obstacles and reached a point where I have drafted the bones of a play, I find myself adopting the ten percent rule. You don't know it? The rule is that I throw out ninety percent of the material I have written and keep a mere ten. Then I start over. When I am finished a second time, I again toss out ninety percent. Then I repeat the process. I keep on doing this until I have the gist of what may be a play after approximately ten rewrites. As can be imagined, it is a laborious, time-consuming process.

Characters Eliminated

So what do I change? Sometimes I am not happy with the storyline and try to change it. I may eliminate characters or scenes. Or I may think that a character is

underdeveloped or their motivation unclear. That too requires further experimentation and change. Thus, it is axiomatic that plays are not written—but rewritten. And another old saw is that plays are never finished, at least in the mind of the author. Often writers strive to make their creative output better even when others think it is already complete. This has occurred with writers even after their work has been performed, published and received critical acclaim.

Such was the case with Tennessee Williams—one of America's most talented and beloved playwrights. He whiled away hours experimenting with various versions of the mother, Amanda, and the nature of the mysterious gentleman caller in *The Glass Menagerie*, long after the play had been a success as he dived out in an alcoholism treatment facility in St. Louis. And he sometimes changed the nature of the relationship between Blanche and Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* long after it too had become a hit. Moreover, Williams never thought he got it all together in another successful play *Summer and Smoke* and rewrote the play altogether under a new title. He called it *Eccentricities*, which was probably apt.

My current play *The Day Patient* is about a woman who goes into a modern-day Dublin hospital for ambulatory surgery and has a horrible mishap. She is rendered comatose. That pits the patient's husband Hubie Byrne (Mike Schifferdecker) against the hospital when the hospital decides to hide what happened. The production, directed by Robert Ayers, has an interesting experimental line up; several females have been cast in roles that were first written for males. Debra Rodkin plays the part of Professor Boyle, a capable but arrogant surgeon, Connie Anderko is the conflicted young trainee Dr. Moore, Christina Thodos is the wily anesthesiologist Dr. Quirke and Elizabeth Ellis is hospital chief executive Jo Brennan. Other cast members include Casey Cunningham and Kathryn Daniels as a hospital nurses and Brenda Kelly in the role of hospital porter. The play runs through Oct. 19th.

Gaelic Park Fall Production

Gaelic Park Players are currently rehearsing their fall production, *DA*, under the direction of Larry Coughlin. *DA*, by playwright Hugh Leonard who turned 80 in 2006, is semi-autobiographical. In the play, after his father's funeral, the playwright relives growing



up in Dalkey, a small seacoast town south of Dublin. He goes into his shifting relationships with his father as he passes through various phases of life: childhood, adolescence, adulthood. The play moves between past and present, reality and imagination, and confrontations and carry-on. Leonard, received major awards including a Tony in 1978 for this enchanting trip down memory lane.

The production features an abundance of experienced and lovable actors. They include Barney Farrelly (DA,) Mick Kenna (Charlie,) Robert Emmett Reidy (Drumm,) Tom Kearney (Oliver,) Mike Azarkieicz (young Charlie,) Kate McNally (Mother,) Jackie Moran (Mary Tate,) Katie McKirdie (Mrs. Prynne.) Asst. Directors are Georgina Chapman and Myra McWilliams. David Branigan is producer.

Performances: Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23. For Tickets: call 708-687-9323.

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Dancing at Lughnasa Beverly Theatre Guild

The Beverly Theatre Guild has cast local talent for the first production of their 2008-2009 Season, *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

As warm as Irish whiskey, *Dancing at Lughnasa* is set in Ballybeg, a fictional landscape in Donegal, Ireland. Michael, raised by his unmarried mother and four spinster aunts in 1930's Ireland, recounts the story from when he was 7 years old. Their lives are interrupted by the arrival of two men—the boy's long-lost father and his uncle, returned after 25 years as a missionary in Africa.

The show will run on Friday, Oct. 17th and 24th at 8pm; Saturday, Oct. 18th and 25th at 8pm; and Sunday, October 19th and 26th at 2pm at The Morgan Park Academy Arts Center, 2153 W. 111th St. in Chicago.

773-284-8497 or www.beverlytheatreguild.org.

Dog in A Manger at Red Tape Theatre

Red Tape Theatre will present the world premiere of *Dog In A Manger*, an original adaptation written and directed by Artistic Director James Palmer. Performances run through Oct. 6-26 at the Red Tape Theater inside St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 621 W. Belmont in Chicago.

Dog In A Manger is a twistedly-funny, avant-garde adaptation of Lope DeVega's masterful comedy. Countess Belflor runs a tight ship in her home in order to keep the inquisition at bay. But when a strange man with giant wings invades her home to ravage her handmaiden, things take a turn for the worse. Diana discovers the identity of the strange man and begins a forbidden love triangle sure to fan the flames of the already smoldering inquisition.

\$20 Suggested Donation. Performance Schedule: Thu/Fri/Sat/Sun 7:30pm; Sat/Sun 2pm. Info and Tickets: 847-738-6919, www.redtapetheatre.org, info@redtapetheatre.com.

With or Without Wings at A Red Orchid Theatre

With or Without Wings, written and performed by Mierka Girten and adapted by Michael Thomas, runs through Sunday, November 2 at 7pm at A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 North Wells Street in Chicago.

With or Without Wings is a one-woman tour-de-force chronicling a young performer's humbling first encounters and shocking diagnosis with Multiple Sclerosis. A hilarious and heartbreaking personal account that explores the myths of MS, while providing a message of enduring hope. Originally produced in 2001 to critical acclaim, *With or Without Wings* was the inspiration for the Mookie Jam Foundation, which benefits artists with MS. 312-943-8722



Mierka Girten
or www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

Writers' Theatre Guild Presents Picnic

The Writers' Theatre Guild will present William Inge's *Picnic* directed by David Cromer, through November 16, 2008, at Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

When a charismatic young drifter arrives in a small Kansas town on the eve of a Labor Day picnic, the simmering repressions of its residents come rapidly to a boil. Frequently hilarious and profoundly moving, Inge's masterpiece chronicles the hopes and despairs that lie between the realization of adulthood and the eternal optimism of youth.

Discussions with artistic staff and cast members will follow the performances on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2008. A pre-show lecture, designed to make the Writers Theatre experience even more enjoyable, will be given by Michael Halberstam or other members of the artistic staff on Oct. 5 and 19 at 5pm.

Tickets range from \$50-\$65 (Writers' Theatre subscribers receive a 10% discount) and are available at the Box Office, 376 Park Avenue, Glencoe; 847-242-6000 or online at www.writers theatre.org.

"bread and salt" Celebrates Sandburg

The Chicago Actors Wordshop program, "bread and salt," is compiled from various works of Carl Sandburg—predominantly his Chicago Poems of 1916. This poignant and humorous presentation is a tribute to the hardworking laborers who built the "City of the Big Shoulders." The performance pieces

suggest a short day's journey into night on the teeming streets of Chicago during the early 20th century.

The program is a celebration of Chicago and will be offered at the Chicago Cultural Center on Sat., Nov. 8 as part of the Chicago Humanities Festival. Tickets are \$15.00; 312-494-9509.

Militant Language at Halcyon Theatre

The Halcyon Theatre, 4745 N. Kedzie, 2nd Floor in Chicago, will present *Militant Language* by Sean Christopher Lewis, October 17 through November 21, 2008.

In the current Iraqi state, a private rebuilding effort has been initiated. As things begin to be rebuilt, however, the village quickly unravels. An examination filled with humor and magic attempting to understand the inexplicability of our current reality.

Tickets range from \$15-\$20; \$10 Tickets for Students and Seniors are available at every performance and \$5 Tuesdays for people who live or work in the 60625 or 60630 zip code. 312.458.9170 or www.halcyontheatre.org/boxoffice.

Village Players' The Medium at Large

Ghosts. Romance. Mischief. New York City, 1938. What if those who have passed on have never really left us at all? It's possible! Bruce, a medium-at-large, plays matchmaker for a pair of sisters in this world and the next, and set skepticism aside for an evening of romantic high jinks.

On the Shore of the Wide World

The Griffin Theatre Company begins its 20th Anniversary Season with the North American Premiere of the 2006 Olivier Award winner for Best New Play, Simon Stephens' *On the Shore of the Wide World*.

Simon Stephens' powerful family drama, focuses on three generations of one family in Stockport, England, as it examines the persistent dreams and struggles facing each generation. The play deftly explores both the joys and fears that come from every day life, and the daunting task of making a mark in society.

The regular run performances (Oct. 5–Nov. 16, 2008) are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3pm. Tickets range from \$15-\$25 and are on sale now at Theatre Building Chicago, (773) 327-5252, or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Presented in the Mainstage Theater of the newly renovated Village Players Performing Arts Center located at 1010 Madison St. in Oak Park, *The Medium at Large* runs from Oct. 19 – Nov. 16, 2008. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for Students & Seniors. www.village-players.org or 866-764-1010.

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Million Dollar Quartet at Goodman Theatre

On December 4, 1956, an auspicious twist of fate brought together Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The place was Sun Records' storefront studio in Memphis. The man who made it happen was the "Father of Rock-n-Roll," Sam Phillips, who discovered them all. The

four legends-to-be united for the only time in their careers for an impromptu recording session that embodied the birth of rock'n'roll and has come to be known as one of the greatest rock jam sessions of all time.

Million Dollar Quartet captures the infectious spirit, freewheeling excitement and thrilling sounds of

a singular moment when four of popular music's most extraordinary talents, all in their creative prime, came together for a night that would raise the roof. The Goodman Theatre is located at 170 North Dearborn Street in Chicago. The show will take place in the Goodman's Owen Theatre through October 26, 2008. www.goodmantheatre.org.



Dave Davinci Saves The Universe

The creative team that captivated audiences in 2007 with the smash-hit *The Sparrow*, will re-imagine their 2005 hit, *Dave Davinci Saves the Universe*, this fall for a limited engagement at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St. in Chicago. Written by Chris Mathews, Jake Minton and Nathan Allen, directed by The House Theatre of Chicago, the show will run through Nov. 8, 2008.

Dave Davinci Saves the Universe tells the story of the world's most famous scientist working against the clock to invent the only thing that can save his daughter's life and his marriage; a time machine. The House Theatre of Chicago shares a completely fresh version of an original favorite with new characters, sharper dialogue, a new design, more heartfelt comedy, and tighter twists than ever before.

Tickets are \$10-\$29, and may be purchased by calling (773) 251-2195 or online at www.thehousetheatre.com.

Mame at Drury Lane

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

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

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

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Irish Diaspora

Charles Brady



talk to me anyway) you're a skip and a jump from the livelier areas. Ah, you know something? I don't need to believe in God because heaven is here. The Mexican people are so warm, welcoming and inquisitive about other cultures that this is a place I could think about spending years in.

On top of that, as we approached Flamingo Lakes Golf Resort a flight of flamingos took off with unconscious, soaring majesty across the ocean. Does life get any better?

Well, yes, it did, actually.

In what seems now to be a seamless transition I looked from the flight of these magnificent creatures to the lady that I was interviewing. What can I say except that she would rival these wonderful creations in her own way? Tall, slim, elegant and sophisticated, she seemed the personification of the unconscious beauty of the flamingo. And before you think that my prose has become too purple let me mention that her boyfriend—yes, sorry guys, you heard that right—has five fishing vessels here in Ireland. I hope to pursue this, as what the European Union is doing to these hard-working men deserves an article all on its own.

"I was born in Sidney, Australia," Janet tells me. "My dad, Frank, is from Dublin and my mum Miriam came from Drogheda. But they met in Australia."

"Dad had a trial for Manchester United and played in the reserves for a few years before going to Shamrock Rovers, then Drogheda United, then it was on to Australia."

"I was born in 1972 and came home, as I think of it, about six years later. I went to the Sacred Hearts School and after my inter-leaving I went on to train as an air traffic controller in Dublin Airport."

Janet has a very direct way of looking straight at you that in someone else could be disconcerting, but the warmth in her eyes takes from that and you find yourself feeling that you have known this person for all of your life.

She goes on: "After nine months I realised that I didn't like the job. It was a little impersonal and I'm more of a people person. So I moved on to the Jersey Islands and worked in the capital of Jersey, St. Helier, in Laura Ashley's boutique. After two years I had become restless again and moved back to Dublin where I had my first experience with sales, selling industrial office cleaning equipment. This was in 1994 and was the first time that I realised what I really wanted to do."

At this point we broke for something to eat and, if anything, when away from being questioned by a goon like me, she turned out to be funnier and more open than in the more formal set-up. She seems to be the kind of admirable person that we see too few of. She's passionate about her work in Mexico and the other areas that her job takes her to (although, I trust, not Turkey—please don't tell me that anyone gets excited about Turkey) and she went on:

"In 1996 I went back to Australia, doing sales work for radio companies. One of the more fascinating

pieces I did was working for the Japanese Sanna Finance and dealing with finance brokers and it was there that I was promoted to Industrial Sales Manager."

I swear, I never had expected to be interested in listening to stuff about sales, but this lady's enthusiasm could light up Dubai's new sky-reaching tower.

"At the beginning of 2007 I took a break and decided to really travel Australia, Turkey [aaarrgggh!!] and Dubai. At the end of '07 I answered the ad for the Right Move Abroad as Business Development Executive. Here I feel really contented and ambitiously hungry at the same time. I'm with an expanding company that is going places."

Janet sums up pretty neatly how I feel about the Irish who are out there grafting and making a difference. She may be unconscious of it but it seemed to me that she cares more for her clients than would be true if she were just going through the motions. I admire her intensely—both herself and the many others that this country, despite its faults—are now producing on an ongoing basis.

May I wish you all the very best for the future, Janet. It was a pleasure to meet you.

For further information you can contact Noelle Brooks Public Relations on either 011 353 (0) 868067474 or email at: noellebrooks@eircom.net. Also The Right Move Abroad at 011 353 (0) 1 8666168 or check out www.therightmoveabroad.ie.

A Flamingo in Mexico: Janet McEwen

In Sam Peckinpah's epic film *The Wild Bunch* a memorable scene has the gang reach the Mexican border. Ben Johnson snaps: "It just looks like more Texas to me," only to have Jaime Sanchez reply: "Ah, you have no eyes."

Sanchez is right: he had no eyes. For Mexico is one of the most thrilling countries in the world. It is, of course, too vast to make generalised comments on; but the area around the beautiful town of Mérida and perhaps as far as Campeche on the east coast is one that the visitor vows to return to—even before they have left it.

To get the bad news out of the way first: I flew from Dublin to Atlanta and from there to Cancún. This was my fourth visit to this marvellous country and yet it was my first to the much-lauded Cancún. I hated the place. Nor do I even consider it to be part of Mexico. It's more like one of those creepy places in no-man's land that you might come across in an H.P. Lovecraft story. I'm sure that some people like the glitz and phoney glamour, but for the life of me I don't know why. I far preferred my trip down the coast to wonderful Mérida (a city of a million yet with the feel of a welcoming big town (go figure) where I was blessed by having time to spend with some old friends that I had been with in Venezuela last February. If you read this column regularly you may recall my mentioning The Right Move Abroad group. Also, you probably know at this stage that the particular curmudgeon who writes these

articles rarely has a good word to say about anyone. However, grinding my teeth in anguish I have to admit that this group are amongst the most professional and solid I have ever come across. Not something I say lightly. And that includes their delightful PR lady, Dubliner Noelle Brooks. Take a bow, Noelle. I'm in awe of you.

