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3776	33	1236	17	376
131	174	29	37	44
1233	209	262	62	66
169	186	55	60	26
	259		74	

Pictured is Hawthorne's President and General Manager Tim Carey

Hawthorne Race Course
Irish Owned for 100 Years ... *story page 7*

Book Club Signing Events ... *page 11*



BAR:
Monday
 11 am - 1 am
Tuesday thru Thursday
 11 am - 1 am
Friday and Saturday
 11 am - 1 am
Sunday
 Noon - 12 am

LUNCH MENU:
 11 am - 4:30 pm

DINNER MENU:
Sunday and Monday
 4:30pm - 10 pm
Tuesday thru Thursday
 4:30pm - 11 pm
Friday and Saturday
 4:30pm - midnight

LATE NIGHT MENU:
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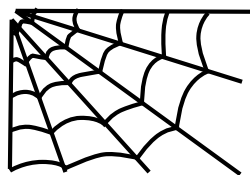
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Ireland Web

Sean Farrell



Looming Lisbon

Pity Bryan Cowen. Last June, Ireland voted to reject the Lisbon Treaty to reform the European Union by 53% to 47%, the only member state to have done so. The government has proposed holding a second referendum later this year. Another defeat would be incalculable in terms of our loss of influence, standing, and friends in Europe at a time when we need the EU more than ever. This is one vote the Taoiseach cannot afford to lose.

Ireland joined what has evolved into the European Union in 1973. As an institution the European Union is far from perfect. It is complex. It has evolved from an initial six countries to the current membership of twenty seven. It is unique. Most of the countries of Europe, including traditional enemies, have come together to form a multinational community of nations. The EU has developed a common currency, the Euro. A European Parliament has powers of approval of the EU budget.

However, it is not a United States of Europe. Countries retain their sovereignty in most areas, including taxation, and national governments continue to function. Areas where countries have agreed to pool sovereignty are administered by a supranational body called the Commission. Decision making and debate occurs in the Council of Ministers, with countries voting according to a formula based on size and population. The EU is continuing to evolve and to develop policies to meet the challenges its members face today. Its institutions badly need streamlining and overhauling, hence the Lisbon Treaty.

Arguably, the current financial and economic crisis in Ireland will pass, particularly in the context of an international recovery. Public spending can be brought under control, through higher taxes (sooner rather than later), cuts in government spending across the board, as well as a (regrettable but necessary) pruning or postponement of much of the capital projects planned for the next five years. There will be much pain, but it can be done.

The effort could all be wasted, however, by another No vote on Lisbon. A somewhat similar situation occurred in 2001, when the

Nice Treaty referendum—essential for the major enlargement of the EU—was unexpectedly defeated in a very low turnout (34%). The issue was put again and carried comfortably by 63% to 37% the following year, based on some assurances and guarantees given to Ireland by her partners. However, ominously, the number voting No actually increased the second time around.

Winning a new referendum is going to be an uphill struggle. The turnout last June was 53%, considerably higher than in Nice Two, with many more voting No and fewer voting Yes. This has removed the 2001 argument that a low turnout in some way justified a re-run, given the issues and the feeling that the electorate took its eye off the ball. Next time also, there will be no moral pressure (a vote for enlargement) and no tangible economic benefit from voting Yes. Ireland's recent prosperity and the entry of a slew of poorer countries has ensured there will be no more European monies flowing into Ireland.

Even the massed support of most of the Irish establishment for a Yes vote will give Brian Cowen little comfort. Current opinion polls are showing a Yes majority, but we have been here before. In the run up to last June, and again in 2001, there appeared to be a comfortable majority in favour. An inept campaign, almost as bad as that of 2001, contributed to last June's defeat. The government was wrong footed from the start by the Treaty's opponents, who, well marshalled and well financed, seized the initiative early on and never lost it. Will this time will be different?

The benefits Ireland has derived from EU membership have been immense. Economically Europe has provided markets for our exports, subsidised our farmers and provided billions to develop our infrastructure. Our success in attracting US and other foreign investment, with the attendant jobs and prosperity, would not have been possible without Europe. Politically, Europe has given Ireland an independent and respected voice at the European table, and has provided valuable assistance in resolving the Northern Ireland problem.

Ireland has enhanced her identity in Europe. When Ireland joined the

then EC in 1973, our living standards were half those of our partners; 35 years on we have caught up. The changes in Irish society have been profound and positive. Ireland's population has increased, emigration ended and an enhanced national self-confidence has emerged. Within the EU, Ireland has been perceived as a success and a role model for the new poorer members. Every opinion poll shows a large majority in favour of EU membership.

Why then the No vote? One major pointer was that much of the electorate felt ill-informed about what Lisbon would mean, and were frustrated by the size, complexity, and basic unreadability of the treaty document. The No Lobby attacked this opaqueness effectively, with their most articulate spokesman calling for a constitution like that of the USA, as he theatrically binned the Lisbon Treaty document. There were also complaints that Ireland would lose out in terms of influence under the new voting arrangements in the EU's governing body—the Council. (True, but how could Ireland expect to hold its share when other countries were also making compromises to absorb more equitably the new members?)

The proposal in the draft treaty that Ireland, again like every other member state, would lose its des-

ignated member on a smaller EU Commission, (one of the unique European institutions) for five years out of fifteen, excited particular opposition and became almost toxic. Other issues causing disquiet included fears that Ireland might have to give up its favourable low rate of company taxation, which had brought much inward investment, and that its military neutrality might be compromised.

Another factor, difficult to quantify, was a degree of public disillusion-



Brian Cowen

ment, a sense that the good times associated with EU membership were over and that those at the top were out of touch. The worsening economic situation (grasped by the public before the politicians), the huge

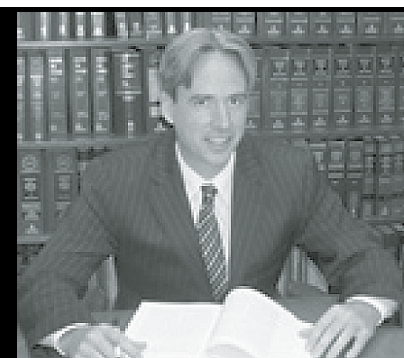
influx and impact of foreign workers (from nil to 10% of the workforce in less than a decade), the drying up of European money, and doubts about where the EU was heading in future (with further expansion planned into the Balkans), all contributed to this unease. The failure of the Yes side to address these issues adequately, together with the unchallenged assertion that a No vote would have no repercussions for Ireland, invited the negative outcome.

Since then the Government, with some assistance from Europe, has attempted an "Operation Stable Door." The Irish Commissioner has been salvaged. Solemn and "legally binding" assurances or declarations on some of the other problematic issues for Ireland have been promised by our partners. The Government can point to these as evidence that Europe has come to meet us to justify putting the issue to the people again. With the economy in freefall our need for friends in Europe, which constitutes our comfort blanket, has never been greater. Whether the voters will agree remains to be seen. There is a dangerous argument gaining currency that Europe will have to bend to our wishes, that the other 26 can do nothing without us. These are interesting times. I would not bet the family silver on that outcome!

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Irish Chicago

WTTW's program Irish Chicago has been getting mixed reviews. Some loved it, while others thought it missed the mark. Some turned off the television. I played a very minor role in the production by supplying some archival photographs and other materials from the Irish American Heritage Center and my private collection. There are two versions of the program—the one you saw on television, and the unedited version that you can get on DVD by making a donation to WTTW. I recommend

the latter!

Those who thought it missed the mark, wondered why they chose to interview some of the featured personalities, and why they devoted so much time to some of them. The segments on Holy Family Church and Old St. Patrick's Church were great. St. James Church on the Sag was pivotal, bringing the Irish canal diggers into focus, and creating a bridge to the ascendancy of the Irish. Bridgeport, the Chicago Stockyards, the Chicago Fire and the fable about Mrs. O'Leary's cow, and the cultural

2009 Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award 4/25

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart has been named Honorary Chairman of the Chicago Irish Brotherhood's Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award. The Fr. Flanagan Spirit

tions in Cook County has made him an international hero.

The C.I.B.'s Fr. Flanagan Spirit Award Ceremony to benefit Boys Town Chicago will be held on



U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) welcomes Mayor of Galway Pádraig Conneely (right) and Billy Lawless (left) to his Capitol office on St. Patrick's Day.

Award goes to Billy Lawless, (pictured above) for his dedication, and commitment to the Irish community. Sheriff Dart has done a remarkable job and his courageous fight against evic-

tion, Saturday, April 25th at Red-NoFive, 440 N. Halsted in Chicago. Tickets are \$100 each and sponsorships are available. Call Tim Egan at 708.606.6700 email: CIB_CEO@yahoo.com.

traditions of music and dance. Our two great bastions of culture, the Irish American Heritage Center and Chicago Gaelic Park were included. Many Irish groups were not mentioned, most notably the Irish Fellowship Club. There was no interview with Mayor Richard M. Daley.

In the time allotted, you could only plow a couple of furrows. Irish Chicago would require a "mini-series."

The Race Card

No, I'm not talking about the Daily Double at Arlington. The caucus of black aldermen have warned public officials opposing Senator Burris to back off. The following comments were published in the Chicago Sun Times, on March 2nd, in the Talk Back column: "Alderman Should Fold Race Card."

"Here is a message for Alderman Carrie Austin and the other African American aldermen who are threatening retaliation against any public officials who are opposed to Roland Burris continuing as a U.S. Senator: Stop playing the race card and making your ugly threats. I am an African American and I want Burris out of the Senate."

Black Pastors Rally

Senator Burris gets plenty of support from black ministers and churches. Another article appeared in the Chicago Sun Times on March 2nd by Maureen O'Donnell, whose father Bill was a friend of mine. The photo accompanying the article speaks volumes. No less than 19 black ministers with their hands on one another's shoulders, and finally, on Senator Burris's shoulders. Senator Burris was consecrated by sacred rite, on the heels of the criticism over the hiring of his son, Roland W. Burris II, by the Blagojevich administration, at a time when Gov. Blagojevich was soliciting now-Senator Roland Burris for campaign contributions, who also was looking to be appointed Senator. Congressman/Minister Bobby Rush played his race cards, even dredged up Chappaquiddick, at a time when Senator Kennedy is fighting brain cancer, a man whose

family has championed the black cause for generations, not to mention his support for President Obama. Thanks, Mr. Black Panther! Then he alluded to "a Senator accused of misconduct in a men's room." That one is a little bit more excusable, but both are far-fetched and had nothing to do with pay-to-play or nepotism.

It's as though a fleet of fishing boats have sailed into Chicago and all the fish are dead... They are stinking up the town!

Reverend Janette Wilson compared the exposé singling out Roland Burris II and his new-found job to the "lack" of publicity for pedophile priests. I don't get that connection at all. Does she read the newspapers?

Senator Burris touted the fact that the U.S. Senate approved a voting representative for the District of Columbia and the bill he co-sponsored to honor the slaves who built the U.S. capitol. All of this on the backside of black history month. I'm glad our Senator is fair and impartial, and will represent the interests of all the people. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Now, how about a chorus of "Michael Row the Boat ashore," we need to get back on solid ground! Welcome to the post-racist world, but not post-racial.

Tax and Spend

Looks like Gov. Patrick Quinn is going to hit us in the pocketbook with an increase in the state income tax. What happened to fiscal responsibility? How can we save money? Let's take a look at the cushy pension plans. How about no more pay raises for legislators, instead of let's raise taxes and blame it on Blagojevich?

Obama

I believe President Obama said, "No more earmarks," with the exception of the bailout legislation, which is loaded with pork... oink! oink! oink!

Todd Stroger

Todd Stroger was patting himself on the back for his accomplishments in healthcare on NBC'S City Desk with Mary Ann Ahern on the heels of handing out high-salaried jobs to his friends, and finally, turning over the administration of Stroger Hospital to Northwestern University. Was that an express train that hit us?

AARP

The healthcare premiums go up every year; the prescription drug plan premium is up over 13% this year; and co-pays are up 26.7% on several "brand" prescriptions, from \$30 to \$38. Senior citizens are getting the shaft.

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Darling Jim
By Christian Moerk

A modern gothic novel of suspense that reveals, through their diaries, the story of sisters who fall in love with a beguiling stranger, and of the town that turns a blind eye to his murderous ways.

When two sisters and their aunt are found dead in their suburban Dublin home, it seems that the secret behind their untimely demise will never be known. But then Niall, a young mailman, finds a mysterious diary in the post office's dead-letter bin. From beyond the grave, Fiona Walsh shares the most tragic love story he's ever heard—and her tale has only just begun.

Darling Jim: A Novel by Christian Moerk. Henry Holt and Co., NY, 2009. Hardcover; 304 pages; \$25.00. www.holt.com.

Aer Lingus Resumes Chicago - Shannon

The Mayor of Clare visited Chicago to consolidate a major promotion of County Clare, and to capitalize on Aer Lingus' reinstatement of direct flights between Chicago and Shannon.

The airline will fly direct three times weekly between the two airports thru 10/24/05, passengers travelling between Chicago and Shannon

had to disembark at Dublin Airport. "The reinstatement of the service will provide a welcome boost to the local tourism and business sectors as well as consolidate Shannon's position as the gateway to the West of Ireland for North American traffic," said Quinn.

In Chicago, Councillor Madeleine Taylor Quinn met with members of

the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate to increase awareness of County Clare's attractiveness as a tourism destination and an investment location for business. She also met with the Irish Consul in Chicago, Martin Rouine, and members of the Irish-American community at a function in Gaelic Park before taking part in the Windy cities annual Downtown and Southside St. Patrick's Day parades.

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

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Online Statements must be activated and remain active for a period of two consecutive cycle periods to receive \$50 in gift cards. Gift cards for Online Statements will be distributed within 60 days of activation. Limit one new checking account per individual. This promotion may not be combined with any other special offer. Employees of Marquette Bank and their immediate household members are ineligible to participate in this checking promotional offer. Gift certificates, gift cards and gifts are considered income to you for tax purposes. MasterCard® is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. BEST BUY® is not affiliated with Marquette Bank. Best Buy does not sponsor, endorse, approve or have any responsibility for this promotion. BEST BUY® and the BEST BUY® logo are trademarks of Best Buy Enterprise Services, Inc. Darden Restaurants®, Inc. (Red Lobster®, Olive Garden®, Longhorn® Steakhouse, Bahama Breeze®) is not affiliated with Marquette Bank. 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April Events at the Irish American Heritage Center

Palm Sunday Mass

The IAHC will hold its annual Palm Sunday Mass on Sunday, April 5, at 10:30am, followed by an Irish Breakfast in the Fifth Province.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Friday Night Fish Fry

The Center continues its annual Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry this spring.

The Fish Fry runs through Friday, April 10, 2009 from 6:30-9pm in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and patrons pay at the door. Live music follows at 9pm.

Shapeshifters

Presents Someone

Who'll Watch Over Me

Shapeshifters Theatre of the IAHC will present Frank McGuinness' *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* for four weeks this spring. Matthew Singletary directs. The cast includes Ollie Oliver, Jonathan Musser and Mark Renzir.

The story unfolds as an Irishman, an English man and an American find themselves unwilling cellmates as they are held hostage in a Leba-

nese jail. As the three men struggle to survive, they also strive to overcome their personal and nationalistic differences. Their fears, long held secrets and basic beliefs are shared and tested.

The play runs from Friday night April 17 through May 9th. Performances are Friday and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Tickets are \$12 for IAHC members and \$15 for the general public.

Quiz Night Returns

Quiz Night returns this winter at the Center. The monthly quiz is a fun way to test your trivia knowledge. There is a different quizmaster monthly, so the styles of quiz vary.

The quiz is \$30 per team, with no more than six players per team. There will be prizes each week for the top three winners. Food and drink is available in the Fifth Province.

Remaining Quiz Nights are April 17 and May 15 at 8pm.

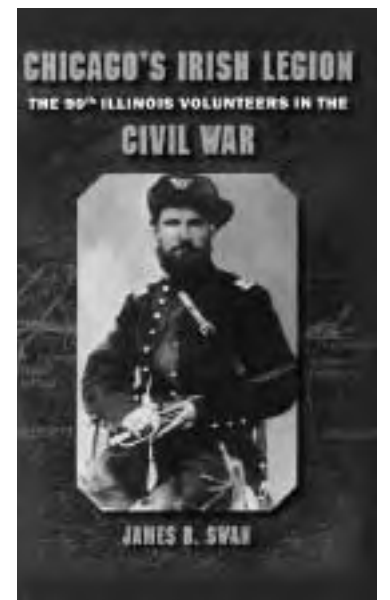
Book Launch

on Chicago's Irish Legion in the Civil War

The Irish American Heritage Center will host a book launch and signing with James B. Swan, author of the book, *Chicago's Irish Legion:*

The 90th Illinois Volunteers in the Civil War on Sunday, April 19 at 3pm. The event is free and will be held at the Center.

Swan will discuss the book's compelling story of Chicago's 90th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the only Irish regiment in Major General William Tecumseh Sherman's XV Army Corps. Swan's detailed history of this singular regiment, and its pivotal role in the Civil War, draws heavily from primary documents and first-person observations,



Continued to page 15

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Hawthorne Race Course Celebrates 100 Legendary Years

This spring marks the 100th year of family-owned horseracing at Hawthorne Race Course under the proprietorship of the Carey family, who originally came to Chicago from Ireland. The anniversary distinguishes Hawthorne as the oldest continuously family-owned and operated race track in the nation. As the longest running sports venue in Illinois, Hawthorne Race Course has been an integral player in the legendary heritage of Chicago sports entertainment and is proud to kick off a thrilling new season.

Since Thomas Carey first purchased the Stickney estate back in 1909, HRC has been able to revive horseracing in Chicago time and again because it has continuously placed fans in the middle of the fast-paced action and interactive excitement of the sport. According to 4th generation president and general manager, Tim Carey, they are looking forward to another tremendous year of nationally competitive racing in 2009. "I really believe we're on the cusp of a terrific season," said Carey.

For fans just discovering the game, horseracing at Hawthorne has become a viable sports entertainment option featuring all-inclusive action for a more affordable price than a typical athletic event. The recent spotlight on the track in October 2008 as a potential candidate for the 10th Illinois casino license has drawn more Chicagoans to pay closer attention to what is happening at the City's 'hometown track.' In fact, Hawthorne's 100th year milestone also attracted the eye of the sports nation with a live ESPN broadcast of opening weekend. The result was a 20% increase in attendance and a 4% increase in wagering over last year's opening day.

Hawthorne Race Course's 2009 spring meet is highlighted by the Grade 2 Illinois Derby, which will be held Saturday, April 4. The last seven winners of the Illinois Derby have all "raced for the roses," and three horses from the 2008 contest went on to Kentucky. "Our racing product is more competitive than it's been in years," said Carey. "Longtime horseplayers in the Chicagoland market are rediscovering Hawthorne for live racing as well as simulcast wagering. We were 1 of only 4 tracks nationally to have an increase in our full-card handle last year." The spring thoroughbred season runs through April 29 at Hawthorne and features races every Thursday through Monday with first post daily at 1:25 p.m.

