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# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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## Taking the Measure of a Treasured Isle



Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Connemara is always a favorite for its comfortable accommodation, great food and welcoming staff. (Judy Enright photo)

### Splendor Galore, and Quirky Asides, Mark the Face of Ireland

BY JUDY ENRIGHT  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In January, many of us focus on the New Year, on our multiple pre-holiday or post-holiday resolutions, and on making lists. So, we decided it might be fun to make a list of Ireland favorites, but then we stopped short. How could you ever make a list of every single one of Ireland's wonderful attributes and treasures? It would fill every inch of the Irish Reporter! There would be no room for anything else.

Of course, Ireland's scenery tops my personal list of favorites; the misty weather creates astonishing light, especially in the west, and the panoramas are

hard to beat. There is splendor galore to be captured digitally or on film while driving the Beara and Dingle Peninsulas, Ring of Kerry, the magical Burren in Co. Clare, Achill Island in Co. Mayo, Giant's Causeway and the Causeway Coast in Northern Ireland, the gentle midlands with lakes and rolling hills, the Wicklow Mountains, Connemara, and so many other beauty spots.

Then, my list would have to include favorite places to stay. What is our favorite hotel? By far, it is the small and cozy Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Connemara's magnificent Inagh Valley. Maire O'Connor, the owner, is a perfect and com-

pletely unflustered hostess and her staff is gracious and accommodating, the food is locally sourced, and delicious and, overall, staying there is like going home.

Other favorites include several high-end hotels that are well worth a splurge, like Cliff House Hotel in Co. Waterford, Merrion Hotel in Dublin, and castle hotels Dromoland and Ashford.

What is our favorite B&B? No question about that. It is Cahergal Farm in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, a true treasure near Shannon Airport where Noreen and Michael McInerney make you feel right at

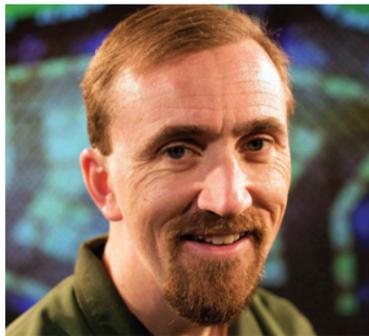
(Continued on page 18)

### Call Him Tom Terrific



Tom "Red" Martin, now 71 and just ten pounds off his college weight, today is an everyday presence at the firm he founded, Cramer Productions in Norwood. His success in business was foretold by his success in sports. A three-sport star at the old Cambridge High and Latin School, a two-time All-America defenseman at Boston College in the early 1960s, and an award-winning senior golfer, Martin has continued to play hard and love life.

Profile, Page 6.



Seaghan McKay is a man of many talents: designer of multimedia content for the performing arts, lighting supervisor, accomplished photographer, and competitive runner. Now he's designing projections for SpeakEasy Stage Company's production of the Broadway musical, "[title of show]," which opens January 15 at the Calderwood Pavilion. R.J. Donovan interview, Page 13.

### Corcoran Memoir

It was a time of Depression and want and working hard for little pay; it was also a time of hope, a sense that things could get better if all Americans pulled in the same direction. The longtime developer Joseph E. Corcoran, with assistance from his siblings, has written a memoir of those long ago days when he was growing up in Dorchester.

Excerpts from a chapter from the book, which author Corcoran entitled "Wasn't That a Time! A Corcoran Family Memoir," begin on Page 8.



Joe Corcoran the boy



TRINITY  
FINANCIAL

*Happy Holidays*  
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*Boston Connects and Mayor Menino cordially invite you to our closing event*

*Wednesday, January 13th, 2010*

# DREAM

*Celebrating the Journey*



**Karen Holmes Ward**  
*Master of Ceremony*

UMass Boston  
Campus Center Ballroom  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

6 pm - 10 pm  
Cost is Free  
RSVP Required

To RSVP please visit  
[www.dreamboston.org](http://www.dreamboston.org)  
or call 617-918-4220

Gourmet Hors D'œuvres  
Live Performances \* Local Art  
Giveaways \* Gift Bags to First 300 RSVP's



Dream Gala is an evening of celebration of the communities in the Empowerment Zone. 100% of the funds for this event is spent locally, supporting our local economy. There will be giveaways for a vacation stay and more.

## Around Town: The Irish Beat / Carol Beggy

**Brian T. Moynihan**, a longtime supporter of Boston community programs and the Irish-American community, has been chosen as the CEO of Bank of America. The 50-year-old Moynihan replaces **Kenneth Lewis**, who announced in September that he would retire at the end of 2009 from the Charlotte, N.C.-headquartered bank. Moynihan, who chaired the successful 2009 American Ireland Fund dinner in Boston, has long been seen as a leader in the regional financial world. Ohio-born, he is a lawyer who joined Bank of America in 2004 when it acquired FleetBoston Financial Corp. He has held a number of leadership positions at the bank, most recently serving as president of consumer and small business banking.

"Brian's wide range of experience, his relationships inside and outside of the company, and his demonstrated ability to understand business dynamics and effect constructive change, made him the best person for the position," said **Walter E. Massey**, Bank of America's chairman in a release.

...

Now that "Brothers," the **Jim Sheridan**-directed film about a soldier who is thought to have been killed in Afghanistan, is in theaters and receiving critical acclaim, there has been a buzz that the Irish writer-director will now turn his attention back to "Black Mass: The True Story of an Unholy Alliance Between the FBI and the Irish Mob." Sheridan, who has been nominated six times for an Academy Award, had the project on his 2009 schedule until "Brothers," which stars **Tobey Maguire**, **Natalie Portman** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**.

But with "Brothers" now in theaters, the questions about the fate of "Black Mass," which was going to be filmed in Boston last year, have resurfaced. Based on the book by award-winning former Boston Globe writers **Gerard O'Neill** and **Dick Lehr**, "Black Mass," is the story, among other things, of **Whitey Bulger** and former FBI agent **John Connolly**. The flick's script was penned by Sheridan, which would point to his staying with the project. However, the movie's producers had no comment.

...

Boston-based rockers **The Dropkick Murphys** have started a charity, the Claddagh Fund, and used arrival of a temporary hockey rink on the field at Fenway Park as the impetus for the charity's first fundraiser. The band's founder, **Ken Casey**, started the fun to support area non-profits that work on behalf of children, veterans, and those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. All 250 tickets, priced at \$150 each, sold out in a matter of minutes, according to the newly established fund's spokeswoman.

The Claddagh Fund Skate in the Park was held on Dec. 19 and drew a number of local notables including Bruins legends **Derek Sanderson**, **Terry O'Reilly**, **Jay Miller** and **Lydon Byers**; Clinton, Mass., native **Scott Young**, who won a Stanley Cup championship with the Pittsburgh Penguins; NESN TV talent **Heidi Watney** and **Charlie Moore**; Republican gubernatorial candidate **Charlie Baker**, UFC star **Kenny Florian**; actor-writer **Kevin Chapman**; and former world champ boxer "Irish" **Micky Ward**. ("The Fighter," a film about Ward's life story starring **Mark Wahlberg**, was filmed in Lowell and Boston over the summer.)

Each focus area of the Claddagh Fund means something important to me," said Casey, who also owns McGreevey's in the Back Bay. "Each focus is an imperative part of encouraging a successful community; charitable interactions have shown me firsthand the tremendous amount of need which exists in our community and the wonderful effects we have on people's lives when we all do our part to help."

...

The keynote speaker at the 2010 installment of Boston's oldest Memorial Day observances will be one of the city's youngest veterans. Savin Hill resident **Patrick Callahan**, who completed two tours in Iraq and achieved the rank of sergeant in the Marine Corps before his discharge in September, will make the address at Cedar Grove Cemetery, according to the Dorchester Reporter.

The invitation is part of a deliberate push to get younger vets plugged into the tradition.

"We're not getting the younger veteran members in as high numbers as years ago," says Old Dorchester Post commander **Steve Bickerton**. "I think they think of us as old timers. We want to get as many people involved to march in the parade this year."

Callahan, the son of **Bob** and **Katie Callahan**, attended Catholic Memorial High School and worked for about 18 months as an electrical apprentice before he joined the Marines. His father, Bob, is a Marine Corps veteran who served during the Vietnam War. "I thought it was the right thing to do," Callahan said of his decision to sign up at the age of 19 in 2005.



NESN Commentator, Heidi Watney; DKM band members: Scruffy Wallace, James Lynch, Ken Casey, Tim Brennan and Matt Kelly. Photo by Marc Deley



Brian Moynihan



Patrick Callahan

Before his deployment to Iraq, he did basic training at Parris Island and then moved on to Camp Geiger in North Carolina. He then trained to be a radio operator at a base in California.

Callahan did two tours in Iraq, the first from December 2006 through January 2008. Then he was back in the U.S. for ten months before returning to the Middle East for another seven months before coming home in July. During both tours he worked as a radio operator.

"The first time I went over, I was part of a personal security detail for a colonel. There were 28 of us who protected one man, the colonel. I was one of the radio operators," Callahan said.

During the second tour he was an assistant to a radio chief in another unit. "By this time, we had passed over a lot of bases to the Iraqis," he said. "We had 40 radio operators working underneath us in that unit."

Callahan said he is honored to be asked to speak.

"It's very special, especially for the veterans of Dorchester," he said.



Jim Brett, president and CEO of the New England Council is pictured with President Obama during a recent event at the White House.

Callahan's family is very proud, including his four sisters, **Shannon**, **Brenna**, **Devin**, and **Mackenzie**.

Dorchester is well represented in Iraq and Afghanistan, Bickerton said.

"We know there are others like Patrick, like **Matt O'Loughlin**, **Bobby Walsh**, and **Rob Flynn** who is leaving for Afghanistan in January."

...

Marching bands from universities in Delaware and Massachusetts, comprising more than 500 students, are to take part in the New Year's Day parade in Dublin. They will be joined by the Garda Band in the event, organized by Dublin Tourism, operated by St Patrick's Festival and supported by Lord Mayor **Emer Costello** and the City Council.

The parade will begin from the Mansion House at 2 p.m. and will culminate in an audience with the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House one hour later. The two US bands are the University of Delaware Fightin' Blue Hen Marching Band and the **University of Massachusetts Minuteman Marching Band**.

...

The Boston City Council recently saluted **Danny Ryan** for 25 years of service to the Boston City Courts. The Council also praised Ryan's service to the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, Boston College High School, and Savin Hill Little League. Danny and his wife of 30 years, **Dottie**, are the parents of **Melissa**, **Danielle**, **Shannon**, and **Kasey** and the proud grandparents of **Emma**, **Finn**, **Jack** and **Rocco**.

## Stepping Where My Grandfather Trod

By ED FORRY

Is this the year to make that long-delayed trip to Ireland? I asked myself that question at the beginning of 2009, and as in previous years, the answer was a resounding "maybe."

Somehow, a trip back "home" to the land of the grandparents has always been a plan. Sure, I had made several trips to Ireland over the past two decades, each time having a great vacation but every time resolving to spend more time in advance planning and less time on the Irish roads, living out of a suitcase packed in the "boot" of a rental car.

Also, I have been frustrated from never spending the proper amount of time visiting the lands where my people were from. My mother's parents (Toomey and Downing) were of Cork, my father's (Crotty and Forry/ Farry) of Waterford and Sligo. But they had come to America in the late 1800s and there are no close relatives in the old country still bearing the family names.

But there's a family of Forrys up in Lynn whose dad had emigrated to this country around WWI, and some of them have spent time back in Sligo, and they had been in touch with some relatives whose descendants remain in the area.

And so it was that when a close friend suggested that I join her for a mid-summer flight to Galway for a wedding in her family, I set out to make some serious plans for searching out of some of the family roots.

The trip was anchored around a spectacular family wedding in Galway town. If you have never been to a wedding in Ireland, you have missed one of life's great moments: the family celebration got underway sometime in mid-week, as one and another aunt, uncle, sibling, and cousin found their way, the wild geese returning home. From Wednesday to Saturday, the festivities ensued, culminating in a warm and wonderful marriage ceremony at the historic old Augustinian church on

Middle Street downtown, a half-block from Shop Street. The reception took place at the Meyrick Hotel (formerly called the Great Southern Hotel) on Eyre Square, and as the wedding day turned into Sunday, the celebration continued well into the weekend. After a few hours rest, the party gathered again at the bride's home, and some guests re-emerged with their fiddles, guitars, and tin whistles and staged a spontaneous session.

Then it was time to venture into the northwest, in search of the Forry family roots. A two-hour drive up the N17 through Mayo and past Knock led to Sligo, for a two-day stay at the stunning Cromleach Lodge Country House & Spa, just outside Castlebaldwin. This beautiful hillside retreat overlooks Lough Arrow, and gives a view across the lake and valley of Carrowkeel Cairns. Splendid in its scenery, our early-August stay featured warm days, long evenings, and a sunset across the western hills across the valley.

It was on that first evening at Cromleach that I realized I was looking out at the land where my grandfather once lived!

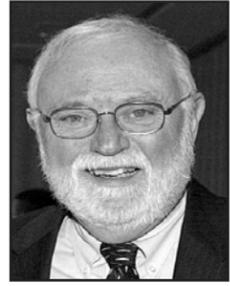
On the other side of the valley, nestled in the Village of Keash, stand the caves of Keash. On a whirlwind motor trip ten years ago, we had seen these caves on the side of the mountain, and my sister, Mary Tanner, had recalled hearing family stories telling of them. But this time, this year, I was able to wander the land, talk to some locals, and ask, "Does anyone know where any Forry ancestors might have called home?"

In a quick cellphone call back to Lynn, cousin Jack Forry confirmed that his uncle Jim had lived there until a half century ago, but later had moved to Sligo town. Remarkably, at Fox's Pub, the local public house in the village, the owner knew of a woman who now lived along the main road in a house that 50 years ago was the home of Jim Forry. He took us there, and the woman welcomed us into the house and said she remembered him; better still, she told us the "Forry land" was about a mile and a half down the road in the direction of Boyle.

Ten minutes later, I was standing on that land, looking up into the hills, and walking across farmland where, I believe, my grandfather walked!

It is a story that's not at all uncommon: the modern-day American with scant knowledge of his ancestors stumbling across little pieces of information that point back across the generations. There, on that warm August day, in the rural outback of County Sligo, I was walking on what I believed to be my grandfather's land. P.J. Forry left Ireland behind fully 125 years ago and came to America where he started his new Irish American family. And here was I that many years later, standing where he had stood, footsteps unseen, only imagined, yet very much real to me!

What new wonders the year 2010 will bring can only be imagined. Is this at last the year to make that long-delayed trip to Ireland?



## For Gerry Adams, It Was a Year of Trials at Work and at Home

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

A year that was full of daunting political challenges for Gerry Adams ended with the veteran Sinn Fein leader dealing with family issues far more painful than anything that can be served up in the bruising corridors of politics and power.

First came the startling news that the republican leader's brother, Liam Adams, was on the run, charged with having sexually abused his daughter for an eight-year period that began when the girl was 4. He was reported to be hiding in the Republic of Ireland and Gerry appealed to his brother to return to Northern Ireland to face the charges lodged against him.

With the story of his brother's alleged abuse receiving significant attention, Gerry then appeared on Ireland's RTE network to disclose that his father, the late Gerry Adams Sr., committed "physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual" abuse against some of the elder Adams's own 10 children. "I myself for a long time wanted this to be publicized because there is a culture of concealment, but we can only do this when everybody is strong enough to do it," Adams

said during the stunning RTE interview, adding that the only reason for going public was to aid his family. "We don't do it for any other reason than as a necessary step in the healing process within our own clan," he said.

Adams said he didn't realize that his father was an abuser until a little more than a decade ago, as the family continued to deal with revelations of Liam Adams' alleged abuse of his own daughter. The discussion of one situation led to the discussion of another. "I was almost 50 years old and, up until that point, I thought we were like any other family with a loving father," Adams, 61, told RTE. Adams said the family has spent the past two decades searching for ways to deal with the likelihood that it had two abusers within its midst.

As the details of the abuse stories have emerged, Adams has faced some difficult questions, with some wondering if he and others did enough after learning of the allegations against his brother in 1997. Adams told reporters that his niece's allegations were reported to the proper authorities. The Sinn Fein leader said he took other steps that he thought made sense.

"I told everyone within Liam's limited circle of the

allegation made against him. When I discovered in the Belfast situation that he was working in a youth facility, I went to those who had responsibility for that facility and told them of the allegation. He also had RUC or PSNI clearance to work in those facilities. I also pressed Liam to come out of it and in the second case he did what I demanded of him. I'm not suggesting that I handled this perfectly. I now know much, much more about how you handle these issues than I did at the time."

Personally and politically, 2009 was a year of challenge for Adams, who has been a major player in Northern Ireland's Troubles and in its subsequent peace process.

On the political front, Adams's party, Sinn Fein, fared poorly in the European parliament elections, losing the single seat the party held in the Republic of Ireland. Sinn Fein vice president Mary Lou McDonald's loss of her Dublin seat was the latest in a series of blows that Adams and his party have endured south of the Border.

Sinn Fein also struggled in its efforts to bring about the final piece in the Northern Ireland devolution puzzle: the North's power-sharing government taking power of police and judicial functions in the six-county state.

There were calls for change from within the ranks of Sinn Fein and suddenly, almost amazingly, political observers wondered if Adams's 26 years of leadership was coming to an end. As it may be.

But all of this pales in comparison to the personal issues that now beset Adams and his family. Adams, in many ways a private man who has always kept his wife and son out of the limelight, should be commended for his candor and for his being very clear about the carnage and cost of abuse.

Adams said he didn't want his father, himself a republican activist, to have a traditional republican funeral when he died in 2003. "I didn't want him buried with the Tricolor, I think he besmirched it. But it was a dilemma for other members of my family who didn't want this in the open at that time," Adams said during the television interview. He said his father never really owned up to his horrendous deeds after they were revealed in the late 1990s.

"He was in denial for quite a lot of that time," Adams recalled. "This was a man who had a very large family; there were 13 of us. Ten survived, three died at birth or shortly after. He ended up dying a lonely old man where he should have been surrounded by loving family members."

Truly, a chilling and tragic story.



Robert P. Connolly

## Liam Clancy, 1935-2009

Music journalist and BBC Radio Ulster presenter Stuart Bailie takes note of the passing of Liam Clancy last month:

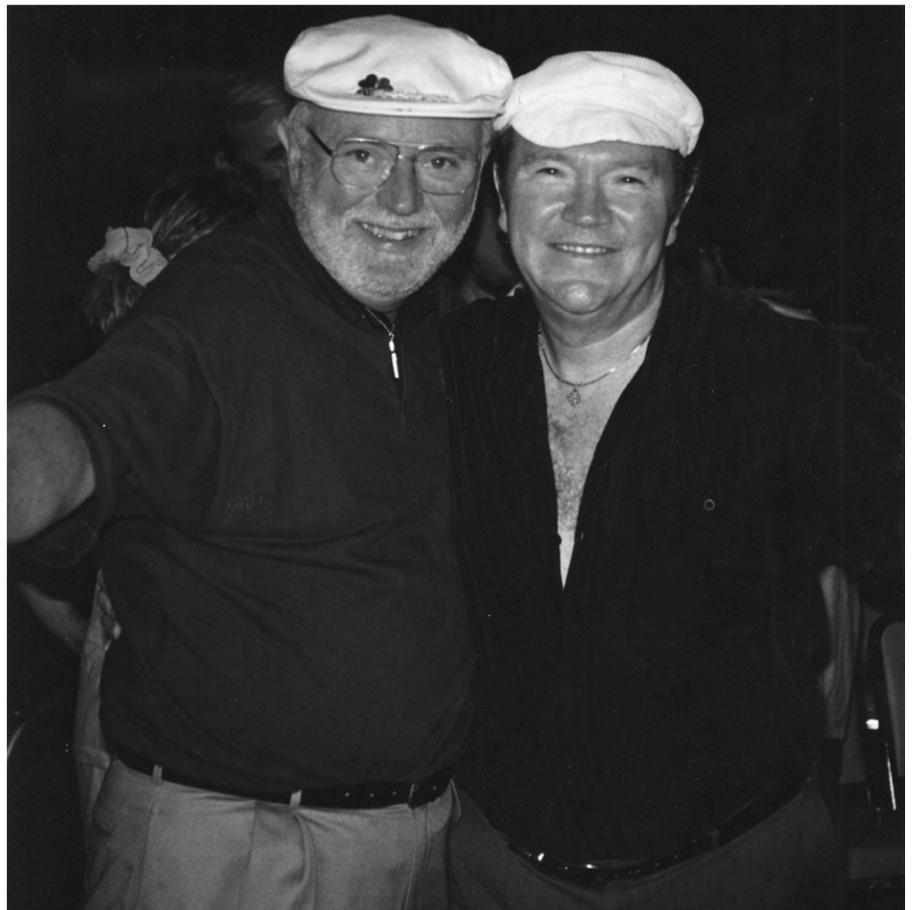
I spent a most excellent afternoon in Dublin with Liam Clancy, back in the day. He bought me Guinness and oysters at the Gresham Hotel and he told me all the stories I wanted to hear.

This was around the time of the RTE programme 'Bringing It All Back Home' and it was one of those periodic moments when you get to re-evaluate Irish music and its fascinating journey.

Liam obliged by telling me about the early Sixties in New York City, when he and his brothers, plus Tommy Makem, were doing theatre productions with music. Suddenly they were in the middle of the folk revival. Liam and Bob Dylan were dating two sisters and it was all going nuclear. Brendan Behan was passing through and when Liam wasn't party to one of the great culture changes of the century, he was back in Ireland, collecting songs from the old folk.

Liam had his theories about Dylan. Most artists learn how to become professional -- to turn in a reasonable performance, no matter how bad the situation is. But Liam believed that Bob had fought hard to stay amateur -- to respond honestly to his emotions and his art. That was wisdom enough, but Liam also expounded on the theme of tradition. It's like the rear sight of a rifle, he explained. When you line it up with the front sight (creativity, innovation), then you're in with a chance of hitting the spot.