I've been at this game so long that cynicism almost becomes like breathing, but this crowd are just great. And no. I'm not on commission, you in the back row there. We'll leave aside the fact that they sell property in Turkey (ugh, how did that happen?) and just admit that they represent some great stuff in India, Venezuela and Egypt, to name a few. So it was great to see them again. I was hoping that Conor Johnson, whom I had met in Venezuela's beautiful Margarita Island was among the crew, but unfortunately—for him—he was in the dreaded Turkey.

Sorry, guys. Just the way I feel about that place. Not just because of personal experience but also because I never really recovered from seeing *Midnight Express*.

However, we went on down the coast to look at the Flamingo Lakes Resort, right in the heart of the Yucatán Peninsula, that is being built there at the moment. I'm going to leave critical faculties behind here because what is there not to like about that incredible blue sea and mile after mile of untouched white sand beaches? And if you're not the reclusive type like me (mainly because nobody wants to



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Emil Jones, Jr.

Emil Jones Jr., President of the Illinois Senate has replaced himself with his son Emil Jones, III, on the November ballot for the Senate. Chicago Sun Times' columnist Carol Marin calls it nepotitis! I call it an arrogant disregard for the Democrat process! We need to prevent the subversion of the political process. The Democratic committeemen do the bidding of the hierarchy, in this case

Emil Jones, Senate President.

For he so loved Illinois he gave us his only begotten son, Emil Jones III. This is the word of the Lord.

"Just because you're in public office does mean you're a second class citizen... And I respect fathers who take care of their children. So would I support my son? Sure, I'm going to support my son."

I wonder if Emil Jones III has been talking with Todd Stroger? They

could co-author a book on how to succeed in politics without really trying. He will probably march with Todd in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Barack of Utopia

Senator Obama's utopian view of change would make anybody want to vote for him. His speech told everybody what they wanted to hear, get out of Iraq "responsibly," lower taxes for 95% of Americans, and end our oil "addiction." Health care for everyone and the litany goes on.

There's a big problem here, as Emil Jones, Jr., Illinois Senate President, was Obama's mentor. Jones' record of self-serving abuse of power changed the job requirement so that the Director of Mental Health in the State of Illinois no longer requires a medical degree. This was done so his wife, who is a psychologist, would be eligible to get the job. And so she did. His stepson's company Synch Solutions was awarded millions of dollars in no bid contracts. He has replaced himself on the ballot with his son to run for the Illinois State Senate. The family dynasties in Chicago amongst the Democrats are endless. Bill Lipinski got this started by replacing himself on the ballot with his son, Dan, who was not even a resident of the State of Illinois, but a University Professor in Tennessee.

In his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Senator Obama quoted John F. Kennedy, "We must recover our intellectual and moral strength." How about if we start with the "ethics" legislation in Illinois? If we view the Democratic party in Chicago and Cook County as a microcosm of what we can expect on a national level, we are dead in the water. John F. Kennedy also said, "too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." What do you think?

When Senator Obama was interviewed by Rev. Rick Warren at the Saddleback Church the question was, "When does life begin?" Senator Obama fumbled the ball by answering,

"whether you're looking at it from a political perspective or a scientific perspective, answering the question with specificity is above my pay grade."

Senator McCain got it right by saying, "at conception." In other words, when the sperm fertilizes the egg. When does the soul enter the body, might be a tougher question to answer! Way beyond his pay grade!

Senator Obama has been criticized by the black community for not mentioning Martin Luther King's name in his acceptance speech, and I agree, he should have. Sometimes little things you hear make you wonder what makes people tick. While listening to national public radio at 91.5 on the FM dial, after the Democratic National Convention, a man called in and said, "How come they played country music and soft rock at the DNC? This is not a rural country. Most of the people live in the big cities. They should have played jazz..." What the bleep is this guy thinking? We're electing a President. Senator Obama did not get high marks on his speech, and that's no surprise.

Governor Palin, Alaska

Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, has been named as the Republican Vice Presidential candidate. She is more qualified for that job than Senator Obama is for President. The media and the opposition are probing her past. The critics are saying she has no foreign policy experience; neither does Senator Obama. When both sides nail down the planks in their platforms and they tell us how they can make their programs work and how they will fund them, people can make intelligent decisions.

We're going to need more than cutesie crap like, "what's the difference between a pit bull and hockey mom? Lipstick." Senator McCain needs more distance between himself and George Bush, and even more distance from Dick Cheney. He needs to be less hawkish and ease off the macho bravado. Republican

Congressman Mark Kirk's TV spot distances him from George Bush and leaves you with the impression he's an Independent, leaving the GOP behind. They're all ducking for cover. He has a worthy opponent in Dan Seals in the 10th Congressional District. This is the greatest show on earth!

Wall Street's up for grabs. Corporate greed, high risk investments, and the house of cards is collapsing. More jobs lost! Good high-paying jobs!

Hurricane Ina blows in. Gas prices balloon upward, as oil prices fall.

Lieutenant

Governor Quinn

Sunday, September 14th, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn along with his mother Eileen visited the Irish American Heritage Center. Lt. Gov. Quinn's mother's family came from Ballymacelligott near Tralee, Co. Kerry, and his father's family from Mayo, near Swinford. IAHC President Bob McNamara presented Lt. Gov. Quinn with an honorary membership and a Waterford paperweight.

Cardinal George

The Cardinal was lambasted by Letters to the Editor in the Chicago Sun Times, August 15th. Sister Maureen Paul Terlish, a victim's advocate from Newcastle, Delaware said, "he's just another enabler."

"Our church leaders protected and enabled known rapists and child molesters for much of their clerical careers while giving no thought to the trail of broken bodies and souls these sociopaths left in their wake."

"Can one believe the excuses and rationalizations that would indicate an incompetence beyond belief or is George yet another archetypal figure representing a clerical system corrupted beyond imagination?"

Illinois States' Supreme Court Chief Justice Ann Burke was recently in the news stating that Cardinal George had been less than forthright with her.

Avenue. Both the Opening Night Premiere (October 16) and Closing Night (October 29) take place at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive. Screenings for Rediscovered and Restored Films will be held at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Avenue, on October 26, 27, and 28th.

Film Festival passes are on sale now, and individual tickets for the various Festival events will go on sale the beginning of October. For detailed Festival information visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or www.ticketmaster.com, or call 312-902-1500.

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44th Chicago International Film Festival

The 44th Chicago International Film Festival, October 16-29, 2008, will offer moviegoers the best



new films from around the world, but with several exciting additions, including a "Festival Village" and the launch of Green Screen, a fresh new film series showcasing environmental issues. This year's three primary film venues are all concentrated in the Festival Village—a five-block area within the Streeterville and River North neighborhoods—offering audiences complete and

easy access to this season's most intriguing film. Social events will also be held at restaurants, hotels, and clubs within the Festival Village before and after screenings.

The 44th Chicago International Film Festival will screen films at four locations. The majority of films will be shown at AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois Street and AMC 600 N. Michigan 9, 600 N. Michigan

Julie Fowls In Concert at Old Town School

On Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 7pm, Old Town School and Irish American News will present Julie Fowls with special guest Sean Cleland at Gary and Laura Maurer Concert Hall, 4544 N Lincoln Ave. in Chicago.

Julie Fowls sings in Scottish Gaelic bringing ancient songs from the Hebridean Islands to new audiences. She plays a variety of instruments including Highland bagpipes, smallpipes, whistles, oboe and English horn.

Tickets are \$20 General Public/\$18 Old Town School Members/\$16 Seniors & Children. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10. or buy online at oldtownschool.tix.com or call the box office at 773.728.6000.

oldtownschool.tix.com or call the box office at 773.728.6000.



Duck For President at Lifeline Theatre

The Lifeline Theatre Kid-Series will present the world premiere musical adaptation of Duck for President, showing both the heady and head-achey sides of politics just in time for the election, based on the popular bestseller by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin.

Just who put Farmer Brown in charge, anyway? Isn't it time an intelligent and handsome young duck ran for office? And once he's running the farm, it's just a few short steps until he's running the country! This production (about one hour with no intermission) is appropriate for children ages five to ten and runs through November 30th at the Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago.

Author and Illustrator at Opening Book Signing

Author Cronin and illustrator Lewis will be at the October 12th opening for meet-and-greet and book signings, from noon-1 p.m. (free)—the book and cast recording CDs will be on sale in the lobby.

For tickets 773-761-4477. www.lifelinetheatre.com.



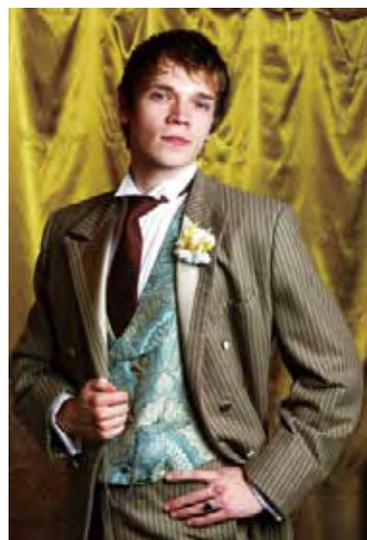
Pig (Heather Currie, left) and Cow (Christina Hall, right) cheer for their favorite candidate for president, Duck, in Lifeline Theatre's world premiere musical "Duck for President" by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin, adapted by James E. Grote and George Howe. Photo by Suzanne Plunkett.

The Picture of Dorian Gray at Lifeline

Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago inaugurates its 26th anniversary MainStage season with the world premiere adaptation of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray, which will run through Nov. 2nd. What would you do if you had the freedom to indulge your every dark desire? A supernatural power grants Dorian Gray eternal youth and beauty. As the years pass and his outward form remains unmarred, his Dorian Gray (Nick Vidal) poses for the portrait that will decide his destiny, in Lifeline Theatre's world premiere adaptation of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde. Photo by Suzanne Plunkett.

soul wallows in pride and sin, dragging the lives of everyone he touches into the depths of depravity. Oscar Wilde's tragic masterpiece reveals that even the bravest among us are afraid to face what lies within.

For times and tickets call 773-761-4477. www.lifetimetheatre.com.



Put the Nuns in Charge! Returns to Pheasant Run

Due to popular demand, Late Nite Catechism Sequel Put the Nuns in Charge! returns to Pheasant Run

October 11, 2008—January 11, 2009. Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the classroom, Sister returns in this spinoff of the nationally-acclaimed comedy phenomenon, Late Nite Catechism, in the Preservation Hall Studio Theater at Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL; box office 630-584-6342 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Show times are Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are priced at \$27 with dinner packages from \$49. Group rates and overnight packages are available. Additional performance information may be obtained at www.noblefool.org.

This Late Nite Catechism sequel is a funny refresher course in a modern look at the Golden Rule. Sister has her own opinions on just about everything, from the shade of your lipstick to the I-Pod in your pocket. Where Late Nite Catechism creates a nostalgic look at Catholic upbringing, Put the Nuns in Charge! applies that upbringing to today's modern problems.



Embassy of Ireland, Washington D.C.
Ireland and United States
Strategic Review

During his recent Inaugural visit to the United States in July, the Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen, TD, recalled the exceptionally close historical and current ties between Ireland and the United States. He said that in the context of peace in Northern Ireland and Ireland's economic development he foresaw new opportunities to further develop this relationship and partnership into the future. In pursuit of this, he announced that Ambassador Michael Collins would undertake a strategic review of all the relevant issues and report to the Government by the end of the year.

In undertaking this review the Ambassador wishes to consult as widely as possible. He invites and would welcome considered contributions, to be received no later than end October 2008, via the email link on the Embassy's webpage www.embassyofireland.org or by post to Strategic Review, Embassy of Ireland, 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008-2849.

The Taoiseach's remarks announcing this initiative are available on the Embassy's webpage.

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Healy Law Firm Welcomes Two New Attorneys

The Healy Law Firm recently welcomed two new attorneys to the firm, Dennis M. Lynch and Matthew J. Healy.

Dennis Lynch (Lewis University, BA-Highest Honors, Loyola University School of Law, JD-Magna Cum Laude) began with the firm as a law clerk in 2001 while just starting college, and recently became an associate attorney. While in law school, Dennis was a member of the Law Journal and Symposium Editor for the Consumer Law Review. He now concentrates his practice in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, interstate trucking, and workers' compensation.



Dennis M. Lynch



Matthew J. Healy

Prior to joining the firm, Matthew J. Healy (University of Notre Dame, BA-Cum Laude, University of Illinois College of Law, JD) concentrated his practice in medical negligence defense at Donohue Brown Mathewson & Smyth. Prior to defense practice, he served clerkships in the Cook County Circuit Court, in the Chancery Division, the Law Division-Motions, and he Law Division-Commercial. While in law school, Matt competed on the Trial Team and interned for the Speaker of the Illinois House. He now concentrates his practice in product liability and medical negligence.

Milwaukee Irish Fest Receives Awards

Milwaukee Irish Fest was recognized with ten awards this week including capturing gold for Best Community Outreach, Best New Promotion, and Best Ad Series at the 53rd Annual International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) Convention & Expo in Boise, Idaho.

Irish Fest also took home silver and bronze awards in the categories

of Best Miscellaneous Clothing, Best Full Length National Television Program and Best Other Merchandise on behalf of its Belleek 150th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament submission. The Family Passport to Irish Fest program won a bronze for Best Children's Programming, and one of Irish Fest's newer events, Where's Your Paddy? won gold in the

Best T-shirt Design category.

"For Irish Fest to be recognized among the world's top events and festivals is truly an honor," said Jane Anderson, Executive Director of Irish Fest. "It is a testament to the organization's many hardworking volunteers and underscores Irish Fest's goal to give visitors the premier Irish experience every year," Anderson added.

www.irishfest.com.



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents an award of excellence in her office for commitment and dedication to Maria Metz, who is 100 years old. Treasurer Pappas appointed Metz and Honorary Deputy Cook County treasurer in honor of her continued work with the Chicago Police Departments 8th District, where she is a Community Policing Senior Citizen Services Officer. A friend and officers from the 8th District gathered to support and congratulate Metz. From left: Pamela Slaughter, Theresa Lynch, Maria Metz, Treasurer Pappas, Jane Fudacz and Bridget Boylan.

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Judge Thomas Lipscomb

Date admitted to Bar: 1973
 Court: Circuit Court of Cook County, First Municipal District

Legal Experience: Judge Lipscomb began his legal career as a Cook County Assistant Public Defender, providing legal representation to those who could not afford and attorney, from 1973 to 1977. He was a sole practitioner from 1977 to 1994 and then formed the partnership of Lipscomb and Yuknis, practicing general litigation and real estate until his election as a judge.