The Carey Family, of Irish descent, is originally from County Cork in Ireland. Hawthorne Race Course President Tim Carey's great-grandfather, Thomas Carey, came to America seeking a better way of life. In the 1890s he landed via boat in Massachusetts and hitched a ride on



The glamorous life of a jockey, a train that brought him to the South Side of Chicago. Upon settling in Chicago, he started his first job in the stockyards and eventually became an Alderman.

Alderman Thomas Carey founded Hawthorne Race Course in 1909. Since it opened, Hawthorne has celebrated many milestones. In 1931, the venue was the first major track in the United States to use an electrical timer; in 1937 a record \$7,557,896 was handled during the 24-day meeting, the largest amount ever handled (over a similar period) by a Chicago track; and in 1943, Hawthorne celebrated its first \$1 million handle when 37,000 fans bet \$1,135,878 on the Memorial Day card during a meeting with Lincoln Fields. On May 30, 1946, the largest crowd ever to pass through the gates at Hawthorne, 39,033, bet a then-record \$1,730,117 on the Memorial Day card during the Lincoln Fields meeting. In the 1950s, the property was enhanced by a new paddock and a multi-million dollar clubhouse. A horse named Round Table's victory in the Gold Cup made him the richest race horse to date with earnings of \$1,336,364 in 1958.

In the 1960s, seating was increased, a glass enclosed Gold Cup

Room overlooking the finish line opened, and for the first time in its history, Hawthorne handled over \$1 million every day of the meeting in 1966. In the late 1970s, an early morning fire completely destroyed the Hawthorne grandstand. The track had its official grand opening to coincide with the start of the 72-day thoroughbred meet in 1980. That decade, intertrack wagering was introduced in Illinois, and Earle Fires recorded his 4,000th victory aboard Camplin on July 1, 1986. The Hawthorne Budweiser Breeders' Cup was inaugurated that year as well. In 1989 The Bill Shoemaker Farewell Tour passed through Chicago with the veteran reinsman making his last Hawthorne appearance, finishing second and third with two mounts. Shoemaker retired the following February as the winningest jockey of all time with 8,833 wins.

In the early nineties, Hawthorne's daily handle increased to an average of over \$2,000,000 and it became the first Illinois track to offer full-card simulcasts of out-of-state races. Dave Magee established a new Hawthorne Driving record with 114 wins in 1996. By the end of the decade, another wagering record was set with a daily average of \$3,575,861 (including full card simulcasting) passing through the windows. Daily average out-of-state handle on Hawthorne's races reached a new record of \$1,394,726. In 1998, in preparation for its first summer thoroughbred meet in 10 years, Hawthorne embarked on a multi-million dollar renovation and beautification project. Four new party rooms were added along with plush outdoor box



Tom Carey; Chairman, President Emeritus, greets racing fans almost every day during HRC racing season. photo by 4girls@4girlsphotography.com.

seats, a full-service food court and a walk-in gift shop.

In 2002, Trainer Mike Reavis set a Chicago record at Hawthorne, sending out five winners on the day's card. Three years later, the first Night of Champions took place as Illinois-bred harness stars competed in eight stakes races, all worth \$100,000. In 2006, Tim Carey, son of Robert F. Carey, Jr., became President of Hawthorne Race Course and Suburban Downs. Since that time, Hawthorne has undergone additional renovations and upgrades, and featured many thrilling races.

As the fourth generation president and general manager of Hawthorne Race Course Tim Carey, 46, is responsible for 27 management

personnel, 330 employees and annual revenues of \$280 million. "It has been an honor to continue my family's legacy at Hawthorne Race Course, said Carey. "I am pleased that the tradition my great-grandparents began at the turn of the century continues to thrive today."

Carey graduated from Fenwick High School in 1981 and attended University of Arizona. He has over 20 years of executive experience in both pari-mutuel gaming and start-up ventures within the hospitality/entertainment industries. Prior to joining Hawthorne Race Course, Carey was President and Managing Partner for Dagwood's Sandwich Factory, LLC in the city of Chicago. Previously, Carey was President/Founder and Managing Partner of Chicago Trolley Co., and was responsible for its strategic growth and development into the largest single trolley company in the country. In May of 2000, Mr.

Carey was responsible for the coordination of the sale of the Company to an acquisition company. Prior to founding Chicago Trolley Co., Tim spent seven years as Senior Corporate Director for InterTrack Partners, an off track pari-mutuel wagering and hospitality/entertainment company with fourteen facilities and 1,300 employees. Carey currently resides in Riverside.

HRC is the ideal setting for weddings, fundraisers, and corporate events. The venue offers full-service catering and beautiful indoor and outdoor rental facilities, including the luxurious Turf Club. For more information visit www.hawthornracecourse.com or call 708-780-3700.

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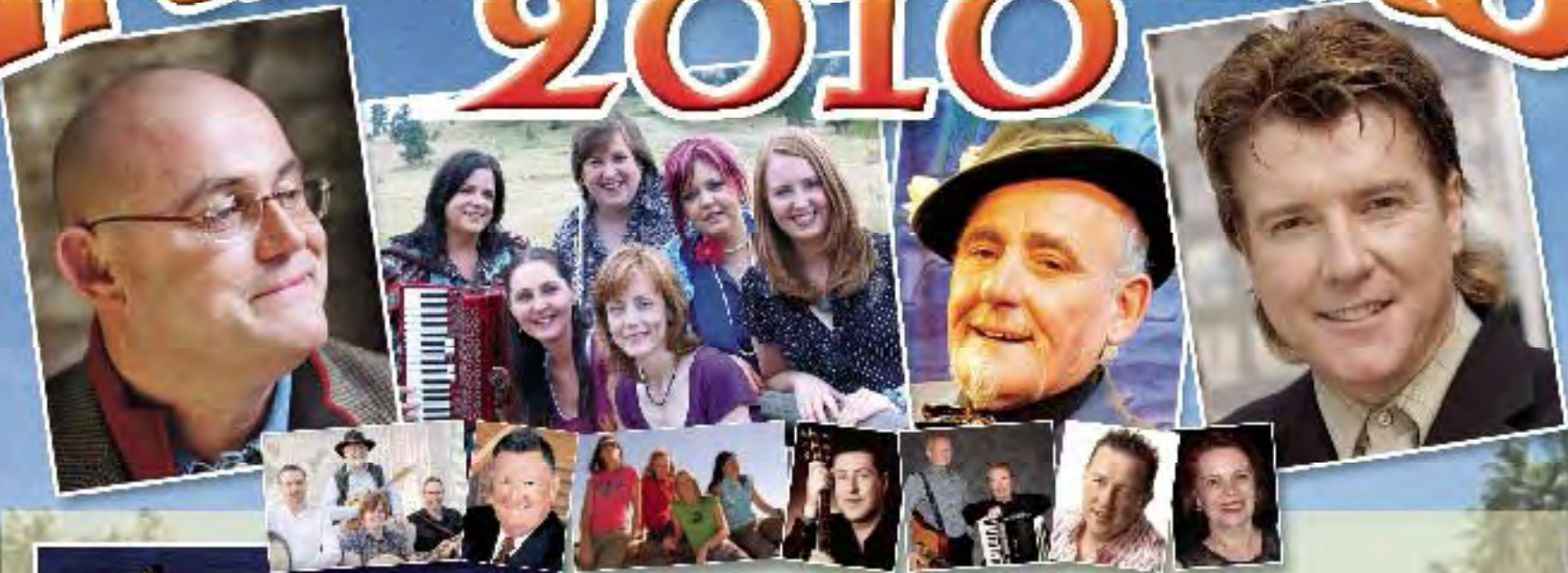
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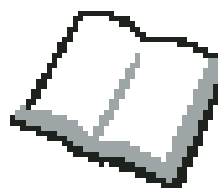
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Irish Books and Plays in Review



Frank West

The Civil War in Kerry

Ireland's long struggle to be free of English rule culminated in the War for Independence from 1916-1921. The war, Michael Collins was the leader, was successful. The British were forced to leave Ireland. The future seemed to be one of peace and prosperity.

However, after that war, a Civil War broke out. Eamon de Valera, who had been safe in America during the war, led the opposition to the new Irish central government.

In the Civil War, former comrades, who had fought against the British, now fought against each other. This Irish Civil War lasted from January 1922 until August 1923.

What does this have to do with us? Many of the defeated soldiers, who had fought against Ireland's national government, settled in the Chicago

area. I remember these angry men and their hatred of Ireland's government. (They called it the Free State until recent years.) Their hostility lasted even after their former leader, Eamon de Valera, accepted Church domination and became Prime Minister.

The Civil War in Kerry, by Tom Doyle, is about that war in that one part of Ireland.

Several things that I think will interest the reader are:

- A junior officer in the National Army met Brigadier Paddy O'Daly, and was profoundly impressed. O'Daly had a famous reputation because he had been Michael Collins' trusted and effective lieutenant during the brutal guerrilla war in Dublin. "The sense of awe and almost reverence [he] showed in meeting the man who directed the Squads' operations against British

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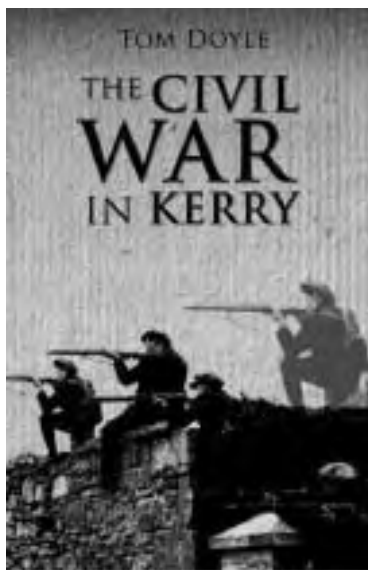
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intelligence during the War of Independence was palpable, even seven decades later..."

The Major cause of the Irish Civil War was interpretation of the 1921 Peace Treaty with the British. Michael Collins saw it as a "stepping stone" to independence for all of Ireland. De Valera began the Civil War by opposing that. But after all



the death and destruction: "Once in power in the 1930's, de Valera found there was much wisdom in Michael Collins' argument that the Treaty offered a stepping stone to achieve a wider... national independence than was apparent at first sight."

The Civil War in Kerry by Tom Doyle. Mercier Press and DuFour Editions, Dublin, Ireland, 2009. 352 pages; \$25.95. www.dufoureditions.com.

Tales From the Emerald Isle I would like to meet Henry Austin. He is the author of this pleasing and surprising book. He is a noble, open-hearted, humane person.

I like the hearty, closely-observed stories he has put in this book. Not only would I like to discuss some of those stories, but I would especially like to tank him for this Acknowledgement section.

The Acknowledgement section is at the beginning of books and it usually can be skipped over. It is perfunctory, like: "I would like to thank my editor (Somebody's name); I would like to thank the proofreader of my book (somebody's name), etc." But Henry Austin's acknowledgments are different. They are stunningly different.

He begins by thanking Sean O'Casey and Oscar Wilde for their examples of perseverance and compassion!

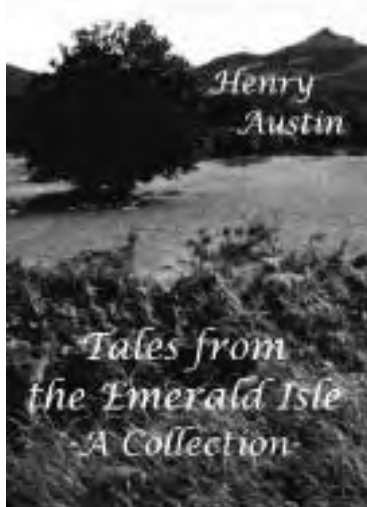
Austin writes: "Sean O'Casey, the genius from the slums of Dublin, who wrote under candlelight, well into the early hours of the morning, and often after completing a twelve-

hour shift on the docks. His trilogy of Dublin plays demonstrated that genius often conceals itself in simplicity. To him I give a special thanks. No Nobel or Pulitzer Prizes for him. But something closer to his heart, the love and undying affections of this beloved Dubliners... To Oscar Wilde, whose masterpiece, 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol', and his own tragic demise, showed me the importance of forgiveness."

In the stories that follow in the book, Austin uses clear, concise language, and the stories are easy to read. Most are only about three or four pages long, and the emotion in each is quickly discernible and accessible.

His story, "The Journey", is about the Great Famine. I'm sure, as a boy, he heard stories about it—some of those who survived would have been still alive. It is a story most Irish Americans know, yet in four pages, Austin recreates for us the emotion of what it would have felt like to those who could leave, but knew that those neighbors they had to leave behind were probably going to die.

"Requiem for the Corn Crake" vividly reminds me of my cousin's



elderly aunt telling me how she missed the song of the Corn Crake. The bird was once common in rural areas, but had disappeared in part of Sligo.

Austin describes a large meadow, that over the years was sold off in pieces, for development. Poignantly he says: "As the meadow got smaller, and the developer got richer, the animals became fewer."

In "The Flower of Wicklow" he tells us of an historic event about Michael Dwyer. After the Uprising of 1798, Dwyer became a guerilla fighter.

His men "... had fought with great courage in several engagements with the crown forces... He and his men hid out in the Wicklow

TheIrishBookClub.com Events

The Secret in Nana's Garden Children's Book Signings

Author Sandra McCone, a member of theirishbookclub.com, will be available at two Chicago area Irish shops on the 18th of April for a reading of her new children's book: The Secret in Nana's Garden.

As well as a signed copy, supporters can have their photograph taken with the author, and will receive the free digital image by email.

The Secret in Nana's Garden is the first book in McCone's The Three Little Lasses series, is a story about three little girls, a brother, and their story-weaving nana that makes for an adventure of dazzling enchantment. Join author and nana, Sandra McCone, in the delightful escapade of her beloved grandchildren. Feel the touch of Ireland and the breeze rushing past Nana's country home as the three little lasses find in their own backyard what could only be

dreamed of in fairytales.

The first book consists of a 400-word story plus a 300-word song that comes as a CD with the book. The books that follow grow in length, as the children grow in age, along with the children who are reading the stories. The third book is the start of a chapter book, as well as the books that follow.

Sandra writes and explains how important it is to spend time with family, and learn about your heritage and family stories. The knowledge gained and retained is what carries on your family legacy, and provides stories to tell your children and grandchildren.

Ms. McCone will be at A Touch of Ireland from 10am-Noon (reading at 11am), 6761 West 95th Street Oak Lawn, IL 60453, 708-237-3473; and at The Irish Shop from 2pm-

4pm (reading at 3pm), 100 N. Oak Park Ave Oak Park, IL 60301, 708-445-1149.



Catherine Bourke Chambers Book Signing at Gaelic Park

Chicago Gaelic Park will host native Chicagoan author Catherine Bourke Chambers for a presentation and book signing on Sunday April 11th, 2009 at 11:30am. In her new book, Just a Boy from Home, with songs, stories and recipes, Catherine Bourke Chambers records the life story of her father, Bill Bourke, as he told it to her over countless wonderful conversations.

Just a Boy from Home tells of Bill's life growing up in County Mayo, Ireland, and his immigration to Chicago, where he married, raised a family and fully embraced his opportunity to realize the American Dream. The captivating stories of his life are interspersed with lyrics to

Mountains, near Dublin. They were back among their own people, a few days rest would see them ready to continue their struggle." But they were betrayed by an informer.

The English forces surround the village where Dwyer is staying. His men fight valiantly but, one by one, are killed. Dwyer makes an astonishing escape and lives to fight the English for several years.

Austin fills this three-page story with suspense and tension. He permits us to become intimate witnesses.

Tales From the Emerald Isle: A Collection by Henry Austin. Choice Publishing and Book Services, Ireland, 2008. 176 pages; \$18.95. www.choicepublishing.ie.

42 songs, Irish wit, recipes and other memories of a time past, creating the kind of personal, detailed history that so often fades away with time.

Catherine explains that her father's repertoire of songs, poems, expressions and the like—those things that made him unique, but also reflected his place in the vibrant communities of County Mayo and mid-century Chicago—could easily have been forgotten had he not agreed to sit for many hours reminiscing:

When Catherine set out to confirm the various details of her father's stories—from song lyrics, to people and places, to historical events such as the striping of the land in Ireland—she discovered an Ireland that everyone should meet.

"It took me quiet a long time to confirm words to songs and stories from this area," she writes. "So many of his friends and family have died, but what I have, I believe is correct. Even if a person does not want to buy this book for the story, the songs, myths and idiomatic expressions,

should be something that anyone with an Irish background would want to have in their library."

Catherine resides in the Chicago-land area with her family. Just a Boy from Home is her first book.

Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest. Call 708-687-9323 to reserve your seat. www.chicagogaelicpark.org.



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Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Derry's Maranna McCloskey is just out with a brand new album entitled, *At Last*. For the people familiar with the talented alto's singing, this will come as welcome news fully justifying the title of the album.

It has been a long time coming, and it is already receiving solid reviews and airplay, as witnessed by the Dublin-based Livelreland award for Vocal Album of the Year, 2009, as well as this paper's same TOP TIR Award last month.

Maranna was born in the mid 70's in Dungiven, Co. Derry. There is a musical pattern to her talent that begins in her childhood, and it is common in the Irish music scene. Musical backgrounds tend to produce musical talent. This is not as self-evident as it may seem, at least not in regard to Irish music. A musical family is the alpha hallmark in traditional music for the overwhelming number of stars now on the scene in the music, and so it

is with Maranna. She began singing Irish traditional music at the age of seven, under the tutelage of her father, Tommy Gerard. There was also a musical mom, Lucy, the Kelly cousins and a host of friends guaranteeing that these songs, literally learned around the family fireplace, would be carried on and sung in the future. Derry is known for terrific singers. These family backgrounds are essential to understanding the continued membership in the traditional circle. Also common in these artists is early and frequent participation in the musical competitions known as fleadh. Again, Maranna is no exception here, beginning her competitive efforts at the age of nine. Her list of championships is impressive, including three championships in the Derry Fleadh for English traditional singing and two champion trophies as winner of the Ulster Fleadh in

the same category. Off to secondary school, Maghera College, where she was further encouraged musically and took up the silver flute, as part of a classical music education. "The theory and knowledge I gained there is so important to me today as I write music. It is really practical," she states.

Now, the pattern gets a little less clear, but not to worry—it all comes right in the end. Off to university to get a degree in—are you ready?—



Biological Sciences. University of Ulster at Coleraine. But, as we said, not to worry. For it is at this time that Cara Dillon left the popular trad group, Oige. Maranna was immediately asked to replace her, and Maranna's warm alto provided a startling counterpoint to Cara's soprano, as the group launched into a busy concert and festival period all over Europe.

The group's only album, *Bang On*, featuring Maranna is still eagerly hunted by trad aficionados, as an example of her early work.

