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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Color Adams Village Green for the Day



More than 10,000 people attended the second annual Irish Heritage Festival at Adams Corner on Sun., Oct. 10.

Ed Forry photo

BOSTON IRISH HONORS



The Hynes Family, Boston Irish Honors Award recipient. From left, Barry Hynes, Mark Gallagher, Richard Hynes, Jack Hynes, Marie Hynes Gallagher, Barry Hynes and Susan Gallagher.

Margaret Brett Hastings photo

Awardees are Feted at Gala Luncheon

Three prominent Irish-American families, a Congressman, and an insurance executive received the first Boston Irish Honors awards at a luncheon held on Thurs., Oct. 7, at the Boston Seaport Hotel.

Cited by the Boston Irish Reporter for their civic and charitable endeavors in the spirit of the Irish were the Brett, Hynes, and Geraghty families, Congressman Edward J. Markey, and Arbella Insurance Group founder and CEO John F. Donohue.

The 350 luncheon guests listened as family representatives and honorees Donohue and Markey each spoke of how influences stretching back to their ancestors'

life and times across the Atlantic helped shape their lives in modern-day Massachusetts.

The awards and the luncheon were sponsored by the Boston Irish Reporter, one of Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.'s four publications along with the Dorchester Reporter, The Mattapan Reporter, and The Boston Haitian Reporter.

Irish Reporter publisher Edward W. Forry presided at the luncheon. SBLI president and CEO Robert K. Sheridan was the event chairman, and the many-faceted Dick Flavin was the master of ceremonies.

A report on the festivities begins on Page 6.

Princess Grace Had a Thing About Drimurla

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The ancestral home of Grace Kelly, Oscar-winning American actress, fashion icon and ultimately princess of Monaco, doesn't look like much at first glance.

And, honestly, it's really not much more now than the crumbling ruin of a two-room house where her grandfather, John Kelly, was born in 1857 in Drimurla just outside Newport, Co. Mayo. In 1887, he left Ireland for Philadelphia, where he founded one of that city's leading construction companies and made his family's fortune.

Grace's path through life eventually brought her back as royalty to the Newport area in 1961 accompanied by her husband, Prince Rainier Grimaldi III of Monaco. The couple stayed at the elegant Newport House and had tea with Ellen Mulchrone, who owned the charming ancestral cottage that back then had a traditional thatched roof and was a viable dwelling.

Grace reportedly bought the house and surrounding land for 7,500 Irish pounds from Mulchrone in April 1976, planning to build a holiday home there. She returned later that year, attended Mass in St. Patrick's, shopped and had her hair done in Newport, and returned again in 1979 with Prince Rainier to see architectural plans for the holiday home. She told the local press that she would return in a few years to see the home finished, but she died at the age of 52 on Sept. 14, 1982, when her car left a winding road in the cliffs of Monaco. Local residents sent a wreath of wild flowers – picked around her ancestral home in Drimurla – to Monaco for the funeral.



This country lane from Newport to Castlebar, Co. Mayo, leads to the remains of the ancestral home of American film star Grace Kelly.

Judy Enright photo

(Continued on page 24)

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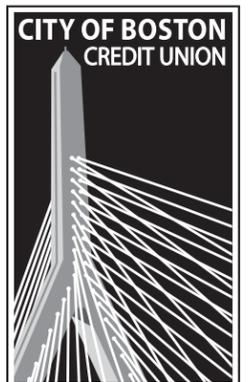
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ON THE TOWN WITH THE BIR

Michael Joyce memorialized with playground in South Boston

The late Lawrence MA Hibernian leader **David R. Burke** will be memorialized with the dedication of a bronze plaque in his memory at the An Gorta Mor Memorial in Lawrence's Immaculate Conception Cemetery on Sun., Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. Former Ambassador to the Vatican **Raymond L. Flynn** will be the principal speaker. He will be joined by Ireland's Consul General to Boston, **Michael Lonergan**, and several AOH and LAOH national, state, and county Officers.

Burke was a member of Division Eight, Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), for over 40 years and served as an officer in various capacities on national, state and county boards as well as on the Division level. An enthusiastic supporter of Irish history and culture, he was instrumental in organizing and orchestrating annually Irish Heritage Month in the city of Lawrence. He was the founder and president of the Irish Foundation of Lawrence, Inc., and also the Irish Room and Hibernian Collection at the South Lawrence Branch Library, which houses one of the largest collections of Irish books, media, memorabilia and periodicals in the Northeast.

A reception will follow the dedication at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 300 Canal Street, Lawrence.

On Nov. 4, Dorchester's Notre Dame Montessori School at St. Christopher Church will honor former Attorney General **Robert H. Quinn** and his wife Claudina with the School's 11th Annual Seeds Planted: Harvest Begun Award. They are being honored for their "dedication to improving education, healthcare, social services and housing for children and adults in Dorchester and greater Boston." The 6 p.m. dinner is set for the Venezia Waterfront Restaurant on Ericsson Street in Dorchester's Port Norfolk neighborhood.

The Eire Society of Boston is planning an event on Sun., Nov 7, at the James Michael Curley home on the Jamaica Way. Featured speaker will be former Senate and UMass president **William M. Bulger**, who authored a book about the late Mayor Curley last year. Other details of the event were still incomplete at presstime.

"All of us have lost someone to the reality of life's brevity," Irish Pastoral Centre chaplain **Fr. John McCarthy** says. "We would like to invite you to join us in prayer once again to remember the deceased ones of your family. We will gather in a special way to commemorate the deceased members of the Irish and Irish-American community in our annual November Mass of Remembrance."

Three masses are planned: Sun., Nov. 7, at 10 a.m. in conjunction with the Parish Mass at St. Brendan's Church in Dorchester; Mon., Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Chapel, Brighton; and Thurs., Nov. 18, at noon at the IPC Senior Program outing at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton.

"All your family and friends are welcome to join us to remember the departed; to support the bereaved; and to renew ourselves in faith and hope," said Fr. McCarthy. "A special ceremony will take place during the Mass. For this, we ask you to phone us at the Irish Pastoral Centre (617-479-7404, Ext. 11) with the name(s) of the deceased whom you wish to remember."



A group of friends and officials gathered at South Boston's Marine Park on October 14 for a ceremony to rename the playground in memory of Michael Joyce, who was remembered as "an unsung hero" by admirers. Joyce, who died in 1989 at age 65, was an administrative assistant with the Massachusetts House of Representatives for more than 20 years. He was known for his tireless efforts in guiding new immigrants and others through bureaucratic mazes. One of the most respected members of Boston's Irish community, Mr. Joyce received numerous awards and honors. University College in Galway, Ireland, honored him with a Man of the Year nomination, and when the Greater Boston Irish Community saluted him on Michael Joyce Appreciation Day in May 1987, more than 1,100 people attended. In 2009, State Senator Jack Hart filed legislation to rename the state's Marine Park Playground in honor of Mr. Joyce. "Mr. Joyce was an unsung hero at the State House because of his constant advocacy for those who could not advocate for themselves," said State Senator Jack Hart. "It is a wonderful tribute to his life to name this playground in his honor. It is also wonderful to see that our community will benefit with a newly renovated playground because of this great man."

Ed Forry photo

Boston College Libraries, in collaboration with the Association of College & Research Libraries, NE Chapter (Women's Studies Interest Group), has announced a seminar -- "The Women of the Cuala Press and the Irish Literary Revival" -- that will be held Nov. 8 at the Burns Library on the BC campus. Presentations will be offered by **Dr. Robert K. O'Neill**, Librarian of the John J. Burns Library; **Marjorie Howes**, Associate Professor of English at Boston College; **Justine Sundaram**, Reference Librarian of the John J. Burns Library; and **Andrew Kuhn**, doctoral candidate at Boston College. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served at 9 a.m., with presentations beginning at 10:30 prior to the talks. The seminar and breakfast are free of charge. Reservations: barbara.hebard@bc.edu

More than 50 members and supporters of the Irish American Hockey Association (IAHA) crowded into McGreevy's Bar in Boston on Oct. 19 to celebrate their Peace Through Pucks program, which gives youth hockey players from the North and South an opportunity to play scrimmage games together and look past the conflicts of older generations.

"If you want to challenge generational hatred, you have to start with the kids," said Cusack, who also organizes camps stateside for visiting Irish players, runs equipment drives and helped organize youth leagues in Ireland.

Ireland currently has one regulation-sized hockey rink, in Dundock, but the scarcity of ice time has not stopped the sport from gaining popularity. In recent

years, National Hockey League players visiting Ireland for scrimmage games have been met with growing crowds wearing NHL and European Hockey Federation jerseys, while street hockey has given kids a chance to hone their skills without setting foot on the ice.

Comcast Sports New England has taken an interest in Peace Through Pucks and recently produced a half-hour video program highlighting hockey's growing Irish fan base and the challenges faced by youngsters looking to experience the game.

The IAHA, which formed in 2005, is the brainchild of former Boston Bruin **P.J. Stock** and IAHA executive director **John Cusack**, who hope the games will create strong Irish players and even stronger bonds between the North and South.

Cusack says there is still work to be done, but is proud of what his organization has achieved. When one Catholic player was asked how he felt about his Northern teammates near the end of the television spot, his reply embodied the IAHA's mission.

"I don't care about religion or anything like that," said the youngster. "A bud's a bud." (View the video online at Irish-hockey.com).

— PAT TARANTINO

After the success of last month's visit of the Boston Bruins to Belfast, there are now plans for two local college teams to travel to Belfast next year to compete in the first-ever American college hockey game to be played in Europe.

The BIR has learned that planning

is underway to bring the hockey squads of Northeastern University and UMass/Lowell to Belfast to play a game at the 7,000-seat hockey arena in Belfast. The match is expected to be played on Columbus Day weekend (October 8 or 9). It will be a league-sanctioned game, bringing together two Hockey East squads to inaugurate their 2011/2012 regular season.

Under NCAA rules, a college team can play no more than one game every five years outside North America. Organizers say they expect the match to become an annual event, with two different teams each year from among the ten-team Hockey East league.

Denise Miller, proprietor of the Claddagh Connection in Bristol, RI, is hosting a "once in a lifetime event — three Irish merchants are coming" to Bristol for one day to show their wares. On Sun., Oct 31, from noon to 5 p.m. Miller will host three Irish merchants: **John Branigan**, owner of Branigan Weavers; **John Condrion**, owner of Fado Jewelers, Ogham Jewelry, and John Christopher Designs; and **Peter Collins** owner of Mullingar Pewter. Miller's store is located at 259 Thames St., Bristol. More details at thecladdaghconnection.com.

The 26th Annual Benefit Dance to aid the Holy Ghost Fathers and their missions will be held at the Irish Social Club, 119 Park St., West Roxbury, starting at 8 p.m. on Fri., Nov 5. There will be music by the **Andy Healy Band**, the **Greene-O'Leary School of Irish Dance**, cash bar, refreshments and raffles. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at Most Precious Blood Rectory, Hyde Park, or at the door on the night of the dance. For more information, call **Fr. Peter Nolan** at Most Precious Blood Rectory (617-364-9500) or **Cathy Coppinger** (617-323-2800).

Other events this month: **Nov. 3** -- Charitable Irish Society's Golden Key Awards, Boston College Club, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Honorees: **Cora Flood**, **Thomas Hynes** and **Larry O'Toole**. Tickets: charitableirishsociety.org. ... **Nov. 14** -- Annual Banquet, TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association), noon, Wayside Inn, Sudbury. Speaker: **Mary Pat Kelly**, author of the book Galway Bay. Info: tiara.ie. ... **Nov. 18** -- The American Ireland Fund's Annual Boston Dinner, Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner and dancing, 8 p.m. Info: 617-574-0720, irlfunds.org



Ambassador Anne Anderson, Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was keynote speaker at an October 26 luncheon at the Boston Harbor Hotel sponsored by the United Nations Association of Greater Boston. Pictured at the luncheon are John Cullinane and Diddy Cullinane, honorary chairs; Ambassador Anderson; and former State Senate and UMass president William M. Bulger.

Ed Forry photo

For Governor: Deval Patrick

By ED FORRY

Four years ago, this newspaper endorsed the candidacy of Deval Patrick because of what we saw in him: The promise of a transformational leader who would bring change to state government.

Four years later, we endorse his candidacy for a more concrete reason: Because he has earned it.



Ed Forry

Gov. Patrick has guided the Commonwealth through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. He has done it with poise, professionalism and with a sense of purpose that has paid off: The Massachusetts economy is now growing at twice the rate of the rest of the nation.

While unemployment remains high following the global financial meltdown of 2008, the Commonwealth has added jobs in the last

six consecutive months and there are many other encouraging signs that Massachusetts is positioned to leap past most other states in job creation. None of this is accidental. Patrick has shepherded Massachusetts through the most severe crisis of the last 80 years and he has distinguished himself and his administration in the process.

Even while managing a fiscal crisis of historic proportions, the governor has assembled an impressive list of accomplishments:

- On his watch, test scores for Massachusetts students for reading surpassed every other state in the nation;
- He pushed through important reforms in the way the Commonwealth treats former prisoners who have done their time by re-writing our CORI laws, and that promises to help thousands of people overcome a major obstacle to employment and upward mobility;
- He stood his ground against a powerful lobby to support the creation of the nation's first-ever off-shore wind farm, Cape Wind, which will give our state a new edge in job creation and clean energy.

The list goes on and on.