I saw the Clancys on stage a couple of times. They



BIR Publisher Ed Forry and Liam Clancy

played the Dylan tribute at Madison Square Garden in 1992 and held their own with Bob, Neil Young, George Harrison, Johnny Cash, Stevie Wonder, and Lou Reed. Previously, I'd seen them at Mother Redcap's in Dublin, and they recreated an older era for us. The ballads were a bit overwrought on occasions and the influence of the theatre was never far from the act. But when they regaled us with those sentimental tunes and gave us an appreciation of time's relentless passage, there was no option but to shed a quiet tear.

## Commentary

# As Leaders Work on Recession Woes, They're Creating Future Benefits

By JOE LEARY  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Every once in a while we have to be told to "slow down, you are going too fast; stop and think." Sometimes it is a speeding accident, or an exciting idea gone wrong, or a personal excess that should be controlled.

In Ireland's case it was the soaring economy, leaping home prices, and, in the face of free-flowing money, the rushing greed of more than a few Irish to get their shares.



Joe Leary

As in the United States, bankers and real estate moguls thought they were invincible. Charge high prices, borrow whatever you want; the money tree was open. Salaries skyrocketed, social welfare payments moved higher, everyone benefited. From street vendors to hotel owners, from contractors to cab drivers, from store owners to entertainers, all boats were rising as prices doubled and tripled and people from all over the European Common Market rushed to

Ireland to share in the glory.

Then, at the height of the frenzy, the natural order of things inevitably returned to fundamental economics and the spiral ended in a crash.

Like the uncontrolled hedge funds in New York City that had to go bankrupt because they took outrageous risks in pursuit of a higher personal bonus and the failed banks and mortgage companies in

California that approved \$500,000 mortgages on salaries of \$40,000 a year and lost billions on foreclosures, some of Ireland's banking leaders have paid a high price for their indiscretions as the government had to step in and guarantee bank assets to avoid panic withdrawals.

Government political leaders had to act. And they did. They have created nearly a new economy. New banking controls, lower wages for all public employees (the prime minister himself took a 20 percent reduc-

tion in pay) and profound cutbacks in government spending have arrested the slide and set Ireland on a path to economic health and stability quicker than any felt possible.

The latest quarterly national reports from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) that were published in mid-December "indicate that on a seasonally adjusted basis there was a .03 percent increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the quarter ending in September," thereby technically, at least, ending the recession if you accept the common definition that a recession is two quarters in a row of falling GDP.

Ireland's unemployment rate has stopped growing and has leveled off at 12.5 percent. And the passage by the Irish Parliament last month of the operational budget for 2010, which includes what the Irish newspapers describe as "brutal" reductions in across the board spending, drew tipplings of the hat for a courageous government from European Common Market leaders. This despite the great pain the country is enduring with labor strikes and high unemployment.

And now, with a strong government enforcing the newly learned lessons of the recession, Ireland has become an even more profitable country to interest and attract new American business ventures.

Prices are falling in Ireland. According to the CSO, on the average, November 2009 consumer prices and service providers' prices are down 5.7 percent from November 2008. Engineering costs are down 9.8 percent; advertising costs are down 7.7 percent, clothing is down 13.9 percent, and food prices are down 7.6 percent.

For foreign investors, especially Americans, Ireland remains an exciting country in which to do business. There is no more profitable or operationally friendly country for a new plant or research and development facility than the Republic of Ireland. A highly educated English speaking workforce, corporate tax rates ranking with the lowest in the world, easy access to the Common Market and the United States, and a supportive educational system are key advantages to investors.

Ireland's full return to prosperity will take some time, and there will be bumps in the road, but the journey has more than just begun. When economic success arrives once again, the "recession lessons" will help ensure safer growth in the years ahead.

## Off the Bench

## Chasing Joy – and Loving It!

By JAMES W. DOLAN

The golf clubs have been put away and the skis are out. So begins another season. The sand in the upper chamber of life's hourglass slips inexorably below where all my yesterdays are stored.

With every season, the grains of sand in the "what's to come" chamber diminish as the "what has been" portion grows. At 70, one's future is measured not in years but in tomorrows.

When the snow falls, I'll be back on my skis, fighting both the winter chill and the aging process, refusing to give into the aches and pains that become harder to ignore with every passing year.

I'm at the point where I'm not going to get better at anything, particularly at skiing; it's just a matter of holding my own. One can only struggle against the inevitable decline and hope it will be gradual and gentle.

I always admired the hale and hearty senior skiers with their ruddy good looks and enthusiasm. They look healthier than their counterparts in Florida. Now, I'm trying to be one of them.

It's not easy getting up early on a wintry morning when the temperature is hovering at five degrees and putting on all the gear you need to wear for skiing. But the exhilaration of gliding down a groomed trail on a crisp and clear winter's day is worth it. Particularly, when you're trying to keep up with your grandchildren.

I'm usually the last one down but I like to show them I can still do it.

They say a parent is only as happy as his or her unhappiest child and there's some truth to that, but for a grandparent, there is nothing better than sharing the joy of your grandchildren.

The best part of the day is gathering around the fireplace with a beverage, tired after a long day of skiing, waiting for a good meal with your children and their children around you.

A great feature of marrying young, and one I never anticipated, is to be young enough to know and enjoy your grandchildren. I never expected this payoff when I was changing diapers at 23.

So up the chairlift and down the slopes I'll go for as long as I can. I will not surrender easily to the limitations of aging. Life is a rope slowly slipping through your fingers. You cannot stop it, but you can grab hold and try to squeeze the most out of it.

We have a condo at Bretton Woods near the stately, old Mt. Washington Hotel. Most evenings the neighbors gather around a fire pit in the woods a short distance from our building. Appropriately named "Whiskey Hollow," it is a work of art with stairs, a hand rail, and benches. After a day of skiing you will find us there, huddled around the fire discussing the day's events.

You non-skiers don't know what you're missing. Just north of here, you can pay dearly for expensive lift tickets to wait in line outdoors in below-freezing weather to ride up the mountain on a chairlift, exposed to arctic wind-chills, for the sheer pleasure of strapping a couple of expensive, modified, bed slats on your feet so you can risk life and limb trying to get down. Does it get any better than that?

Fortunately, it's an activity that turns out better than it sounds. Well, at least it's an activity, and there aren't many of those in winter. Admittedly, on occasion I ask myself what am I doing up here in these conditions.

The answer is simple. To prove that I still can. Stay warm!

## New Background

## Four Bishops Resign in Scandal's Wake

THE IRISH EMIGRANT

GALWAY -- Three more bishops submitted their resignations to the pope during Christmas week, leaving Bishop Martin Drennan of Galway as the only one of five auxiliary bishops of Dublin named in the Murphy Report on priest abuse to remain in office.

While the five bishops faced intense pressure after the report was published, the primary focus was on Bishop of Limerick Dónal Murray. After three weeks, much of which was spent in the Vatican, he announced that he had asked the pope to relieve him of his duties. That was 11 days ago.

On Wednesday the 23d, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin Jim Moriarty followed Bishop Murray's example and submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict. In doing so he said, "With the benefit of hindsight, I accept that, from the time I became an auxiliary bishop, I should have challenged the prevailing culture". That admission was seen as putting even more pressure on his fellow bishops.

A day later, on Christmas Eve, the two remaining auxiliary bishops of Dublin, Dr Eamonn Walsh and Dr Ray Field, offered their resignations.

That left Galway's Bishop Drennan as the only one holding out and newspapers used their websites to report that the pressure had increased on him. The bishop was not, however, thinking along those lines and on the 26th his spokesman, Father Seán McHugh, said that Bishop Drennan could see no reason why he should resign as he had done nothing wrong. His situation, it was claimed, was different from the other bishops. Although his name appeared in the report's list of auxiliary bishops of Dublin he had not been called to give evidence. In fact he had not seen the context in which his name appeared until the report was published. In the one case mentioned in the report in which he had any involvement it was noted that the case had been handled correctly by the Dublin Archdiocese.

Prior to Bishop Eamonn Walsh's announcement that he was standing down, he had written to the priests in his area explaining why it would be unjust to expect him to step down. In his letter he claimed that, after his recent visit to Rome, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin had expressed confidence in his auxiliary bishops. Archbishop Martin was quick to clarify the situation through a spokeswoman. She explained that while the archbishop said he "had confidence in the ministry they were carrying out," he made it clear he was still evaluating their positions in relation to the Murphy Report.

### Concern for Health of Finance Minister

GALWAY -- TV3 News reported on St Stephen's Day that Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. There was considerable anger among politicians of different parties at the decision of TV3 to break the news and, while RTE repeated the story, it did not initially identify the type of cancer.

It had been reported earlier in the month, when Lenihan missed the latter stages of the Budget debate in the Dáil, that he had entered hospital for elective surgery; one journalist suggested a hernia operation. It now appears Lenihan was facing something much more serious and rumors of his illness are now reported to have spread among political and journalistic circles immediately prior to Christmas.

The general feeling in the media seems to be that Lenihan should have been allowed to decide when news of his health became public. Sunday's newspapers carried the story but dwelt as much on the criticism of TV3 as with Lenihan's health. A spokesperson for the Department of Finance said simply that the minister was enjoying Christmas with his family and would not be commenting on any matter until the New Year.

While Lenihan's condition will no doubt affect his political career there is little speculation on that front, as most commentators were more concerned for his personal well-being and that of his family.

### Liam Adams Denies He Abused His Daughter

GALWAY -- The name Liam Adams appeared in the main headline in the *Irish News* on three of the four days that the newspaper published during Christmas week and an article about him was the second lead in the remaining edition. Through his solicitor, the brother of Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams has now denied allegations that he had abused his daughter.

The News had reported the week before that Liam Adams was wanted by the PSNI to answer allegations that he had raped and abused his daughter between 1978 and 1983, when she was aged from four to ten. On Wed. the 23d the Belfast solicitor representing Liam Adams said his client denied the allegations and would not be crossing the border where he would be liable to immediate arrest by the PSNI. Solicitor Philip Breen added that, given all the recent publicity, his client would be unable to receive a fair trial in the North. Adams could opt to be tried in the Republic but Mr. Breen said he also doubted he would receive a fair trial there.



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## BIR Profile

# Success Follows Hard Work and Then Some for Tom 'Red' Martin, BC Hockey Legend

By GREG O'BRIEN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Tom Martin took to ice as a young boy as cod take to the sea. It was his lifeblood. In high school, he used to run to his Cambridge home backwards from Harvard Square, practicing the art of a pivot so he could perform the difficult maneuver without hesitation on ice.

"I was just a dog," he says of his workouts that led to star status in hockey at Boston College and on the 1964 US Olympic Team at Innsbruck.

The 71-year-old founder of the award-winning Cramer Productions in Norwood, a second generation Irish American who, at a lean six-foot-one and 205 pounds, is just ten pounds off his college playing weight, still has that canine drive—a focus on the moment and the verve to succeed at every level in the face of challenge.

"As a kid, I worked my ass off," he says. "While others were at the beach, I needed to be at the gym. I had God-given talents, and wanted to make the most of it."

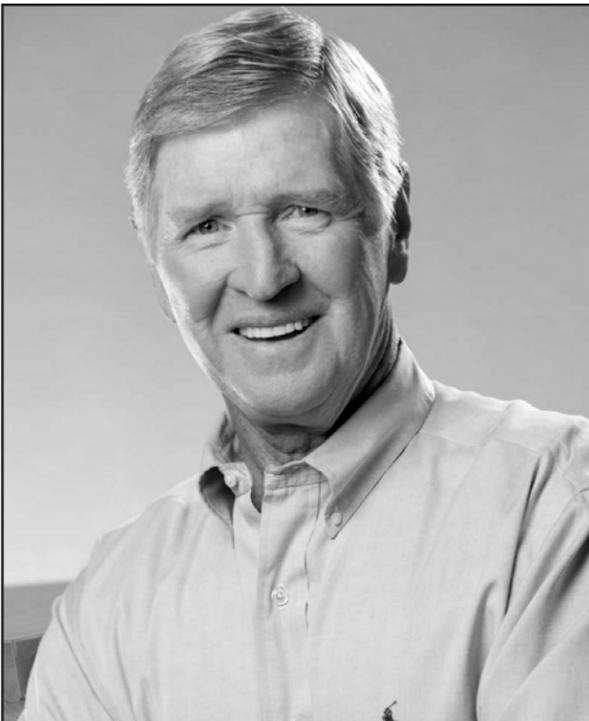
No doubt, the Almighty is pleased with the result. A three-sport standout at the old Cambridge High and Latin (hockey, baseball, and football), Martin, "Red" to his friends and admirers, went on to Boston College where he was a defenseman on the school's hockey team that won the Beanpot in 1959 and in 1961, the year he was team captain and Beanpot MVP. Martin also was named to the 1960 and '61 college hockey All America teams, and was the '61 recipient of the Walter Brown Award as the nation's outstanding college hockey player.

In addition, he was a steady left-handed first baseman on the BC baseball team that played in the College World Series in 1960 and '61, was named to BC's Hall of Fame in '68, represented the United States in the 1962 World Ice Hockey Championship, and was Assistant Captain on the 1964 U.S. Hockey Olympic Team where he roomed with the legendary Herb Brooks, who coached the Miracle-On-Ice '80 team that defeated the Soviets in the thick of the Cold War. Martin was drafted by the Boston Bruins, who offered him a \$6,800 contract that he rejected because he could earn more money as an accountant. His retired hockey jersey hangs from the rafters at Conte Forum.

But that is all just the beginning of the Tom "Red" Martin story. To pigeonhole him in the vernacular as a man for all seasons is to say that the Tudor-era writer and statesman Sir Thomas More was a jock. With the discipline of athletics as a foundation stone, Martin has succeeded in all areas of life—as a businessman, a renowned creative force, and, most importantly to him, as a husband and father.

The early years were difficult for Martin and his younger sister, Anne Marie; their father, Tom Considine, died shortly before her birth. A devout, hard-working Irish Catholic, Considine had close family ties to Galway where his parents were born. Martin and his sister, both of whom later assumed their stepfather's surname, were initially raised in Somerville, then Cambridge by a dutiful mother, Anne (Norton), whose family came from the south of Ireland. She remarried when Martin was 12. His stepfather, Bill Martin, then a custodian in the Cambridge school system, adopted the children, and they lived in church housing in St. Peter's Parish in Cambridge. He was a caring surrogate father.

"It was a humble beginning," Martin recalls in an interview at his state-of-the-art, 70,000 square-foot design and production facility, headquarters for a full-service, integrated marketing communications company offering services worldwide in event and video



**Tom Martin: "As a kid, I worked my ass off. While others were at the beach, I needed to be at the gym. I had God-given talents, and wanted to make the most of it."**

and digital production, interactive media, webcasting, and print and direct marketing. With \$35 million in annual sales, the company today employs 180 people, including six of his seven children, and has a client list that includes Bayer Diagnostics, Boston College, CVS Pharmacy, EMC, Fidelity Investments, Gillette, Jordan's Furniture (for which Cramer Productions has produced the trademark "Barry and Eliot" Tatelman television commercials), Covidien, General Electric, Reebok, Raytheon, Ocean Spray, Serono, Michelin, Motorola, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the Boston Red Sox. Cramer Productions also has produced critically acclaimed sports videos and documentaries.

Martin built the company creative brick by creative brick with the benefit of a Bachelor of Science degree in business, a CPA certificate that he secured during his five-year tenure of analyzing balance sheets and income statements with the Boston office of Arthur Anderson & Co, and just plain old ice pond smarts.

"I don't want to sound cocky, but I had confidence in myself," he says, sitting in an office appointed with sports memorabilia and sounding like an able defenseman. "If it didn't work out, I knew that I'd bounce back."

Red Martin has been resilient throughout his life, learning at a young age to cope with its ups and downs via the sure direction of a disciplinarian mother, who worked as a waitress and collected "Mothers' Aid," now called welfare, at Cambridge City Hall. "I had to mop the floors on my hands and knees before I could go out on a Saturday morning," he recalls. "My mom was terrific, and had an incredible work ethic that was instilled in us."

Sunday church attendance in the Martin family was as mandatory as school, and after Mass—from the third grade and into college—Martin sold newspapers—The Boston Globe, The Herald, Boston Post, and New York Times. At a young age, he learned the worth of walking-around money.

Always on the run, Martin joined the Arthur Anderson staff after BC, played in the Olympics, returned to the Big Five accounting firm, then was hired in 1966 by Cramer Electronics as a corporate controller, shifting gears later to become national sales manager in the multi-national company—a move that sparked a career change. When the company was acquired in 1979, Martin, on a hunch, purchased the firm's budding video production division and, retaining the Cramer name, called the new venture Cramer Productions, a cutting-edge marketing medium.

"I thought this new technology had great promise as a marketing and communications supplement," he says. "I saw an opportunity and went with it."

But not without the support of June, his wife of 47 years, whom he met a half-century or so ago on a blind date. "We went through some struggling years as any start-up does," he recalls. "In the early '80s interest rates were close to 20 percent and that almost choked companies like ours that were capital intensive. My financial background allowed me to weather the storm and calm the bankers down. It all worked out in the end."

Today, six of the couple's children help run the business: Thomas, as sales manager; Timothy as internal operations manager; Christopher as external operations manager overseeing large events around the world; Gregory as chief financial officer; Patrick in a training program; and daughter Julie as major accounts manager. Son Shawn, a member of Cramer's outside board of advisors, is a partner with the hedge fund Convexity Capital Management. Larger than life in

so many ways, Martin has 20 grandchildren.

In his spare time, he is an avid golfer, pushing a four handicap, and notes that all but one of his children are single-handicap golfers. "God has been good to me; I can still compete with them," he says with competitive vigor. A member of the Charles River Country Club, Martin has won the Senior Division of the Francis Ouimet Memorial Tournament, named for the famed amateur from Brookline who won the US Open in 1913 against two prominent Englishmen, and was twice runner up in the Massachusetts State Seniors Championship. In 2003, he won the New England Senior Amateur Golf title.

One wonders if Martin was born on Krypton.

Back to earth in Norwood, there is plenty to do at Cramer Productions in the collective coordination of scores of marketing strategists, creative directors, production managers, producers, account managers, designers, developers, and support personnel. In addition to corporate marketing, branding and events, Cramer has built an impressive reputation in sports producing, notes a company profile. The company produced the comprehensive Boston Red Sox: 100 Years of Baseball History, a three-hour video documentary that covers the history of the Red Sox organization and became one of the fastest- and best-selling New England sports documentaries. Cramer won acclaim, including a prestigious Emmy Award, for its documentary, Story of Golf, that documented more than 700 years of the venerable game, was aired on PBS nationally and was featured on CBS during the broadcast of the 2000 Masters Tournament. Cramer Productions also has produced such documentaries as the Banner Years (a Boston Garden retrospective), Home Run Heroes (a tribute to legendary Red Sox hitters) and Ray Bourque: The First 20 Years, which was produced for a Symphony Hall performance and subsequent television broadcast.

Not one to forsake his roots, Martin and his company are generous contributors to non-profit and charitable causes. There is a framed quotation from the late comedian and humanitarian Danny Thomas in his office that reads: "All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don't discover why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."

Martin has embraced the Thomas notion. He is a major contributor and adviser to the Mass Hospital School, Caritas Christi Hospital, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) and the Ouimet Foundation. Cramer Productions serves a wide variety of charitable organizations by staging events and producing videos and other communication programs that assist with fundraising. In the past few years, the company profile notes, Cramer has contributed time and talent to such organizations as American Kidney Foundation, Big Brother/Big Sister, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Carney Hospital, Easter Seals, Franciscan Children's Hospital, Greater Boston Food Bank, Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, March of Dimes, Mother Caroline Academy, Rosie's Place, Second Helping, South Boston Community Health Center, The Cardinal's Appeal, Catholic Charities, and The Jimmy Fund.

Martin is quick to note that his company's success is the result of the dedication and creative talents of key longtime associates like Executive Vice President and Creative Director Rich Sturchio, who will become president this month, and Ann Cave, senior VP for strategic services and marketing, and Darren Ross, executive VP for digital solutions.

Very much camera shy, Martin is always acknowledging the singular contributions of others, but he has received numerous awards and honors for his community service. He was the 2007 recipient of the Richard F. Connolly, Jr. Distinguished Service Award from the Ouimet Fund, and three years ago, the New England Chapter of the National Television Academy inducted him into its Silver Circle, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to television in the last 25 years. He also has been honored by the National MS Society, Mass Hospital School, and Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) for his faithful patronage.

So is Tom "Red" Martin really faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive? We know, at least, that he can leap tall challenges with a single bound. Look, up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, no it's just Tom. And that's the way Martin likes it. Understated.

As the years count down, Martin is sanguine about the future. "I have a strong faith and that keeps me going," he says in a moment of reflection at the end of yet another long day. "My kids," he jokes, "are always rehearsing what they are going to say at my funeral. We have some laughs about it."

The key to long, productive life, he insists, is an exceptional attitude and a great work ethic. "You never pout," he says. "There's always another day."

*Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based in Brewster on Cape Cod. The author/editor of several books, he contributes to various regional and national publications.*



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# Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

**Boston-Aided Foyleside Centre Thrives** -- Opened 15 years ago in the city of Derry, it was a super shopping complex that initially drew criticism from many in the North when construction began. They said it was too large, too tempting a target for the paramilitaries, the glass atrium facade would never withstand IRA attack, and on and on. But it was built, a stunning 400,000 square feet of retail shops that defied the odds and might never have come to fruition if it hadn't been for critical links established in the 1980s between Boston and Derry.



**Bill O'Donnell**

The relationship between the two historic cities started with the nonprofit Boston Ireland Ventures and a series of BIV-sponsored Ireland Trade Festivals at **John Drew's** World Trade Center on the Hub waterfront. They came from Derry and Galway and introduced Boston and New England to Irish products, crafts, tourism, and culture. The annual October events brought together the leadership of the Irish cities, north & south, with Mayor **Ray Flynn** and Boston civic leaders, including BIV officials **Frank Costello** and **Michael Donlan** and the city's BRA director at the time, **Steve Coyle**.

Soon joining discussions with Derry officials was **O'Connell Brothers** Construction of Quincy who began serious talks with Derry leadership about building a mammoth retail center along the Foyle River in central Derry. With the continuing advice and input from the Flynn administration and others in Boston and the development expertise of O'Connell Brother, the Foyleside Shopping Centre officially opened in 1995. I was asked to be one of the speakers and brought greetings to the citizens of Derry from Ray Flynn and his successor, **Tom Menino**.