Pattern continues. After leaving the group following several years, Maranna decided it was time to take a career break from her scientific laboratory profession, and off she went for a year to Australia. Of course, it goes without saying that she continued singing in pub sessions and for friends. But, Australia, and a very close encounter with a crocodile beckoned, and the adventure began. While there, she wrote one of the tunes included in *At Last*, describing the magic of a place called Fraser Island. She returned home, and went to work for the University of Ulster as a laboratory clinical trials technician, whatever that is, please God—and earned a Master's degree in Biotechnology. Another pattern emerges—the music never leaves her ears, heart or soul. Her voice, an incredibly warm and expressive alto, had drawn a lot of attention in the Oige days, and won her New Artist of the Year Awards for an EP she released in 2003, containing four songs, among them, Fraser Island—which

also won her Composition of the Year from Dublin-based, Livelreland. A St. Patrick's Day invitation from San Diego, California of all places, arrived from Brian Baynes and his band to join them and piper, Eric Rigler with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in performance. Music fans may well remember Rigler as the piper for the film, *Titanic*. "It was such a thrill to be asked, I couldn't believe it. I couldn't wait, and counted the hours until I got on the plane—and the whole experience was even more wonderful than I could have imagined. It is such a treasured memory to me," exclaims Maranna. In the performance, Brian was again captivated by her voice and knowledge of the tradition. Many cups of tea, lots of scones and hours later, *At Last* was planned and agreed to, including Eric Rigler's eager participation. The album was worked on for the following year in Baynes' Avoca Studio in San Diego, which saw Maranna flying back and forth to record the project. Along with a bumper

crop of frequent flyer miles, the flights allowed the quiet time necessary to set everything in its proper place. "I came to love those flights. Lots of time and space, working on a dream," she concludes.

Released at a packed debut event in Derry, the album is already making a mark. Also included is a beautiful air, written by Maranna entitled, *The Cashel Air* for the townland in which Maranna was raised in Derry.

There are 10 selections on the album, with four penned by Maranna—including a redone version of *Fraser Island*. "Eric Rigler and Brian Baynes are geniuses. I am so thrilled to have this album onboard now, and can't wait to start performing selections live for audiences."

Now that it is done, it is all like a dream. All the costs and work and efforts have all come together. I am blessed, that is for certain."

The album is deeply traditional in feel and ambience with classics such as *The Home I Left Behind* joining trad favorites, *Lonely Irish Maid* and *Going to Mass Last Sunday*. Both of the latter songs were learned from a favorite of Maranna's, Rita Gallagher of *The Frosses* in Co. Donegal. Drawing a lot of attention also is the song, *The Verdant Braes of Screen*. Maranna learned this at the age of 10. It is a local song in Derry and refers to the town of Ballinascreen. A lovely tune, it tells of a man trying to seduce a woman of the town who knows the man is not being exactly honest in his advances, as she believes him in love with another. "A Derry woman's virtue is not captured so cheaply!" laughs Maranna. Many of the songs center on the geographic area, as they are of the area, as is Maranna herself.

Magherfelt May Fair is named for a fair that still takes place in that town every May 1. The hymn-like, *At Last* concludes the album—and is spiritual in tone, though the casual listener may think it simply a romantic song.

So, *At Last*. All of these influences, all of these experiences, ranging from a youth spent in the music, through influences like the revered Rita Gallagher, Dolores Keane, Cathie Ryan and Eddi Reader, world travel, Oige and even the incident, perhaps best saved for another time, with that Australian crocodile all result in this creation. A New Queen on the Scene. Surely those who love the rich alto tones featuring her warmth—and that is the only word for it, will agree. *At Last*, at last. Indeed.

No Kids in the Beer Garden CD

Chicago-area performer Mighty Joe has unveiled his latest CD release entitled *No Kids in the Beer Garden*. This is a collection of live tracks & 'barroom songs,' some of which are a bit on the naughty side. Being aware

that many of his 'fans' have kids themselves, Mighty Joe has included his own Parental Warning Label on every copy.

This CD is a tribute to the rowdy crowds all over the Chicago area & suburbs. The subject matter focuses on such themes as hangovers, smoking, drinking & other substances, love gone really wrong, etc... all meant to be taken with an air of lightheartedness & sarcasm.

No Kids can be purchased online at MJ's website www.mightyjoemusic.com/discs.htm and are also available (along with No Kids T-Shirts) at Mighty Joe gigs. For a complete list of performances, visit www.mightyjoemusic.com/calendar.htm.



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at the Irish American Heritage Center | 4626 North Knox Ave., Chicago, IL

Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



Festifying and Other Stuff

Back in February we were off to Philly for the Mid-Winter Scottish and Irish Music Festival hosted by Bill and Karen Reid, East of the Hebrides Entertainments—it's a great kickoff to the season and has the best of entertainment on offer. Great performances from the McLeod Fiddlers, Scythian, Brother, The Tannahall Weavers, The Screaming Orphans, and The Dublin City Ramblers. Springlike weather brought the faithful out of hibernation and here we go again with festival season.

Scottish band Albannach stole the show with their thunderous tribal music. They were brilliant and although it's hard to describe exactly what it is they do, they certainly entertain, and I really look forward to seeing them again. Albannach Abu.

Next up, the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas. Wow, what a great turnout, 83 degrees, so it's back in shorts and sandals again. More great entertainment, Liz Carroll and John Doyle representing the very best in trad., Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band (otherwise known as Martin de Cogain and Jimmy Crowley), Four Men and a Dog, The Barra McNeils, and dozens more, entertained huge crowds. Jiggernaut and 7 Nations, Beoga, Shift, and Liadan were there too. It's always been a fine fest, but it's become a destination event, attracting visitors from way far afield. This event is worth the trip.

I loved Ed Miller and Loescher & Kenneth, always something new in Dallas, something for everybody. Besides great weather, great company, and great music, the North Texas Irish Festival is the most dog friendly festival I've ever seen, thousands of them... just thought I'd mention it.

St. Patrick's Day saw Liz Carroll and John Doyle entertaining Barack Obama at the White House, what a great honor for us all.

Back to Chicago for St. Patrick's Day festivities, again decent weather helped swell the crowds, and I never saw anything like the entertainers as they worked-in six gigs a day—it was amazing. We were at the Hilton on Michigan Avenue for three days watching it all unfold. I was surprised by the amount of visitors from Ireland who had come to Chicago for the craic, hundreds of them. Kitty O'Shea's was hopping, as I'm sure were all the great Irish

pubs of Chicago. Kitty's featured "the usual suspects" Jimmy Moore, Pat Broaders, and friends. Mighty music as usual.

Up the road at the Irish American Heritage Center, festivities were in full swing, and thousands of revelers enjoyed the three days of entertainment provided. Again, hats off to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring off this gala event. The beauty of course of the IAHC, is that they can offer a cultural element to a celebration that has all but turned its back on anything of a cultural nature... It's a great facility that has it all, and we should all support it. It is our national treasure.

On St. Patrick's Day itself, Tuesday March 17th, the Heritage Center began with Mass by our own Father Karl Langsdorf, followed by a day of entertainment that suited all ages and attracted families from far and wide. In the Fifth Province, Sheila, Erin, and Frank worked flat out all weekend trying to keep pace with demand, they must have been exhausted. Kathy O'Neill, Ambrose Kelly, and Tom Boyle seemed to be everywhere... it was all hands on deck.

Then, thank God, it was all over. All that was left was the faint smell of corned beef and cabbage, sore heads, aching bodies, and a broken down van being towed to the mechanic... back to reality.

On Sunday, we were at the annual event for Avenues to Independence, a

St. Patrick's Day lunch event hosted every year by Bob Healy and Peg O'Herron. Avenues to Independence supports independent living for those with disabilities. Music from Noel Rice's Baal Tinne and The Irish Heritage Singers was perfect for this, my favorite charity event. The Irish Dancers were fabulous, no neon dresses, no wigs, and great dancing the way it used to be. Great people, great time.

If March the 17th was St. Patrick's Day, than Saturday March the 21st was surely Paddy's Day when Ireland's rugby team defeated Wales in Cardiff winning the Triple Crown and the Grand Slam for the first time in 61 years. It was historic. Later that same night, Irish boxer Bernard Dunne won the World Bantam Weight Title Fight at the Point Depot in Dublin. Forget the economy, to hell with recession, the Irish were on top again.

Irish music icon, David Munnely, who celebrated his birthday on that day, said it was a great birthday present and that the celebrations in Ireland would go on for months. He said a few other things too... but that's not for print—like the rest of us, he was over the moon. Tadgh O'Reilly told me that Gaelic Park was celebrating the historic victory and that with all the economic gloom at home, "it was a great shot in the arm for Ireland." The "great day for the Irish" even drove our favorite Galway man, John Paul Lawless, to put pen to paper with the (above right) poem, 5 out of 5. Fair play to you JP.

Next Month... New albums from The Elders, Kennedy's Kitchen, Joe Cullen, Pete Purvis, and Joe McShane... Detailed reviews in the May issue.

5 out of 5

*On February seventh, we went out to play
We took on the French and blew em away
We then went to Italy to see how they'd play
And, yet again, we showed them the way
Then came the English into the fray
And in Croke Park, we silenced them, oh what a day
On March the fourteenth, Scotland we played and
At the end of the match, we had the last say
The Welsh we defeated on that final day
Returning as victors to Dublin next day
For the first time since 1948
Winning five out of five, the feeling is great
By John Paul Lawless*



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but given our locations and all
the bargains out there, let's key
in on shopping. Don't spare any
frills... wouldn't be us!*

John

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



Now I know what heaven is going to be like.

I've just returned from a whirlwind trip to Ireland, eight days and nights in the old country.

We documented the entire expedition on film for a project that will examine our Irish roots. It was a celestial experience.

And our first stop was like checking into heaven's hotel, The Fitzpatrick Castle in Killiney, just outside Dublin. Eithne Fitzpatrick was our hostess, and she treated our group of vagabonds like royalty. We had the best suite in the Castle, and I spent the night in the same bed that Burt Lancaster, Donald Sutherland, and Roma Downey had once occupied. Not all at the same time of course, although I'm sure Burt would have fancied some sack time with Roma.

The Fitzpatrick Castle is sumptuous and comfy, and Eithne has a staff of eager assistants, many of them gorgeous and dashing young Irish women and men, whose raison d'être is the happiness of Fitz's guests.

Our film will tell the story of our travels in search of Kunte Kinte Hooligan. But for the moment, let me tell you a little story that sort of crystallized our Irish adventure.

We began our book tour last November, and we've been filming many of the stops at pubs and book shops along the way, over 20 gigs so far. Last December, we brought our little medicine show to Harte's Saloon on the south side at 99th and Artesian.

We met lots of fun Irish folks at that one, including Muhammad Ali's daughter who came with Pickle Joyce. She has Irish blood in her beautiful veins. Our host, Mike Harte, mentioned that his cousin has a bar in Ireland, and that we should stop in when we were out there.

My old pal John Spellman, AKA "Spellbound," sent me a phone number and map of Mike's cousin's bar in Gort, Ireland. When I discovered that Gort was on the same road we'd be traveling from Galway to Ennis, I decided to try and set up a meeting

with Mike Harte's cousins.

Irish cousin Joe "Josey" Harte is married to Karen, an American girl he met on the phone when he was calling home from New York over 30 years ago. Josey had come to The Big Apple as a hurling player for Galway to play at Gaelic Park and hung around for years. Karen was a long distance operator in Pittsburgh

I slap some money on the bar and order another. It's almost impossible to embarrass me, as my wife will attest. As I'm scanning the photos of hurlers and musicians on the wall, I discover a photo of Seamus Cooley, once champion fiddle player of Ireland.

Seamus and I had worked for the late great Jack Sullivan as laborers

transatlantic call, Mike tells me that Josey asked him where his folks were from, and when Mike said, "Sligo and Mayo," the old hurling player said, "Godamit we ARE related!"

Now I'm confused. This Irish story is two tails wagging on the same dog. Cousins or not, Josey Harte and his wife Karen treated us like family when we dropped in on them.



(l to r: All Houlihans unless otherwise noted). Pat, Mary, Joe Fitzgerald, Cliff Carlson, Bill, and Mike in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland attending the Ennis Book Festival.

and the charming Irishmen invited her to visit him in New York. She did, and the rest is history.

When I called the bar before my trip to Ireland, Karen answered the phone and she was thrilled to hear that we would be visiting from America with a film crew.

Fast-forward a week later and we arrive on a Friday afternoon at Harte's Pub in Gort. Karen has lunch prepared for us at the bar and my crew tears into the sandwiches of smoked salmon and other delicacies, while we look around this very cozy little Irish pub.

I ask Karen, "Where's Joe?" as I wolf down my third sandwich, washed down with a pint of Harp. "Oh, he'll be along."

As I'm dipping into the bowl of chocolates on the bar, our reluctant host Josey steps behind the bar and introduces himself. He looked like Pete Nolan in a navy blue sweater and a helmet of white hair atop his Irish mug.

I tell Josey how we've come all the way from the south side of Chicago to deliver regards from his cousin Mike, when he casts a caustic eye upon me and says, "I don't have any cousins!"

Uh oh. I laugh and tell him he probably thinks this whole thing is a ruse to get some lunch and free drinks. Josey sneers at me, "Well I got you the first round anyway."

on his bricklayer gang back in the late sixties. Turns out Seamus had died in Ireland only a year before our visit and had been a close friend of Josey. All was well. Seamus made the connection from beyond for Josey Harte and me.

Now Josey is warming up and we're having a grand old time. Finally I suggest, "Well let's call Mike Harte and find out the real story!"

I get Mike on the phone in Chicago, it was probably very early in the morning there, and I hand the phone to Josey, who shouts into the phone as I walk back to the bar, "Are you my cousin?"

When Josey returns from the phone call in the back, he tells me the whole thing is a misunderstanding, and that a friend of Mike Harte took a photo of the bar while in Ireland and said they must be cousins, because they both spell their name with an "e" at the end of Harte.

When I get in touch with Mike Harte upon my return to Chicago, he says they ARE cousins. Mike tells me, "My uncle's brother in law's wife took the picture. Her name is Kathy Shine, she's married to Danny Shine."

Southsider Mike chuckles, "Danny was very quick as a kid, and when people would ask him how he got so fast, he would tell them, 'Well, I gotta little shine in me!'"

Back to that other end of the

That's why Ireland seemed like heaven. All of us, the Diaspora of Ireland, yanks and Irish alike, we're all cousins. They've all got cousins in America and we've all got cousins in Ireland. So go visit them. It's good for at least the first round anyway.

Feel like meeting some of your Irish cousins before you even leave Chicago? Then check out the Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group. I'll be joining them on Saturday, April 4th at 8pm at Gaelic Park to sign copies of Hooliganism. The incomparable Irish tenor Paddy Homan and friends will perform as well, with his toe-tappin', warbling wit and panache.

This group lives by the motto that the best way to enjoy Irish music is over a pint or two. Transplanted Bridgeporter Kathleen O'Connor started this august organization, and she has over 300 members strong, hitting pubs twice a month in celebration of Irish music.

I joined not only because of Kathleen's gracious invitation. This red-haired Irish beauty is quickly becoming Chicago's Perle Mesta. But also there is great comfort in knowing that I'll always have a party to attend. It's a moveable feast, a traveling Hooley!

For more info go to: <http://celtic-music.meetup.com/113/>

Hope to see you there to meet my Irish cousins.

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IAHC Events

Continued from page 6

giving readers an intimate glimpse into the trials and triumphs of ethnic soldiers during one of the most destructive wars in American history.

Swan, is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin and a retired professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University. Chicago's Irish Legion is based on extensive research from original sources including the National and Illinois State Archives, official records of the war, and letters of officers and men of the 90th Illinois, some from private collections.

Swan will read from his book and sign copies, which will be for sale.

Switchback named Duo of the Year

The Irish Music Association held its inaugural Irish Music Awards Ceremony on January 27 at the historical O'Malley's Public House in Weston, Missouri, and Switchback, the duo of Martin McCormack and Brian FitzGerald, were named the 2008 Top Duo in a Pub, Festival or Concert (US, IRE, EU, UK).

The pair has been playing together for over 23 years, and has a discography of 11 albums to date. Throughout the years, their touring has delivered them to all variations of venues noted in the award—from biker bars in Waukon, IA, to Matt Molloy's pub in Westport, IRE—from the Stan Rogers Folk Festival in Nova Scotia, to crowds of 15,000 at the Michigan Summer Celebration—from the intimate performance

Go Green with the Irish Earth Day Fest

The IAHC will go greener than ever with its first Earth Day Festival April 18th 10 am to 4pm.

This free event is open to the Chicago land community and will showcase companies and non-profits promoting sustainable living. Vendors will display Earth-friendly products, conservation, speakers, recycling, sustainable agriculture and alternative energy. There will be children's activities, live music and food for purchase.

space of Nashville's Bluebird Café, to the 3,400-seat Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, IN, where they performed rollicking Irish tunes backed by the 55 piece Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra.

The trophies were designed and crafted in Irish tradition, with a column and base of Sessile and Durmast white oak, decorated with Connemara marble carved in the outline of the Emerald Isle, and inset with a large crowning medallion of leaded crystal etched with the Irish Music Association logo. The column swivels on the base to reveal two "secret compartments" containing commemorative coins, adding another typically Irish dimension to the sculpture.



The Elders Rock April 24th

The Center is pleased to welcome The Elders (pictured above) in concert for one night only this April. They will promote their new CD, Gael Day, which was released on St. Patrick's Day.

Since forming in 1998, The Elders have brought their musical mix of powerful vocals, amped-up roots rock, blazing instrumentals and first-rate songwriting to festivals, pubs and theaters across America and Ireland.

The Elders are fronted by charismatic Irishman, Ian Byrne from County Wicklow, and backed by a group of Kansas City musicians, including guitarist Steve Phillips, bassist Norm Dahlor, violinist Brent Hoad, drummer Tommy Sutherland and keyboardist Joe Miquelon. All are well-known veteran musicians having played in numerous bands before forming The Elders.

8pm and tickets are \$20.

Women's Writing Workshop

The Center will host the International Women's Writing Guild for a day-long women's writing workshop. A Writing Life/A Creative Life: The Importance of Words, will be taught by Susan M. Tiberghien.

Tiberghien, an American writer living in Switzerland, has published four books along with narrative essays in journals and anthologies in the United States and in Europe. She teaches graduate programs at C.G. Jung Centers, at writers' conferences and at the monthly Geneva Writers' workshops.

The workshop is Saturday, April 25 from 9am to 4pm at the Center. The cost is \$80 for International Women's Writing Guild members and \$92 if you want lunch or \$95 for the general public or \$107 if you want lunch.

The Heritage Center is located at 4626 North Knox Avenue in Chicago. www.irish-american.org or 773-282-7035, ext 10.

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The High Road

By Brian Burke



Recently, the title of my column was changed from Burke's Law to The High Road. I want you to know why I write about spiritual matters. I've written in the past about Saint Patrick's Day and I used it as a means to discuss what it means to be a Christian. For many Irish, to be a Christian means to be a Catholic. Much about Catholicism does not reflect, and actually contradicts, much of what Christ taught. But I will save that for another column.

The reason I write about spiritual matters is because I have learned a lot over the past two years about God's word. And I want to pass on lessons I've learned to other Irish people, and to promote the study of God's word.