Deval Patrick has been accessible and present in our communities in a way that no governor has been in recent years. He has walked the streets, greeted families touched by tragedy, and responded swiftly and personally to appeals for help.

And he made it a personal priority to advocate – successfully – for important investments in our communities, including funding to help build-out new community health center facilities all across the Commonwealth. We see the governor in our neighborhood -- he is a neighbor in Milton. Patrick is a regular at local barber shops, restaurants, and stores – and not just when the cameras are there. He and his family are genuine members of our community. He has a personal rapport with leaders and everyday folks alike, all of whom keep him tuned into the needs of the city's residents.

Patrick has been much maligned by his opponents, who snidely call for voters to “Dump Deval” and give up on “hope.” But this governor has brought out the best in people no matter their political affiliation. He has been a steadfast, level-headed, and responsible steward of the public trust in the face of daunting responsibilities and a sometimes angry public. In short, Deval Patrick is the prototype of the sort of person everyone should want to have in public service.

Deval Patrick deserves our respect. He deserves our support. He deserves another term as our governor. And we are proud to endorse his candidacy once again.

Angst and Hatred Continue to Roil Everyday Life in Northern Ireland

Call to Cut Catholic School Funding Case in Point

By JOE LEARY

SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Many Irish Americans express wonderment as to why, after all the progress towards peace and understanding, Northern Ireland still has sporadic violence and such difficulty in bringing Catholics and Protestants together.



Joe Leary

The answer is found in the deep angst, ignorance, and even hatred that lies hidden beneath everyday life in Northern Ireland. The most public evidence of this are the 98 – and the number is growing – “peace walls” spread throughout Belfast and beyond that are required by popular demand to keep the two sides from harming each other. Any

tourist visiting Belfast will be shocked by the ugliness and pervasiveness of these security walls.

And this past month we were reminded once again of the unknowing audacity of senior Protestant leadership when Peter Robinson, the head of Paisley's old Democratic Unionist Party and current government leader of the assembly as First Minister, called for the elimination of government funding for Catholic schools.

The education of young people – regardless of religion -- is considered so important to the future of a successful nation that both Ireland and Britain (including Scotland and Wales) have for nearly 100 years provided free education to its people. Now we have a Northern Ireland Protestant leader calling for the elimination of funding for Catholics.

Robinson wants to deny Catholics educational funds

as a cost-cutting measure, forcing Catholic parents to send their children to integrated State schools. This proposal, if endorsed by the current majority, will predictably cause a widening of the rupture between the two sides and dramatically raise the possibilities of broad violence and civil unrest.

Why, then, is he suggesting such a course? Many feel that Robinson is playing to his hard right-wing constituency without caring about the consequences for the Catholics. He is trying to prove that he is tough and will not bend to the growing influence of the two nationalist parties, Sinn Fein and the SDLP.

His political future is cloudy at best given his loss in the Parliamentary election and his wife's recent infidelities. He is trying to maintain his leadership position, and every good Unionist knows the best way to do that is by Catholic-bashing. Paisley made a career of using the same strategy.

But in this case, even Paisley disagrees with Robinson; he has been quoted in the Belfast Telegraph as saying now is not the time to change the educational system in place.

In responding to Robinson's remarks, Cardinal Sean Brady, the leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland, said, “Recent suggestions that schools in Northern Ireland should be forced into one single state system are a stark warning to all those who respect diversity and the rights of parents. It seems strange that people in Northern Ireland are being told they should accept a lower standard of rights and freedoms than they would have in Britain, Scotland, or the South of Ireland.”

The strong, secret underpinnings of Northern Ireland society show themselves from time to time and for Irish Americans it is well to be attentive.

Paul Murphy's Court is Adjourned

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Dorchester buried one of its favorite sons this week when Judge Paul Murphy was laid to rest. A graduate of St. Mark's School, BC High, Boston College, and Harvard Law School and a Korean war veteran, Judge Murphy had a long and distinguished career; first as a state representative and then as First Justice of the West Roxbury District Court.

Essentially shy and reserved, he nonetheless was an effective politician who won the respect and admiration of his colleagues as much for his humility as for his brilliant mind.

He became the House majority leader recognized widely for his loyalty, good advice, and sound judgment. Even after he became a judge, legislative leaders would call upon him for advice and counsel.

Comfortable yet not entirely at home in the world of politics, the five-term state representative from Wards 16 and 17, was appointed to the bench by Gov. Frank Sargent. For this compassionate man, the move provided the opportunity to more directly affect the lives of the many unfortunate souls that appeared before him daily.

More scholar than political activist, he, in his own quiet way, tried to help people repair their broken lives. He learned Spanish so he could better address the problems of the many Hispanics he met on court business.

For relaxation, Paul read widely. His hobby was filled with books on literature, history, philosophy, and theology. The scope of his knowledge and the depth of his insights became evident at a great books seminar sponsored for judges by Brandeis University.

I was in a group of about twelve judges, including Judge Murphy, that met with a professor at Brandeis University to discuss literary themes relating to truth and justice in an assigned reading program. Of the books we were to read I can only remember a few: Billy Budd, Edge of Darkness, and Moby Dick.

Off the Bench

We gathered for the seminar and the professor began to lead the discussion. We quickly saw that Paul was in his element. As the professor was struggling in his efforts to provoke discussion, the normally quiet judge took over.

He became the discussion leader, pointing out themes, drawing comparisons, and probing the depths in what was a brilliant discussion that ranged through literature, symbolism, philosophy, and theology. Even the professor was impressed.

There was the true Paul Murphy – scholar and teacher. In another life, he could have been a philosopher, theologian, or bishop. Perhaps he was more comfortable in a world of ideas, a place more powerful and compelling than the often dry strictures of the law.

He was a very wise and interesting man whose understanding of law, truth, and justice went far beyond the narrow confines of a law library. There were just too many other interesting topics. When traveling on vacation, he frequented libraries and bookstores; always at home in the life of the mind.

District Court judging is more like laboring in the vineyard than an academic pursuit. For years Paul worked the vineyard in a busy court that was outdated and badly in need of repair. Finally, he had the opportunity to participate in the design and construction of a new courthouse, which formally opened about 15 years ago.

Tragically, he was seriously injured in an automobile accident shortly before the opening. After a long period of recovery, he was still not well enough to return to the bench, and so he retired. For years afterward, he could be seen walking around Dorchester and in various libraries, content among his beloved books.

A good and kind man with a brilliant mind has passed on. May he forever enjoy the company of family and friends and the companionship of scholars like himself, full of lively discussion.

All rise! Judge Paul Murphy's session is now adjourned.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.

Letter to the Editor

A 'yes' for Irish Network Boston

Dear Boston Irish Reporter Readers,

On behalf of the Boston Irish Business Association, I would like express our strong support for the newly established Irish Network Boston. As the preeminent Irish American business organization in Boston, we understand that IN-Boston's launch will only mean new opportunities for our members. BIBA has worked closely with the Consulate of Ireland on this launch and is proud to have a number of our members on the IN-Boston board. We are looking forward to helping them promote and retain our Irish connections and heritage.



Patrick Bench

The Boston Irish Business Association is a membership organization with a clear focus on business and the development of economic, commercial and educational links between the United States the island of Ireland, and Europe. Our membership consists of a broad cross-section of businesspersons, professionals and entrepreneurs from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the U.S. BIBA works closely with the governments in Northern Ireland and Ireland as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to further strengthen bilateral economic ties. BIBA envisions that Irish Network Boston will be a trusted partner in our pursuits as well as their own.

Sincerely,
Patrick J. Bench, President
Boston Irish Business Association



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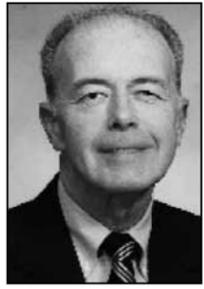
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Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By **BILL O'DONNELL**

Irish Firm Key Rescue Player

— There were many companies and countries that assisted in the near-miraculous rescue operation in the tiny desert mining outpost in Chile, but none played a more significant role than a small Shannon-based Irish engineering firm. **Mincon Ltd.**



Bill O'Donnell

employs 52 workers at Shannon, 130 world wide, and specializes in precision mining equipment. The Irish company supplied the drill that first broke through the underground cavity that held the 33 miners. The drill, called a Mincon MX 5053, made the initial breakthrough to the miners and provided the first solid evidence that they were trapped but alive when the instrument was withdrawn with a hand-lettered message from the trapped miners below saying, "We are fine in the shelter."

The Mincon drill was used a second time to provide a critical 5.5-inch opening down through the rock to the miners that was used to get food, medicine, and a communication kit a half-mile underground. That lifeline lasted for 70 days until all were rescued.

Joe Purcell, 44, a co-owner of Mincon, told the world media following the rescue, "We are very proud that a tool designed and made by us in Shannon made the crucial breakthrough in locating the men which led to the rescue. When I get home to Ennis tonight, I'll definitely pop a bottle of champagne." A happy ending with an Irish tag.

Irish Diaspora, No Voting Allowed

— Throughout the free world, more than a hundred countries have some sort of arrangement for its citizens abroad to participate in elections at home. Sadly that roster of nations does not include the Republic of Ireland. With a presidential election set to be held in Ireland this coming year, the interest and intensity of Irish people living abroad holding Irish citizenship has been steadily growing. The voting rights ban also is in effect for other Irish elections -- for the Dail, direct-election Senate seats, and national referenda.

A Sinn Fein representative speaking in London said, "Successive presidents such as **Mary Robinson** and **Mary McAleese** have been great ambassadors, regularly visiting the Irish community here in Britain. It is a scandal that those same citizens have no say in who the next president will be."

The cautious Irish political establishment has been traditionally hesitant to open up voting to an overseas wild-card electorate that would consist of young, liberal, and harder-to-control voters than the conventional party constituents at home. However, with modern communications and media access it would seem the right thing to do. It is clearly long overdue for the political leaders and the major parties in Ireland to show some spine and move forward on this issue.

Teddy Bear Speaks Your Language -- **Adrian Devane** and his wife **Karen** in Galway have come up with a simple idea that has been gaining marketing traction and could end up being a toy store favorite with infants and toddlers (and also as an adult novelty) this Christmas season and beyond. The couple have come up with the world's first Irish-speaking Teddy bear, which its creators hope will promote the Irish language. The Gaelic-speaking doll, nicknamed BB, has a child's voice and a 33-word vocabulary that focuses on the Irish words for colors, numbers, and shapes.

Devane, disappointed in the negative attitude towards the Irish language in Ireland, felt that introducing the teddy bear to younger children was a good place to encourage support of a wider use of Irish. "I wanted to get back to basics," he says.

As someone who spent time working with young Irish would-be entrepreneurs, I think the Devanes have a winner on their hands if they can tie up with a reputable marketing and distributing agent. And it is a product that can appeal

not solely to children but, if it is priced right, also year-round to Irish families abroad as a tangible, novel taste of home.

McAleese Says 'No' to NY Parade -- Like **Tom Menino** in Boston and a number of others in other venues have done, Irish President **Mary McAleese** has let the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee know that she won't be parading nor serving as Grand Marshall this coming March. The presidential staff issued the conventional "scheduling conflict" excuse but it is well known that the Irish President has been a longtime supporter of gay rights and would not be involved in a parade that excluded their participation.

Following the gruesome rash of murders, assaults, and suicides involving gay and lesbian young people in recent weeks, this is a moment in time, it seems to me, to take an unequivocal stand against discrimination of fellow human beings based on their sexuality.

National Front On Budget Not On -- It's hard to pin down now who actually scuttled the idea suggested by the Green Party of having the major Irish political parties come together on the national budget. It was a good idea for about 36 hours, with Taoiseach **Brian Cowen** apparently signing on only to do a U-turn and then denying he had ever agreed to any such thing. The leaders of Fine Gael and Labour were at least briefly on board but with both parties looking for a political edge in the 2011 election, they quickly shuffled off following the Fianna Fail minuet.

What clearly was missing in the scenario was the courage displayed back in 1987 when Fine Gael leader **Alan Dukes** agreed to form a united political front with **Charles Haughey's** Fianna Fail government in an effort to resolve the serious financial problems facing Ireland at that time.

Looking over the current political landscape, it is clear, certainly in hindsight, that the Green's **John Gormley** and his move to find some all-party unity on a budget in today's parlous times was destined to be a non-starter. After all, careers and political futures were at stake and there wasn't an Alan Dukes in sight.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"Ireland was an oligarchy full of one-man banks, while absentee board members looked on. It was a situation particular to Ireland; something that couldn't happen in the UK."

-- **Shane Ross**, Irish senator, journalist and author.

"The [Republican Party] has got to take a hard look at some of the positions they've been taking. We can't be anti-immigration, for example. Because immigrants are fueling this country. Without immigrants we would be like Europe or Japan, with an aging population and no young people coming in to take care of it."

-- **Gen. Colin Powell**, former Secretary of State and National Security Adviser

"I realize that to many people it is not as emotionally satisfying to discuss this as to talk about the peace in 1995. This is what peace is about -- about giving the people the chance to live responsible, normal lives. ... This is also part of living a peaceful life, facing the crisis and facing it together."

-- **President Bill Clinton**, speaking on the Irish economic woes at Derry's University of Ulster

Northwest Under Invasion -- There were no longboats, or fierce warriors in armor with maces, but no matter how you cut it, the Northwest had been invaded. The invaders were some 5,000 farm minks that were released into the Donegal wild by animal rights activists. The activists had broken into a mink farm in southwest Donegal with wire cutters and "liberated" thousands of the coats-in-waiting as a protest against keeping the critters in captivity.