That's a bit of the background of how the North's largest shopping center came into being. Yet there is more good news for Derry and Foyleside with the recent announcement of an ambitious \$260 million expansion of the venture. The addition, which would increase Foyleside's square footage by fifty percent, is being called a "huge vote of confidence" in Derry city and the North, especially with the island's economic woes. The expansion will create 500 well-paid jobs in the construction sector and up to 300 new and permanent retail jobs. The project is expected to start this year and will take more than two years to complete.

**Ted Kennedy Remembered In Wexford** -- There is a buzz here in the Bay State about the new Kennedy Center for the US Senate in Boston and the initial \$20 million funding for the Columbia Point project that has been filed by Senator **John F. Kerry**. However, 3,000 miles away, the Irish also reacted personally to **Senator Kennedy's** death with the announcement of an enhanced Kennedy memorial at the family's ancestral home in Dunganstown, Co. Wexford. The Irish project will include a state-of-the-art visitors center and improvements to the area and is budgeted at \$2.2 million. It will honor Ted Kennedy and the Kennedy family in what has been to date a rather simple landscape and family homestead. My wife and I visited in the early seventies the modest — actually tiny — homestead building which is located just yards from the more modern home that for years housed the Kennedy cousins, the Ryans. The day we were there I took a photo of Jean beside the homestead and as we were about to leave we were startled to see **Mary Ryan**, the much photographed family matriarch and host to **President Kennedy** in that memorable June 1963 cousins reunion, walking out into the yard. We didn't want to disturb her so we said nothing and as I recall I simply raised my arm slowly in a quiet salute, nodded and walked on to our car parked nearby.

**New Abuse Report Roils Irish Catholics** -- First there was the Fern report, then the Ryan report, and now comes the Murphy Commission findings of further extensive clerical abuse and documented charges that offending Irish priests were aided by bishops in being transferred from parish to parish to avoid public disclosure. The Murphy report, in what was the most damning aspect of their investigation, morally indicted at least half a dozen Irish bishops who, the report says, directly facilitated offending priests' transfers time after time over a number of years.

Bishop **Donal Murray** of Limerick, after stonewalling calls for his resignation, finally turned in his mitre following a Vatican visit by the Archbishop of Dublin. The Murphy report called Murray's actions "inexcusable." At deadline at least four additional bishops from Dublin, Kildare, and Galway and possibly several more were being mentioned publicly as likely to resign under Vatican pressure.

One perspective on the dramatically different reactions of the Irish bishops and their American counterparts might be the following quotes from Dublin Archbishop **Diarmuid Martin**, a leader in the effort to expose the abuse in Ireland, and retired New York Archbishop, **Cardinal Edward Egan**, answering questions about his stewardship in Bridgeport, Connecticut before coming to New York.

**Archbishop Martin:** "The sexual abuse of a child is and always was a crime in civil law; it is and always was a crime in canon law; it is and always was griev-

ously sinful. One of the most heartbreaking aspects of the report is that while church leaders -- bishops and church superiors -- failed, almost every parent who came to the diocese to report abuse clearly understood the awfulness of what was involved."

**Cardinal Edward Egan**, responding to a question about a priest in the diocese he supervised who was charged with child abuse by 12 parishioners: "I am not aware of those things. I am aware of the claims of those things, the allegations of those things. I am aware that there are a number of people who know one another, some are related to one another, have the same lawyers and so forth."

What was not done in Boston and in the US — authorities taking a hard look at the possibly criminal involvement of bishops and others in supervisory church roles — is taking place in Ireland now as I write this. That sends a clear message to all that predator priests and the bishops who supervise them are subject to equal justice. A healthy wind is gathering force in the Irish Catholic Church and not a moment too soon.

**Druid Theatre Company Travels The World** -- The celebrated Druid Theatre Company, winner of several Tony Awards for "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" on Broadway in 1996, and a majestic force in the Irish theatrical tradition, is in the midst of the longest theatre tour in modern Irish history. Druid, marking its 35th anniversary since its humble beginnings in a narrow alley in Galway city in 1975, has been on tour with the play, Enda Walsh's "The Walworth Farce" since September, performing in Britain, Canada, and the United States. Following the company's holiday break Druid will again be on the road, in Australia and New Zealand, ending in Sydney.

All in all, Druid, overseen by Tony winner and long time artistic director **Garry Hynes**, will conclude its seven-month world tour in April, followed by new productions at their home base in Galway.

**Church Weddings On The Decline** -- Less than 15 years ago, 94 percent of all Irish weddings were performed in church. The Central Statistics Office now estimates that within two years, in 2012, over 50 percent of Irish wedding ceremonies will be performed not in church but rather in hotels, country homes, resorts, castles, and the like.

New laws today allow weddings not only in churches and government registry offices but virtually anyplace the couple desires. But there is still a strong tradition of church weddings in rural areas, where as many as 90 percent of marriages still occur there. Dublin, the center of urbane Ireland, now records almost half of its weddings in a civil environment.

**Did You Know ...** that **Merrill Worcester**, a wreath-company owner in tiny Harrington, Maine, has taken it upon himself to place wreaths every December on 5,000 veterans' graves at Arlington National Cemetery? Worcester donates the wreaths honoring those buried at Arlington, pays to have them trucked to Virginia, and decorates the selected headstones with the help of volunteers. His personal project began in 1992 and he has expanded his effort to recognize those who served in the military with his "Wreaths Across America" program that now provides seasonal wreaths for veterans cemeteries in all fifty states. Worcester, whose wreath-laying program takes place each year on the second Saturday in December, plans to eventually place wreaths on all Arlington graves, which number at last count some 300,000.

**All Not Serene At Stormont** -- There is no blood on the floor (yet) but the chuckle Brothers regime of **Martin McGuinness** and **Reverend Ian Paisley** is history now that Paisley's deputy, **Peter Robinson**, has succeeded the Big Guy as First Minister. The slice of the iceberg showing is the devolution of police and justice in the North, which currently is being administered from London to nobody's great delight, but the disenchantment between the Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party goes far deeper. McGuinness, a former IRA commander wants immediate devolution, local control by Stormont of police and the Ministry of Justice; Robinson has chafed at replicating Ian Paisley's easy alliance with Irish republicans and has expressed reservations (and worse) about allowing Sinn Fein and former IRA operatives in government to oversee and/or administer policing and the Justice department in the North. I thought it was called power-sharing.

There has also been disagreement over funding from London for local policing and Justice operations and what both Robinson and the Alliance Party contend is a lack of an agreed plan on how to administer these two critical government offices. Another major roadblock to this final but pivotal piece of the Northern puzzle is who will be the new Minister of Justice? The only nominee before closing the nominee selection process was **Margaret Richie**, a SDLP minister in Stormont and a candidate also for SDLP leader. The most acceptable candidate would be the Alliance Party's **David Ford**, but he has said repeatedly that he is not a candidate.

Devolution will, in any event, not take place by McGuinness's Christmas deadline. Maybe the New Year will mean a dose of more light and less heat, and Alliance could still end up running the justice ministry if that's what it takes to keep the power-sharing government alive. Take a card!

One final note: McGuinness, the highest ranking former IRA leader in the Northern Irish government, was selected in the unionist Belfast Telegraph poll as the most popular minister in the North's government. He ran first at 27 percent, Peter Robinson polled a dismal 7 percent, and was also selected as the second

most disappointing figure in government.

## RANDOM JOTTINGS

Sinn Fein Party Leader **Gerry Adams** has agreed to host a TV presentation on Jesus's teachings but has been challenged to come clean first on his continuing claim that he was never an IRA member. ... Job One for our Ambassador to Ireland, **Dan Rooney**, is to get **President Obama** to visit his ancestral home in Co. Offaly to help with tourism there. Incidentally, County Kildare has now put in a counter claim that Obama's great, great grand uncle, **John Kearney**, was their man. ... Students at the National University in Maynooth have joined with 1,200 others including faculty to protest former **Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's** appointment there as a visiting professor. ... Due to be open to traffic by New Year's is the final stretch of the Galway-Dublin motorway that will cut the cross-country travel to just two hours. ... Fool me once: Some 10,000 of the faithful showed up at Knock Shrine in October to see an apparition of the **Virgin Mary**. No apparition, so when a second try came on a rainy December day there was scant and unruly crowd of 600. ... When finished, a new signature hall for the \$160-million Titanic tourist attraction is expected to attract 400,000 a year. ... Ireland has a penalty point program for residents who drive and use mobile phones but will likely have traffic tickets and penalties for Yank blow-ins. Got it — no cell phones on Irish roads. ... Business is good for **Bushmills** whiskey makers who will double production by 2012 and hire help to do it. ... Northern Secretary **Shaun Woodward** gave a backhander to unionist hardliners like the DUP when he renewed the Parade Commission just before Christmas. ... At long last the Aran Isles' three islands are now able to surf the internet with access to high speed wireless broadband and enhanced multimedia services on everything from personal e-mail, to renewing taxes. ... The Ulster-Scots Agency, set up following the Good Friday agreement, is being criticized by the British government for excessive spending and sloppy performance and faces radical reform if it is to survive. ... The next time you are flying in Europe be sure to get current on the Euro airlines' new compensation rules. It could pay you.

**MacBride Principles 25th Birthday** -- There were big doings in New York in early December as the MacBride Principles and its supporters were honored for a quarter century of good works in trying to eliminate religious discrimination in employment practices of US corporations with operations in Northern Ireland. Honored for his role in helping formulate the principles and convincing **Sean MacBride** to lend his name to them was **Father Sean McManus**, Irish National Caucus president. I recall meeting with the Rhode Island speaker of the House in his office in the mid-1980s to argue on behalf of the Principles and was joined by one of the founders of the Social Democratic Labour Party, who was speaking against them. It was well known at the time that many in Britain and the North, including **John Hume**, were outspoken foes of the Principles, feeling that the North's often fragile economy would be harmed if companies looking to operate in the North were discouraged by "onerous" discrimination laws. Here at home, the Republicans joined with the British in opposition.

Anybody looking for more information on the story of the Principles, the history and background, could do far worse than look into "The MacBride Principles; Irish America Fights Back" by former MP and shadow N.I. Secretary **Kevin McNamara**.

**Jet Set Shoplifters invade Ireland** -- Some \$600 million a year is stolen from retail stores every year in Ireland. Most of the losses are in the large retail outlets, many upscale, that are found in Irish cities like Dublin, Cork, and Galway. Retailers in the Irish capital expect to see some \$60 million in unpaid goods disappear from their shelves during the Christmas season. The most surprising aspect of the major league thievery is that professional shoplifters are taking advantage of low airline fares to jet into Ireland and go on non-paying shopping sprees that retailers complain can reach \$1,400 per day. Retailers also criticize the soft penalties doled out to repeat shoplifters. The public clearly loses as the store owner is forced to pass on the cost of "slippage" as it's called here, to honest customers by way of inflated prices.

**Paul Kirk Disappoints On Cape Wind Motion** -- I suppose it's not a shock and one should have expected it, but it was still disappointing to see **Paul Kirk**, the temporary tenant of the Kennedy Senate seat, come out looking for yet a further delay in the Cape Wind project to put wind turbines out into Nantucket Sound. Maybe it was a personal Kennedy family request, or maybe, like his friend and former boss, he simply believes that they belong elsewhere. All four of the Democratic primary candidates to the Kennedy seat, including winner **Martha Coakley**, support the plan.

The Cape Wind project is the most investigated wind farm in the world. Over the past eight years of scrutiny everyone from the Audubon Society to the Corps of Army Engineers to the environmentalists have signed off on it. The gauntlet has been fierce and unrelenting, but Cape Wind still is battling. Just recently National Grid, one of New England's largest energy suppliers, signed on to be a purchaser for electricity from Cape Wind when and if it goes online. That was a resounding and timely vote of confidence for the offshore project.

**RIP** -- I never really knew Joe Tierney. What I heard about him, I liked, and it's always comforting to see politicians who retain a good memory for where they came from. Back in the late 1980s and early 90s, I ran

# Family Memoir: The Corcorans of Dorchester

It was a time of depression and want and working (when work could be found) to scrape up every cent to help the family cope. It was also a time of hope, a sense that things could

get better if all Americans pulled in the same direction. Joseph E. Corcoran, with assistance from his siblings, has written a memoir of those long ago days when he was growing up

in Dorchester. Following are excerpts from a chapter from the book, which author Corcoran entitled "Wasn't That a Time! A Corcoran Family Memoir."

IN 1939, THREE YEARS after my father started working at St. Margaret's Hospital, we moved to a new house at 58 Cushing Avenue on the corner of Jerome and Cushing. It was just up the street from our old three-decker on Rowell Street. Rowell ran perpendicular to Cushing, which was the main artery of Jones Hill. It began at Upham's Corner, ran up the hill and down, connecting to Sawyer Avenue and heading toward Savin Hill.

The house had been bequeathed to the hospital and was now empty because the previous occupant, the driver/chauffeur, had retired. The hospital wanted to keep it for future expansion and needed a "house warmer." It was a large Victorian house in need of paint on the outside. Inside it was great – five bedrooms on the second floor, two on the third floor, beautiful wood finishes, big dining room, sewing room, double living rooms including a parlor on the first floor, as well as front and back staircases. It was exactly what our family needed and beyond our wildest dreams.

So we became part of the Victorian history of Jones Hill. While the three-deckers on Rowell Street were built in the 1920s to satisfy the market for the new working class families and immigrant populations, Jones Hill had been settled over a century earlier by Yankees who were leaving Boston's downtown neighborhoods for the more rural sections of Dorchester, then called the "Garden City." The Yankee families built large, gracious homes with servants' quarters on the western slope of Upham's Corner.

Upham's Corner had become a bustling commercial center with the advent of the railroad in 1835, followed by the trolley streetcars in 1856. In 1870, Dorchester was annexed to the City of Boston. These milestone events set the stage for the then-predominant Yankee Protestant population to be joined by "up-and-coming" Roman Catholics. It was this combination of Yankees and Catholics who founded St. Mary's Infant Asylum in 1872, and later, St. Margaret's Hospital.

By the time our triple-decker on Rowell Street was built, the Yankee families were moving to the nearby suburbs and many of the large Victorian houses on Jones Hill had been converted into multiple apartments.

However, there was still a contingent of Yankee families who remained and were good and friendly neighbors to us. So the immigrant Corcorans backed their way into the "tony" section of Jones Hill, but that never dawned on us. We were just happy for the extra space.

## SISTERLY REMINISCENCES

*Theresa:* "I remember Claire and myself going up with my mother, looking through the windows of 58 Cushing Avenue, thinking we might actually live there."

*Frannie:* "It was wonderful. At St. Peter's School I had a girlfriend, Margaret Donlan. I was telling her about our new house – that there was an upstairs and a downstairs and that I had a telephone and a piano. She didn't have a phone – many families still didn't have phones then. One day, she called me from a pay phone with a dime, which would have been a big



A Corcoran family gathering shortly after Theresa announced that she was leaving for Nova Scotia and life as a Sister of Charity: Front row, from left: Theresa, Claire, Frannie, Joe, and Jack. Back, Mary, Leo, Dad John and Mom Mary.

expenditure, and I had to play the piano and she had to hear me run up the stairs. My family thought that was the funniest thing in the world."

After we moved, I personally had a period of adjustment.

*Theresa:* "When we did move, Joe must have been three. The Goss family moved into our first floor flat at 19 Rowell. We got to know them, because periodically Joe would come back home from Rowell Street with a little bike or something else. And I would say, 'Joe, that's not your bike. It belongs to Bobby Goss.' Joe would say, 'It was on my porch down there!' And we'd have to go back with the bike."

My brother Leo loved dogs, but my mother always said we couldn't have one because the house at 19 Rowell Street was too small. She promised Leo that if we ever got a bigger house, he could have a dog. When the rumor spread that we might move into the big house, Leo arranged a deal with a woman on Magnolia Street whose dog had just had a litter of puppies. She agreed to save one for him because he was moving into a single-family house at last.

The new four-legged addition to the family was named Rusty. He was a marvelous mongrel with ingredients of a cocker spaniel, Irish setter, and German shepherd – a handsome dog with a beautiful, rust-colored coat. Of course, immediately upon entering 58 Cushing, Rusty did a complete tour, racing through the house.

*Claire:* "The first night in the new house was a little scary to us anyway, and then this dog came leaping into the house, up on the beds. It was just a big puppy. We weren't used to having a dog. We didn't even know if we were going to be able to stay the night. We thought we



John Corcoran and Mary Merrigan at their wedding in 1921

were going to have to head back to the other house if the nuns saw the dog!"

Leo had a lot of fun with Rusty, who became an integral part of our household.

*Claire:* "Some of the nurses at St. Margaret's Hospital would come to work at 11 a.m., and of course in those days everyone used the subway or the train or the trolley. So if Leo saw a nurse coming up the Jerome Street hill who looked a little too pleased with herself, he would say to Rusty, 'Go ahead! Sic her! Sic her!' And the dog would go leaping over the sidewalk toward the poor nurse. Actually, Leo had Rusty well-trained so the dog would stop on a dime before he actually reached the nurse, but you can imagine if you were a young girl and this thing came running down the hill at you!"

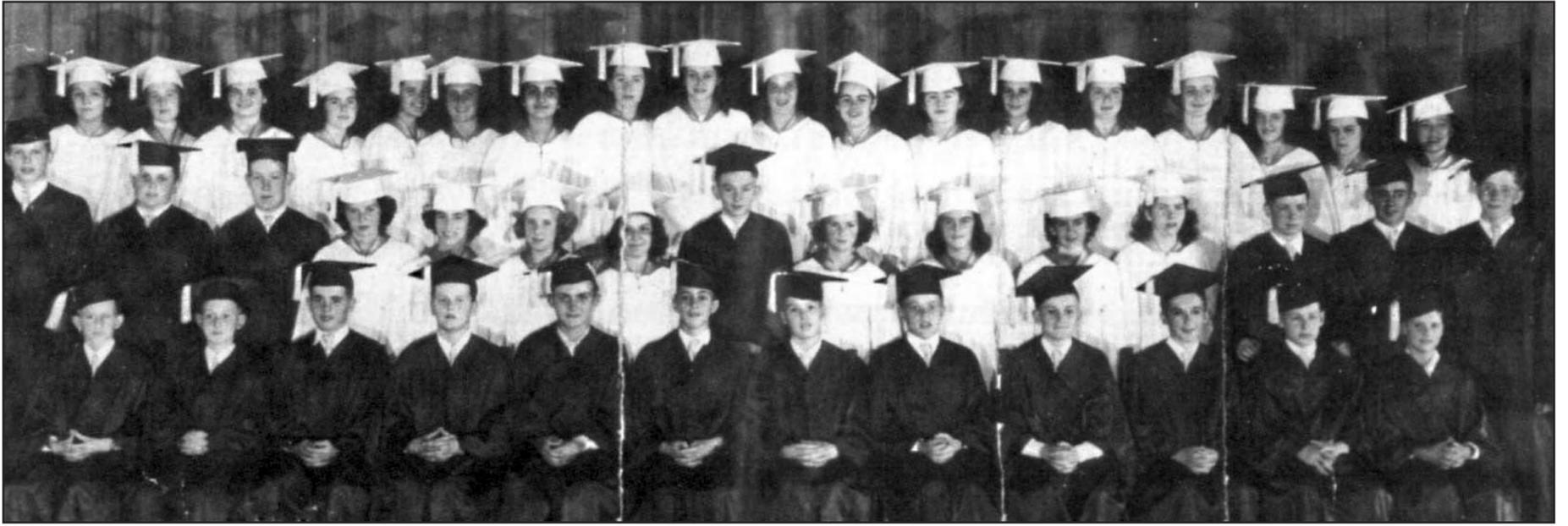
## MAKING FRIENDS

Although moving from Rowell was a big transition in many ways, in other ways it was seamless. Rowell Street was still the hub of our activity. We kept the same friends, though Mary, Bernie, Frannie, and I made some new friends from Cushing Avenue to add to our group. Mary's friends from Cushing Avenue were Mary Lovett, Joan Dorsey, and Virginia Oswald. Leo and Jack's friends were Jimmy, Mike, and Tommy Buckley and Jack Gaquin from Rowell Street. When Jack and Leo started hanging on the corner of Trull and Hancock, a whole new set of friends entered their circle, which numbered 40 kids. Jack and Leo would rattle off the entire 40 names in a minute. A good number of them lived in the three-deckers that lined Hancock Street; some of the others lived on the west side of Hancock in big single-family houses.

Among Theresa and Claire's friends were Mary McDonald, Mary O'Toole, and Mary Branigan. Bernie and Frannie became good friends with Mary and Margie Cotter, who lived on Jerome Street, a stone's throw away from our house. Bernadette's other friends were Peggy McNamee and Anne McDonald (Mary's sister). Along with the Cotter girls, Frannie's other friends included Marlene Partridge and Joan Keefe. Leo Gartland was our next door neighbor. He was an only child and lived in a big Victorian house as well, which he and his parents shared with the Heckmans – his aunt, uncle, and their two children. I spent a lot of time with Leo, as well as Jerry Del Bene, Donny Clifford, and Donny Cedrone. Bobby Goss – interloper at my former Rowell Street house – ultimately became another one of my friends, although he and I continued to have a few differences of opinion. One of those arose over the "birds and bees." One day when the five of us – Bobby, Jerry, Donny Clifford, Donny Cedrone, and I – were 11 or 12 years old, we were all sitting on Cedrone's front steps and the subject of how babies are made came up. Donny Clifford and Jerry Del Bene had heard that it required sexual intercourse between the father and mother, and they described it graphically.

I strongly disagreed and put the question to the group, "Can you imagine your father doing that to your mother?"

Bobby Goss told us he had proof: one night he wasn't feeling well and he went into his parents' room and saw them in the act. Case closed. The rest of our sex education followed a similar pattern. The subject



My graduating class, one of three eighth grade classes, from St. Peter's School. I am seated fourth from the right in the front row.

wasn't discussed by our parents or the nuns, and since our childhood predated television, there weren't many clues. We were on our own.

### MEALTIME, TALKINGTIME

Our family always had supper together. We ate breakfast and lunch in the kitchen because we wouldn't all be there at once, but we always ate dinner together in the dining room. Every Sunday we had a big dinner around two or three in the afternoon. We stayed at the table a good long time discussing what we were doing socially; talking politics, religion, and school; and telling humorous tales about the neighborhood.

