

August 2010

VOL. 21 #8

\$1.50

Boston's hometown
journal of Irish
culture.

Worldwide at
bostonirish.com

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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The Irish Nines Are Here – Play Ball!



Irish National players take in the action, above, while at right, a No. 19 waits on a pitch at Cunningham Park in Milton on July 25.

Photo by Ed Forry.

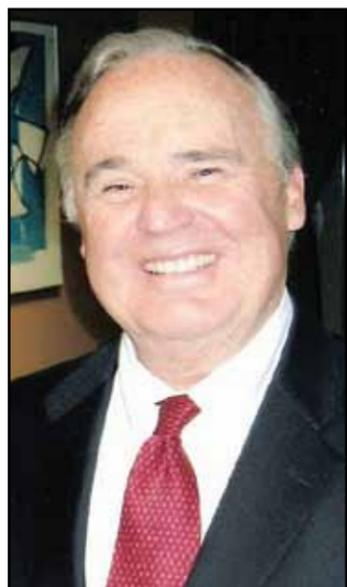
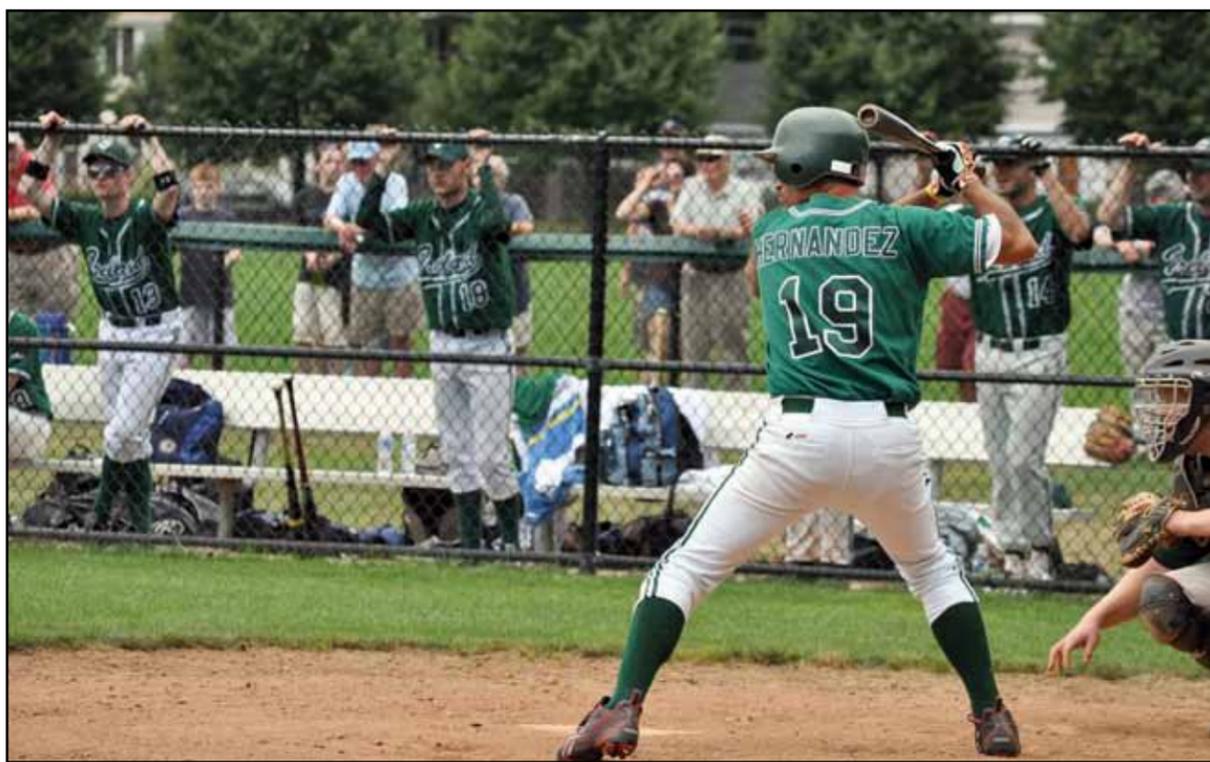
Baseball Ireland Tours New England

Baseball Ireland is a 21-year-old organization that has taken America's pastime and spread it widely around the Emerald Isle in three active divisions – adult, youth, and cadet. There are ten teams in the league, seven of them in Dublin with the others playing out of Belfast and Wicklow.

Last month, a team made up of adult players and another full of Little Leaguers, took their gloves and balls to New England where they toured across three states over the last two weeks, with a stop on Sunday the 25th at Cunningham Park in Milton where the Irish Nationals played an exhibition against players from the regional Yawkey League in front of an enthusiastic gathering of fans, friends, and neighbors.

The Irish squads spent most of their time playing at sites in Rhode Island, but they found time for games in Brockton (July 18) and Connecticut (July 23).

For more on the scene, see Ed Forry's editorial commentary on Page 4 and Harry Brett's photos on Page 7.



Phil Johnston: Passionate Man

Philip W. Johnston, a former state legislator and chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, learned early on from his parents that "passion" comes with the territory if life is to have any real value. After a life in politics, he realizes how prescient his mother and father were.

Greg O'Brien
profile, Page 6

'Ovo' by Cirque de Soleil



The "foot jugglers" perform in Cirque de Soleil's "Ovo."
Photo by Benoit Fontaine

The show, which will be at Fan Pier through Aug. 29, with shows Tuesday-Sunday, is a dazzling two-and-a-half-hour display of world-class individual talents, part of a full theatrical experience featuring state-of-the-art lighting and sound, dazzling costumes, original music and myriad special effects.

Rich Fahey
review, Page 16

WE'RE TURNING 20!

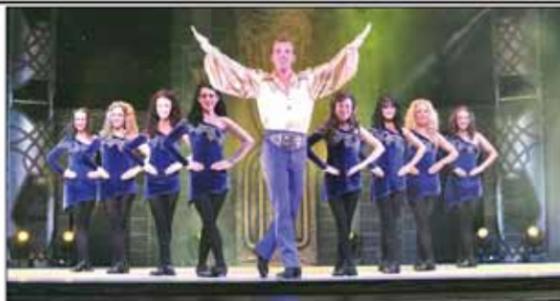
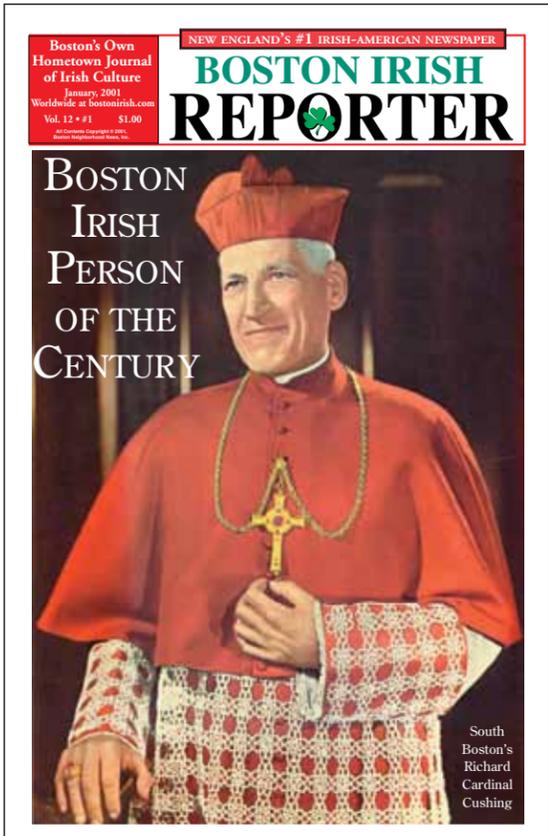
Join us as we celebrate two decades of telling the 'Stories of Boston's Irish.'



The Boston Irish Reporter will celebrate our 20th anniversary with a Celebratory Luncheon on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center. This event will feature the debut of a new awards ceremony, the "Boston Irish Family Honors." As one of the region's few remaining family-owned and-operated publications and, in keeping with our own heritage, the newspaper will make presentations to two Boston Irish individuals for their special achievements in public service and business, and to three exemplary Irish families who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.



Resolve to Make Irish Music, Dance Part of Your New Year
Susan Gedutis Lindsay guides us through her recommendations for making the most of Ireland's musical traditions in the new year. See Page 15
Above, dancers from Woods School of Irish Dance perform in front of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center last year. (AP Photo/Chitose Suzuki)



Lord of the Dance Returns
Mr. Flatley's opus is back for four shows at the Opera House. More, page 3.



Knigh Bono? No Sir!
The U2 frontman will get the honor, but not the title, from the British crown in the new year. Story, page 16. (AP Photo)

INSIDE THE BIR	Donal Clancy's first solo album hits all the right notes Page 15	The late Dave Nyhan on Tom Durant's legacy Story, Page 8	Meet Stonehill's new leader Rev. Mark Cregan Profile, Page 12
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The 2010 Boston Irish Honorees

**U.S. Congressman
Edward J. Markey**

**John Donohue, CEO
Arbella Insurance**

The Brett family

The Hynes family

The Geraghty family

Thursday, October 7, 2010

Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this first annual event.
For more information please contact Ed Forry, President & Publisher

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Two Eagles, Two Blackhawks

BY ANN MCGOUGH
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dorchester has had quite its share of hockey success stories over the years. But few have been as remarkable as the tale of the Hayes brothers of Neponset.

Jimmy, 20, is a standout forward for the NCAA national champion Boston College Eagles. His younger brother, Kevin, 18, has excelled on the ice for Nobles and Greenough and will join his brother at the Heights next season.

The boys have never played on the same team, so the BC angle looked to be special – until the National Hockey League's Chicago Blackhawks beat them to the punch.

On June 25, the entire Hayes family, including dad Kevin, mom Shelagh, their five children, and assorted aunts, uncles, cousins traveled to Los Angeles for the 2010 National Hockey League Entry Draft at the Staples Center. All watched proudly as Kevin, the family baby, was selected by Chicago in the first round, the 24th pick overall. As the family was celebrating Kevin's good news, they learned that the Toronto Maple Leafs had dealt an unnamed, unsigned player to the Blackhawks for the 43rd pick. As it turned out, that player was Jimmy Hayes.

"I was very surprised at first, but I couldn't be happier," said Jimmy. "We have always hoped for each other to do well. Of all of the opportunities that I have had through hockey, my best experience was playing with Kevin at the Blackhawks' prospect camp. This was the first time we ever played on the same line. We were roommates. It was great." Kevin quietly agreed with his brother. "It was easier for me having my brother there. We have always supported each other."

Kevin and Shelagh's team: two boys, three girls

In addition to the boys, Kevin, a Roslindale native, and Shelagh, who hails from Charlestown, have three girls: Genevieve, 23, is a graduate of Salve Regina College; Eileen, 22, is at Curry College; and Justine, 19, attends the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

When the kids were babies, the couple lived in Charlestown and it was there that Shelagh's father, Crash MacNeil, or "Da" as the kids called him, first introduced the boys to the ice. "My father used to take them skating at the O'Neil Rink when they were little," Shelagh recalls. "Probably from about the time they were 2 or 3."

As Jimmy grew, he became involved in the routine course of hockey programs: first learn to skate, join a house league, then mites. Like so many little brothers, Kevin followed in Jimmy's footsteps. Early on the boys played for Charlestown Youth Hockey, but by the time they were Squirrels, they were enrolled in Dorchester Youth Hockey where, both readily recall, coaches Paul Vincent and Linda Perkins made a solid impression on them. In addition to the competition in the Dorchester league, the Hayes duo played with the St. Moritz Devils and the South Shore Kings.

Chasing the puck, educational league

Both boys attended Saint Ann's School in Neponset but hockey called early on: As a seventh grader, Jimmy was accepted at the Nobles and Greenough School in Dedham where he boarded from Monday through Friday and came home. After the tenth grade there, Jimmy, now 6-foot-5,

left Nobles to attend Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and play for the US National Development Team. He warmly remembers the time he spent in Michigan. "I flew out with my Dad and my mother and my Aunt Joannie drove out to get me settled. I knew it would be a good learning experience and I was happy to be going. I wasn't nervous about living away from home because I had already lived in dorms at Nobles for two years. Caroline and Bill Van Cleaves were my host family and they were awesome."

After graduating from Pioneer, Jimmy played 30 games in the United States Hockey League in Nebraska with the Lincoln Stars. In 2008, he was selected 60th overall in the NHL Entry Draft by the Toronto Maple Leafs. Then, after mulling over many attractive opportunities, he chose to attend Boston College, enrolling in the Carroll School of Management.

"I really liked the campus and the hockey coach," he said of Jerry York, a multiple winner of NCAA hockey championships, including the title game last spring with No. 10, Jimmy Hayes, on the team.

Like his older brother, Kevin left Saint Ann's for Nobles as a seventh grader. Unlike Jimmy, he was a day student, choosing to commute to school every day rather than live in the school's dormitories. During the summer of 2009, he played for the United States National Under-17 Hockey team in Slovakia. As a 6-foot-3 forward at Nobles, Kevin was scouted by NHL teams from all over the country. "You would have an idea they were there," he says, "but it didn't make me nervous, I just played."

Kevin completed his junior year at Nobles this spring. Having excelled academically, he is now participating in an accelerated program that will allow him to complete his high school diploma this summer. He will be studying at Boston College next year and playing for the Eagles alongside his brother in Conte Forum.

Kevin the father says that Jimmy was "totally shocked" by the announcement that his brother will join him in Chestnut Hill. Adds Shelagh, "We're very excited to see them play together at Boston College, then hopefully as Blackhawks someday."

Kevin says that any sacrifices he and his wife have made on behalf of their boys have been well worth it. "I am so proud of them. They have given up a lot of things. Even at a young age we knew they were special. They are very self-motivated. Look at the year they have had: Jimmy's at BC, and they won the national championship. Kevin was named New England Independent Schools' Player of the Year. Kevin was drafted in the first round. Jimmy was traded to the same team as his brother. Shelagh and I always ask, 'how do you top this?'"

The boys say it: 'We're from Dorchester, MA'

Their dad talks about the important role that the neighborhood has had on his children's development.

"They are very proud to be from Dorchester. When the kids are announced at games or have their names in programs, they always make sure it says they are from 'Dorchester, MA'. Some people like to say they are from Boston, but we are proud to say from Dorchester. And you know what? There are a lot of great kids in this neighborhood. It's too bad you only hear about the bad ones."



Consul General Michael Lonergan (center), presented grants totaling \$ 0.5 million in ceremonies at the Boston Consulate on July 20. Also pictured from left: Mike O'Connor, Irish Cultural Centre of New England; Beth Keenan, Worcester Hibernian Cultural Center; Sr. Lena Deevey, Irish Immigration Center; and Sr. Marguerite Kelly, Irish Pastoral Centre.

Bay State Irish Groups Awarded \$500K in Grants by Irish Government

BY ED FORRY
BIR PUBLISHER

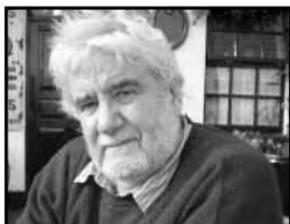
The Consulate General of Ireland has announced continued Irish Government support for Irish groups from the Emigrant Support Programme. The total amount awarded by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, to four Massachusetts based organizations is over \$500,000.

The agencies receive-

ing grants include: Irish Immigration Centre, \$210,000; Irish Pastoral Centre, \$188,275; Irish Cultural Centre of New England, \$147,000. Receiving a first-time grant of \$5000 is the Worcester Hibernian Cultural Foundation.

At a presentation ceremony at the Boston Consulate offices, Consul General of Ireland Michael Lonergan said:

"I am delighted that we can demonstrate our continued commitment to the local Irish organizations that provide such valuable services to the local Irish and Irish-American communities here in Boston. I would like to congratulate the successful applicants and look forward to working closely with them in the coming year."



1935 - 2010

David O'Docherty, Painter, Musician; 75

David O'Docherty, 75, of Lynn, the popular Dublin-born painter, traditional musician, and Boston favorite, died on June 19, from an apparent heart attack while swimming off Edgartown in Martha's Vineyard. Many of his wide circle of friends in greater Boston own and treasure original paintings by Mr. O'Docherty, and even more have enjoyed listening to the multi-talented virtuoso as he sat in with his flute or tin whistle at festival sessions and other musical events here and across the US and Europe.

Michael Quinlin, a long-time friend and fellow flute player, said, "David's flute playing was full of fury and passion, much like his personality. He had command of the wooden flute, which is a difficult instrument to master. David was influenced by some of the premier flutists of his generation – Roger Sherlock, Seamus Tansey, and Paddy Taylor – and he had a vast number of Irish flute tunes in his repertoire." In the 1960s

Mr. O'Docherty traveled across Ireland researching songs and ancient airs, seeking out original sources to help preserve the music.

The Irish Times, noting the death of Mr. O'Docherty, wrote, "In the US he performed and lectured widely. Humorous and convivial, he was a well-known figure at traditional sessions. His friends included many poets and writers."

Mr. O'Docherty's wife and survivor, Gail Kuekan O'Docherty of Lynn, says despite his wide recognition as a first-rate musician, "David saw himself as an artist first." While prominently known for his faces and full-sized portraits, he also painted landscapes and still-lives. His work has been exhibited at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Guild Gallery on Martha's Vineyard, and the Galerie Furstenberg in Paris.

He was the son of the late Joseph and Margaret (Irvine) O'Docherty, a family active in the struggle

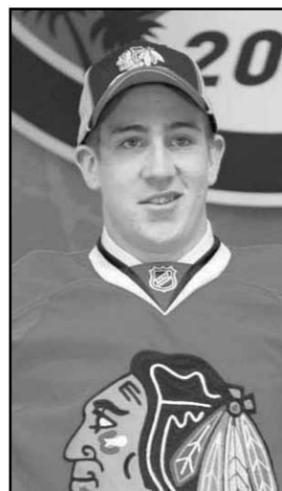
for independence. His father, Joseph, was interned in Frongoch camp after the 1916 rising, and was elected to the first Dail representing North Donegal. Mr. O'Docherty attended University College Dublin and the National College of Art in Dublin and lived for a time in London and Paris, before moving to New York and then settling in Boston some 30 years ago.

In addition to his wife, Mr. O'Docherty leaves his children Annabel and Michael; three grandchildren, all of England; and two sisters, Brid O'Docherty of Dublin, and Dr. Roisin McCallum, of Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

Donations in Mr. O'Docherty's memory may be made to Lynn Arts, 25 Exchange St., Lynn, MA 01901 or Comhaltas Music School, c/o Michael Hickey, 100 Woodpecker Rd., Stoughton, MA 02072.

A celebration of his life will be held at a future date.

– BILL O'DONNELL



Kevin and Jimmy Hayes will team up at Boston College in the fall.

World Series Special On Tap – at Greystones in Wicklow

By ED FORRY

Baseball fans who find themselves in Ireland in October are well advised to find their way to Greystones (Irish: *Na Clocha Liatha*), a little town in County Wicklow on Ireland's east coast, five miles from Bray and a half hour south of Dublin.

There, on the evening of Thurs., Oct. 29, fans of the great American pastime, baseball, will gather in the town's sparkling new Greystones Theatre to watch Game One of the 2010 World Series!

For the first time ever, the big screen at the Greystones will show the full play-by-play telecast of the championship games. Because of the time difference, the telecasts will be on a one-day delay, showing the game played the previous night (first pitch in the states will be around two in the morning, Irish time.)

The Oct. 29 game is billed as "a social event and fundraiser for the Greystones Mariners Baseball Club," one of a number of Irish baseball teams that have formed across the island of Ireland. And therein lies a story.

American baseball has begun to catch on in the Emerald Isle. Organized just 21 years ago under an umbrella organization, the current official governing body, Baseball Ireland, is responsible for the development and promotion of baseball on the island of Ireland. In 1995, visiting coaches brought formal baseball instruction to Ireland, and in 1996 Ireland played for the first time in the European championships in Hull, England. The sport has now grown into a ten-team adult league, with seven teams from Dublin, two in Belfast and one in Wicklow. (A brief history of baseball in Ireland can be found online at baseballireland.com.)

Last month, the Senior Irish National Baseball Team and an Irish Little League team made a ten-day trip to New England to play some games with American teams in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The adult men's team, with some assistance from some Irish-American players who hold dual citizenship, played seven games, beginning July 18 in Brockton and ending July 25 in Milton. The little leaguers played nine games against youngsters at two Rhode Island fields.