The result was a mad scramble to try to recapture the mink before they could imperil salmon spawning in the nearby Owenea and Glen Rivers. There was also concern for the escaped mink and for poultry and livestock in the countryside. "It is an act of terrorism," said mink farmer **Connie Anderson**. "It was pure sabotage and totally uncalled for,

especially cutting the wire and opening the gates. That was just wrong."

There are currently only five mink farms operating in Ireland but these are expected to be gradually closed by 2012 under an Irish government program.

Henhouses, Foxes, And Irish Banks -- The Anglo-Irish Bank was one of the Big Three in Irish banking along with Bank of Ireland and the Allied Irish Bank. It loaned out hundreds of millions of euros in mortgages and development speculation loans virtually free of any real government regulatory control. Today the Anglo Irish Bank is the biggest debtor in Irish history, to the tune of at least \$50 billion; the Irish government has taken it over and nationalized it; and the rate payers, the tax-paying punters of Ireland, are on the hook for losses that will cost -- in interest alone !!! -- more than \$1.4 billion each and every year through 2025.

How does a bank or any business accumulate in a few tigerish years debts that today threaten in very real terms the stability and future financial well being of the Republic of Ireland? We can scroll for a partial answer by looking at the executive actions of the former youthful wunderkind of Anglo, the bank's former chief executive, **David Drumm**. He and Anglo Chairman **Sean Fitzpatrick** and a board of compliant stooges used Anglo as a piggy bank to fund get-rich-quick schemes, grandiose development plans, and speculative ventures that they hoped would catapult a handful of well-connected banking colleagues into billionaire status. All of this was accomplished under the noses of lazy, unconcerned, and incompetent state inspectors.

One of the more brazen schemes involved some \$100 million borrowed by the chairman with Drumm's knowledge and assent that remains unpaid. Each year Drumm and his board of directors agreed to erase Fitzpatrick's \$100 million in borrowed debt and transfer it to a friendly bank that would hide it until Anglo's annual audit was finished and then put it back on Anglo's books. Other Anglo directors enjoyed similar, ongoing access to the bank's assets

Other millions are owed by the former CEO, but that's a dry hole as Mr. Drumm now lives in Massachusetts, in a house in Wellesley after moving from his Chatham home on the Cape (purchased in 2008 for \$4.6 million). He has refused to return to Ireland to aid in the investigation of how Anglo got cleaned out and has filed for bankruptcy in a Bay State court.

Embarrassed by press reports, Drumm's wife has finally stopped trying to get their Malahide home near Dublin transferred and out of the reach of the bankruptcy court. Drumm has a pension from the Anglo Irish bank worth \$7 million that he has been allowed to retain and he is using that to bargain with Anglo to pay down his debt. Anglo has refused the deal.

Neither Fitzpatrick nor Drumm have been indicted nor, of course, jailed, but Fitzpatrick, unlike Drumm, at least has remained in Ireland to face the music.

Meanwhile Ireland has pledged to fully guarantee all Irish bank losses, fulfilling a Fianna Fail-led government promise that the people of Ireland will have to ultimately make good on. Also, Ireland is more or less mandated to keep its repayment pledge lest it be forced to avoid financial collapse by seeking a European Union bailout, which would then most likely trigger an EU demand (which the EU is salivating to do) that Ireland increase its lowest-in-the-EU corporate tax rate of 12.5 percent, putting it more in line with other EU countries. Not a pretty picture!

Chinese Butts Top Belfast Counterfeits -- Cigarette smuggling is big business on the island of Ireland. Most smuggling operations are controlled by former and present paramilitary gang members who have eschewed patriotism for street crime riches. The hot import today in Belfast and areas in the North are Chinese cigarettes. The packaging, carefully made to exactly duplicate popular legal brands, is turned out in huge Chinese factories but the product itself, the cigarettes, are unmistakably "Made in China"; they are bad smelling, foul, and instantly identified as inferior, but they are cheap and plentiful

The **Dalai Lama**, the classic bete noir of the Chinese government, is due to visit Ireland next year. Maybe **Robinson & McGuinness** could cut a deal: Promise to keep the Dalai Lama out of the North if the Chinese stop flooding Belfast with their bad butts. It can't hurt to ask.

Reminder -- The memorial and celebration of the life of the late artist & musician **David O'Docherty** is being held at the Black Rose in Boston on Sun., Nov. 14, upstairs at the Rose from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

RANDOM CLIPPINGS

More than nine million people have logged on to the internet to seek out ancestors from the 1901 and 1911 census archives announced recently. ... **John Hume**, in what should be a popular choice even in unionist circles, has been voted by the listeners/viewers of RTE as "the greatest person in the history of Ireland," beating out **Michael Collins**, **Mary Robinson**, et al. ... The photogenic Kylemore Abbey in Galway county has closed the girls school there but the good nuns are now making and selling chocolate products. ... Three Democratic members of the Mass. Legislature, **Charles Murphy**, **Eugene O'Flaherty** and **Martin Walsh**, have petitioned **Hillary Clinton** to include Donegal along with the six Northern counties in economic plans for the northern part of Ireland.

Follow the money: Irish construction companies are in Saudi Arabia hoping to grab some of the action there on infrastructure and public building development worth \$35 billion. ... Irish nurses are emigrating in large numbers with most of this year's 1,600 grad RN's heading to the UK, Australia, US, and Canada hunting for jobs. ... The hottest fashion accessory and trendsetter coming out of the North these days, they say, is the bowler hat. And we thought it was only on display at Triumphant Orange Order walk-outs. ... The number of ordinations in Ireland has dropped below those in England and Wales for the first time in memory. The good news is that the website CountMeOut.ie, which helps disaffected Catholics, has suspended its services. ... In the small change department, Irish banks are repaying \$140 million to customers they overcharged -- and it won't be the first bank repayments. ... Unmarked graves of Irish soldiers who died after serving in the British Army in the first two world wars will have headstones newly erected at Glasnevin for Nov. 11.

The Belfast Telegraph, in a first, has hired an ombudsman or in Tel-speak a "Readers' Editor" to handle complaints, comments, etc. ... The newest novel by the literature Nobelist **Mario Vargas Llosa** of Peru is based on the life of Roger Casement. ... I don't care what kind of a shine Boston Police Commissioner **Ed Davis** puts on it; the BPD's immigration checks are counter productive and a repudiation of the policy in place for over a quarter century with the Flynn and Menino administrations. ... As the father of a daughter, I would rather see some Tea-Bagger get elected to Congress than former Bad Cop Jeff Perry, who is running in the 10th against former Norfolk DA and **Bill Bulger** nemesis **Bill Keating**. ... I'm glad someone said it: There's no money out of Boston or New York or anywhere going to the misguided ex-patriot dissident/breakaways who are killing security forces and bombing cities in Ireland trying to convince a peace-seeking constituency that no price is too high to pay for Irish unity. ... The former watchtower at Foxhill in South Armagh's so-called "Bandit country" was long a symbol of the Troubles with its roving overhead helicopters and nearby army barracks. It has been dismantled and is being readied for regeneration as a tangible peace dividend. ... The nationalist Northern town of Newry, a favorite market town of mine just up from Warrenpoint and the canal, has now emulated Derry with some of its own "no-go areas."

Maybe I haven't got into the spirit of things, but I think it's beyond silly to pay big money, usually extra, to buy a shirt or jacket with Guinness beer or a Harp logo or some other boozy advertisement imprinted on it. I always thought it was the advertiser that paid the medium to spread the word, not the other way around. Well, maybe there could be one exception -- the Red Sox.



The Boston Irish Honors 2010

Common Roots Gave Birth to a Labor of Love

By Edward W. Forry
Boston Irish Reporter Publisher

In the fall of 1990, when my late dear wife Mary Casey Forry and I discussed the idea of publishing a newspaper about Irish Boston, we knew very little about Ireland, the land of our ancestors.

Mary's mom and dad had come over in the 1930s - Mary Kate Kane from Mohill in Leitrim, Martin Casey from Carracastle in Mayo - and she had grown up hearing stories of the hard life that had caused her grandparents to send their youngest daughter to America.

My own grandmother, Hannah Crotty Forry, was born in the 1860s in Waterford, and she arrived in Boston around 1890 with her sister who entered the Congregation of St. Joseph nuns, taking the name Sister Mary Flavia. I never knew her, and my grandmother passed on well before it ever occurred to me to learn about her life in Ireland.

My wife's family kept in touch with aunts, uncles, and cousins by mail and the infrequent phone calls. I knew only that there were some distant relatives over there, in Waterford and Sligo.

When the Boston Irish Reporter first was published, despite Boston's status as "the most Irish city in America," there was no Boston-based journal of news and information to report on the growing local Irish diaspora. We took the opportunity to celebrate our own heritage while beginning a journey of great discovery about Ireland and Irish America, with a special focus on the people we both knew best: the Boston Irish.

And so it was in October 1990 that we first printed the Boston Irish Reporter, with a mission to "Tell the Stories of Boston's Irish" ... the lives of our neighbors, our friends, our families. Collectively, they are the stories of the many Irish-born people who braved the trans-Atlantic journey to find freedom and prosperity for

themselves and their children in America. The tales are always inspiring, and in fact, never get old. And they are our stories - they tell who we are.

Today, twenty years later, the newspaper stands as one of the few remaining family-owned and-operated publications in Boston and the New England region. With our pledge to continue our tradition as the region's leading chronicler of all things Irish-American, we observe this important milestone with this celebratory luncheon, and we proudly debut a new awards ceremony, the "Boston Irish Honors."

Consistent with our own heritage, and proud to be Americans with ancestral ties to Ireland, today we give recognition to and honor the stories of two individuals and three families whose ancestors arrived from Ireland and worked to give better lives to their children and grandchildren.

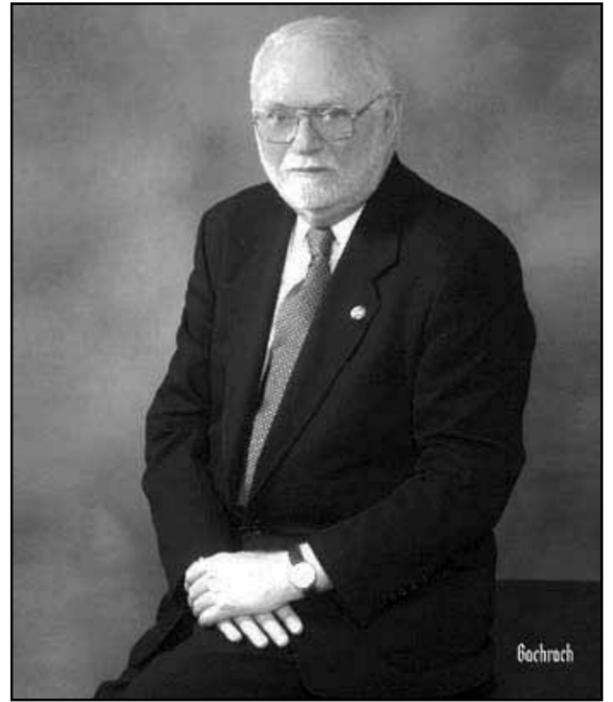
In planning for our anniversary, we reached out to our friends and business leaders in Boston, and formed a 40-member event committee, and we reached out to the many Irish social and business groups in greater Boston.

In the 20 years since it was first printed as an eight-page supplement to our flagship newspaper, the Dorchester Reporter, the BIR has been a magnet for talented reporters, columnists, editors, photographers, salespeople, and contributors - all of whom have helped to make this newspaper special. We thank them:

Sue Asci, Carol Beggy, Harry Brett, Lauren Byrne, Eoin Cannon, John Carroll, Ken Carty, James Casey, Jack Conboy, Robert Connolly.

John Craig, Jim Cryan, James W. Dolan, Denise Doherty, Jack Dunn, Judy Enright, Liam & Pauline Ferrie, Cora Flood, John Philip Foley, Bill Forry, Mary Casey Forry, Maureen Forry, Robert Furlong, Laura Griffin, Chris Harding, Margaret Brett Hastings, Kieran Jordan, Herbert A. Kenny, Barbara Langis.

Joe Leary, Cormac MacConnell, Ed



Madden, Laura Madden, Yawu Miller, Barbara McDonough, Ann McGough, Michael McGonagle, Martin McGovern, Gavin Mears.

Bob Mitchell, Peggy Mullen, Tom Mulvoy, Fr. Tom McDonnell, Denis O'Brien, Greg O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, Bill O'Donnell, Brian O'Donovan, Thomas O'Grady, Kieran O'Sullivan.

Jim O'Sullivan, Mike Ryan, Neil Savage, Eileen Sheehan, James J. Smith, Dr. Philip Smith, Peter Stevens, Bill Tonra, Patrick J. Walsh.

Their steady and faithful contributions to our pages help to educate and inform me about the many great values of Irish Bostonians. Also, the support of our sponsors and all our guests at this anniversary celebration helps sustain us in our commitment to continue to publish a strong, vibrant, and independent journal of Irish-American culture for Boston and New England for many years to come.

Then ... Now



Advertisement for the Boston Irish Reporter 20th Anniversary issue, featuring the cover image and text about the magazine's history and current offerings.

Advertisement for the Boston Irish Reporter 20th Anniversary, including the cover image and text about the magazine's history and current offerings.

The inaugural Boston Irish Reporter, August 1990

The latest Boston Irish Reporter October 2010

Table with 3 columns: INSIDE THE BIR, Family Goes 'Home' to the Isle of Myths, Poetry and Grief: James Joyce's 'Tilly'.