*Claire:* "Bernadette still has that dining room table today.

We had so many memories of being around it we just couldn't throw it out. We might have spent a couple of hours at the dinner table. We really did discuss the affairs of state, whatever they were."

*Frances* remembers one conversation about religion: "My mother didn't have the benefit of a parochial school education, so she didn't have all the rules and regulations that we had. And someone was talking about hell, and she said, 'Oh, there's no hell, no hell...' And we said, 'It says it right in the Bible, Mum!'"

"Of course, we had never read the Bible, but she assumed we had - she gave us credit for all kinds of knowledge because we were 'educated.' So she stopped for a minute and then said, 'Well, all right, then, maybe there is a hell. But there's nobody in it.'"

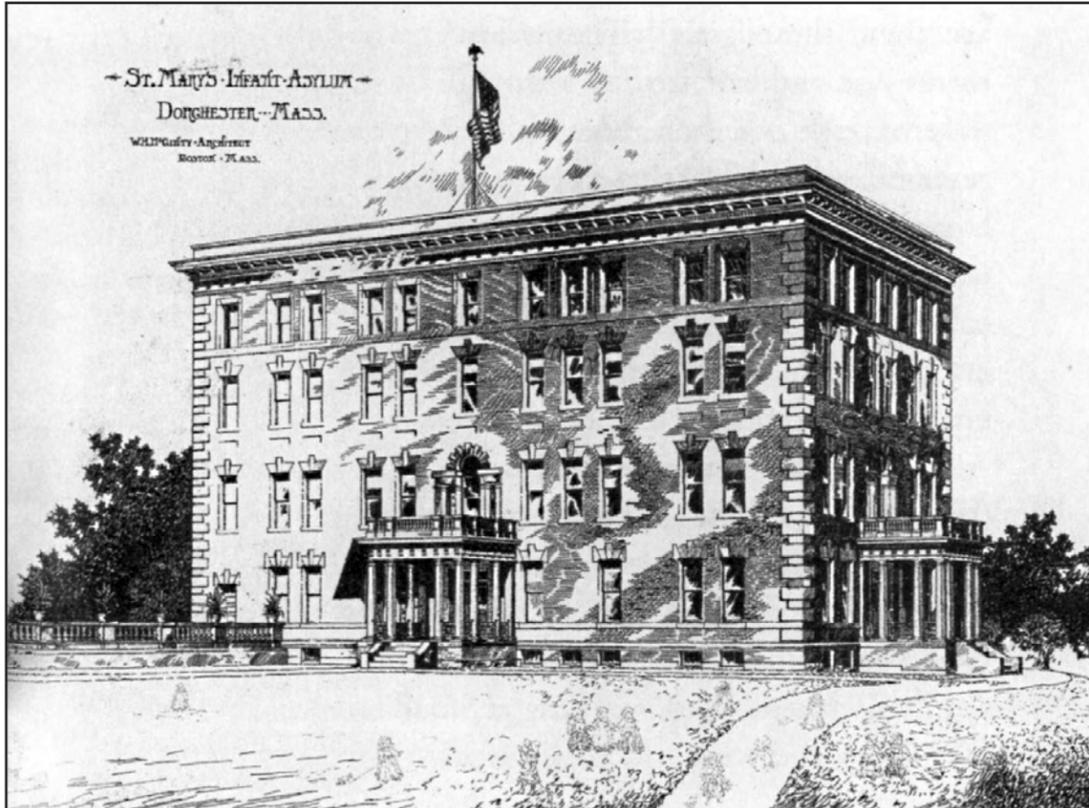
"I do not remember arguing at dinner - not that we didn't have our arguments, but never at mealtimes. I always remember that was a happy, fun time where everyone listened to everyone's stories of whatever, and somebody always had interesting things that had happened during the day. So mealtimes were always a nice time.

But my parents made us say the Rosary after meals, as a family. I remember not being terribly excited with the Rosary. That was a chore because we'd be giggling and hitting one another and trying to create a little trouble while we were praying. I would be thinking, 'Oh, maybe they'll forget tonight...'"

"But the older kids seemed to be okay with it. Jack actually used to get annoyed when the phone would ring for someone. He thought we should not answer the phone for the 10 or 15 minutes it took to say the Rosary, but of course we were waiting and hoping the phone was for us so we'd be able to skip that family ritual."

### WORK, ALWAYS WORK

Although my father now had a job, it never paid well, so family finances were still extremely tight. For a while Daddy went into downtown Boston to work as a security guard for an office



Little ghost children can be seen on the lawn in this rendering of St. Mary's Infant Asylum.

building at night, after he finished work at the hospital. Jack and Leo continued to work various jobs after school. As Theresa and Claire got old enough, they worked at Central Cleaners on Hancock Street after school and during the summer. The rest of us worked at St. Margaret's as soon as we turned 14. It was a given that each of us had an obligation to work and bring home money. Jack and Leo would turn newspaper and other money over to Ma during the Depression days, but in later years the money would stay in our hands to pay for our necessities - car fares, movies, or whatever.

I was an order boy for the First National stores, putting grocery orders in a big wheelbarrow/truck kind of thing and delivering the groceries for all the old ladies in the neighborhood. I'd put their orders in the truck and I'd pull the orders up Jerome Street to Jones Hill."

Leo tells me that, on his way back down Jerome Street on the return trip to the First National, he'd pick me up and throw me in that empty truck and run like hell down the hill. I'd be terrified, yelling, "Whoa! Stop! Stop!" and the more I'd holler, the faster he'd go.

Leo always enjoyed doing the unexpected. It was hilarious when someone else as the victim of his pranks, but it was not so funny when it was me.

### ST. MARY'S ASYLUM

*Claire:* "The boys served Mass at St. Margaret's Hospital, and some mornings we would go to Mass as well before work. At that time, the young unwed mothers from St. Mary's Infant Asylum would wear black smocks and attend Mass also. I just thought, 'Well, who are

they, these girls?' They didn't come out and talk to us, although they weren't exactly hidden either. I remember thinking that they were having a nice time because somebody taught them all how to knit and do other things that would have interested me if I'd had the time or somebody who would teach me.

"Many of the girls had gone through a lot to hide the fact that they were expecting. They had told their mothers but nobody else. Some of them kept their babies. Most of them didn't. Some ended up working at St. Margaret's and were our supervisors in the kitchen. Of course, we didn't know any of this when we were working there."

Later on, we learned some of the girls remained and worked at St. Margaret's for the rest of their lives. They'd send part of their paycheck to take care of their child and live on whatever income was remaining.

### ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

All our family and our gang of friends went to St. Peter's School for the elementary grades. The girls' classes were in Ronan Hall; the boys' classes were in a larger building on Bowdoin Street, as were the mixed classes with boys and girls. For some reason I can't remember, only Leo and I ended up in the mixed classes. There were 45 to 50 children in each class, with three separate classes for each grade - in total, more than 1,000 kids.

The nuns at St. Peter's were big figures in our lives. Although my memories are very positive about the nuns, not everyone feels the same way. There's one story Frances tells that happened when she was about seven years old.

*Frances:* "I was coasting on

my sled and I hit the iceman's truck. I had to go in the hospital. I had a big cut in my head that had to be stitched and they kept me in hospital for two nights. I must have had a concussion. I remember Jack coming in to visit me. I remember the iceman coming in to visit me too, and I felt bad for him. He was a very nice man, Mr. Simpson. "I also remember the school nuns - the two nuns - were both going to come and visit me. I hated my first grade teacher and I disliked my second grade teacher. I remember pleading with my mother. Couldn't she just tell them I had died? Then I would never have to go to school again. I had no idea that my mother wanted me to go to school; I thought these nuns were the ones."

The annual tuition was \$2 per student to go to St. Peter's School. If you had more than two kids, the older one paid full tuition, but the others only had to pay half. Some kids didn't go to St. Peter's because of the cost.

The Mather School was the alternative public school. Our neighborhood was mostly Catholic, so it was very unusual that you'd know a kid who went to the public school. But \$2 was a lot of money, so some parents would send their kids to the Mather. Parochial school kids considered Mather School kids as somewhat inferior.

I remember with great fondness Sister Bernadette Marie, Sister Joseph Bernadette, Sister Joseph Claire, Sister Helen Therese, and many others who were kind to all the students. There were a few I was not fond of, but being a good student and a conformist in those days, I have positive memories of St.

Peter's and all the dedicated nuns who gave us a terrific education.

I also have great memories of all the kids. At a reunion in the 1990s, one of the guys had copies of photos of our eighth grade class of 47 kids. I could name all but three, even though I hadn't seen half of them since graduation.

### THERESA AND CLAIRE WERE ALWAYS A TEAM.

*Claire:* "I think Theresa and I were perhaps the biggest help to my mother during those times as far as household chores. We always considered that the three oldest were too big to do anything and the three youngest were too little, so that we were happily in the middle. Mama really didn't ask for any help, you had to just give it yourself. If you saw the need, you filled in. Not that we were overworked, but that was just the way we looked at it."

Even though they were joined at the hip, Theresa and Claire were very different people. Theresa loved school and the academic challenge. Claire loved school because there were so many kids to meet and pal around with.

### SPORTS AND HOME

Ma and Dad were never keen on sports. As kids, Jack and Leo never had time for, or great interest in, sports. I was a huge Red Sox and Boston Braves fan, and I played sandlot baseball or football every chance I got. Dad didn't approve because I often would neglect odd jobs and my household chores, like taking out the barrels on ash barrel day. I did have a number of part time jobs: cutting Mr. Bradford's lawn, putting out barrels for neighbors, setting up pins at Nick's Bowling Alley on Columbia Road in Upham's Corner, and then washing dishes at St. Margaret's when I turned 14. But every free moment I had, I'd be playing ball at Howe Field or Rowell Street. I don't remember any member of my family ever watching me play ball, which didn't bother me in the least - in fact, I never gave it a thought.

### AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Growing up in Dorchester, in my mind, was as good as it gets. I clearly remember being in Park Street Station as a young teenager waiting for a train to Andrew Station. I was watching these other kids across the track boarding a train going in an opposite direction to places like Arlington or Cambridge, and sincerely feeling sorry for them because they didn't live in Dorchester. In my opinion, there just wasn't a better place.

*Excerpted from "Wasn't That a Time! A Corcoran Family Memoir." Copyright 2008 © by Joseph E. Corcoran.*

## NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER



As we look back on 2009, the Irish Immigration Center wishes the Boston Irish Reporter and all its readers a Happy New Year!

**Irish Immigration Center looks back on its 20th year** -- As the new year begins, we take this time to look back at our services, programs, and events. The Irish Immigration Center offers a diverse range of programs for new immigrants, Irish youth, and established members of the commu-

nity. We look forward to continuing to serve the immigrant community in 2010.

**The Community Counseling Services unit** provides counseling, support, referrals, and case management along with outreach, education, and consulting services to Irish immigrants; both new and well established Irish community members. We counsel those who are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety,

depression, healthcare access, and homelessness. We also partner with Cathedral Cares Ministries & CARE to hold free health clinics, including flu shots and offer our Certified Home Health Aid courses to people seeking to work as caregivers. We serve more than 350 clients each year.

Our Community Counseling Services help people like Cindy, who has had 20 years of experience in the elder care profession, but has never received her certification. Though she also worked in the financial industry, she realized her true passion was in patient care. She took the CARE & IIC's Home Health Aid course, gaining the confidence and certification she needed to continue her work in patient care.

**Immigration & Citizenship Services: Path to Citizenship** offers immigrants of all nations professional legal support, including consultations, case assistance, and full representation. Each year, we consult with nearly a thousand immigrants from more than 100 countries, and successfully guide those seeking our services through the process of gaining legal status, reuniting their families, and completing their journey to U.S. Citizenship. In 2009, Immigration and Citizenship Services helped clients who lived undocumented in the US for years gain legal status and the ability to travel home again; men and women bring their fiancés from abroad to marry; couples stay together in their

adopted country; parents reunite with children; and green card holders of many years vote in the US for the first time as US citizens.

**Our International Programs Department** strives to broaden our focus internationally and strengthen the ties between those here and in Ireland. This year we managed two Wider Horizons programs. Twenty young adults from Newry and Dundalk participated in the Clanrye Program; sixteen young adults and four community leaders from Tyrone, Donegal and surrounding areas participated in the Tyrone Donegal Partnership Program. The goal of the program is that participants will not only improve their employment situation when they return home, but also foster mutual understanding about their diverse backgrounds. Says program participant Mickey McNally, "It was a great learning experience. I taught math to adults and helped kids with homework after school. The internship was four days a week. I loved it and I would recommend it to anyone. Part of what made my experience so great was that the supervisors were unbelievable. Can't thank them enough!"

**The J1 Summer Work and Travel program** helped the IIC assist close to 200 students. Our Cyber Café connected Irish folks like Shane Corcoran from Co. Cork and Elaine Kerns from Co. Kerry. Both used IIC resources to find work and housing. The program, for which IIC is a sponsoring organization, has been a great success, with close

to 100 students or recently graduated students from Ireland arriving in the US in 2009, and living in cities all over the country.

Irish Immigration Center Celebrates

"I'm surprised at how many people I know here," said Tom Lee, during the after-party of his first Irish Immigration Center Solas Awards Dinner. It was a sentiment shared by many of the 960 guests who reconnected with friends on a memorable night. Nearly 1000 local folk from Boston's Irish Community crammed the ballroom of the Westin Copley Hotel to celebrate twenty years of IIC and to enjoy a dinner fit for a president.

**The president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, was the 2009 Solas award recipient and honored guest.** Living up to her to billing as an eloquent and moving orator, she delivered a keynote address that was alternately funny, emotional, personal, and powerful. Taking the theme of "Two Shortens the Road," an old Irish saying meaning that a journey is a lot shorter when it's shared, and the notion of "moving along a bit and making room for someone else," she spoke as though addressing everyone individually, and delivered a message that resonated with immigrant and native alike.

And in November, the IIC brought "Friends and Family" together again for its Fall Celebration. Party-goers danced to the uplifting tunes of the Irish band Erin's Melody and raffle and auction winners were thrilled with their prizes.

IIC is delighted to have moved our new offices in Boston, a space that much better suits our programs. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home at a reception on January 14.

Please save the date. We'll be opening our doors at 100 Franklin Street, Lower Level One from 5 to 7 p.m. to say thanks to all those who have contributed to the IIC's continued effort to support Boston's immigrant community. Enter the building from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street. Please RSVP to Janey at 617-542-7654, Ext 45, or at [jtallarida@iicenter.org](mailto:jtallarida@iicenter.org).

**Join us at a free health screening in the New Year!** If you have any questions call Danielle at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or by e-mail to [downen@iicenter.org](mailto:downen@iicenter.org). Any and all are welcome!

**Certified Home Health Aid Courses to begin in January** – The Irish Immigration Center, in partnership with CARE ("Cumann Airigh, Runchara Na hAireann" or the Association of Irish Caregivers and Confidants) will be offering a series of certified home health aide courses beginning this month. The six-week course will provide instruction by a experienced Irish nurses on how to care for patients within their own home. We are currently accepting names of people interested in these courses. We are aware that some folks called earlier this year to sign up for the Fall 2009 classes, but we have had difficulty contacting everyone on that list. If you signed up for the fall classes and have not heard from either Danielle or Nuriel, and you would like to join one of these courses in 2010, please call us as soon as possible. Spaces are filling up fast and we would hate to have missed anyone who wanted to join us. Contact Danielle Owen if you are interested at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14 or via e-mail to [downen@iicenter.org](mailto:downen@iicenter.org). Any and all are welcome!

## IMMIGRATION Q &amp; A

## The Vaccination for H1N1 Rumor

**Q.** I have heard that people coming to the United States from abroad will not be allowed to enter unless they can show proof that they have been vaccinated for the swine flu, and that this may even apply to US citizens and permanent residents coming back from foreign trips. Is this true?

**A.** No. It is a completely unfounded rumor. There is no such vaccination requirement for the swine flu (H1N1 virus), nor are there any plans to impose such a requirement in the future. Apparently this rumor was widespread, as US Customs and Border Protection recently issued a public announcement unequivocally denying it.

This is not to say that vaccination is not a good idea for some people. Anyone interested in learning more about the current situation with the different strains of flu present in the United States and elsewhere can go to [FLU.gov](http://FLU.gov), the website that the US Department of Health and Human Services has devoted to this issue.

For a free, confidential consultation on this or any other immigration issue, visit one of our clinics mentioned monthly in the Irish reporter.

**Disclaimer:** These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Areas of law are rapidly changing. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

Matters Of Substance  
Replenish Our Hope

The IIC's Community Counseling coordinator Danielle Owen provides counseling, support, referrals, and case management along with outreach, education, and consulting services to Irish immigrants; both new and well established Irish community members. We can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, healthcare access, and homelessness.

**By DANIELLE OWEN**

Last month, someone made a comment to me about the title of my recent column, "Doubting our Pot of Gold." He said when he first began to read it he thought it was about the economic problems folks are dealing with right now. It got us talking and got me thinking. When we moved to the US we came to make our lives better, move forward with a career, make some decent money for our future home, or child's college fund. Whatever brought us, these days we are wondering where this "Pot

of Gold" has gone.

I meet and chat with people almost daily who have or are about to lose their jobs, or those have finally found work after having been unemployed for many, many months. Their experiences are very similar. Fear, anger, desperation, and panic, are just some of the feelings people have mentioned. My friend reminded me: "At least there was a time when if things didn't work out here, we could still go home and try our luck there! Not so anymore. There are even fewer jobs at home!" It's hard to stay hopeful. Many wonder how they will keep getting themselves up for the job hunt day in and day out, waiting for calls, going for interviews, and praying each day that it will be the day they find work. How do you choose between paying bills and buying groceries? How do you deal with having to ask family and friends for help when it's the last thing you ever imagined you would have to do?

The anger we carry

sometimes makes us snap at those we love, build resentment toward strangers or organizations that seem to be doing well when we aren't. Sometimes that anger can become a question of who's to blame: the electric company agent on the phone, your bank manager, your old boss, or your friend who can't hire you. You may look in the mirror and just not recognize who you've become.

If you're reading this and recognize similar feelings, please don't give yourself a hard time. It's all very normal. People call me because they don't know what else to do. I can't offer "ready-made" solutions but people do find that talking about these painful feelings can help. Talking allows these thoughts and feelings to be heard and accepted for what they are by another person who will just listen and won't judge. It's like unpacking them once a week gives you temporary relief so that you can find the energy to replenish your heart with hope for the next day of job hunt-



Danielle Owen

ing, phone calls and tough decisions.

Whether you choose your partner, a close friend or a professional counseling service, give yourself the chance to realize that you can find the energy and hope you need to keep moving forward and find that life you were looking for when you moved here. Allow us to support you.

Call Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the Irish Immigration Center. Phone: 617-542-7654, Ext: 14 or send an e-mail to [downen@iicenter.org](mailto:downen@iicenter.org) or call The Samaritans at 1-877-870-HOPE (4673).

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<p><b>DORCHESTER</b> Saint Mark's Parish (School Hall) 1725 Dorchester Ave. Dorchester, MA 02124 6:00 pm September 29th November 24th</p>	

VISIT [WWW.IICENTER.ORG](http://WWW.IICENTER.ORG) OR CALL 617-542-7654 TO CONFIRM SCHEDULE

# Wider Horizons Offers New Career Path for Irish Youth

By **KATIE FORBERG**  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

When Maureen Gates received a phone call asking if she would like an intern from Ireland, she didn't waste a moment to jump at the opportunity. Gates works on the EagleEyes project at the Boston College Campus School and for the past decade she has helped develop technology for educational and communication purposes for students with severe physical disabilities. After visiting Cork City to implement the technology in a school there, Gates thought it would be beneficial to try to strengthen that relationship.

Into the picture came Catriona, of Donegal. "I was thrilled to work with Catriona as I've been working with people in Ireland to get this technology in schools, but the biggest downfall is that I need people to help train teachers and health care professions to get it started. I'm very confident in Catriona and if she wants to, she can help spread this resource across the country."

The Irish Immigration Center's Wider Horizons program brings unemployed young adults of Unionist and Nationalist traditions from both the South and the North to obtain work experience in the Boston area. The hope is that participants will not only improve

their employment situation when they return home, but also foster mutual understanding about their diverse backgrounds.

Before she started the program, Catriona McEleney said she never expected to be looking for a career in health care. Back home in Donegal she worked in construction, but soon found herself unemployed. Through the Wider Horizons program, she spent the bulk of her time in Boston assisting children with very limited speech and physical abilities to communicate things like what they want for lunch or which computer game they would like to play. And all this is done through a computer. The technology is called CameraMouse and it allows the children to have full access to a computer by just moving their heads or eyes.

"I thought this system was incredible. I see these children's lives changed every day. I think that when I go home I will go to Health Systems and hospitals to promote the system for Maureen," McEleney said.

During the last week of McEleney's internship, her mentor, James McClean, visited Boston and the Boston College Campus School to check her progress in the Wider Horizons program. He is the Vice Chair for the People with Disabilities program in

Ireland and works in health services in Donegal. He is also a mentor to three other Wider Horizons participants and tries to open doors for each of their employments.

"I've been discussing ways to promote the program and have Catriona train people who will be using them. We're looking at non-profits and health care facilities that can use it."

McClean said that they are being realistic in the search and are keeping in mind the economic climate in Ireland. However, in his own work he can see many applications for the program and hopes that more schools can get the technology. While anyone can learn how to use the computer programs, McEleney has been trained to assess the information to maximize the potential of each individual user.

While the Camera Mouse and EagleEyes technology is getting off the ground in many countries throughout the world, Gates sees great potential for the systems in Ireland. While she works with children born with disabilities, the technology has been used to help patients who have been paralyzed by accidents or sicknesses regain the ability to communicate.

"To have it impact your life, it needs to be a way of life. Catriona can help make it a way of life for people in Ireland.

These programs can help disabled children parallel an able-bodied kid in

the classroom. It can give a child dignity by being able to communicate to

his family and peers. Everyone deserves that," said Gates.