Judicial experience: Judge Lipscomb was first elected to the bench in 2002 and assigned to the First

Municipal District, Forcible Entry & Detainer Section (eviction court), and later trained judges for that Section. In October 2005, his court opening remarks for unrepresented (pro se) litigants were distributed at the Chicago Bar Association Federal/State Judges Seminar. In October of 2007 he was transferred to his current assignment, a jury trial courtroom in the Civil Trial Section, where he has maintained one of the lowest trial dockets. Judge Lipscomb has also presided at numerous mock trial competitions for law and high school students sponsored by the Circuit Court of Cook County, John Marshall Law School, and others.

Ratings: Judge Lipscomb was previously rated Highly Recommended by the Illinois State Bar Association and Decalogue Society of Lawyers, He also received recommended or qualified ratings from the Chicago Bar Association and members of the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening (2002).

Memberships: Illinois Judges Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, Justinian Society, Lake Shore Ski and Sports Club.

Birth Place: Chicago, IL
 Education: High School: St.

Jenkins Joins Corboy & Demetrio

Matthew Jenkins graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004, concentrating his studies in Political Science, Philosophy and Economics, and playing and coaching varsity football. During his law school career at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he received his juris doctorate degree in 2007, Matt was recognized for both his academic achievements and his commitment to



Ignatius College Preparatory, Chicago, IL. Undergraduate: University of Illinois, Chicago, IL. Law School: De Paul College of Law, Chicago, IL.

Additional Information: Hobbies: running, weight workouts, snow skiing, sailing, boating.

public service. Indeed, his personal dedication to public service earned him the honor of being named a Public Law Initiative Scholar in 2005.

Before returning to Corboy & Demetrio in July 2008, where he had clerked while attending law school, Matt practiced Plaintiffs Civil Rights Law at Loevy & Loevy in Chicago. As an assistant trial attorney at the Loevy firm on an important civil rights case, Matt was successful in obtaining a \$4 million verdict for his client on his very first trial!

Matthew is licensed to practice law in Illinois, The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the U.S District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. He is an active member of the American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, and the Illinois Trial Lawyers' Association, where he currently serves as co-chairman of its Civil Rights and Criminal Law Committee.

Matt was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois and currently resides in Chicago with his wife, Cristen.



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Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

In the interest of creating a more standardized, fair, and meaningful naturalization process, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently completed a multi-year redesign of the naturalization test. The revised test, with an emphasis on the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, will help encourage citizenship applicants to learn and identify with the basic values we all share as Americans.

Redesign Process

The major aim of the redesign process is to ensure that naturalization applicants have uniform, consistent testing experiences nationwide, and that the civics test can effectively assess whether applicants have a meaningful understanding of U.S. government and history. Following a basic U.S. history and civics curriculum, the redesigned test will serve as an important instrument to encourage civic learning and patriotism among prospective citizens.

To accomplish these goals, USCIS initially piloted a new test—with an overhauled English reading and writing section, as well as new history and government questions—in ten sites across the country. The feedback from this pilot was then used to finalize testing procedures, English reading and writing prompts, and a list of 100 new history and government questions. To ensure the pilot accounted for a representative sample of candidates with a variety of education levels, the test was also piloted at adult education sites nationwide.

The resulting redesigned test was publicly introduced on September 27, 2007. Naturalization applicants begin taking the revised test on October 1, 2008.

Should you need any further information on the new test please feel free to give us a call.

Faithful Citizenship

Every four years, the bishops of the United States issue a statement focused on "political responsibility" or "faithful citizenship." The last such statement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizen-

ship," was issued in November 2007. This being a presidential election year, it is especially important for us to reflect on the role we as Catholics play in the political process. The following excerpts were prepared by Geri Garvey, who works for us in Washington D.C. and excerpted from the US Bishops' statement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." For more information, visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

"The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition... Some question whether it is appropriate for the Church to play a role in political life. However, the obligation to teach about moral values that should shape our lives, including our public lives, is central to the mission given to the Church by Jesus Christ... The Catholic community brings important assets to the political dialogue about our nation's future. We bring a consistent moral framework... We also bring broad experience in serving those in need..."

"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, 'It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life.'"

"Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call

to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation."

"As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world."

"Catholic voters should use the framework of Catholic social teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues affecting human life and dignity as well as issues of justice and peace, and they should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest."

The Wooden Bowl

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and a four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together nightly at the dinner table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating rather difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass often milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family

enjoyed dinner at the dinner table. Since grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. Sometimes when the family glanced in grandfather's direction, he had a tear in his eye as he ate alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and mama to eat your food from when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table.

For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled. Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. The wise parent realizes that every day those building blocks are being laid for the child's future.

Let us all be wise builders and role models. Take care of yourself...and those you love...today and everyday!

Marathon Sponsorship

Some of you may remember that I took part in the Chicago

Marathon in 2006. I am attempting to do so again on 12th October. As I did previously I am seeking sponsors and all monies donated I will forward to help two priests from Co. Clare who work with very poor communities in Peru. The priests are Fr. Tony Casey from Ballyea, Clarecastle and Fr. Des Hillery who comes from Milltown Malbay.

Diversity Visa Lottery Program Registration Period

The Diversity Visa (DV) lottery will open for DV-2010 entries on October 2, 2008 (noon, EST) and end on December 1, 2008 (noon, EST).

Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Instructions and additional information are now available at this site.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me @ sliabhanoir@yahoo.com or 312-337-8445.

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ping It In

Jack Baker



The festival season has just about ended, except for a very few in the Southern states, and I'd like to share a few observations from this year's Irish/Scottish/Celtic festivals.

First of all it's been a bad year for Celtic vendors, sales were down while expenses were way up. Granted the economy hasn't been really good and the US dollar has been weak compared to the Euro and the British Pound, making imports a pricey proposition. Those vendors who deal in Irish-made jewelry have seen the market flooded with cheap-as-dirt, and quality to match, Chinese and Thai silver jewelry, selling for pennies, comparatively. Meanwhile Irish jewelry manufacturers have had to layoff most of their workforce. Think about those laid-off workers the next time you pass by the Made in Ireland stickers to lash out with your cash for the cheap stuff.

While I'm beefing about buying habits, I have to mention all the folks who stand in front of my booth and tell their friends, "don't buy that CD, I'll burn you a copy" or "That CD was so good I had to burn 12 copies for my friends". If you're looking to kill the Celtic music industry, that's the way to go. Performers complain to me that sales of their CDs have dropped off by 50% or more. I even saw one vendor at a Feis selling burned

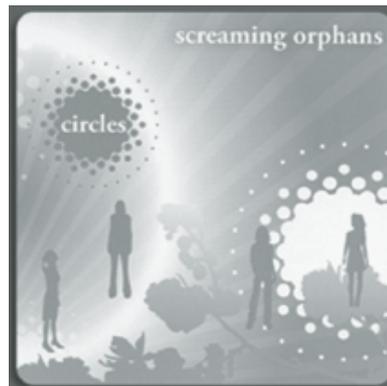
CDs of dance music. I was surprised the feis musicians let him out of there alive! Performers can't afford to tour if their CD sales are diminished. That affects the music venues that then have to lay off the people who work there, when they aren't booking performers.

My last complaint, I swear my last for this month, is theft. 20+ years ago we never saw theft at an Irish Festival or Scottish games. It was family and people acted like family, the occasional argument and/or poke in the nose, but theft... never! Now, unfortunately, it's an everyday occurrence and I don't know any festival vendor that can afford to absorb those kinds of losses. All this has added up to the largest number of vendors getting out of the business that I've ever seen in one year. Don't expect the big-box mega-merchants to take their place at the festivals. Even they are carrying less celtic merchandise in their stores!

But enough grouching, there have been some good things I've noticed this year too. Festival organizers have been working extra hard to keep the festivals alive and improve them at the same time. They've beaten the bushes for new and exciting bands and come up with quite a nice bunch. Peatbog Fairies at Milwaukee Irish Fest were a real surprise, great music. Kris Drever and his band Lau were another pleasant surprise. I have to say though that of all the new bands I got to watch this year, I was most impressed by four sisters from Donegal, who play together as the band Screaming Orphans. The band consists

of Marie Therese Diver on keyboards, piano, accordion, vocals; Grainne Diver, guitar and vocals; Angela Diver, bass guitar violin, vocals and Joan Diver, drums, percussion, lead vocals. I have never seen so versatile a band. They play country, they play pop, they play rock, they play traditional Irish, and they play them all well. Are they good musicians? You bet! Are their vocals angelic and their harmonies tight? Right again! Do they

have stunning stage presence? The best! But the best, the absolute best part is they have star quality! They live their music, sharing the joy they obviously feel in their performances. They spend time with their fans, hugs for all the kids, autographs for all who want them. You have to watch the girls, fussing with all the little kids that come up after their set, taking the time to make it special for the little ones. These are the kind of artists that inspire the next generation, that make festivals wonderful and full of the personal experience you can't



get off the best CD, DVD or TV show. The ladies have only one CD currently in print, Circles, a lovely piece of work that shows off their voices and musical talent. This is a band that must be experienced in person. Check their website at www.screamingorphans.com for their touring schedule, get out and see them. They're great and I love them.

Now, Some Food

I have been a great fan of corned beef all my life. As a kid, it was a special treat and not something we could afford very often. Today I can afford it and I've become pretty picky about where I eat it. The Chicago area is a good place for corned beef lovers and the area abounds with restaurants that know how to prepare it well. In such a situation the competition for the best corned beef is pretty stiff but I have found the home of the best corned beef I have ever tasted. It turns out that the home of the best corned beef is a friendly wee place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. McBob's Pub & Grill at 4919 W. North Avenue in Milwaukee is the place to go for the absolute best corned beef. Their phone is 414-871-5050 but reservations aren't necessary, just tell Robert & Christine, the owners, that I sent you and you'll get the meal that legends are made of. No joke, they're the best.

Lastly, just a note to remind everyone that though the festival season is over, there's a great place in Chicago to see good music at a good price. The Irish American Heritage Center has music every Friday and Saturday night in their Fifth Province Pub. The craic is always great there with good food and drink and a friendly crowd. Hope to see you there.

Catch me in the store, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa Avenue, Villa Park, Illinois 60181, 630-834-8108. Always happy for your input. Slainte.

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2008 NACB Playoffs

By Eamonn Kelly, PRO - NACB

In bringing home four trophies, Chicago teams captured more North American Championships than any other city in this year's NACB playoffs held in Boston over the Labor Day weekend.

A pleasant surprise was the success of the Limerick hurlers, who as underdogs, won the club's second senior title, after a lapse of 31 years. Also at senior ranks, St. Mary's Camogie team repeated their success of 2007 by beating Boston's Eire Og to retain the trophy. The All-American born Patriots took the men's junior "C" football title, their second, having won for the first time in 2005. To rap it up McBrides Ladies footballers won the club's first national ladies football title by capturing the junior "B" championship.

This year's playoffs were a great success with several thousand hurling, football and camogie fans thronging to Boston's Irish Cultural Center in south suburban Canton. Played in perfect weather conditions, the 66 games tournament was a tremendous success thanks to an excellently coordinated program jointly organized by the Boston Northeast Divisional Board and the NACB. Clubs from 24 cities across the country participated in the playoffs that consisted of seventeen championships up for contention. Two new championships were added to this year's schedule, ladies intermediate football and all-American born men's football. In addition, 2 shield competitions, ladies junior football and camogie, and an over 40 men's football competition, were part of the schedule resulting in a tournament of 20 competitions, the biggest since the introduction of this NACB playoff format in 1982.

A record ten cities shared the winning circle. While Chicago headed the list with four championships, Boston and San Francisco followed with each winning three championships. Boston clubs

captured the men's senior football, men's intermediate football and ladies senior football titles while San Francisco teams were winners of the men's junior "A" football, ladies intermediate football and junior camogie championships. Two championships went to Philadelphia with their All-American born team taking the first ever all-American football championship and the Shamrocks club capturing the junior "A" hurling title. The following cities captured one title: Austin, men's junior "D" football; Charlotte, men's junior "B" football; Indianapolis, junior "C" hurling; Milwaukee, junior "B" hurling; Washington DC, ladies junior "A" football. History was created as a result of NCB championship trophies going to the cities of Austin and Indianapolis for the first time.

The inauguration of the all-American men's football championship was a remarkable success. Four cities, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington participated in the All American men's football championship with all 3 games attracting good attendances. Most encouraging was the big attendance at the final between Philadelphia and Washington DC despite the attraction of the men's senior football final in progress in an adjacent field at the same time. Philadelphia won by 2 goals after an exciting and close contest. It was a fitting and emotional victory for Philadelphia as they captured the new and beautiful Stephen Breen memorial cup presented in memory of teenager Stephen Breen, son of Philadelphia divisional board vice-chairman Sean Breen, who died last year after a life long illness.

As in previous years, the playoffs produced some great games and close encounters but also some poor and one-sided affairs. It was a great weekend for the Chicago Limerick hurlers who won their second senior hurling championship, their first since 1977. Having played at junior level for most of this decade Limerick

were considered underdogs to take the 2008 title. However, they played excellent hurling, easily defeating a weak Boston Wexford team in Saturday's one-sided semi-final and went on to defeat San Francisco Na Fianna by 4 points in a closely contested final. Na Fianna's juniors came close to taking the junior "A" title but were defeated by Philadelphia Shamrock by just 2 points in a wonderful final. Six teams competed in the junior "B" hurling championship with Milwaukee retaining the title after winning it for the first time last year. A record 7 teams played in the junior "C" competition

Continued on page 39

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Tradition
In Review



Bill Margeson



Master's from the Limerick University Irish music program? Well, there ARE several, aren't there? But, how many also have an undergrad

So much to do. So little time. Task at hand, a ton more albums to tell you about, as really good stuff continues to flow in. Early alert to next month's column reviewing some great new stuff from Chicago's own bohola. But, now, here it all is for this month!

Good heavens, Ailie Robertson of Scotland can play the harp! So, there are lots and lots of harp players, right? Correct. But, now, Ailie Roberts becomes the third in a full trio of the best of the best in the music. There are the unparalleled Michelle Mulcahy and Maire ni Cathasaig—and now comes Ailie with her debut album, First Things First. How many musicians do you know who have graduated with a

degree in Genetics from Oxford? I suspect we have just narrowed the field noticeably. In short, Ailie has chosen to follow her heart and hands into the music, and all of that is on display with this album. Don't make the mistake of thinking all harpists sound the same. Wrong. Wrong. She is a superior musician, understands the tradition, has her own style and is at home in trad as in the jazz idiom. The amount of major awards she has won for her harp playing would fill this column. The awards don't tell the story. Her music does, and the album is on Lorimer Records. Google them, or Ailie. Get this album. We are playing it constantly on the public radio show. This is wonderful. A major, new star. Rating: Four Harps.

We love finding this wonderful stuff. Albums by Mae Robertson are wonderful stuff. What a voice. Now living in Alabama, this Scottish-American is blessed with a voice from above, and she knows how to use it. She has released a number of albums. Our fav so far is The Sun Upon the Lake Is Low. Google Mae or go to www.lyricpartners.com and find it. We think Rampant Lion in Villa Park may also have it. We haven't found a prettier voice in a long time. She understands her art, and it is on full display in songs such as, "Come All Ye Fair" and "Tender Maidens, Never Be The Sun" and Irish Heartbeat." It is our embarrassment that we have not discovered her earlier. Well, we have now. She

is a master, and this is a very, very special voice. All strength and beauty as she stays within her range while she opens her heart. Terrific on every level. All her albums are brill; this is our fav so far!! Rating: Four Harps.