The 2010 Boston Irish Honorees

photos by Margaret Brett Hastings



Peg Geraghty, Dedham; Eileen Nee, Walpole



Dick Flavin



Rev. Tom Kennedy



Bob Sheridan, Ed Forry, Congressman Ed Markey, Dick Flavin.



Bob Sheridan, Ed Forry, Peg Brett McCobb, Dick Flavin.



Bob Sheridan, Ed Forry, Jack Hynes, Dick Flavin.



Bob Sheridan, John Donohue, Ed Forry, Dick Flavin.



Bob Sheridan, Ed Forry



Ireland Consul General Michael Lonergan



Bob Sheridan, Ed Forry, Anne Geraghty, Dick Flavin.



Jim Brett, Bob Sheridan, Bill Brett



Ed Forry, BIR publisher; Congressman Ed Markey



Maureen Forry



The Cityview Room at the World Trade Center was filled to capacity.



The Boston Irish Honors 2010 for Distinguished Public Service

Edward J. Markey, U.S. Congressman

By Kyle Cheney
Special to the Reporter

Call it his “vanilla cake” moment.

Congressman Edward Markey, the Democrats’ global warming guru and the Massachusetts delegation’s elder statesman, has always traced his roots back to Waterville, a verdant Ireland hamlet known for its golf and seafood. But it was on a 1996 jaunt through the town, over tea and a slice of vanilla cake with a woman he’d never met before, that he realized just how deep those roots extended.

The woman, his mother’s cousin Nora, had welcomed Markey to her Waterville family farm. Markey, breathless as he described the moment, recalled how his own mother used to have a daily slice of vanilla cake every day at 3 o’clock – a habit he *thought* she picked up in America.

“I’m looking at this woman who looks just like my mother, she has the same hands as my mother, the same face as my mother,” Markey said in an interview, with disbelief in his voice.

For Markey, 64, a Bay State Congressman since 1977, Ireland has been an omnipresent part of life, but until 1996 it had been an indirect connection. His mother, Christina Courtney, and his father, John Markey, never discussed with Edward or his brothers, John and Richard, the dozens of cousins, aunts, and uncles they left in Ireland.

During that 1996 visit, along with his wife, Susan, Markey became the first of his American-born relatives to travel back and reconnect with his forbears: the Markeys, Courtneys and Sullivans of County Kerry.

Markey speaks with photographic precision about his genealogy, rattling off names, dates and details with a historian’s ease and taking on a pristine Irish brogue when he recounts interactions with his relatives. His maternal grandparents – Patrick Courtney, a coal carrier, and Brigid Sullivan, a maid – crossed the Atlantic in 1902, settling in Malden, he said.

Markey was born in Malden in 1946.

“Today, I only live nine houses from the one my mother and her four sisters and [my] grandmother and grandfather lived in,” he boasts. “My mother constantly reminded us of how fortunate we were. My grandmother and grandfather had to leave Ireland because of economic circumstances.”

Markey graduated from Boston College in 1968 and earned his law degree from the school in 1972. His great-grandfather on his father’s side, Thomas Markey, came to the United States in 1858, serving in the Union Army in the Civil War before beginning a career in a Lawrence textile factory. His grandfather, Patrick, followed Thomas into the factory.

Markey says his ancestors’ sacrifice informs his public service.

“The Greatest Generation were really the people who left Ireland who left behind their mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers and never got to see them again,” he said. “You should never compare anything to what they did. To a certain extent we all are fulfilling their obligation.

“I try to keep faith with the countless Irish immigrants who came to the United States, who worked hard to improve their lives and harness the gift of educational opportunity to give each succeeding generation a better life,” he continued. “That tradition animates my legislative efforts to advance fairness, justice and opportunity for all Americans.”

Those high ideals that carried Markey through 17 terms in Congress will be put to the test this November. He and his Democratic colleagues find themselves at the mercy of an unpredictable and seething electorate that has trained its fire on



Edward J. Markey: Takes on cutting edge issues. incumbents amid record unemployment, foreclosure rates, and national debt. The amorphous Tea Party has injected an element of grassroots fury into races that once seemed sure bets for establishment candidates.

But if you ask Markey, the forces behind this year’s election won’t spell the Democrats’ undoing.

“I think the Tea Party movement ... it’s the Alice in Wonderland version of a tea party,” he said. “It is detached from the reality of what caused the economic problems that we have, which are the ticking time bombs that the Bush administration left behind.”

Republicans, who have sought with mixed success to align themselves with the Tea Party, won’t retake the House of Representatives, Markey said with deadpan certainty. With a mischievous inflection, he said the GOP has “gone from ‘Yes, we can,’” – President Barack Obama’s motto – to “Yes, Wic-can,” a swipe at Delaware Republican Christine O’Donnell, a Tea Party-aligned candidate who recently admitted to dabbling in witchcraft during college in the 1980s.

“We will hold onto the House,” he declared.

Markey’s bravado belies the deference that some of his colleagues have shown the Tea Party, wary of winding up in its crosshairs. But Markey may be uniquely positioned to take an aggressive posture. He holds an enormous \$2,000-to-1 fundraising edge on his Republican opponent, Gerry Dembrowski, and his district was one of four in Massachusetts that supported Democrat Martha Coakley over Republican Scott Brown in a January special election to succeed U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Dembrowski, a Woburn chiropractor who threw his hat in the gubernatorial ring before opting to run for Congress, has attempted to paint Markey as a “career politician.”

“He will continue to spend your money,” Dembrowski says. “I will fight to cut waste and save your money.”

But Markey barely acknowledged his opponent, expressing confidence that voters not only back him but the rest of the Massachusetts delegation as well.

“There is no scenario under which the Massachusetts Democratic Congressional delegation is going to be anything other than very powerful. That would be my answer to any hypothetical,” Markey said, comparing the delegation to the 2004 Boston Red Sox, a baseball powerhouse.

Despite hefty Democratic majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, Markey’s agenda items met with decidedly mixed results, headlined by the failure of a proposal to regulate carbon emissions and combat climate change. The bill, which Markey helped shepherd through the House – he chairs the Select Committee on Energy Independent

and Global Warming – died in the Senate when Democrats were unable to knit together a filibuster-proof majority. Markey calls it a “historic loss.”

“China is eating our breakfast in the renewable energy field and they’re moving on to our lunch and they will soon be eating our dinner as well,” he said. “There’s a two-million manufacturing job opportunity that is being squandered because of the inability of the Senate.” He quickly added that he blames the gridlock on “the Oklahoma oil senators and the Kentucky coal senators” – conveniently all Republicans.

Atop the committee climate change committee since 2007, Markey has called more than 70 hearings and briefings, according to his website, a process that contributed to the “first increase in fuel economy standards in three decades.”

Markey also watched as the Federal Communication Commission pushed off a decision on another signature issue: prohibiting internet service providers from speeding up the delivery of content they favor and slowing down content they don’t, a concept called “net neutrality.” Although the issue has been set aside for now, Markey said he believes rules requiring net neutrality are inevitable.

“I think that the future of our economy is tied to an internet that is chaotic, entrepreneurial as it has been over the last two decades,” he said. “I think that we will put on the books the rules that make it impossible for the broadband barons to extract tolls from nascent companies that have the potential of becoming the new Googles, the new Microsofts and further transforming our country and the planet.”

Even amid economic and political turmoil at home, Markey still manages to keep his eye on the Emerald Isle. It was only recently, he said, that the North and the Republic, once wracked by violence, connected their electricity grids.

“That’s just one more bridge of peace that becomes very difficult to ever tear down because of the dependence people have upon energy,” he said. When he asked the Irish energy chief, Eamon Ryan, why that bridge hadn’t been built before, Markey said Ryan told him, “The IRA would blow up the transmission lines.”

Markey said he met with Ryan last week to discuss the “Irish American Climate Project,” an effort Markey spearheaded to highlight “the potentially severe impact that climate change will have on fishing and farming and tourism and loss of flora and fauna on the island of Ireland” and “prevent the Irish landscape from being changed, changed utterly in ways that would pain hearts of the Irish people and the Irish Diaspora.”

“We agreed we were going to set up a summit in Dublin on energy, environment, and telecom industries,” he said.

Markey barely knew his grandparents, who passed away early in his life. But his parents were a fixture in Malden throughout his life, earning accolades in the community as recently as last year, when a community center was named in their honor. Markey, speaking as a proud son, recited the lengthy proclamation that accompanied the dedication of the center:

“Like so many Maldonians of their era, John and Christina Markey were members of the ‘Greatest Generation.’ They struggled through the Depression survived World War II and were among those who helped make Malden a wonderful, welcoming place to live. Christina Courtney Markey was president of the senior class at Girls Catholic High School, the daughter of Irish immigrants to Malden. She aspired to attend college. Her mother’s untimely death forced her to set aside her dreams. She dedicated herself to her own three sons, Ed, John, and Richard Markey.”



The Boston Irish Honors 2010 for Excellence in Business

John F. Donohue, Arbella Insurance Group

By Greg O'Brien
Special to the BIR

Brahmins need not apply: "Hard work will beat brains nine times out of ten!" That's what John F. Donohue's father and the son's longtime mentor, former Massachusetts Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, taught him early on.

The lesson took, though it's a bonus when you have both, as Donohue, chairman of the board and CEO of Arbella Insurance Group, demonstrates.

"My father, John, always told me to put my head down, work hard, and that will generate a lot of success; you don't have to be the smartest guy out there," says Donohue, also chairman of the Irish Immigration Center's Advisory Board and a recipient of the inaugural Boston Irish Honors Award for distinguished public service to be presented October 7 at the Boston Irish Reporter's 20th Anniversary luncheon at Boston's Seaport Hotel/World Trade Center.

And Bellotti, Donohue's former boss at the AG's office, an Arbella founder, and now Arbella board vice chairman and regulatory legal counsel, advised him years ago, "If you work hard, you can beat anyone."

Looking back, Donohue calls Bellotti "one of the smartest, most compassionate, most humble individuals that I've ever met."

Those virtues clearly rubbed off. Today Donohue—in addition to his duties overseeing one of the largest property casualty insurance companies based in New England with 900 employees in four states, writing more than \$650 million annually in business and personal insurance—is CEO of the Arbella Insurance Group Charitable Foundation, which donates generously to organizations and causes in communities it serves, among them Project Bread's Walk for Hunger and the Jimmy Fund.

In his community work at the Irish Immigration Center, Donohue advises the organization's legendary executive director, Sister Lena Deevy, in her work of applying the social gospel at the non-profit agency that serves the varied interests of the immigrant community from Ireland and at large. The IIC also operates an innovative program in Northern Ireland to help bridge the gap between Protestants and Catholics.

When there is time, and Donohue always makes time for this endeavor, he mentors young men and women entering an uncertain business world. "I think it's critical these days to help kids make good choices in all areas of their lives," he says. "I'm just returning a favor."

The mosaic of 58-year-old John F. Donohue's life comes stitched with resolve and critical thinking. A former assistant AG in the Consumer Protection Division and former chief of the Insurance Division before entering private law practice and then the insurance industry, Donohue has fought vociferously in the field for consumer advocacy. "My dad continually pressed me to do what's right and not care what other people think," he says.

But he didn't always listen to his father, a second-generation Irish American with family roots in Tipperary who worked as an Aetna Insurance Company executive in Hartford. His mother, Doris (LaBalle), was a career woman in the 1960s, unusual for the day, breaking new ground in sales in the insurance business with various Hartford agencies.

"Growing up I swore that I would never get into insurance," he stresses. "I was adamant about not following in my parents' footsteps. I was going to go off and do other things. Insurance, I thought, was boring."

Well, we've all come full circle with many of our youthful opinions, and Donohue has circumnavigated his earlier take on insurance like a seasoned



John F. Donohue: Follows the social gospel.

mariner. Guess he showed them!

Growing up in Manchester, just outside Hartford, Donohue lived a parochial life with his only sibling, Ellen, a year and a half older. He attended St. James Elementary School and East Catholic High School where he played intramural and town recreation sports and skied in winters. "My parents were solid and hard working," he says in a wide-ranging interview with the Boston Irish Reporter. "They didn't travel much and were very supportive."

The Donohues taught their children compassion at a young age. "They were kind people, always reaching out to others," says the son. "I remember my father going out of his way to support young black families moving into the neighborhood while others shunned them. It was a life lesson. It taught me a lot about respecting others."

Donohue attended George Washington University in D.C., majoring in economics and history. At GW, he was actively involved in social and political issues de jour, volunteering for Ralph Nader as one of his "Raiders." Donohue helped establish DCPIRG (Public Interest Research Group) at area college campuses—modeled after organizations like MASSPIRG that advocate on behalf of consumer protection, health, and environmental causes. "We tried to hold businesses more accountable for telling the truth and communicating more clearly about what their products could or couldn't do."

Donohue also was actively involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement. "I was strongly opposed to Vietnam," he says. "It was not our war. We were supporting a propped up, corrupt Vietnam government, and we should not have been sending our men and women there to die."

Such passion became the cornerstone of Donohue's personal and professional life. After graduating from college, he attended the George Washington Law School, then worked as a poverty lawyer in a Pittsburgh legal service agency. He moved to Boston to join the Bellotti AG Office, working first in consumer protection on arson and auto fraud cases, then as head of the Insurance Division. From 1985 to 1987, he was lead counsel at various auto insurance rate hearings and administrative trials involving health and liability insurance.