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 Christmas Blessings by Mary McSweeney

# BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

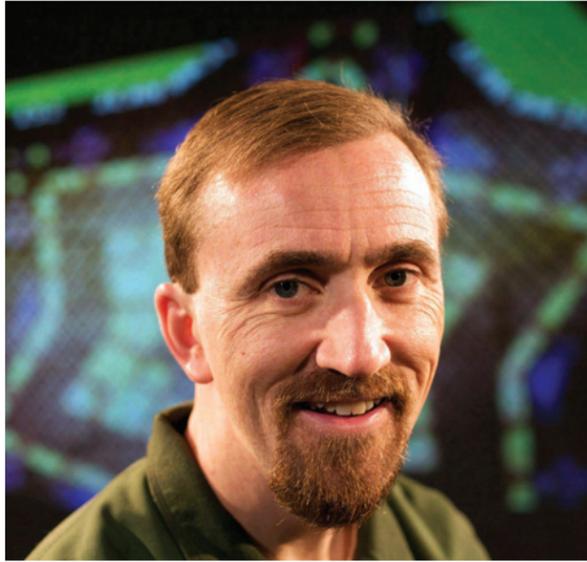
BOSTON IRISH ARTS,  
ENTERTAINMENT,  
TRAVEL & MORE

## Seaghan McKay -- Projecting His Art, and Then Some

By R. J. DONOVAN  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Seaghan McKay is a man of many talents. Born and raised on the Cape, he attended both Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Boston College. For the past decade he has been on staff at Brandeis University, where he designs multimedia content for the performing arts, teaches computer drafting to graduate design students, and serves as Lighting Supervisor in the university's acclaimed theater department. He owns his own company, Seaghan McKay Design, and has lent his talents to the New England Spring Flower Show, the American Repertory Theatre, and Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, among others. In addition to being an accomplished photographer, he's a competitive runner, a longtime member of the Somerville Road Runners, and has competed twice in the Boston Marathon.

At the moment, he's designing projections for SpeakEasy Stage Company's production of the Broadway musical, "[title of show]," opening January 15 at the Calderwood Pavilion. We spoke recently during a break in his work day. What follows is an edited version of our conversation.  
**BIR:** We've all heard of Lighting Designers in the theater, but the job of Projection Designer seems to be more cutting edge. How did you get started?  
**SM:** I sort of fell into it . . . People started wanting to put a little bit of video element (into their productions). Like a TV. They'd want this, or that. Or a projector. (When) we hired a New York designer (for a production at Brandeis) four or five years ago, I really saw what it could be . . . I found that my photography, video experience, and all those things that had been outside of my theatre work -- computer graphics and all that -- things I'd dabbled in -- I could bring them into my theatre work. I guess that's how it coalesced.  
**BIR:** Where it's an evolving art, is there a course



Seaghan McKay: Unstoppable man

of study for Projection Design as a profession?  
**SM:** The thing is, there's no place you can go to train specifically for theatrical projection design. The Yale School of Drama only just announced an actual focus, so they're the first ones who'll be doing any sort of graduate training. Everybody else is doing it relatively informally. (I've gone) to these little seminars here or there . . . There were a lot of theatre people there, but there were also people from A.V. companies and people from digital signage and what not. I go to ones locally and I'm in the room with a lot of graphic artists and people who do work for the web and advertising. People don't realize how much work can go into it. Some people just put up a power-point presentation, and if that works for your show, that's great. I try to be a little more

creative . . . I can bring more to it to enhance the show.  
**BIR:** Videos have been a part of rock concerts for a while. When did the transition come in legitimate theater?  
**SM:** Folks like (Broadway's) Wendell Harrington have been doing it for 15 years or so, but they're the real pioneers. Now you're starting to see it trickle down to the regional and local theater level. And educational theater. It's really the next big thing, and the theater community is starting to grasp the [concept]. The union -- United Scenic Artists, which is the union that most professional designers belong to -- they have an organizing campaign right now specifically for Projection Designers. A year or so ago, 'Sunday In The Park with George' was the first time you saw a Projection Designer co-nominated with a Scenic Designer [for] Best Scenic Design for the Tony Awards. It's very interesting.  
**BIR:** You first worked with SpeakEasy last season on the much talked-about "Jerry Springer: The Opera." Now you're back to do "[title of show]," which is described as a love letter to musical theater, about two struggling writers writing a new musical.  
**SM:** SpeakEasy is a breath of fresh air to work with. . . [Artistic Director Paul Daigneault] gives me lots and lots of freedom. He contacted me in August, it was quite early on, and he said, 'I want to do this show and I want projections to be a strong scenic element of it.'  
**BIR:** What's your vision for the design?  
**SM:** We're coming up with an alternative surface, like a rear brick wall that's whitewashed. The type of a thing you see in so many old buildings where they just paint everything white including the radiators and all the conduits and all that -- years of paint build-up. That will be a surface for lighting because it will have texture, and a surface for projections (with) different areas that projections can be mapped to. It'll be a painting in and of itself.  
**BIR:** I have to ask about your first name. I know that you and your siblings were all born  
(Continued on page 15)

**Tedy Bruschi,  
SBLI Spokesman**

# Tackle Uncertainty

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# Newton-Kenya Exchange: Enriching Sounds of Music

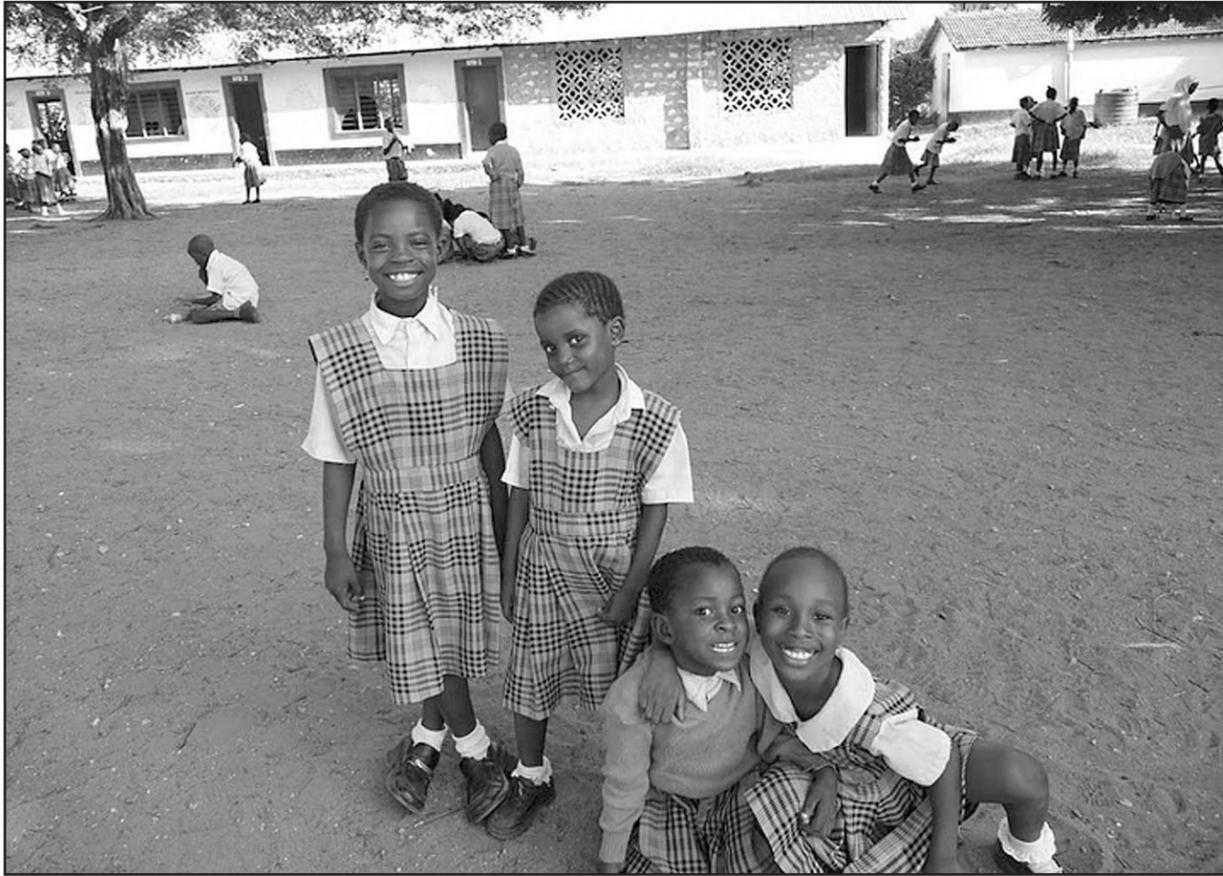
By SEAN SMITH  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It seems so natural, such an everyday event, says Lindsay O'Donovan, for an adult to share music with a child, to sing and dance together – as O'Donovan has, whether with her own four children or the kids of relatives and friends.

But there are far too many children in the world who seldom, if ever, know the pleasure of sharing music, and O'Donovan hopes to change that, even if it's just in a little corner of Africa.

This April, O'Donovan will bring her musical mission to One Home Many Hopes (OHMH), a home for orphaned and abandoned girls in Mtwapa, Kenya. The organization provides not only shelter and care for the girls, but also gives them an education and – perhaps most importantly – the support and motivation to be agents of change in their community and help end the cycle of poverty and desperation. [The organization's website is at [ohmh.org](http://ohmh.org)]

In addition to spending a month at OHMH, O'Donovan and her family will host a concert in their Newton home on Feb. 6 to raise funds that will go toward the construction of a new, improved house for the girls. The performers



Children at the One Home Many Hopes program in Kenya.

– all Boston area residents – will be *Long Time Courting*, an all-female quartet that combines impeccably harmonized songs with stirring traditional Irish tunes, and Hanneke Cassel, who plays traditional, contemporary and original Scottish fiddle music.

For O'Donovan, her involvement with OHMH, and the willingness of local musicians to support the

cause, exemplifies music's power and place in the community: a means to unite, form a connection, and serve as a force for good. Music is not something just to be listened to; it makes things happen.

"Some who go to help out at One Home have special skills, like carpenters, electricians, or teachers," says O'Donovan. "I am not any of those. But what I can do

is to give the children my time, my attention, and share the music I know and learn music from them. And I can tell them about this concert, and that these Boston women are there for these Kenyan girls.

"It seems like a small thing, and perhaps in the great scheme, it is," says O'Donovan. "But if one kid thinks someone loves them enough to sing and dance with them, talk with them, listen to them, they can carry that with them – and maybe it will help empower that child to help others. And if you do the same with other children in need, who knows what can happen?"

That is precisely the message One Home Many Hopes is built on, says OHMH founder Thomas Keown, a native of County Down now living in the Boston area. In a world full of desperation and want, reaching out to a few dozen girls in Africa may seem like the smallest of steps up the tallest and steepest of mountains. But to do is an affirmation, he explains, and a way to personalize the act of giving.

"When we watch the news and hear about people who are living in need, it's easy for us to feel numb – it's all too big, too far away for us to imagine," says Keown, who founded the organization after a 2007 trip to Kenya during which he met the journalist Anthony Mulongo, who started the orphanage with his own time and resources.

"When you see the situation first-hand, as I did, the feeling is very different. I look at it this way: If my friends in Boston saw a child who was starving, or who was being taken away by someone to be abused or exploited, they'd want to help. Being an orphan is tough enough, but in Kenya orphans tend to be stigmatized and marginalized from society.

"So how can the help we offer do any good? In the long term, these kids will be the lawyers, doc-

tors and teachers in their country; they will be the ones who can build their nation and improve lives. In the short term, we can help them have a normal childhood: a home, food, school, and people to care about them, so that they can grow up believing they can make a difference – as others made a difference for them.

"We're very happy that Lindsay will be coming to One Home Many Hopes, sharing the gift of music and using it to help build community. After all, how many generations of Irish have sat around and enjoyed music together? Music is such a foundation for so many of us, we often take it for granted. To the girls, music is very powerful, very important, and they love having the opportunity to enjoy it with someone."

Music has been a significant part of O'Donovan's life, too, not only inside but outside home: A pianist and vocalist, she has taken part in many performances, notably with "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" – the creation of her husband Brian, host of WGBH's "A Celtic Sojourn" – and has supported, formally and informally, countless musical endeavors.

O'Donovan will bring along brand new recorders – contributed through the All Newton Music School – which she plans to teach the children to play. In addition, she is arranging for a keyboard donated by her four children to be shipped to the home, providing another musical resource for the girls.

But O'Donovan reiterates that this will be a mutual learning experience: She expects to get an education herself. "I am taking manuscript paper along so I can write down their music and bring it home to learn," she says. "Who knows – maybe I can teach it to some of our musician friends and we can record the songs to send back to them."

"I just think one of the best things you can do is

to give children the gift of learning to express themselves through music. If you have music in your life, you can use it to make yourself happy, and to make others happy. No matter what else happens, no one can take that away from you."

## House Concert Feb. 6

The benefit concert for One Home Many Hopes will be held at the home of Lindsay and Brian O'Donovan in Newton on Sat., Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45, and include a lasagna dinner with wine preceding the concert at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited. For reservations and information, e-mail Lindsay O'Donovan at [lindsay@ardfield.com](mailto:lindsay@ardfield.com).

*Long Time Courting's* four members are all accomplished musicians and singers who have cultivated success and acclaim well beyond Boston. Shannon Heaton (flute, whistle, accordion) is one-half of a popular duo with her guitar-playing husband Matt. Liz Simmons (guitar) is a member of the "alt-trad" quintet Annalivia, which has gained a following with its imaginative mix of Appalachian, Irish and Cape Breton music; Ellery Klein (fiddle) is perhaps best-known for her stint with the folk-rock band Gaelic Storm; Ariel Friedman (cello) has performed with Hanneke Cassel, Lissa Schneckenburger and Childsplay (as has Heaton), among others, as well as her sister Mia. [See [longtimecourting.com](http://longtimecourting.com)]

Hanneke Cassel, a former US National Scottish Fiddling Champion, is widely viewed as one of the best performers, composers, and innovators in the Scottish fiddle style. She has given concerts and taught across North America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and China, and in addition to her own band has appeared with Childsplay, Cherish the Ladies, Alasdair Fraser and The Wayfaring Strangers, as well as Joey McIntyre (New Kids on the Block). She has played on numerous albums and released several of her own, including her newest, "For Reasons Unseen."

Cassel will be spending a week with O'Donovan at One Home Many Hopes. "I've played at orphanages in China, and meeting the children and hearing their stories really changed my perspective – my whole life," she says. "Nobody can solve the world's problems on their own. But when you make that connection to a child who needs to know somebody cares about him or her, you are changing that child's life."

If you cannot attend the house concert but would like to contribute to One Home Many Hopes, you may make an online donation at [ohmh.org](http://ohmh.org), or send a check to: Lindsay O'Donovan; 58 Adella Ave., Newton, MA 02465.



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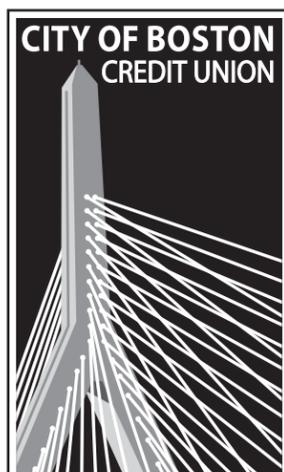
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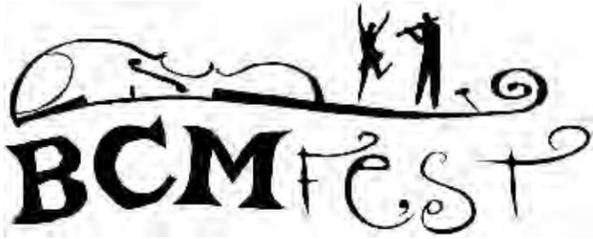
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A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run, winter music festival and other events during the year.

— Sean Smith

**IT'S TIME** -- The 7th annual BCM Fest is all set to go, with a weekend full of music and dance showcasing some of Boston's best performers in the Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, and other Celtic-related traditions. The festival, which runs January 8 and 9, will take place in Harvard Square with events at Club Passim and nearby First Church, and at Springstep in Medford.

This year's festival has a back-to-basics theme, with a special emphasis on musicians, singers, and dancers who keep the "core traditions" alive. BCM Fest's grand finale concert on Jan. 9 (8 p.m. in First Church) will feature tributes to some of Celtic music's most beloved and influential figures — all with ties to Boston or New England — including Liam Clancy, Tommy Makem, Jerry Holland, Seamus Connolly, Tony Cuffe, Marianne Taylor, and John Campbell.

Among the performers appearing this year are the Makem and Spain Brothers; Kimberley Fraser; The Gobshites; Liam Hart; Tina Lech and Ted Davis; Tri; Flynn Cohen and John McGann; David O'Docherty; Sean and John Connor; Colm O'Brien; Kate Chadbourne; Michael O'Leary; Calum Pasqua and Susie Petrov; the band Bento Boxy with lead singer Bridget Fitzgerald; Regina Delaney and the New England Harp Orchestra; Highland Dance Boston; Barbara and Robert McOwen; Tullochgorum; Laura Cortese and the Boston Urban Ceilidh Band; the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club; Trio 7 (Sarah Blair, Flynn Cohen and Mark Roberts); Anne Hooper; the trio of Laurel Martin, Kieran Jordan and David Surette; Travel (with Laura Cortese, Nic Gareiss and Anna Lindblad); Gordon Aucoin and Lloyd Carr; Cedar Stanistreet and Max Newman; Feargal Ó Béarra; Wells Burrell; Jane Gilmartin; and Framingband.

As always, BCM Fest offers special events: a performance by a one-of-its-kind ensemble that will evoke Boston's classic Dudley Street Dance Hall Era of the

## The 7th BCM Fest Is Upon Us With a Back-to-Basics Theme



The Gobshites (from their Facebook page)

1930s to 1950s; a salute to groups and individuals who promote, teach, and encourage music traditions in the community; "The Fiddler's Wish," a family-oriented story told with songs and music; a "Music Make-over" session in which a panel of experts will give performers advice on improving their sound; and "BCM Fest Yellow Submarine," with Beatles' songs done in a "Celtic" style.

For those who like to do more than watch and listen, BCM Fest has several opportunities for participation: the Boston Urban Ceilidh, an evening of Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton social dances set to a rocking, high-energy beat; a Scottish music session led by Barbara and Robert McOwen; a singing session; and an open Irish music session.

Information about tickets, schedules and performers is available at [bcmfest.com](http://bcmfest.com).

## Seaghan McKay -- Projecting His Art, and Then Some

(Continued from page 15)

here, but you all have distinctly Irish names. **SM:** My mother named me and my four sisters, Sean, Mairead, Caitlin, Eilis, and Breda . . . You get to kindergarten and the first person calls you 'Sean, Sean, The Leprechaun' . . . People had heard of Sean, but they spelled it like 'Shaun Cassidy' back then. But my sisters, my God. People spent years trying to figure out how to pronounce my sisters' names.

When I was 17 I found the book my mother had used, *Irish Baby Names*, on the shelf. In it I found the alternate spelling -- Seaghan . . . I took that spelling on . . . When you're 17 or 18 years old, you feel like you need to be an individual . . . When I went to college, that's how I spelled my name. Anybody that I met from then on, that's how they spelled my name. I think my mother was the last one to cross over. **BIR:** It stands out in a Playbill. Clearly, it's not a name

anyone's going to skip over. Or spell easily, I suspect. **SM:** When I spell my name for people, I say 'S - E - A. Stop. G.' and they look at me funny like, 'What?' (Laughs) Now most people, I let them get away without the little fada over the first 'E.'

"[title of show]," January 15 - February 13, *Speak-Easy Stage Company, Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.* 617-933-8600.

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## BIR Music CD ROUNDUP

BY SEAN SMITH

**Kathleen Collins, "My Book of Songs"** -- Richard Nixon was president, Elvis was still alive (and still is, of course, if the supermarket tabloids are right), and the Red Sox were only 55 years removed from their last championship when Kathleen Collins made her recording debut on Shanachie in 1973. Her "Traditional Music of Ireland" became a milestone in Irish music, both for its repertoire and for Collins's unique fiddling, a blend of the ornate, lively Sligo style with the more laid-back



East Galway influence -- characteristics which helped her become the first American woman to win a senior All-Ireland championship and the prestigious Fiddler of Dooney competition as well.

More than a quarter-century later, much of which she devoted to Irish dancing, Collins has made a welcome return to recording, with 14 tracks worth of tunes from a variety of sources and origins: from the likes of Paddy Killoran and Paddy Sweeney, to Seamus Connolly, to Eleanor and Jimmy Neary, to her own family roots -- notably fiddle-playing brother Dan, who appears on several occasions (as does her nephew, Will, who plays whistle) during the CD.

Collins's fine touch is evident from the get-go, starting off with the song air "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls" (sung for "The Moon Behind the Hill" by her father), and followed by a trio of jigs, including the powerful "Jackie Roche's Favorite," popularized by the New York-born fiddler and dance band leader. The set of hornpipes, "Eleanor Neary's/The Harp and Shamrock," is another thing of beauty, Collins taking her ease with the melodies and plumbing them for their full rhythmic capabilities.

Collins also shows herself to be versatile -- including

a Scots march combined with two Cape Breton strathspeys -- and open to alternative or innovative ways of playing, such as when she and Dan retune their fiddles to AEA for "St. Patrick's Day," giving a resonate feel to this popular set dance.

Collins is ably supported by multi-instrumentalist Gabriel Donohue, who serves as producer in addition to providing rhythm via guitar, bouzouki, keyboards, various percussion and other electronic effects. Personally, I could do without some of the so-called "virtual" pipes and cello on a few of the tracks -- really makes it sound rather cheesy -- but for the most part he does very well in putting Collins front and center. Let's hope her third album isn't quite so long in coming.

**Orla Fallon, "Distant Shore"** -- Orla Fallon, a Wicklow-born singer/harpist who has recorded with Clannad and Anuna, is probably best known for being part of the uber-popular stage show and perennial PBS re-run "Celtic Woman" -- which may or may not be an asset to her credentials, depending on your tastes. So, not surprisingly, "Distant Shore," her second solo album, is in much the same territory: that ethereal region of romantic, soft pop-rock and sort-of Irish, with the occasional fiddle, tin whistle or harp to add a modicum of "traditional" sound.