In Milton, the senior team met a Yawkey League squad sponsored by Milton's Al Thomas and managed by Joe O'Hara. The Sunday afternoon game was played in near 90-degree heat at a diamond at Cunningham Park, and a well-played match it was as Milton squeezed out a 1-0 victory.

But back to that World Series event in Wicklow next October: The promoters underscore that it is a delayed telecast from a previous day, and they warn theatregoers to avoid checking the score of the game beforehand. "Anyone who reveals the score in advance will be fined 10,000 euro by the Commissioner of Baseball!" Since the National league won last month's All Star game, baseball fans know that the first two Series games will be played in the National League city. But Red Sox fans continue to dream that our *olde town team* will be the American League champs. Unlikely though that seems today, there's still a chance that they'll be watching games from Fenway at that small theatre in Wicklow next November!

At least, we can dream.

A shout-out to Mike Cummings

Among the spectators at the game in Milton was old friend Mike Cummings, who proudly revealed that he had a relative playing in the contest. The Ballygar, Co. Galway, man, an outstanding GAA athlete himself back in the day, was one of the founders of the Boston Irish Famine Memorial. He has worked throughout his life to promote the legacy of marching band leader and composer Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, also a Ballygar man who was a contemporary of John Phillip Sousa. It was a special occasion to see Mike, as he has been



Ed Forry



Mike Cummings is greeted by John MacVarish, a fellow St. Agatha's parishioner. Photo by Ed Forry

largely home-bound since being diagnosed with ALS-Lou Gehrig Disease. Thanks to the excellent care provided by his wife Noreen and his many children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors, Mike has been living with ALS now for almost 13 years. PA announcer Dave McKay gave a shout-out to Mike between innings of the game, causing many to seek him out and have a brief reunion.

Welcome to Madeline

Last month, I told readers that I was awaiting the

arrival of my first granddaughter. The magical moment for this happy papa arrived on Tues., July 13, when Madeline Casey Forry was born at 4:38 in the afternoon. Her parents are Bill and Linda Dorcena Forry, her proud maternal grandparents are Andre and Annie Dorcena. Her late grandmother, Mary Casey Forry would be so happy for her. And I am especially delighted to note that she will bear Grandma Mary's name as her middle name. I can almost hear Mary singing that sweet Stevie Wonder tune, "Isn't She lovely." And life goes on....

Commentary

What's Unsurprising in the North Is That There Are Always Surprises

By ROBERT P. CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

That Northern Ireland would produce an unhappy summer surprise is, in the end, not all that surprising.

The North, after all, is a place with an almost infinite capacity to surprise, conjuring up startling progress when the days seem desperate and dark, and then stumbling several steps back when everything appears to be hurtling forward.

So it was unsurprisingly surprising last month when the summer marching season, which had become tame in recent years, exploded into violence in Belfast, with tentacles of disorder reaching throughout the North.

For the better part of a week, protestors rioted in the Ardoyne section of North Belfast, with the discord sparked by the Protestant July 12 marches that celebrate King William's 1690 Battle of the Boyne victory over Catholic King James II.

The riots caused damage that will total into the millions -- and on a single night, 55 police officers were injured when they interceded between young protestors trying to prevent an Orange Order parade from passing through the heavily Catholic Ardoyne district. One female police officer was seriously injured when a concrete block was dropped on her head from a nearby building.

During the 1980s and 1990s, marching season mayhem often brought Northern Ireland to its knees and to the brink of full-out civil war. The issue was always the same: newly confident Catholics not wanting bowler-clad Orangemen bringing their fifes and booming lambeg drums into Catholic neighborhoods. Protestant marchers and their supporters strenuously objected to any effort to deny them access to "the queen's highway."

Marching season tensions had ebbed significantly in recent years, partly because of the creation of a public board that brokered compromises about where marches could and couldn't go, and because of the tide of reconciliation and good will that has been rising in Northern Ireland.

But this year, the march of progress stopped and staggered backwards. There is no single conclusive answer as to why this summer's rioting reached such a fever pitch.

Certainly, the North's economy remains sluggish and unemployment, while lower in Northern Ireland than it is in the rest of Europe, remains stubbornly high in working-class areas like Ardoyne. Without

question, the recent violence was whipped up by dissident republicans who oppose Sinn Fein's decision to enter into a grand compromise with the unionists of the North and govern side by side with them.

Authorities believe that the dissidents, who have been responsible for some acts of violence in recent years but lack the know-how and numbers of the now-dormant Provisional Irish Republican Army, were able to motivate and, in many cases, import enough young people to create scenes reminiscent of the bad old days of the Troubles. Rioters, in some cases children as young as eight or nine, were brought in from all over the island, with some children and adults making the 100-mile trip up from Dublin.

Authorities dubbed the phenomenon "recreational rioting" and "tourist rioting," but the veteran journalist Henry McDonald, writing in the British newspaper the Observer, said it would be wrong to view the whole episode as some kind of unattractive lark. Asserting that it would be "foolish" to dismiss the summer rioters as mindless thugs, McDonald, the newspaper's Ireland editor, wrote: "They are the descendants of the supposedly slain beast of armed republicanism, currently growing up in a soil that is still toxic with sectarianism."

As is always the case, even on the darkest of days, there were some positives to glean from this moment: the restraint of the police; the Ardoyne residents who urged some of the blow-in protestors to leave; and governmental co-leaders Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionist Party and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein joining forces to condemn the violence. McGuinness, a former leader of the IRA, described the republican dissidents involved as "criminal elements who operate under the cover of bogus patriots."

Whatever pale silver linings there may be, however, this chapter represents a real setback for the North, particularly as it tries to build new economic muscle by depicting itself as a safe, stable place that is a smart buy for foreign -- read: American -- investors. With a U.S.-Northern Ireland Economic Conference scheduled to take place in Washington in October, the timing, the pictures, and the stories couldn't have been worse. One can readily image potential investors deciding that Northern Ireland still isn't worth the risk.

For those who wonder whether Northern Ireland is in danger of slipping back into the Troubles, the answer to that is a fairly clear "no." But for those who were hoping that progress would continue unabated, again Northern Ireland demonstrates its frustrating propensity for messing with success and re-writing the script.



BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

The Boston Irish Reporter is published monthly by:

Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.,
150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
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Date of Next Issue: September, 2010

Deadline for Next Issue: Friday, August 20, at 2 p.m.

Published monthly in the first week of each month.

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July Still Means Troubles in Belfast

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR



Joe Leary

The July parades in Northern Ireland celebrate a Protestant military victory over a Catholic army at the Battle of the Boyne in the Republic of Ireland over 300 years ago. The marches are an in-your-face expression by some of Northern Ireland's Protestants to maintain their appearance of superiority over Catholics. An anti-Catholic organization called the "Orange Order" is chiefly responsible.

Led by loud, oversized drums, and bands screaming "Down with the Pope" and denouncing all things Catholic, the parades unsurprisingly create bitter resentment when they are allowed to march through Catholic neighborhoods.

A contingent of the local Orange Order featuring sullen old men in back-of-the-closet dark suits, anachronistic black Bowler hats and large be-medaled Orange sashes, struts itself through neighborhoods they would not dare visit dressed this way without the police protection that must accompany the parades.

It is a sad commentary on the state of peace in Northern Ireland that these parades through Catholic neighborhoods are permitted at all. They also give the

Parade Violence Sad Commentary on State of Peace

small minority of Catholic nationalists who have not accepted the Good Friday agreement (called Dissidents) a perfect opportunity to cause much of the rioting that we read about each year.

But the political forces in Northern Ireland are in such a delicate balance that authorities must allow these expressions of direct antagonism; if they don't, headline Unionists won't cooperate at all.

The North Belfast Ardoyne parade on the Crumlin Road is a good example of how unreal, purely symbolic, and finger-in-the-dike like the parade effort has become. North Belfast was second only to West Belfast in number of killings during the height of the troubles from 1968 to the mid 1990s. There is a stretch of the Crumlin Road hardly 200 yards long that is the center of rioting every year. Catholics' homes surround the 200 yards and Protestants, mostly pensioners, live at the end of the 200 yards and beyond. The area was completely Protestant up until 20-25 years ago when the ever-growing Catholic community began to expand and move into the area. Today the 200 yards is 100 percent Catholic, but since it was Protestant years ago authorities have consistently issued permits for

the Orange Order to march.

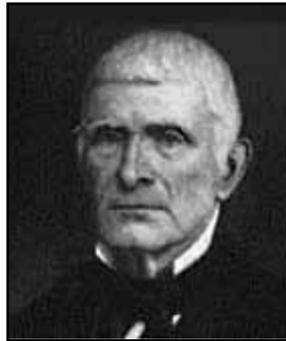
On July 12, with riot police in and out of their vehicles, a limited number of Orange Order marchers gathered in a connecting street and quickly marched the 200 yards past yelling protesters toward the cheers of the Protestant crowd waiting for them in their own territory. The rioting then began and continued well into the night, and at times through the next day. With this, dissident troublemakers were provided a perfect opportunity to throw stones and set fire to vehicles despite the presence of leading Sinn Fein politicians working with the police to identify and control the rioters.

It's a show. The media love it, the police are injured, and the "hard men" on both sides somehow feel they have accomplished something.

After the situation calms down in the days following, elderly Protestants once again use the Post Office located on the 200 yards, right alongside Catholic residents doing their own shopping. No peace walls have been built since both sides have to use the same stores and services located in the disputed area.

It should be noted that during all of this, 90 percent of the rest of Belfast is peaceful. The trouble usually occurs only when the Orange Order decides to march through a Catholic area.

The hope is that with the peace process moving forward in the years ahead, this type of confrontation will go away and both sides will learn to live together.



Ingenious, legendary Yankees who helped fuel economic engines in times past, from left: Eli Whitney (cotton gin), Elias Howe (sewing machine), Samuel F. B. Morse (the telegraph), Seth Thomas (mass producer clockmaker).

Over The Years, The 'Yankee Spirit' Has Been An Economic Boon

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

At a time when the nation faces severe financial depression, bank failures, and high unemployment, it should come as something of a consolation to recall that over the course of some 350 years New England has demonstrated an uncanny ability to adapt well to all kinds of economic changes. Certainly one contributing factor for this story of change and adaptation would have to be the spirit of Yankee enterprise.

The origins of the term "Yankee" are uncertain, but during the colonial period almost everybody from New England was considered a Yankee – hence "Yankee Doodle." A Yankee was usually regarded as sharp, canny, and resourceful – someone who simply could not leave things alone. He had to keep tinkering with things to make them better, more efficient, and more profitable.

The uniqueness of the Yankee mentality, however, was intellectual as well as practical. In the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Congregational faith placed great emphasis on education, to insure that everyone could read the Bible. Bostonians, therefore, not only read books on theology, but also studied works on science, navigation, and astronomy that helped them in their widespread maritime enterprises. During the 1700s, New England's profitable triangular trades brought fish to Western Europe, carried fur and lumber to the West Indies, and shipped molasses and rum to West Africa in return for tragic cargoes of slaves. Young Frederic Tudor of Boston expanded the trade even further by sending frozen ice all the way to India, creating a commodity that would not change until the electric refrigerator appeared in the 20th century.

In 1812, however, the outbreak of war with Great Britain threatened to destroy New England's maritime supremacy. With naval blockades shutting down the New England ports, Yankees invested their money in the manufacture of cotton textiles. First, they brought together the mechanical processes of spinning and weaving under one roof in their factory at Waltham. Then they moved to Lowell and Lawrence, where the great waterfalls of the Merrimack River transformed what had been a small household enterprise into a major industrial complex.

The rapid growth of the textile industry also benefited from the invention of a young Connecticut Yankee named Eli Whitney, who had moved South in search of a teaching job. With the innate curiosity of a tinkerer, in 1793 he came up with the cotton gin. This device provided a mechanical means of replacing the intensive hand labor required to separate the cotton seeds from the cotton fiber. Now the textile manufacturers were furnished with vast quantities of raw cotton at greatly reduced prices.

By the time the War of 1812 was over, the textile industry had become a permanent addition to the New England economy, as Yankee ships carried Yankee textile products all over the world. When Elias Howe of Spencer, Massachusetts, invented the sewing machine in 1845, the textile industry got another boost. Now ready-made clothing could now be turned out by unskilled factory workers. With a growing demand for uniforms during the Mexican War, and later the Civil War, ready-made clothing developed into a new multi-million-dollar industry.

The appearance of the steam engine that powered vessels on the Erie Canal in 1807 was yet another invention seized upon by the Yankee entrepreneurs. Here was a new source of power that no longer depended upon wind or water. In the South, steam-powered cotton gins produced more raw cotton for New England mills, and by the 1830s Boston investors had further diversified their investments by moving into a controlling interest in the new steam-powered railroad lines that began criss-crossing the country.

In the 1840s, Samuel F. B. Morse, a Yale graduate, revolutionized the communication system with his invention of the telegraph. And a few years later Charles Thurber of East Brookfield, Massachusetts, transformed correspondence with the invention of the manual typewriter. With Samuel Colt (another Yale grad) producing the famous revolver that would win the West, and Seth Thomas designing the clocks that would set the nation's time, inventive tinkers kept coming up with the new ideas and clever inventions that opened up the possibilities of whole new industries.

In 1851, at London's fabulous Crystal Palace Exhibition, the displays of Yankee inventions were literally the talk of the town, from such prosaic products as picks, hoes, shovels, scythes, road-scrappers, and ice-cream freezers, to the more complicated intricacies of sewing machines, mechanical reapers, and padlocks with revolving cylinders. Visitors from all over the world came to London and marveled at what they called "Yankee notions" which were destined to change the basic nature of manufacturing.

Perhaps a reappearance of the old Yankee spirit might offer a remedy for recovery and growth. In the past, Yankee entrepreneurs were able to keep the New England economy alive by tinkering with inefficient models, creating new inventions, and applying new scientific methods to outmoded procedures. Ideas have always been a motivating force in New England's economic history: there is no reason why ideas cannot continue to provide change and growth in the future.

Dr. Thomas H. O'Connor is a resident of Milton and university historian at Boston College.

Off the Bench

Recognizing Our Faults, Our Flaws

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Institutions perform poorly because they are composed of human beings. That observation should not come as a surprise to anyone older than 30; yet we are frequently shocked when it happens.

Knowing human beings are flawed, we should expect that collectively they will display weaknesses that we all demonstrate individually. Thus the need for laws, checks and balances, regulations, standards, and enforcement to identify and minimize the adverse consequences of our behavior.

But the regulatory and enforcement institutions are themselves flawed and often fail to adequately perform the functions for which they were designed. This applies across the board to governments, business, charities, and churches. For no one can escape his/her humanity.

At best we can control the most egregious examples of our inherent flaws. For individuals and institutions alike, this requires a lifetime effort; first to identify and then to suppress harmful behavior.

It requires the capacity to honestly look at yourself and the institutions of which you are a part and those that affect you. Having identified what is wrong, that knowledge requires the capacity to change. Such changes are rarely a solution but can be significant improvements.

Legislatures tend to be a mess because of the special interests of paramount concern to many legislators, not the least of which is re-election. The common good is lost in a blizzard of competing interests, pettiness, deal making, partisanship, and poor judgment that now seem to fuel the process.

Stuck in partisan muck and mire, it is a wonder Congress is able to accomplish anything. Money often tips the scales of competing interests in a system where self preservation rules. If it represents the best in us, we are all in trouble.

Where are the statesmen? The sad fact is they probably could not be elected in this environment. Duplicity reigns in what was hoped would be the land of the just. Free at last, the best legislators are often the ones who choose not to run again.

Doing what is right sometimes means acting against one's self interest. That applies whether you are a politician, bishop, executive, or someone just trying to be "good." There is a word that you don't hear much anymore.

I like it because for me it means being honorable, truthful, disciplined, kind, brave, tolerant, and understanding. It is the work of a lifetime; never fully achieved but worth the striving.

The flaws of the Roman Catholic Church, so evident now in the shocking revelations of child abuse and its cover-up, have manifested in other ways through the centuries. Priests, bishops, and popes are human beings and subject to the same flaws as the rest of us. The great tragedy is that they should have been better able to identify and avoid evil.

I understand why many Catholics have turned away in disgust. But I could no more abandon my parents, my family, my country than I could my church for I see in all of them weaknesses I see in myself.

When we act collectively through our institutions, rather than being diminished, those flaws are more likely inflated. The complex interaction of the many combined with outside forces and the desire to preserve and protect the institution too often suppress what Abraham Lincoln called: "The better angels of our being."

How generous we are in overlooking our own faults, while condemning them in others. William James, the 19th century psychologist and philosopher, wrote: "The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook."

BIR Profile

Phil Johnston, Lifelong Democratic Stalwart, Has Three Passions: Politics, Fairness, Equality

By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Philip W. Johnston, a former chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, always knew how to spot a winner. The knack surfaced as a teenager. At 14, he wrote to a junior senator from Massachusetts, urging him to run for president. The senator promptly replied, "I am grateful for your many thoughtful remarks about my career. At the present time, I'm a candidate only for reelection to the Senate from Massachusetts. I have no idea what the future may bring, but it is good to know of your friendship. Every good wish." The letter, dated May 27, 1958, was signed by John F. Kennedy, and is now framed in Johnston's stately Boston office, overlooking 99 Summer Street.

The exchange marked the beginning of a close association between the Kennedy family and Johnston, former New England Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Clinton, former Secretary of Health and Human Services under Gov. Michael Dukakis, and a five-term Massachusetts lawmaker with a distinguished, wide-ranging resume and enough political memorabilia to fill a museum. A history major early on at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a master of arts degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Johnston has chosen to live history in ways that edify. He sits on the board of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, is chairman of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, and was founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, a leader in promoting child welfare and juvenile justice in Massachusetts.

The head of Philip W. Johnston Associates, a leading public affairs and strategic communications consulting firm with offices in Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C., he has done more for health reform in Massachusetts than just about anyone, with the exception of Ted Kennedy, who was a close friend and mentor—a man with an "energy gene," as Johnston says. Johnston also is chairman of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, and sits on the boards of the University of Massachusetts, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute. In addition, he was appointed by President Obama to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

At 65, Johnston is cranking away like a man half his age. "I always tell people I get either bored or depressed if I don't have a hundred balls in the air," he says. A cursory survey of his office with its scores of plaques, citations, photos, framed newspaper clips, and other keepsakes indicates that none of the balls have been dropped. "I think when I leave some day, they'll have a big bonfire," he jokes.

Hardly. The mementos tell the story of five decades of vision, accomplishment, and public service, reinforced by those in the front row. "In all my career, I've never seen such impressive organization and unity among Democrats," Ted Kennedy in November 2006 wrote the state Democratic chairman in congratulations for an exceptional campaign. In appreciation of Johnston's fine work with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, Ethel Kennedy extolled on a 1968 *Time* Magazine cover of her late husband, "To Phil, with love, thanks and admiration."

Johnston's office suite is lined with photos and autographed inscriptions from political rock stars, present and former. As he walks a hallway, he pauses to gape at one of them. "I'll have to take that one down," he observes in critical reference to a photo of the former North Carolina senator and Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards. The photo is facing a framed 1978 *Boston Globe* story detailing how Johnston and his buddy Andrew Card, then a colleague in the Legislature, advocated for an independent investigative commission to probe the New York-based construction management firm of McKee-Berger-Mansueto. In 1969, the company, known as MBM, won a contract to supervise the construction of the new UMass-Boston campus on Dorchester Bay. Investigations ultimately showed that MBM had bribed its way to a contract by laundering key political contributions. Just weeks ago, Common Cause, at its 40th anniversary, honored Johnston and Card for their significant efforts to reform state government. "I called Andy when I heard about the award, and told him I didn't think anyone remembered," says Johnston, noting that he was invited to the White House more often while George W. Bush was president and Card held sway as White House chief of staff than when he had worked for Clinton.



Philip W. Johnston: political passion a family trait.

For a guy who has achieved so much behind the scenes in the arenas of government reform, health care, human services, and social justice, Johnston's public persona, by intent, is unassuming. Self-deprecating, Johnston is reticent to talk about himself. He's clearly more comfortable reflecting on the role models that define him. The long, impressive list starts with his namesake, his paternal grandfather, Philip W. Johnston, who in 1881 emigrated at age three from Sligo to Worcester with his widowed mother.