What I've learned is that I knew very little about God, despite nineteen (19) years of education at Catholic institutions, because I knew almost nothing about God's word. Now, we are Irish. We claim to love language and the written word. The crazy truth, however, is that the

Catholic religion, to which many Irish are adherents, actually does little to proclaim God's word. And to Christ (and his true followers) God's word is all that matters.

The world is changing, and, spiritually, it's getting worse. I suspect "the anti-Christ" is already in our midst. Our Christian beliefs are under increasing attack. From Oprah and The Secret (mysticism), Davinci Code, now Bill Maher and his scummy attack on Christ in Religulous, our beliefs in the divine are under direct, constant, and increasing attack. And, since many of your beliefs are based on Catholic rituals, rather than God's word, and the Catholic church is losing credibility among its own "members," the Irish are very vulnerable to these anti-Christian messages (attacks on Christ) that are increasingly prevalent. I'm not saying worry about Jesus Christ, as if he needs you. I'm saying worry about yourself, because you need Jesus Christ.

But so you know where I am com-

ing from, some people might think "he has gone out of his mind." Mark 3:21. That would be a reflection of how far off the proper track their thinking has become. People are so far from God at this point in time that these attacks on the divinity of Christ will prevail upon those who do not know God's word.

As Jesus told Martha, the sister of Mary (when Martha wanted Jesus to tell Mary to stop sitting and listening to Jesus so she could help Martha prepare the meal for the guests): "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." Mark 10:41.

Many people, like I was, may not even attend mass anymore because "if you've seen one" Catholic mass, by and large, "you've seen 'em all." Two readings and a passage from the Gospel at church on Sunday is not going to teach you God's word. Or, if you do go to mass, it does you little good unless you are studying God's word at home. So, void of God's word, the only place many, if not most, people now get their knowledge of God is from TV, movies, internet. And right now they are being bombarded with anti-Christian messages.

What's wrong with me, some might ask. If you know anything about the New Testament, here's the way I would describe me. I identify, in a way, with Saul who became Paul after he was blinded on the road to Damascus and the Lord spoke to him. When Saul and the group of people he identified with (Jewish Pharisees) were hostile to the followers of Jesus Christ, the Lord came to Saul and revealed Himself. Saul changed (even his name and became Paul) and became preoccupied with teaching the truths of Jesus Christ (and our enemy, Satan). So it is with me.

There's another man too, though, that I identify with in the New Testament. He is the man who was living out among the tombs, unable to be restrained, howling and cutting himself with stones. Jesus sent many demons out of the man and into a herd of swine. The man was, then, in his right mind and begged Jesus to let him stay with him. But Jesus said, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." Mark 5:19-20.

I don't know which man I am more like, the latter or Paul. Maybe it doesn't matter. But in a sense (more figurative than literal), I was living alone, unrestrained, scaring others, and hurting myself. So, naturally, I want to tell my friends how much the

Lord has done for me.

But, like Paul, I also always had a zeal for God, though misdirected. And, like Paul, I am educated in the law. And I have always been able to teach effectively, though informally, and I can always offer proof for whatever I am telling you.

So, it's true that the Lord rescued me from the demons ruining my life. But it's also true that God, as with Paul, revealed Himself to me after His resurrection and ascension, not while still walking among us, as in the case of the man with demons described in Mark 5 (same story in Matthew 8). So, perhaps, God gave me, like Paul, the tools I need in order to teach people what I've learned about His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

That's why I want to tell the Irish people that Jesus Christ is real, he came to defeat the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), who is also real, and I want to warn them about the lies that prevail in the world. The works of the devil consist of lies. The prevailing theme of the New Testament is "truth vs. lies."

Jesus said to Pilate: "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." John 18:37.

Jesus said to Pharisees: "Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me." John 8:43-45.

I encourage you to explore the literary tradition of God's word. Put aside Joyce. Put aside Shakespeare. Put aside People magazine.

The Old Testament, I now realize, is not a history of the Jews. It's a story about God, in the context of the Jews, who, through Abraham and, later, Moses, were introduced to God. And God doesn't change. So, while the history of the Jews may not seem relevant to your life, the Jews are just a back drop to the story. The Old Testament is a story about God.

When you realize that the Old Testament and New Testament were written thousands of years ago and there's only been a printing press for just over 500 years, you realize how special, sacred, these scripture actually are. Today, if there were no printing press, there would be no equivalent to Borders Books, e.g., Borders Scrolls; and no equivalent to the magazine rack, i.e., no scroll rack, in the grocery store; and no scrolls of O(rah) or People or Us at the check-out counter because all of those books and magazines are useless and worthless. No one would waste their time to write that nonsense down if they had to use natural dyes or blood to write on animal skins or papyrus. But, printing press or not, God's word was written down (thousands of years ago), was preserved (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls), and remains today. So, think about it.

All-Ireland Champions at The Abbey

On Tuesday, April 7th, 2009, The Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace Street in Chicago, will host a concert featuring All-Ireland champions Catherine

County Clare, Ireland. She's one of the best known concertina players from a county that makes a habit of churning out brilliant concertina players. Famously known as Martin Hayes' partner when winning numerous All-Ireland duets, Mary continues, as does Catherine, to spread the music at festivals and workshops. At home, in Tulla, Mary organizes the talent for the Tulla Trad Festival. To date, she's recorded two solo albums to great acclaim.

For a night of exquisite traditional music from two of Ireland's most honored musicians, come enjoy Catherine McEvoy and Mary McNamara.

773.478.4408.

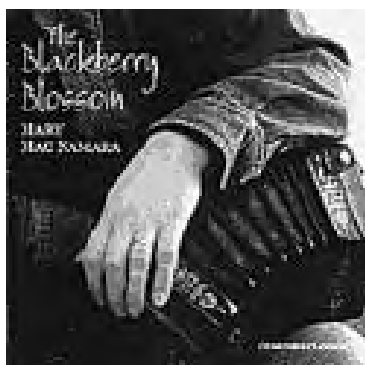


Catherine McEvoy

McEvoy and Mary McNamara. Doors open at 7pm, and the concert starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$20.

Flute player Catherine McEvoy is from Birmingham, England, originally, and now lives in County Meath, Ireland. With her distinctive fluid and hearty music, her solo album, Flute Music in the Roscommon-Sligo Style was voted number one by the Irish Voice in 1996. Since then she's recorded a duet album with her brother, a much-honored fiddler, and another solo album just which has just been released called The Home Ruler.

Mary McNamara hails from Tulla,



William Dougherty, 1st Vice President, and Mark Donahue, President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, presented Distinguished Service Awards to Chicago Police Officers Craig Brownfield, Patrick Fahey, Jr., Shane Jones, and Probationary Officer Jeffrey Frahm. The officers had recently completed a traffic stop when they heard a gunshot and observed an offender in an alley with handguns in each hand trying to enter a building. After announcing themselves, the offender turned both guns on the officers, forcing them to open fire. Due to their courage and dedication to duty, an armed offender and his weapons were removed from the streets of the City of Chicago. (From L-R) William Dougherty, Officers Patrick Fahey, Jr. and Craig Brownfield, and Mark Donahue. Not pictured are Officers Shane Jones and Jeffrey Frahm.

American Football in Ireland

By Greg Loughran, President Irish American Football Association

Football, or American Football as it is known here in Ireland, took off in a big way in the mid-eighties with the screening of highlights shows on RTE and Channel 4. By 1986 there

An experimental 8 a side version of tackle football was tried in 2003 that was designed to run along side the normal 11 a side game.

This was to give a number of developing teams a chance to compete at a competitive level without



Belfast Bulls (Blue) @ Carrickfergus Knights (Yellow and Black....this goes back to the Steelers colours from the 1997 game)

was a league and new teams seemed to spring up every week or so. From the Belfast Blitzers to the Dublin Celts and the Limerick Patriots, Ireland had Gridiron fever. This was heighten by touring teams from the US, the New England Raiders and the Minnesota All-Stars to name but a few and to cap it all Boston College playing the Army at Landsdowne Road in 1987.

However this was not to last. Ireland and Irish society was not designed to maintain such a resource hungry sport and after the initial surge there was a long slow decline as reality set in. Teams were organised on a club system and players paid for everything. Sponsorship became difficult to attract and interest became harder to maintain after the terrestrial coverage ended. Even after the arrival of the Steelers and Bears in 1997 and the Navy and Notre Dame in 1998, both in front of huge crowds at Croke Park, American Football was about to flatline in Ireland. The end came suddenly in 2000 when the league was suspended.

Not all was lost though and a competitive 7 a side Flag Football game sprung up in Dublin. This was an adopted game with Irish rules and limited blocking. From this beginning, the new Irish American Football League (IAFL) was born with the Dublin Rebels, Carrickfergus Knights and the University Of Limerick Vikings leading the way.

needing the resources of the big squads required for the normal 11 a side game.

Today there are eight teams playing 11 a side in the IAFL league and seven in the development 8 a side (DV-8) league.

The Irish championship game, the Shamrock Bowl, has been won the past two years by the UL Vikings, while the beaten finalists, the Dublin Rebels will represent Ireland in the newly created European competition, the Atlantic Cup.

The Cork Admirals won the DV-8 league in 2008.

Flag Football has also made a return in the form of the internationally recognised 5 v 5 version. This form of Flag Football is supported and promoted by the NFL, International Federation of American Football (IAFA) and European Federation of American Football (EFAF).

Fourteen teams from all over Ireland competed in a national league in 2008 with the Belfast Bulls beating UCD in our finals day.

Our Schools Programme was also launched this year with playing kits donated to a number of schools and coaches bringing the sport to new areas of Ireland.

Flag Football also has a seriously competitive edge at international level and Belfast will host the EFAF Senior Flag in September this year at the Shaw's Bridge Complex.

Great strides have been made with officiating and coaching in the past

few years with the establishment of governing bodies for both of these disciplines.

IAFOA and IAFA have trained and certified over 100 people at first level and around 30 at second level each. This gives football a new found stability.

Also planned for 2009 is a new youth tackle league to give under 18s the chance to play full contact football.

Everything is not perfect within the football world in Ireland and a number of long term issues have still to be addressed.

Playing and training facilities are always difficult to secure, a long promised venue for finals and international games is further away than ever, Team Ireland has been moth balled and any hope of sponsorship for teams and league are fast fading.

We have recently rediscovered the benefits of working with the European and World governing bodies.

EFAF is the strongest continental federation outside of North America.

Ireland was a founding member of IFAF, an organisation that represents nearly 50 countries worldwide.

WaveRider Movie Opens in Europe

Editor's Note:

When I visited my host, surfer Richie Fitzgerald in Bonduran, Co. Donegal, Ireland, I had no idea how good, and how alarmingly brave he was. I was there because Richie had sent a story to me for the paper about bringing Protestant and Catholic kids together to learn the sport of surfing, and, maybe understand each other better. I'm an old surfer - even was part-owner of a surf shop in Newport Beach, California - so when I received the story I called Ritchie

to see if you really could surf in Ireland, and if so, could I come over and give it a try before I got too old!

November, 3, 2005 I met Ritchie at his family-owned surf shop in Bonduran. He supplied me with the thickest wetsuit I had ever worn, footies which are like wetsuits for the feet, and a board to surf on. The rest is history. We parked on a hill overlooking the Bonduran Beach, crawled down a slippery slope of rocks, grass and gravel, and dove in the water from the rocks.



IAN publisher, Cliff Carlson, and Richie Fitzgerald.

I didn't know I was surfing with royalty that day. Richie and a few of his friends made history in Ireland recently when they surfed the biggest wave ever ridden there, and that footage closes the movie.

Waveriders is the previously untold story of the unlikely Irish roots of the worldwide surfing phenomenon and today's pioneers of Irish big wave surfing. The story unfolds through the inspirational and ultimately tragic history of Irish/Hawaiian legendary waterman, George Freeth, the son of an Irishman, who was responsible for the rebirth of this sport of Hawaiian kings in the early twentieth century. With its distinguished cast of world-renowned Irish, British and Irish/American surfers Waveriders journeys full-circle from Hawaii to California and back to Irish shores following Freeth's wave of influence. The journey reaches a spectacular climax when the surfers conquer the biggest swell ever to have been ridden in Ireland by catching monster waves of over fifty feet.

"It's huge, it's huge," says Fitzgerald anxiously. "Big, dangerous, shallow, nasty waves. This is going to be a big day. A really, really big day." Indeed it was, because, on that final day of filming 'Waveriders' Gabriel Davies, Richard Fitzgerald, Alistair Mennie and Duncan Scott surfed the biggest swell ever ridden in Ireland. www.waveridersthefilm.com.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



This Article has not been sponsored by the Irish Tourist Board for Obvious Reasons.

Have you ever had that feeling where you would rather have root canal treatment done on your teeth without the formality of anaesthetic?

Have you ever prayed for the wonderful feeling of having a hundred screaming children tearing

around you like mad March hares?

Ever thought of the joys inherent in having yourself staked out naked in the sweltering hot desert, smeared with honey and eaten by a host of red ants?

If you have, then you too must have visited Ireland for Saint Patrick's Day.

Listen, we have to live here on this most hideous of days but for the sake of your sanity never—NEVER—visit it voluntarily. A

glittering phosphorescent assembly of broken beer bottles and shattered pint glasses left behind by the thugs and violent apologies for humanity who have been released from Arkham Asylum for the day will greet you.

Your ears will be assailed by morons singing the out-of-date and totally inappropriate litanies to hate and murder of the Wolfe Tones, blasting out "Ooh ah up the 'RA, I say ooh up the 'RA," in the same fortnight that the hilariously called Real IRA blasted into oblivion two British soldiers in Belfast who were on the following day due to go to Afghanistan.

I'll bet that they never expected that in these quiet times, and I hope

that "the boys" feel very proud of themselves for taking the lives of these men and managing to shoot some pizza delivery guys into the bargain. How proud they must feel while telling of their of their murders—Oh, sorry, Gerry Adams; I forgot that we can't say that word in these enlightened times. Ah well, what the hell, I've gone and said it now: MURDER, you cretins. Adams in his statement managed to fudge right over that issue. At least until the people of the North demonstrated against it and it dawned on him how out of touch he has become.

You are not freedom fighters of any description; you are the scum of the earth.

How any human can feel pride in the aftermath to the murder of these soldiers and then go on to organise the killing of the policeman in Armagh is beyond me. But then again you bunch, as Morgan Freeman says in "The Shawshank Redemption" don't really fit into the category of human, do you? You don't qualify.

Real IRA in the first instance, Continuity in the second; it's all the same to me. You are murderous flotsam and not even very good at it. With the first case, you used up sixty bullets to kill two men. I'd go back to Murdering Scumbag School, if I were you.

Please, America: try to think

about that every time you dig into your pockets in order to shell out your hard earned loot to fund these bastards. You just cause more grief, that's all.

As Kate O' Carroll, wife of the murdered policeman, said so poignantly: "My husband died for a country that he'll only ever see six feet of."

And you call yourselves men.

Really, that's what we should have been thinking about yesterday when we were telling the world how great it is to be Irish and belting out a few rebel songs. Rebels? If they knew the meaning of the word they would be turning their backs on anyone who sympathises with these creeps.

No doubt I will have the Usual Subjects saying that I'm a bitter man. That's OK, because I am. Oh, and I can also hold a tune and am a hell of a tap dancer, heh-heh.

Oh and by the wayhappy [belated] Saint Patrick's Day.

Calling Millionaires

Irish television production company, Wildwave Media, is currently looking for US participants for the TV series, The Secret Millionaire, to be filmed in Ireland in 2009.

The concept of the series is that each week a millionaire leaves their luxury life behind, takes on a secret identity and lives undercover in a deprived area of Ireland for ten days. Living on a limited budget with no mod-cons they must forge their own way in the community—working and volunteering alongside the locals and finding individuals and projects who they think deserve a cut of their fortune.

On their final day, the millionaires come clean and reveal their true identity to the people they have chosen, surprising them with overwhelming gifts of thousands of euros to improve their lives.

Through this unique experience, extraordinary people and heart-wrenching situations inside deprived communities are revealed. As well as highlighting the positive financial and emotional impact of modern day philanthropy, the programme also draws attention to some of Ireland's social problems on both sides of the border in a touching and personal way.

Each Millionaire would be expected to donate between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to their choice of individual or charity. This amount can be divided between several deserving cases as the Millionaire deems fit.

Interested parties should contact Wildwave directly at john.norton@wildwave.com or +353 86 3042540.

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Piping It In

Jack Baker



We survived the long haul last month to the North Texas Irish Festival, bigger than ever (it is Texas after all) and quite a tiring proposition. Nothing like 15 hour days standing on concrete. I was happily surprised to see how many Chicago-area folks traveled down there for the show. With the lineup of talent they had, I guess I shouldn't be too surprised. Our booth was right next to one of the "minor" stages featuring local talent. Got to see Legacy, a fine trad band from Jackson, MS. They knocked out one of the finest sets I've ever seen them perform. They just get better and better. I heard that Legacy will be traveling and performing with Captain Mackey's Goatskin and String Band this year. That will be something to see. Crowds were good in Texas, sales were so-so, but the craic was great so there you go.

Party in Crown Point,

For those of us looking to shake

off the winter blues and have some fun, there's nothing like a police pipe band party, and one of the best will be taking place in Crown Point, IN on Saturday, May 2nd, at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Hosted by the Pipes and Drums of the Lake County Sheriff's Department, this little shindig boasts performances by 6 pipe bands (yeah, six bands!), Mayer School of Irish Dance, a fife and drum corp and an ROTC honor guard. There will be vendors, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders and Blarney Fine Irish Jewelry, to name but two, food, adult beverages in abundance, a door prize and raffle, and kilted highjinks to spare (I did mention that this is a police band, didn't I?) Now for the testimonial... I have attended this party as a vendor for the last two years and it is a hoot. These guys throw a fun party. They work hard at it and if you don't have fun there, it's your own darn fault. Takes me about an hour to drive there but it is worth the trip. They will have an ad book,

so if you'd like to support them with an ad or donation, call Tom Houts at 708-877-5220 before April 15th. Seriously, there has been a rebirth of interest in piping in Northwest Indiana in the last few years and we need to show our support to keep it going. The fun starts at 5pm and goes till 9pm. The cost is \$10 and includes a sandwich, chips and 2 drinks—not a bad deal. Personally, I wouldn't miss it.

Wicked Tinkers CD

One of the highest energy bands I've ever seen has released their 6th CD, Rant, by the Wicked Tinkers, keeps up their tradition of fine piping, innovative percussion, and tight arrangements. While this CD has driving drum scores and wicked good piping, it also has some dark moody pieces that show off the Tinkers maturity as a musical force. The band consists of Aaron Shaw playing highland pipes, uilleann pipes and Scottish small pipes, Warren Casey playing Tapan and bodhran, both of which he made himself, Keith Jones on a bunch of different drums and Jay Atwood on didgeridoo and Irish bronze horn. I notice that the band seems to be playing much more difficult and complex music these days, and I like it. One tune in particular, "MacFarlane's Lantern," really made

me stop what I was doing and pay attention to its dark and haunting melody. This CD is definitely the best they've put together so far, and that's going some, because their earlier stuff was pretty darn good. The only problem with this band is they get so much work on the west coast that they seldom get to perform in the Midwest, and that's our loss, for sure.