Still, there's no denying Fallon can sing, and producers Eoghan O'Neill (formerly of "Moving Hearts" and one-time musical director of "Riverdance") and Dan Shea -- he has worked for Mariah Carey, Carlos Santana, and Celine Dion, among others -- at least don't throw an orchestra or string section on every track of the album. The title track is actually quite a lovely bit of winsome fluff, driven mainly by guitar and bouzouki. "Dancing in the Moonlight" bears absolutely no resemblance to the classic rock hit of yore, but is similarly easy on the ears.

For the aforementioned Irish authenticity, Fallon does a genial, sprightly version of "Bean An Ti (Woman of the House)," and displays her harp talents on a medley of "Eleanor Plunkett/Trip to Shanbally and Michael O'Dwyer," with a tasteful, restrained accompaniment of guitar, fiddle, and bodhran. Her rendition of Stephen Foster's "Hard Times" is muted but respectful, with a string quartet backing to give it a 19th-century parlor flavor.

But then there's the full-blown, unmitigated schmaltz of "Always There" and "My Waking World," and you start fumbling for the "eject" button. That's when it's apparent that "Distant Shore" is a truly lighter-than-air affair, in need of some more solid ground.

## We Considered It Very Cold



Christmas Day 2009, Letterkenny, County Donegal.  
Photo by Tom Ferrie

BY LIAM FERRIE  
THE IRISH EMIGRANT

**GALWAY** -- While parts of Europe experienced temperatures as low as -33C, here in Ireland around Christmas it fell to -11C which is colder than we experience most years. With the cold came icy roads, freezing fog, and snowfalls which gave some parts of the country a white Christmas.

While the ten-day cold snap came to an end on Christmas Day it caused considerable problems for motorists and bus operators for a number of days. The real cold weather arrived the previous weekend and it was on Sunday the 20th that northern parts experienced their first serious snow fall of the winter.

Derry and the two Belfast Airports were the only ones to close for a period as a result of the snow but other airports experienced delays due to weather problems in the U.S., Britain and Europe. Bus Éireann reported almost daily on cancelled services due to icy roads, with routes in Cork and Kerry seeming to be worst affected.

Here in Galway city we escaped the snow but the heavy frosts failed to clear during the days so it looked very much like a white Christmas when we looked out on Christmas morning. Christmas Eve brought the lowest temperatures I recorded

-- 4.2C (24.5F) at midnight. Being close to the sea we don't experience the extremes of inland locations, one of which on the same night reported -11C.

Throughout the week the forecasters assured us that over the course of Christmas Day a thaw would set in, starting from the west. On schedule it rained while we were at 9:30 Mass on Christmas morning. Unfortunately as soon as the rain hit the ground it froze, creating treacherous driving conditions, and it took us an hour and ten minutes to retrace the journey which had taken five minutes a short time earlier. As the day progressed it did thaw and the roads again became driveable with some care.

Other parts of the country had a real white Christmas. Donegal was already white and experienced further snowfalls during the day. The same was true for other parts of the North.

Although the thaw set in temperatures continued colder than usual for the time of year and icy patches remained on stretches of roads that the sun failed to reach. We did not, however, have to scrape ice from the car on Saturday and Sunday. The frost is expected to return and New Year travelers were being warned of dangerous road conditions.

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## Sports Commentary

## Of Center Field, a Darkened Dog Track, and Golf's Tiger

By TOM MULVOY  
REPORTER STAFF

Baseball has long carried the day when it comes to locutions that insiders and true fans use as a second language — the hot corner, a can of corn, the cycle, suicide squeeze, ribbie, Ks, the nickel curve, and the slider, to name just a few. Then there's the Hot Stove League, which for me conjures up a long-ago scene in an up-country general store where fans gathered around the warm central stove to swap baseball stories and promote a trade or two for the off-season.

It's a quaint notion, of course, in this 21st century. Why sit around a store when you can call a sports talk show or just sit down at your computer and send your thoughts into the blogosphere? What once was a lot of private gabfests among friends anxious for the next season to begin has become a 24/7 verbal and oral fusillade with no limits on the creative and nonsense meters.

Over the past few weeks in Boston, where sports talk is non-stop, the state of the Red Sox, who are in the middle of a five-month layoff, was on many days the main focus of caller interest. The obsession that fans, and some of the radio hosts, have with any comparison of the relative merits of the Red Sox vs. the Yankees — the players, the payrolls, the front offices — is remarkable for its depth, its passion, and especially its presumption that fans and hosts have equal standing with team executives when it comes to evaluating talent and pay scales and trade realities. I think the notion of fans instructing team officials in the art of salary managing is relatively new; that was what general managers did quietly to little media notice until salaries and salary caps became public information. But telling management what players to play and where and what players to trade off is a notion as old as the game itself, and a good thing to boot.

As I type this, Red Sox fans who are Yankee haters can think of nothing else but the need to replace power hitter Jason Bay with another power hitter (unless Bay re-signs with Boston). All attention seems to be focused on 27-year-old first baseman

Adrian Gonzalez of the San Diego Padres of the National League, who bats left and throws left and who last season hit 40 home runs and knocked in 99 and who has, over the last six seasons, averaged 32 home runs and 98 RBIs with San Diego. The question is, of course, what will it cost the Sox to get him in a trade? Hot Stovers can quickly get up a head of steam on this one and one name being tossed about as one of several who might find themselves in San Diego in 2010 is Jacoby Ellsbury, the fleet-footed (70 stolen bases last season, a Red Sox record) and highly competent centerfielder who played 153 games and batted .301 this past year.



George Carney

Nick Cafardo and WEEI's Sean McAdam think it doubtful that Ellsbury will be traded, that he has earned his right to the position, with the Red Sox you never know.

I have been watching the Red Sox with interest since about 1950 when I was seven years old and looking back over that time I can think of just three centerfielders who for me brought a dash of something special to the position: Dom DiMaggio, Fred Lynn, and Ellsbury. While Red Sox reporters like the Globe's

Nick Cafardo and WEEI's Sean McAdam think it doubtful that Ellsbury will be traded, that he has earned his right to the position, with the Red Sox you never know.

## The Curtain Falls in Raynham

Late last Saturday night, eight greyhounds lurched out of the starting gate at the dog track in Raynham and into the lighted oval for one last chase of the faux rabbit Rusty. This was the last live race for the track, which has now shut down in conforming to the law banning greyhound racing that was passed by Bay State citizens in 2008. There still will be betting possibilities there this year, but they will be on races (dogs, horses, trotters) run in other states and televised back to Raynham.

The story of Raynham extends back almost 70 years to a time when boys like the 14-year-old George Carney could get a nice-paying job leading greyhounds out onto the track and lining them up for the next race. Now a sturdy octogenarian with lots of fire left in his belly, Carney is the longtime operator of the Brockton Fair who took over the track and related facilities in 1966. "Was Saturday night like an Irish wake?" he was asked as he looked around Saturday evening and saw his clubhouse facility swarming with friends and bettors as if it

were the 1980s, heyday years in the life of the track. And the crowds had been just as large earlier in the day for the afternoon card. "No," he said, "no wake. Things change, time to move on and deal with what's ahead." Which he hopes will be slot machines to go with his simulcast racing cards.

Lots of things — some cultural, some financial, some generational — combined over the last 15 years or so to shut off the lights and to silence the dogs in full chase at the Raynham oval. But George Carney's mind is still hard at work thinking about tomorrow and the next day and the day after that. It's how he operates, as friend and foe alike know oh so well.

## A Tiger Who Had Us All Fooled

There have been billions of words typed since the day after Thanksgiving when a noted professional golfer rammed his SUV into a hydrant and a tree outside his home in Florida. Few of them have contained any purchase of charity toward Tiger Woods. The jury wasn't out long; the verdict is guilty on two counts — tossing his wife and two children aside to lead the reckless life of a cross-country tomcat, and living a lie in front of family, friends (some surely were not unaware of the lustful side of their hero), and fans of his golfing ways and means.

The words and pictures over just a few news cycles diminished at the speed of light the standing in the world of the once-magisterial and stand-offish Tiger Woods the Man. He was now a cartoon character for the tabloids and OhMyGosh websites to make fun of. But the status of the still-magisterial Tiger Woods the Golfer remains in abeyance until he comes out of his penitential state and says or does something.

Those of us who treasure the game of golf for all its merits — among them its difficulty and its straightforward challenges (it's about you and the ball and the ground and the sand and the hole), its rules and its dependence on the trustworthiness of its players to follow them diligently and call penalties on themselves, the five-mile walk outdoors while having fun, the camaraderie that attends fun matches among friends — also treasured Tiger Woods the Golfer, who until six weeks ago had consistently performed extraordinary feats with a golf club in his hands from the time when he was just a few years old. He, like just a few others in the annals of sport, is a sublime artist who happens to be a competitor on the side.

I hold no respect for the tomcat in the man. He and his wife, if she is willing, have to deal with the shipwreck of his personal life. But I can't shake the suspicion that his gifts for playing on the greensward have been compromised to a great degree. Then again, maybe we'll soon be seeing Tiger Woods the New Man merging positively with Tiger Woods the Golfer.

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## Traveling People

## Herewith a Hardly Complete of My Ireland Favorites

(Continued from page 1)

home and you'd never know you were so close to a major European airport.

And, our favorite car rental company without a doubt is Dooley, which can be more expensive than some of the others but the cars are always top-notch and, if there is a problem, they're right there to help.

Once we get to Ireland, we enjoy the numerous attractions and events -- country fairs like Maam Cross in Connemara and the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in Co. Galway, The Donkey Sanctuary in Co. Cork, the many museums of all sorts in the cities and countryside (personal favorites include the Mu-



Black-faced lamb in Co. Mayo.

(Judy Enright photo)

seum of Country Life in Mayo and the Hunt Museum in Limerick), music and theatre, especially in Dublin, nightlife, sports of all kinds, magnificent gardens in season.

Really, what more could you ask from a vacation destination? Ireland has it all.

#### Of Liam Clancy

Most readers no doubt felt as sad as we did about the death of Liam Clancy. We always enjoyed the Clancy Brothers, especially Liam. He was perhaps the most gifted member of the group in many ways and, when he left for a solo career in 1973, his presence was missed. Interestingly, Liam is the subject of Alan Gilsean's recently-released feature documentary, "The Yellow Bittern, the Life and Times of Liam Clancy." And Liam and his wife, Kim, were there at the opening, so he did get to see it.

The film, according to the website ([liamclancyfilm.com](http://liamclancyfilm.com)), "charts the remarkable rise to fame

of these devil-may-care Irish singers from their small-town beginnings in County Tipperary.

#### Suggested Visits

Before you head for folk hey-day of Greenwich Village in the Sixties where they absorbed black musical influences, played for JFK and out-sold the Beatles.

"The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem would go on to influence a host of popular artists from Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger to The Pogues, and become a powerful iconic presence on the Irish cultural map.

"Many myths and legends have grown up around The Clancy Brothers, but the legend of Liam Clancy, the youngest, is perhaps the most potent of all. Drawing on unseen and behind-the-scenes footage of the band at their height as well as on Clancy's own personal archive, the film is a compelling look at an iconic and influential life lived to the full."

Liam also figured in Martin Scorsese's documentary study of Bob Dylan, "No Direction Home." Liam will be missed in Ireland, be sure to take a tour through the Tourism Ireland website ([discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com)) for information on all aspects of your trip. The website is kept very up-to-date and lists all kinds of events as well as suggested activities. We often advise friends heading for Ireland to do something different. Have you ever visited Northern Ireland, for instance? It is wonderful, has many great attractions, wide and well-maintained roads and, if there is any inconvenience, it is that the North uses the English pound sterling as currency and not euro. But pounds are easily obtained in ATMs and banks there. Every traveler has different interests of course, but some of the places that we've enjoyed in the North have included:

- The Bushmills Distillery in Co. Antrim: At 400-plus years old, this is Ireland's oldest distillery and a fascinating place in which to take a tour



Cars, trucks and visitors stretch across the Connemara landscape as far as the eye can see during the annual Maam Cross fall fair. (Judy Enright photo)



Burren walls are built without the benefit of mortar and have stood the test of time.

(Judy Enright photo)

of the whiskey-making process. While you're in the area, be sure to stop for a meal and, if you can, spend a night or two at the nearby, award-winning Bushmills Inn Hotel, which features turf fires, oil lamps, and a Victorian bar that is still lit by gas light. Food in the restaurant there is outstanding and the bedrooms are superb.

There are many attractions along the Causeway Coast to intrigue all ages, including the Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-rede rope bridge (my kids loved it), Dun-

luce Castle, and the cities of Belfast and Londonderry.

While you're in the area, be sure to stop in at the St. Patrick Centre in Downpatrick, Co. Down, to learn more about Ireland's patron saint. I especially liked their gift shop, which had the most interesting and different inventory.

And, if you're looking for comfortable accommodation in the area, have a meal and spend a night at the Londonderry Arms Hotel in Carnlough Bay down the coast. Carnlough Bay is a charming, unspoiled small town with a lovely harbor and interesting arch that spans the main street.

- Another different and fascinating experience is to visit the prehistoric passage graves at Loughcrew in Co. Meath ([loughcrew.com](http://loughcrew.com)).

As pointed out on the website, "Loughcrew is rich in historical, archaeological, religious, and natural interest. One of ancient Ireland's major road passes through Loughcrew, crossing the great Road of the Chariots nearby. Lakes abound and the drumlins are topped with innumerable motte and bailey forts. The Loughcrew Cairns (prehistoric passage graves), some 5,000 years old, are perhaps the oldest calendar known, and may even be the world's oldest existing dwellings.

"The heartland of Loughcrew belonged to the Plunkett family. Saint Oliver Plunkett, Ireland's most recent saint, was born and reared here. His heroic defense of the faith as Archbishop of Armagh led to his martyrdom and recent (1975) canonization.

His family church still stands in Loughcrew and is the focus of devotion to him. The oldest part of the church building was formerly a Tower House, the seat of the Plunketts until Sir William Petty installed his brother-in-law, William Naper, in about 1655."

#### Travel

If you received a trip to Ireland for Christmas, you are indeed very fortunate. To find out what's going on in Ireland when you plan to visit, go to [discoverireland.com](http://discoverireland.com). Ireland is a great place to travel in and there are numerous companies from whom you can choose if you want to relax on a bus tour -- or rent a car and drive. It is a wee bit daunting to drive on the left at first, but you get used to it pretty fast.

Whenever you decide to visit Ireland, be sure to stop by your favorite travel agent for recommendations or visit the Aer Lingus website ([aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com)) for the latest in direct flights and ground deals. Flights and accommodation specials are also available from US Airways ([usairways.com](http://usairways.com)) and other airlines. We hope all our readers had a wonderful holiday season and will enjoy health and happiness in 2010.



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# Thirty-Two Counties

**Antrim:** A relic of St. Patrick that inspired the parish priest of Derriagh to undertake renovations to his church has now been returned to Downpatrick, where the saint is reputed to be buried. What is believed to be the jawbone of St. Patrick, contained within a silver shrine, was brought to the parish of Derriagh in the eighteenth century and it is said that the priest who built the first chapel at Derriagh was given one of the teeth from the jawbone to place under the altar. Now Father Feargal McGrady has ensured that the relic in its shrine is kept safely in Downpatrick, at the Down County Museum, and his newly renovated St. Patrick's Church will have its solemn reopening early in December.

**Armagh:** The old linen factory beside the River Bann in Portadown is to be demolished to make way for a riverside park and more than 150 new homes. The Hamilton Robb factory was built 150 years ago and is now owned by RA Irwin's, but it has not been used to full capacity for a number of years. In latter years just twenty-five staff have worked in the factory, which once saw five hundred employed in the linen trade. Irwin's are to move to a purpose-built factory and have applied for planning permission for the proposed development.

**Carlow:** A man from Bangladesh arrived in Carlow recently as part of a nationwide tour by bicycle, to encourage students in the Institute of Technology to speak Irish. Raf Khan came to live here seven years ago and didn't realize we had our own language until he observed a protest in Dublin calling for Irish to be made an official EU language. A chance visit to the offices of Foras na Gaeilge during the course of his work as a bicycle courier drew him into Irish classes and he has been involved with promoting the language ever since.

**Cavan:** The switching on of the Christmas lights in Cavan town was a musical event, with the events being started by the cast of "The Christmas Carol - the Musical" in the Market Square in the afternoon. The action then moved to the Court House where everyone enjoyed carol singing, and this was followed by a lantern procession back to the Market Square. There the main focus of the day was the switching on of the Christmas lights by the town's Mayor Andrew Boylan, after which those gathered were treated to mince pies and mulled wine.

**Clare:** A cycle route in Clare has been included in a list, which also features Vietnam, Cuba, the US, Canada, France, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, and Britain, of the ten top routes in the world. The "Best in Travel 2010" guide from Lonely Planet has a description of the route between Miltown Malbay and Doolin, both places being recommended for stops on the way. The guide goes on to give details of the route through the Burren and also has a reference to Yeats, presumably referring to his former home, Thoor Ballylee, across the border in Galway.

**Cork:** The mini-company set up by Transition Year students at Coláiste Mhuire in Buttevant has a topical theme and enjoys a pun in its title. Fowl Play will rear twenty-five white turkeys for the Christmas market and the seventeen students have already identified their market among staff members and local residents. They also plan on enjoying one of the birds themselves and have received ideas for turkey recipes from

Darina Allen. The turkeys were bought at seven weeks from Con Chawke and are kept in a corrugated shed with outdoor run built by the students. They will also donate one of the mature birds to the local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Derry:** Eight-year-old Chloe McCourt, who was staying with her grandparents, Brian and Sandra Aiken, in their home in Sutton Gardens in the Waterside area of Derry city, was responsible last month for saving the lives of an elderly couple. When the Bunscoil Cholmcille pupil opened the curtains of her grandparents' house early one morning she saw that the house of Dermot and Teresa Kelly was on fire, and alerted her grandparents. They in turn called the fire brigade and, with other neighbors, worked to control the fire until the fire service arrived. They also alerted the elderly couple who were safely evacuated from the burning building.

**Donegal:** At the Seiko Bravery Awards held in Dublin in late November, a thirteen-year-old girl from Carrick received an award for saving the lives of two people at Glencolmcille beach in July. Sharon McNern, the daughter of Mark and Carmel McNern, not only rescued a friend after he became out of his depth, but she also had to come to the rescue of a man who had attempted to help the pair. The man waded in to help but was unable to swim and he ended up out of his depth and face down in the water. Sharon, while encouraging the boy to kick with his legs, managed to turn the man over and he was brought to shore by another adult who was passing the scene.

**Down:** Twenty years ago Alan Johnston from Strangford was one of the 79 survivors of the Kegworth air disaster in the British midlands. In late November, for the first time he met the man who pulled him from the wreckage and saved his life all those years ago. Alan traced Barrie Brigham through the Internet and the member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution from Yorkshire travelled to the North to meet him. They spent a long time recalling the events of the day, though Alan's memories are incomplete as he was unconscious when pulled from the wreckage. The two men also went to Portaferry Lifeboat Station where Alan launched his book of photographs entitled, "Should I Bring an Umbrella?"

**Dublin:** Fergal Butler from Balrothery has little time to spare since he is the full-time carer for his eight-year-old son Kyle, who has cerebral palsy, and his wife Lynda, who suffers from multiple sclerosis. However in what time he did have he fulfilled a dream by constructing in his back garden his own powerboat from scrap wood and parts bought on eBay. Recently, Fergal launched his vessel at Skerries Harbour just over a year after beginning the construction work. The Powerboat Club provided a support vessel just in case of problems, but the launch was perfect and now Fergal has been invited to bring the vessel to a boat show in Cardiff.

**Fermanagh:** For one man living in the south of the county the recent flooding meant that he has to throw away milk every day after milking his cows, and had to live without his wife, who has been unable to reach her home. Jack McVitty lives on the Rossmacaffrey Road in Lisnaskea and his farmhouse was surrounded by water. The milk tanker that collects milk every day from his house was



unable to reach him, and his wife had to move in with her sister-in-law. Jean McVitty had been travelling to work in Dowler's Hardware in Enniskillen by hitching a lift on a tractor, but the storms made the journey home too dangerous to attempt.

**Galway:** To mark the 40th anniversary of the shooting of the film "Alfred the Great" in the Castlehackett area, the Cinemobile was parked at the GAA pitch in Caherlistrane on a recent weekend. The cinema was giving a showing of the film which featured many local people as extras, giving them a chance to see themselves, perhaps for the first time. The film starred David Hemmings, Michael York and Sinead Cusack, and among Galwegians who worked as extras on the film was Michael D. Higgins. During its stay in Caherlistrane a number of other films were shown in the Cinemobile.

**Kerry:** Jeremiah O'Donoghue from East Rathmore has had his long association with volunteer work recognized by the Ireland Involved Awards. Jeremiah received his award in the Children and Young people category for his work with the Rathmore Social Action Group which he founded and which encourages bonds between the elderly and youth. The former principal of Scoil Pobail Shliabh Luachra has been doing this work for the past thirty-five years and was also named as Kerry Person of the Year three years ago. He received his award from President Mary McAleese at a ceremony at the Royal Hospital Kilmalmainham.

**Kildare:** The entire contents of the house at South Main Street in Naas, the residence of the Gogarty family, were auctioned off last month at The Elms auction room in Punchestown. There were some six hundred lots included in the auction, some of which have been hidden away in the house for more than sixty years, and they included antique books and furniture from the Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian periods. Possibly the most valuable item in the auction was an early Victorian satinwood Bonheur, which was expected to bring between 4,000 and 6,000 euro.

**Kilkenny:** The Castlecomer Wellie Race, which is due to

take place on New Year's Day, will be going international this year with a contestant from Weston, Missouri. The worldwide dimension came about through Clough native Pete Maher, who publishes the Irish Focus magazine in Missouri and who organized the Weston Wellie Race at the local Irish Festival. It is unusual in that the winner is not the first over the line; the names of all those who finish are put into a draw and the winner is then picked out. The race raises funds for the local GAA club and it is Bahia Brown, the wife of one of the players, who will be taking part in the Castlecomer event.

**Laois:** When the final round of the Laois Nationalist car giveaway bingo competition took place last month, with contestants Margaret Bergin and Gemma Smyth both waiting on one number to win the prize, it was always going to be a family affair. For last year it was Margaret's sister Breda Fitzpatrick who won the car, while Gemma was sitting beside her godmother, Annette Smyth, the winner of the car two years ago. In the event, it was Margaret, who works in the local hospital, whose number came up first and she was presented with the keys of a Ford Ka.