The luck of the Irish was not with the Johnstons at first. His grandfather and mother were turned away by older siblings in Fitchburg because the family didn't have enough money to feed them. "So they ended up on Belmont Hill in Worcester in a shack," says Johnston. "My grandfather left school in the second grade to help support his mother." Perseverance was at the root of the family tree. "A generation later, his son—my father—received a doctorate in psychology and physics from Harvard."

Johnston's father, Philip W. II, also grew up in Worcester. He married Elizabeth Mary Foley, daughter of a prominent local doctor with close ties to County Kerry. The couple moved to Natick, then Wellesley, to raise a family a short commute from Boston where his dad supervised the maternal and child health section at the state Department of Public Health (DPH) on Broad Street. Johnston's mother, a former teacher, stayed home to raise five children: Kate, Beth, Cindy, young Philip W. III ("trips" in an uppity Yankee family), Cindy, and Suzanne.

Johnston inherited his father's great passion for politics and his mother's bent for fairness and equality. Both were devout Catholics, but his father, a tough, bright and compassionate man, lost his faith in combat. "He left the church during World War II when his best friend was blown up next to him," notes Johnston. "He questioned everything about religion, then returned to church the day John Kennedy died."

Both his parents were avid Democrats, "Roosevelians," as Johnston calls them, or Roosevelt Democrats, as many of our fathers would say. "My father loved Jack Kennedy," says Johnston. "They were similar in some ways: Irish, Catholic, Harvard, and Navy guys. I told Ethel recently that my father respected Kennedy because he was a hero, because of his courage in the war. My dad had no use for James Michael Curley. He

thought Curley made the Irish look bad."

Throughout Johnston's childhood, talk of politics filled the dinner table as much as any meal. But it was his parents' remarkable example, those incredible teaching moments, that affected him most, like the day the pastor came to their Natick home with a petition to discourage a black couple from moving into the neighborhood. "If those people buy a home in this neighborhood, next to the church, the church property will decline," Johnston quotes the pastor as saying. "I was seven years old at the time, looking up at my parents. It was a key moment. They could have gone either way. They could have been intimidated, and signed the petition." Johnston's father was unyielding. "You call yourself a priest!" he scolded the pastor, then swiftly threw him out of the house.

A few years later, the family moved to Wellesley, a town where women who were accepted to Wellesley College received a tuition-free education. Two of Johnston's sisters attended the school. Brahmin Wellesley neighbors were appalled when the family first moved in. "Most had never lived next to Catholics and Democrats," says Johnston. "A few years later, some of them moved out. They thought the riffraff had arrived."

Johnston played sports in Wellesley as a youth (a pitcher in youth leagues and a swimmer), but unlike most kids his age in the community, he had to work—bagging groceries at Star Market and flipping burgers at Sunshine Dairy. At Wellesley High School, his parents' dedication to social justice led Johnston to become involved in an organization called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), one of the principal organizations of the Civil Rights Movement. A child of the 60s, Johnston has never left the generation or its core values.

At UMass-Amherst, Johnston continued his activism, and upon graduation, he became a social worker in Boston. He also volunteered for the 1968 presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy. He was assigned to advance work in New York, a critical state for Kennedy; Johnston had secured the position with Worcester connections through Kenny O'Donnell, Kennedy's campaign manager and former top aide to JFK. "I met Bobby in 1968 in New York," Johnston recalls. "My first impression of him was: hair, teeth, and extraordinary charisma! Bobby Kennedy has been a constant in my career. That's how I started and that's how I'll end—focused on Kennedy's issues of justice and fairness. His greatest gift, I think, was bringing poor whites and poor blacks together. Too often they are divided by politics. The right wing has been adept in telling working class whites that their enemy is black people. The reverse is true. Their enemy is rich white people."

Johnston, a longtime Marshfield resident, is simpatico in his views with his wife of 45 years, Beverly (Balestrieri). A former social worker, Beverly does volunteer work for the Boys and Girls Club in Marshfield. The couple has two children: Ellen, who works with Johnston, and Robert Martin (named after Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King), a New York attorney who heads the New York Executive Council, representing a group of technology and health companies.

Highly skilled at deflection, Johnston two hours into an interview redirects a question about his legacy on health care reform and social issues, and talks instead of role models again. It's a way, an observer senses, of taking measure of himself in the greatness of others. One gets the impression that such purposeful reflection keeps him self-effacing and ever passionate. "We've lost our bearing," he says. "We seem to keep repeating the same mistakes. I never thought, for example, that I'd see two Vietnams in my life. Now we have Iraq, and perhaps a third Vietnam in Afghanistan. Years ago we had the civil rights movement; today we have the anti-immigration protest. When my grandfather landed in Boston 129 years ago, no one stopped him at the dock to say you can't come here. I find it disturbing that racism and jingoism have raised their ugly heads."

Concedes Johnston, "I still have a limitless capacity for outrage."

He acknowledges, however, that "We've seen a lot of positive change." He pauses for a second to glance at the phone that's lighting up like the Fourth of July on the Charles. More balls flung into the air on health care and equality fronts. "I'm pleased with the change," he notes in a moment of shared self-reflection. "But it's just simply not enough!"

Greg O'Brien is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communication strategy company based in Brewster. He is the author/editor of several books and contributes to various regional and national publications.

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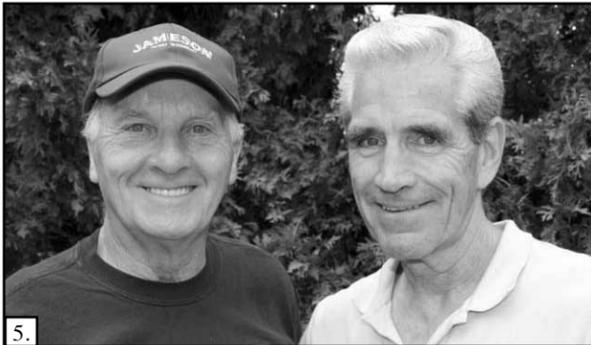
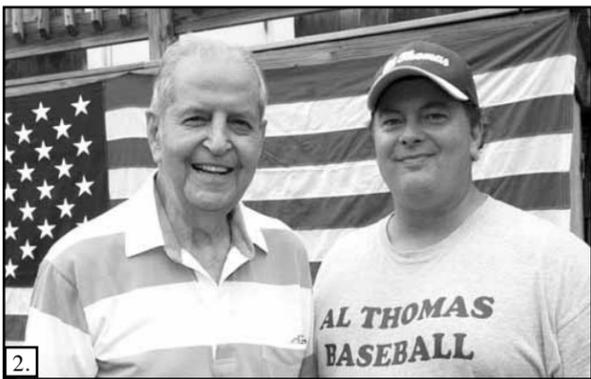
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

Milton funeral director Al Thomas hosted a barbecue reception for the Senior Irish National Baseball team following an exhibition game in Milton's Cunningham Park on July 25. Thomas hosts the outing each year at Heritage Hall in Milton for players and family members of his adult baseball team, the Al Thomas Club, which competes in the Yawkey Baseball League of Greater Boston, the largest amateur baseball program for men in Boston. The league has roots in 1950s Boston, and was once known as the City League, the Twilight League and the Boston Junior Park League. In 1990, it was re-named in honor of former Boston Red Sox owner Tom Yawkey.

1.) Irish team with Al Thomas and team manager Joseph O'Hara 2.) Al Thomas with team manager Joseph O'Hara 3.) Ellie Fitzgerald, Milton; Jean O'Hara, Brockton; 4.) Della Costello, Dorchester; Gil Sullivan, Canton 5.) Austin McGuirk, Milton; Leo Judge, Milton 6.) Colin and dad Brian Carlson, Milton 7.) Maureen Crowley and Claire McGuirk, Milton 8.) John MacVarish and Joe Manning, Milton 9.) John Dillon and Sean Mitchell, Dublin, and Larry Fennelly, So. Boston 10.) Nora and mom Kathy Carlson, Dorchester 11.) Bill and Pat McLaughlin, Milton 12.) Al Thomas with fans 13.) First base coach Larry Fennelly, So. Boston 14.) Joe Kessler, Gloucester; Sean Cunningham, Malden; Jim Coyle, Lynn, all of Sundays Well 15.) Dan Lovett, Milton; Larry Fennelly, So. Boston; Andy McDonnell, Milton; Joe O'Hara, Milton; John McDonnell, Milton; Mike Feehily, Scituate 16.) Mary Morris, Bob Hannon, Michelle Ridge, and Jackie Killion, all of Milton.



Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL

Get Thee To A Bank – There is \$300 million in old, outdated Irish pounds or punt still unredeemed after almost eight years. When the Irish shifted from its national currency to the European Union's euro, millions were left on the table by residents in Ireland and also in the US, England, and other countries. Since the conversion at the end of 2002, only \$75 million in old currency has been redeemed. The interesting aspect of the euro-for-punt redemption is that despite the euro's rate fluctuations in recent years the value of the punt remains as it was originally, one euro to a shade less than eight-tenths of the old Irish pound.

While the Irish pound is no longer legal tender in Ireland or elsewhere, the Irish banking system continues to accept punt in exchange for the new euro. So if you have a wad of Irish pounds stashed away under the mattress or in a bureau somewhere pull them out and get them to an Irish bank. If the amount being redeemed is relatively small, banks will handle it over the counter, while larger amounts of punt are exchanged in the central process center. Happy hunting.

New threshold For 'L' Drivers – Ireland has a quaint, almost archaic system of licensing new drivers and this has always been a source of concern for myself and others using the Irish roads. The old system for beginning drivers has traditionally been to road test them and if they failed, which hundreds do annually, give them learners' permits. The result is that one in every eight drivers in Ireland (you can note the big L on rear windows) has not passed a driver's test. Many have taken the tests over and over, flunked again, and had their learners permit automatically renewed. Bad business.

The new system recently introduced in Ireland is the Graduated Driver License system (GDL), where the privilege of driving is only granted after ability is proven. The old and dangerous system of allowing people to drive year after year until they got the hang of it is likely a byproduct of the old, agricultural Ireland and the fact that the country's rural roads dominated the landscape. But that is hardly the situation today in modern Ireland where new roads and bypasses are ubiquitous.

The GDL system is in use in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many of Ireland's EU neighbors. As the name suggests it is a graduated system entailing proven competence and in some cases demands for a three-year program before full, unfettered driving privileges are granted. For Irish drivers, it's the way to go.

Kerry Could Be New World Pharma Center – It is only in the development stage and far too early to raise the banners, but there are rumblings that Tralee, the county capital of Kerry, is looking toward becoming the home of the largest global pharmaceutical center in the world. The Cork-based pharmaceutical company, Pharmadel, a wholly-owned Irish healthcare company operating in 17 countries, is seriously considering a huge project costing upwards of \$7 billion that would provide employment for 4,800 skilled workers spread over 30 campuses while increasing the population of Tralee, which bills itself as "Ireland's largest town," by 22 percent.

The facility if it comes to fruition – and it need be stressed that is still in its infancy – would be the single largest employment placement site in Ireland and the equal of the International Financial Service Centre on the Dublin quays.

Talks and pre-planning meetings have already been held between Pharmadel Healthcare and the Tralee Town Council. If the project goes forward, construction is scheduled to begin in September, 2012.

Strange Timing promoting Orange Holiday – Just a few days after wholesale rioting and scores of police injuries in Belfast fueled by youthful hooligans there and in Derry shocked the citizenry, the former leader of the defunct Progressive Democrats, **Michael McDowell**,

wants to make the 12th of July an Irish national holiday. Wow! McDowell, also a former Taniste in the Republic, while speaking at the MacGill Summer School said that the Twelfth should be added to St. Patrick's Day as a national holiday. Has McDowell read anything about the Orange Order and their anti-Catholic history over the years prior to the order's recent attempt to re-brand the triumphantly in-your-face parades through nationalist territory as a bogus "OrangeFest?" At MacGill in Glenties, Co. Donegal, McDowell, in a flight of near-lucidity, did admit that "more work had to be done" south of the border to make the Twelfth a holiday. Not so strange, maybe, that the Progressive Democrats were retired from public life.

Did You Know ... that Archbishop Thomas William Croke (1824-1902), for whom the newly refurbished GAA home, Dublin's Croke Park, is named, was an activist and patriot who fought at the barricades of Paris in the 1848 revolution and was a participant in the 1870 First Vatican Council? His passions were the GAA, support of Home Rule, the Land League, and the Irish cultural Revival.

Dublin Airport's 'T2' Opening In Fall – Dublin Airport's gleaming new Terminal 2, built at a cost of \$750 million, is going through its final prep readying the facility for its opening later this year. Gone are the cramped check-in and low ceilings more reminiscent of the airport's opening in 1940, and welcome to the 21st century Dublin airport terminal that sports modern, spacious, glass surroundings, high ceilings, and ample seating in a distinctive new look.

The new terminal will feature 2,000 parking spaces outside its doors and inside bright, innovative signage to guide Aer Lingus passengers and others through to ticketing, departure, and boarding. Handling Terminal 2 traffic will be 1,000 staff. The new terminal will also feature a US Customs and Border Protection facility, very much like Shannon Airport, one of only two outside North America that can clear passengers through customs.

No Tears For Seanie -- The recent Irish banking collapse that has cost the Irish Exchequer (read: rate payers) billions of euros and created a level of national indebtedness greater than that of Greece also catapulted many of the country's high flyers into almost instant bankruptcy.

Many of the suddenly poor, caught between a vanished commercial building market and over-leveraged developments, were ruined. For the honest entrepreneur it has been a nightmare and the sudden end of a Celtic Tiger world they thought would last forever. For many there was sympathy, understanding, and a knowing nod from friends and associates. But for one Irish high-flyer there would be no outpouring of sympathy. For **Sean Fitzpatrick**, former chairman of the Anglo Irish Bank (22 billion taxpayer euros down the drain) there were no tears when he filed for bankruptcy, still trying up to the last minute to buy time on his debts and avoid his fate.

It is well documented that ex-chairman Fitzpatrick spent most of his waking hours at his bank (when not holidaying in sunny Spain), cutting deals, and borrowing huge sums of money to expand his shaky but growing (on paper) real estate and investment portfolio. Many were "smallish" loans of under ten million euros that Fitzpatrick cajoled his spineless board of directors into authorizing. Then there was the "grand Caper" -- the \$150 million he borrowed from Anglo, and then to hide it, he and his directors took it temporarily off their books at audit time and transferred the loan to the Nationwide Building Society, which held it and later returned it following the audit to Anglo. Virtually all of that Fitzpatrick loan remains unpaid. No tears for Seanie; how about the crossbar hotel?

Catholics Safe From Royal Taint – The Act of Settlement of 1701 that bans the British monarch and the heir to that throne from marrying a Roman Catholic will not, as some predicted, be repealed. It had been mooted about that there was a plan to change that 400-year-old statute but the new prime minister, **David Cameron**, has quickly nixed any changes. So it seems that nobody with the stigma of the papacy will ever be the head of the Church of England. And somehow that

seems just about right; what Catholic of stable mind would want to join **Fergie** and that dysfunctional lot, harmless as they may be?

Irish Professionals In Demand – It is being reported that Irish architects, unemployed and under-employed at home because of the decline there in the domestic construction industry, are being actively recruited by Canada. The Canadian immigration program, citing the robust health of the Canadian construction industry, has added architects to its preferred list of professionals who then can qualify for permanent resident visas if they have 12 months of work experience.

This is a solid opportunity for architects interested in emigrating and finding full employment to look to Canada while construction in Ireland is at a low ebb. The Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland estimates that half of its approximately 3,000 members are unemployed.

The current situation is almost eerily identical to the late 1980s when Ireland was in its pre-Tiger doldrums and there was a big, long term project just getting started that was desperately looking for qualified engineers: the so-called Chunnel, the 31-mile link between France and England. That project was started in 1988 and completed in 1994. It proved to be a boon for both the Irish engineers and the company building the tunnel.

Did You Know ... that Cyril Cusack, Ireland's most honored and prolific stage and screen actor, would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year? He was an actor for 75 years, considered by many to be the premier character actor of his time. Born in Kenya, he made his first appearance on stage at seven and appeared at the Abbey, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Gate Theatre, and in over 100 screen roles. The actor, who died in 1993 is equally famous in theatrical circles for his three acting daughters, **Sinead, Niamh, and Sorcha**.

August, Time For Puck Fair – The annual fun and games of Puck Fair in Killorglin, Kerry, will be attracting large crowds to the Kerry countryside from August 10-12. The three-day event celebrates the anniversary of the granting of a Fair charter to local landlord **Jenkins Conway** by **King James I**, in 1613. This year's festival will be launched by All-Ireland winning Kerry football captain **Darran O'Sullivan**.

The festivities will include entertainers from Australia and the United States, outdoor concerts by De Dannan and the Las Vegas Showband; free music on the streets and workshops on Irish dance, piping, drumming, and storytelling.

Three years from now Puck Fair will be celebrating a milestone anniversary, the 400th year since its founding, a historic moment to pause and celebrate the annual fairs and summer schools that are so much a part of the history and literature of the isle.

Mixed Bag On Irish Economy – The international credit agency, Moody's, has downgraded Ireland's government bond ratings, reports the Irish Times. The lower rating Aa2, is a step down with higher borrowing costs and never a good thing, despite Taoiseach **Brian Cowen's** determination to put a shine on the sneaker by protesting that Moody's action had "positive aspects." This was in keeping with the belabored Irish leader's concerted efforts to reverse the "negativity" in the media and also among his own Fianna Fail backbenchers, as well as the criticism coming from **Enda Kenny's** Fine Gael.

Ireland, unlike Greece up until recent weeks, has been extremely proactive in combating the economic woes that have highlighted the demise of the Celtic Tiger alongside the global recession that has hit Ireland as heavily as any EU member. Moody's, in announcing the downgrade of Ireland's key bond rating, had some softening words for the Irish leadership.

The rating service's lead analyst for Ireland said, "Today's downgrade is primarily driven by the Irish government's gradual but significant loss of financial strength, as reflected by its deteriorating debt affordability." But in summing up, Moody's said it believed Ireland "had turned the corner."

Quote Of The Day

"We're too parochial, and that's been our downfall. Commitment to the common good of the Irish people as a whole

has all too often been undermined by the intense localism of our society – the practice of persistently putting the interests of one locality before that of the country as a whole. We are also guilty of low standards both in public life and frequently also in the quality of service we give through our work."

– **Former Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald**

Random Clippings

The European Commission has recently promulgated new guidelines for travelers and they have a new website that can provide answers about your rights, etc. ec.europa.eu/passenger-rights. ... Lawyers' fees in Ireland are off the charts and one special Master just reduced fees for one client by 82 percent, from \$2.6 million to \$500,000 while expressing his "disgust and bewilderment" ... Has anyone heard of a popular cocktail served in US bars called the "Irish Car Bomb"? What a depraved name, and trivializing Ireland's past violence. ... There is good news for the Museum of Free Derry in the bogside that hopes to soon double its size and display area. ... Fans of the **Rose Kennedy Greenway** and the Mothers Walk will be happy to learn that wireless internet access (WiFi network) is now available through the Greenway Park. ... **Ian Paisley** has retired to become Lord Bannside in the House of Lords but he hasn't softened his harsh view of **Pope Benedict**, calling him recently the "anti-Christ."

The Irish Senate followed the Dail in passing a new law providing for civil partnerships and enhanced civil rights for same-sex couples and sent it on to the President, who will sign it. ... Starting in September seaplanes will be flying from the Galway dock area to Limerick and the Arans. The sponsors claim to be the first ever seaplane operation in Ireland. I thought that American flights flew into the water at the Shannon estuary over half a century ago. ... If you're in Ireland and want a taste of the high life, don't book into **Ashford Castle or Dromoland** where a couple with breakfast and dinner could drop a grand. Instead stop by either of these two grand hotels for breakfast or tea. Same ambience. ... Don't try to reach anyone for a while at the Irish parliament. The Dail and its inhabitants are on a three-month holiday until late September. ... Hotel business in Ireland is hurting with low occupancy rates but for the tourist it's a godsend with reduced rates per night in many very nice hotels under \$80.