Catherine McEvoy is one of the best flute players we have heard in a long, long time. She is from Leitrim, we believe. Never mind all the titles she has won, and all that. She is a virtuoso, with an unequalled grasp of the tradition. The name of the album is The Home Ruler, after the iconic hornpipe of the same name. Teacher, musician, master of her instrument. If you love, really love, the pure tradition of the wooden flute, played along with the likes of the fabulous Geraldine Cotter on piano, or Felix Dolan on the keys, this is for you. A stunner. A wonder. Holy moley! It is on, of course, Clo lar-Chonnachta. Rating: Four Harps

Brian Conway is one of the great fiddle players in America. He is out of New York and an exponent of the Sligo style, redolent of the greats like Michael Coleman, James Morrison and Paddy Killoran. His new album is Consider The Source. We first saw this brilliant player a couple years back when he was at a concert in The Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago with Felix Dolan on piano and Joe Burke on button box. The resultant album from that evening was a fav of ours, and this will be, too. All the frills, ornamentation, lift and rhythm are there, as you would expect. What you would not always expect is the fab turn of phrase, the wonderful grasp and deep understanding of the very roots of the music. This is a man about his business, and he is one of the best, as is this album. It, again, is on Clo lar-Chonnachta. There are certain artists, who you know—you just know—you are going to love everything they do. And, there,

alone among them all, is this one label, Clo lar-Chonnachta. We have never NOT loved an album released by this label. It is magic. Rating: Four Stars for artist, album and label!

Notes:

So much more to review—the aforementioned bohola releases, and a wonderful album from Scottish singer, Margaret Stewart. Another is Absolutely Irish featuring EVERYBODY, it seems, and out on Compass. Plus, a wonderful new discovery on, surprise, surprise, Clo lar-Chonnachta from two prodigies, Oisín and Conal Herson, who will knock your socks off.

Young. Brill. And, their whole futures ahead of them on Oisín's button box and Conal's banjo. Stunning.

Haven't flogged the Public Radio show in a while. Begin flogging here: Blarney on the Air, every Monday night from 7-9 Chicago time on WDCB, 90.9fm, or www.wdcb.org Tune in for all the fun!

Congrats to all in Milwaukee at the Irish Music Archives for one of the great nights in the music. The archives hosted The Brock-McGuire Group, the best instrumental group in the tradition, no questions asked. The evening began with a talk by Paul Brock of the band, himself on the central and major role played by America in the development and, indeed, saving of Irish traditional music. Both talk and concert were one for the ages! There is NO organization in the world anywhere near what Ed and Chuck Ward have created in Milwaukee—with the help of literally thousands of volunteers and supporters. We were again stunned by the Ward Archives of Irish Music. Unbelievable, and getting better daily!!

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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



DYNAMITE FROM DAMO

The Rocky Road – Damien Dempsey

I told you two years ago in this column that the future of Irish songwriting was in the good and capable hands of Damien Dempsey, who has written some of the most amazing contemporary Irish ballads of our time. A time when Luke Kelly, Ronnie Drew and Tommy Makem no longer walk among us and there are many others whose voices have been silenced over time.

So, when I heard that a new album had been released by Damien Dempsey I was dying to get my hands on a copy...and when I did...it was pure dynamite. The Rocky Road, already #1 in Ireland, is a milestone for Damo. This album paints a picture both familiar to Irish and Irish Americans alike of a time long gone where families sang their songs at house parties and around the kitchen fire. Musical instruments were rare and most songs were sung unaccompanied, the voice carried the tune. Damien's early albums have consisted of all original material but this album shows where his inspiration comes from. He applies his talent to the songs of the past, his raw talent is still there, the powerful voice and raw emotion applied to the songs we have known for years.

Recorded in Dublin, London, and Lanzarote, this album beautifully mixed and produced by John Reynolds is a cracker and will certainly add to the accolades and awards that Damien Dempsey has earned over the last few years. This album is a bona fide treasure, chock full of my favourite songs, all given the distinctive Damo treatment.

1. The Rocky Road To Dublin.

This song has always been a favorite of mine, and though it's all about the lyrics, Damien's band are all over this one, from John McLoughlin's mandolin to Barney McKenna's banjo and John Sheehan's violin this version has become my immediate favorite. It's always been a difficult song to sing but Damo makes it his own.

2. Schooldays Over.

Suddenly I'm listening to Luke Kelly. This Ewan McCall song, one of his finest is enhanced by this amazing lineup of musicians. Damien's ability to weave the lyrics around this unforgettable melody is second to none, another great rendition.

3. A Rainy Night In Soho.

This is the most beautiful Irish love song written in recent memory. Shane McGowan wrote it in twenty minutes but it has become a love song for all time. Damo reminds us that we all have a loved one who is "the measure of our dreams."

4. The Twang Man.

This Dublin song was written by Zozimus, a Dublin street character and balladeer two hundred years ago and contains a lot of Dublin slang still in use today. Being a Dubliner myself, some of it I don't understand. But I remember this song sung by many in the early sixties. Some of the terms are rude, but great fun.

5. Sullivan's John

This great song, always attributed to the legendary Pecker Dunne, was a great hit for Sweeney's Men in the late sixties. It tells the tale of the traveling people of the time and their tinker trade and the hardships they endured. Damo does it justice. Joe Cullen, my long time friend, singer and musician has told me recently that this song will be on his upcoming album. It's a great song.

6. Kelly, The Boy From Killane.

This is a song we all learnt at school. A ballad from county Wexford that tells of the rebellion of 1798. I have not heard this for many years. A well known rebel song that leads into a rousing reel "The Teetotaler"...Great stuff.

7. The Foggy Dew.

Again, this is one of my favorite songs of the 1916 rising. Damo's powerful version of this classic makes it brand new again and the featured musicians prove their worth again on this track. Eamonn de Barra, John Reynolds and John McLoughlin compliment, enhance and envelop these powerful lyrics.

8. The Hot Asphalt.

Another Dubliner's classic. This song is about the Irish laborers constructing England's highways and byways, laying blacktop for thousands of miles and occasionally going home to Ireland for Christmas to relate their tales of hardships and endurance and mishap.

9. Night Visiting Song.

A beautiful love song that is really about love for country and the tragedy of conflict. Irishmen going overseas fighting and dying for foreign causes. This was The Flight Of The Earls, a beautiful song.

10. The Hackler From Grouse Hall/ The Monaghan Jig.

Damien got this song from Christy Moore. It was Bobby Sands favorite song and John Sheehan with Barney McKenna, the great Dubliners, makes this intermingling of song and jig a feast for the ears.

11. Madam I'm A Darlin.

A song from the great Frank Harte. This very old ballad tells the story of love, opportunity and regret. The song could be considered raunchy, like a lot of traditional Irish songs.

Damien Dempsey is the most significant voice in Irish music today, this album has it all, Damo restores SOUL to the Irish ballad in a time when we have lost so many of our balladeers, Damien's powerful voice and passionate delivery makes "The Rocky Road" a bone fide treasure, and one that you should have in your collection.

Damien Dempsey takes up the mantle of those who have gone before him. He builds on the treasure he has inherited from them and presents it to us in an album that is an absolute classic.



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A Word With Father Boland

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Since 1917, Catholic Charities has welcomed the contributions of each immigrant group to American society, and assisted them with needed services.

Since 1962, when we welcomed Cuban children

to Chicago for safety through "Operation Pedro Pan" until they could be reunited with their parents, Catholic Charities has served an increasing number of Latino children, families and seniors.

Latinos have a long history in the United States and in the Chicago area. For over a hundred years, large numbers of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican and recently, South and Central American immigrants have been part of the economic and social fabric of the Chicago area. They have come looking for work and a better life for their families.

This past year, Catholic Charities provided a helping hand to more than a million people in need in Cook and Lake Counties through 157 programs, including tens of thousands of Latino children, families, seniors and individuals who participated in a myriad of programs. Here are just a few:

- 1,822 children were welcomed to our 12 child development centers in neighborhood throughout Chicago last year; including Our Lady of Tepeyac, which cared for 319 children and St. Joseph's, which nurtured 315 little ones.
- Our weekly supper programs fed more than 400 low-income families and individuals at four city

and suburban locations.

- In August, almost 600 backpacks full of school supplies were collected by South and Southwest suburban parishes and distributed to children at the St. Blase Childhood Center, food pantry, suppers, and Mothers and Children (MAC) Food Program; at our supper in St. Anne's in Hazel Crest; and to the children of the formerly homeless families now living in our New Hope Apartments in the West, South and Southwest suburbs.

- Our new St. Mary of Celle Family Strengthening Center in Berwyn offers child development programs and soon will serve the entire family.

- Seniors enjoy a luncheon every weekday at our Latino Dining Center in Round Lake; and nine regional food pantries in Cook and Lake counties nourish low-income families, seniors and individuals.

- Our Lake County food pantry last year served 12,267 persons, of whom 3,361 were Latino.

- In Lake County, where there was a 140% increase in the Latino population between 1990 and 2000, all of Catholic Charities' services and print materials are available in English and Spanish.

On August 13, Catholic Charities' Board of Directors, Latino Advisory Committee, administrators and staff gathered for an Executive Briefing on Latino Chicago and Immigration Matters presented by the Institute for Latino Studies of the University of Notre Dame. Here are just two major points:

- At 1.7 million, the Latino population in the region today is the third largest in the country; and Illinois ranked 5th highest in Latino buying power at \$32.8 billion in 2006. Today, nearly 70% of Latinos are U.S. citizens and 90% of Latino children are born in the U.S.

- Almost 80 percent of all Chicago-area Latinos are of Mexican descent and more than half live in the suburbs. Latinos are projected to become one-third of the total population in the Chicago

region by 2030. The children of today's Latinos will be the workers, leaders, teachers and taxpayers of tomorrow. Their bilingual and bicultural skills will be critical to Chicago's workforce—locally, nationally and internationally.

I am most grateful to Catholic Charities Board of Advisors members Margarita Garcia, chairperson of our Latino Advisory Committee and Arthur Velasquez, who were instrumental in planning the event; and to Board member Rafael (Ralph) Wilson, who generously underwrote this excellent briefing.

We are also grateful to our distinguished guests from the University of Notre Dame. Through the gracious collaboration of Assistant Provost of the University of Notre Dame and Director of the Institute for Latino Studies, Gilberto Cárdenas, Ph.D., several members of the Institute presented comprehensive information and led dialogue on numerous issues, including immigration and immigration policy, national culture and religious art, community building, and public policy analysis of issues affecting Latinos.

With the creation of Catholic Charities' Office for Latino Affairs, our goal is to work with our Board to increase Latino representation and participation on our regional and divisional boards agency-wide; and to communicate more effectively with all parishes regarding our mission and services.

Catholic Charities will increasingly benefit from the rich faith, wisdom and experience of all the people—especially the Latino parishes and people—whom we serve within the Archdiocese.

As Catholic Charities moves forward in solidarity and greater service with and to the Latino community, we are grateful for our common bonds of faith in God, dedication to the ideals of family and community, and authentic devotion to Mary that enrich our lives and our service.

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



My cell phone and music are the lone things that keep me from driving into you or into a wall when stuck in traffic.

I'm constantly on the road and it seems often when the Edens, Dan Ryan, Kennedy and Lake Shore Drive are at they're worst. If I'm going anywhere outside my zip code, I normally give myself at least an hour.

On a recent Friday during rush hour with the rain pouring, I allowed myself three hours to get to New Lenox. Luckily, I only needed two and a half of those. On the way there, I used my cell phone to pass the time. On the way back, my phone no

longer seemed to work—I think I got rain in it—and I slipped in a CD.

I decided to listen to Bob Dillon's album. No, I didn't spell that wrong. There's the world's Bob Dylan, and there's Chicago's Bob Dillon.

When it comes to Irish music, I prefer the latter.

My return trip only took about half of the original time, but I wouldn't have noticed if it had been longer. Listening to Dillon sing "Belfast Town", "Let's Go Back to County Mayo" and "Green Hills Around Sligo" took my thoughts away from Chicago's

exists a few rare examples of those who exhibit the qualities of probity, integrity, and the public trust. One cannot resist the admiration of one of the finest examples of Libra modesty within ones own professional sphere. The full moon of October 2008 will shine her light on you regardless of your quiet reluctance to be honored so.

SCORPIO: Proud Scorpio, You do not want public notice. You nay at the time of the full moon in October 2008, wish to stay anonymous. But this will be a challenge. At work you could be thrust into the limelight for better or worse. Don't worry if you've been doing what you are supposed to do.

SAGITTARIUS: Mundane daily experiences could be going your way in October 2008. Depending on our past performance, you could be doing fine. If you don't rock the boat you should have an easy go of it. If you are the restless type of Sag, watch out!

Don't stir the pot just to keep boredom away. The full moon won't tolerate it.

CAPRICORN: Pluto is hovering around the early degrees of your sign with the full moon of October 2008 in challenging angles. This is a combination of long standing issues accompanied with short term annoyances. Do the patient thing and choose your battles. Long term problems need careful and considered deliberation. Keep your perspective regarding the little stuff.

AQUARIUS: You are entering a period of busy daily routine. If you are not fighting any major battles in your world, life is good. The full moon in Aries is not going to bite you in the booty unless you have burned a few too many bridges in the past. Things have a way of catching up to you.

PISCES: The full moon in Aries is prompting others to check you out from the shadows. You could be the subject of intense interest for those who wish to know your activities without your direct knowledge. Give them a run for their money. Your life is nobody's business but yours. If they wish to know you, they should have the courage to ask.

expressways and put me into a cozy pub in Ireland. Preferably, I'd be in Ward's pub in Galway or McGann's in Doolin.

Bob Dillon's voice is enough to make him worthy for space in this column, but the fact that he's 84 years old and has never taken a single singing lesson certainly adds to his story.

Bob and I recently sat down at Tommy Nevin's in Evanston to share a pint before he joined the pub's classic Sunday trad session. "The first time I got up in front of anybody

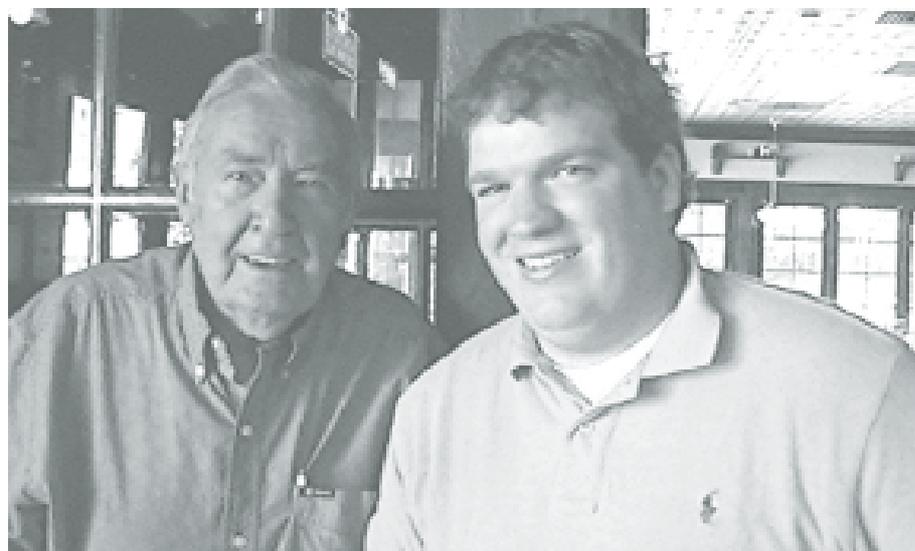
longer than him."