Great Music From Dayton

We love going to the Dayton Celtic Festival in Dayton, Ohio (July 24, 25 & 26). A great, well-organized show, with some of the top bands. One band we always make a point to watch is Dayton's own Dulahan. The band consists of Kyle Aughe, lead vocals, acoustic guitar, banjo, bouzouki, harmonica; Dan Weber, vocals, guitar, highland pipes, small pipes, bodhran, harmonica, spoons; Leo Butler, vocals, flute, whistle, tech pipes and Mark Sandlin, vocals, mandolin, bouzouki, guitar, djembe, percussion. To say these guys are multi-talented is only half the story. They all can sing and know what harmony is all about. The final touch to this group is the fact that Kyle writes all their material. That's right, it's all original and all good. First time I heard them I was trying to place

the song they were singing, it was so good, and I couldn't remember hearing it before. Couldn't remember because it was their own original stuff. The band has just released their 4th CD called Mist of the Irish Sky, and like their earlier CDs it's full of great song writing, great music and great singing. I particularly enjoyed their song called "Kilmainham Gaol," a nice tribute to the Easter rising and the sacrifices that our patriots made for Ireland's freedom. Each and every song on here is a gem that you will treasure. I often hear people complain that "they're not writing good music anymore." Kyle Aughe puts the lie to that statement. You'll find the complete song lyrics included in the CD so you can sing along. We stock, and play, all four of their CDs in our shop and you can get more info on the band at www.dulahan.com. Festival organizers take note, these guys haven't played much outside of Dayton. They are great musicians and good people to work with.

Thanks to all of you who have emailed, called and stopped by the shop. Your input is always welcome. You can find me at Rampant Lion Celtic Traders, 47 S. Villa in Villa Park, or call at 630-834-8108 or email at pipingitin@comcast.net. Slainte!

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Chicago Gaelic News

Pat Hennessy



thou are high in the mansions above on Ireland's green valleys and our homes in Chicago and look down with our love."

"Ireland On Parade"

Once again, as he has done for over 35 years, the legendary Martin Fahey, retired ace Irish-American radio commentator, conducted his great "Ireland on Parade" show nightly up to parade day at Gaelic Park. Once again, it was a full house each night of the week, as Chicagoans flocked to see a great display of all-star Irish dancing by various dance groups, combined with the best in song, music, and the dance of the Gael.

Other fine Irish singers and mu-

events in Chicago-Irish circles.

As for the Maestro, Martin, the popular Mayo lad is hale and hearty and about to celebrate another birthday. He still keeps fit and well, thank God, and we join with his countless admirers in wishing him the very best of good health, and good luck to him and his charming wife, Mary, who is one of the best Irish dancing judges in the U.S. Slainte a cairde agus beannact De leat (Best wishes my good friends and may God bless you both).

Chicago a Big Favorite to Host Olympic Games 2016

Despite all the bad publicity in our own famous T.V. and print media

cumin game from experts.

We have often been called dreamers, but there is nothing wrong with that when most of your dreams come true. In 1950, we dreamed of a "green sod of our own," and it came true with Gaelic Park. Now it's another big one, the Olympic Games of 2016 for Chicago, and Hurling accepted as a game.

So let's go with the Chicago tag line, "Let Friendship Shine," and hope that when the members of the International Olympic Committee come to our beautiful city on April 2nd to evaluate our star entry, that we give them a hearty welcome, or as the Irish say, "Cead Mile Failte, A Cairde (A hundred thousand welcomes to you our friends)."

Our great city is a mixture of immigrants, who came from almost every country in the world, and worked hard to make Chicago "one of the cleanest and most beautiful cities in the nation." We won this prestigious title some years ago from the Bureau in Washington which sponsored this national contest. For the most part, we assimilated easy into the way of life because we brought our own culture, games, songs and music and shared them with other races, particularly on days such as the parade celebration of St. Patrick, Ireland's national saint.

Ireland's Plea To U.S.A.

Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach in Ireland, made a plea to our country recently in which he spelled out the importance of American companies to the Irish economy, by supplying jobs for the Irish over the past several years. He said that more than 400 good paying jobs have generated, and that these important positions have drawn on more Irish companies and individuals, and this has provided many more jobs vital to the Irish economy.

His plea to the Obama administration is not to levy taxes as promised on Ireland-based Irish-American firms at the same rate they would pay on U.S. soil. This, of course, is understandable if the intention and result was to keep American jobs from migrating overseas.

The damage caused by a large scale withdrawal would be massive. In proportional terms, Irish job generation in the U.S. is far ahead of America's in Ireland. Therefore, as an Irish-American, we join our voices in pleading with the Irish delegation that visited the White House over St. Patrick's Day to ask President Obama to go as lenient as possible on a good friend in Europe, Ireland.

Beautiful Weather for Chicago Parades

Beautiful Chicago weather, in the 60's with plenty of sun, shone down on the record crowds of people who turned out for the two big parades in honor of Ireland's Apostle, St. Patrick. Both parades attracted record numbers of half a million spectators on both occasions. Saturday morning was grand for the official one on Columbus Drive, adjacent to beautiful Lake Michigan, and the proposed site for the 2016 Olympic Games, if our city is chosen as host. And Sunday afternoon was magnificent

on the great Southside of Chicago, along Western Avenue from 103rd to 115th and Kennedy Park.

Mayor Richard M. Daley, with his dignitaries, led off the official parade with more than 15 of the best marching bands in Chicago, over 30 beautifully decorated floats and some 50 marching units and organizations. It was a beautiful sight, well organized, and conducted in expert fashion. All honor again to the organizing committee with our humble congratulations.

The following day, Sunday, similar scenes were witnessed on the great Southside of the city, as thousands of happy spectators crowded both sides of the almost two mile march and cheered the many wonderful marching bands, colorful floats, and the fine marching groups, clans, etc. of men and women, as they proudly marched along. It, too, was a sight to behold, and it now confirms that Chicago sponsors two of the best and most colorful parades in the country. Few, if any, other cities, including New York, can compare. Congratulations to all concerned. It was another great weekend for St. Patrick in Chicago and no doubt he is looking down with smiles on our great city and our great homeland of Ireland. "And now, St. Patrick

sicians, including Noel Gaffney, Tommy Masterson, and Marty Byrne, along with Martin, started this fine show over 30 years ago at Ford City Shopping Area, and it has improved each year and developed into one of the finest shows that play at Gaelic Park. They feature the cream of Chicago Irish Dancing schools and musicians and singers. They provide a sight to behold, and this event has become one of the most watched



Pat Hennessy and granddaughters Colleen and Debra at the Southside Irish Parade.



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Jig, Don't Jog

Joe Cullen and The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group are partnering on a Multi Meetup Event for the launch of his new CD Wild Dogs and Celtic Tigers. The event will take place at the Fifth Province at the Irish American Heritage Center at 8pm. Kathleen Keane will also be performing. There is no cover charge for the event and parking is free.

Loads of fun is planned for the evening including: Live Irish Music; Sing-Alongs; Jig Lessons and a special "Irish Chair Dance" by the lovely Kathleen Keane; a dance contest with audience participation; and other surprises. We are expecting a very full house that night. All are welcome to attend.

Joe Cullen is originally from Donegal in Ireland. He is extremely talented and always delivers a lively and fun performance. Kathleen Keane is as talented as she is beautiful. She is an accomplished singer, musician, and dancer.

Meetup is a way for people to "use the internet to get off the internet" by joining

groups that match their areas of interest. The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup group is a social group made up of Chicagoland Irish Pub Music Fans. Meetups are planned at least twice a month to enjoy live Irish Music in different



Chicagoland Irish Pub locations. The group also hosts meetups for Irish Festivals and Irish Music Concerts. The group is free to join.

For more information visit <http://celticmusic.meetup.com/113> (Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup Group) or www.joecullenmusic.com or www.kathleenkeane.com.

Remember — Jig, Don't Jog: Get Fit The Irish Way! Join in the fun!

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- July 22-23** Medina - \$260 - \$20 Rebate = \$240 Final Price
2 Day/1Night, Isle of Capri Hotel/Casino, Celebration Paddlewheel Riverboat, Big Band Swing Luncheon Cruise
- July 27-28** Galena - \$245
2 Day/1Night, Irish Cottage & Pub, American Lady Luncheon Cruise, "Million Dollar Yacht"
- August 4-5** Medina - \$260 - \$20 Rebate = \$240 Final Price
2 Day/1Night, Isle of Capri Hotel/Casino, Celebration Paddlewheel Riverboat, Dixieland Band Luncheon Cruise
- Aug. 30-Sept. 3** Frankenmoth & Mackinac Island - \$395
5 Day/4Night, Spring Hill Suites and Grand Hotel
- August 16-18** Frankenmoth Music Festival - \$395
3 Day/2 Night
- September 8-10** Door County - \$395
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Celtic Kitchen —Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

Here's to Ewe at Easter

Several years ago as I was driving through the Irish countryside, I became wonderfully enchanted with the vast green hills dotted with lazy, grazing sheep. It was peaceful and serene, almost idyllic. The light Irish drizzle, that light as air rain spray I have only found in Ireland, began to just dampen the car.

Since the hilly landscape seemed to stretch for miles with no one else around, I pulled over to soak it all in. I parked near a field gate and stepped out into the mist to watch the quietness of the land. Then it happened. I heard barking, a couple high pitched whistles, and then I realized I was in the middle of a mass migration of sheep. These fuzzy low riders were coming out onto the road with a sort of walk-run and a couple sheep dogs circling every few minutes. It was fascinating and though not loud, the air was full of sounds. The clicking of their hooves, rustle of the wool coats, and an occasional bleating, probably



because someone was upset at being crowded, filled the road.

However, what I found curious was their painted backs, some green,

some blue, and some red. I found out later it can be used to identify the owner or sometimes during mating season. It's called raddling. After the uneventful stampee, a casual farmer was walking behind them. His dog, looking up and anxious for orders, trotted in close step with the owner. The farmer nodded to me and walked on.

A minute later he was followed by a younger man in his early 20s, driving a tractor and headed in the same direction. I looked down and saw that the road bore the remnants of the crossing, with bits of mud patterned with sheep tracks. I went back to my car and drove a short ways, where I caught up with the group. The farmer was patiently walking behind the last of his sheep while the dogs were frantically ushering

their flock into the next field.

The tractor pulled into a small farm off the other side of the road. With the rolling hills and fields, many are still divided and the farmers have to be creative in order to get their sheep out grazing. As I watched the final gate close and the sheep head out for their afternoon romp, I waved to the farmer as he crossed the road, probably going in for a hot cup of tea. I then headed off down the road to meet my parents in town, for dinner.

The Irish sheep industry has a long standing cultural and economic heritage.

Irish recipes for lamb, from shepherd's pie to crown rack of lamb. One of the most well known is, "stobhach gaelach" or Irish stew. This is made on those cool Irish days where the last flavoring added to the stew is a nose full of peat.

As we find ourselves nearing spring, the meals begin to lighten up. I chose a lamb recipe along with a few suggestions to be served for a special Easter dinner. These ideas will help with planning and hopefully, leave more time for family and friends.

Herbed Marinated Lamb

Chops

Serves 4

4 1-in thick bone-in lamb loin chops

- 1/4 c dry red wine
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 2 t. minced fresh mint
- 1 t. minced fresh basil
- 1 T. minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 1 garlic clove, minced

Combine all ingredients except chops in large resealable plastic bag. Mix ingredients then place chops in bag. Squeeze as much air out of bag as possible. It helps circulate marinade. Refrigerate overnight. Preheat broiler to 500F. Put chops in broiler



pan under heat along with rest of marinade. Let cook for 7 min., turn over and 7 minutes more for medium. Remove from oven and let sit for 10 minutes in pan. To serve: plate on warm platter, pouring juices over.

If your guests enjoy larger portions, add another chop to the bag and increase the wine and soy sauce by 1 T., the rest by 1/2 t.

Parsley Garlic Potatoes

- 1 lb. small red potatoes
- 2 T. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 T. butter Salt and pepper

Set pot of salted water to boil. Clean and put potatoes in water. Test with fork for doneness. Drain. Return to pot. Add butter, parsley, garlic, salt and pepper, to taste, and mix. Serve immediately or cover and hold warm.

Dill Green Beans

- 1 lb. green beans, cleaned
- 2 t. dried dill 1 T. olive oil
- Salt and pepper

In large skillet, place green beans in 1 c water. Cover and let boil, 5 minutes. Test for doneness (I like mine slightly crisp.) Drain and add oil to pan and then beans. Sprinkle dill then salt and pepper, to taste. Stir then serve immediately or cover and hold warm.

*Julianna Leber is a part time personal chef and caterer, while finishing her post baccalaureate degree in nutrition at the University of Akron. In 2001, she received her certificates from the professional culinary course at Ballymaloe Cookery School, County Cork, Ireland. She can be reached at Julileber@hotmail.com.

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The sheep farms, which number around 35,000, are held mainly by rural farmers who take pride in the high standards of the sheep breeds. That in turn guarantees their longstanding quality of products.

There are six breeds of sheep that are widely used throughout the different climates and terrains of Ireland. The Galway sheep is known for its long wool, while the Blackface Mountain variety is bred for their hearty endurance of harsh environments and outdoor exposure. The Wicklow Cheviot is not so much built for inclement weather, but is good for climbing hilly grazing lands. As for what they eat, sheep will clean up a field and eat what cows and horses won't including thistle and heather, a tough weed. This makes for an efficient clearing of weeded fields while feeding the flocks. After shearing and selling the wool, the sheep prove their worth.

Many countries are realizing this and value the products from these carefully raised and grazed sheep. Countries such as France, England and Germany look to the Irish sheep industry for their supply of quality meats. The consumers in those countries look at Irish lamb and mutton at artisan levels, recognizing the values of Irish agriculture and the individual farmer's pride in their product. This widespread recognition of quality gives the Irish farmer a reputation and, in turn, enhances their market and its buyers and investors.

At the end of the day, after the business is completed and the workboots are taken off in a corner, the sheep farmer looks forward to dinner. There are so many wonderful

An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform And The Economy

There is a real concern among immigration reform advocates that with the downturn in the economy reform will once again be pushed to "the back burner." Some people ask, with unemployment rising, how can the US open it's borders to more workers? That is a legitimate concern and yet others will respond that the only way to come out of a recession is to grow out of it. Now, to grow out of a recession demands that we invest in new technologies and be very creative in developing new approaches to clean energy and an economy, which is less dependent on foreign oil. To bring this transformation about the US needs the best and most talented people available. Most experts agree that in order for this transformation to take place it will mean this country having to import qualified people to help achieve the rapid growth necessary to turn the economy around. But let me quote an expert on the subject.

The following interview was given by Ted Kramer, Co-Head of the Business Immigration practice group at Kramer Levin, and is printed courtesy of The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, New York City.

Editor: Would you first tell our readers something about your background in immigration law?

Ruthizer: I have been practicing immigration law for more than 25 years, and I concentrate my practice in the field of business immigration law. In addition to practicing law, I also teach immigration law at Columbia Law School, and I am a past national president and general counsel of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Editor: The current economic crisis has become a priority in the country. How is this influencing immigration reform?

Ruthizer: In economic hard times, protectionist reflexes always come out. Some people say we need to protect American job opportunities first without recognizing that by restricting the immigration of non-citizens who are very skilled and highly educated professionals, we are shooting ourselves in the foot by not allowing our companies to hire the best and brightest persons available. Very often these are persons in fields we desperately need to develop in areas as diverse as environmental

engineering, teachers of mathematics and the sciences, economists, and many others who have so much to offer to American companies. Most economists who have studied the data have concluded that by allowing more skilled and educated professionals, the U.S. will create, not take away, jobs for Americans. But it's difficult to persuade some members of Congress and some of the general public that immigration is a positive benefit to the country when it is properly designed and managed.

Virtually all American companies know how valuable employment-based immigration is to their operations and continued growth. But too few companies want to go on record before Congress calling for the liberalization of our laws to permit the greater transfer of brain power to our country. For example, American employers have been restricted for the past several years to a woefully inadequate quota of only 65,000 H-1B visas for foreign national professionals each year. In an economy the size of the U.S., and even in a depressed economy as we have now, this makes no sense. We don't hasten our economic recovery by keeping out the very talented and highly educated foreign national professionals that our companies need to get us back on our feet. And, I'm convinced that once more companies start becoming more vocal about this, Congress will listen.

Editor: High-end business immigration is a key focus of recent immigration legislation. How is unlawful immigration also being addressed? Does it have a significant impact on what you do?

Ruthizer: Undocumented immigration does have an adverse impact to the extent that people, including myself, do not approve of persons who violate our laws. We do not like the idea that people, no matter how hard-working they are, are just going to thumb their noses at the law. But it's important to also recognize that the current law is very restrictive, and that many people who are undocumented immigrants are filling jobs that few Americans want to do. My bottom line is that we have to have a system that allows for lesser-skilled workers to come to fill needs in the workplace, but at the same time we have to devise a much smarter system to significantly reduce the number of people coming

to the U.S. unlawfully. In short, we need comprehensive immigration reform that will deal fairly with the many persons who are here unlawfully, expand and reconfigure the immigration categories to meet the needs of American employers, and manage our employment sanctions system in a much smarter and more effective way.

Editor: What steps can be taken to discourage this reverse "brain drain," in which foreign nationals come to the U.S., work for a few years and then have to return to their home countries?

Ruthizer: I like the spirit of what New York Times columnist Tom Friedman has often said about immigration. He said, when non-citizen students pick up their Ph.D. degrees, we ought to be giving them green cards with their diplomas. While that is not literally going to happen, we do want to be moving in that direction. We should be capturing the very best talent the world has to offer, and put it to use benefitting the national interest of our country. That's a whole lot smarter than educating these persons and then having them flee our leading universities to go to Canada, Australia, the U.K. and other countries that prize their talents and knowledge.

Editor: The quota last year for H1B visas was about 60,000.

Ruthizer: Yes, it is way too small given the size of our economy and the needs of our employers. So we really need to have Congress look at that and increase the quota to a more realistic number.

Editor: Certainly other countries such as Great Britain have a very different system. Someone had advocated an alternative points-based selection system to determine who may become a permanent resident.

Ruthizer: A number of countries have point systems. There is some good and bad with that, and I would be willing to try it on a test basis for a part of the immigration system. The potential problem with a point system working in our country is that we wouldn't be ensuring that the persons who qualified would be the ones needed by the employer community to fill needed positions. You look at the diversity visa lottery now in which 50,000 people each year can qualify just by putting their names in the computer hat for a drawing. It's an insane system in my judgment, but you have 6 or 7 million people vying for those 50,000 slots each year. So the problem with the points system in the U.S. is that it is going to do two things: 1) it's not going to meet the needs of U.S. employers for well-educated and

experienced professionals, and 2) it also isn't going to meet the needs of our companies for non-professional workers. It rewards people with Ph.D.s, but not sushi chefs or Jaguar mechanics.