How can we forget former **Taoiseach Bertie** (almost gone) **Ahern**, who has hit up the battered taxpayer once more for another \$18,000 tab for airport VIP charges and mobile phone use. And worth every euro. ... **Martin McGuinness**, the North's First Deputy minister, is calling for people in the six counties to vote in presidential elections in the Republic. ... Good news for those of us not enamored of Ryanair's arrogantly crusty chief, **Michael O'Leary**, who had his final try at buying Aer Lingus blocked by the European Court. He also was sued for libel and lost to the founder of rival EasyJet, costing him \$75,000 and a public apology. ... Hero **John McCain** of 2000. Now he's denying he was ever a maverick while fighting for his political life in Arizona. Sad! ... Two US families who lost spouses by accidental falls on Skellig Michael are suing Ireland. ... Irish people retire later than any other EU country and the Irish average pension is lowest in the EU. ... The last election in the North may have convinced the skeletal Ulster Unionist party to merge with the dominant Democratic Unionist Party. ... The US has had hundreds of laptops and computer data tape lost or stolen but the Irish are not too far behind with some 50 laptops belonging to government departments gone missing in the last 18 months.

RIP: David O'Docherty – There is an obituary elsewhere in this issue of the BIR but just a few words about David. He was, beneath that exuberance and sometimes untamed exterior, kind and gentle and curious, a friend of humankind. I valued his friendship. He was full of passion and caring and the juice of life. He made Boston more interesting for all of us through his art and his music. Another gift from Ireland to Boston.

NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



100 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110
Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655
Website: iicenter.org Email: immigration@iicenter.org

International Program Update—Working in Boston and in Ireland, the Irish Immigration Center builds bridges between communities. Our International programs improve participants' skills, giving them practical work experience and the personal development

to be able to contribute positively to their communities.

Our J-1'ers are still looking for jobs! — Many of our J-1 students are still looking for jobs. Please contact Frank Mackey ASAP at 617-542-7654, Ext.18 or send

an e-mail to J1summer@iicenter.org with any leads that you may have to help these students out. Thank you. We really appreciate your help.

The IIC Cyber Café welcomes J-1 students: Mon: 12-5 p.m.; Tues 12-7 p.m.; Wed 12-5 p.m.; Thurs 12-7 p.m.; and Friday 12-4 p.m. Come on by — we look forward to meeting you!

provides comprehensive, professional, and confidential legal assistance on visa options, immigration and citizenship issues. IIC operations include a mix of outreach and education to the immigrant community, as well as specialized, individual consultation and immigration case assistance.

Community Counseling and Education Services Update

The Irish Immigration Center's Community Counseling and Education Services offers counseling, free health clinics, courses to help improve job skills, and other resources to Irish immigrants. Director Danielle Owen, a licensed substance abuse counselor, can assist you if you are experiencing issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety, depression, healthcare access, and homelessness.

Advocacy Update

The Irish Immigration Center collaborates with partners to secure comprehensive immigration reform and to advocate for the rights and opportunities of immigrants and refugees. We appreciate the great diversity that immigrants bring to our communities.

State

We remain concerned about the recent passage of the new Massachusetts budget. In a move demonstrating both leadership and creativity, Governor Patrick renewed funding for the Commonwealth Care Bridge program, the only affordable alternative for health insurance available to some 40,000 legal immigrants. As a direct services provider, we know the already abundant need for healthcare. We thank the governor and hope the House and Senate will follow suit in approving this funding.

Federal

Last month, President Obama spoke out about comprehensive immigration reform, encouraging political and community leaders to work together toward the creation of pathways to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in America. Following this, the Department of Justice announced that it will sue the state of Arizona over its new anti-immigrant border control legislation. We are thrilled and look forward to a successful outcome.

For more information on ways to raise your voice, please visit our partner, the MIRA Coalition, at miracoalition.org.

Home Health Aide and other courses — visit our Facebook page

Check us out for up-to-date information about classes and workshops planned for the fall from IIC Community Counseling and Education Services and CARE. We hope to offer more computer skills and employment preparation classes as well as Irish caregivers networking nights in September. If you are interested in smoking cessation, suicide prevention, and/or substance abuse education, we will have workshops on these topics in the fall of 2010. For additional information about these or other topics and skills, please call Ciara at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14.

Immigration and Citizenship Update — The Irish Immigration Center

The IIC is pleased to offer free weekly legal clinics. Our friendly, dedicated, and experienced immigration attorneys will answer your questions about immigration and citizenship issues.

Upcoming dates for our community clinics include:

Tues., Aug. 3, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: IIC Office, 100 Franklin St. in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street).

Mon., Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.: The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St. Brighton.

Tues., Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: St. Mark's Parish, 1725 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Reasons to Pursue US Citizenship

Q. My husband has a green card and has been eligible to apply for US citizenship for quite some time, but he keeps putting it off. Can you give me a list of good reasons why he should become a citizen?

A. Here are some of the major reasons for becoming a US citizen:

Voting: If you are making this country your permanent home and want to participate fully in the American democracy, becoming a citizen is a key step. Almost without exception, only US citizens can vote. A US citizen is eligible to vote in every local, state, and federal primary and general election. (Note on **unlawful voting**: a non-citizen who has voted in violation of any federal, state, or local constitutional provision, statute, ordinance or regulation may be barred from obtaining US citizenship and may be considered inadmissible. If voting involves a false claim to US citizenship, it could be a deportable offense.)

Deportation: Green card holders run the risk of being deported if they are convicted of certain types of crimes. Following the passage of federal immigration legislation in 1996, this can be the case even for a number of seemingly less serious offenses. Once you become a US citizen, you are no longer deportable, assuming you received your citizenship lawfully in the first place. Consider also that if you have foreign-born children under 18 who are lawful permanent residents, and if you or their other parent naturalizes before the children turn 18, then the children are also US citizens. (If they were born in the US, they are US citizens automatically, regardless of their parents' citizenship). We know of a number of young lawful permanent residents who were deemed deportable after having been convicted of criminal offenses and whose parents failed to naturalize. The parents' naturalization before the children turned 18 could have prevented the deportation of these individuals. (Note: a "conviction" for immigration purposes may involve not only a formal guilty verdict, but other dispositions as well.)

Guaranteed US Status: Permanent residents (green card holders) are at risk of losing their status if they spend long continuous periods of time outside the US. The IIC has fielded many calls from immigrants who inadvertently abandoned their legal permanent residence status, and who later wanted to return to live in the US. Those who are still eligible have to go through the whole arduous processing of applying for permanent residence all over again; many people who abandon their residence are unable to become permanent residents again.

Matters Of Substance

A Daughter's Suicide, a Father's loss

BY DANIELLE OWEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

I'm so angry and confused. I'm a religious man but can't seem to find the answers. Why did my beautiful little girl take her own life? I remember the day she graduated from University, she was so excited. The day when she and Ron got married, I was so proud when I walked her down the aisle. Cathy came by the house about a month before with little Johnny. She burst into tears and told me she had not slept in ages. She was so skinny and pale. I just thought it was normal mothering blues, told her things would be grand and not to worry. Could I have stopped her? I feel so guilty. She was not supposed to go BEFORE me! I want to blame someone, but who?

Blame is something that we all want to do when we lose someone we love — especially our child — to suicide. Everything you are feeling right now — anger, guilt, and confusion — are very normal. You are not crazy, you are in mourning. Don't be surprised if you find yourself feeling anger towards Cathy, toward the world, at God, or at yourself. The most helpful thing that

you can do is to express it, whether in writing as you have done or in talking to someone you trust.

Other family members like your wife and children will be going through similar pain, so finding someone outside the family who is a good listener is important. As religion is important to you, this could be your priest or spiritual adviser. Sometimes, we fear that someone we know will judge us for all these feelings, which is why speaking with a professional like a counselor or finding support groups might be helpful.

If you find that your sleep, appetite, or ability to work or concentrate continues to be affected, it might be time to consider professional help.

If you are worried about a woman who has just had a child, is she experiencing any of the following:

Sad mood, frequent crying
Sleep disturbance
Weight loss
Loss of energy
Agitation or anxiety
Trouble concentrating/making decisions
Thoughts of death or suicide
For a new mom with

these symptoms, just talking to friends or family is not enough. Medication and therapy will probably be necessary. I would strongly encourage professional help from your doctor or a mental health counselor. Postpartum depression is different from the "Baby Blues," and typically occurs in the first few months after delivery but can happen within the first year after giving birth. If you are worried about postpartum depression, suicide, or think you might need counseling and support for yourself or someone you care about, call Danielle, in confidence, at the IIC's Community Counseling and Education Services. We are planning workshops in the fall of 2010 on this topic. If you would



Danielle Owen

like to sign up or get more information, please call us at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14. If you or someone you love feels suicidal, please call the Samaritans: 617-247-0220. They also have support for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. Check out: samaritanshope.org/index.php/grief-support.html.

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www.iicenter.org

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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
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Irish Cultural Centre to Host Eddie Dillon's One-Man Show

'An Irish American Family' – on Aug. 20

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Just imagine if the band that inspired and influenced your youthful musical development invited you, years later, to join them. This fantasy -- common to musician and non-musician alike -- came true for Boston area native Eddie Dillon during the late 1990s, when he played with The Clancy Brothers, which at the time comprised original members Paddy and Bobby Clancy and Bobby's son Finbarr (Paddy died shortly thereafter, but the group kept performing until Bobby's death in 2002).

Being the only American ever to tour with the Clancys was a major highlight in Dillon's decades-long musical career, during which he has written songs recorded by the likes of Seamus Kennedy, Barleycorn, and Kieran McDermott, and served as a backing musician (he plays guitar, mandolin, banjo and bass) for various friends and acquaintances.

The presence of the Clancys in Dillon's childhood is one of the elements in his theatrical/musical piece, "An Irish American Family," which he will perform on Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton [irishculture.org]. Dillon's one-man show, which he premiered late last year, combines reminiscences and stories of Irish Catholic family life in the 1960s with songs evoking that period, whether from the Clancys' repertoire ("Rising of the Moon" and "Jug of Punch") or sentimental favorites like "Frankie and Johnny," "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey" or "The Shamrock Green," which was written by his grandfather.

Further representing the Clancy legacy at the Aug. 20 event will be none other than



Eddie Dillon: "What I've found is that the show strikes a chord with people who didn't grow up Irish, or Catholic, or in the 1960s, or in Boston. Someone would say to me, 'We're Lithuanian, but your stories remind me of my family.' There is a real universality to family stories."

Aoife Clancy (daughter of Bobby), with whom Dillon has performed regularly over the years. She'll be doing a set of her own, as well as some songs with Dillon.

Dillon recently chatted with the Irish Reporter about his career, the origins of "An Irish American Family" -- and why it's not just for Irish Americans.

Q. Eddie, given your resume, it seems like there were any number of musical projects you could've taken on, so how did you wind up with "An Irish American Family?"

A. It was after I had toured

with the Clancys, and with Finbarr Clancy. It had been a great experience, but I was tired, I felt like I had "graduated" from the pub scene, and was looking to do something a little more creative.

I suppose at some point everyone starts to think about their beginnings, how they got to be where they are. I grew up in a singing family. We weren't the type to display shamrocks and shillelaghs, but we were very proud of our Irish heritage, and at gatherings everyone had their "party piece" to share, a story or a poem or a song. It was second nature to us.

(Continued on page 15)



Ronan Tynan on the job.

Ronan Tynan: Quick Wit, Powerful Voice, Rich Life He'll Appear in Hyannis, Cohasset

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Ronan Tynan is a big man with a big heart. He's also one of Boston's newest residents. Having settled into his new home earlier this year, he'll be appearing locally at Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis on Aug. 6 and South Shore Music Circus in Cohasset the next night.

As loyal fans know, the internationally renowned singer, recording artist, author, and motivational speaker was born with a lower limb disability. Despite that, he never slowed down or lost his lust for life. It was only after he suffered complications from a car accident at the age of 20 that his legs were amputated below the knee.

Firm in his determination, he re-learned the skills necessary to walk, and a year later was competing in the Paralympics.

Between 1981 and 1984, he would win 18 gold medals and set 14 world records for his athletic abilities.

The Kilkenny native originally planned on a career in medicine. In fact, he earned his degree from Trinity College and was well into his residency when he shifted his attention to music. Encouraged to study voice by his Dad, he soon won the BBC talent show "Got For It" as well as the International Operatic Singing Competition held in France. Initially focusing on operatic work, he made his debut as Pinkerton in "Madame Butterfly" before going on to perform the works of Rossini, Verdi, and Handel, among others. His life changed again in 1998

when he joined Anthony Kearns and John McDermott (later replaced by Finbar Wright) to form The Irish Tenors. In his subsequent solo career, he has sung everywhere from the funeral of President Ronald Reagan (at the personal request of Nancy Reagan) to the White House, Yankee Stadium, The Belmont Stakes, and at ceremonies prior to the Papal Mass in New York in 2008. We spoke a few weeks ago as Boston was in the midst of a sizzling heat wave. Here's an edited version of our conversation.

BIR: You're just back from a short concert tour in Ireland. How did that go?

A. It was hugely well received. As we know, it's a tough economic climate at the moment, [but] that didn't stop the fans from coming out, which was great. I really enjoyed it. We did nine dates and we had sell-outs and it worked perfectly. It was really terrific.

BIR: Does audience excitement vary as you travel the world?

RT: Country to country, definitely. English audiences are more reserved. And I've sung in Italy and France and they're reserved, too.

BIR: So are the most expressive crowds back in Ireland or here in the States.

RT: I would say it's equally balanced. The States are terrific. It's just a wonderful, wonderful country and people have been wonderful to me and it's fantastic. There's tremendous
(Continued on page 15)

Judy Collins: Inspired by her Irish Heritage

BY DAVE PALMATER
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Over her long and storied career, Judy Collins has recorded everything from ancient English ballads to the latest Broadway show tunes, but her main musical influence was an Irish tenor: her father, Charles "Chuck" Collins.

The son of an Irish immigrant, Chuck was proud of his heritage, and named his first-born son Michael Collins. Though Chuck became blind at an early age, he never let it hold him back in any way up to, and including, driving a car. Judy was born in Seattle, Washington, but the family soon resettled in Denver where Chuck began performing on the radio, becoming a true star of Rocky Mountain radio with a repertoire that included not only popular songs of the day but also the music of his father's native Ireland -- everything from traditional folk songs to the sentimental favorites of fellow tenor John McCormack.

As Judy points out in her autobiography, "Singing Lessons,"

while she listened to her father's broadcasts, his main musical influence came from his singing around the house. Known for breaking into song at the least provocation he was often joined by Judy's mother, Marjorie, a woman of Irish and English Quaker extraction who shared her husband's love of music and Irish songs like "Kathleen Mavourneen", "Danny Boy," and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen."

Chuck and Marjorie encouraged Judy's love of music and she began studying classical music and taking piano lessons at an early age. She might well have become a concert pianist, or perhaps a composer, had she not heard the legendary Jo Stafford performing a version of the old English ballad "Barbara Allen" on the radio. She quickly learned that this was called folk music, and she was smitten. As she delved deeper, she was pleased, and a bit amazed, to discover that songs like "The Kerry Dancer" and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," which she



She followed her dad's lead.

thought of as her father's, were also folk songs.

Her Irish musical heritage has remained an important influence on her career. Her first recording included "The Rising of the Moon" and "The Bold Fenian Men," which she learned from the singing of the Clancy Brothers with whom she shared a stage many times, including an awards dinner for President Kennedy. More recent performances and recordings, have included "She Moves through the Fair" and "The Kerry Dancer."

She also followed in her father's footsteps in becoming a radio performer and host, often using her show to feature performers like the McPeake Family of Northern Ireland and to introduce American audiences
(Continued on page 16)

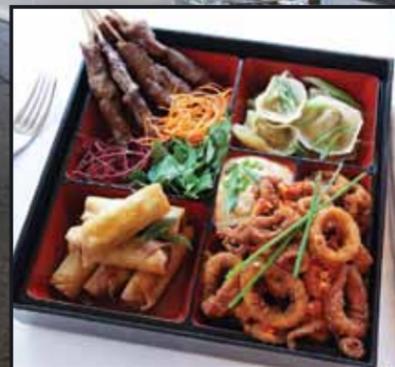
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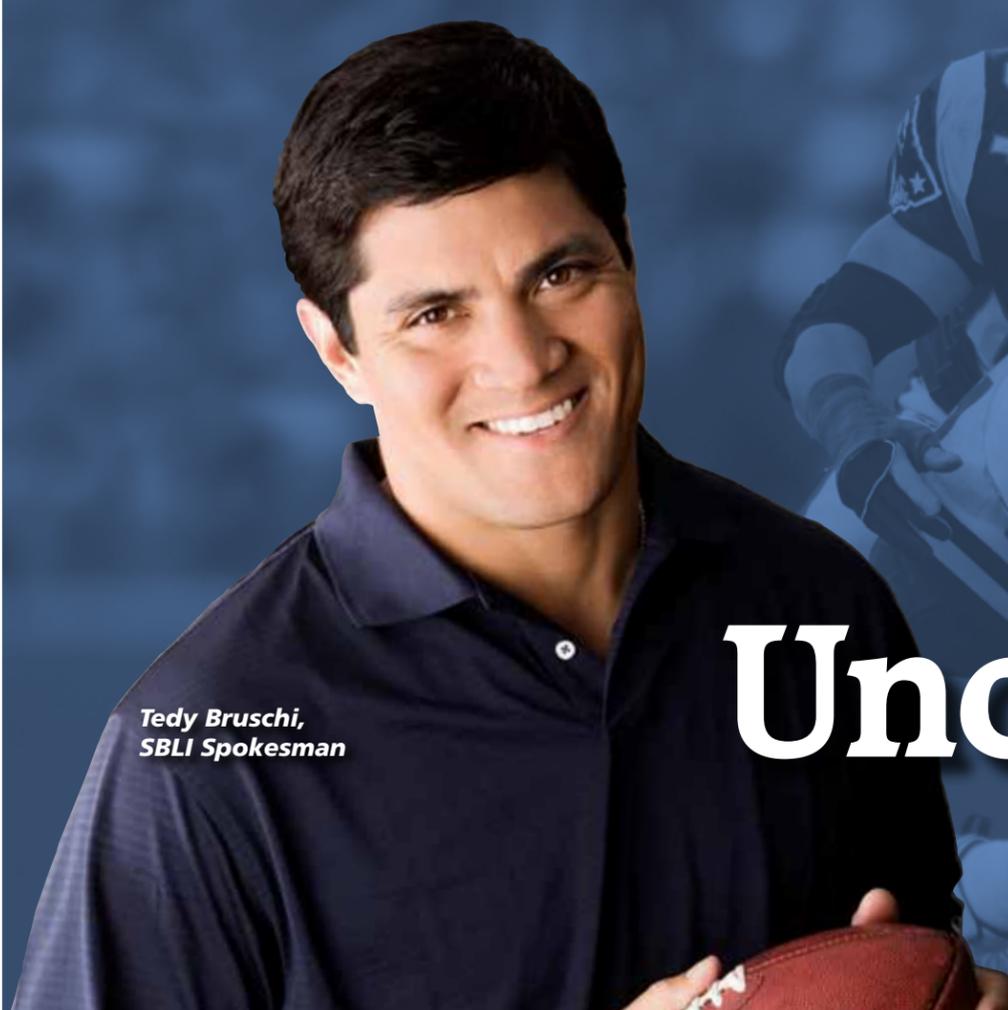
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A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCMFest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during the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

Performer applications deadline extended – If you have an idea for an act or special event to be featured at BCMFest 2011 (January 7 and 8), the deadline for performer applications has been extended until Aug. 10. Just go to bcmfest.com, download an application form and follow the instructions.

Raising voices – As far as BCMFest is concerned, if you've got a voice, you should use it. And that's the idea behind this month's (Aug. 9) BCMFest Celtic Music Monday show at Club Passim in Harvard Square. Audience participation is key to "All Chorus Songs, All the Time," and if the past is any predictor, there will be voices a-plenty ringing through the summer night.

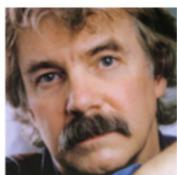
"The idea is pretty straightforward: Every song that is sung during 'All Chorus Songs' has a part for everyone

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to join in on," says Sean Smith, a co-organizer and a performer at the concert. "This will be the third time we've held an 'All Chorus Songs' night for Celtic Music Monday, and we also did a similar event at BCMFest this past January. They've all been quite successful and very well-received. The fact is, people really do like to sing, even if they might say otherwise. It doesn't matter what your voice sounds like or whether you can carry a tune or not, it just matters that you participate."