Dillon also forever has had the ability to sing with such beauty without every taking a lesson. It's what amazed me the most when I first heard him.

I asked him, "How?"

"I wish I knew," he said. "Absolutely, I should have a little training in me some place, but I don't have any. I never took a lesson or nothing."

These days Dillon gets out every few weeks to join the traditional session at



Horoscopes

By Theresa Castro

ARIES: The spotlight is on you this month as the full moon in Aries brings your emotions to the forefront. You are going to need all of your wits and fortitude to keep your reactions reasonable. It may seem that the powers that be are goading you into making mistakes. Don't bite the bait!

TAURUS: You are not going to have to worry about emotional issues at this point of the year because the focus may be diverted to others this month. You will be able to take a breather from the cares that usually dog you at other times. Rest up for your turn in the spotlight.

GEMINI: Your friends are giving you some challenges. You are under no obligation to share every detail and nuance about your private affairs. No one but you knows the truth about how to serve your own best interest. Their opinions only muddy the water.

CANCER: You are on the hot seat. This month of October 2008 with the full moon pulling on you from two directions is presenting you with a challenge. You are no stranger to conflict. You are also an expert at self preservation. This particular conundrum is the most complex situation you have encountered in a long time.

LEO: The full moon is blessing you with good aspects. You can thank your lucky stars for this respite from some of the mundane cares of the world. Keep in mind however, that this influence does not last forever. The planets will move on to the next recipient.

VIRGO: You could improve your health and income. The reason is the full moon of October 2008 happens in your 6th sector of wealth and physical well being. If one or the other is more important, your health may take precedence. It is harder to pursue financial advantage without the vigor of health to give you the edge.

LIBRA: Most Libra folks may be a bit vain and concerned with outer appearances. Some rare Libra natives cannot be pigeonholed thus. There

was at my younger brother's wedding," Dillon said. "That was 50 years ago... I just got up. My godfather was there, and he says, 'Gosh, I didn't know you had it in you.' I've been signing ever since."

Ever since, Dillon has sung throughout Chicago. He's sung to North Siders and South Siders alike. He's sung at Lizzy McNeill's and Chief O'Neil's. He's sung at Irish Eyes and Irish Oak. He's sung at the Abbey Pub and Kelly's Pub. He's even treated pubs in Ireland to his voice. Clifden, Dingle, Doolin, Ennis and Westport were all stops for him there.

Dillon's own parents came from Ireland. They lived a few towns apart there, but only met when they both moved to Chicago. Dillon grew up in Chicago and has lived in the Lincoln Park area his entire life.

From a journalistic point of view, the following sentence probably should be put into the previous paragraph, but I feel it requires its own. Dillon has 13 children, 32 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Yep. A tent is nearly required for any Dillon family party.

A bunch of those family members treated Dillon some years ago to a recording session where he sang 14 songs and had them put together on an album.

"I did all the songs in one shot," Dillon said. "The guy asks me, 'How do you want to put them on there?' I said, 'Put them on the way they were sung.' They're all over the country. In Ireland and everything. I've sold 500 copies."

And they're only Irish songs.

"Just Irish songs," he said. "Bob Dylan does the rest of them. I'm Chicago's original Bob Dillon. I've had the name

Tommy Nevin's. On this day, his presence was announced, he walked to the front of the bar, the room quieted and he sang.

I won't even try and describe what happened next. It wouldn't do him justice. His songs are something you have to experience yourself.

Dillon could certainly feel the crowd's enjoyment.

"You can sense when you got the audience," he said. "Nobody says a damn word and they're enjoying it, then they give you a big hand. That's all you can ask for. Nothing else."

"They got the best audience in this here pub here. When I start to sing if some guy's making noise, the next guy pounces on him."

On this day, no one needed a pouncing. Everyone simply enjoyed Chicago's own Bob Dillon.

* If you'd like to share a comment or a future column suggestion with Scott Powers, write him at sharingapint@yahoo.com.

New Online GAA Game

A graphic design company in Co. Tyrone, Blackthorn Design, has just developed a new online GAA game called Take Your Points and has received some very positive feedback from both corporate and individuals.

It is a play on the old phrase, "Take your points and the Goals will follow," where you are in the dying minutes of the All Ireland Final and your point-taking is all that stands between you receiving Sam for your County and Defeat!

www.takeyourpoints.com.



Mick

Mike Morley



October Surprise

From 2001 to May 16 of this year, Anthony McIntyre, along with his partner Carrie Twomey, edited "The Blanket" an Irish Republican E-magazine. McIntyre has now published a collection of his essays.

Journalist Tommy McKearney, a former IRA hunger striker writes: "Over the past decade, Anthony McIntyre has been one of the most consistent and insightful of Sinn Fein's critics. As a historian, a former member of the IRA and a onetime

partyactivistwithextensivecontacts in the organization, few have been better placed than McIntyre to examine and evaluate the transformation of a political movement from armed insurrectionists to tame reformists... The reader is getting an informed and honest view from the centre of the action at all times."

The book was news to me when I received a message from Aoife Serrano, Publisher at Ausubo Press in New York regarding McIntyre's:

Good Friday: The Death of Irish Republicanism. Aoife wrote that after its release in August "It was doing moderately well: But lately distribution and bookselling irregularities plus search engine tampering have succeeded in seriously inhibiting sales..." She knows from her distributor that: "Amazon UK had never placed an order with them. So why are they continuing to list Good Friday as 'out of stock; not available at this time; delivery soon to arrive?'"

Ausubo contacted Eason's Book Store chain in Ireland and "received a curt e-mail stating, 'if you're based in New York, I can't see a practical way to sell your books.' Pardon me? Aren't many of the biggest publishers located in New York, Denver and California? You don't stock books published in the United States? Is the Big Bad Brother of Books at work here?"

"While it may be difficult to prove that booksellers are stone-walling or boycotting the book, Ausubo Press is left without any other plausible explanation. Despite having a distributor, a web site that can handle online sales and a warehouse with fulfillment capability, the online book sellers maintain that the book is 'not available.'"

Aoife says multinational booksellers will offer to help independent publishers like her, but Amazon's Advantage Program requires an annual fee, along with 55% of the book's retail price, and payment for all book shipments to Amazon's warehouse, and to international buyers. And on top of that, Ausubo must relinquish all control: "Amazon has a royalty free worldwide, perpetual irrevocable right and license to use, reproduce, distribute and prepare derivative works from... art work and text for the packaging including cover, jacket, spine and front and back matter... blurbs, author bios... table of contents... and any other materials concerning the product."

Says Aoife: "Apparently Amazon's difficulties with stocking Good Friday would disappear if Ausubo Press would simply join the Advantage Program. We refuse to be coerced into being assimilated by an online book-selling monopoly in order to make Good Friday: The Death of Irish Republicanism another usurped title."

The book can be ordered from the publisher: http://www.ausubopress.com/Good_Friday.html or from the distributor: <http://www.spdbooks.org/details.asp?BookID=1932982744>

I wrote Aoife that her tale regarding Tony's book rang familiar. She

might want to compare notes with Mary MacAleese.

Try finding a copy of her '04 biography, *The Road From Ardoyne*. Looking for that book was like waking up inside a "Twilight Zone" episode. (See the December '06 column in our online archives)

No American bookstores carried it. I think the entire suburban library system here in Chicago had just one copy. And visiting Ireland, I was astounded to find no trace of it in the big Dublin bookstores. Not only no trace, but no one had even heard of it. I imagine the newspapers and trade mags simply pretended it wasn't there. Shannon airport shop had large book displays piled on either side of an entry to its biography section. On the right was Hillary, to the left, Bill—but no MacAleese. After searching a bit more, I asked a shop girl: "Never heard of it." It was a revelation to the manager as well. Mind you, this is a biography by the President of the country!

There's not a great deal in MacAleese's account that I'd consider rabidly anti-British. In one chapter she tells of her family being burned out by Protestant mobs aided by police; in another about run-insshe later had with RTE management as a reporter, covering Republican stories.

Apparently, the system can't tolerate even that level of candor, or any deviance from the managed news soon to become official history. Aoife, welcome to, as you say, "the Big Bad Brother of Books".

What power within "Free World" democracies can render certain new titles invisible, while focusing media attacks on one local library board that takes the liberty of restricting access to copies of an already well-read and widely-available title? Curiously, the biggest lies are most widely believed, and hardest to contradict.

J. Goebbels and "Der Chef" understood that phenomenon.

Writing weeks prior to publication, it's hard to imagine what developments will have arisen in this fast-paced and most unusual presidential race; but there are a couple rumors that I would trust are now resolved.

The birth certificate: the suspicion that candidate Obama was not born in Hawaii but rather, as blogs are buzzing, in Kenya. The image of a birth certificate produced by his campaign appears to be laser-made in 2001, and simply attests that a birth was registered. It should be easy enough for Obama's people to produce an actual "certificate of live birth," signed by a doctor and carrying an official seal.

Another curiosity concerns the candidate's sponsorship to Harvard. In an interview earlier this year on New York's all-news cable channel NY1, Former Manhattan Borough President and African-American businessman Percy Sutton related how a certain Khalid Said al-Mansour contacted him to ask that he write a letter in support of Obama's application to Harvard Law. "I was introduced to (Obama) by a friend who was raising money for him," Sutton told NY1 city hall reporter Dominic Carter. "The friend's name is Dr. Khalid al-Mansour, from Texas," Sutton said. "He is the principal adviser to one of the world's richest men. He told me about Obama."

Al-Mansour is an advisor to Prince Alwaleed of Saudi Arabia, worth about \$30 billion. Some of you may recall Alwaleed offered to donate \$10 million to help rebuild downtown Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks. But when he publicly suggested that U.S. policies had contributed to the attacks and that the US should "adopt a more balanced stand toward the Palestinian cause," Mayor Giuliani handed back his check.

Alwaleed is the largest individual shareholder of Citigroup Bank, and has substantial interests in News Corp., Disney, and Time-Warner (CNN, HBO, AOL, and of course—Time Magazine). Fortune dubbed him "Prince of All Media." An Obama spokesman said simply that "Obama did not know and does not know Khalid al-Mansour."

Are these red herrings? Let's hope so.

Closer to home: The Irish American Heritage Center is hosting a benefit Sunday, October 19 for Terry Horan, a good guy and great entertainer. Many readers know Terry from nights at Tom McCauley's old Emerald Isle downtown on Pearson, and from many benefits to help needy people in the community, and from many grand times of song and laughter in pubs that have come and gone throughout the metropolitan area. Now is Terry's time of need. Visit the website at: www.terryhoranbenefit.com or Call the IAHC at: (773) 282-7035.

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Mr. O'Leary is scheduled to be at the following stores: Old Orchard; 11/7; 5-8pm; 1 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie IL State Street; 11/8; 11-2pm; 111 North State St., Chicago IL Oakbrook; 11/8; 4-7pm; 1 Oak

Brook Center, Oakbrook IL Orland Square; 11/10; 5-8pm; 1 Orland Square, Orland Park IL Mayfair; 11/9; 1-4pm; 2500 N Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa WI



About Jim O'Leary

Jim began his four-decade career at Waterford Crystal as a cutter and rapidly attained Master Craftsman status. After a five-year stint in the Design Studio, he ascended to his current position as its director. Jim retains the skilled craftsman's dedication to the crystal arts, from blowing and cutting to sculpting and polishing.

Gaelic Park October Events

Monthly Musical Luncheon

Chicago Gaelic Park will host their monthly Musical Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 1st, 2008 beginning at noon.

The Musical Luncheon is an exciting way to break up the week with an afternoon of wonderful food, dancing and music. Tickets are \$13 and include all entertainment. Reservations are required.

Monthly Mass & Breakfast

Chicago Gaelic Park will hold their Monthly Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 12th with Mass beginning at 10am. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast including bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more will be served following the Mass. Breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under.

Carraig Pub Hosts Musicians and Food Specials

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig

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

Music is also big at the Carraig with free entertainment every Friday and Saturday night with the best local performers beginning at 9:30pm. This month's entertainment includes: K-Section Friday, Oct. 3rd; Rico Quinn Saturday, Oct. 4th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads Friday, Oct. 10th; Ray Gavigan Saturday, Oct. 11th; Jerry Eadie Friday, Oct. 17th; Mulligan Stew Saturday, Oct. 18th; Roy Moore (direct from Scotland) Friday, Oct. 24th; Joe McShane Saturday, Oct. 25th; Jerry Haughey Friday, Oct. 31st.

Thursday evenings come to the Carraig for the traditional Irish music session given by Pat Finnegan, Sean Cleland and the students of the Irish Music School of Chicago beginning at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Celtic Suppers Resume

Gaelic Park starts its popular Sunday Celtic Supper, November 2nd, 2008, from 4-9pm.

The Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for family celebrations such as parties for birthdays, christenings and more.

For \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal includes two types of meat entrees, potatoes and vegetables, soup, a salad bar and dessert.

Food is available from 4-7pm and music and dancing from 5-9pm. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9.00 and children under 3 are free. Please call Gaelic Park for more information or for reservations, which are required.

Chicago Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest, Illinois 60452; 708-687-9323; Fax 708-687-0120; www.chicagogaelicpark.org.

Please call Gaelic Park for more information or visit Gaelic Park's website for a full calendar of upcoming events, special performances, information on Gaelic Park's cultural activities, and much more.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Frank Carroll: A Lust For Life Part One

79-year old Dubliner Frank Carroll is over in the west of Ireland at the moment to celebrate his 54th anniversary. I was lucky enough to meet Frank seven years ago. He has the memorable Irish face of an ex-boxer that has been cast in granite and an intellect that would be hard to rival. With my late father, whom he knew slightly, he is a man who has swum upstream for most of his life. For the next couple of months

this is his story in his own words. For any older readers who grew up in the Dublin of the rare 'oul times, be prepared for a trip down Memory Lane.

As one gets older, all the sweet memories come flooding back. You try to recapture the moments of your youth, but of course you can't.

I was born in No. 40 Queen Street, Dublin on the 4th of June 1929, beside Thunder Cut Alley,

which was a short cut between Queen Street and Smithfield. I attended St. Patrick's school, North King Street where I have happy memories of walking from Erris Road and then Attracta Road.

We had moved from Queen Street to Erris Road, Cabra and due to the death of my brother Christopher on the 6th August 1931 (he was just six years of age and killed by a truck that was coming from a quarry that used to be where the Cabra playground is), our move to St. Attracta Road came about.

My sister Winnie and I would walk every morning to St. Patrick's school and on passing Grangegorman mental home, we would often hear the screams of the unfortunate people there. After school we would look forward to going into my Granny Wall who lived in No. 28 Queen Street and getting a cup of tea and a lovely big roasted potato that she always had on the side of the fire, and sweets from my Auntie Katie.