After Bellotti left the AG's office, Donohue joined him at the Boston law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC., becoming a partner in the firm and working with his mentor to secure special legislation to create the Arbella Insurance Group, filling a void when the Kemper Group of Chicago pulled away from the Massachusetts auto insurance market. Donohue ultimately became a founder of the company with Bellotti.

"The opportunity to start a company intrigued me," says Donohue. "I realized there was a lot more to it than my impressions as a youth."

The name Arbella has its origin in the sailing vessel, the *Arbella*, that carried the Massachusetts Bay Charter from England to Boston, along with the city's first white settlers. "Those on the ship came here to build a government and a city," says Donohue. "The name was a natural association for us as we set out to establish a new company in Massachusetts."

Over the years, the company has grown exponentially, providing personal and business insurance in Massachusetts and Connecticut and business insurance in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. With Donohue at the helm, Arbella has worked hard to break down the walls of a complex, corporate-speak industry that was portrayed laughably years ago in a scene in Woody Allen's iconic movie, *Bananas*, where an individual's sentence for alleged high crimes against a foreign government was to spend time in the "sweat pit" with an insurance agent.

"Insurance doesn't have to be overly dense," says Donohue. "Customer service, easy premium payment options, and direct access to our independent insurance agents is at the heart of the company. "We are doing well in a challenging economy, he adds. "Arbella always has taken a conservative approach to investments. Most importantly, we want to have the necessary resources available when customers need claims paid."

For a man clearly consumed with work, Donohue has his priorities in check: family, community involvement, and work in that order, and he excels at all. The father of the three sons—Mathew, 30, who works in marketing at TomTom GPS navigation systems; Kevin, 18, a senior at BC High; and Jack, 13, a seventh grader at the Jesuit school, Donohue met his wife, Frances (Robinson) when she was a criminal prosecutor in the attorney general's office. No crossing her at the dinner table, Donohue says.

In addition to many other affiliations, Donohue is active as a member of the Board of Greater Boston Legal Services, is a member of the Board of Overseers for the YMCA of Greater Boston, and serves as a member of the National Council for the Arts and Sciences for George Washington University. He also has retained his legal standing as a member of the bar in Pennsylvania, the Federal District Court, and the US Court of Appeals (First Circuit).

But he focuses his passion on his work with the Irish Immigration Center, assisting with issues like affordable housing, legal questions and navigating the serpentine immigration system.

Self-effacing at the core, Donohue is characteristically modest about his upcoming Boston Irish Honors Award. "Not sure how I made the distinguished list, but I'm grateful for it," he says.

At the end of each day and throughout, Donohue turns his attention to family. All the accomplishments and awards in the world don't add up to his responsibilities as a father, he says. "My central goal is to help my sons turn into good men," he adds. "There are a lot of challenges in the world, and my wife and I try to be there for our children. Helping children grow up today is to hold them accountable. It's not a matter of trying to be their best friend; it's working to be their mentor and providing them with a standard of measurement they can count on."

Enough said. Does anyone, including John Francis Donohue, have a question as to how he made the BIR's Honors Award list.

Greg O'Brien is a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter.



The Boston Irish Honors 2010 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

The Bretts: All About America

By Jack Thomas

In 1924, Mary Ann Brennan of the village of Achonry in County Sligo decided there was no work, no hope, and no serenity in Ireland, and so she crossed that tureen of tears, the Atlantic Ocean, to pursue her dream of peace, and prosperity in America.

Fast forward to 1972.

Mary Ann (Brennan) Brett of Dorchester – or, more precisely, Mary Ann Brett of St. Margaret's Parish – leaves Boston, flies back to Ireland, steps off the plane at Shannon Airport and, for the first time in nearly half a century, fulfills the dream of many Irish Americans – she sets foot on Irish soil.

She is with her daughter, Peg, who was then 34 and who had just withdrawn from a convent after 14 years. Mary Ann Brett, 69 at the time, seems distracted, as they make their way through customs and baggage claim and into a rental car, where Peg is faced with the challenge of driving on the left side of the road and also using a steering wheel on the right side of the car and a stick shift in her left hand. As they jerk their way out of Shannon Airport, Mary Ann Brett gazes out the window and across the Irish countryside, and then she turns to her daughter. "You know what, Peg?" she says. "There's no place like America."

If the Hague in the Netherlands is the center of politics internationally, then Gerard's in Dorchester's Adams Village is the center of politics locally, a restaurant where the waitresses call you "Hon," and they mean it.

At a corner table, Harry Brett – the second of six children of Mary Ann Brett – settles into a chair, orders a coffee, dry wheat toast and what he calls a couple of fake eggs, scrambled, and then describes how his mother arrived in America as a 21-year-old colleen, put her Irish past behind her, and in one generation, folded her family with six children into the American dream.

Goodbye, Sligo, hello, Dorchester.

"For my mother, at that time, when she was a girl, there was nothing in Ireland. It was post-famine – it wasn't like the 1840s famine, or anything, and it was post-revolution – when was that over, like 1919 or 1920? But she had grown up with all that, and so did her older brothers, and you know, it wasn't fun. I remember my mother telling us this.

"There was no future in Ireland, because there were no jobs," he said, stirring black coffee. "She had four brothers and it was *they* who sent her over here. They were farmers and very poor, and the family also owned a sand pit that helped them get by, selling natural sand, and so people would come up with their cart and donkey and buy sand. I was talking to a guy at the Eire pub one day not too long ago and he told me that as a kid, he remembers going with his father or grandfather 60 years ago to buy sand at my family's sand pit in Sligo.

"My mother went to school in Ireland, but probably not too far, and so what kind of a future did she have? What could a girl in Ireland look forward to? Taking care of the boys, cooking for them, washing for them, and not much more."

Details are elusive. The family assumes Mary Ann arrived at Ellis Island, lived in Philadelphia, and somehow hooked up with Henry Brett, also once of Sligo, who probably landed in Charlestown sometime before Mary arrived at Ellis Island, the family assumes, then lived in Salem with a sister.

There is a reason the story of the Brett family is pocked by forgotten dates, missing facts and mislaid memories, for in America, Mary Ann Brett was determined to erase the Irish past and to compose an American present. She discouraged her family even from talking about their Irish heritage, lest a stranger learn the family was



The Bretts in 2000: From left, Bill, Jim, Peg, the late Jack Harry, and Mary (seated).

Photo by Patrick McNamara.

first-generation Irish immigrants.

Unable to provide details and dates, Harry shrugs and urges that a call be made to his sister, Peg McCobb of Weymouth, who works in the office of the state Treasurer and who insists on calling you back on her break. "We're not allowed to use state phones for personal calls," she says.

When she does call back, she apologizes for knowing not much more than her brother.

"My parents didn't talk much about this, you know," she says. "I remember growing up and not being allowed to say much about the Irish, because my parents were in fear of being sent back to Ireland. I remember my mother saying that. My mother was not yet a citizen of the United States and she worried that they would find a reason to send her back.

Not that Mary Ann Brett was without her allegiance to the Irish cause, for as a 13-year-old girl, she served the IRA, using her bicycle to courier cash in her hometown of Ballymote.

"But my mother wanted us to be accepted as Americans," Peg says, "and that meant that we were not to speak with an Irish accent, and we were not to mention Ireland, and we were to be just American, because my mother and father saw that as the greatest gift.

"And don't forget," she continues, "by the time my parents came over, Boston was the unfriendliest city to the Irish who, at that point, were mostly going to New York or Chicago or out West. Boston was hostile to the Irish, because in the eyes of the Yankees, the Irish were rowdy and uneducated, and they were taking over in Boston, just like other nationalities that followed. An ethnic group always resents the ethnic group that comes along after because that's the one that takes the jobs."

And so, the history of the Brett family begins with assumptions. "We assume they met in Sligo," says Peg. "Otherwise, they lived in different states, so how would they have come together in America? But however they got together, they were married in Salem. My father was born in

1888, and my mother in 1903. Since my oldest brother Jack was born in 1934, we assume they were married in 1932."

As Harry explains, their father landed a job in Salem, digging graves in a cemetery that, ironically, is the place where he himself would be buried. "He took care of boilers in factories, and he had a reputation as a drinker," Harry confesses. "He drank every day, mostly beer, and put himself to sleep with it."

The family settled in a three-decker north of Edward Everett Square. "We lived on St. Margaret Street. We went to St. Margaret's School, and naturally, we all made our sacraments at St. Margaret's Church. And my mother made us go to church all the time, you know, sometimes in the morning before school."

It was there, in the flat on St. Margaret's Street, that Peg, at age 10, returned from school one day in 1950 to find her mother, in the kitchen, dancing in ecstasy, waving a sheet of paper and crooning, "I'm an American citizen, I'm an American citizen."

When Harry was 17, the family moved to Grant Street, off Dorchester Avenue, and in 1957, he enlisted in the Army, served in Germany, bought a camera and taught himself photography. Discharged, he went to work in Boston's garment district as a cutter, and not once does he recall discrimination against the Irish.

"Oh, God, no," says Harry. "Nothing like that. When I first went to work in the factories, though, in the garment business, most of the workers were Italian, Jewish and Lebanese, and I was like, you know, the token Irish guy."

At night, he pampered himself at a bar on Columbia Road, the M & G, where there was a weekly talent night, often won by former state Senator William Bulger. That's where Harry met Lucille, who worked at a bank, and they married in 1961. "She's Irish," says Harry, and then after a pause, "... well, partly Irish. Her father was French, but her mother was Irish, so I suppose you could say she's Irish. She never got involved in French



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culture, and living around here these days, you know, you might as well be Irish, because, let's admit it -- it's easier."

So sublimated is the Irish experience for Harry that, when he is asked what it was like to grow up in an Irish neighborhood, he says: "To be honest, it was just like being an American. That was the only thing, really, you know?"

Notwithstanding his mother's efforts to Americanize her six children, Harry had a bit of an Irish accent, although he didn't know it.

"When I first went to work, because of this slight accent, people assumed I came from Ireland, and when they'd ask where I was from, and I'd say Dorchester, they'd say, no, no, where were you from before that? But it was because of the neighborhood, you know -- we had Irish people above us, and Irish people next door, and Irish people across the street. So I ended up with a bit of Irish accent, like the way that people in the North End might pick up an Italian accent."

The big break in his career came in 1975 when, after 20 years in the garment business, he was laid off, and the next day, he went to work for the rest of his life, doing what he loves, photography, freelancing at weddings and parties and even working at the Globe for several months.

"But I was never nuts about newspaper work," he says, "all the deadlines and accidents and crime stories, and especially having to get head shots of people who were dead. You'd have to knock on a door late at night and ask the family for a photograph of their son who had been killed in Vietnam, and they'd slam the door in your face. I like taking pictures, but I never liked that part of the job."

"Now my brother, Billy, he loves news," said Harry, referring to a retired Globe photographer and photo editor whose pictures still appear in a weekly feature called "Party Lines." Bill just loved news, and he would have been a photographer without my influence. Don't forget, he used his paper-boy money to buy a camera and an old police radio. I didn't influence him there."

For 20 years, Harry has worked as photographer at the University of Massachusetts, and as he says, unlike the newspaper business, there's no crime. "People are glad to see me. They shake hands, offer food, offer a drink, and I love the work. And it's one of the best schools in the country, a public school, you know, for rich kids, poor people, ghetto kids, everybody, and there was a recent survey that showed it was a very safe school, safer than Tufts and Harvard."

Harry went to Ireland for the first time in 1957 and stayed at the house where his father had lived. "I don't think it had changed one bit from when my father had left 25 years earlier. It was pretty primitive -- thatched roofs, with no running water



The Bretts in 1976. Seated are Bill, mother Mary Ann, and Harry; standing are Jim, Peg, Mary, and Jack.

Photo courtesy Brett Family.

and no electricity. Did I ever think about moving to Ireland? Oh, God, no. I went back again and they had running water and a tin roof, but it was still pretty primitive."

Harry has four children, Harry of Hanson, a plumber turned union officer; Mary Ellen of Dorchester, director of South Shore Workforce Development; William of Braintree, an archeologist, and Margaret of South Boston, a freelance photographer.

On trips to Ireland, because he did not like driving in the left lane, he would take along one or more of his children. "My wife didn't fly at the time, so I took my son with me, and I let him drive. Next, I took my daughter, and I let her drive. Then I took another daughter, and I let her drive. Then I took two daughters, and I let them drive."

What draws him to Ireland?

"I don't know. It's nice to know where you come from, I guess, to find out what you're all about. As far as vacations, there are a lot of nicer places to go with better restaurants, swimming pools, and such. You kind of rough it in Ireland." And then, in a reference to the restaurant where he was dining, he said, "Gerard's would be a high-end place in Ireland, you know? You go over there and get a taste of it, and when you get home, you like America more."

Mary Ann Brett, who died in 1981, had six children. In addition to Harry and Peg, they are

Jack, who lived in Scituate until his death last month, Bill of Hingham, the news photographer, Mary of Quincy, who works for the Boston Police Department, and James, 60, of Savin Hill, who caught the political bug that infects the Irish. He was elected to the Legislature in 1981, ran for mayor of Boston in 1993, and is now president of the New England Council, an alliance of business, academic and health institutions formed to promote economic growth and high quality of life in New England. Mary Brett also has 17 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Harry is asked what he thinks about slurs against the Irish as drinkers.