One change that I advocate would be to change the current standard for measuring whether any U.S. workers are minimally qualified for a job being sought for permanent residence for non-citizens. Under the current system, a company is not able to hire the most qualified applicant, as is the case for real-world recruitment. A better test would be whether the foreign national applicant is better qualified than any U.S. applicant for the position. That is a fairer and more efficient test that would replace an outmoded system, now almost 60 years old, that penalizes excellence.

Editor: I am very concerned about the "buy America" sentiment in this country, and I think that extends to immigration as well.

Ruthizer: It does, and there was a very interesting piece that was featured on the front page of the New York Times Business Section a few weeks back that pointed out that for a stimulus recovery to work, the U.S. is going to be dependent

on technologies developed by many foreign-based countries, as well as by U.S. companies with international operations. Many of these environmentally sound "green" technologies are not yet available in the United States, and they require the expertise of very skilled foreign national employees now working abroad. So that is where I want political winds to blow, and to move away from this parochialism that resonates with some people who are not familiar with these realities.

Just A Thought

In the midst of this Easter season, a time of renewed hope, it is good to keep the troubles of the economy in perspective. A wise person once said: "this too shall pass." The resurrection of Jesus is a reminder to all of us, that whatever is wrong with us, with the economy, with the world etc. can be made right.

Also, if you do not experience the darkness how will you appreciate the light? A blessed Easter to you and yours.

As always, should you have any questions, comments etc.? Please feel free to contact me at 213-534-8445 or sliabhanoir@yahoo.com.



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Cooney and Tynan Take to the High Seas

Andy Cooney's Cruise of Irish Stars aboard the MSC Orchestra to the Western Caribbean was a sell out success this year. Just the thought of 1200 Irish and Irish Americans on one boat is a scary one. Irish America's Favorite Son, Andy Cooney, along with Ireland's Greatest Tenor, Ronan Tynan was a combination that will be talked about for a long time. "There was a special magic in the air this year I can't describe" said Cooney. Andy Cooney and His Band thrilled the audience with three poolside performances that had the ship rockin' along with a very classy concert in the main theatre of the ship. Ronan Tynan gave two terrific performances in the main theatre. He was in spectacular vocal form along with his inimitable humor. Ronan was not the only one getting laughs, comedian Noel V. Ginnity, direct from Dublin's Irish Cabaret was hilarious. Along with at least 20 entertainers, daily mass and the popular Irish dance classes, this cruise was worth every dime. There were Irish

from all over the US and Canada and about 200 people made the journey from Ireland. Patricia O'Reilly from Public Television's "Out of Ireland" will be doing a feature piece on the cruise to be aired some time in April.



Andy Cooney, Maureen Rogers, Ronan Tynan.

She said, "It was great to see Irish Americans from all over the US sharing their heritage and love for Irish music. Many of them have been on Andy Cooney's cruise before and said it has become an annual reunion." Next year Andy Cooney's Cruise of Irish Stars aboard the Costa Atlantica will be sailing to the Eastern Caribbean, added to the all star lineup is Cherish the Ladies. Ronan Tynan said, "I am looking forward to the next cruise, meeting all my old friends and making new ones"...

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Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



St. Patrick's Day weekend is a very exciting time, not just for me, but for all Irish dancers. This is what I did this St. Patrick's Day weekend. This year my sister, Maeve, and I danced at the Irish Fellowship Dinner at the Hilton. This year was very exciting because my family stayed at the Hilton on Friday night. After school on Friday, we left to go to there. I swam for a little bit, but then practiced my steps. My mom put my sister and my wig on before her and my dad went to the dinner we danced at later that night. My mom and dad left for their dinner while we ate with my grandparents. I changed into my dress, and met my teacher in the lobby. We went downstairs and practiced some more. Then we waited. I played with my sister and other girls. Then we danced. My sister was very nervous but she did great. It's so much fun being on stage. All the people applauded. The fun thing is no one knows if you mess up a little or not. My parents came out to take pictures with us after we danced. They were so proud of their daughters. We met the mayor of Cork. Then we went back to our room. We needed to get a good night sleep so we were ready for the parade. We woke up and ate breakfast. My mom put on our wigs again. My head hurt a little, but that's OK. We met my aunts and cousins in the lobby and headed over to the parade.

We rode on the Irish Fellowship float, but my 1-year-old cousin went in her stroller. My brother, Cormac, had the video camera so he filmed the parade as we rode by. There were so many people there, and it was such nice weather. We waved to the TV cameras. Hopefully, we were on TV this year. After the parade, we hurried back. We danced again. This time at the Mercy party. Good thing I wore my dress to the parade so I just have to change my shoes. My family was right up in front and cheered us on as we danced. After we finished dancing, we stayed at the party for a while, played with my family, ate some food, listened to music, and watched some other dancers. We had a great day! When we got back home I was exhausted. I had to get some sleep because we got up to go to the Southside Parade the next day. That was a little less stressful. I didn't have to wear my wig or costume. We rode on a float and waved to all the people. I did dance at a party with the Shannon Rovers. That was fun. It was a long walk back to car. I slept well that night, as I dreamt of the great weekend I had, and looking forward doing it again next year.

Just wanted to say, good luck to all the Mullane Healy O'Brien dancers headed for the World Championships in Philadelphia!

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Mick

Mike Morley



In 1787, he sailed back to Paris to collect the funds due him for prizes captured; but France was then nearly bankrupt. He did see to the

Fleeting Fame - Part II

In November and again in March here we talked about prejudice and the legacy of American heroes—in particular the place in American history accorded to Commodore John Barry vs. John Paul Jones. We continue with the topic.

Jones was threatened with arrest in 1776 by a Boston sheriff for impressing two seamen from a privateer. He drew his sword and refused to be arrested. The case was later dismissed. That same year, when the Marine Commission posted a seniority list for naval captains, Jones' name was near the bottom—eighteenth. He complained loudly to anyone who could endure listening to the tale.

The next year at the helm of his ship, Ranger, Jones decided to raid his home port of Whitehaven, Scotland. He spiked the harbor guns and burned one ship, while some of his crew broke into a tavern and got drunk. He then sailed across close to his birthplace to kidnap for ransom the Earl of Selkirk. Lady Selkirk was home and was relieved of her silver. She recognized Jones as John Paul, the son of the gardener at Arbigland and a "noted blackguard." Yet Jones ended that expedition in Carrickfergus harbor, where he attacked and defeated HMS Drake, becoming the first American captain to have defeated a British ship of equal power.

In France he was a hero, honored by King Louis XVI, and socializing with Ben Franklin and Voltaire at the Masonic Lodge of Nine Sisters. He had a bust of himself sculpted by the renowned artist, Houdon. But he had little success providing for the needs of his crew. The men of the Alliance felt abandoned, and in July 1780, sailed for America with a captain Landais, whom Jones declared insubordinate. Back in Philadelphia, Jones was accused of delaying vital military supplies, but managed to shift the blame onto Landais.

He lobbied unsuccessfully for promotion to admiral and command of America's first ship-of-the-line: the seventy-four gun America. His attitude angered many influential Americans.

return of Lord Selkirk's silver. Minister Thomas Jefferson suggested that he join the Russian Navy. Jones hoped to command the fleet Catherine the Great was building against Turkey. He took part in that war in 1788, but not as overall commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

Jones, as usual, long on action and short on diplomacy, did not get along with his fellow commanders. He made the mistake of disagreeing strongly with Prince General Grigori Potemkin, who was Catherine's secret lover. The Czarina transferred Jones to command of the Northern Fleet, icebound in the Baltic. He went to St. Petersburg to again lobby Catherine, but was soon caught in a honey trap, probably set by a Russian rival, and accused of having raped a young German girl.

In 1789, Jones cleared himself of the accusations—the girl was apparently a prostitute—but he could not regain Catherine's favor. The Czarina reportedly told him to "go mind his own business." He was put on two years leave and encouraged to leave Russia. By 1790, he was back in Paris where King Louis was now under house arrest. The Marquis de Lafayette and the rest of Paris shunned Jones. Even the American Minister in Paris, his old friend Governor Morris, author of the preamble and other large sections of the Constitution, found Jones tiresome. On July 18, 1792, alone in Paris, Jones died. He was given a quiet burial in a cemetery for foreign Protestants. Even Morris skipped the funeral, claiming a pressing dinner engagement.

Back in the US under the new Constitution, Congress was authorizing the creation of a United States Navy; and President Washington conferred on John Barry "Commission No. 1" as Captain, United States Navy, dated June 14th, 1794. Barry outfitted and supervised construction of the first frigates built under the Naval Act of March 27 that year, including Barry's own forty-four gun frigate the USS United States, which slid down the ways on May 10, 1797, and "Old Ironsides," (the USS Constitution) now the oldest commissioned

warship afloat in the world. Barry also raised a class of Midshipmen to serve as the first officers. The Commodore served as senior officer of the United States Navy under three Presidents, Washington, Adams and Jefferson; and was on the active roll of the American Navy until the end of his life. On September 14, 1803, John Barry received his country's final salute in a full military burial in Philadelphia's Old St. Mary's Churchyard.

A century later General Horace Porter, a Jones enthusiast, was appointed American Ambassador to France; and spent six years searching for Jones' grave. President "Teddy" Roosevelt, also intrigued by John Paul's life, got Congress to pony up \$35,000 for Porter to complete his search successfully.

Jones' remains were brought to Annapolis, and in a ceremony on April 24, 1906, Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte (grand-nephew of Napoleon), introduced President Theodore Roosevelt, who took the occasion to promote his plan to build a grand naval fleet.

But it took seven more years before Jones was laid to rest. By that time, Roosevelt had not only built his fleet, and the Panama Canal, but had long left office. Jones finally got the lasting honor and attention he always craved in 1913, when his coffin was placed in a flamboyant sepulcher, modeled after Napoleon's tomb at Les Invalides, beneath the chapel at Annapolis.

The point is not so much that Barry is superior to Jones because of his temperament, views, or life choices. Jones' life may not serve as an ideal model for youth, but his story is arguably no worse than some other American icons whose monuments reveal clay feet on close examination. And it's not that Roosevelt, a Mason, might have had an ulterior motive in championing Jones, other than as a convenient icon to garner support for his naval buildup. It's not even that Jones has usurped Barry's sobriquet "Father of the American Navy."

What rankles is that Commodore Barry has been excised from American history to the point that despite resolutions by three American Presidents (Reagan, GW Bush, and Clinton), designating Barry as "the first flag officer of the United States Navy," and September 13 as Commodore John Barry Day; most Americans don't even know his name.

Folks, Barry Day falls half way to St. Pat's Day; a fortunate coincidence that should help

in arranging some sort of commemoration for the Father of the American Navy. Let's think on this.

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Henry Ford and Ireland

By Neil Mullally,
 Michigan Correspondant

With the current public debate over the future of the U.S. automobile industry, it is interesting to recall the important role of Michigan's Irish Americans in founding that industry in the early 1900's. Irish Americans were leaders both in management and labor.

Without question, the most influential Irish American auto industry leader in those times was Henry Ford. Henry Ford was proud of his Irish roots, and he invested heavily in Ireland during the first half of the last century. One hundred years ago Henry Ford opened an assembly plant in Cork, which in peak times employed 7,000 workers, making Henry Ford by far the largest employer in Ireland. The plant was open for some seventy years until the 1980's, when its production was moved to another Ford facility in England.

In the 1500's Henry Ford's ancestors arrived in the Irish province of Munster from Somerset, England, as Protestant settlers when Queen Elizabeth I awarded 600,000 acres of confiscated land to "Protestant gentlemen." After then generations of Henry Ford's branch of the family made their home in West Cork on the Madame Estate in Crohane, Ballinscarthy,

near Clonakilty.

Henry Ford's paternal grandfather was John Ford and he lived in that family home. In 1847 the Great Hunger forced John and his wife, Tomasine Smith Ford, to emigrate with their 21 year old son William, who was to be Henry's father, to the U.S. They departed from Queenstown (now Cobh) for Quebec. Tragically, like so many other victims of the coffin ships, Tomasine died on the voyage.

In the 1830's three of John Ford's brothers had immigrated to the Detroit area when one in seven of Detroit's inhabitants were Irish and Detroit's largest ethnic neighborhood was established, called Corktown. John Ford made his way to that area, too, and bought some farm land near the town of Dearborn, Michigan. John Ford became a close friend of a neighboring farmer and fellow Cork man, Patrick Ahearn and his

wife Margaret. The Ahearns had a foster daughter, Mary Litogot, and William Ford's eyes fell upon her. William and Mary married on April 21, 1861, and two years later Henry Ford was born on July 30, 1863.

After their marriage, William, Mary, and later their son Henry all lived with the Ahearn's on the Ahearn's farm named "Fair Lane," after a street in Cork City. Years later



Henry Ford named his own Michigan mansion and estate "Fair Lane," and also in the 60's a Ford car model was named the Ford Fairlane.

Margaret Ahearn acted as a surrogate grandmother to young Henry because his grandmother Tomasine had died on the Atlantic crossing. Sadly, Margaret died when Henry was seven. Even more tragic was the death of Henry's mother just six years later in 1876, when Henry was thirteen years old. Besides his own wife, Clara, Henry was greatly influenced by the memory of these two women.

Although William Ford, now twice a widower, had raised Henry to live the farming life, Henry preferred the world of mechanics and machinery. At age sixteen he left home to become a machinist in Detroit.

For the next twenty-six years Henry worked at a number of technical and mechanical jobs, eventually becoming Chief Engineer of the Edison Illuminating Company in 1891. But during many of those years in his spare time Henry worked on developing the internal combustion engine. In 1896 he built his first self-powered vehicle, which he called the Quadricycle. He attracted several investors and formed the Detroit Automobile Company. But the company went broke, and today many people do not realize that Henry Ford failed before he founded a new auto company in 1903, named the Ford Motor Company. Henry was forty years old.


The Ford Motor Company's first big break occurred shortly after when one of Henry's designs called the "999" set a new speed record when driven by Barney Oldfield, who was the Dale Earnhardt of his day. That was a public relations coup which positioned the company well for the introduction of its reasonably priced car for the masses, the

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Ireland
 of her new children's book: *The Secret in Nana's Garden*. As well as a signed copy, supporters can have their photograph taken with the author and will receive the **free** digital image by email!
 Author Sandra McCone will be available at our Oak Lawn store on the 18th of April (10am-Noon, reading at 11am) for a reading
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legendary Model T. And the rest is history. Introduced in 1908, by 1918 one-half of the cars on the road in the U.S. were Model T's. When production of the Model T ended in 1927, 16.5 million had been sold, making it still one of the best selling car models in automotive history, behind the Toyota Corolla (32 million) and the Volkswagen Beetle (21 million).

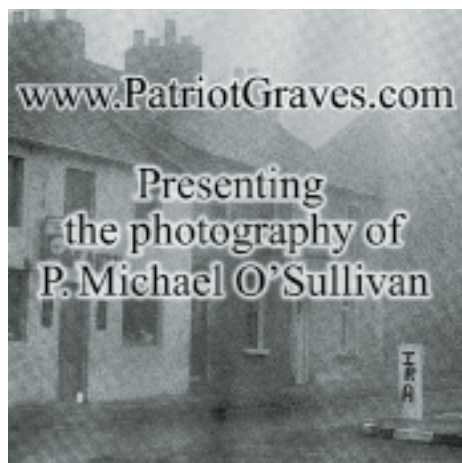
Henry Ford visited Ireland a number of times, and tried to buy his ancestral home. It was not for sale, but he did buy hearthstones from the fireplace that he installed in a fireplace in his Michigan mansion, Fair Lane.

When in Cork in 1917, he announced the start of a Ford tractor plant there. The plant later also produced Model T's. By 1930, when Cork's population was 80,000, the Ford plant employed 7,000, nearly 10% of Cork's population!

Henry Ford's creation of the Cork operation in 1917 was not as easy as it sounds. At that time Cork was a hotbed of Irish nationalism supported mostly by Catholics. Henry Ford was a Protestant and from an English Protestant family, the kind of family deeply despised by many, if not most, of Cork's people. Henry Ford did not have to build in Cork. He could have put a plant anywhere to make a profit. Cork was certainly not centrally located for the European market. But he built in Cork for one reason - he loved his Irish heritage and wanted to help his countrymen. This is a dimension of Henry Ford that is often overlooked.

In 2003 Ireland issued a postage stamp commemorating Henry Ford.

Ironically, today at the helm of the Ford Motor Company is another Irish American, Alan Mullaly. But that is a story for another day.



North American Gaelic Youth Sports Wants You

The North American County Board (NACB) of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) promotes the sports of Hurling and Gaelic Football. It is the governing body for those games for youth, in all 50 states of the US, excluding the New York City metropolitan area. In 2005 in the NACB area, there were 14 Youth clubs playing Gaelic Football and Hurling in the US outside New York City.

These clubs participated in Divisional competitions throughout the year then traveled to the Finals in their respective sport and grade of competition. As of 2005, Gaelic Games are being organized and played in over 30 cities across the US. The Chicago Youth Development

Committee is dedicated to the growth of Irish sports and culture throughout the Chicago and area. Tom Sheehy, the Games Development Administrator, is working hard on behalf of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Chicago to reach out to communities and increase interest and participation in Irish youth sports.

For general information on Irish football and hurling, visit North American Youth Gaelic Athletic Association website at <http://www.youthgaa.com/game.shtml>.

For information regarding the Spring Tournament at Gaelic Park, contact Tom Sheehy of the Chicago Youth Development Committee at 773-329-6263 or t_sheehy99@hotmail.com.



irish
iPod

Cate Baker



At this year's festival, there will be a presentation of a play written about Ka'iulani called "Ka'iulani-the Island Rose." The play was written by Jennifer Fahrni, and she will be

presenting a portion of the play with Kimo Kaho'ano, a direct descendent of Ka'iulani's father, Archibald Cleghorn. This is my 9th year going to Hawaii and the festival. Not only has the festival changed, but so has the island. Every year, the island gets so homey, and I notice different things every year. Last year Switchback, a Chicago band, was the only major headliner there. This year, they aren't the only ones. Ed Miller is joining them on the stage. Ed Miller is a music historian and he tells the history of Scotland through his music. He likes to sing traditional songs and fun contemporary songs also. One of my favorite songs he sings is called "Cholesterol." It talks about how everyone eats, and makes fun of how people relate to their health, as if it's another person completely. There will also be other local entertainment that's Celtic, because there are several Celtic bands that live on the islands.

Now that another festival in paradise will be coming to a close, many people say goodbye for another year. Soon school will be ending, and the festival season will be in cruise control again. The tunes get updated and more get added to the library. Bands break up and bands are born. Nevertheless, the iPod never rests until it runs out of a charge, so keep it alive and on shuffle.

Since it's a Scottish festival, it is customary to have a pipe band or three. One of the coolest is the Isle of Maui Pipe Band. They play the same songs that the other pipe bands play, but they aren't your run of the mill pipe band. They also play my favorite Hawaiian song, "Aloha 'Oe," which was written by Queen Lili'uokalani in 1878. She was also the aunt of the last Hawaiian princess, Ka'iulani, who was half Scottish. Her full name was Princess Victoria Ka'iulani Cleghorn, named for Queen Victoria. Funny enough, the festival is held in Kapi'olani Park, just down the way from Waikiki Beach.