Going down Brunswick Street to our school we would pass Tommy Dando who collected old clothes, bottles and jam jars and on into Red Cow Lane and then North King Street for a chat with Mr. Bolster, the chemist. Then maybe onto Mr. Matthew from the sweet shop or Mr. Reynolds with the cycle shop, who were all beside the school.

On the way home we would pass the Cherry Steps, which led up to two tenements where my older brothers John, Paddy and James congregated and swapped yarns about the characters who abounded around the Queen Street and Brunswick and Smithfield area.

In George's Lane, between North King Street and Brunswick there was Harry Lipman, whose name for

buying rags, bottles and jam jars etc. was known far and wide. Little did we know that, years later, we would be bringing old clothes, bottles and jam jars to him in order to get money for the Penny Rush in the Phoenix Cinema on Ellis Quay, where you would go on a Saturday morning to see the "Follyinuppers" like Flash Gordon and many old pictures.

Everyone will have their various memories of their childhood during the forties and the fifties, but if one is honest they will say that although they were hard times they were also happy and innocent times.

The pawnshop was the only bridge that many a poor family had between the wages of Friday and the poverty of the rest of the week. A wife would get her husband's suit out of the pawn on Friday night, having put it in on the Monday morning. There was very little money around in those days, especially at Christmas and you did not ask for a particular toy, but were thankful for what you got. Of course in those days you had no choice. It was dolls, prams and roller skates for the girls; guns and holsters for the boys.

After St. Patrick's school the next stop was St. Peter's school in Phibsboro and while there the Second World War broke out. This was a period of shortages, when many of the things that were taken for granted were rationed. People ended up queuing for bread and there was no coal available, so on the way home we would go down onto the railway at O'Gorman's shop on Connaught Street and along the railway lines, picking up small bits of coal that would have fallen from the trains to bring home for the fire.

We also went up to McLaughlin's in Annamoe Road who made coffins,

and collected saw dust that could be burned in a tin with holes punched in the sides in the yard. That way your mother could cook part of the dinner because gas was rationed. You had to improvise in any way that you could, otherwise you would have a long wait for dinner because the Glimmer Man, as he was called, could knock on your door to ensure that you were not using gas outside the allotted time.

Then there was the trip to the cattle market at Hanlon's Corner with your cans, and asking the men to milk the cows to give you milk—otherwise it was condensed milk in your tea, or shell cocoa.

There were times when you had to miss school so that you could go to where your father was working and collect his wages, otherwise he would go to the pub and there would be very little left when he came home. This was part of life in the forties and fifties.

Because there was no coal for domestic consumption people had to depend on turf, which was usually soaking wet and at that time this cheap turf was available for people whose income was below a certain level. They would get a voucher from the post office and go down to the Turf depot in Norfolk Road or Fassagh Avenue, to collect it themselves or have it delivered by some of the lads who would have hired out a handcart from Keely's in Granby Row for one shilling a day. They would then charge the people sixpence for two bags.

Holy Thursday was a big night out when we would have to do the seven chapels. I don't know the reason for this, but the streets were choc-a-block with people hurrying away from one church to another. As the years went by this custom seemed to just fade away.

We always looked forward to the school holidays and spent most of it swimming in the Royal Canal at the Pin Mill. It always went by this name because they made pins and needles in a factory that stood just beside the canal. When it closed it was taken over by Blake's, who manufactured spices. Today it is apartments. To get over to the Bend for a swim you had to go down a steep bank on the railway, which had two tunnels and one had to be careful going down them because the railway detective would be in a trap door half-way down between both tunnels, and the way of finding out if anyone was there was by throwing stones to both sides. Otherwise he would just nab you as you went past.

I hope that you're looking forward as much as I am to more of Frank's memories next month.

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COMMEMORATING NOVEMBER 3RD

A reminder that in recent years the Irish everywhere are commemorating the Nov. 3, 1845 official start of the Irish Holocaust in which 5.25 millions died before the Food Removal ended in 1850. Ireland's National Graves Association conducts a ceremony on that date. Others visit their local mass graves. Quebecers visit the "Famine" memorial on Grosve Ile. Bostonians visit the mass grave on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, while people in St. John's, New Foundland visit the one on Partridge Island. Londoners visit the Islington mass grave, and Liverpoolians visit one of theirs. Many have Masses said on that date. Nov. 3rd also commemorates the beginning of the "Potato Famine" cover story which British Lord Heytesbury first publicly promoted on that date in 1845. To learn which Brit reg't starved your relatives go to IrishHolocaust.org and click on his map.

Irish Pub in Houston Survives Hurricane Ike

Irish American News distributor, Irish Pub Kenneally's in Houston, Texas survived Hurricane IKE!! The pub had no major damage although trees were down, and they lost part of the back deck and brick wall. They reopened with power (a real luxury at present) to crowds of hungry & thirsty people.



October 24 & 25 is the 25th Anniversary of Irish Pub-Kenneally's featuring live Irish music by Paul McHugh (a Chicago based musician) and Martin Marron (Chicago roots but based in Virginia). Both of these musicians have played at Kenneally's many times over the past 25 years. The pub has created a commemorative CD with a selection of music/songs from many of the past performers...such as Patrick O'Flarity, Cahir O'Doherty, Tony Cummins, Tony McCabe, Andy O'Driscoll, Martin Doyle, Mike Davitt, Paul McHugh, Martin Marron, Dave Hallissey, Andy Burrows and more. The CD release party will be Saturday Oct 25. It should be a great celebration since many "Chicago connections" will be coming down for the craic.

IAN is well read & enjoyed in Houston at Kenneally's.

Ray Moore

Touring Chicago

Chicagoland is famous for its great restaurants, and also known for its great Irish music in its great Irish pubs. In October, contemporary singer/songwriter Ray Moore will visit a month long feast of Irish/folk music in Chicagoland. Ray is originally from Larne, Co Antrim, in Northern Ireland. He left Larne for Scotland and the U.K. 20 years ago and singing in the pubs of Aberdeen ever since, always by the sea shore.

Local tour dates are listed in right column:

Oct 3rd 8pm at Quigleys in Oak Lawn; www.quigleysirishpub.net.

Oct 4th 8pm at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove; www.ballydoylepub.com.

Oct 7th 8pm at Galway Tribes in Frankfort; www.thegalwaytribes.com.

Oct 11th 8pm at Bourbon Street in Merrionette; www.115bourbonstreet.com.

Oct 18th 8pm at Doyles Pub in Richmond; www.doylespubrocks.com.

Oct 24th 8pm at Chicago Gaelic Park (Carraig Pub); www.chicagogaelpark.org.

www.myspace.com/raymoorefolk.

Fraternal Order of Police—A Tradition

The Fraternal Order of Police is the nation's largest Law Enforcement Organization. Through the years, the F.O.P. has developed and built upon a proud tradition of leadership in national law enforcement affairs. This tradition continues today, in its advocacy of service programs for its members and dedication to serving the public through protection and safety.



Several years ago, Mark Donahue was elected President of the F.O.P. State Lodge of Illinois. In April 2002, Donahue was elected President of Chicago Lodge #7, re-elected in 2005, and again in 2008. The local or subordinate lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is an independent body in the conduct of its own affairs. The Local Lodge officers are elected, and Constitution and Bylaws are rated and approved in conformity with State and National Bylaws. The activities of the Local Lodge in its own community are innumerable.

Most local lodges provide many benefits, conduct labor negotiations and handle grievance for its members. The work of the Local Lodge is enhanced by its access to government officials and all level of police agencies and departments.

The organizational goal of the F.O.P. was to bond together law enforcement throughout the

nation. Today's members can be proud to be part of the Fraternal Order of Police organization, bound to brother and sister officers by a long tradition of fraternalism. Active membership in the F.O.P. is open to all full-time law enforcement officers, regardless of rank. Municipal, County, State and Federal government officers are eligible for membership.

Mark Donahue has been a Chicago Police Officer for thirty-one years. He is a graduate of St. Laurence High School, Moraine Valley Community College and St. Xavier University.

Celtic Woman Releases New CD and DVD

Celtic Woman, the multi-platinum selling Irish sensation, will release The Greatest Journey: Essential

Collection on CD and DVD on October 28, 2008 (EMI/Manhattan).

Celtic Woman will once again be featured on PBS during the network's December 2008 pledge drive campaign. The new TV special will be a collection of memorable highlights taken from their past PBS specials: Celtic Woman: Live, A New Journey: Live at Slane Castle and A Christmas Celebration.

Under the musical direction of David Downes it captures the stunning voices of Lisa, Meav, Chloe, Orla, Lynn & Alex and the inspired fiddle playing of Máiréad. This essential collection of their most beloved and memorable songs will give new fans a chance an opportunity to catch up on their phenomenal success and old fans a chance to reminisce.

The companion DVD will include a very special intimate behind-the-scenes documentary. www.emimusic.com.



Can A Catholic Support Him?

By Douglas W. Kmiec

Can A Catholic Support Him? Asking the Big Question About Barack Obama, a newly released book by Douglas W. Kmiec, with an introduction by Martin Sheen, offers a thoughtful explanation of the author's support for Obama.

On April 18, 2008 Douglas W. Kmiec was denied communion at a Catholic Mass in Westlake, California. Ironically, Kmiec had been invited by a Catholic business group to give an address on the Bishop's teaching of "Faithful Citizenship." Having taught law at Notre Dame and the Catholic University of America, Kmiec had served under both Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, representing his faith openly in the White House. As a well-known pro-life Catholic scholar, Kmiec suddenly found himself rejected by his church. Now, Vice-Presidential nominee Joe Biden has been refused at the altar. The Catholic Church has denied these men simply for endorsing the presidential campaign of Senator Barack Obama.

In this book, Kmiec addresses the difficult questions at the core of his decision, opening up the debate to a host of questions about faith and politics in general.

Can A Catholic Support Him? Asking the Big Question About Barack Obama by Douglas W. Kmiec, with an Introduction by Martin Sheen. The Overlook Press, Peter Mayer Publishers Inc., NY, 2008. Softcover; \$12.00.

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MICHIGION

Michigan's Unique Irish Counties

By Neil Mullally

Question: How many states have a county named after a county in Ireland?

Answer: Only one, Michigan.

In fact, Michigan has four counties with Irish namesakes: Clare, Roscommon, Wexford, and Antrim.

Is this a big deal?

It certainly is.

In the U.S. it is common to find streets, roads, towns, cities, townships, and other officially titled entities with Irish monikers.

But to have an entire county named after another county in Ireland is a much more weighty matter.

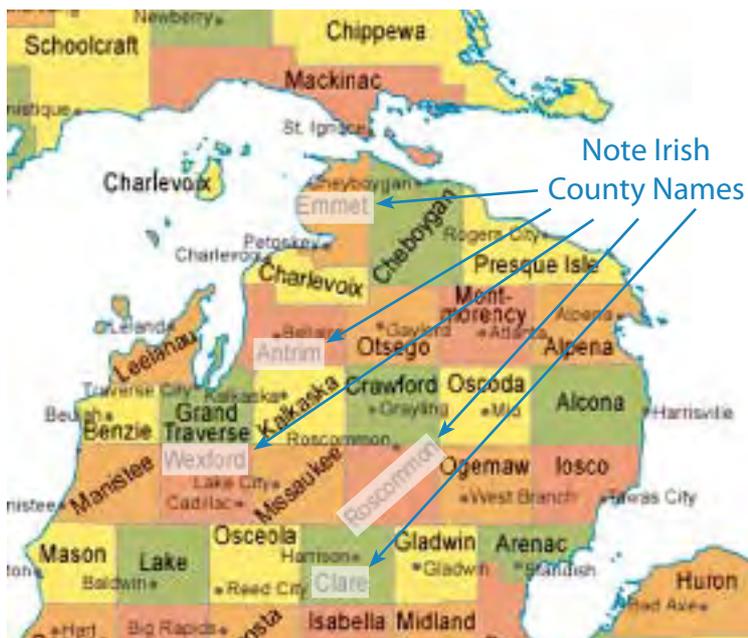
A mere village council can decide what a park name will be, but action by the whole state legislature and the governor is necessary to name a county.

Based upon European governmental organization, the county is the fundamental local building block of government in the United States.

If you live in a state, you may or may not live in a city, but you definitely live in a county.

States are made up of counties, and the power of state government is typically delegated to counties for implementation and enforcement.

And so, when states were formed and counties designated, federal and state leaders attached great significance to the surveying, formation, and naming of counties.



Michigan's Irish counties are found in the northern lower peninsula.

How is, then, that Michigan has not just one, but four counties named after Irish counties?

The population of the Michigan territory boomed after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

Many of the workers who had constructed the Erie Canal were Irish immigrants, and after the canal had been built, they migrated to Michigan, which was still a federal "territory."

Many Irish poured into Michigan as laborers, farmers, fishermen, and timbermen.

By 1850, just 13 years after Michigan achieved statehood, one in every seven residents of Detroit had been born in Ireland!

Another factor attracting hard-working immigrants to Michigan was its status as a "homestead" state. Basically, if an immigrant could "squat" on 160 acres and farm it continuously, acts of Congress in 1841 (The Pre-emption Act) and 1862 (The Homestead Act) legalized the landholdings of "squatting" immigrants.

The agricultural land of the northern

half of Michigan's lower peninsula was especially attractive to Irish immigrants, because those areas closely resemble the farming countryside of the Emerald Isle. This writer's own great-grandparents homesteaded in Clare County, Michigan, in the 1800's.

When Michigan entered the Union as the 26th state in 1837, the Michigan Legislature designated 38 counties, with those counties retaining their territorial names.

However, three years later, in 1840, the Michigan Legislature changed the names of 16 of those original 38 counties.

Four of those names were changed to Antrim, Clare, Roscommon, and Wexford.

And to put a finer point on it, the legislators also re-named yet another fifth county as Emmet County, after the young Irish patriot Robert Emmet, who was hung at age 23 by the British in 1803.

And so, Michigan has actually five counties with names stemming from strong Irish roots.

Although these Irish county names show the obvious influence of the Irish in Michigan's early development, the naming of five Irish counties in a new state is an astonishing historical event in the broader historical context of those times. Those were the days when anti-Irish prejudice and anti-Catholicism were prevalent attitudes

shared by many of America's politically powerful officials.

Many other states had much larger Irish populations, but Michigan is the only state to recognize Irish immigrants by naming counties in their honor.

Michigan Music Events

Saturday, October 4

Two bands are listed at the Black Rose (www.blackrosegr.com); The Willeys (Grand Rapids Celtic) and The Lash (Celtic from Lansing), not sure which one, but both are good.