"Well, a lot of other people drink, too, you know. A lot of Europeans drink a lot. As if the French don't drink? But you know, the really successful people, for the most part, don't drink. So, it's up to the individual."

And what of jokes about the Irish?

When Harry insists that he cannot ever remember being offended by any slur, any cliché or any joke about the Irish, he is given a test to see how he will respond.

Has he heard about the Irishman who loved his wife so much he nearly told her?

He laughs heartily, hand to his mouth.

"That's funny," he says. "I'll have to tell that one to my wife."

Jack Brett left his mark by inspiring his family

In an obituary published in The Boston Globe on Sept. 22, Bryan Marquard wrote of Jack Brett: "As if he knew his life could not be confined by a mind that never grew out of childhood, he would go for long walks as a boy in Dorchester, favoring routes with straight streets where he could gaze ahead, several blocks into his future."

"Some leave their mark through work and accomplishments; Mr. Brett left his by inspiring his family, including his youngest brother, who spent years in the Legislature championing the causes of constituents whose political voices are often only a whisper."

The legislative reference was to Jack's brother Jim, who represented Dorchester at the State House before becoming the head of the

New England Council organization.

"Our lives were shaped by the way Jackie lived his life," his sister, Peg Brett McCobb of Weymouth, told Marquard. "It seems like because of him, everyone in the family has a soft spot for the underdog. Your heart goes out to people who are disadvantaged and you reach out to them. We do favors for people, but always with Jack in the back of our minds."

Bill Brett of Hingham (but really of Dorchester), a well-known photographer whose work has graced the pages of the Globe for five decades, always too pains to say that "Jack was the nucleus who kept our family strong," reported Marquard.

The family noted that Jack was able to run errands and take rudimentary care of his needs and that he loved being outside. "He would walk

four or five miles a day," his sister said. "He was a great, great walker and just a nice person, you know? Everybody knew him because he said hello to everyone."

"I feel so grateful to have had him for a brother because of the gift he gave all of us to be so close together," she told the Globe. "He would see things that I wouldn't see, and he would remind me of the simple things in life," added Jim. "He was genuine, a very simple person in the sense of not having any of the qualities that most people have like anger and jealousy. He had none of that."

Jack Brett is buried next to his mother in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester, where beneath her name on the gravestone is the inscription, "and her special son, John P. 1934 — 2010."



The Boston Irish Honors 2010 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

The Geraghtys: Born to Be Givers

By Jack Thomas

On a peaceful Autumn afternoon, with sun shimmering off a salt water pond outside the kitchen door of her summer home in Falmouth, the ever-charming Peg Geraghty, 83, sits at a round table graced by a single purple orchid, and along with her cousin, Anne Soraghan of Dover, she peels back a shroud of more than eight decades and talks in a soft voice about the honor and pride of her heritage and what it was like to have been Irish in Boston in the 20th Century.

And what a life it has been – fully invested from girlhood in the colorful traditions of Ireland and utterly loyal to Irish nationalism in the struggle against England, and at the same time, resolutely faithful to her American homeland, where she married, raised three children, and, after a career as a teacher and the death of her husband, Tom, she became president of his company, passed it on to their children and managed to expand the family's reputation for humanity, humility, philanthropy, and don't forget the love of Ireland.

First, there is no way to measure how many visitors and immigrants from Ireland have been helped by a gift of cash from the Geraghtys to tide them over, or perhaps by a job in their company or at least by the opportunity, through the years, to put their weary feet under Peg Geraghty's kitchen table for her home-made meatloaf, pot roast or pork chops and, don't forget the Irish bread.

Second, there is no way to measure how much support, in sweat and money, she and her husband and their three children have donated, through the years, to American schools, colleges, hospitals and other institutions, and don't forget the Irish Cultural Centre of New England.

"How much have we given? I'd rather not say," she answers, smiling, and then, after a pause: "The truth is, I don't remember."

With Peg Geraghty, we begin at the beginning, late in the 19th Century, with a story about her father, Michael Cassidy, who was born in America in 1875, but went to Ireland, at age five, with his mother to her ancestral home in Galway, in Moycullen, on the road to Spiddal. Returning to America at 18, he served 33 years in the Navy, beginning in the final days of the Spanish American War and lasting through submarine service in World War I, and even to a brief recall for service in World War II. "During World War I," says Peg, "those submarines must have been like tin cans."

Peg's mother, Anne Carr, came to America in the early 1920s, and like a lot of Irish girls in Boston, she worked for a Yankee family, as a cook at a home in Pride's Crossing, Beverly. "The Irish fellows would travel to meet the Irish girls, and on Sundays, my father would take the train to Beverly to visit my mother, and then they married in 1924." She was 29, and he was 49.

Three years later, Margaret Geraghty was born in Jamaica Plain, not far from the Jamaicaaway, where former Mayor James Michael Curley lived in a house with shamrocks in the shutters. As it was for many Irish families in Boston in the middle of the century, everybody on the street was Irish, so that after a while, anybody *not* Irish seemed deviant. "And everybody at the Parkman School was Irish, too," Peg says, "except for one girl named Malouf, who felt very left out of everything."

At age seven, Peg returned to Ireland with her parents for eight months, and in Connemara, she was taught in second grade by the teacher who had taught her mother a generation earlier. Lest you think of her as a scatterbrained second grader, from those lessons 77 years ago, she counts for you, one to 10, in Gaelic, now called Irish – "Aon, do, tri, ceathair, cuig, se, seacht, ocht, naoi, deich ..."

Any story about Peg Geraghty is also a story



The Geraghtys: Thomas Jr., Matriarch Margaret ("Peg"), Anne, and John. Below, the late Thomas Geraghty.
Photos by Bill Brett, family archive.



about the other woman at the table, her cousin, Anne Soraghan, who came from Ireland 60 years ago and still clings to her brogue. "Our mothers were sisters," says Anne, "and I came to live with Peg when I was 13, and was brought up in her home. At my wedding 38 years ago today, her husband, Tom, gave me away, a nice man and quite handsome, too."

So close are the two women that they know one another's stories, laugh at inside jokes, finish one another's sentences, and fill in the gaps when memory goes astray. After graduation from the school of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Mission Hill, instead of joining the Irish exodus to the South Shore, Anne headed west, and now lives with her husband, Jack, in Dover, once a Yankee enclave and home to Saltonstalls. "Dover?" she says, with an Irish guffaw. "Oh, they're all Irish there now."

Both women recall discrimination against the Irish, including the label "narrowbacks," a derogation to describe a child of Irish immigrants who is considered too soft to do hard labor.

"I was teaching at the MGH School of Nursing from '66 to '84," recalls Anne, "and the director of nursing had a secretary named Miss Fitch, who was very Yankee-fied. She planned a trip to England for a royal event, and I said, 'Well, Miss Fitch, I hope you have a wonderful time.' She said, 'I will if *your* people don't disrupt us and try to kill us.' She was obviously anti-Irish, and I was from Ireland, and in her eyes, we weren't supposed to go beyond the domestic help."

For Anne, it wasn't only the signs that said:

No Irish Need Apply. "It was that the Irish were considered, you know, uneducated and all that sort of thing, and because you were Irish, people would not want to associate with you. It was all right, though, if you were the hired help."

Both women are eager to respond to a question about good qualities of Irish people.

"Oh, they have the gift of language," says Peg softly, and that gives her an opportunity to introduce her favorite subject, her husband Tom, who ran the family realty managing company, Geraghty Associates, until his death in 1985.

"My husband wrote poetry, and he had a folder of poetry in his home office," says Peg. "Some nights, he'd come home from work, and I'd have dinner ready, but he'd be so weary he'd say, 'I'm going to my poetry folder, and not take calls. His friends would telephone, and I'd say he's reading poetry, but I'll put your name on the list, and they couldn't believe there would be 17 names ahead of them.'"

"He loved the language, words and poetry," says Anne, "and he found peace not just in Seamus Heaney, but in Yeats, Thoreau, Longfellow, Omar Khayyam, and a diversity of poets I can't think of off the bat."

"Other nights, what would happen," continues Peg, "is that we had tenants who were – well, helpless. They couldn't get their key in the door, and so we'd have to run out to help, and he'd be out 'til midnight, helping tenants."

As generous as he was gregarious, Tom would surprise his wife by bringing home entourages of immigrants or visitors from Ireland, and in summer, he'd send them to Peg in Falmouth.

"He'd call and say, 'Oh, Peg, I told them to go down and see you, that you'd love to have them.' Sometimes, as one group of three or four would leave, I'd clean up, change the beds and look out the window to see another group arriving."

"Another thing about the qualities of the Irish," says Anne, returning to her favorite topic, "I would say that in addition to the gift of gab, they have the gift of hospitality, like Tom. They're generous to their own and willing to help when they come over from Ireland. Tom's company employed 30, and he put a lot of Irish people to work, and that made Boston welcoming for people from Ireland."

"He'd always hire Galway guys," recalls Peg, "and then we got a fellow named Eddie Barron who'd come over from Donegal, and Tom said



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he could do brickwork and this and that. Then he hired more Donegal guys, and I said, 'Whatever happened to Galway?'

"There's another quality of the Irish," says Anne, "the singing and dancing." For the Irish of Boston, the playground in Boston was Hibernian Hall on Dudley Street, and Peg and Tom and Anne assisted in its operation, from lining up bands to collecting tickets at the door.

"The Irish girls worked for Yankees or Jews, domestic help," says Anne. "Every Wednesday night, they'd go to Mission Church for the Our Lady of Perpetual Help novena, and then, Thursday was their day off, so they'd shop at Filene's Basement. That night they'd take a trolley to Hibernian Hall, wearing something bought at Filene's but no Wonderbras," she says with a laugh. "Irish girls didn't need 'em."

"They had big bands there, and sometimes Tom arranged for entertainers like Johnny Powell or Carmel Quinn, and they played 'The Stack of Barley,' 'The Rose of Tralee,' and 'If You're Irish, Come Into the Parlor,' and all the jigs and reels and waltzes, and the Irish patriot songs about Kilmainham Jail in Dublin, and about the guy from Connemara who was brutalized by the British. You know how it is with the Irish, the wakes are happy, the songs sad.

"There was a habit with the Irish men while they're dancing," says Anne. "The man's hand may start out high on a girl's back, but as the dance went on, the hand would drop lower because, I guess, it's easier for the man to steer with the hand down there, lower, isn't it?"

Alcohol was not served at the dances, although it was available at taverns within a block and sometimes on the first floor, where the Irish lads would retreat for a pint and sometimes two. "Some would get a bit too much to drink," says Peg, "and the police would come and take them up to the station. So Tom's job, at the end of many nights, was to go to the police station and get them out, so they wouldn't have a record. But he was like that, a very good man who did a lot of things for a lot of people."

"Oh, another quality about the Irish people," says Peg, "is their love of education."

Asked about the cultural identity of the Irish as heavy drinkers, both women mount a defense.

"Well, in early Ireland, the main entertainment for men was to go to a pub. Now, the thing is – I was a nurse educator – and there is a gene that's in the Japanese, in American Indians, and in the Irish, so that they cannot metabolize the sugar in alcohol. So you find with the Irish that after two drinks, they look like they've had 10, and they're falling all over the place. And it's toxic to the brain. Well, in the old days, they didn't know this, because this is a development of the past 10 years.

"And then, when the Irish would take animals to the fair, it was customary that every time you sold an animal, you took the buyer into a pub and bought him a drink, and a drink for yourself, while you're at it, to wish him luck. So, if you sell a lot of animals, it was easy to get very drunk, you know."

But what of the folklore of the Irish appetite for drinking?

"The Irish have no more appetite for alcohol than anyone else," says Anne. "The French with wine and the Germans with beer drink every bit as much, but they don't have the gene that shows it."

And while we're on the negatives, what of the reputation that the Irish lack of imagination in cooking?

"Well, Ireland is not France," says Anne.

"And Irish women didn't have the background to learn good cooking," says Peg, "and they didn't have the equipment, like refrigeration. Ireland was a poor nation, and they cooked by boiling and frying, and what did they have to eat – potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, hogs and cabbage – well, what can you do with that?"



Margaret Cassidy on the day of her wedding to Thomas Geraghty.

"Now, what has happened since Ireland joined the economic community," continues Anne, "is that they've started up all kinds of culinary arts schools in Ireland, and they're sending students abroad to study cooking in Spain, Africa, Switzerland and France, and some of the best meals you get in Europe today, you get in Ireland."

When it comes to defending the Irish and blasting the British, the two women are like a tag-team in a wrestling match. When one is out of breath, the other takes over.

"About the famine," says Anne, "the blight was on the potato not only in Ireland, but throughout Europe, but you never heard of a famine in Italy or France or Germany, and why? There was no more of a famine in Ireland than there was anywhere else in Europe. The problem was that the British were shipping food from Ireland to England. They emptied their jails and put the prisoners in uniforms to guard the routes to get the food from farms to ports for shipment out of Ireland. The Irish who could leave, left, and the others starved. And the Irish people who attacked the convoys were shot. The Irish couldn't fish, either, because there was no wood to build boats. The British had denuded the forests to build ships for themselves in Belfast. The British wanted to take over the island, and this was a deliberate genocide of the Irish people."

"We called it Gorta Mor," says Peg, "the Great Hunger."

In a 90-minute interview, only one question stymies the two women: What are the weaknesses of the Irish people?

They both hesitate. The silence is broken by Anne. "Weaknesses?" she says. "I never really thought about it. I guess they're the same as any other group." She thinks hard, then repeats the word ... "negatives" ... then answers the query with a question in a tentative voice. "Maybe jealousies?"