Of course, Smith adds, you're certainly allowed to just sit and listen at "All Chorus Songs," and his three co-performers are more than worthy of catching one's ear:

Liam Hart: As a college student, Hart competed in the CCE Midwest Fleadh, winning 13 medals and qualifying for Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann. He traveled to Ireland in 1997 and competed at the Fleadh after spending a summer term studying Irish. In 2007, Hart won second place at the Fleadh Ceoil Newly Composed Song in Irish competition with his "Amhrán Sandyston Mheiriceá." Since moving to Massachusetts three years ago, he has been a regular at several area sessions, and co-hosts the Thursday session at Tommy Doyle's in Harvard Square. Hart, who performed in the BCMFest 2010 finale concert, has just released his first CD, "Far From Home."

Jerry Bell: Scottish native Bell is known as an all-around entertainer, raconteur, and life of the party, keeping audiences in stitches when he's not leading them in songs. But Bell's interest in folk and traditional music runs deep and assumes many forms: He is an avid fiddle player in the Scottish style (although he can more than hold his own in an Irish session), a superb bagpiper, and more than proficient on such instruments as flute, guitar, bodhran, and banjo. Bell and his wife Nancy also have earned the Parent's Choice Gold Award for their family-oriented folk music, stories and dance programs. He has made frequent appearances at BCMFest events.

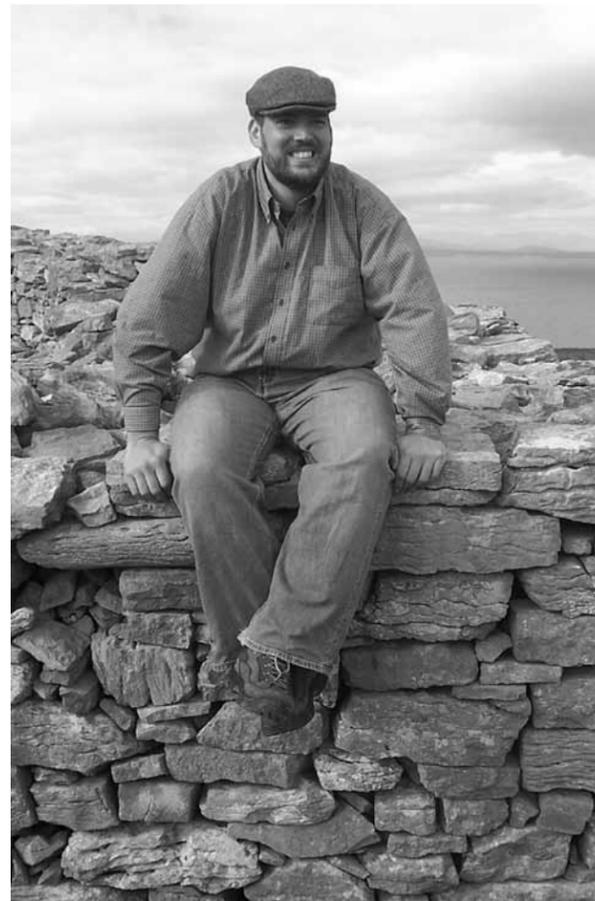
Nancy Mulrey: A singer-songwriter who made her BCMFest debut at the festival in January, Mulrey also specializes in traditional Celtic music, and sings in English, Irish and Scottish Gaelic. Since she began singing in the late 1980s, she has worked with such notable performers as Frank Harte and Niamh Parsons. Mulrey is active in the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston and appeared on the organization's 40th anniversary CD.

Much of the "All Chorus Songs" entries will likely be familiar to many in the audience -- but not all.

"Sure, it's fun to sing the old favorites everybody knows, but there are so many great folk and traditional songs out there which haven't yet found their way into everyone's repertoire," explains Smith, who has appeared at numerous festivals, concerts and sessions throughout Boston and serves regularly as co-organizer and host for the Celtic Music Monday series. "Fortunately, as we've seen at previous 'All Chorus Song' nights, audiences can and do learn new songs, and sometimes they pass them along to other people, too. I've also had the pleasure of introducing a song I'm reasonably certain no one has heard before -- and then I see there are several members of the audience who already know it."

Hart agrees with Smith that many people actually relish the opportunity to sing, even in front of others.

"I think that the idea that they 'can't sing' arises from unrealistic expectations about what singing should sound like, based on recordings of elite musicians -- or, increasingly, even more unrealistic expectations



Liam Hart and Nancy Mulrey will join with Jerry Bell and Sean Smith for "All Chorus Songs, All the Time" at the August 9 BCMFest Celtic Music Monday show.



based on the digitally processed sounds of pop music, which no human voice ever made. When people break through the barrier of (self-inflicted) shame at how they sound, they almost always have a good time -- why wouldn't they, when their ancestors did for millions of years?"

Admission to "All Chorus Songs" is \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations, go to clubpassim.org.

For more information on BCMFest, see bcmfest.com; you can also sign up for the BCMFest e-mail list via the website.

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Quick Wit, Rich Life, Powerful Voice

(Continued from 11)

support. So you have an equal kind of love, as they say.

BIR: Between your musical career and your inspirational speaking engagements, your audiences embrace you with a special kind of affection.

RT: The most important thing in life is to be able to give back. And to be real.

BIR: So what can audiences look forward to in Hyannis and Cohasset?

A: Well it's great, because this is going to be the first time that I've ever done a real kind of intimate setting. It's going to be with my pianist Bill Lewis, which is great. Bill and I have worked for ten years together; we know each other. It's a high level of music appreciation as well as cognitive awareness of where we are in the music. As usual, I do a lot of Irish.. I have an eclectic taste in music, but I know my audiences love Irish songs and I will always give them that. But I will always give then something else as well.

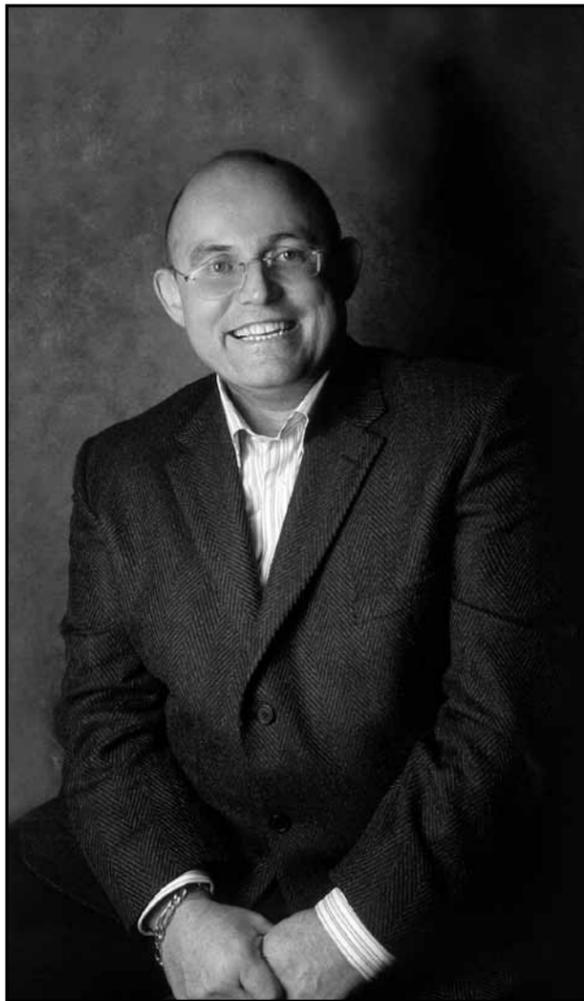
BIR: You've got a PBS concert special coming up later this year.

RT: I have indeed, with my band. I think it's planned for [airing in] September or October if my memory serves me right. It was great fun to do. Again, the audience will see a nice healthy, wealthy proportion of Irish, but they will also see other stuff that I've done, you know. That's important.. Plus, we are in a country that has all different cultures and ethnicities from all over the world. So we try and embrace those as well.

BIR: Will we be seeing a DVD version of that concert?

RT: You will indeed. I would like to be 30 or 40 pounds lighter, but unfortunately, God designed me the way I am and I have to accept it.

BIR: Since moving to Boston you've sung for the Red Sox at Fenway



Park, you appeared at the annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast – you've become a real local.

RT: You know what, it's amazing. Boston is a unique place. Aside from the fact that there are a huge number of Irish living in the community [and the] Irish heritage, I kind of fit in, you know. And they have welcomed me with open arms and I am thrilled to be here. It's a wonderful, wonderful city.

BIR: It's a little hot at the moment.

RT: Sacred Heart of God it surely is!

BIR: Well it's not normally 102 degrees, but I guess that's part of our New England charm.

RT: You know what, charm is the right word. It really is . . . It has an extraordinary beauty. For my 50th, we went to Nantucket and God that's such a gorgeous place. There are so many little nooks and crannies in Boston, in this wonderful part of the world . . . The state embraces beauty.

BIR: I've enjoyed your blog entries about your horses. You write about them with great affection.

RT: I love 'em.

BIR: I know you've been riding since you were a boy, but how did

you first get involved. **RT:** My family always had them. We used work horses in the farm, and the horses were a part of our mainstay. And I guess when you grow up on a farm, everything is part of your growing. And they were part of mine. I never lost the passion for them.

BIR: And I hear you're reuniting with The Irish Tenors later this year.

RT: That's right. I am reuniting with Fin and Anthony for a short summer tour, and then a more creative advanced Christmas tour. . . It's like with wine. Every so often wine needs to mature a little. And I took five years off and matured. So now I'll come back with a more interesting palate for the listener.

BIR: But that doesn't mean you're thinking about giving up your solo work.

RT: Oh God no. But where possible I'll work with them. I like to keep busy.

An Evening With Ronan Tynan: Aug. 6, Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis, 508-775-5630 or melodytent.org; Aug. 7, South Shore Music Circus in Cohasset, 781-383-9850 or themusiccircus.org. Also visit ronantynan.net.

Irish Cultural Centre to Host Eddie Dillon's One-Man Show

(Continued from 11)

So I began to work on the idea of a theatrical monologue about the experience of the Irish American family, and the first reading I did was dry and historical. Someone told me, "We want to hear about you, and your family." And I came up with this version, which revolves around the family life I knew as a child growing up in Braintree, the songs we would sing -- there are more than a dozen in the show -- and the customs we would observe, and the family history. For instance, there was my grandmother, Nora Flanagan from Roscommon, who'd come over to the US as a young girl, and my great-grandfather, who was a friend of [legendary Boston mayor] James Michael Curley.

I've spent my life as an instrumentalist, but I consider myself a songwriter -- I've written 300 songs -- and also have written thousands of poems. What I find people are most interested in, though, are stories. If you do it right, you can tell a story about anything. I feel I'm genetically programmed to do that: My mother's father was a shanachie from Galway, and people hired him to come out to funerals, wakes, other events and tell stories.

Q: What kind of response has the show generated?

A: This concert at the ICC will actually be only the fourth performance of "Irish American Family," but it's been pretty amazing so far. I've gotten people from 5 to 95 years old in the audience; people bring their children, or they bring their parents. I don't try to make my family life seem like it was incredibly dramatic or eventful; just very typical for people of a certain time and generation; I say, "Between tears and laughter, this is how I grew up."

What I've found is that the show strikes a chord with people who didn't grow up Irish, or Catholic, or in the 1960s, or in Boston. Someone would say to me, "We're Lithuanian, but your stories remind me of my family." There is a real universality to family stories. And in this day and age, where

families tend to be spread out geographically and there aren't as many opportunities to gather, to have a family life like the one I talk about is increasingly rare. I think there's a strong interest among people to get a flavor of what that era was like: for those who are older, it's something they probably experienced themselves, and they enjoy the memory; for those who are younger, maybe they get an insight into how families used to interact.

Q: Talking about Irish families, you were fortunate enough to form ties with one of the most celebrated, the Clancys. How did that come about?

A: Well, the Clancys were certainly a big favorite in my household, as was the case with plenty of other Irish American families, and I grew up with their songs. That came in handy because I cut my teeth in the 1960s "folk scare" -- as Utah Phillips used to call it -- and played at coffeehouses all around the Boston area, until around 1970 everything seemed to dry up overnight. But then you started to see Irish pubs springing up everywhere, and of course I had this Irish repertoire -- including songs associated with the Clancys -- so it worked out very well for me and I was able to find gigs.

My relationship with the Clancys didn't start until the early 1990s, when Aoife Clancy came over to Massachusetts. She worked as a waitress at the 1882 Restaurant in Easton -- Bobby had called up the owner, Tommy McGann, and asked him to give her a job -- which was a place I played regularly. Aoife used to open for my band, and eventually we worked as a duo for a few years until she joined Cherish the Ladies.

Then there was a concert in Binghamton, NY, where the Clancys were performing, with Cherish the Ladies and Solas as the opening acts, and I was asked to play with the Clancys. We rehearsed about 15 minutes for that show. I was sweating bullets -- I'd been on stage before, of course, but this was something special. Anyway, it must've gone just fine, because Bobby

said, "Come on tour with us if you'd like."

Q: What did that experience do for you, professionally and personally?

A: From a professional standpoint, it was amazing to work with them, especially Bobby and Paddy. You've got two guys in their 70s doing gig after gig, day after day, and they're jumping up every morning before I'm even awake. When you're around that kind of enthusiasm and energy, it's bound to rub off, so I definitely grew as an entertainer.

There was a lot more to it than that, however. Irish music had been defined for me by Bobby Clancy, but I don't think I really appreciated what he and the music were all about until we did a tour of Ireland. We went to Carrick-on-Suir, and stayed on the street where they had grown up, and every night Bobby would say, "Let's go to this pub or that pub," and we'd head over; often, there were all farmers in the place, and they all knew Bobby. He'd get a session going, and people would be saying, "Hey, get so-and-so to come down here!"

Bobby had this huge repertoire, with some pretty obscure songs, and it was absolute gold. But he'd also get the folks there to sing their "party pieces," just like was done years ago. So you could really see the social, and personal, side of the music. It wasn't just something to be performed, it was something precious that you shared with friends.

Q: It sounds as if "An Irish American Family" is off to a very promising start. But you're not about to give up your other musical activities, are you?

A: I'm a musical everyman. I play with a number of different people, like Alfie O'Shea or Shanagans, and I run a recording studio. There's always several things to keep me busy, musically, and I like it that way.

I'm also happy to see that some of my nephews are becoming musicians, so who knows, maybe there'll be an addendum to the Dillon family story some day.

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Cirque de Soleil Doing Its Dazzle in Fan Pier Tent Through Aug. 29



Insect creatures perform in a scene from Cirque du Soleil's "Ovo." Photo Credit: Benoit Fontaine, Cirque du Soleil.

**BY RICH FAHEY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR**
On Fan Pier, adjacent to Pier 4 and the Institute of Contemporary Art, a huge tent grabs your attention. The 66-foot-high, blue-and-yellow, 167-foot in diameter Grand Chapiteau (Big Top) can accommodate 2,600 people and is supported by 100 steel poles and 550 pegs. The good news is that the level of entertainment

under the tent is as high as the tent itself. Cirque du Soleil's "Ovo" is a dazzling two-and-half-hour display of world-class individual talents, part of a full theatrical experience featuring state-of-the-art lighting and sound, dazzling costumes, original music and myriad special effects. "Ovo" means "egg" in Portuguese, and writer,

choreographer and director Deborah Colker, the first female director at Cirque du Soleil, ushers us into a colorful ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement. The cast includes 54 performing artists from 16 countries, aided and augmented by the daz-

zling costumes by Liz Vandal, the set and props of designer Gringo Cardia, the music of composer and musical director Berna Ceppas, Eric Chamoux's lighting and Jonathan Deans' sound. A Cirque show truly isn't about the individual performers, as spectacular as they are -- but the overall impression it leaves. Since 1984, the productions have been viewed by 100 million spectators in 250 cities over five continents. Each of the individual acts has its own appeal,

from Vladimir Hrychenko's hand balancing to the foot jugglers of the "Ants" number; Tony Frebourg's Diabolo, which features several of what appear to be flying yo-yos; Li Wei as a spiderman performing amazing feats on a slack wire; and the truly amazing "Crickets" number, which features a troupe of 13 acrobats who perform an intricate ballet involving trampolines and a huge rock-climbing wall. Comic relief is provided throughout by Michelle Matlock, Joseph Collard, and Francois-Guillaume

LeBlanc, especially in an audience-participation number that draws heavily on the trio's mime skills and impeccable comic timing. Taken together, "Ovo" is an almost other-worldly experience, a treat for all the senses and a welcome summer addition to the waterfront. Cirque du Soleil's "Ovo" will be at Fan Pier through Aug. 29, with shows Tuesday-Sunday. Tickets are available at the on-site box office or by going to cirquedusoleil.com.

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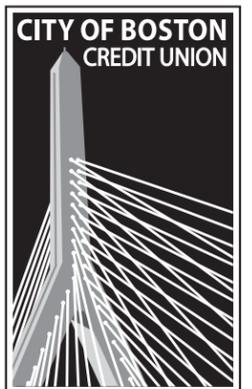
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Dad, Irish inspire her singing

(Continued from 11)
to songs like their "Wild Mountain Thyme," which Judy continues to include in her concerts today. Judy will be visiting Boston for a single performance with fellow folk music icons Tom Rush and Kenny White, on Wed., Aug. 11. This gala concert and dinner at UMass-Boston is the kickoff for WUMB, 91.9 FM Radio's new capital campaign. For over twenty nine years WUMB has been providing listeners with a musical alternative, including the music of Judy Collins. Growing up listening to her father's pioneering work on the radio, Judy is, as you might guess, a fan of the medium but especially public radio stations like WUMB. Not only has she been a frequent visitor to the WUMB airwaves but she also has been a member of this listener supported station. To ensure an intimate experience for all, tickets for this special evening with Judy Collins and Tom Rush are limited, and are available at wumb.org or by calling 617-287-6900. Dave Palmater is an announcer at WUMB 91.9FM Radio, and can be heard weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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March 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Southill Junior School has been a centre of education for children from Southill since it opened in 1969. It serves what was a very large disadvantaged community to what is now a declining, divided community due to unemployment, anti-social behaviour and the slow response of Government to Regeneration.

However, here in Southill Junior School, we offer kindness, participation, and a place of learning and friendship for children from Pre-School at age 3 years to our senior class at age 8 years.

The Southill Children's Fund has helped us fulfil many objectives we have for these children. Funding has provided much needed resources, opportunities to travel and partake in projects, and to engage with other schools in Limerick City.

In the early 1980's, our first Computer Room was opened by Mr. Billy Higgins, Boston, with the wonderful financial assistance of the Southill Children's Fund. Now we embark on a new initiative to bring the latest technology to our classrooms by installing Interactive White Boards and Software to suit. We acknowledge a minor grant from the Department of Education & Science towards this project, but we need to continue our fundraising efforts to enable us to provide up-to-date technology for the children of Southill. We appreciate the continued efforts of Billy Higgins and his Fund having for the wonderful children of Southill, Ireland.

Mary Blomhewell Mary Blomhewell, Principal
Maire Rigney Maire Rigney, Deputy Principal



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Sue Costello takes her life story to the stage

By **TARA MERRIGAN**
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dorchester born and raised, Sue Costello always could turn any situation, no matter the circumstances, into a hilarious story later on.

"We used to go out on the weekends to the Dance Factory," says Jennifer Gordon, who attended Mount Saint Joseph Academy with Costello. "One time Sue went out and got her head kicked in by five girls in the bathroom. I remember her coming in on Monday morning and telling us about getting beat up, but she made it comical."

"She would put a spin on an experience and having all laughing at her tragedy. That's one of Sue's greatest gifts—her comedy is real and heartfelt."

During her more than twenty year career, Costello has traveled throughout America performing stand-up comedy acts. She starred in her own self-titled television show and will appear in an upcoming film starring Christian Bale and Mark Wahlberg.

Costello, at age 42, has used her knack for turning tragedy into comedy and used her experiences growing up in Dorchester and QUEST for self-confidence to create a one-woman show, Minus 32 Million Words.

CAREER OF A COMEDIAN

Costello first performed on stage at UMass-Boston, where she majored in theater arts. Although the play's director thought Costello's portrayal of a hooker was hilarious, Sue feared performing standup comedy.

"I couldn't walk even in to a comedy club, because I was so scared of doing standup," says Costello. "And yet I really wanted to try it."

Shortly thereafter, fellow OFD actor Kevin Chapman signed Sue up to do a standup act at a club in Boston called Duck Soup. Costello has continued to perform standup over the years and says that her childhood in Dorchester helped shape her comedy.