Tuesday, October 7

Solas (trad Irish out of Ireland) at The Ark (www.theark.org), \$17.50 in Ann Arbor, MI

Thursday, October 9

Mac O' Brothers (www.macobrothers.com) at The Black Rose (www.blackrosegr.com)

Saturday, October 11

Conklin Ceili Band at Quinn and Tuite's (www.quinnandtuites.com) \$5

Saturday, October 18

Conklin Ceili Band at Grand River Folk Arts (www.grfolkarts.org) at Wealthy Theatre \$12; Non-smoking, family friendly venue

Saturday, October 18

Celtic Thunder (five male vocalists out of Ireland) at Van Andel Arena (www.vanandelarena.com); Tickets \$57.50, \$47.50 & \$37.50

Monday, October 20

Brigid's Cross at Claddagh Irish Pub, Lansing, MI (www.claddaghirish-pubs.com)

Thursday, October 23

Mac O' Brothers (www.macobrothers.com) at The Black Rose (www.blackrosegr.com)

Saturday, October 25

Brendan Loughrey (singer out of Donegal) at Quinn and Tuite's (www.quinnandtuites.com) \$10

Friday, October 31

Craic Wisely at The Black Rose (www.blackrosegr.com)

Saturday, November 8

Pat Broaders (piper out of Dublin) at Quinn and Tuite's (www.quinnandtuites.com) \$15

Saturday, November 8

Toby Bresnahan (celtic, Irish, American) (www.macobrothers.com) at Timbers Inn and Restaurant, Rockford, MI

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SOLAS
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Comhaltas Concert Tour in Detroit October 16

The 2008 Comhaltas concert, entitled "Echoes of Erin," will make a stop on its American tour in Detroit on Thursday, October 16th at the Gaelic League Hall, with a performance time of 7:30pm. For ticket information call Carolyn Brazzil at 248-837-8022, Jim Hynes at 248-538-4646, or visit www.detroitirish.org.

Headlining the 2008 Comhaltas concert tour is legendary singer Sean O Se from Cork. Seventeen other musicians, singers, and dancers make up the troupe.

Comhaltas is a non-profit cultural movement with hundreds of local chapters in Ireland and around the world.

Its goals are spelled out in its constitution:

For information about the special advertising rates and/ or editorial for the **MICHIGION** section call Cliff at 708-445-0700

- To promote Irish Traditional Music in all its forms;
- To restore the playing of the Harp and Uilleann Pipes in the National life of Ireland;
- To promote Irish Traditional Dancing;
- To foster and promote Traditional singing in both Irish and English;
- To foster and promote the Irish language at all times;
- To create a closer bond among all lovers of Irish music;
- To co-operate with all bodies working for the restoration or Irish Culture;
- To establish Branches throughout the country and abroad to achieve the foregoing aims and objects.

Comhaltas was founded in 1951, and has played a great part in preserving Irish traditional music.

Much of the credit for saving the Irish harp and uilleann pipes from the brink of extinction can be attributed to Comhaltas.

For more information on Comhaltas, go to www.comhaltas.ie.



Sporting Log

Sean Og. O Ceallachain



The fate of present day football team managers invariably depends on the performance of the team under their guidance and when instant success is not achieved, fans start calling for the head of the unfortunate team official. 2008 has been a very tough time for some of the leading team managers in the game of football. Take Dublin for instance who draw the biggest attendance to all of their matches be it championship or League, they lost John Caffrey, who in his three years reign as manager succeeded in winning the Leinster senior football crown in each of the three years for the county. But his failure to win the All-Ireland title during that period of ascendancy didn't go down too well with the Dublin supporters. The ultimate of any county's ambition is

to bring the Sam Maguire Cup home in triumph and that was Caffrey's downfall this year. 1995 was the last occasion that Dublin carried off the main prize and there were high hopes that after three provincial successes it was time that the most coveted award should have been achieved. When Caffrey's three year term ended last year, he made a passionate appeal to the County board to allow him stay on for a fourth year so that he could achieve his objective. He once again led the team to provincial success to make it four titles in a row, which is a major feat in itself. However, the standard of football in the province of Leinster at present does not rate very highly and that was the prime factor which gave Dublin the edge over all the other contenders. It was rather ironic that

the team Dublin beat in the Leinster final, Wexford, went on to contest the All-Ireland semi final whereas Dublin failed miserably to overcome Tyrone in the quarter final. Tyrone in turn, had no great problem defeating Wexford to qualify to play Kerry in the subsequent All-Ireland decider

The Dublin County Board faces a tough job to find a successor to replace John Caffrey and filling that important position will not be easy. In fact, rumour has it that the Dublin Board may consider going outside the county to find a replacement manager and that might not go down too well with the city clubs. Several top names like Joe Kernan (Armagh), Sean Boylan (Meath) Paudie O'Shea (Kerry) Joe Moriarty (Westmeath) have been trotted out. The name of Mick Deegan, a former All-Ireland footballer, has been linked to the position. He managed the Dublin football team which won the All-Ireland Junior title this year, but because it was not a more major award, it does not count very highly with the

fans. Another name which certainly carries a lot of weight which is being bandied about, is that of Brian Mullins. But he served as a selector some years ago, and luck did not attend his efforts to bring the "Sam Maguire Cup" back to the capital. Finding a new team manager for a big county like Dublin will not be easy but I doubt if the County Board will go for someone outside of the county for the position.

Monaghan are delighted that Seamus McEnaney has agreed to continue on as football team manager. He confirmed to a recent Board meeting that he would stay on in the position for another term. It is expected that he will retain the services of Martin McElkennon as trainer and Adrian Trappe as selector. Monaghan staged a great recovery in the All-Ireland qualifiers in July when they beat Derry and Donegal before losing to Kerry in the All-Ireland third round.

But there is no such good news for Donegal manager Brian McIver who stepped down from the position

at a county Donegal Board meeting. McIver is rated as being one of the best managers ever to fill the berth in the county. He has been manager for the past three years and he came under pressure when a number of clubs raised the issue of his appointment for a fourth successive year. McIver quit briefly last season but was persuaded to come back for another year. Donegal lost championship games to Derry and Monaghan this season and was expecting to be retained in the position. A number of county players are now demanding that McIver be allowed to continue in the position as they feel they can achieve more with him in charge than with a new contender.

Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Irish Football Blitz

The Chicago Youth Development Committee will hold their Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Irish Football Blitz, highlighting Irish youth sports on Sunday, October 19th from 11am until dusk at Hanson Stadium, 5501 West Fullerton in Chicago.

The Blitz is a youth oriented sports tournament featuring short, age appropriate games designed to develop skills and interest in Irish football and hurling. This day long event will introduce new players to the games and improve the skills of returning players. Experienced adults will run mini-camps throughout the day to welcome new players. The day will also feature skills drills to allow experienced players an opportunity to perfect their techniques.

All youth aged 6 to 16 are welcome to attend. Girl's only games will be featured along with an "Under 6 Blitz" for the tots. Admission is free and no prior registration is necessary. All players will receive a t-shirt from the Chicago Youth Development Committee. Food and soft drinks will be available.

The Hanson Stadium location will offer an opportunity for all retired footballers and hurlers to reflect on their glory days when Irish teams met at this historic stadium before Gaelic Park was established in the 1980's. An Old Timers Exhibition Blitz will give retired players an opportunity to be paired with young players, imparting their sports knowledge while the youth run the field. Retired players are en-

couraged to attend with their children and grandchildren, introducing them to the great tradition of Irish sports.

The Chicago Youth Development Committee is dedicated to the growth of Irish sports and culture throughout the Chicagoland area. For additional information on Irish football and

hurling, visit North American Youth Gaelic Athletic Association website at www.youthgaa.com.

For additional information please contact Tom Sheehy of the Chicago Youth Development Committee at 773-329-6263 or via email: t_sheehy99@hotmail.com.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Six Winning Traits You Need!

In my July column, I discussed five "rules" that Maureen Kane Wadshared with elementary school students during her Chicago Public School career. Maureen's counsel to her students was that the application of these five "rules" would allow them to keep their jobs:

1. Show up everyday
2. Be on time
3. Follow directions
4. Get along with your co-workers
5. Be able to be trusted

Since that column was published, I have received many positive reactions to her five recommendations. Several people commented that these five admonitions are more properly directed towards people just entering the "working" world. It seems to me that they have application at every level of business or government. What do you think?

As I indicated in my earlier column, I have also asked another good friend, Bob Ward, to share his thoughts about what traits help people succeed in their jobs. Bob is the principal in his own Naperville based executive search firm, Ward & Associates.

I borrowed heavily from Bob's own words regarding the six traits that he believes allow a person to excel in any work environment;

1. Personality
2. Suitability
3. Intelligence
4. Character
5. Accomplished
6. Sense of Purpose

Personality

Bob says he spends a great deal of his time when assessing a potential job candidate trying to gain an appreciation of the person. He is striving to determine if the individual demonstrates excellent business presence, an effective communication style, a

high level of energy and a positive opinion of self. Can a person develop these traits if they don't have them?

Absolutely! There are venues that can help; for example, with communication skills, the Dale Carnegie and Toastmasters programs can be invaluable. Improving one's communication skills will likely improve executive presence and self image; the person will be more confident knowing that s/he has the ability to handle a significant conversation. All of this is predicated on the elixir that controls it all, ENERGY. Author Peter McLaughlin says that energy is the driver for all of us; he recommends a good diet, a strenuous exercise program and a good sense of humor. Peter says that our brain depends on the level of oxygen it receives and that exercise begets oxygen.

Suitability

As Bob is trying to determine if his candidate is appropriate for the client position, hopefully the candidate is doing likewise. We have all been in situations that simply don't feel right to us. As a big believer in gut feel, I would recommend that you bail out if you feel your current/potential employer doesn't share your fundamental beliefs. If you are being considered for a position, look carefully to determine if your experience fits the requirements? On the other hand, don't sell yourself short. If you have energy and enthusiasm, follow the advice of a wise old consultant who was a mentor to me: "Jim, you just need to stay one chapter ahead of them." If you are a quick learner, do you think you can keep ahead of the employer? A common expression that motivationalists use is, "fake it until you make it."

Also, if just being in your current or potential place of employment gives you a headache, do you really want to spend a lot of time there?

Intelligence

One's academic performance can be helpful is determining this quality. But we all know people who blossomed later in life, so any employer worth their salt will assess your street smarts and pertinent experience. The legendary motivationalist, Earl Nightingale, claimed that 20-30 minutes each day will make you an acknowledged expert in virtually any subject within a couple of years. But we have all seen people get complacent in their area of expertise. When was the last time you read a significant book about your field of endeavor? If you are a professional, did you coast through your required professional development courses or did you actually strive to learn?

Character

Did you learn from the various stressful situations you have experienced? Nightmarish moments are now known as "character builders". Did these builders steal your enthusiasm for risk taking or simply make you more of a calculated risk taker? Ward says such experiences reveal a great deal about an individual, whether the end result was positive or not.

Accomplished

I am convinced that we live in a world of wanna be's. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be more than you are currently. I always wanted to be an acknowledged scholar; instead that distinction went to my brother, Joseph. Regardless of what sort of job you want or have, a track record of relevant accomplishments will enhance your standing with your fellows. Potential is great, but it has been humorously defined as "ain't done anything yet." So if you want to be seen as an accomplished person,

you need to succeed at things.

Sense of Purpose

Are there people in your work life who demonstrate they are simply without any purpose? Bob Ward says that in his experience all successful managers have an internal compass that is driving them to the highest plateau of success.

How would you measure yourself against this list of six traits? Would your rating warrant you being considered as either an internal or external candidate for a significant opening? It appears that these six traits are further developments of Maureen Wade's five rules. We commonly assess people through the eyes of our own experience. If you have been a coach, you will see the play on the field as an experienced observer. If you have ever been an umpire or a referee, you may be more understanding on how calls are made by a person in

a position of authority.

In my December column, I will provide you with another perspective. Mr. Tim Corry, Vice President, Human Resources, Midwest Region of Albertson's, as an employer, will share his insights to how his company evaluates their employees.

Hopefully this column will prompt you to look a bit more carefully at yourself in your role as employee or employer. Remember, you can find insights and inspiration in many ways and places. While working on this column, I took a walk in a local forest preserve. Some teenagers had written various sayings in chalk on the asphalt paving... Dream... Believe... Achieve. What great wisdom!

James F. Fitzgerald, president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. Email: jamesffitz@sbcglobal.net

We Get Letters

August 29, 2008

I am working on a book dealing with the war years... in a Kilkenny town and district.

The book is almost complete but I would like, if possible, to acquire some wartime pictures of LDF (Local Defence Force) and/or LSF (Local Security Force) members who served or resided in any part of County Kilkenny.

While the book focuses mainly on Callan and district, the sections recounting the activities of the defence forces and the colourful anti-invasion military precautions in the county necessarily cover a wider area.

May I appeal to any readers who might have such photographs to send me any of these that they are willing

to see published?

All pictures used in the book will be acknowledged unless the owners wish otherwise. Pictures can be posted to me at the address [below] or emailed to jfitzg3@eircom.net. Any pictures received by post will be copied and returned immediately. I can be contacted by phone at (056) 7725543.

Needless to say contributors will be invited to the book launch at the end of this year! Thanking you, John Fitzgerald, Lower Coyne Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland



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Chris Fogarty



THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. Here's to its defenders despite the mass murderers, torturers and looters of foreign resources now running the U.S., U.K. and Israel. New readers please note: This column is non-partisan and tries to report what the rest of the media cover up, downplay, or twist. Genocide is Un-American, but both Obama and McCain are publicly committed to Israel's genocide against Palestine. Both acquiesce to our international torture Gulag, though Obama voted against Bush's immunization of CIA torturers while McCain voted in favor. The following expose might seem anti-Republican, but that's because nearly all of the lies are Republican, and they pose the main threats to our nation.

"CHICKENS COMING HOME." The results of Repub policies (and Dem cowardice) are finally hitting America. The removal of "red tape" that "freed up" Wall Street has brought us to this. For details see my earlier columns at irishamericannews.com. That "red tape" comprised the regulations placed on Wall Street after the 1929 Crash to preclude another one. "Deregulation" began under Reagan and was massively advanced by Bush's Phil Gramm; the key McCain advisor who referred to Americans as "a nation of whiners." If Gramm's changes are not rescinded along with the predatory mindsets behind them, millions will die, perhaps hundreds of

millions, mostly of starvation. THE PALIN PHENOM shook things up. Her acceptance speech was brilliant, though reptilian in her calumnies. We "wowed"! Given her embrace of her Downs Syndrome newborn, we all would have to vote for her ticket if her claims about her governance in Alaska proved true. Alas! Within a day or two even the Wall Street Journal and other repub organs had exposed her key claims as lies. But that didn't stop the indomitable Sarah; even after her key claims had all proven fraudulent she continued to parrot them as smilingly as ever.

"MAVERICK" became the Repub brand upon Palin's arrival. "Experience" was dropped. "Maverick" became entwined with "Alaska" and a "self-reliant, athletic-competitions-in-the-Arctic" image. Let's see if that new image is appropriate for McCain/Palin. "Thanks but no thanks" is false. Far from opposing the Bridge to Nowhere that bridge was a key plank in her gubernatorial campaign. She fought FOR it until it became a national symbol of corruption. Upon winning the governorship she did not return the \$350 million funding for it. Far from "Thanks but no thanks," she kept the money and used it for other boondoggles; including the construction of a road that dead-ends into the non-existent bridge.

"ALASKAN (and Repub) STO-ICISM?" The village of Wasilla had a

voting population of 1,100 when Palin became mayor. For her "rugged" vil-lagers she got gov't funding for a huge, enclosed ice skating rink. Meanwhile, "soft" Chicagoans ice skate in the open-air at Millennium Park.