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

The Scattering of Sliabh Ban

Part Five

On New Year's Day, 1997, the Monaghan family of five arrived in Dublin with most of what they own. The knee-jerk reaction to the newspaper story of their ancestors had brought them to Ireland with very little preparation for the obstacles that would confront them. They had arranged a week's stay at lodgings in Booterstown, just south of the City Centre, while they looked for a place to live. They hired two taxis at the airport and started the captivating journey through the centuries old and very narrow streets of what was to become their new home. There was snow on the ground. So in addition to being damp, it was cold. And because of all the luggage as well as a very old, cramped and outdated airport, by the time they made the city it was early afternoon and already starting to get dark. The early evening shadows combined with the alternating odors of burning coal and what they would eventually come to know as 'turf,' set a surreal and somewhat foreboding feel to the sixty-minute drive thru the empty streets of Dublin.

They arrived at the top of Booterstown Road just as the sun was setting. The 'west to east' trip with three young children had them deciding to rest before exploring the village. Several hours later, in nearly total darkness, the family went out for a first hand look at their new surroundings. They walked down the hill to Dublin Bay, then went north along the strand, eventually making another left past St. Michael's College and all the embassies, and then back south along

another road that they hoped would take them home. The long walk had them spread out like a caravan of camels as they each worked their way up the last hill. This is when the reality of the situation first sank in. They knew absolutely no one in this very old, dark, cold, and astonishingly windy place. They didn't know where they were going to live; where they would find a school that would accept them at mid-term; and then there were doctors, dentists, and groceries to be concerned about. And, they had made the decision that they would not get a car because the cost would have been too prohibitive. For the first time, the weight of what they had just done, to themselves and to their children, came crashing down squarely on the shoulders of the parents. So they did what all good Irishmen do when there is an emergency—they



Ireland and EU Flag
stopped in to a pub.

Unsure of how the locals would react, Mr. Monaghan stepped into Gleeson's of Booterstown to see what kind of pub it was; and ask if he might bring his family in out

of the cold. When the young man behind the bar learned that there was a wife and three children standing outside in the rain, in the 'black of night,' he jumped across the bar and went himself to let them in.

"You wouldn't have them stand alone in the rain now, sure you wouldn't!" Ben (the lad behind the bar) was scolding Mr. Monaghan. The friendliness was unequivocal and the turf fires couldn't have been more receptive. "What, on God's green earth, are ya doing out in this weather! Have you not the sense God gave ya?" Ben was adamant and very curious. As the Monaghan's began to explain their situation, a smile came to Ben's face, "Ah." He said, "You've come home then." And for the next several hours while the kids had mi-wadi and hot ham sandwiches, Mr. and Mrs. Monaghan were introduced to hot port with cloves and an orange slice and a dark beer called Guinness.

The next day came soon enough and there wasn't any time to waste. School was high on the list of things to get settled, but first there was the issue of money. They had traded enough U.S. dollars for Irish pounds to last four or five days, the rest of their savings they had transferred to the Bank of Ireland. So off to the city centre they went. Mr. Monaghan had a good friend and colleague, Jim Monday, wire their savings to the bank, which they had selected, not for its reputation in these matters, but because, as Mrs. Monaghan had determined, they had the nicest looking building. Patrick was to contact a Mr. Corcoran upon his arrival in Dublin to arrange for its disbursement.

This proved to be easier said than done. The walk into the city took them about three hours. The youngest of the children, Kelly, was but four years old, and refused to walk on her own. So she would rotate from a place on Patrick's right hip, to his shoulders, to his back, and then back to the ground where she would stand defiantly with arms crossed and a scowled frown waiting to be rescued. The sighting of the Liffey signaled their arrival at the center of town. This, by itself, was a small miracle. Without a map, they had managed the maze of crooked streets and stumbled, quite



by accident, into the city centre. It was only then that they realized how desperate things were about to get. It was now nearly 3:00 and getting dark. They had stopped at several bank branches along the way and no one knew Mr. Corcoran. They would only forward them on to the nearest branch with the suggestion that they inquire there. Mr. Monaghan recognized that he would never find the branch that housed Mr. Corcoran as long as he was encumbered by the family, so they settled on another pub where Joan and the kids would stay until they heard from him.

Two hours (and three bank branches) later, Patrick found himself not in a branch at all, but rather the bank's corporate headquarters. Soaking wet from the freezing rain and exhausted from the five or six hour trek, Mr. Monaghan made his way into the lobby where a receptionist was talking on the phone. It was now nearly 4:00.

"I've come to see Mr. Corcoran." Mr. Monaghan said with a sigh of relief.

"He's at lunch." Replied the receptionist.

"It's 4:00 o'clock!?" Mr. Mon-

aghan replied in amazement. "I'm sorry, but did you have an appointment?"

Of course he didn't but at this point it didn't matter.

To be continued...

A quick note: In 2002, after stumbling upon the novel 'because they never do,' the story of Michael and Mary, a small group of Chicago's Southside Irish convened the first meeting of The Scattering Project. The sole purpose was to get the story of Ireland's famine years made into a film. There has never been a film dedicated to this pivotal event in Irish-American history; perhaps because there was no good way to have it told. This series is a plea for your help. The team is attempting to get our screenplay, 'The Scattering,' into the hands of a few targeted producers/directors and must have the representation of a seasoned agent. If you know anyone with those kinds of contacts please urge them to contact us. We can be reached thru the BlackthornScribe.com website or email contact @ BlackthornScribe.com

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A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Last year, Catholic Charities answered the prayers of more than 1 million men, women and children: low-income families or families in crisis, seniors, children, veterans, the unemployed, the hungry and homeless.

For instance, thousands of seniors participated in adult day programs, received in-home care, home-delivered meals, or enjoyed safe, secure independent living in one of our 17 affordable senior residences. Thousands more seniors received monthly supplemental food packages.

On a daily basis, our child development centers provided the children of working, low-income families with a healthy and happy learning experience. Maternity services for pregnant teens prepared them for healthy, responsible parenthood.

This year, the economy presents a new challenge affecting families and individuals. The number of phone calls taken by Catholic Charities' Homelessness Prevention Call Center via the 311 helpline from Chicago residents seeking rent, mortgage or utility assistance have increased dramatically. In December 2008, the number of calls went up 53% to 5,235 from 3,420 the previous December. In January 2009, calls increased 35%

from the previous January, and rose 59% in February. We see a change in our callers as well. In addition to calls coming from those who live paycheck to paycheck, those whose lives had previously been secure are now in need of assistance.

With your help, Catholic Charities can continue to answer mothers' prayers. At this difficult time when everyone is worried about the economy, I can assure you that Catholic Charities makes sure that 92 cents of every dollar donated goes to help people in need.

As good stewards, Catholic Charities honors and is grateful for every sacrifice. Every gift means something to the one who gives and the one who receives. Every gift changes lives. Please join us in answering the prayers of your neighbors in need.

Have a most blessed Easter Season!

For more information about Catholic Charities 2009 Mother's Day Appeal, please call: (312) 655-7012; or visit www.catholic-charities.net.

Answering Mothers' Prayers

Happy Easter! On this great "Feast of feasts," the Resurrection of the Lord, we celebrate the gift of new, eternal life promised by Christ to those who follow Him. May you and your families rejoice in the peace and love of God throughout the year.

Soon, May will bring the celebration of Mother's Day—a very special day when we honor the heroic and beloved women who have given us the eternal gifts of life, love and faith. Mother's Day is particularly important to continuing the work of Catholic Charities: it is the weekend of our Mother's Day Appeal.

So I would like to tell you the story of a mother, and a story of new life—a life I invite you to share.

The phone rings at Catholic Charities. A woman's voice at the other end of the line tells a story of illness in the family, loss of a job, burst pipes—a disastrous problem or a string of bad luck that most of us experience only once in a lifetime. When our social worker tells her, "Yes, we have food and utility

assistance for you," profound feeling fills the silence at the other end of the line. Months later, we get a note thanking us and explaining that our response helped the caller to avoid foreclosure on her home.

Stories like this happen many times every day because Catholic Charities is here to answer a mother's prayer. In fact, Catholic Charities has been answering mothers' and fathers' prayers for 92 years. We are here for poor and vulnerable people of all ages, religions, races and economic backgrounds. We touch almost every human need, day in and day out, through our 159 programs at our 156 sites in Cook and Lake counties.

As most of us know, sometimes all it takes is one major loss or catastrophe—one unexpected expense—to totally upset or destroy the delicate balance of a person's life or a family's finances. During this difficult time when families are facing unemployment or loss of a home, Catholic Charities can answer a parent's prayer.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



The Boiling Irish

This is about the time of year when northbound Illini start their weekend migrations en masse across the Cheese Curtain into Wisconsin, where first-rate tourism and fish boils await.

Around the turn of the century, Genoa Junction, as it was originally known, was the crossroads of several well-travelled passenger and freight railroads that crisscrossed the town on the Nippersink River. The name lives on at Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction



But it's a far better delicacy that awaits just over the border, and just off the beaten path, if you travel the short distance from Chicago's Northwest suburbs to a little place called Fitzgerald's, a stone's throw from US Highway 12, in the tiny yet historic town of Genoa City, Wisconsin, about 90 minutes from downtown Chicago.

Restaurant, where the setting is as historic as the food is plentiful, about ten minutes south of Lake Geneva, astride the Illinois-Wisconsin border.

The site is where the bustling W.J. Miller & Son's Carriage and Wagon Factory was located in the 1850's, and after the Civil War one of the sons built an Octagon House along-

side the factory. The eight-sided Victorian wonder remains today, the central part of a truly unique home-cooked dining experience. Two floors below its cupola and out back of the home, the smells of the coming all-you-can-eat feast begins wafting through the village of 2700 about

are usually whitefish and trout, and often include skin or bones. The Fitzgerald cod is a special boneless delicacy that wins over new converts and old time fish lovers with a sweet taste and consistency that is very reminiscent of fresh lobster, especially when served with drawn



mid-afternoon, in anticipation of an early-evening crowd.

Members of the Fitzgerald family stack piles of wood under large iron kettles, and begin boiling the selection for the evening meal served Wednesday through Sunday. The wood fire begins boiling fresh potatoes and whole onions to start the heavenly aroma, soon to be joined by grilling chicken ribs that complement the main course and star attraction, boiled North Atlantic Cod.

The famous fish boils of Door County in Northeastern Wisconsin

butter.

To go with the boiled fish, combinations are also available that include honey barbecue chicken and succulent barbecue pork ribs that feature a secret sauce (you might detect a slight hint of Irish Whiskey in that). In the serving line, you request and return for ample servings of the main courses, backed up by the boiled potatoes and onions along with tangy cole slaw and hearty fresh rye bread. You can top it all off with a homemade frosted apple square, if you can possibly find room.

Throughout the dining experience in the renovated and expanded home you have a family feel. The impression is of eating over at friends, as the Fitzgeralds and their friendly employees dole out the flavorful food and welcoming smiles.

And make whatever you wish of the experience. Whether dining outdoors casually in a picnic area around the boiling kettles, or dressed in your Sunday best in the quaint and elegant indoors (complete with a small bar and gift shop), you'll have a wonderful time enjoyed with a bounty of fresh food and more than a wee bit of Irish warmth.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com



Hedwig and the Angry Inch Rock Musical

Hedwig and the Angry Inch will run April 9 - May 17, 2009 at American Theater Company, 1909 W Byron St. in Chicago. Winner of the 2001 Obie Award and Outer Circle Critics Award for best Off-Broadway Musical, Hedwig and the Angry Inch tells the story of a young East German who discovers that the only way to escape communism and come to the United States is to give up a little part of himself. Yes, through a bit of surgery, Hansel becomes Hedwig, marries, and embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. In its first rock musical ever, American Theater Company transforms its theatrical warehouse into an underground nightclub. 773-929-1031 or www.atcweb.org.

Female Macbeth at Dream Theatre

Babes With Blades will close its 2008-2009, 11th anniversary season with an all-female production of William Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Enter a Scotland wracked by treachery and possessed by supernatural forces—a kingdom where loyalty is fatal, ambition is madness, and no motivation is pure.

This production features mask work and broadsword-driven stage combat. Following auditions in the near future, BWB will also announce guest artists joining the cast from The Viola Project, a Chicago organization offering Shakespeare performance workshops for girls 8-18 (violaproject.com).

MacBeth will open at the Dream Theatre, located at 556 W. 18th St. in Chicago, on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 8pm (reception following). The show will close on Saturday, May 30, 2009. www.BabesWithBlades.org or 773-880-0016.

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Seussical at Drury Lane Oakbrook

The exuberant Broadway musical, *Seussical*, will open April 1st and run through May 16th at Drury Lane Oakbrook Theatre for Young Audiences, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

The show features elements from Dr. Seuss classics, including *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Horton Sits on the Egg*, *Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories*, *McElligot's Pool*, and *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace offers families the special opportunity to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 6, and the cast of *Seussical* on May 16.

For more information call 630.530.0111 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.



Gaelic Park Players' Attaboy, Mr. Synge!

The Gaelic Park Players will present *Attaboy, Mr. Synge!* by Deirdre Kinahan, directed by Georgina Chapman, from April 18 through May 3 at Gaelic Park, 6119 147th St. in Oak Forest. The show must go on! And in the small town of Athboy, County Meath, the Athboy Players certainly hope so. With their 25th Anniversary looming, the group want to dazzle their loyal and faithful audience. What better way to do this than to stage John Millington Synge's masterpiece *Playboy of the Western World*. But alas... trouble is waiting in the wings! Crew members are leaving at the last minute, actors are showing up late or not at all, the set is unfinished... where are the lights? The costumes? and why isn't anyone learning their lines?!? What is a community theatre group to do?

If you really want to see what goes on behind the scenes of a theatre production, you have to see this show—a night of mad-cap antics both on and off the stage!

For tickets and reservations please call Gaelic Park at 708-687-9323.

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Beverly Theatre Guild's 20th Century

The Beverly Theatre Guild presents *Twentieth Century* by Ken Ludwig on May 1-2-3, 2009 at Morgan Park Academy in the Baer Theatre, 2153 W. 111th Street.

In this hilarious adaptation a bankrupt egomaniacal Broadway director and the chorus girl he trans-

formed into a leading lady board this legendary train. He'll do anything to get her back under contract during the 20-hour trip from Chicago to New York. If he fails, it is the end of the line. 773-284-849) or BeverlyTheatreGuild@juno.com or www.BeverlyTheatreGuild.org.

O'Neill's A Moon for the Misbegotten

A Moon for the Misbegotten tells the story of Josie Hogan, the ungainly daughter of an impoverished share-cropper whose love for the alcoholic Jim Tyrone comes to a head one long summer night. O'Neill's tale delves into the limits of loneliness, longing, and love, of the passion that brings two people together... and the gulf that separates them.

This tragic tale will be mounted in First Folio's chamber theater space, in what was originally the formal library of Mayslake Hall from April 1st through May 3rd. All performances take place on the grounds of the Mayslake Peabody Estate, which is located at 31st St. and Rt. 83 in Oak Brook, IL. Ticket \$23-30. 630-986-8067 or www.firstfolio.org.

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Beyond the Abbey

Sean Callan

E-mail: Irishquill@aol.com.



While a brand new adaptation of *The Quiet Man* is currently playing in Chicago under the title *The Quiet Man Tales*, a variation of the classic story is proving popular in continental Europe. The Chicago version is a stage play by Frank Mahon and Milissa Pacelli (at The Chicago Theater Downstairs, 175 N. State Street), while the European production is a television serial called *Unser Farm in Irland* (Our Farm in Ireland.) It is aired on Sunday evenings on ZDF, a Berlin public television station. From there, it is relayed throughout Germany by repeater stations. According to ratings, about 6 million Germans settle down at their TVs to view the show live. In addition, others have watched the program as a stream on the internet.

In the classic 1952 movie version of *The Quiet Man* directed by John Ford, Sean Thornton (John Wayne), an Irish-American prize fighter returns to Inisfree, a fictional village in Ireland, following a fatal mishap

in the boxing ring. No sooner is he there than his heart is captured by the vision of a beautiful but fiery colleen, Mary Kate Danaher (Maureen O'Hara), whom he spies tending her sheep. The rest of the story is a tempestuous three-way battle between Sean, Mary Kate, and Mary Kate's arrogant brother "Red" Will (Victor McLaglen.)

German Scenario

The German version of the story has things a bit different. On the airwaves, Dr. Martin Winter (Daniel Morgenroth) is a distinguished heart surgeon practicing in Berlin. He has been a widower since his wife's death four years earlier. He now lives a lonely life in the German capital taking diligent care of his patients and his three young daughters. He decides to take them on a trip—where to, but to see his deceased wife's relatives living in fictional Ballymara in Southern Ireland. This, according to the camera angles, appears to be

in the region of Courtmacsherry and Baltimore Harbor in rugged west County Cork.

When Martin arrives, he spots Erin O'Toole (Eva Habermann), a pretty sheep farmer, according to the publicity releases, and is immediately smitten by her. She is likewise attracted to him. But how can the two ever get together? He has his work in Germany and she her woolly sheep in Ireland. Their journeys are miles apart. Rather than leaving you, dear reader, to hang in suspense until the next episode, I will reveal what happens next. The local GP (medical doctor) becomes ill. He has suffered a stroke and there is no one to take care of his patients. Dr. Winter steps in. By this time he is aware of his feelings for Erin, and decides that the needs of his German patients are less pressing than those in Ireland. He decides to extend his Irish vacation and postpone his return home indefinitely.

Realpolitik

Some Germans—like many Americans—view Ireland as a romantic place close to nature with rich scenery and are drawn to the country for that. But according to recent reports, reality for others is somewhat different. Germans today appear less enchanted with the Grune Insel (Green Isle) than they were when the *Our Farm* series was first filmed by Bavaria Films 3 years ago. They are not happy that German marks—courtesy of German taxpayers—were used to build the infrastructure that enabled Ireland to create the Celtic tiger, and

that the Irish subsequently spurned them in good times. And they are less than thrilled that Ireland, now in an economic melt down, has its hand out for German geld in the form of euros now that times are bad.

Specifically, the Germans do not appreciate that Ireland turned its back on Europe last year when the country said "No" to the Lisbon Treaty. That treaty was seen by many as a European unifier and was strongly favored by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. As a result of that affront, the Germans do not seem to think much of Ireland's political leaders. The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper observed recently that: Ireland is a chaotic island run by chancers, a little too fond of the drink and not the best with money. But

despite all that, many Germans are content to cut the Irish some slack, at least in the movies, and accept them in the way that Irish writer Anne Enright describes them: "The Irish drink, the Irish fight and the Irish are funny."