"There's nowhere in the world where people are more funny," says Costello. "People here have a quick wit and are constantly exchanging quick repartee, and that help me develop my humor. There's also a strength that comes from living in a tough neighborhood. That toughened me for standup, which can be crazy vicious."

She has also had supporting roles in two Boston-based movies, Southie and The Fighter, the story of "Irish" Micky Ward's journey to winning the world lightweight title. The film is due to hit screens in December of this year. In the film, Costello plays Ward's sister.

After appearing in Southie and an episode of "NYPD Blue", Costello was given her own self-titled show on Fox in 1998;



Sue Costello in performance. Comedian has a knack for culling laughter from tragedy.

Photo courtesy Sue Costello.

however, the network cancelled the show after running four episodes.

Costello's friends say that overcoming this obstacle, which might have discouraged others from continuing to pursue a career in comedy, has made her a stronger person.

"In my venture into Hollywood, I tried to be fancy instead of acting like I was from where I was, and I put on this front," says Costello.

"Being real is tough—it makes you vulnerable—but I've found that being who you are is better and there's a strength in vulnerability."

MINUS 32 MILLION WORDS

Costello, who now resides in Brooklyn, was reading the newspaper one day when she came across an article that said a study had found that four year-old children raised in welfare homes used 32 million fewer words than their middle-class peers.

Interested in performing a show about her experience growing up in Dorchester, Costello found this article particularly poignant and decided to name her one woman show Minus 32 Million Words.

The show follows Costello's life from her days as a young girl — whom she says looked like Sheriff Buford Pusser from the 1973 biopic Walking Tall — through the present day. During the act, Costello discusses how her turbulent childhood in Dorchester led to her pursuit of fame and her realization that authentic happiness comes from being one's own self.

She performed the show several times in New York City before bringing it to Boston in late March. Both The Patriot Ledger and Boston Herald gave the show positive reviews.

"It was moving," says Judy Reilly, who also attended Mount Saint Joseph Academy with Costello. "I don't just say that because I am biased and am friends with Sue. I watched the reactions of people who didn't even know Sue and they were crying and laughing just as much as I was. It was an amazing show."

Strong Women, Strong Girls, an organization that seeks to empower young women and girls through mentorship, approached Costello after the initial run of Minus 32 Million Words and asked her if she could perform the show

to instill in young girls, so she was a perfect fit for us."

Costello will perform Minus 32 Million Words again on August 4th at the House of Blues. The proceeds will benefit Strong Women, Strong Girls.

Friends say that for Costello the best is yet to come.

"She's open, honest, and has no fear," says Reilly. "If you tell Sue she can't do something, she'll go ahead and conquer it. She's on her way up, and I think her character will help her get there. She's so determined that she'll probably end up getting an Oscar or something some day."

For ticket information for Costello's August 4th show, contact Nikki DiGuilio at Nikki-DiGuilio@livenation.com or 617-960-8376.



Deirdre NiFhalluin, Ireland Vice Consul to Boston, met up with her parents, Donal and Eleanor Fallon, on their recent visit to Boston. They are pictured in her offices at the Irish Consulate in Copley Square.

Photo by Ed Forry.

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Traveling People

Water Sports, Recreation Aplenty Await August Visitors

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Summer's last gasp is almost upon us as August swings onto the calendar. So what better time to take advantage of all the great water sports and other athletic activities that Ireland has to offer?

Almost any sport or recreation you can name is offered in Ireland and boating is high on that list, as you might expect in an island country with so many inland lakes and rivers. You can sail, surf, cruise, windsurf, kayak, canoe – anything. It's all there.

SURFING

If you're near Achill Island in Co. Mayo and want to go surfing, Shane Cannon offers beginner and intermediate lessons and in-water supervision. For details and more information, contact shaneannon@achill-surf.com. We've seen wind surfers enjoying Achill's gusty shores too.

Donegal is another prime area for surfers – especially around Bundoran, Rosstown Beach, Lackan Bay, Easkey, Mullaghmore Head, and Tallaghan Strand – but, actually, you can find surfing almost everywhere around the coast. The boards are hitting the waves down south in Co. Clare around Lahinch and at Inchydoney Beach in Clonakilty, West Cork (westcorksrfing.com). Take a look at surfing-waves.com and goireland.com for more recommendations.

You can always find suggestions, maps, and lots of good ideas for other places to go and things to do at the Tourist Board offices – designated by a big green shamrock – located all over the country.

SAILING

How about sailing? If you're near Rosses Point in Sligo, the Mirror European Sailing Championships sound like fun and they're scheduled from Aug. 14 to 20 at the Sligo Yacht Club.

This international dinghy event is expected to draw more than 100 boats and 200 sailors from Ireland, the UK, Sweden, and Australia, as well as a slew of supporters and



Get out onto one of Ireland's many waterways and you'll find yet another way to enjoy the summer sunshine. (Judy Enright photos)



This boat in Roundstone, Connemara, is beautifully framed by the magnificent mountains around the picturesque harbor



You can take tour Killary Harbor, Ireland's only fjord, on this comfortable catamaran and enjoy a recorded history of the area as you travel along.

onlookers. The Sligo Bay racing area is sheltered from the Atlantic and offers a perfect venue for competitive sailing.

There will also be lots of entertainment and festival activities in the village of Rosses Point throughout the event. For more information, visit sligoyachtclub.org

If you'd like to participate and not just watch, there are many places that offer sailing lessons, including Coolmain Sailing Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork. You can take lessons or rent a boat for a quiet day on the water. For information and offerings, visit coolmain-sailing.com.

This is just one sailing possibility but there are many more all over the country.

CRUISING

If you're in Lahinch for surfing, be sure to take a cruise from nearby Doolin out to the Aran Islands or past the Cliffs of Moher.

Several tour companies operate from the Doolin Pier and it's fun and fascinating to see the Cliffs from the water and see some 20 varieties of birds – puffins, guillemots, and razorbills among them – that nest there.

O'Brien Cruises (doolin-ferry.com) offers a one-hour Cliff cruise or a four-hour cruise past the

Cliffs and out to the Aran Islands between March 15 and Nov. 15.

You can also take the Jack B. or Doolin Discovery (doolin2aranferries.ie or mohercruises.com) from either Liscannor or Doolin past the Cliffs, and from Doolin to Inis Oirr on the Aran Islands. When you get to the 1,400-acre Inis Oirr, visit a Stone Age fort and the 15th-century church (Teampall Chaomhain) and a small 9th-century church (Cill Ghobnait), St. Enda's Holy Well, see the Plassey, a freighter that wrecked on the rocks and washed ashore in 1960, or just spend some time relaxing on one of the lovely beaches, have lunch in one of the restaurants or pubs, hire a bike, pony and trap or just walk around the four-square-mile island. It's a really great way to spend a day.

You can also visit Inis Meain, a 2,252 island with more than 300 flowering plants from places as far away as the Arctic and the Mediterranean and the 7,635 acre Inis Mor, which has several ancient stone forts, including the impressive Dun Aonghasa, several churches including Teampall Bheanain, one of the world's smallest measuring 10.75 feet by 7 feet.

The Aran Islands are a real treat to visit as our readers no doubt know. You can get to the Arans from numerous locations – Rossaveal and Galway

among them -- along the coast by boat or air.

And, one of my favorite guide books (Bridgestone's 100 Best Places to Stay in Ireland) lists several recommended accommodations on the Aran Islands – Inis Meain Suites on Inis Meain (inishmeain.com or email to post@inismeain.com), Kilmurvey House in Kilmurvey Bay on Inis Mor (kilmurveyhouse@eircom.net) and South Aran (southaran.com or email to foodwise@eircom.net) on Inis Oirr.

We don't always agree with every recommendation in Bridgestone's 100 Best, but we have stayed in some amazing places thanks to their reviews and their editors, John and Sally McKenna. The McKennas publish a new guide every year and, when you're in Ireland, it's well worth buying especially if you are at loose ends for someplace to stay and want to try a new and interesting place.

The book was a wee bit late coming out this spring and, although we usually buy ours at Seamus Duffy's wonderful bookstore in Westport, it hadn't come in while we were there but we finally tracked down a copy at Kenmare Bookshop in Kenmare, Co. Kerry. The bookshop is at the gates of the Park Hotel, one of the recommended accommodations in Bridgestone's and a fabulous place to stay and dine. A friend said he's never had a martini better than the one he ordered at the Park!



Sailing above Clew Bay, this young adventurer ably demonstrates that there are water sports of all kinds available in Ireland in the summer.

INISHBOFIN

Another wonderful outing if you're on the West Coast of Ireland is out of Cleggan by ferry to Inishbofin Island, some eight miles away. There's so much to see there and several nice places to stay – we stayed at Day's (now called Inishbofin House and Marine Spa) and enjoyed it a lot. The rooms were very nice and overlooked the inner harbor and dinner in the dining room was fresh and delicious.

Inishbofin is definitely a place for the adventurous though as there's not much transportation other than your own two feet. But there's a lot to see and absorb on Inishbofin – historic ruins, lovely beaches, a wide variety of bird life – including the nearly-extinct Corncrake. You can go hill climbing, mountain walking or angling from shore or you can contact Aidan Day (bofinangling.com or email to bofinfish72@yahoo.co.uk) to find out about all day, half day or hourly ventures including dive charters, dolphin spotting, bird watching, whale and seal watching, or inter-island tours.

'Bofin has become an Irish music center and you can often catch a lively session there. It's a great place to visit and not in the mainstream of places visited by many tourists.

Also check out Letterfrack Sea Tours on the Queen of Connemara from Letterfrack Pier on Ballinakill Harbour and Killary Cruises (killary-cruises.com) when you're in Connemara.

TRAVEL

Check out the Discover Ireland website before you go to find out more about Ireland's many activities, festivals and more. The website is updated constantly by Tourism Ireland and has every detail about Ireland that you could ever want to read.

And, be sure to check the internet for all the latest travel specials. Aer Lingus offers many great web deals on flights and ground travel as do other airlines that fly in and out of Ireland.

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: The village of Broughshane has been named as the country's Best Kept Small Town, a nationwide competition organized by SuperValu. Competing for the title were last year's winners of the Best Kept Awards and the Tidy Towns competition in the South. Broughshane was up against two Southern towns, Lismore in Co. Waterford, and Listowel in County Kerry, and the announcement of the winner was made at the awards ceremony at Queen's University. The award was welcomed by local politician Robert Coulter, who noted the huge boost the award will bring to the village's community workers, businesses, and to the council staff who were responsible for planting of the village.

Armagh: The late musician Tommy Makem, who left his native Keady in 1955 to emigrate to the United States, is to be honored by having a bridge named after him. Joining him in the honor is his late wife Mary and they will be remembered by the Tommy and Mary Makem Memorial Bridge in Dover, New Hampshire. The dedication was due to take place on July 30. While welcoming the dedication in the US, Tommy's nephew Peter has questioned why no commemoration has taken place in Keady to honor the musician, who died three years ago.

Carlow: Holly Gregg, whose mother Caroline is a member of the Lawlor family from Hackestown, secured the lead role in a film about a young cancer patient. For her part in "The Last Furlong" the six-year-old had to have her head shaved for the role and first had her long hair cut short before having it all removed. In doing so she managed to raise more than 3,500 euro for St John's Cancer Ward in Crumlin Hospital. One reason for the fundraising effort was that Caroline lost her father, Billy Lawlor, to cancer as well as her two sisters, Cora, and Kathleen Doyle.

Cavan: Mullahoran man Paul Brady has returned home from Austin, Texas, after winning his sixth successive US Nationals Open Singles title, the most prestigious title in the sport. And it was the second year running in which no opponent managed to reach a score in double digits against him. Now joint third in the nationals roll of honor behind David Champamn and Naty Alvarado Sr., Paul already holds the most world titles, having held the crown since 2003. The thirty-year-old is now aiming to beat the record next year for the most Irish senior championship titles.

Clare: A design by Ennis man Peter Ruane for the wrapper of a bar of chocolate is due to go on sale soon. More than two thousand entries were received in the competition organized by Cadbury's and a final shortlist of five designs was subject to a public vote. Peter's design features the Cliffs of Moher, which he visited often as a child and which were the subject of many of his mother's oil paintings. The design will appear on more than 600,000 of the Dairy Milk bars made in Ireland, a quantity expected to sell out over the following six to eight weeks. The director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience, Katherine Webster, has welcomed the publicity that the wrapper will generate.

Cork: Sixteen-year-old Sarah Clifford from Cork is attempting to become the first female Irish swimmer to cross the Straits of Gibraltar. Sarah, the daughter of Olympic swimmer Brian Clifford and his wife Eileen, has

been training for the past six years in the swimming pool and last year ventured out into open water. Sarah flew from Ireland to Marbella and to complete the swim she will set off from Tarifa Island on the Spanish side of the Straits and will swim between ten and twelve nautical miles to come ashore at Punta Cires on the Moroccan coast.

Derry: The site of the former Perfecseal factory on the Springfield Industrial Estate in Derry city has been earmarked for a major development comprising a ten-screen cinema and six restaurants. Plans for the project were lodged last month and workmen were soon clearing the site of the former factory for the official launch of the proposal. The company behind the project, which includes parking space for five hundred cars, is Ardtullagh Holdings of Belfast, which expects to employ 150 in the construction stage and a further 200 when the leisure complex is opened.

Donegal: Developers are to lodge a planning application for a 20-million euro marina to be located on five acres of reclaimed land near the pier in Burtonport. The planning application has to await the acquisition of a foreshore license by the local council but already preliminary designs for the project have been drawn up by MacGabhann Architects of Letterkenny. An eighty-berth marina, some forty houses and apartments, a hotel and restaurant, offices for the harbormaster and ferry operators are included in the proposed development. Facilities will also be provided for a dive centre.

Down: A tree that was first brought to the county almost one hundred years ago has bloomed this year for the first time. The rare goat horn tree, brought from China in the early years of the last century, was originally bought by Donard Nursery in Newcastle in 1912 and was subsequently bought by the former owner of Rowallane Garden in Saintfield seven years later. And now, after ninety years, the rare tree has bloomed after first showing signs of flowering last month. Averil Milligan, head gardener at the National Trust's Rowallane Garden, spoke of the excitement generated by the rare occurrence.

Dublin: Amanda Grogan from Malahide, a fashion graduate of the National College of Art and Design, has been named the winner of this year's Mittelmoda prize in Gorizia, Italy. Amanda, whose mother taught her to sew, was one of twenty-four finalists from an initial entry of more than six hundred colleges all over the world. The twenty-three-year old, who collects 10,000 euro as her prize, is the first Irish person to win the award since it was inaugurated in 1993. Having undertaken an internship with Irish designer Eilis Boyle last summer, Amanda has decided to launch her own label in Ireland next year.

Fermanagh: Inveterate traveller Roisin McManus is one of six people in Enniskillen who have joined a website, Couch Surfing, which sees her host visitors from all over the world to her home town. The idea is for couch surfers to be able to avail of the eponymous couch, a spare bed or even floor space for free in the host's home, as well as being given a tour of the locality. Roisin's top sites for her visitors are Claddagh Glen, Lough Navar Viewpoint, and the Marble Arch Caves, and she also offers a waterside pub crawl which finishes at Blakes in the Hollow.

Galway: Noel Thomas and



his family are undertaking the task of raising four baby hedgehogs that Noel brought home to Moycullen after they were discovered in a wood near Oughterard. The four-week-old hedgehogs are being kept in a garden shed and are being kept warm with a heat-lamp, while they are being fed lamb's colostrums through a syringe, as well as vitamin drops. Landscape gardener Noel is being helped in his task of caring for the baby hedgehogs by his four children, Ciara aged ten, eight-year-old Emma, and twins Noel and Cian, aged seven.

Kerry: Up to six thousand cyclists took part in the twenty-seventh annual Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle, setting out from Killarney racecourse for the 180-kilometer challenge. Among those taking part was Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny, who has been able to practice on the road from Killarney to Kenmare since his wife is from the area. Footballer John O'Keefe and politician Jimmy Deenihan were among the men taking part, though there were more women than men completing the race this year. It is expected that the event will have raised up to 500,000 euro, and the money will be donated to a number of local charities.

Kildare: Peter and Helen (Nellie) Finnan recreated their wedding day after fifty years by renewing their vows in the same church and holding a reception at the same hotel. The couple were married in St Mary's Church in Leixlip, Helen's home town, and had their reception at the Springfield Hotel. Fifty years later they were joined by family and friends including their children, Donal, Paul, Des, Hilary, Anne, and Helen, as well as their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After leaving Leixlip the family also lived in Maynooth before Peter and Helen moved to their present home in Broadford.

Kilkenny: Two brothers from Gowran competed last month in an equestrian event in France. Vincent Byrne and his younger brother Wesley, from Shraugh, were on the Irish National team taking part in the European Equestrian Championships in France. Vincent competed in the Junior Showjumping Category while Wesley competed at the under-14 level. Eighteen-year-

old Vincent, who has just completed his Leaving Certificate at Kilkenny College, has been awarded a bursary at the Army Equitation School by Horse Sport Ireland High Performance Coach Comdt John Ledingham.

Laois: Repair work to a bridge that collapsed during the bad weather in January has been held up due to the discovery of a rare weed. One plant of the starved wood sedge *Carex strigosa* was found during an ecological survey of the site at Ballykillen Bridge in Killeslin, leading to a ban on the introduction of topsoil to the area. Initially it had been the intention to construct an embankment but now plans have been submitted to use an alternative method to reconstruct the boundary wall, near the Mall. It is anticipated that work will begin on the reconstruction soon.

Leitrim: Early this month, for the first time since the Penal Times, a Mass is to be celebrated at Leckanarainey Mass Rock in Mullies. The area has been tied recently by a local group in preparation for the celebration of the centenary of the building of the Church of the Annunciation next year. As part of the celebrations the Mullies Church Book is to be published, which will include a photograph of current parishioners. Everyone from the parish was asked to attend Mass in the church one Sunday last month as it was intended to take the photograph in front of the church after Mass.

Limerick: Sarah Gilleece from Corbally is such a fan of Bob Dylan that she was first in line in the queue for tickets for last month's Thomond Park concert when they went on sale in March. The twenty-one-year-old had begun queuing at six o'clock in the morning and paid more than 400 euro for the tickets. As the date for the concert neared, however, Sarah discovered the tickets had gone missing, but fortunately her enthusiasm had been captured on camera by a photographer from the Limerick Leader. She was therefore able to use a copy of the photograph to provide proof of purchase to the supplier of the tickets and all was well.

Longford: The local band The Busy Fingers has recorded a single which, they believe, reflects optimism that the bells of St. Mel's Cathedral, dam-

aged in the fire last Christmas morning, will ring once again. The single, "The Bells of Old St. Mel's", was written by Mel Crowe and James Gorham after the title was suggested by local artist Pauric Farrell, and it was recorded at Paul Gurney's studios. Also featured on the recording are children from St. Mary's National School in Drumlish and from Stonepark National School. Proceeds from the sale of the single will go towards the St. Mel's Restoration Reserve fund.

Louth: A procession to mark the 90th anniversary of the canonization of St Oliver Plunkett took place through the streets of Drogheda last month. Some five hundred people took part in the event which completed a festival of prayer in the town running for the previous two weeks. Among those taking part were Cardinal Seán Brady and auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor Bishop Donal McKeown. The glass reliquary containing a relic of the saint was carried from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes to St Peter's Church, where it permanently resides. Music was supplied by members of the Carlingford Pipe Band.

Mayo: Mamie Murray from Tarmon never knew her father Pat Monaghan, for he was swept out to sea a few months before she was born, but she has now visited the site of his death with her son Cathal. Pat Monaghan was a lighthouse keeper at Blackrock, Belmullet, and had to remain on duty with two others when a storm prevented their relief team from reaching them. It was while fetching fresh water from a container on the rocks that it is believed he was swept to his death in 1937; his body was never recovered. Mamie and Cathal stayed overnight in the lighthouse before throwing flowers into the sea in memory of their father and grandfather.

Meath: As part of Kells Heritage Festival, the old market day in Kells was recreated with the closing off of Farrell Street, Cross Street, Market Street, Newmarket Street and Church Street. The event was officially opened by Conor Ferguson, cathaoirleach of the Town Council, and Jess Olohan, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, and the day began with a pageant on the life of St. Colmcille performed by the Kells Musical and Dramatic Society. Among the attractions were pig racing, and the creation of a sculpture from half a tree by artist Patrick Morris.