Scene from the Ould Sod: Thomas Geraghty's parents, Peter and Mary.

After graduating in 1948 from Boston State College, Peg taught in Medfield, Norwood, and Hyde Park. A diabetic who needs insulin daily, she admits to a few ailments, but nothing threatening. Nevertheless, her daughter, Anne, left her Rowes Wharf condo two years ago to move in with Peg in Dedham. "I don't whether she was worried I'd fall down the stairs or whether I'd get another fellow."

Peg no longer kneels every day to pray, but she prays every day. "It was prayers that got me through after Tom passed away, because in addition to losing him, I had the business to run. At the time, we were responsible for 2,500 apartments and some commercial property and 120 condo loans to manage, too, and only one of them defaulted.

"I had worked with Tom all those years, but to inherit the responsibility for all that, and with three children in school: Anne was in her first year of law school, and Thomas in his third year of college and John was starting at Belmont Hill. How did I do all that? I prayed a lot. And you get calls at 11 o'clock at night from tenants who can't find their key or they're inebriated or the plumbing is backed up."

And she worried about her employees, about sending repairmen into dangerous neighborhoods at late hours. "A lot of our workers were young men with families, and look at what happened to the poor man delivering pizza."

"That's the problem with not having the death penalty," interjects Anne. "They really should be strung up immediately, because they're no good to God or man."

If Tom could see his family today, he would take pride in the degrees his children earned, Anne from Smith and Boston University Law School, Thomas from Suffolk and John from Boston College.

He would take pleasure in scholarships in the family name at the University of Massachusetts and Thayer Academy. He would be pleased to see his daughter as head of her own acupuncture company on Broad Street in Boston and as president of the family business, alongside her brothers, both vice presidents. He would beam to know he has seven grandchildren, six boys and a girl: Thomas III, Martin, Emmett, Grace, John Michael, James Patrick, and Hugh Emmett, the "Hugh" inspired by a daughter-in-law wife in memory of the Irish patriot, Hugh O'Neill, who led a resistance against the British in the 16th Century.

"When he was 16, John told me he was going to marry an Irish girl," says Peg, "and I almost fell over. I said, 'Well, John, why would you marry an Irish girl?' And he said, 'Because they have more sense than the Americans.' And do you know what? He ended up marrying a girl from Ireland, from Kilkenny, and she's very beautiful.

"Tom was good to employees and good to tenants and good to family," says Anne, "and Peg has continued the tradition, and every year she caters a pool party with an Irish band for all the tenants and their families. The company has been very generous to an awful lot of people. It runs ads in the Irish Reporter, and it's generous to the church, and to the Irish Cultural Centre. She's generous in giving scholarships and donations to her college, hospitals, her schools, hospitals, including the University of Massachusetts. By every measure, Peg Geraghty is a good woman."

On your way to the door, Anne recalls another ballad sung at Hibernian dances. "It was about Kevin Barry," she says, referring to the 18-year-old rugby player hanged in 1920 for IRA activism, and to jog the memory of her guest, she sings a chorus:

"Shoot me like an Irish soldier ... Do not hang me like a dog ... For I fought to free old Ireland ... On that still September morn."

At the last moment, Peg reappears from the kitchen and hands you a brown paper bag.

"It's Irish bread," she says with a smile and a wave of the hand to dismiss expressions of gratitude. "It's a little Irish hospitality."



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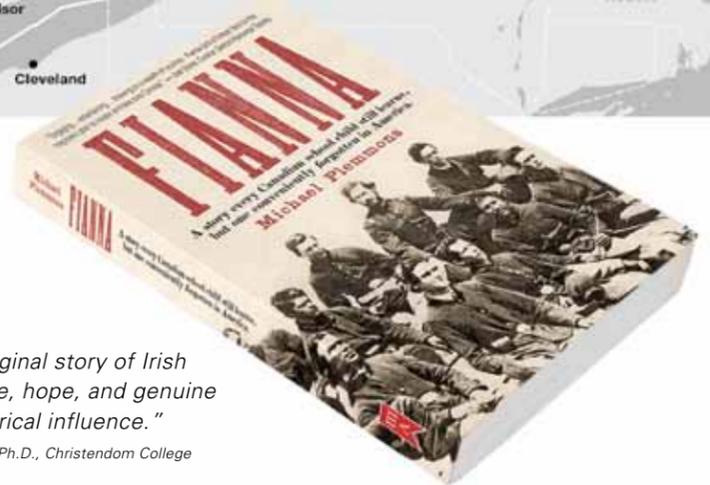
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The Boston Irish Honors 2010 Exemplary Boston Irish Family

The Hyneses: Lives on the Go

By Jack Thomas

Jack Hynes, an admired newsman on Boston television for five decades, recalls a moment when he was a boy and learned a lesson about what it was like, in bygone days, to be Irish in Boston.

Having grown up in Dorchester in the '30s and '40s, in the Irish enclave of Lower Mills, he was schooled at St. Gregory's, where it seemed that everybody was Irish. "Oh, there may have been an Italian or two," he says, "but there were no Polish, no Blacks, no Asians, no Hispanics, and I grew up thinking I'm Irish and I guess everybody else is."

The nearest thing to an alien he encountered was the occasional Protestant. "I remember thinking that Protestants were strange, and although I wasn't sure who they were, I knew they were not us."

One day when he was 12, Jack was walking along Washington Street, near what was then Newspaper Row, accompanied by his father, John B. Hynes, who, the son of immigrants from Galway and Cork, would serve three terms as mayor of Boston in the 1950s.

"See that?" said his father, pointing to a store. "I remember not too long ago when there was a sign in that window that said: Help Wanted – NINA." Jack asked what NINA meant, and his father answered sharply: "It means 'No Irish Need Apply.'" Never having experienced prejudice, Jack was incredulous. "You mean they wouldn't hire Irish people?" "No," said his father. "Absolutely not." For Jack Hynes, it was an early lesson in discrimination, and a warning that for the Irish, life was more complicated than what he had known at St. Gregory's.

From a corner table at Burger King just off Route 6 in West Barnstable, you look up to see an older gentleman walking across the room with a small black coffee, and despite the passage of years that have thinned and whitened his hair, and despite the baseball cap and the white slacks and the washed-out denim jacket with the collar up at the neck and the sleeves rolled up at the wrists, once he says hello in that familiar baritone, there's no question that it's Jack Hynes, who is every bit as handsome and engaging at 81 as he was reporting, anchoring, and commenting on Boston television for a half century, 1956 to 2006.

Do not assume that, in retirement, his interest in news has waned, for once the handshake and greetings are out of the way, Hynes opens the conversation with news that Tom Brady was in automobile accident four hours earlier, and Hynes delivers the report with the detail and dispassion that brought him respect as a newscaster. He names the intersection in the Back Bay where the accident occurred, outlines which car was heading in what direction, recites the reports by eyewitnesses, mentions where Gisele Bundchen was at the time, describes the extrication of one passenger from a battered car, and even speculates about what Patriots Coach Bill Belichick might say at his press conference. "Brady wasn't hurt," Hynes concludes. "Maybe all that hair cushioned the blow."

Attending the Irish Reporter luncheon will be two sons, John B. III of Back Bay, a real estate developer, Barry of South Boston, a real estate broker; two daughters, Kelly McDermott of Medfield, a fashion consultant, and Shauna Baler of Dennis, a housewife, along with several of his 10 grandchildren, ages seven to 29. His wife of 41 years, Marie, died in 1998.

Between 1845 and 1850, more than a million people starved to death in Ireland, and more than a million fled Ireland, 100,000 of them arriving in Boston to compassion and repugnance. Among those emigrating from Ireland in the mid-1800s was a 16-year-old boy named Bernard John Hynes, whose progeny would alter the history of Boston.



Jack Hynes and his namesake son, John B. Hynes III, an international real estate developer.

Photo by Bill Brett.

He landed a job at the Boston & Albany Railroad and retired after 41 years with an ornate certificate for meritorious service. His son, John B. Hynes, born in 1898, became city clerk, and, in 1947, he filled in as mayor when James Michael Curley was imprisoned for mail fraud. As Thomas O'Connor writes in "Boston Irish: A Political History," to celebrate his return to City Hall, Curley arranged for a brass band to play "Hail to the Chief," and he signed documents Hynes had courteously left for him. "I accomplished more in a day," boasted Curley, "than has been done in the five months of my absence." So irritated was Hynes that he ran against Curley, defeating him in 1949, 1951 and 1955.

Although Boston had been stagnant for years, in a decade as mayor, Hynes presided over the opening of the Central Artery and Freedom Trail and establishment of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. He initiated a massive development that converted Back Bay rail yards into the Prudential Center, a project that inspired decades of growth.

From St. Gregory's, his son Jack went to Boston College High School, considered by Jesuits to be a step along a blessed road to another Jesuit institution, preferably Boston College or Holy Cross. Jack opted for Notre Dame while fearing the wrath of the Jesuits.

"The rector at BC High in the South End was Father 'Gus' Keane, and he'd be at the head of the stairs, greeting boys, and asking seniors whether they'd be going to BC or Holy Cross. One morning, standing like a drill sergeant, he said to me: 'So, Hynes, are you going, to BC or Holy Cross?' I said, 'Father, I'm going to Notre Dame.' Well if I had said Southern Methodist, he couldn't have been more shocked. He turned around, walked off and never spoke to me again. That's part Irish, but it's the Jesuit thing, too. I was leaving the fold."

After Notre Dame and a hitch in the Marine Corps, Jack returned to work at a Notre Dame station, first radio, then television. Spotting a help-wanted ad in Broadcast magazine, he recognized a Boston telephone number, applied, and in 1956, came home to Boston to work at WBZ radio with Arch MacDonald, Streeter Stuart, and Art Amadon. Thanks to his experience at Notre Dame, when WBZ introduced a weekend newscast, Jack won the audition. "My competitors were radio guys used to broadcasting with a hand cupped to the ear, not in tie and jacket in front of a camera." In 1957, he moved to what is now WCVB.

His conversation is an oral history of Boston

journalism, and his stories sparkle with references to influential names.

"Jim Britt did play-by-play for the Braves and Red Sox and anchored the 11 news during summers, although he never bothered to report a story or write a script. One night, he appeared on camera, not in tie and jacket, but in a white golf jersey. The managers were so furious you'd think he had done the news naked. So, he was phased out, and in '66, I started doing the news at 11."

Anchors were expected to cover news, too, and Jack's partner was cameraman Jack Crowley, with whom he still socializes. "I'd do the six, and we'd cruise in his car with police and fire radios, and we covered everything, the Boston Strangler, South Boston gang wars, great stuff.

"When 'CVB moved to Needham, John Henning and I were co anchors. Our pictures on billboards said: 'Henning and Hynes – That's News.' Ratings were high, and we owned the town till '72, when [general manager] Bob Bennett called us in to say they were making changes, that he had a problem with two white males, and that other stations were going with male-female anchor desks. So, they split us up and put me on with Natalie Jacobson, who was just a writer, but suddenly, she's a co-anchor ... Henning and I used to kid about the fact that we had this great thing going, and they came in and screwed it up."

To avoid night work, Hynes opted to anchor morning news, but in getting up at 3:30 a.m., he was always exhausted. After 26 years at WCVB, he moved to WLVI when that station inaugurated a 10 o'clock newscast and accepted the anchor job without knowing the salary. "I'm so [expletive] tired," he told the manager, "I don't care what you pay me."

As decades rolled by, the newsroom changed. "The people around me got younger and younger, and I could relate less and less to them. The clincher came at Channel 56. We had a producer, a college graduate who had worked in TV for three years. One night I alerted her that the next day was Dec. 7, and that we should have the morning guy line up an interview with somebody who'd been at Pearl Harbor. Honest to God, she said, 'Pearl Harbor? When was that?' I said, 'Right after the Battle of Gettysburg.' She said, 'Oh, yeah.' I said, 'You've got it confused with Pearl Jam, which is a rock group.' I knew then it was time for me to go, and after that, I just did weekends and commentaries."

As he watches the news today, Jack Hynes is like an old boxer, bobbing and weaving, wanting



The Boston Irish Honors 2010

to be back in the ring.

“It annoys the hell out of me when they leave out salient facts. A month ago, I was watching NECN, and there’d been a boat fire. So, this gal anchor says: ‘A boat accident off Cape Cod saw the Coast Guard take seven people out of the water.’ Now, saying it was off Cape Cod is like saying it was off Maine. Where off Cape Cod? Hyannis? Nantucket? The who, what, when, where thing apparently is out of date.”

His anger is roused by imprecations against the Irish, especially clichéd jokes about Leprechauns, drinking, and references to Notre Dame as the Fighting Irish. “God sakes, they still promote the fact that we’re the fighting Irish? Why does that endure? The odd thing is that people who made Notre Dame football were not Irish. Rockne was a Lutheran, for God’s sake. There may have been four or five Irishmen, but the rest were Polish, Lithuanian, and so forth. They were Catholic, and assumed to be Irish, and then ‘fighting’ was added in a derogatory way, the fighting Irish were the dirty Irish.”

After the emigration of the Hynes family from Ireland, the migration of the Hynes family from Boston was a familiar path from South Boston to Dorchester to Hingham and then to Chatham, where he lives now. “It wasn’t an the Irish thing. It was getting of congestion in the city, and the whole suburban deal, your own place, a lawn to cut, the beach and nobody living above you or below you.”