Of course, what happened to the late-lamented Celtic tiger is straight out of Sean O'Casey's 1924 masterpiece *Juno and the Paycock*. In the play, the Paycock "Captain" Jack Boyle thinks he has inherited wads of money, and has no trouble accepting his good fortune. He splurges like there is no tomorrow—all on credit. He buys rounds—something he had not been able to do previously—and spends on the good things of life, such as expensive clothes and furnishings. But the situation is an

illusion and he soon becomes a cropper. There isn't any lasting money and Boyle ends up massively in debt. His son dies and his daughter, hoping for social advancement, loses her innocence to a smoothie. At curtain down a prostrate Paycock laments on his forlorn situation, "The whole world is in a terrible state of chasis (chaos.)" Much yet little has changed since O'Casey put those immortal words into Captain Boyle's mouth in the early 1920s.



Dakin (Joel Gross, l) tells his friend Scripps (Will Allan, r) about his latest romance, not caring that Posner (Alex Weisman, c) may not be so happy about the details. History Boys. Photo by Lara Goetsch.

The History Boys at TimeLine Theatre

TimeLine Theatre Company will present the Chicago premiere of the Tony and Olivier award-winning play *The History Boys* from April 25

through June 21 at TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave. in Chicago.

The *History Boys* follows a ram-bunctious group of clever young men as they pursue higher learning, games, sexual identity and a place at university under the guidance of three wildly different teachers and a headmaster obsessed with results. Set during the 1980s in northern



England, it is a hilarious and provocative play about the anarchy of adolescence and the purpose of education—specifically, how history should be taught.

timelinetheatre.com or 773.281.8463.

April Events at Gaelic Park

Carraig Pub

Gaelic Park is home to the Carraig Pub, the place for a great night out with music and delicious, mouth-watering food.

The Carraig offers many daily specials including: soup and salad, 1/2 panini and soup, a reuben sandwich, BBQ ribs, beef stew, a fish and chicken special and many other entrees and appetizers. The Carraig serves food Monday through Thursday

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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: Rico Quinn, Friday, April 3rd; The Plougboys, Saturday, April 4th; Joe McShane, Friday, April 10th; Bernie Glim & Country Roads, Friday, April 11th

Gerard Haughey, Friday, April 17th; Week Back, Friday, April 24th; and Mulligan Stew, Saturday, April 25th.

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.

Sunday Celtic Suppers

Gaelic Park's weekly Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and perfect for family celebrations for all occasions. For \$16, music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat

buffet meal is provided.

Easter Sunday, April 12th is a special Celtic Supper with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny and music by John Dillon. This month's entertainment includes Joe Cullen April 5th, Gerard Haughey April 19th and The Griffins April 26th. (708) 687-9323 to reserve tickets.

John Staunton Concert 4/17

Irish entertainer, John Staunton, will visit Chicago Gaelic Park on Friday, April 17th, for a musical performance. Through the nineties, John Staunton, from Westport, Co. Mayo, has toured extensively in the UK and Ireland with his band Cadillac. Staunton has achieved great acclaim for his live performance and his style of music that incorporates country and Irish styles. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

Please call Gaelic Park at (708) 687-9323. www.chicago-gaelicpark.org for a full calendar of upcoming events, special performances, information on Gaelic Park's cultural activities, and much more.

Horoscope



Theresa Castro

ARIES: The female principle is at the foreground with the moon fortified by Mars this month. You might try not arguing with the dominant women in your life. If you are a woman, you will find yourself more empowered this month.

TAURUS: Mercury, Saturn, and Pluto are conspiring to bring you the conclusion you deserve. If you have done right by the universe, it will return your diligence with solace, and satisfaction. Otherwise, watch out.

GEMINI: A lot of planets are bolstering your cause and helping you from another sector of your life. You could have a benefactor from your church or from a foreign country or a relative. Make sure you let them know how grateful you are for their help.

CANCER: You are under pressure yet again. Your work is stepping up production with fewer workers to service the demands. You will have to use ingenious methods to get the job done on a shoestring. Good luck!

LEO: You are watching a rare scene unfold now. There is an important and rare pile up of outer planets just opposite your sign. Perhaps your significant other is experiencing life changing events. Of course, if they are having such experiences, perhaps you are being drawn in as well.

VIRGO: Yes, Saturn is still dogging your sign. You have weathered the many storms of the times. Now you may get a gift from the cosmos if you are deserving. The heavily weighted sixth sector in your chart is assisting you in your efforts to improve our health, work, and possibly

your filing system.
LIBRA: You are loved more than you fathom. There is someone that reveres you in the most flattering and adoring way ever. Do you know who it is? Will you honor this with reciprocity or is it all one way? Be honorable and answer the call, or communicate to them your regrets once and for all.

SCORPIO: Planet Mars has really had you reeling of late. Now Venus is having her go at you. You should just throw in the towel and surrender to the powers that be. After all you can't be too proud or too human.

SAGITTARIUS: You are observing the storm as it unfolds. Why not tip toe into the fray and offer some quiet assistance? Depending on who and what is happening, you are in the perfect position to mediate issues.

CAPRICORN: It is crunch time now. You seem to be in the middle of a conundrum in which you have the starring role. You feel a little daunted by this, but you are a master of not showing it. Confidence counts.

AQUARIUS: Well, you are in the eye of the storm. This is a more positive storm than a negative one. There is a rare grouping of heavy hitting planets in your sign. These planets are very slow moving and beneficial to your future.

PISCES: Mars and Uranus are playing havoc with your neat little world. You can expect a few surprises this month. Some might be very good and some... well, it is hard to say what could transpire. Isn't life interesting?

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Celtic Thunder: on CD, DVD, Tour

In 2009, Celtic Thunder is officially on TV, on CD, on DVD and on TOUR. The group features five Celtic male vocalists from Ireland and Scotland, ranging in age from 16 to 40: Paul Byrom, George Donaldson, Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly and Damian McGinty. From rousing ensemble numbers to solos showcasing each members' vocal style and personality, Celtic Thunder performs powerful ballads, popular hits, and heart-warming songs of love and loss from across the Celtic music spectrum—Irish, Scottish, traditional and contemporary.

Celtic Thunder made their U.S. television debut in March 2008 and audiences across the US have embraced them. Their breakout success made Celtic Thunder the #1 music program on the US public television network in 2008. Filmed at the Helix in Dublin in August 2007, the TV special features a diverse selection of songs that showcase the wide ranging musical style of five highly accomplished soloists, while the show's ensemble numbers reflect their shared Celtic heritage. The self-titled CD from the show debuted at #1 on the Billboard World Music chart in March 2008, and went on to dominate that chart until it was knocked off its perch by the second Celtic Thunder release, Act II, in September. This debut CD has spent a total of 44 weeks in the top 5 ranks on the Billboard World Music Chart, and was named World Music album of the year for 2008, while the group's Fall 2008 debut U.S. tour earned the #20 spot on Pollstar's top tours of that year, drawing more than 125,000 fans hungry for the unique Celtic Thunder sound.

Their will be in Waukegan, IL at the Genesee Theatre on April 24th. www.celticthunder.com, www.aeglive.com or www.genesee theatre.com for ticket information.



The Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, in partnership with the Volunteers of America, recently participated with other Veteran Organizations in a program to distribute various gifts and information on where to go for help to homeless Veterans in Chicago. Pictured (L-R), Sidney M. Davis, F.O.P. Chicago Lodge #7 Recording Secretary, Chicago Police Officer Kathy Cunningham and Erica Foreman, an official with the Volunteers of America.

Premiere of Mark's Gospel

Fellowship for the Performing Arts presents the Chicago Premiere of Mark's Gospel at The Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago, from April 23rd - May 17th.

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Sharing a Pint

By Scott Powers



Back in January, Forbes released a story calling Chicago one the country's most miserable places to live.

As I was slipping and sliding down the sidewalk, digging through each corner of my home for every last blanket, and sitting in countless hours of traffic due to snow and ice and accidents caused by snow and ice, I couldn't help but agree.

Then, in January, back in most of November, all of December, a majority of February and a good portion of March, Chicago is just that—a miserable place to live. As kids we used to play a game where we picked an unfortunate soul to pile on top of. For the chosen one on the bottom, the first few people dropping on top of you wasn't so bad, but by that third, fourth and fifth person you were feeling pain and wanted it to end. It's like winter here. It's OK at the beginning, but it keeps piling and piling and piling.

Yes, I love Chicago, and, no, I wouldn't prefer to live somewhere else. But, I do despise our winters, and it's about this time of year that I start to get desperate for better weather.

I'm sure plenty would agree with my ranting, but probably none more so than the owners over at Lizzie McNeill's in downtown Chicago. It happened to be a warmer-than-usual March evening when I sat down to share a pint with John Wren and David Bruno, two of the bar's four co-owners, but we were all wishing it was even nicer out. It would have allowed us to be doing the same interview along the Chicago River.

In the fall and winter, Lizzie McNeill's is a good place to go have your dinner and drink. In the spring and summer, it's an amazing one. Located next to the river, there's nothing like

I was thinking of him. He would have thought it was cool to own a bar.

"I don't think any of us would have done it if the other three weren't included."

All four did, and now they just finished celebrating their fifth St. Patrick's Day at Lizzie McNeill's.

Since purchasing it, the pub has developed. They first added flat screens all around place, to allow any sports fan to find the game he or she desires. They also made it a mutual home for Cubs and Sox fans (they're split as owners). Last year, they added tables on both sides of the street to give them space for 150-plus people to enjoy that outdoor scenery. Of all those changes, though, they have made to sure to keep it Irish.

"We're an Irish pub," said Wren, whose grandparents are from Ireland. "It's important to all of us. We all have Irish roots. Who doesn't want to be Irish?"

Bruno certainly has Irish ties. His grandfather is Bob Dillon, the famous Irish ballad singer, who was featured in a previous Sharing a Pint column. He also is the son of DePaul women's basketball coach Doug Bruno. If you find yourself on a bar stool when Bruno's bartending, you can ask him about either of his famous family members, or about his own playing days at DePaul. He played alongside future pros Quentin Richardson, Bobby Simmons, Steven Hunter, and Paul McPherson.

Whatever you do ask, you can expect to be treated well.

"I just think we do a great job with people," Bruno said. "A lot of places you go to, it's about how many seconds you pour a shot. We take care of people."

They hope to be taking care of even more people soon. While the place is packed on those sunny days of summer, gets traffic from the local hotels, and has a number of consistent locals—the winter can be slow. One plan they have before the next cold wave is making Lizzie McNeill's a destination for all times of the year. They're presently working on expanding and improving their menu to do so.

If you're in the area on Saturday April 18, I'll be having my own party at Lizzie McNeill's. Because March happens to be my busiest time of the year covering basketball, I didn't get to celebrate much of my 30th birthday or St. Patrick's Day. I'm looking to make up for it on this day. The party starts at 8pm and lasts until whenever. Hope to see you see there. ...Let's hope it's a non-miserable day.

*For more about Lizzie McNeill's, its group parties and more, check out www.lizziemcneills.com or call 312-467-1992.

*Share a comment or future column suggestion with Scott Powers at sharingapint@yahoo.com.



(L-R) is John Wren, Scott Powers, David Bruno and Patrick O'Brien.

sitting outside, downing a few Guinness, enjoying the warmth and having such a marvelous view of Chicago at your side.

"Once it warms up, it's a different animal," Wren said.

It still seems so strange and unlikely to Wren, Bruno, Patrick O'Brien and Kurt Feiereisel that they actually do own Lizzie McNeill's.

"I hadn't even heard of the place," Bruno said.

It all began when Wren was with a friend some six years back, having a beer at Lizzie McNeill's. Wren mentioned to his friend he liked the bar, not because he wanted to buy the bar, but because he simply liked the bar.

Some time later his friend called to let him know Lizzie McNeill's was on the market. He thought Wren might be interested in buying it. Wren had never owned a bar before, so he wasn't sure why his friend would have thought that (it was later discovered his friend had thought he had owned a bar before), but he took a meeting anyway to be kind.

To make a long story short, by the end of the day, Wren was interested in buying Lizzie McNeill's and had brought his three friends—all which had bar experience—in with him.

"I'd want to go to a bar, but I didn't necessarily want to own one," Wren said. "My dad had just passed away, and I think

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



Why Ireland is Unfree

BRIT P.M. G. BROWN'S recent announcement in Washington that "Ireland is now at peace" is bizarre seeing that on that same day his gov't reclassified the IRA threat to Brit occupation as "severe." Adams and Co, now informers for Britain, are asking the Occupied Irish to do likewise. A RSF spokesman said; "Whilst Gerry Adams and his cheerleaders were quick to make ludicrous claims that the opening of an MI5 (Brit FBI) centre in Holywood, Co. Down, inaugurates accountable policing, it is officially admitted that at least 15% of MI5's resources are targeting Adams' erstwhile comrades. While Adams joins Britain in trying

to criminalise republican resistance, MI5 is dedicating ever more resources to their war against Irish freedom. The true criminals are those using violence to deny the expressed will of the Irish people for freedom and reunification."

NOTE: It was for MI5 that rogue FBI agent Buckley terrorized and repeatedly (but unsuccessfully) framed Chicago Irish for, A) murdering the Langert family, and B) the FBI's own "Wolfhound" crimes. MI5/FBI including Buckley, their Chicago crimes immunized, went to Omagh where they repeated their Langert pattern by arranging the murder of 29 innocents to be blamed, like the Langert 3, on the IRA.

BRIT TERRORISM has won, for now, in Ireland. Official maps show Britain as comprised of two land masses. One is of Scotland, Wales, and England, the other of Occupied Ireland. Ireland is shown as a 26-county island unconnected to its other six counties. Sunday TV's Prime Ministers Questions shows Brit P.Ms. still celebrating their victory over the Irish. Thus, Adams' claim to want a united Ireland is fraudulent. It was he who led the sell-out. He must explain how reunification was advanced by removing from Ireland's Constitution its Articles 2 and 3 which had laid permanent and unequivocal claim to the entire island and adjacent seas. The new maps indicate how difficult it will be to undo Adams' treachery. Meanwhile, Britain's tradition of murder in Ireland continues with impunity while our supine news media blank it out.

THE MOP-UP. Brit rule forces the Occupied Irish to kowtow—or else. Incarceration and torture, if not death, are the fates of suspected democrats and those working for democracy. Having "defeated Irish terrorism," the Brits have sold their "expertise" to the US in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and throughout Bush's (now Obama's) torture Gulag. Meanwhile, Brit "investigations" continue into many of its own worst atrocities. Bloody Sunday (14 murdered); the Dublin/Monahan bombings of

17 April 74 (33 murdered), the Ballymurphy 11 murdered by the same soldiers who perpetrated Bloody Sunday, the McGurk Pub bombing deaths of 15; etc., all, like the more recent Loyalists' murder of Robert Hamill in front of a group of RUC officers who refused to stop the murderers, and the Loyalists' 2006 baseball bat murder of 15-year-old Michael McIlveen remain under "investigation." Britain's Official Secrets Act conceals all. Occupied

Ireland's lawyers risk their lives to practice law. When Brit Intel murdered Atty. Patrick Finucane in front of his family, Atty Rosemary Nelson accepted his clients. When the RUC threatened to kill her she appealed to Dublin for protection. Brushed off, she came to the US seeking protection. She addressed the US Congress, begging for protection. Ditto to the UN in New York. Nevertheless, upon her return home Brit Intel carbombed her. Meanwhile, abetted by news media corruption, Britain, the perpetrator of these atrocities, denounces "terrorism."

GERRY McGEOUGH. Helen McClafferty writes: "Immediate action required: The newest trial date for Gerry McGeough is June 7, 2009. Every two weeks since April 2007, the court has postponed Gerry's hearings and trial date while keeping him under house arrest. They have had nearly 32 years to file these charges, but not until Gerry ran in the 2007 elections as an Independent in Tyrone, did they decide to arrest him on these trumped-up charges. To date, they lack adequate evidence to proceed. What does that tell us? To help Gerry, contact the Brehon Law Society, and Lawyer's Alliance Group, and ask them to get involved, as they have done so often before for other Irish republicans facing similar injustice in Occupied Ireland's Diplock courts. Google your local Brehon Law Society. Ask them to contact Gerry's attorney direct at Aidan@kevinwinters.com to see how they can help." McGeough published The Catholic Family magazine, and more recently, The Hibernian magazine, until shut down by RUC harassment. Those police are nothing like ours. So many murders of Irish (for being Catholic) were perpetrated by the RUC (Britain's Royal Ulster Constabulary) that they were to be disbanded under the Good Friday Agreement. The murderers remain on the force, perfumed as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

MOP-UP INTENSIFIES. MI5's expanded facility in Holywood, Co Down, and bringing back to Occupied Ireland Britain's murderous Special Reconnaissance Unit,

indicates that Britain's signing of the power-sharing agreement was another fraud. It shows that Britain intends permanent occupation; not democracy. Brit murder and terrorism continue. Not one of the specified benefits to the Irish has been realized; thus it was all a Brit ploy to refasten its grip on the throats of the Occupied Irish.

THE IRISH RESPOND. The Brits, using murder as its main persuader, brazenly ignores the people's pleas for justice and cessation of State crime. Finally, on March 7 the IRA killed two Brit soldiers and wounded two others. Ruairi O Brádaigh of RSF states: "For more than 20 years Republican Sinn Féin has been warning that the lessons of Irish history have been that as long as the British government and British occupation troops remain in Ireland Irish people will oppose them. Only days ago RUC Chief Hugh Orde announced new undercover British troops redeployments into this country. While everyone regrets this loss of life (of two Brit soldiers), the hard realities of the situation in Ireland must be faced."

THE NEWS MEDIA, including ours, reports the deaths of the two Brit soldiers and a RUC as if British agents had stopped murdering Irish innocents. The media report "fear that violence will return," as if no Occupied Irish were being murdered, and as if the homicide rate hadn't peaked as long ago as 1973 and was far below the US rate for a decade before Adams' sell-out.

IRISH-AMERICA once loved the "Four Horsemen;" "Tip" O'Neill, NY Gov. Carey, and Sens. Dan Moynihan and Teddy Kennedy. But to counter international revulsion to Bloody Sunday, Brit Intel targeted all four. We don't know the form of the bribes, but by 1973's end none of the four ever voted with us again. Only Teddy survives. For his years of Brit collaboration, especially for championing Gerry Adams' sell-out, Sir Teddy of Chappaquiddick has hit bottom as a British knight.

IRISH HOLOCAUST Commemoration Day of Nov. 3 has been marked by Masses and solemn reflection throughout Ireland and the Irish diaspora for the past decade. The first truth-telling mass grave markers have been erected. The "Irish" gov't doesn't like it. It is promoting a competitive "Irish Famine Commemoration Day" sometime in May. But it cannot deny the Food Removal nor contest my www.irish-holocaust.org; especially its map that identifies which Brit reg't starved which Irish district.

Contact me at 312/664-7651.

New Session at Chief's

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Mayor Daly. They have played encores with the Chieftains and at festivals in the US and Ireland, including Celtic Fest, Milwaukee Irish Fest, IAHC Summer Fest, Fox Valley Fest, Long Grove Irish Days, Arlington Heights Irish Fest, Catskills Irish Fest, Tullamore Phoenix Fest, and Dandelion Wine Fest.

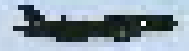
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