Monaghan: Following the recent attempt at a Guinness Book of Records entry in Carrickmacross for the greatest number of twins assembled in one place, it is now the turn of Castleblayney. This time the attempt will be part of the annual Muckno Mania Festival when organizers hope to break the world record for the number of people dressed up as members of the Flintstone family. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Flintstones and participants have been asked to ensure that their costumes are genuine copies. Some will be available to buy at the Enterprise Centre and others will be sourced online.

Offaly: The village of Killeigh is to see a native immortalized in bronze when a new sculpture takes its place on the village green later this year. Local man Brendan Berry chairs the Mick the Miller Commemoration Committee which has commissioned a bronze sculpture of the famous greyhound from Ballymena artist Liz O'Kane. She is at present working on a clay

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

JOB: Coming, Going
200 new jobs for Letterkenny, 80 in Cork and Dublin – US-headquartered health insurer United Health Group announced on July 15 that it plans to increase its workforce in Letterkenny from 340 to 540. The new recruits will perform similar work to the existing staff, processing medical claims and in IT roles. On the same day, an indigenous technology company that recently acquired the Irish division of Siemens Enterprise Communications gave details of an expansion program that will see 80 additional staff hired for its Dublin and Cork offices.

... 104 jobs lost in Longford – The 104 full- and part-time employees at B3 Cable Solutions in Longford learned on July 13 that they were being made redundant. Receiver Alan Flanagan informed them that despite strenuous efforts he had been unable to find a buyer for the operation which went into receivership on June 30.

... Bank of Ireland to shed 750 staff – Bank of Ireland plans to make 750 of its 14,500-strong workforce redundant over the next two years. The jobs will be lost here and in Britain and it is hoped that the target will be achieved through voluntary redundancies. The announcement came after the Bank received EU approval for its restructuring program.

House prices down again – According to property website Daft.ie, the asking prices for homes nationally fell by 4.2 percent during the second quarter and are now 37 percent below their peak. The average asking price for a house is now 220,000 euro. Over the April to June period Dublin prices were down by 5 percent, Cork was down 3 percent, and Limerick 2 percent. The biggest fall for a city was reported from Waterford where prices were down 7 percent but even larger falls were recorded in rural areas.

More green shoots? – The

Ireland Today: Public Service Pay Still Among Highest in the World

A Forfás report reveals that even after the implementation of the public service pay cuts, Irish primary teachers are among the best paid in the world. The starting salary for a primary teacher in Ireland is 32,000 euro and this rises to 59,350 euro at the top of the incremental scale. Those with an honors degree receive an additional 5,000 euro per year and all can aspire to various other allowances for additional responsibilities, although the McCarthy report suggested that these additional responsibilities should be considered an integral part of the job. The report on the cost of doing business in Ireland tells a similar story for others in the public service, particularly for doctors and nurses.

– IRISH EMIGRANT

latest KBC Bank/Chartered Accountants Ireland Business Sentiment Survey suggests that the economy may be turning round. For the first time in 2.5 years more companies reported business growth in the previous three months than the number reporting a decline; the margin was, however, narrow at 33 percent to 32 percent. The growth was reported in manufacturing and business services while construction remains weak. Focusing on the broader economy, 35 percent of business thought economic activity was on the increase while 19 percent felt the country was still in decline. When asked their views of business over the coming three months 35 percent anticipated growth and just 17 percent expected a decline. The rate of job losses has fallen markedly over the three months, with 25 percent of companies reporting a fall in employee numbers and 17 percent showing an increase. Three months earlier these figures were 36 percent and 15 percent.

Elsewhere the Ulster Bank's Purchasing Managers' Index, which confines itself to the construction sector, found that the rate of contraction was slowing. The June in-

dex stood at 44.9 compared with 40 in May; anything less than 50 indicates a decline. In its latest Quarterly Economic Commentary the Economic and Social Research Institute has revised upwards its economic projections for the country but is pessimistic about growth in employment. It also forecasts that 70,000 people will leave the country in the year to the end of April 2010 and that a further 50,000 will depart in the year to April 2011. Most of those leaving the country will be foreign nationals.

Dissident republicans attack Belfast-Dublin train – A group of dissident republicans from the Kilwilkie estate in Lurgan set fire to the Belfast-Dublin train on Monday night and poured a can of diesel over luggage, including rucksacks belonging to a group of scouts from Dublin. An unnamed man jumped onto the train and threw diesel-soaked bags from the train and spoke to those responsible. He reported that they had no concern at all for human life, replying "Let 'em burn" when he told them there were women and children on board.

Explosion closes road for a week – Last weekend's explosion on the road between

Belleeks and Cullyhanna in south Armagh resulted in the closure of the road for most of the week. The bomb was placed in a culvert carrying a stream under the road and it caused such damage that it left the road impassable. The PSNI, who believe the device was planted by dissident republicans, was unsure if it was detonated as a training exercise, exploded prematurely, or was meant to lure police officers to the scene to be targeted by a second bomb. In the end there was no trace of any other devices and area was declared safe.

The cost of keeping prisoners entertained – The Irish News carried a report on July 14 on the price paid to give prisoners in the North's jails access to both terrestrial and satellite television. According to the report a total of 100,000 pounds a year is being charged to taxpayers for the television stations to be made available to prisoners in Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank Wood. The prison service maintains that the television service is paid for from the governor's fund, with income from the prison tuckshop, the telephone system, and TV rental fees. One of those criticizing the cost was Thomas Burns of the SDLP who said that "criminals must think they have hit the jackpot."

HSE records 84-million euro deficit in first five months of 2010 – The country's public hospitals recorded deficits of 112-million euro over the first five months of the year with the biggest offender being University Hospital Galway with an overspend of 14-million euro. The Galway hospital has somehow managed to exceed its staff quota by 162. Due to industrial action the HSE board was kept in the dark about the level of spending until the April figures became available about a month ago.

Spike Island handed over to Cork County Council – Minister for Social Protection

Éamon Ó Cuív has formally handed over responsibility for Spike Island in Cork Harbour to Cork County Council. Ó Cuív was chosen to act on behalf of the Department of Justice as the transfer was taking place on the 72nd anniversary of his grandfather, Éamon de Valera, raising the tricolour over the island for the first time when the British finally handed over the Treaty ports to the Irish State. The intention is to turn the island, which over the centuries has been used as a prison and military base, into a tourist attraction.

Seán FitzPatrick declared bankrupt – As expected, former Anglo Irish Bank chief Seán FitzPatrick has been declared bankrupt by the High Court at his own request. FitzPatrick, who at one stage was CEO of the bank and later chairman, had proposed a private scheme to deal with his debts of some 147.9-million euro, claiming that this would produce a better outcome for all than the bankruptcy route. When it became clear that the bank would not accept any proposals put forward by him he filed for bankruptcy. Anglo, from which he has borrowings of 110-million euro, had a right of veto over other creditors. At the hearing it emerged that FitzPatrick's assets are valued at 51.2-million euro, leaving a shortfall of 96.7 million. While the bankruptcy proceedings will leave him with no more than the State pension, he should still be able to enjoy a very comfortable retirement, but will have to rely on his wife's generosity. She is the joint owner with him in six properties, including the 1.5-million family home in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, and she will be entitled to 50 percent of the proceeds, should any of the properties be sold. The total current value of the properties is around 4-million euro. Mrs. FitzPatrick's pension and any other assets she has in her own name cannot be touched.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 17)
 statue of Mick the Miller in her Dublin studio before casting it in bronze. The greyhound was bred by Father Martin Brophy, parish priest of Killeigh in the 1920s, and trained by his neighbor, Tullamore man Michael Greene. The committee now has to decide on a base for the sculpture and they are looking for local input in making their decision.

Roscommon: There might have been wind and rain one weekend last month but it did not deter the large numbers of people who gathered for the annual Mass at Ogulla Holy Well near Tulsk. The site of the well is believed to be that at which St. Patrick baptized the daughters of King Laoghaire of Tara, St. Eithne and St. Fidelma, who gave their names to the Tulsk Parish Church. The chief celebrant at the Mass was Bishop of Elphin Christopher Jones, who was joined on the altar by parish priest Father Austin KcKeon, Father Peter Gillooly from Kilmurray, Father Raymond Browne from Four-Mile-House, who delivered the homily, and Father Jim Tighe from Elphin.

Sligo: Following last year's event at Lissadell private beach, the venue for this year's "Dip in the Nip" was also a Sligo beach. More than two hundred people took to the sea at Dunmorran Strand last Sunday and this year the women were joined by some forty men although they

were dispatched further down the beach to prepare for their swim. The event is a fundraiser for the Irish Cancer Society and the venue is kept a closely guarded secret to discourage voyeurs. However this year the organizers allowed photographers to film the scene from a helicopter. It is expected that last year's total of 75,000 euro will be exceeded this year.

Tipperary: Minister for Tourism Mary Hanafin was joined in Upperchurch last month by John Bryan of the Irish Farmers' Association to launch an initiative for the further development of rural tourism. The recent creation of the nine-kilometer Eamonn a Chnoic walking trail in Upperchurch as part of the Walkways scheme has already increased tourist activity in the area and, according to Bryan, has the potential to provide employment and boost the local economy. The Upperchurch trail is one of 200 looped walks introduced under the Walkways scheme over the past two years.

Tyrone: A company based in Fivemiletown has been awarded a contract worth five million pounds by the Ministry of Defence for the supply of socks. Cooneen Watts and Stone are contracted to supply two and half million pairs of socks over the next four years having, according to a Ministry of Defence spokesman, offered best value for money in the tender process. The company has been estab-

lished in the town for the past six years and supplies items of wear to the police and civilian work-wear markets as well as the military. It is understood the socks will be manufactured in China.

Waterford: A competition for a community bursary, run by SuperValu and the Irish Sun, has been won by Bonmahon Playground Group. Community groups were asked to submit a proposal for a project exhibiting true community spirit and one that would benefit the community for the years to come. The winning idea from the playground group, to build a multi-purpose sports court in the village, received thousands of votes in the southeast area and were declared the winner from the six shortlisted entries. They have now been awarded the 30,000 euro Community Improvement Bursary.

Westmeath: Last month, the village of Streete played host to the eighth annual Vintage Day which included a special area for all cars dating from before 1930, and a Museum Tent organized by Eamon and Gabriel Creamer from Granard. A vintage steam engine supplied by Peter Wrafter from Kilbeggan was on display, as was a selection of horse-drawn machinery and a number of vintage bicycles. This year the event was chosen to host the 720kg All-Ireland Tug O War, the winners of which will progress to the World Finals. There was also a Ladies Pull

From Roscommon to Wicklow

competition at the festival.

Wexford: Noonan Construction had promised to build a running track for the Rosslare Community Development Association but the downturn in the economy meant they couldn't keep their promise. Now however they have donated a house in Castlebridge which is being offered for less than 1,000 euro. Tenders for the house will require a donation of more than 100 euro to the RCDA and offers, from one cent to 999.99 euro, will be accepted at the office of Corish Auctioneers. The bargain house will go to the highest bidder, with proceeds going towards the provision of the running track.

Wicklow: The launch took

place in Arklow last month of the annual Macra na Feirme National Conference, which is due to take place in the town over three days at the end of October. Delegates from all over the country will attend the conference, which was officially launched by Mick O'Dwyer. In addition to the conference, a banquet dinner will take place and the winner of a Macra na Feirme competition will also be announced. Representatives from six clubs selected from a shortlist of twelve will be in Arklow for the national finals of the Macra na Feirme Club of the Year competition, with the winner to be announced during the weekend.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, JULY 26, 2010

We saw some sunshine during the week but rain never looked to be far away. For the most part, however, it was overcast with rain amounts well below those of the previous week. Today should be fine with temperatures climbing in the east of the country. Rain will cross the country tonight but will clear tomorrow morning, leaving us with cooler showery conditions. After that it will be fresh with sunny spells.

Latest Temperatures:
 Day 20C (68F)
 Night 15C (59F)

The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

For the past several months we have been working with the so-called “Wh-“ or “Question” words. We began with **Cé mhéad?** “How much?” **Cé mhéad** is usually followed by a noun in the **Genitive** form.

Cé mhéad atá ticéaid?

/KEH-wet tah TICK-éhj/
“How much is (a) ticket?”

If you just want to ask the price, simply say,

Cé mhéad atá air?

/KEH-wet tah ayr/

Then we learned that **Cé?** Can mean much more than “How?”

Cé hé tusa?

/KEH heh TOO-suh/
“Who are you?”

The **h** is simply to separate the two /eh/ sounds just as English uses a **n** to separate “an apple”. The answer might be

‘S mise Bríd –

/SMEE-suh BREEJ/ “I’m Bridget”

This can be extended to others. **Cé hé an duine sin?** /KEH hey uhn DOON-yuh sheen/ “Who is that person?”

Tá an múinteoir é féin –

“It’s the teacher (himself)”.

Cé hé na cailíní sin?

/KEH hey nah KAHL-leen-ee sheen/
“Who are those girls?”

Tá siad na cailíní ó Baile Átha Cliath –

“They are the girls from Dublin.”

Cé atá ann? /KEH tah aun/ “Who is it?”

Mise Deirdre. “It’s Deirdre.” Notice that you can drop the **Is** or **‘S** in conversation.

Recall that the proposition **le** means “ownership” as opposed to simple “possession”.

Tá scian ag Liam. /tah SKEE-uhn ek LEE-uhm/ “Liam has a knife.” But the knife in question might really belong to some one else.

Tá scian le Liam. /tah SKEE-uhn ley LEE-uhm/ “Liam owns a knife.” But Liam may not have the knife with him right now.

Thus **Cé?** can be used to ask, “Whose knife is this?” **Cé leis an scian seo?** or **Cé leis na sceana sin?** “Whose knives are those?”

Cé can also mean “Which?” as in **Cé acu é ann?** /KEH koo eh aun/ “Which one?”

Many Americans now say “What one do you want?” “Which” is better English since it means “one from a set”.

Lastly, **Cé?** Can be used with the preposition **ó** to inquire as to ask, “Which X do you want?” **Cé** (article + noun) **atá uait?**

Cé an scian atá uait? /KEH uhn SKEE-uhn tah OO-atch/ “Which/what knife do you want?”

The preposition **ó** usually has the meaning of “from” but in this case it combines with the **personal pronouns** to indicate “desire”.

“I” **ó + mé is uaim** *“we”* **ó + muid is uainn**
“you” **ó + tú is uait** *“you-pl.”* **ó + sibh is uaibh**
“he” **ó + sé is uaidh** *“they”* **ó + said is uathu**
“she” **ó + sí is uaithi**

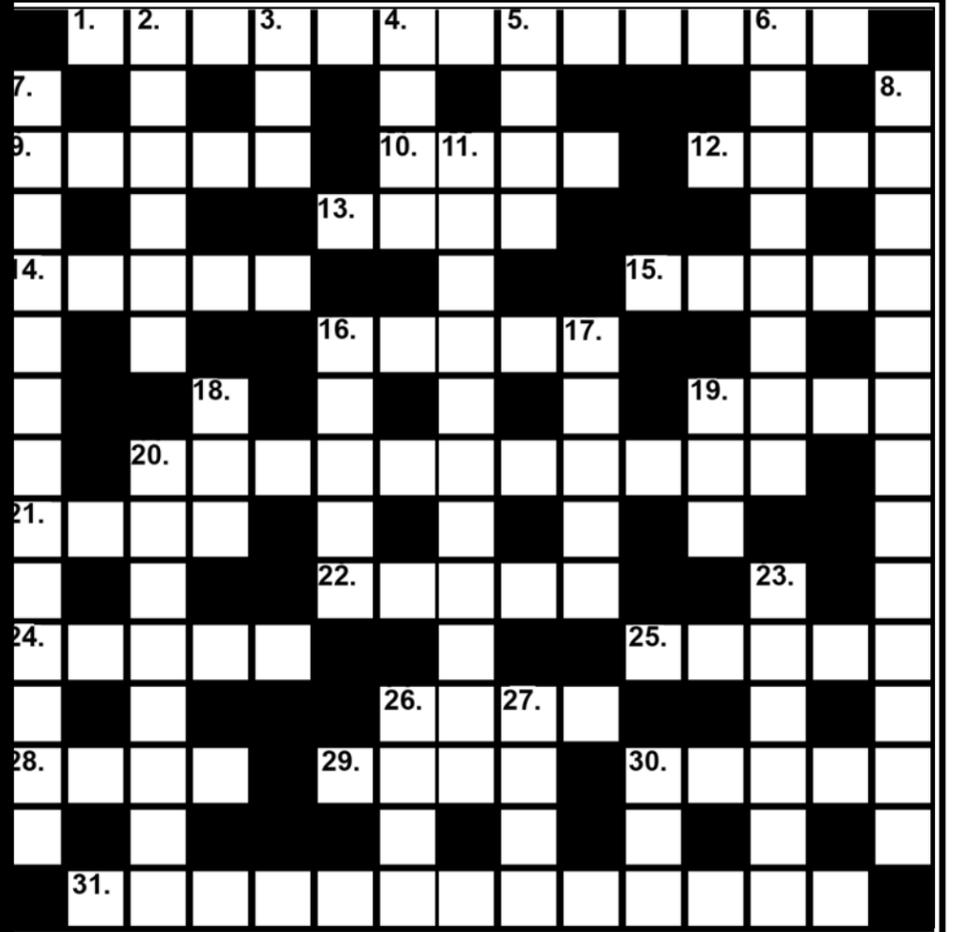
Can you imagine some one musing aloud, “Which knife do I want?” **Cé an scian atá uaim?**

Now see if you can put these into Irish: 1.) “Which skirt does she want?” 2.) “I don’t know.” 3.) “Who is there?” 4.) “It’s me, Nora.” 5.) “How much is a ticket to Waterford?” 6.) “Twenty-three Euros.” 7.) “Who shut the door?” 8.) “Liam shut it.” 9.) “Whose hat is this?” 10.) “That hat belongs to Bridget.” 11.) “Which knife belongs to Liam?” 12.) “Do you speak Irish?” 13.) “I speak Irish and English.” 14.) “How much are those shoes?”

Answers: 1.) **Cé an sciorta atá uaithi?** 2.) **Níl a fhios sin agam.** 3.) **Cé atá ann?** 4.) **Mise, Nóra.** 5.) **Cé mhéad ticéaid go Port Láirge.** 6.) **Tri Euro fhichead.** 7.) **Cé dhún an doras?** 8.) **Dhún Liam é.** 9.) **Cé leis an hata seo?** 10.) **Tá an hata seo le Bríd.** 11.) **Cé an scian atá le Liam?** 12.) **A bhfuil Gaelge agad?** 13.) **Tá Gaelge agus Beurla agam.** 14.) **Cé mhéad na bróga sin?**

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



IRELAND IN CROSSWORDS ©-bigwood.com

ACROSS

1. Circa Ruskin or thereabouts in busy Waterford/Tipperary town, once the seat of the Ormondes. (7-2-4)
9. See Da about things having got less difficult. (5)
10. Vote received with zero latitude apparently. (4)
12. “Yes, of course, we all know — — Livia. Tell me all. Tell me now. “ Joyce (4)
13. Port Laoise xylophone with hidden erotic meaning. (4)
14. Cap in bits so lose one’s cool in the manner of a Greek god. (5)
15. A Caledonian racecourse? No, it’s English, and Royal in June! (5)
16. A soil erosion in Irish county whose chief town was once called Maryborough. (5)
19. It happened on a single occasion in the past in Dungannon certainly. (4)
20. Nutmeg to nun sent astray in Cavan village near Lough Sheelin and the O’Reilly’s Ross Castle. (5,6)
21. They work together and mince meat (in the Aer Lingus company?) (4)
22. Southern cattle fair is well turned out. (5)
24. Get together and have cake before church, shortly. (5)
25. Hold on tightly to a hundred fish. (5)
26. Pins up the tailor’s cut. (4)
28. Cardinal seen in Castlerea street. (4)
29. Different pose taken over the counter in Mexico. (4)
30. Rag us about getting a sweetener. (5)
31. Tall members in wrangle to see Pretender who was crowned Edward VI in Dublin in 1487. (7,6)

DOWN

2. Give permission to appear in Tyrrellspass entertainment. (6)
3. Made free of right before 499 in Cahir, ideally. (3)
4. Headland to pace around. (4)
5. “There is — — one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” Oscar Wilde (4)
6. “The — — — — and the beautiful have no enemy but time.” Yeats (of Eva Gore Booth and Con Markiewicz.) (8)

7. Piety no jabber. (anag.) famous Thomastown, Co, Kilkenny, monastic ruin founded in 1158 by Donagh MacGillpatrick, King of Ossory. (8,5)
8. E.g. sorry cat leg is broken in Kerry village near to Magharee isles between Brandon and Tralee Bays. (13)
11. No man out, six put up in rolling heights between Mayo and Sligo, south of Enniscrone. (2,9)
16. Comes to earth, in Shannon, maybe? (5)
17. This came up about note, what a vision. (5)
18. Given a start, this cat would be very tiny and elemental. (3)
19. Ring north east for the number. (3)
20. Antacid confused as in game. (8)
23. Unmarried, like 19 down. (6)
26. Prophet is in Fairyhouse erroneously. (4)
27. Is including small back number; they are charged in Delphi on Sunday. (4)
30. I am in ancient Rome as a result of addition. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 22

Irish Sayings

Theres no need to fear the wind if your haystacks are tied down.
A trout in the pot is better than a salmon in the sea.
It’s better to bend than to break.
A ship often sank beside the harbour
Food is the “horse” of work.
Character is better than wealth.
If you have a ship and a cargo, you’ll get the right wind.
“There is no luck except where there is discipline.”
There are no strangers: Only friends we have yet to meet.
When you are right no one remembers; when you are wrong no one forgets.
A good start is half the work.
God’s help is nearer than the door.
A closed hand only gets a clenched fist.
It’s better to be sure, than to be lost.
Blind should be the eyes in the abode of another.
A man with loud talk makes truth itself seem folly.