EARMARKS. McCain/Palin define themselves as permanent op-ponents of earmarks. You be the judge: Under Gov. Palin the U.S. gov't gives each Alaskan \$231 in earmarked funds, while we "less self-reliant" Illinoisans get \$22 per person. And they preach to us about self-reliance? Despite Alaska's windfall oil riches of \$100+ per barrel. As mayor of Wasilla, "Palin hired a private lobbyist to get US earmarked funds. Her tiny town obtained 14 earmarks totaling \$27 million between 2000-2003." [AP, 9/3/08]

GOD. Palin states that Bush's Supreme Crime against Iraq is "a task from God." Her linking of "God" to warfare is no accident, but a core belief of fundamentalism. Palin, her parents and siblings are fallen-away Catholics who joined a "faith-healing, speaking-in-tongues" cult church in Wasilla. That church was started by "Okies;" economic refugees the federal gov't resettled on land in Wasilla out of dust-bowl Oklahoma in the 1930s. Fundamentalist "Christianity" and its "End Times" certainties imperil the world. Because so many "End Timers" are in our gov't and control our military ordnance they pose a far greater threat to the world than the less-armed Islamic fundamentalists. Palin claims that the Pledge of Allegiance dates back to the Founding Fathers.

"HOME-TOWN VALUES" is what motivates McCain/Palin. Let us

see. Palin, in her acceptance speech, quoted openly racist Westbrook Pegler who, during Bobby Kennedy's 1965 run for the presidency, expressed his hope that "some white patriot of the southern tier will spatter his (Bobby's) spoonful of brains in public premises before the snow flies." Palin is probably not such a monster, but the monsters who did write that speech will be calling the shots if McCain/Palin win.

ABORTION. Last week Palin's gubernatorial campaign manager told pro-abortionists to not worry, that Palin has done absolutely nothing against abortion since becoming governor.

ARMAGEDDON. Palin tells colleagues that Christ will return within her lifetime. What sort of Armageddon does she have in mind? For now, it seems to be a nuclear one, as she calls for NATO admission for Georgia which would result in war between us and Russia. This has earned her the support of "Rapturist" leaders Dr. Dobson and End Times author Tim LaHaye. Dobson, a major opponent, now promotes McCain due to his choice of Palin.

OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE. Just like Bush, Palin and her aides are stonewalling an abuse-of-power investigation, despite her earlier promises to cooperate. They call it "a Democratic witch-hunt" though two Dems and three Repubs call for it.

THE "SADDAM-9/11" LIE - AGAIN! On the most recent anniversary of 9/11 Gov. Palin made a speech to an Iraq-bound guard unit that includes her son, Track. In that speech Palin told them they were going to fight "the enemies who planned and carried out and rejoiced in the death of thousands of Americans." Why did she repeat such a discredited falsehood? Prior to attacking Iraq Bush had mentioned "Saddam Hussein" and "9/11" in the same sentences so many times that some 70% of Americans believed it. Finally, about three years ago Bush admitted that Saddam had had nothing to do with 9/11, thus ending the matter. But polls reveal that some 30% of Americans still believe Bush's old lie. This raises a question of intent: Was Palin's deception of those departing soldiers intentional or merely ignorant? Will many of those soldiers kill Iraqis because they believe her lie? Will many innocent Iraqis die due to those dis-informed soldiers' need to "retaliate"?

HEROISM. John McCain is a national hero. The entire news media, even his rivals say so, acknowledging his "Hanoi Hilton" years. But McCain made Anti-American propaganda films for the enemy while most others refused; upholding military rules.

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS re Occupied Ireland? See terrorism-ireland.org. WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See irishholocaust.org. Factual corrections invited. Contact 312 664 7651 or fogarty@att.net.

nobler word to describe POWs who were murdered for refusing to kowtow. For now, the word for noncollaborators is "Hero." Nobody can foresee one's own response to torture, but those who collaborate are "victims" or "traitors;" not heroes. McCain was a victim, not a hero. He also bombed civilian populations, a war crime. He'd have been hanged at Nuremberg.

TORTURE AND DRUGS. A private jet crash-landed in Yucatán, Mexico on 9/24/07 carrying 3.3 tons of Colombian cocaine belonging to Sinaloa cartel chief Joaquin "Chapo" Guzman. The European Parliament had been investigating the plane, a Grumman Gulfstream II. The European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation was looking into its suspected use in CIA rendition flights over Europe to US-run detention centers. The FAA logbook registered that the plane had traveled between US territory and Guantánamo. The Mexican newspaper reported that the FAA registered its last owner as Clyde O'Connor in Pompano Beach, Florida. The media will probably hide this, until the entire Bush gang is arrested for their Supreme Crime.

THANKS TO READERS Gene Sparrow, DeKalb, re the Repub convention, and Dr Maher, Chicago and Patrick Cullinane, London, for providing the following exposes of the Omagh bombing. Cullinane asks, "Seeing that English newspapers are revealing how many Brit spooks were in leadership positions in the IRA for years, who, exactly, was the IRA?" (Mr. Cullinane is the London-domiciled Limerick man who was robbed of his house and home by Inland Revenue criminals, the Brit IRS. No justice so far.) Dr. Maher alerted me to a BBC report that Brit spooks had bugged the Omagh bomber car and its scout car and had recorded the perpetrators' conversations. Those spooks were not involved in the IRA's previous six, bloodless bombings of town centers costing the Brit exchequer £ millions. But Brit spooks essentially ran the Omagh bombing, murdering some 29 innocents. The spooks' purpose in perpetrating that mass murder was to blame it on the IRA, thus demonizing it so as to refasten Britain's grip on Ireland's Six Counties. The same Chicago FBI agent Buckley, who repeatedly fabricated evidence to frame Chicago Irish-Americans including me, participated with his MI5 handlers in planning Omagh. FBI agent Lewis' gun was used in Winnetka's Langert family murders for which they framed me.



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2008 NACB PLAYOFF Cont'd from page 39 with Indianapolis coming out on top to win their first championship, defeating the newly formed Chicago Cusacks in a one-sided final.

In senior football, Boston McAnespies upheld their tag as favorites in capturing their second title, having last one it in 1998. Ironically, the three other contestants in this year's championship, Chicago Parnells, Philadelphia Kevin Barry's and San Francisco Sean Treacy's were contesting at senior level for the first time in the NACB playoffs. The closest and most exciting contest in this years championship was that between Parnells and Sean Treacy's which went into overtime and ending in near darkness with the Treacy's coming out on top. Kerry Boston experienced little trouble in taking their first Intermediate football championship having easy victories over San Francisco Ulster and Boston Galway. However, Ulster's junior team was successful, taking the junior "A" title with a 4 point victory Philadelphia Young Irlander's in an

exciting final. Some of the best football games of the weekend took place in the junior "B" championship with two games going into overtime. The San Diego Setanta/Philadelphia St. Pat's game was a classic, producing a total score of 3-30 with Setanta winning by a point. Setanta were also involved in an earlier overtime game in which they hung on to beat Cleveland St. Jarlath's, also by one point after a thrilling encounter. Another classic was the quarter-final clash between Charlotte James Connolly and New England Celtics with the Charlotte team winning with a final and incredible score of 4-21 to 6-12. A fine Charlotte team went on to take their first "B" division title, beating San Diego in the final. There were several one-sided games in the junior "C" championship with the all-American born Chicago Patriots the most dominant team. They defeated a very young and promising Boston Celtics team, also an all American born team in the final. Several new teams competed in the junior "D" competition with one

of them, Austin Celtics, winning their first title.

A brilliant Boston Roscommon ladies football team was the dominant team in the senior championship and easily won their first NACB title beating both Chicago St. Brigid's and Boston Shamrocks by large margins. Two teams competed in the inaugural Intermediate championship with San Francisco Fog City Harps defeating Boston Tir na Nog to become the first winners of the new trophy. Teams from Atlanta, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington DC competed for the junior "A" trophy with Washington DC Gaels capturing it for the first time with a thrilling one point victory over Philadelphia Notre Dame in the final. As in previous years the ladies junior "B" football championship with teams from nine cities competing, produced a mix of poor and highly entertaining games. Chicago McBrides emerged the deserving winner with impressive displays. They defeated Detroit St Ann's by 7 points in the final to capture their first NACB ladies football title.

Chicago St. Mary's retained their senior camogie title with an 8 point win over Boston Eire Og while San Francisco Shamrocks also retained their junior camogie trophy with an easy over St. Mary's junior squad. The camogie junior shield was won by Washington DC Gaels who defeated Denver in the final.

The weekend activities came to an end with a reception on Sunday night at the Irish Cultural Center. Guest speaker from Ireland was Jimmy O'Gorman, Chairman of the Munster Council. Besides praising the Irish Cultural Center facilities, he congratulated the Boston Northeast divisional board and it's playoff committee along with the North American Board officers for their contribution to the success of a wonderful weekend. Also out from Ireland were Liz Howard, Camogie President, Liam Mulvihill former GAA Secretary General and the following referees: Seanie McMahan, Pat Fox Keith Delahunty, Terrance McShea, and Kieran Quigley.

2008 NACB PLAYOFF SCORES

Senior Hurling:

Semi-finals – Chicago Limerick 6-23
Boston Wexford 0-7
San Francisco Na Fianna 3-13
Boston Tipperary 2-14
Final – Chicago Limerick 4-14
San Francisco Na Fianna 3-13
Junior A Hurling:
Semi-final – San Francisco Na Fianna 2-13
Boston Tipperary 1-8
Final – Philadelphia Shamrocks 3-10
San Francisco Na Fianna 2-11
Junior B Hurling:
Quarter-finals - Washington DC 1-14
Denver 1-10
Phoenix 2-6
Seattle 9-26
Milwaukee 2-18
Minnesota Twin Cities 1-3
Semi-finals – Milwaukee 1-15
Seattle 2-7
Final – Milwaukee 3-15
Washington DC 3-6

Junior C Hurling:

Preliminary game – Seattle 1-10
Portland Me 0-6
Quarter-finals – Indianapolis 3-7
St. Louis 1-8
Milwaukee 8-17
Concord Barleyhounds 0-1
Indianapolis 1-16
Philadelphia Shamrocks 1-8
Denver 4-1
Seattle 1-0
Semi-finals – Chicago Cusacks 6-12
Denver 0-3
Indianapolis 6-13
Milwaukee 1-8
Final – Indianapolis 5-9
Chicago Cusacks 2-11
Men's Senior Football:
Semi-finals – Boston Aidan McAnespies 1-10
Philadelphia Kevin Barry's 0-8
San Francisco Sean Treacy's 2-9
Chicago Parnells 1-8 (OT)
Chicago Parnells 1-8 (OT)
Final – Boston Aidan McAnespies 2-15
San Francisco Sean Treacy's 1-7

Men's Intermediate Football

Semi-finals – Boston Kerry 4-10
San Francisco Ulster 0-7
Final – Boston Kerry 1-13
Boston Galway 0-7
Men's Junior A Football
Semi-finals – San Francisco Ulster 2-12
Boston Donegal 0-8
Philadelphia Young Ireland's 3-13
Chicago McBrides 2-6
Final – San Francisco Ulster 2-9
Philadelphia Young Irelanders 1-8
Men's Junior B Football
Quarter-finals – Charlotte James Connolly 4-21
New England Celtic 6-12
Detroit Wolfe Tones 2-8
Philadelphia Kevin Barry's 0-8
Cleveland St. Jarlath's 1-12
San Diego Setanta 1-13
Semi-finals – San Diego Setanta 0-20
Philadelphia St. Pat's 3-10 (OT)
Charlotte James Connolly 3-21
Detroit Wolfe Tones 2-5
Final – Charlotte James Connolly 1-10
San Diego Setanta 1-5

Men's Junior C Football

Quarterfinals – Chicago Patriots 3-12
Washington DC Gaels Gaels 2-10
Pittsburgh Celtics 3-6
Philadelphia Eire Og 0-12
Boston Celtics 4-15
Buffalo na Fianna 1-4
Semi-finals – Chicago Patriots 7-21
San Diego Setanta 0-8
Boston Celtics 4-13
Pittsburgh Celtics 1-10
Final – Chicago Patriots 2-15
Boston Celtics 0-10
Men's Junior D Football
Quarter-final – Phoenix Gaels 2-9
St. Louis 2-10
Fredrick Mason/Dixon 2-2
Baltimore 4-18
Charlotte James Connolly 4-14
Fredrick Mason/Dixon 1-0
Semi-finals – Austin Celtics 3-16
Baltimore 2-8
St. Louis 1-11
Charlotte 1-5
Final – Austin Celtics 1-17
St. Louis 2-5

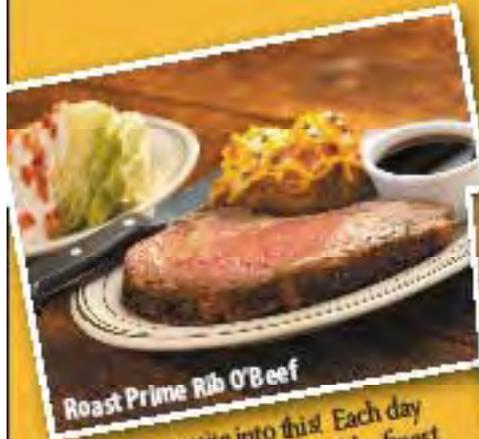
Men's All-American Football

Semi-finals – Philadelphia 2-7
Chicago 0-3
Washington DC 5-10
Boston 1-5
Final – Philadelphia 4-7
Washington DC 3-4
Ladies Senior Football
Semi-final – Boston Roscommon 7-28
Chicago St. Brigid's 0-6
Final – Boston Roscommon 1-17
Boston Shamrocks 1-8
Ladies Intermediate Football
Final – San Francisco Fog City Harps 4-13
Boston Tir na Nog 3-5
Ladies Junior A Football
Semi-finals – Seattle Gaels 1-7
Philadelphia Notre Dame 5-23
Washington DC Gaels 4-8
Atlanta Clan na Gael 2-8
Final – Washington DC Gaels 5-8
Philadelphia Notre Dame 4-10
Ladies Junior B Football
Preliminary game – Pittsburgh Banshees 8-7
Denver Gaels 2-5
Quarter-finals – Atlanta Na Fianna 0-10
San Diego Na Fianna 0-7
Chicago McBrides 1-22

Charlotte 1-0

Detroit St Ann's 2-16
Seattle Gaels 3-4
Pittsburgh Banshees 4-6
San Francisco Fog City Harps 1-13
Semi-finals – Atlanta Na Fianna 1-8
Detroit St. Ann's 3-6
Chicago McBrides 6-20
Pittsburgh Banshees 0-6
Final – Chicago McBrides 4-8
Detroit St. Ann's 2-7
Senior Camogie
Final – Chicago St. Mary's 4-4
Boston Eire Og 1-5
Junior Camogie
Final – San Francisco Shamrocks 5-10
Chicago St. Mary's 1-6
Junior Camogie Shield
Final – Washington DC 6-6
Denver 0-1
Men's Over 40 Football
Final – West 2-6
East 0-7

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