**Leitrim:** Paul O'Brien of financial advisers OBN in Carrick-on-Shannon came up with the idea of Carrick Currency Vouchers in a bid to boost the local economy. Reacting to the movement of shoppers across the border, Paul decided to initiate the idea of vouchers, which could be used not just for luxury items but for more mundane purchases such as heating oil or a pint in the pub. More than seventy businesses in the town and surrounding area have signed up to the scheme, with the vouchers being issued in amounts of five, ten, twenty and fifty euro. They are valid for two years and can also be cashed in for seventy per cent of their value.

**Limerick:** Ava Kirwan, from the Shannon Banks area of Limerick, must surely be the youngest person to be evacuated from her house due to the threat of flooding. For it was only two weeks since she was born at Limerick Maternity Hospital. Ava, with her family, was among a group of more than

thirty evacuees staying in Jurys Inn in the city as the flooding ran wild. Ava was carried from the house by a rescue worker and since the Kirwans left, her father Tony returned at regular intervals day and night to check on the house.

**Longford:** Four girls from Ballinallee not only won tickets to attend the X Factor show in London last week, they were also chosen to appear on the Xtra Factor panel debate following the show. Clare Farrell and Paula Lane won the tickets and they were accompanied by their sisters, Pauline Farrell and Claire Lane. While waiting in the queue to enter the theatre they were approached by the producers to take part in the panel debate. Clare believes it was their Irish accents that drew the attention of the producers, as it tied in with the "Jedward" phenomenon.

**Louth:** Twenty years ago Kevin Woods from Carlingford organised a Leprechaun Hunt on Easter Sunday that drew 4,000 visitors to the area. The hunt was prompted by local publican PJ O'Hare, who claimed to have found the suit and bones of a leprechaun while out walking on Slieve Foy. To this day the hat, tunic and trousers are on display in PJ O'Hare's pub. Kevin, who was chairman of the local tourism association at the time of the first hunt, plans the next venture for St. Patrick's weekend and will raise money for Our Lady's Hospital for Children, Crumlin, and Newry Hospice.

**Mayo:** When the Ballinrobe Musical Society presents "The Pirate Queen" in February, they will be welcoming into the audience the people behind the original show. John McColgan and Moya Doherty, of Riverdance fame, will be accompanied by Claude Michel Schonberg, though Mr Schonberg's musical collaborator, Alain Boubilil, will be unable to attend. However he will be represented by his personal assistant and he has said he will write a personal message for the souvenir program. Demand for the tickets has been such that the society's planned run of a week has been extended to ten days.

**Meath:** Lisa Jordan from Kiltale has been named as the first finalist in the Miss Palace 2010 Photographic competition, the final of which is to take place next April. Lisa has won a modeling portfolio with a value of 400 euro, beauty treatment from Liberty Spa in Trimgate Street in Navan, and a framed portrait from DMC Photography. Second place went to Samantha Lynch from Kilkarn, who also won a portrait, and a modeling portfolio voucher for 200 euro, while Dorothy Kurzyna, also from Kilkarn, took third place. Her portfolio voucher was for 150 euro and she will also have a framed portrait.

**Monaghan:** Two of the bridges linking Monaghan with Co. Tyrone, which were blown up during the Troubles in the North, are to be replaced. Jons Civil Engineering, based in Duleek, has won a design and build contract worth 1-million euro to construct the bridges across the River Blackwater close to Glaslough village, linking it with Caledon across the border. The work, which will begin early in the new year, is the result of a North-South deal. There have been calls from a number of sources for the restoration of the Knockaginny and Annaghroe bridges, which are the only two border crossings yet to be reopened.

**Offaly:** This year's Queen of

(Continued on page 20)

# NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

**Christian Brothers to Hand Over Cash and Property** – The Christian Brothers in Ireland have announced that they are to hand over a total of 161 million euro in cash and property, in response to the Ryan report. Of the total, 34 million will be used to help victims of child abuse while the remaining 127 million worth of property will “begin to repair trust” with those who suffered at the hands of the brothers.

**Irish Times Must Pay Costs** – Despite having won a case in which the Mahon Tribunal tried to force editor Geraldine Kennedy and journalist Colm Keena of the Irish Times to reveal the source of a story concerning Bertie Ahern, the newspaper has been ordered to pay the total legal costs of some 600,000 euro. The Supreme Court ruled that the destruction of relevant documents by the journalists constituted “exceptional circumstances.” The Irish Times is now considering an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

**Some Man the Picket Line, Some Go Shopping** – The majority of the country’s public servants went out on strike in late November in an effort to maintain the more than 20 percent pay differential they enjoy over private sector workers. An estimated 250,000 staff failed to turn up for work and, while some picketed their places of work, many others took their families north of the border on Christmas shopping expeditions. The Government insists that, at a minimum, it must cut 4-billion euro from the 2010 Budget and that 1.3 billion of that must come from the public sector pay bill. While the unions claim that there are alternatives to pay cuts, as of the strike day, they hadn’t submitted proposals as to how they believe that savings can be achieved. The strike meant that all schools were closed, 90,000 of those relying on social welfare were paid one day late, hospitals were working

## Ireland Today: Study on Binge Drinking Cites ‘lack of Political Will’ to Tackle Same

“Social Consequences of Harmful Use of Alcohol in Ireland,” a study by Dr. Ann Hope and Dr. Deirdre Mongan of the Health Research Board, has reported a lack of political will to tackle the problem of binge drinking. The study focused on the relationship between alcohol and crime and between alcohol and social harm, and spoke of young children being the greatest victims. The authors called for a proper national alcohol policy which would include stronger enforcement of current laws and a minimum price for alcohol sold in shops. The report revealed that the number of crimes involving drink has increased by 30 percent over a four-year period. Between 2003 and 2007, alcohol-related crimes rose from 15,000 to more than 66,000. Over the same period drunken-driving offenses rose by 74 percent.

to a Christmas Day schedule, 18,000 outpatient appointments were cancelled and swine flu vaccine clinics were closed. The Government saved an estimated 50-million euro by not having to pay strikers that day. Other workers also lost a day’s pay as meat factories were unable to slaughter animals without having the appropriate Department of Agriculture inspectors on site.

Not all of those on strike were on the picket lines; five-mile tail backs were reported on the border crossing to Newry while shopping centres in Derry were said to be extremely busy. The decision of many public servants to spend their money across the border turned out to be the most talked about aspect of the strike. Peter McLoone, head of the IMPACT union, refused to accept that his members would abandon the picket line to go shopping. No one else was in any doubt as to the reason for the traffic jams, although many of those going North could also have been parents who were forced to take the day off work rather than leave their children home alone all day when schools were closed.

One of the more disturbing aspects of the strike was the decision of the IMPACT union

to place pickets at the only entrance to Our Lady’s Hospice in Dublin’s Harolds Cross. Prior to the strike the unions decided that workers involved in flood relief should remain on duty. Unfortunately no one was prepared to include Athlone in the exemption when the floods belatedly arrived there.

Few outside the public sector had any sympathy for the strikers and it was clear that some public servants did not approve of the course being followed by their unions. These were, however, in a minority. The media was critical, with a number of papers commenting in their editorials.

**Almost 1,000 Public Servants Opt for Early Retirement** – A total of 985 public servants have successfully applied to take early retirement as part of the Government’s plan to reduce the number of people on the State payroll. Civil servants accounted for 818 of the total and within that number 322 worked for the Revenue Commissioners. More would have been approved but the Health Service Executive suspended the program when unions instructed their members not to co-operate with redeployment plans. The figures do not include local government employees as

these have yet to be collated. Nor does it include gardai, teachers, members of the Defence Forces or prison officers, all of whom have their own long-established early retirement programmes.

**Majority Regret Overspending During Boom** – A survey carried out by the Irish Times has found that 56 percent had regrets about either the amount of money they spent or the little they saved. The Behaviour & Attitudes opinion poll also reported that one in five said they had learned not to trust authority, including politicians and banks, builders and developers. Of the 1,004 adults surveyed, almost half believe that the earliest date for economic growth will be 2012. When asked about the likelihood of emigrating within five years, 5 percent thought it “very likely” and 8 percent said “fairly likely.”

**Farmers Facing ‘Worst Farm Income Crisis in a Generation’** – A report compiled by the economic unit of the Irish Farmers’ Association has stated that farmers are facing the ‘worst farm income crisis in a generation’, with the average income from full-time farming dropping 28 percent this year, to 16,000 euro. Commenting on the report IFA President Pádraig Walshe said the average farm income was now just one quarter of the average salary in the public sector, yet it had to meet all family living costs. The figure for part-time farmers is 13,000 annually.

**Major Mark-up on Designer Shoes, Dispute over Biscuit Prices** – The launch of Jimmy Choo shoes in the Irish outlets of H&M has highlighted yet another significant mark-up in prices between sterling and the euro. In British shops of the chain one design of shoe is selling for 79 pounds, whereas in Ireland the same pair would cost 129 euro, representing a mark-up of 45 percent. Similar, though slightly lower, mark-ups are to be found on other goods in

the Jimmy Choo range. Jacobs Fruitfield Foods, the makers of fig rolls and cream crackers, have threatened legal action against retailers in Ireland who are importing the biscuits from Britain. Jacobs sold the rights to distribute their trademark biscuits in Britain to McVities, and Irish retailers have been importing the McVities products which they can then sell at a lower price here than the Irish-produced biscuits.

**New Legislation to Define Gaeltacht Areas** – A draft strategy for the Irish language, published recently by the Government, will introduce new legislation to define Gaeltacht areas. Communities under examination will be given a period of two years to ensure they can retain their Gaeltacht status and failure to do so will lead to the withdrawal of that status. Under the 20-year strategy a senior minister will continue to have responsibility for the Irish language, and a new Udarás na Gaeilge will oversee Irish language policy on a national basis.

**The entire contents of the Waterford Crystal factories, stores and sites in Waterford and Dungarvan were placed for sale on the Internet on Thursday, including the main furnace. Up to the time of the sale some 250 expressions of interest had been received, from eastern Europe, India, Syria and the US, as well as Britain and Ireland.**

**Second Attack on Newspaper Editor** – Just days after his car was vandalized outside Craigavon Court, northern editor of the Sunday World Jim McDowell was attacked and beaten outside Belfast’s City Hall on Nov. 25. During the attack, McDowell was twice knocked to the ground and was punched on both sides of his head. He has insisted he will not be intimidated by the attacks and will continue to report on paramilitaries and drug-dealers.

## THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

## From Roscommon to Wicklow

(Continued from page 19)

the Land contest held at the Bridge House Hotel in Tullamore saw a double victory for the county and for Shinrone in particular. Elected Queen of the Land and donning the crown on the night was Sinead Mulcahy who, although from Limerick, was representing the Shinrone branch of Macra na Feirme. In addition to the crown Sinead was presented with a crystal plate, 600 euro, and a weekend in the Bridge House Hotel. In second place came Marie Therese Kennedy, who is from Ballyskenagh, Shinrone but who was representing Kilkenny in the contest as that is where she has a teaching post.

**Roscommon:** The decorative roadside signs created by Roscommon artist Albert Siggins have been adversely affected by the weather over recent years and Drum Heritage Committee decided to replace them. The new signs were made of aluminium by Athlone-based company Spectrum Signs, and the one on the approach road to Nure gives a picture of the restored Wake House in Caoinna Marbh Remembrance Park, the only such building in the country. The sign also includes an information panel on wake practices, much of which was collected by James Delaney from Nure man Kieran McManus.

**Sligo:** Mary Cullen, a member of North Sligo Athletic club, was presented with the Road/Cross Country Athlete

of the Year award recently at the National Athletics Awards in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin. Despite the fact that a spine injury spoiled her chances of competing at the Beijing Olympics, Mary last year came fourth in the European Cross Country Championships in Brussels and took the bronze medal in the 3,000-meter at the European Indoor Championships in Turin. Her next goal is the SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Santry Park.

**Tipperary:** Father Dan Fitzgerald, who has been attached to the Nenagh parish for the past twenty years, is celebrating seventy years as a priest in the coming week. The oldest active member of the Columban Fathers, Father Dan spent six years in China before he and his fellow-priests were expelled in 1952. After that his ministry took him to Australia, England, and Scotland before he returned to Ireland where he has been for almost thirty years. In his position as the oldest Columban, Father Dan has the distinction of having worked with the founder of the order, Bishop Ned Galvin, whom he first met in China.

**Tyrone:** The local branch of Sainsburys was brought into the action when Dungannon man Barry McGuinness decided to organize a Human Mattress Domino event to beat the world record. In the eight weeks that it took him to set up, the record was broken three times, reach-

ing 130 in New Zealand. The mattresses were lined up along the aisle of Sainsbury’s, out of the store and into the mall, down to the main doors and back up to the front of Barry’s store, Home Furnishing Solutions. The final mattress was pushed by Malachi Cush and the record of 145 was recorded by Frank Gervin and Harry McGuigan.

**Waterford:** When Zac the parakeet recently decided he would like a taste of freedom it took a fireman, a garda, a reporter, a photographer, the bird’s owner Helen Holden, and her son Seamus to recapture him. The bird escaped from Helen’s home at St. Herblain Park in Waterford city while Helen was saying goodbye to her son John. Zac spent some hours flying around the city and almost escaped a second time before he decided to settle in a tree in Waterside. From that position fireman Andrew Quinn was able to place a net over him and put him into a cage for Helen to take him home.

**Westmeath:** Gerard Lynam, managing partner of Middleton Park House at Castletown Geoghegan, has announced a plan to almost double his workforce from twenty-six to fifty with an upgrade on the house, which is run as a hotel. He is about to seek planning permission for an extension which will include thirteen new bedrooms, the extension of the kitchens and the banqueting area, and the provision of a beauty treatment area. In deciding

on the work to be done on the 200-year-old house, Gerard said he was conscious of the history of Middleton Park House and conservation is central to the proposal.

**Wexford:** Clonard Parish Church has acquired two new stained glass windows after an anonymous benefactor made a donation towards their installation. The windows were made by artist Gillian Deeney from Belfast, who has already completed other stained glass work in the church, and were commissioned after the bequest was received twelve months ago. The total cost of the windows is 35,000 euro and parish priest Father Denis Lennon has told his parishioners that the bequest

did not cover the total cost and he is therefore seeking further donations.

**Wicklow:** While there was disappointment in the county when the shooting of the award-winning television series “The Tudors” came to an end in he fall, there was good news from Arts Minister Michael Cullen. He announced that the film “The Guards,” based on Ken Bruen’s comedy thriller and starring Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle, is to be partly shot in Wicklow. In addition, Britain’s ITV has confirmed that the fourth and fifth series of the science fiction drama “Primeval” will be shot in Wicklow, giving up to seventy jobs in the Irish film industry.



### IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2009

BY LIAM FERRIE

As reported elsewhere, one cold day followed another, bringing frosts, fog and icy roads to all parts. Snow fell in a number of areas but mostly in the northern half of the country. A slight easing of temperatures on Christmas Day resulted in a half-hearted thaw. Since then the temperature has been hovering just above zero at night and peaked in Galway at 6C on Sunday. It has now turned colder and will remain very cold throughout the coming week. More snow is expected.

**Latest Temperatures: Day 6C (43F).....Night -3C (27F)**

[www.bostonirish.com](http://www.bostonirish.com)

## The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

**Bliana Mhaith Ur Dhuibh!**, "(A) Good New Year to You-All!" **Tá Eanáir anois.**

"It is January now" **Bliana Úr**, "A New Year." Irish retains the written accent mark above capital letters to show the correct pronunciation: "new" **úr** and **Úr** as above, for example. An alternate word for "new" is **nua** and if you want to say "brand new" then combine the two - **úrnuá**.

You may have noticed over the years that you have had several ways to ask, "How are you?" This is due to the various dialects of Irish. Most dictionaries will give you several ways without explaining, "Why?" or "Where?" You will have to choose which dialect you want to learn but most texts - and this course - attempt to be eclectic, "general", but largely representative of the west of Ireland, Connacht (County Galway, in particular). Other major dialect areas are Ulster (County Donegal) and Munster (County Kerry).

I have known two native speakers of Donegal Irish who tell me that they and their spouses, native speakers from Kerry, have to communicate in English due to major differences in the dialects. For this reason most authors of Irish courses chose the "middle", Connacht, Irish since it will present the least number of problems. Here is how to ask, "How are you?" in the three major areas of the Gaeltacht. Remember that the written **a** of **a bhfuil** or **atá** is not pronounced but it **must** be shown in writing.

Connacht: **Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?**  
/KEHN hee WEYL too?/  
Ulster: **Cad é mar atá tú?**  
/KAHT eh mahr tah too?/  
Munster: **Conas atá tú?**  
/KOHN-uhs tah too?/

Another example of differences between written "Standard" Irish and spoken Irish is the word for "Irish" itself. "Standard" Irish is **Gaeilge** but some speakers say **Gaeilín**, using the diminutive to show affection.

Last month we reviewed the names for the months. Since we are going to use them in new constructions, here they are again. The names of the months are...

<b>Eanáir</b>	/EH-nahr/	"January"
<b>Feabhra</b>	/FEHV- ruh/	"February"
<b>Márta</b>	/MAR-tuh/	"March"
<b>Aibreán</b>	/AY-brahn/	"April"
<b>Bealtaine</b>	/BYAL-tayn-uh/	"May"
<b>Meitheamh</b>	/MEY-uhv/	"June"
<b>Iúil</b>	/yool/	"July"
<b>Lúnasa</b>	/LOON-uh-suh/	"August"
<b>Meán Fómhair</b>	/man FOH-vuhr/	"September"
<b>Deireadh Fómhair</b>	/DEER-uh FOH-vuhr/	"October"
<b>Samhain</b>	/SOV-eeen/	"November"
<b>Nollaig</b>	/NOH-leek/	
or <b>Mí na Nollag</b>	/mee nuh NOH-luhk/	"December"

Here are some new sentences: "Where were you born?" **Cén áit a rugadh tú?** "I was born in Derry." **Rugadh mé i Doire.** "I was brought up in Waterford" **Tógadh mé i Port Láirge.**

"When were you born?" (year) **Cén bhliain a rugadh tú?** "When were you born?" (month) **Cén mhí a rugadh tú?**

**Rugadh** ("born") and **tógadh** (literally "lifted") are pronounced /ROOK-uh/ and /TOHK-uh/. Notice that **Cén?** "when" or "in which" requires that the following noun be **lenited** ("aspirated").

The answer to **Cén bhliain** or **Cén mhí rugadh tú?** "When were you born?" in terms of year or month is **Rugadh i** -- year in English -- **mé** but *give the month in Irish*. This is because there are a very few, if any, remaining speakers of Irish only and the numbers for years are very awkward to say in Irish.

**Rugadh i 1976 mé.** **Rugadh i** 'nineteen seventy-six' **mé.**

**Rugadh i Feabra mé.** /ROOK-uh ee FEHV- ruh mey/

The "Question" words -- "Who?", "What?", "When?", "Which?", "Where?" and "How?" are clearly not the same from place to place as seen in the illustrations of "How are you?" above. "How?" is **Cén** in Connacht, **Cad é** in Ulster and **Conas** in Munster. Not only that but **Cén** is followed by the **dependent form** of **tá, bhfuil**, while **Cad é** and **Conas** require the form **atá**, pronounced /tah/.

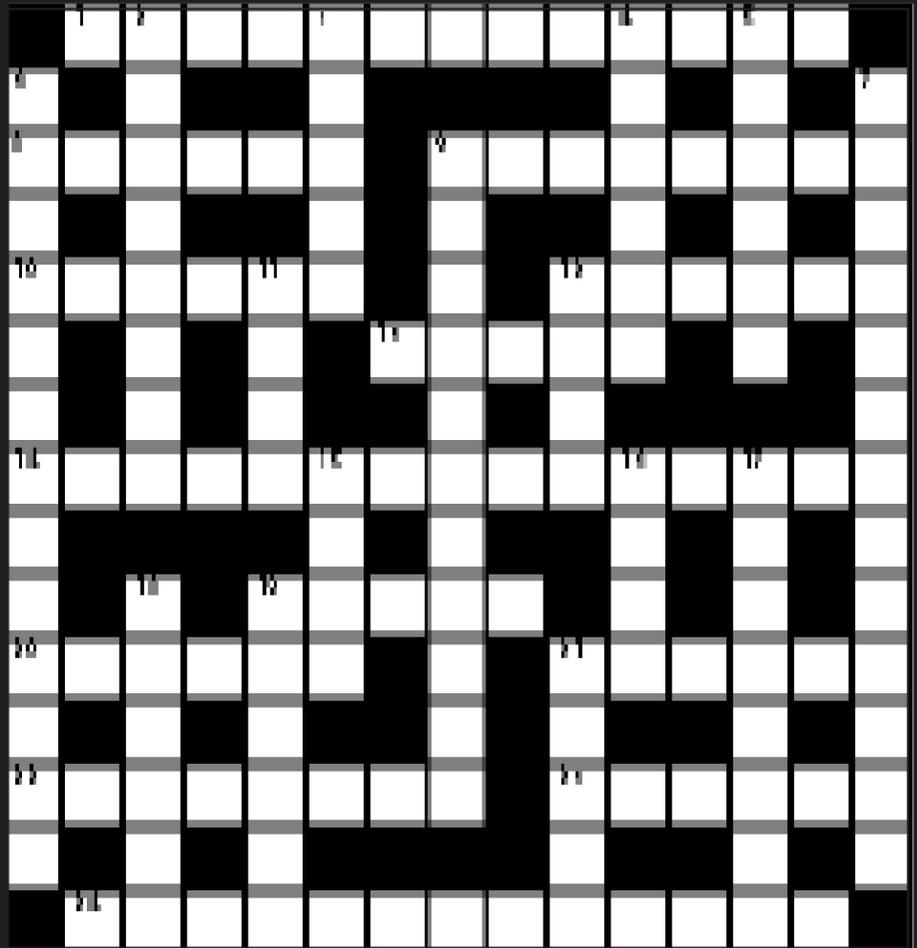
"Where?" is the combination of "What place?" **Cad áit?** /kahd awtch/ and "When?" is **Cén uair**, "Which hour?". It is best to learn these at first in "set phrases" as we present them rather than generalize these words from the beginning.