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(Ap)praising Michael Hartnett

By THOMAS O'GRADY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

One of the many wonderful scenes in Flann O'Brien's novel *At Swim-Two-Birds* has Jem Casey, "the Poet of the Pick and the Bard of Booterstown," kneeling to assist the injured King Sweeny, a man of words in his own right: "poet on poet, a bard unthorning a fellow-bard," O'Brien inscribes that moment. Almost inevitably I thought of that scene when I finally sat down with *Notes from His Contemporaries: A Tribute to Michael Hartnett*, a substantial book of poems and prose that landed on my doorstep around a year ago. A poet of remarkable range and depth who is yet generally overlooked, and thus underestimated, by readers and critics alike, Michael Hartnett died in 1999 at the young age of 58. Commemorating one of Ireland's most intriguing poets of the last half of the twentieth century, this large-format softcover—compiled and privately published by his son Niall—is aptly titled, as it invokes a series of engaging poems, "Notes on My Contemporaries," that Hartnett composed in the late 1960s praising and appraising a number of his fellow Irish poets, some of whom return the favor here. Poet on poet and bard on bard, indeed.

Hartnett may be best known for his early poem "A Small Farm," which opens memorably: "All the perversions of the soul / I learnt on a small farm. . . ." He is also legendary for his decision in the mid-1970s to abandon (temporarily, as it turns out) the English language to write only in Irish; he made his intention known in a powerful poem titled "A Farewell to English":

I have made my choice
and leave with little weeping;
I have come with meagre voice
to court the language of my people.

Yet his output was prodigious and included not only his own poems in English and in Irish but also indispensable translations of seventeenth-century Irish-language poets Dáibhí Ó Bruadair and Pádraigín Haicéad and early eighteenth-century poet Aodhagán Ó Rathaille. Tellingly, though, every time I browse around in the sampler of his work gathered in his *Collected Poems*, published in 2001 by Gallery Press, I end up contemplating one knotty line, in his "Note" on contemporary Thomas Kinsella, that seems to sum up Hartnett's own poetic vision: "To poets peace poetry never yields."

And that is certainly an essential

theme that emerges, with multiple variations and permutations, from the memories of and tributes to Hartnett gathered in *Notes from His Contemporaries*. Remembering a period of particular darkness in her own life, short story writer Emma Cooke recalls picking up the telephone and hearing Hartnett's voice reciting to her a line from one of his early poems: "Sad singing in darkness is our burden." As many of the contributors observe, Hartnett's poetic introspection probed the darkness of both the inner self and the world outside the self, and his poetry may have been the saving grace in a life frequently destabilized by the poet's weakness for drink and by shaky health. The final stanza of Gabriel Fitzmaurice's poem written in memory of Hartnett—"So What If There's No Happy Ending?"—indeed suggests as much:

Open the door into darkness,
There's nothing at all to fear—
Just the black dogs barking, barking
As the moon and stars appear.

In "End," a poem as brief and yet also as expressive as a calligraphic brushstroke, Peter Fallon, Hartnett's publisher at Gallery Press, sums up his life in similar terms:

End of sureness, end of doubt—

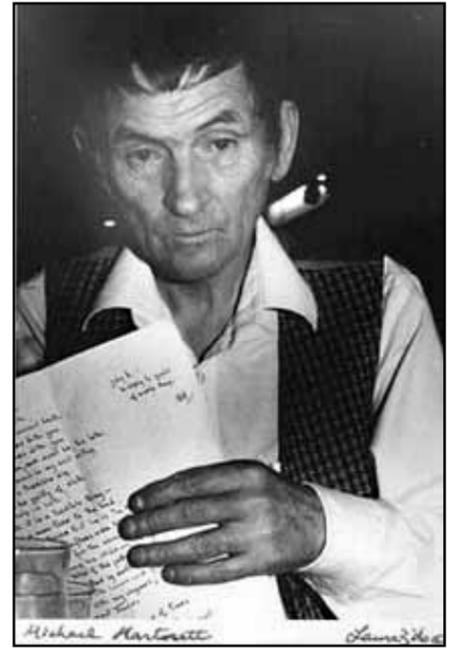
when the darkness
like a light
went out.

Yet most contributors also emphasize the remarkable resiliency of Hartnett's spirit, as well as his hospitality and generosity and the good companionship he provided whether in a pub, in a country kitchen, or on a long car ride. One of the stories attached to the poet is that when he was a young boy, a flock of wrens landed and perched on his shoulders—"a necklace of wrens," Hartnett himself referred to this event in the title poem of a dual-language edition of a selection of his poems written originally in Irish. (At the time of the incident, Hartnett was living with his grandmother on a farm just outside Newcastle West in Co. Limerick; she interpreted this phenomenon as evidence that he would become a poet.) Thus, as his friend Pat O'Brien observes, when he died, many of his acquaintances and admirers naturally thought of the essence of Hartnett in avian terms: "everyone one spoke with . . . would resort to images of birds. Sometimes to try to express the lyric sweetness of his poetry even when its

note was ominous about the world and its brutality against people and nature and culture. Sometimes to hold the man in a worthy metaphor. He walked the country lanes, or the city streets with the grace of heights. He would always seem ready to take flight, to leave the heaviness of the earth, the concerns of the day, the gravity of his health for clearer skies." Michael Coady casts him specifically as a wren:

You were a wren in your ways and shapes,
King of the birds that could roost in the holly,
Land on the leaf or dart to the light,
Drop out betimes and go into hiding. . .

Organized alphabetically by contributor—from Leland Bardwell to Macdara Woods—*Notes from His Contemporaries* stands as a monument of words to Hartnett the poet and the man. Clearly, Niall Hartnett had no trouble lining up a Who's Who of contemporary Irish poetry to help remember his father: John Montague, Seamus Heaney, and Eavan Boland, Paula Meehan, Pat Boran, and Greg Delanty, Paul Durcan, Liam Ó Muirthile, and Gabriel Rosenstock. (Moreover, he managed to capture most of the contributors in handsome black-and-white photographic portraits that add to the appeal of this book.) While the poems testify, at times touchingly, to Hartnett's place of high esteem among his peers, several of the prose pieces offer valuable insight into the mind of the man and the poet. One of these is an interview from 1987 conducted by fellow poet Dennis O'Driscoll, whose wide-ranging questions prompt engaged and engaging responses. Asked about his readiness to employ "rhetorical language" in his writing, Hartnett acknowledges the influence of 18th-century Irish-language poets (and fellow Limerick men) Seán Ó Tuama and Andrias MacCraith: "When I was quite young, I became very conscious of these poets and, so, read them very closely indeed. Through them, without going into their elaborate syntax, I became unafraid of rhetoric as such." On whether Irish or English is his default language, he replies: "I've got over the notion of having intellectual schizophrenia about it. There was a period, especially in the beginning, when one line would come out in English and the next in Irish. 'The Retreat of Ita Cagney,' for example, almost broke my heart and indeed my mind to write, because both languages became so intermeshed. One is not a translation of the other. They are two



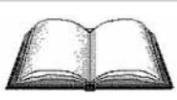
Michael Hartnett

versions of the same poem; but what the original language is I don't know."

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's account of how Hartnett came to write his poem "Foighne Chrainn" ("Patience of a Tree") is likewise illuminating. She tells how the poem was inspired by her encounter with a malevolent female spirit known to haunt the Bearna Gap in the vicinity of Templeglantine, Co. Limerick, where Hartnett lived at one point. The folklore involving Spiorad na Bearna centers on her being imprisoned in a tree that was then burned down by seven local young men. After six of them "came to a bad end" for their shared misdeed, the seventh fled to London, but according to Hartnett's poem, he still could not escape his fate: "Bhí an scian roimh ann / 's cé gur miotal í an lann / snoíodh an fheirc as díoltas crann" ("The knife was waiting there / and though metal formed the blade / from a tree's revenge / the hilt was made").

Perhaps someday Michael Hartnett will find his deserved expanded readership. *Notes from His Contemporaries* can only help in that regard, as making my way through the poems and the anecdotes, the praise and the appraisals, I found myself drawn irresistibly to the *Collected Poems*, which must ultimately be his claim to enduring recognition. His son recognizes that too in the simple dedication of the volume he conceived and compiled: "For the Poet."

Thomas O'Grady is Director of Irish Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.



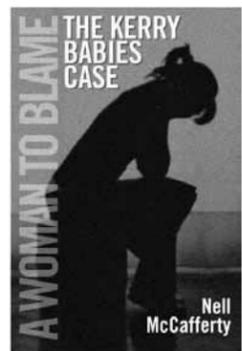
BOSTON IRISH REPORTER BOOK BRIEFS

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

A Woman to Blame: The Kerry Babies Case

By Nell McCafferty

Joanne Hayes, at 24 years of age, concealed the birth and death of her baby in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1984. Subsequently she confessed to the murder, by stabbing, of another baby. All of the scientific evidence showed that she could not have had this second baby. The police nevertheless, insisted on charging her and, after the charges were dropped,



continued to insist that she had given birth to twins conceived of two different men. A public tribunal of inquiry was called to examine the behaviour of the police and their handling of the case. The police, in defence of themselves and

in justification of confessions" obtained, called a succession of male experts on the medical, social and moral Roman Catholic fibre of Joanne Hayes. Her married lover detailed the times, places and manner of her love making.

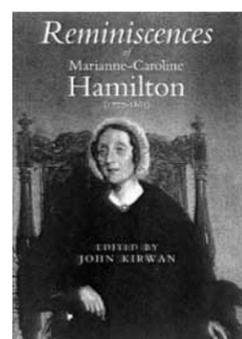
Using the twins' theory as a springboard, the question was posed and debated: Did she love this man or what was he and other men prepared to do with her? After six months of daily

discussion among the men, the judge declared, "There were times when we all believed she had twins." The treatment of Joanne Hayes, who stood accused of no crime, was a model for Irish male attitudes to woman. She was caught up in a time of rapid social change between two Irelands, an earlier Ireland in which the Catholic Church had held a moral monopoly and a new liberal and secular Ireland.

Reminiscences of Marianne-Caroline Hamilton (1777-1861)

John Kirwan, Editor
By John Mulcahy
Irish Arts Review

Miss Marianne-Caroline was born into the celebrated Tighe family of Rosanna, near Ashford, Co. Wicklow, whose extensive landholdings in south Leinster ensured their social prominence there until the end of the 18th century. Happily, she kept a short account 'of the manners of her times' but this lay unremarked among the extensive Tighe family papers in the National Library until brought to light



recently by the Kilkenny historian John Kirwan.

Miss Tighe's social set, to many of whom she appears to have been connected by marriage, included the Ponsonbys of Piltown, Co. Kilkenny; the Kavanaghs of Borris; the Fowneses of Woodstock in Innistogie; the Butlers from all over the place, and the Hamiltons from Hamwood in Co. Meath, one of whom she married.

Marianne was a competent watercolorist and versifier and her observations on the domestic comings and goings of that time at least have the virtue of rarity in that genre. Nothing very much happened to disturb the social routine except, of course, the scandalous elopement of Miss Sarah Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler, the two lovers who were afterwards known as the Ladies of Llangollen after they had set up house together in Wales.

This local excitement is dealt with as follows in the *Reminiscences*: "When the family had retired to rest she (Miss Ponsonby) leaped out of the parlour window, carrying a pistol under her arms and followed by her little dog Frisk, and a confidential labourer (whom she afterwards loaded with gifts) accompanied her to a barn where she met Miss Butler. When her flight was discovered, Sir William sent servants in pursuit of her and one of them tracing her by a ruffle that Miss Butler had dropped discovered them both at Waterford by the barking of the little dog and they were prevented from proceeding further until Lady Betty arrived

there in her coach, to bring them back."

John Kirwan has greatly enhanced the publication of these reminiscences with an extensive introduction and notes, a useful bibliography, and many portraits of the various families who dominated south Leinster at that time.

OLL Editions, Kilkenny, 2009
John Mulcahy is editor of the *Irish Arts Review*.

Ghostly Encounters Ireland, England, and Spain

By Rosemary Butler



For some travel aficionados, trips need a theme: art galleries, vineyards, museums, golf courses, hunting, and fishing, to name a few. Rosemary Butler's journeys with her husband Charles simply feature ghosts.

In Ireland, England, and Spain, the couple visits a few well-known castles and inns, and some less-known destinations that seem just as haunted.

ISBN. 978-1-883378-01-1

BC's Burns Library Offering Exhibit on John Egan's Harps

By MATTHEW DeLUCA
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In the early 19th century, Ireland's musical traditions were in a state of flux. Older practitioners and their music-making were passing away, and with them, some feared at the time, would go that sign of Ireland's culture and heritage – the harp.

Boston College's John J. Burns Library is now featuring an exhibit, "Dear Harp of My Country: The Harp Traditions of Ireland and Scotland," in an attempt to capture this moment in Ireland's cultural history. Key features of the exhibit are two harps made by John Egan, a harp-maker who worked in Dublin in the early 1800s. One of the foremost proponents of a harp revival that was taking place at the time, Egan established a reputation as a maker of harps of all kinds, but particularly of small, portable models that were used by itinerant musicians.

Nancy Hurrell, an accomplished harpist and scholar of Egan's work, spoke at the Burns Library in late June about the harp-maker and his times. The landscape of Irish music was in turmoil at the time, she said. The demand for traditional harp styles were waning in popularity as new music from the Continent and music written for the pianoforte were becoming popular.

Hurrell has been involved with the exhibition, which runs through Aug. 6, from its inception, said Beth Sweeney, Director of the Irish Music Center at the Burns Library. The earlier of the two Egan harps on site was obtained from the collection of antique instrument collector Frederick Selch and his widow Patricia. The latter was the gift of Heidi Nitze, a New York city soprano. "We've known Nancy for about eight years," Sweeney said. "She helped us obtain the Heidi Nitze harp."

"It was at that time I became interested in the harps of John Egan," Hurrell said. "and, wanting to learn more, I set up a visit with Beth to view the Selch harp at Burns. During my meeting with her, it became clear to me that Heidi's harp should come to Boston College, with its impressive Irish collection and related programs. I then became the liaison, working with Heidi and Beth to make the arrangements."

When a construction project at the library made it necessary to move some of the holdings stored there,

Sweeney said, the conservator at Burns suggested doing an exhibit around three harps: the two Egan's and a third, the instrument of famed Irish harpist Mary O'Hara. These instruments form the body of the presentation, as well as examples of harp music and related texts from 1768 onwards.

"The exhibit includes extremely rare texts such as the original volumes of Edward Bunting's books," Hurrell said. Bunting was an organist hired to attend the 1792 Belfast Harp Festival, at which he notated the music played by the harpists, many of whom were blind and left no sheet music. Lyrics were later added to the tunes Bunting set down by the poet Thomas Moore, who sold them with great success as *Moore's Irish Melodies*.

The Egan harps came several decades after this period, Sweeney said. The two on display in the Burns Library were made around 1819 and 1820, and represent a period during which the harp's popularity was undergoing a decline. Yet, the instruments Egan made have had an enduring impact on the style of harps produced to the current day.

"He invented revival harps that were gut-strung and equipped with mechanisms to fret the strings," Hurrell said. "This made it possible for harp players to play the new art music that was becoming popular in the late 18th, early 19th century. Prior to Egan's 'new' Irish harp, the old traditional Irish harp, or clairseach, was the instrument played." Egan's harps, she said, also tend to be highly decorated, particularly with shamrocks. "It was a time of nationalistic symbols used and pride in all things native to Ireland," Hurrell said.

It is the shape of Egan's harps, Sweeney said, that have been his most enduring legacy. "He created a small harp, as opposed to the larger classical pedal harp, but in a high-headed shape relating to the ancient Irish harp," Hurrell added. From Ireland, the style came to the United States, where Egan's model was taken up and used as a standard. "Egan's harp became the model for Melville Clark's 'Clark Irish Harp,' produced in Syracuse, NY from 1913 to 1950s," Hurrell said. "In London, the Morley harp factory copied the Egan harp for their Irish harp model in the late 1800's and early 1900's. And today, two hundred years on, similarly shaped harps are made. But Egan was the first to in-



Up-close details of the Egan harp that was donated to the Burns Library in 2002 by Heidi Nitze. Photo by Gary Gilbert.

vent the concept of a small Irish harp with gut strings." Hurrell gave two gallery talks at Burns outlining the history of the instruments displayed and the harp as a traditional Irish instrument, then she played some examples of music from the time on her own Egan harp, strumming the strings, but first trying to set the mood. "It was a much quieter time," she said. "Everything was smaller. This is what it sounded like."

Remembering the Halls of Boston, Two Men Linked in Living, in History

By JOHN P. RATTIGAN
THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY

May is the month of remembrance and memorials and this spring two events occurred that opened a window upon the history of both the Irish and African-American communities of Boston. Prince Hall and William Hall were the subjects of these events. Though not related,



Prince Hall

and from diverse backgrounds, the Halls shared a story and are historically linked to two very unique Boston institutions dating back to the Colonial period.

On May 15, the five-year-long effort of the Prince Hall Masonic Lodge of Dorchester concluded with the unveiling of a monument on Cambridge Common in honor of its founder, Prince Hall (c. 1735-1807). Two weeks later, members of The Charitable Irish Society gathered at the Old Granary

Burying Ground in Boston to lay a wreath at the grave of William Hall (1696-1771). This ceremony is held each Memorial Day to honor deceased members of the Society.

Prince Hall was the most famous black civic leader in the Boston area during the American Revolution and through the turn of the nineteenth century. He was known for his efforts to organize the black community politically on such issues as slavery, public education, and economic equality. Believed to have been born somewhere in the Caribbean, Hall was brought to the

Massachusetts Bay Colony at a young age to begin a life in servitude. As was customary, he took on the last name of his master, William Hall. Little is known about William except that he was a leather merchant and in 1766 he became the first known president of the Charitable Irish Society, which had been founded in Boston some thirty years earlier.

The handsome monument dedicated to Prince Hall in Cambridge consists of six black African marble panels inscribed with writings about his life. One panel contains a portion of the Articles of Manumission, which gave Hall his freedom:

"Prince Hall has lived with us 21 years and Served us well upon all occasions for which Reasons we maturely give him his freedom and that he is no longer to be Reckoned a Slave, but has always been accounted as a freeman by us as he has served us faithfully. Upon that account we have given him his freedom. As witness our hands this ninth day of April, 1770."-- Susannah and William Hall, Boston

In 1775 Prince Hall became a Master Mason in the Irish Constitution Military Lodge No. 441, an integrated Lodge attached to the British Army then stationed in Boston. After the British evacuated Boston the following year, Hall began efforts to provide for a separate African-American lodge. This resulted in the establishment in 1791 of the African Grand Lodge of North America of which Hall became Grand Master.

Representatives of the Charitable Irish Society were warmly welcomed at the dedication ceremony on Cambridge Common. It was fitting that two very different organizations, whose origins each date back to the 18th century, could come together some 200 years later to honor their shared past. As one Masonic Lodge member pointed out, "It closes the circle."

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