Here are some sentences for practice. Translate these into Irish: 1.) "Where was she born?" 2.) "What month will you go to Derry?" 3.) "I will go to Cork tomorrow." 4.) "They were raised in Galway." 5.) "Today is Friday, thank God." 6.) "May is a very fine month." 7.) "When was she born?" 8.) "I'm Calum. What's your name?" 9.) "I'm thirsty. A cup of tea, please." 10.) "Do they speak Irish?" 11.) Where were you raised?" 12.) "I was born in Cork but raised in Waterford."

Answers: 1.) **Cad áit a rugadh sí.** 2.) **Cad mí rachaidh tú go Doire?** 3.) **Rachaidh mé go Corcaidh amarach.** 4.) **Tógadh said i Gaillimh.** 5.) **Inniu hAoine, buíochlas le Dia.** 6.) **Tá Bealtaine go deas.** 7.) **Cén uair rugadh sí.** 8.) **Is mise Colm. Cad is ainm duit?** 9.) **Tá tart orm. Cupa tae, go raibh maith agat.** 10.) **A bhfuil Gaeilge acu?** 11.) **Cad áit a tógadh tú?** 12.) **Rugadh mé i Chorcaidh ach tógadh mé i Port Láirge.**

## CELTIC CROSS WORDS

The Irish crosswords are a service of an Ireland-based website which provides Irish Family Coats of Arms by email. You are invited to visit [www.bigwood.com/heraldry](http://www.bigwood.com/heraldry)



## IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

### ACROSS

- Or find chiller. (anag.) Stepchildren of Aoife whom she turned into Swans on Lough Derravaragh. (8,2,3)
- Protection found in popular Mourne location. (6)
- Pout face up until refreshment appears. (3,2,3)
- Fry air? No, but reduce its pressure. (6)
- Get up on hind legs about per can order. (6)
- Impulses scrambled the last of the Carrickfergus letters. (5)
- Then avoid by cute diversion around engineering work carrying the Dublin - Belfast rail line over Drogheda. (3,5,7)
- Tree falls over after a century on Mediterranean island. (5)
- Threw in at the Gaelic game? (6)
- Make a quick grab for ants all over the small church. (6)
- Stretch little Leonard starts, then finishes after note. (8)
- Salty pool covered up back in Portnoo gallery. (6)
- Sweet stew clan. (anag.) Limerick market town with a Knights Templars castle built in 1184. (9,4)

### DOWN

- Oh, lure me in disorder for Bill first proposed and lost by Gladstone in 1885 and passed in 1912. (4,4)
- "Hail fellow, well met. All -- and wet: Find out, if you can, Who's master, who's man." Swift. (5) 4. Storeys one knocks to the ground. (6)
- Recite with a singing voice to nine others in Rosses Point one time. (6)
- Hour train call. (anag.) Kerry mountain popularly ascended through the Hag's Glen and up the Devil's Ladder to the peak at 3,314 feet. (13)
- Jests shame pen. (anag.) Irish writer and poet (1880-1950) who wrote 'The Crock of Gold'. (5,8)
- Owners latch up in neat Mayo village on the Sligo border. (11)
- You must see the faithful dog in Glengarriff, I do insist. (4)
- Ripe conversion of fairy on Greek roundabout. (4)
- Squirrel's home back in the American garden in pretty Ardmore. (4)

- Last word in mean fashion. (4)
- Greasy sun out over U.C. (8)
- E.g. rang up Sligo village underneath Ben Bulbin on the Bundoran road opposite Inishmurray Island. (6)
- "This goat-footed bard, this half-human visitor to our age from the hag-ridden magic and enchanted woods of -- -- antiquity." Baron Keynes - (describing Lloyd George) (6)
- Soothe in the meandering vales. (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 34

## Irish Sayings

- "Youth does not mind where it sets its foot."
- "Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die."
- "The well fed does not understand the lean."
- "He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you"
- "Quiet people are well able to look after themselves."
- "A friends eye is a good mirror."
- "It is the good horse that draws its own cart."
- "A lock is better than suspicion."
- "Two thirds of the work is the semblance."
- "He who gets a name for early rising can stay in bed until midday."
- "If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn."
- "Put silk on a goat, and it's still a goat."
- "Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout."
- "A persons heart is in his feet."
- "It is a long road that has no turning."
- "Necessity knows no law."
- "The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches."
- "There is no luck except where there is discipline."
- "The man with the boots does not mind where he places his foot."
- "The light heart lives long."
- True greatness knows gentleness.

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## BIR History

## FREEDOM OF EDUCATION

### *Boston's Parochial School System Emerged Only After Bruising Struggle*

By PETER F. STEVENS  
BIR STAFF

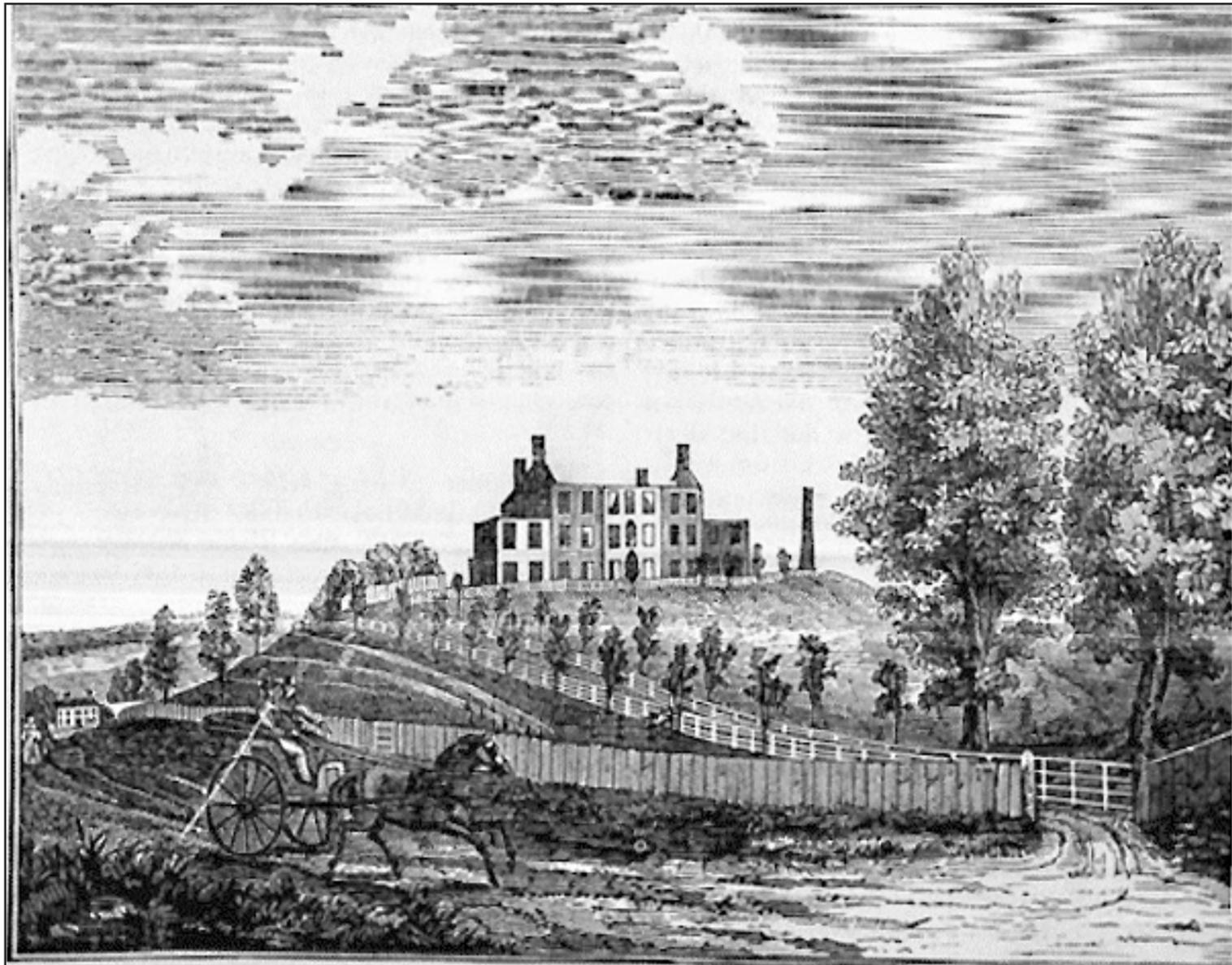
*First of two parts.*

The past few years have proven difficult for Boston's parochial schools. With the archdiocese shutting down schools because of dwindling enrollments and the stark economic climate, times are difficult for clergy, lay teachers, students, and parents. Still, if the past is truly prologue, these days are perhaps not the most difficult for the Catholic schools. In fact, the struggle of the region's 19th-century Catholics to establish the schools posed the toughest scholastic, cultural, and ethnic hurdle of all.

Boston proved perhaps the toughest area for Catholics – especially Irish Catholics – to found their own schools. In other parts of the country, parish schools had sprouted up by the 1820s, and at Georgetown in Washington D.C., a prep school, college, and seminary had evolved in one spot by 1830. One of the first examples of a Catholic school in Boston took root in Charlestown. There, the Ursuline Sisters ran a convent school where teaching excellence not only drew bright Catholic girls, but also the daughters of prominent Yankee Protestant with names like Adams and Lodge. In 1834, however, a mob of Yankee workmen fueled by anti-Catholic, anti-Irish rancor stormed into the convent and burned it to the ground.

Catholic Bishop Benedict Fenwick did not attempt to rebuild or reopen the Ursuline school, but made certain that other fledgling Catholic schools such as Holy Cross College, in Worcester, evolved. His successors, Bishop John Fitzpatrick and Archbishop John J. Williams, followed educational and religious suit.

In the 1840s, as the Great Famine drove ever-swelling numbers of the Irish to Boston, the question of where and how to educate the children of both the newcomers and the Irish already settled in the region took on additional urgency. Nativism – antipathy toward Irish Catholics – was running high. Fitzpatrick and Williams worried that opening parish schools for Irish children, as was happening in New York and other cities, would stoke Nativist rage further, so Boston lagged behind as New York City's Cardinal John Hughes led the "school wars" of the 1840s and 1850s by organizing Catholics to demand tax support for parochial schools. He knew his drive would not work, but he got the proverbial "half a loaf" when Protestants looked the other way as parishes and dioceses in New York raised their own funds to



The charred ruins of Charlestown's Ursuline Convent and school for girls in 1834 testified to Boston's antipathy toward Catholic-run, or parochial, schools for much of the 19th century. (Library of Congress)

open parochial schools. It was Hughes's contention that since the Irish and other Catholics paid public taxes, Catholic children were entitled to equal education.

In Boston, Fitzpatrick and later Williams faced a turbulent mix of reformers, recidivists, and religious firebrands. Some Protestant Americans fought for improved education as the means to transmit democratic values at the same time that they decried Catholics' rights to equality in the classroom. Horace Mann, of Massachusetts, and other education strategists instituted free – or public -- tax-funded schools, but they were Protestant-controlled and any Catholic children in them were forced to hear readings from the Protestants' King James Bible. The Irish parishioners complained to their priests and bishops that it was unfair that the Catholics' taxes funded "Protestant schools."

In the decades following the Civil War, the Boston Irish, who had sent many husbands, sons, and brothers off to fight and bleed for the Union, began to garner increasing political power by organizing parishes and wards into a potent and increasing force. The postwar construction boom gave many Irishmen the chance to rise from crews to company owners at the same time that Irish politi-

cians flexed muscle. The demand for Catholic, or parochial, schools to educate not only the Irish, but also German, Italian, and other immigrant Catholic groups grew.

Boston's prelates decided the time was right to start that very thing.

Typifying the growing confidence of the local Irish to beat down entrenched Yankee cultural and religious barriers, Reverend Thomas Magennis, pastor of the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas,

in Jamaica Plain, was determined to found a grammar school for boys and girls in the parish. Magennis wanted a school where the students would gain a good education and also instruction in their religion. He invited several Sisters of St. Joseph to come from Brooklyn to teach in the parish. The venture proved a success, and Archbishop Williams began to encourage and support other parish priests to follow Magennis's lead.

By the time the Third Plenary Council of American bishops in Baltimore in 1884, cultural tensions had eased somewhat. Out of the Council came the Baltimore Catechism and a mandate that every parish have a Catholic school. By the time of Williams' death in 1907, there were approximately 76 parochial schools in the Archdiocese.

His successor, the soon-to-be Cardinal William Henry O'Connell, was

determined to take what Williams had started and make his church a dominant force on Boston's religious and social turf. Brimming with ambition and a desire to make sure that every Brahmin was aware of the growing power and influence of the Boston Irish, O'Connell planned to institute a sprawling system of Catholic schools no matter who tried to stop him.

NEXT: A system with clout

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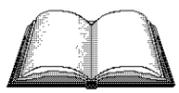
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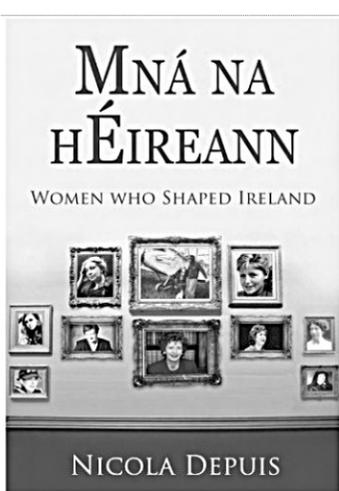
REVIEWS OF BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN IRELAND, COURTESY OF READIRELAND.COM

## Follow the Money By David McWilliams

We catch up with old friends, Breakfast Roll Man and Miss Pencil Skirt, and meet new characters like the Merchant of Ennis, Shylock, and the Godfather. We have late night tea with Brian Lenihan, are charmed by Miriam O'Callaghan, and cross swords with Seanie Fitzpatrick. We learn why the average drug dealer on the side of the street has more in common with the banker than either would care to mention, as we follow the money – in both rackets – from its source at the very top right down to the “buy now, pay later” deals at rock bottom. Why should we trust the people who got us into this mess in the first place? They were wrong then and they are wrong now. The politicians, bankers, and developers think they can hand us the bill and walk away from the carnage. They want us to follow a route that will make things worse for the ordinary man on the street while saving the bankers at the top of the tree, insisting that there is no other way. But there is an obvious alternative that has been adopted by every economy that has successfully emerged from this type of crisis. With the same sense of fun as “The Pope’s Children,” David McWilliams makes answering hard questions easy. In his typical breezy style, he suggests where to go from here. To be led up the garden path once in the past ten years is a tragedy; to be led up twice by the same people is unforgiveable. There is an alternative. “Follow the Money” is an optimistic and uplifting book about that alternative, which is well within our grasp if only we’d wake up and seize it.



**Mna na heireann:  
Women Who  
Shaped Ireland**  
By Nicola Depuis  
For too long when people



discuss Irish heroes and important figures in our history, only men have been cited. *Mná na hÉireann* addresses that tendency and offers an impressive array of women who have brought change and progress to Ireland.

From the mythical era, through the Middle Ages, the Plantation, the Famine, the struggle for independence and the early years of the state, right up to the twenty-first century, *Mná na hÉireann* profiles over 50 formidable Irish women. The book will include: Dr. James Barry (pretended to be male so she could study to become a surgeon), Eavan Boland, Granuaille (pirate), Mairead Corrigan Maguire (activist, winner of Nobel Peace Prize), Constance Markiewicz (the first woman in Europe to hold a cabinet position), Catherine McCauley (foundress of the Sisters of Mercy), Mary McAleese (current President), Nell McCafferty (award-winning journalist), Mary Robinson (former president & UN Human Rights Commissioner) and many more.

## The Bombings of Dublin's North Strand, 1941: The Untold Story By Kevin C. Kearns

On a gloriously starry night four bombs fell, the last and



most devastating at precisely 2:05 a.m. on 31 May 1941. There was a thunderous explosion and the earth quaked. Tremors were felt as far away as Enniskerry and Mullingar. Panic and pandemonium reigned in a “city seized with fear”. Destruction was astonishing – homes and shops in the North Strand were largely demolished, 2,250 buildings in the city suffered some bomb damage, over forty people were killed, about 100 seriously injured, many more wounded. Hospitals and morgues filled within hours. Almost 2,000 people were rendered homeless refugees. It would later be determined that in terms of destructive performance a monstrous “perfect bomb” had done the deed. For two-thirds of a century, no book was written on what the Evening Herald proclaimed a “Night of Horror,” and later called a “seismic event” in Dublin’s history.

Finally, near the end of the century both the Irish Military Archive and Dublin City Archive declassified their documents on the bombing -- some stamped “Secret” for sixty years. At last, the theories and myths long surrounding the mysterious incident could be examined in the light of real evidence. But the heart of a book on so human a tragedy is the oral historical testimony of survivors, rescuers, and observers who provide graphic eye-witness accounts. This is a narrative social history of immense human drama. An on-the-scene account of calamity, terror, heroism, and survival. And a mystery lingering long thereafter. This is the untold tale of a great historical event and human tragedy that has long needed telling.

## Sisters: The Personal Story of an Irish Feminist By June Levine, Foreword by Nell McCafferty

*Sisters* is a revealing, intensely readable book by one of Ireland’s finest feminist writers. It contains a major assessment of the women’s movement in Ireland, but first and foremost it tells the story of one woman’s search for personal fulfillment. After growing up in Dublin, June Levine went through marriage, breakdown, and divorce in Canada, returning to Ireland as an unmarried woman in the swinging sixties. She writes with special insight of the era of the mohair-suited Irish male and his liberated “girl” friends. By the end of the decade, some women decided that this kind of liberation was no longer enough. The Irish women’s movement was born, and June Levine was there from the start. This book



captures all the excitement and controversy of the time, and is laced with perceptive portraits of some well-known feminist leaders. During the seventies June Levine worked as a journalist, and as a researcher on Gay Byrne’s Late Late Show. Her evaluation of the past ten years in terms of her own experience, and in terms of Irish feminism, makes fascinating and absorbing reading. Committed, compassionate, written from a strongly feminine viewpoint, there has never been an Irish book quite like this one.

## Written in Stone: The Graffiti in Kilmainham Jail By Niamh O’Sullivan

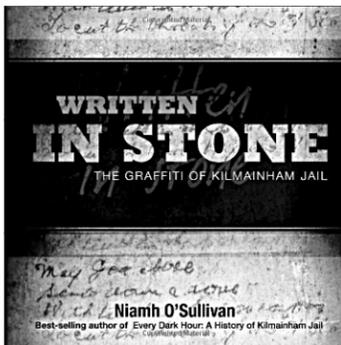
“Written in Stone” is an attempt to record the first-hand links to the people who changed the political landscape of Ireland, before all traces vanish completely. This book includes

images of the numerous examples of graffiti left on the walls of Kilmainham Jail by its political inmates from the War of Independence, Civil War, and even farther back in Irish history.

Kilmainham Jail housed many of Ireland’s key historical figures, from the 1798 rebellion right through to the Civil War; these political prisoners were proud to sacrifice their freedom for the cause they believed in. Many of them also left a physical mark on the jail, inscribing their names and other messages on various walls and doorways in the building. Those mentioned in the graffiti in the jail include Robert Emmet, Eamon de Valera, Michael Collins, and Richard Mulcahy, among many others.

As Kilmainham Jail lay derelict for so long, over the years many of the graffiti have faded or disintegrated, with some having disappeared completely. “Written in Stone” is a product of years of painstaking research into the graffiti and the (sometimes little-known) people who made them. The book, which contains photographs of many of the pieces of graffiti, discusses some of the heartbreaking messages left for posterity, as well as drawings of the Four Courts and Adolf Hitler! It is a unique record of these highly unusual links to the people who changed the political landscape of this country forever.

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## USAGraduate Program Has Irish Links

BY SUE ASCI  
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

An innovative program to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM fields) is attracting thousands of students to Syracuse, N.Y.

USAGraduate is a 10-week interactive internet-based quiz program that offers students in grades 6 through 12 an opportunity to study STEM topics and compete for prizes such as iPods and laptop computers.

The program is based on one that originated in Ireland seven years ago with an effort led by Martin Heneghan of Castlebar, called the Graduate Online Youth Quiz, which was designed to interest students to study politics.

Since its inception, more than 30,000 students have participated every year in the program in Ireland.

The USAGraduate program was introduced to the U.S. in 2008 when an executive at one of the U.S.-based sponsors, Sensis Corp., learned

about the program from Heneghan.

Recognizing the need to encourage students to study engineering and math for future careers in technology, the USA Graduate program's curriculum is focused on STEM topics.

The Obama Administration has made STEM education a priority in recent months and cited a study by the National Center for Education Statistics which found that one-third of fourth graders and one-fifth of eighth graders were not able to perform basic math. Also, high school seniors scored below the international average of 21 countries on math and science, the study found.

Numerous studies have pointed out that the U.S. has experienced a decline in the number of computer science and engineering graduates.

USAGraduate has been offered to students in the upstate New York area through the Syracuse public school system. Sensis Corp., a large engineering firm based in the area is a sponsor. Clear Channel Radio is also a partner in the project. The program is also being offered in a couple of school districts in Albany, N.Y.

Already, some 25,000 students from about 250 schools have participated, said Bob Clary, executive director of USAGraduate.

Participation among boys and girls is roughly even. About 55 percent of those participating are male and 45 percent are female, he said. The program is free for the users. There is no charge for the school districts, parents, or students.

"The program is completely funded by grants and sponsor support," Clary said. Local sponsors are also important to showcase real careers in these fields for the students. The material is designed to complement what the students are learning in school, Clary said. "We also want to provide real life examples of careers in science," he said.

Each week of the 10-week program involves a quiz. Each quiz has 10 questions. The program often includes links to videos and other websites, enabling students to dig deeper into the question and do more research, Clary said.

There is also a module available for teachers if they wish to register students and track their participation. They can also look at an advance copy of the quiz in order to see what the next week's topics will be.

Students can win prizes that are randomly awarded to those who participate each week for the entire program. For more information about the program, the website is [usagraduate.com](http://usagraduate.com).



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For information on our local Boston events, or to join our efforts, please visit [www.irlfunds.org](http://www.irlfunds.org) or contact Executive Director Steve Greeley at 617.574.0720. We look forward to hearing from you.

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