Hingham proved to be as Yankee as South Boston is Irish. “A pastor in Hingham told me that years ago, when the Irish were fleeing to this country, a boat with a dozen or more Irish immigrants hit a shoal, and sank, and bodies were washing ashore in Hingham. So, what does Hingham do? They bring horses and wagons down and put the bodies on, but they wouldn’t allow them burial in Hingham. Oh, no, they trucked them off to Weymouth or someplace. It was ‘Get the Irish outta here.’”

Hynes is a member of Chatham’s Holy Redeemer parish, but his faith was shaken by the sex scandal, “The church keeps running out of feet to shoot itself in. I now call myself an American Catholic, because – what are we doing with Rome, anyway? I don’t think the Pope is infallible. I don’t think he ever was.”



Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., president Meredith & Drew, a real estate firm involved in sales, leasing, and consulting.

Bill Brett photo.

His conversation sparkles with anecdotes about cops, firemen, gangsters, reprobates, scalawags and neer-do-wells, and the little known saga of how Carney Hospital was built in Dorchester is an example.

“When the Carney was in South Boston, it was falling apart, and so, Cardinal Cushing called my father, when he was mayor, and asked if my father could find some land in the city that could be used to build a new Carney. My father said, ‘I got just the space ... we’ll carve off a piece of Dorchester Park, and you can use that for the hospital.’ Try to get away with this today. You’d be indicted. But there wasn’t a whisper of complaint because no one knew anything about it.”

Although the Irish were prospering politically by the Fifties, the Yankees controlled Boston’s money because they ran banks, law firms, newspapers, and insurance companies. “The Irish ran service industries, clean-up crews, cops, firemen, teachers.

“When my father was working on the Prudential deal, on the dining room table at home, he’d spread out plans and describe how the rail yards would go, along with and Mechanics Hall, where they held the Sportsmen’s Show, with Ted Williams

fly-fishing. My father flew to New York several times to negotiate with Prudential people, offering tax breaks, but it wasn’t easy because there was opposition from First National Bank of Boston, which urged clients not to invest in Boston.

He ends with an anecdote that reflects infighting among the Irish.

“My father worked hard on the Prudential project, but by the time it was dedicated, he was no longer mayor. A few days before the dedication, the head of Prudential called my father and said he was looking forward to seeing my dad and wanted to ensure they sat together. My father said, ‘Well, I don’t know how to tell you this, but I didn’t get an invitation. [Mayor John F.] Collins didn’t invite me.’ The head of Prudential was shocked, and he told my father: ‘You come to the dedication and you sit next to me.’”

The assumption is that Collins did not want to share the limelight with his Hynes. “It’s odd because when my father decided not to run for a fourth term, he endorsed Collins. My father resigned because – unlike the current mayor – he felt that being mayor is not a lifetime job.”

Tracking the Hyneses from 1885

In 1885, two teen-agers named Hynes, Bernard and his brother Tom, left the town of Loughrea in County Galway and landed in Boston where their descendants would make their marks prominently as the 20th Century played out.

In time, Barney got a job with the Boston & Albany Railroad (and stayed there 41 years) and Tom went to Harvard – as a groundskeeper, where his earnings allowed him eventually to buy a rooming house on Massachusetts Avenue. Soon enough he had the wherewithal to return to Loughrea, where he bought a farm and a pub.

But Barney stayed put, settling into a tenement

apartment on East Lenox Street in the South End and marrying Anna Healy with whom he had five children – Tom, John B., Mary, Jimmy, and Joe – before his wife died in 1905.

In a time when it still wasn’t easy for an Irish-American to get a promising job in the private sector, a time, too, when an Irish family’s duty was to make sure the boys were set up first, Tom, John, and Joe found positions in civil service, at City Hall, the Parks department, and the court system.

It was John B. who achieved the highest in the civic realm, serving as Boston City Clerk and then as mayor of Boston from 1950 to 1959 while

residing in Dorchester. All the while he and his wife Marion were raising their five children, Jack, Marie, Barry, Nancy, and Richard.

Tom and his wife Eleanor set up shop in West Roxbury where their children John B., Ann, Tom, Kevin, and David grew up.

Barney’s and Ann’s grandchildren and great-children have spread their wings and carried the Hynes name to prominence in military service, politics, real estate, and the media. All of which is a long way from life in a tenement in Boston’s South End 115 years ago.



BOSTON by Mayor John B. Hynes (circa 1950)

DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY BY THE OPEN SEA,
THIS CITY THAT MOTHERED THE HOME OF THE FREE?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS WRINKLED BROW,
AND ITS STREETS LAID OUT BY THE WANDERING COW?

DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS SPIRES AND DOMES,
WITH ITS GILDED CROSSES AND ITS GODLY HOMES?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS CUSTOMS OLD,
AND IT'S WISDOM TO KNOW THE DROSS FROM THE GOLD?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY AND ITS BUNKER HILL,
AND IT'S AGE-OLD SHRINES OF GLORIOUS THRILL?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY, THE OLD AND THE NEW,
WITH ITS GRIP ON THE THINGS THAT ARE LASTING AND TRUE?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS AIR OF GRACE,
IT'S DELIGHT WITH BEAUTY AND DISGUST WITH THE BASE?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHEN THE SHADOWS FALL,
AND THE BIRDS WING HOME TO THE COMMON MALL?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHEN THE DAWNING SUN,
BURST FROM THE SEA WHERE THE CODFISH RUN?

DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH THE WIND'S IN THE EAST,
AND THE SMELL OF THE DEEP IS THE FREE MAN'S FEAST?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS GALES AND SNOW,
WITH ITS SUMMER WARMTH AND ITS AUTUMN GLOW?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHEN IT'S TREES SO BARE,
ARE LACED IN BLOSSOMS FRAGRANT AND FAIR?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHERE KNOWLEDGE WAITS,
FOR THOSE WHO WALK THROUGH ITS LIBRARY GATES?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY AND THE THINGS WE PRIZE,
THE PREACHER DAUNTLESS AND THE SCHOLAR WISE?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHERE ART IS LONG,
WITH ITS PRINCIPLES TRUE AND ITS FAITH SO STRONG?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHERE THE FLEETING YEARS,
HAVE LEFT A TRAIL THAT HEARTENS AND CHEERS?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHERE THE COLOR BAN,
HAS LONG SINCE VANISHED LIKE THE SCHOOL RATTAN?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WITH ITS MINGLED STRAINS,
WHERE MEN ARE EQUAL AND WHERE HARMONY REIGNS?

DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHERE ROOTS GO DEEP,
IN THE SOIL OF THE LAND WHERE THE MARTYRS SLEEP?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY BORN OF STRUGGLE AND STRIFE,
WHERE THE FALSE IS INTERRED AND TRUTH GIVEN LIFE?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY AND ITS GRAND OLD NAME,
THAT SWELLS THE HEART AS WE THINK OF ITS FAME?
DON'T YOU LOVE THIS CITY WHEREVER YOU ROAM,
AND WHO IS NOT PROUD TO CALL IT HOME?
FOR BOSTON IS BOSTON AND FOREVER SHE'LL STAND,
A TOWER OF TRUTH IN A TRUTH-LOVING LAND.
FOREVER SHE'LL STAND FOR ALL THAT IS JUST,
'TIL THE WORLD IS NO MORE AND ALL IS DUST.
SO LOVE OLD BOSTON FROM HER HEAD TO HER TOES
BE ONE OF HER GALLANTS, BE ONE OF HER BEAUX.
BE ONE WHO WILL SHOUT IN TONES FIRM AND CLEAR,
SHE IS THE MOST GRACIOUS DAMSEL IN THE WHOLE HEMISPHERE.

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Purchase a ticket for the 2010 ICC Annual Drawing and receive a complimentary 12 month individual membership (\$50 value). This offer is good for new members only. This offer is non-transferable, cannot be traded, cannot be used for cash or for current dues paying members or honorary membership. It is good for one individual person per raffle ticket for an individual membership only. This offer is not included in the "2010 Gift Wrap Membership" program. Please allow 15-30 business days to receive your membership information.

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Tommy Gallagher and John McDevitt
2010 Co-Chairs of the ICC Annual Drawing

Solas Awards to US Rep. Neal, Wainwright Bank's Glassman

By ISAAC ROSS
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For the last 17 years, the Irish Immigration Center has hosted a dinner honoring leaders in our community by recognizing them with the Solas Award, which takes its name from the Gaelic word for "light." The award acknowledges the work of those who strive to raise the marginalized in our society up out of the shadows. Past recipients have included the late Senator Edward Kennedy, former President Bill Clinton, and Ireland President Mary McAleese.

This year, the Solas Awards Dinner, scheduled for Dec. 10 at the Boston Seaport Hotel, will honor two outstanding individuals, US Congressman Richard Neal and Robert

Glassman.

Richard Neal has served in the House of Representatives since 1989 and is a ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. He has been a proven advocate for Irish concerns throughout his career, participating in the peace process in Northern Ireland and serving as Chairman of the Congressional Friends of Ireland. He has been named as one of the top 100 Irish Americans by *Irish American* magazine and has received the International Leadership Award from the American Ireland Fund.

Robert Glassman is co-founder and co-chairman of Wainwright Bank, a company committed to social justice. He has been personally engaged in a number of efforts as

both a social entrepreneur and civic leader. In 1984, he established the Glassman Fellowship Fund at Harvard Business School, which provides inner city public school students with scholarship assistance. He has also been an outspoken advocate for bettering the lives of immigrants.

This year, the Irish Immigration Center is pleased to introduce the Humanitarian Leadership Award, which will be presented to two exceptional people who have contributed significantly to the recovery work in Haiti. They are Sabine St. Lot, Vice President of Business Diversity at State Street Corporation, and Marie St. Fleur, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

The Awards dinner will host more than 500 attendees. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner at 6:30. Guests will have the opportunity to hear from each of our distinguished award recipients. Tickets are \$200.

Proceeds from the event will allow the Irish Immigration Center to continue offering high quality services to Boston's immigrant community including educational outreach, job fairs, substance abuse counseling, and legal services.

To learn about the benefits of becoming a sponsor and how your contribution can help the Irish Immigration Center, please contact Kathy Whelan-Giordano at 617-695-1554 or at kgiordano@iicenter.org.

Matters Of Substance

Recovery: A Story of Thanksgiving

By DANIELLE OWEN

"I never really thought I was drinking too much. All my friends drank the same and joked about the daft things we did. It wasn't a good night if we could remember it! One night, though, around Christmastime, I found myself alone after falling asleep in the bathroom of the club I was in. I had lost my phone and was very frightened because I was in a part of town I didn't know. The next day I woke feeling terrible and very ashamed. The worst part was that it wasn't the first, second, or even third time this had happened to me while out drinking. I was so mad and scared because I no longer seemed to have control once I had a couple of drinks and smoked with my friends. When I tried to tell them my concerns, they

laughed it off saying that everyone does things like that - it's normal.

I felt it wasn't normal and eventually... it took a while... I got some help. I tried to control it, but in the end, I had to stop drinking. I now meet with a counselor once every two weeks and have just begun to go to AA meetings. They were weird at first, and I really didn't want to go. But I have been lucky to find some great people who do understand my concerns and don't laugh them off. They have their own scary stories, and I've discovered that life is easier without the hangovers, lost bags and phones, and moments of terror at 4 a.m. I feel really accepted when I talk about my life at home in Ireland, about how most of my family either drink heavily or use heroin and about the

chaos with which we used to live in our house. I feel like I'm getting more out of life now and am amazed, too, at how much money I have because I'm not spending it out partying.

There are days when I miss going out with my friends and the fun we had. Coming up to the Thanksgiving weekend, I hear all about their plans - mostly involving partying. But when my counselor asks me how long it's been since I really had a fun night out, I am reminded that it's been a long time since partying was fun. I am so thankful I made the changes I did and am so grateful for all the new friends I have made. I hope I always feel this positively but I know where to go and whom to talk to when I do have those doubts."

Change is always pos-

sible. The Irish Immigration Center's Community Counseling and Education Services offers counseling, free health clinics, job skill workshops, 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, lack of access to healthcare, or homelessness. For assistance, contact Danielle, in confidence and without judgment, at the IIC at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14. or at dowen@iicenter.org. For information on AA meetings, go to: aaboston.org or call 617-426-9444.

Danielle Owen is the IIC's Director of Community Counseling and Education Services.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

Immigration Application Fees Change This Month

Q. I have heard that the government's fees for immigration applications are going up again. Is this true, and, if so, when do the new fees go into effect?

A. Yes, US Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced that a new application fee schedule will go into effect later this month, on Nov. 23.

Most fees are going up. For example, the fee for Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, will go from \$355 to \$420, and Form I-485, the application to adjust status to permanent residence, increases from \$930 to \$985 (not including biometrics fees, which will increase from \$80 to \$85). On the other hand, the fee for Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, remains the same at \$595 (also not including required biometrics fees). And the fee for Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status, actually will be reduced from \$300 to \$290. Overall, most fees will be increasing around 10 percent-20 percent.

Note that the new fees will apply to forms submitted on or after November 23. Applications submitted before that date will be subject to the current fees, no matter when the government takes action on the case.

The Irish Immigration Center has put on its website a link to the full schedule of fee changes on uscis.gov. You can have a free, confidential consultation on this or any other aspect of immigration law by visiting one of the IIC's weekly legal clinics.

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

NOTES FROM THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

Immigration and Citizenship Update—The Irish Immigration Center 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.

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., Nov. 2 and Nov. 16, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — IIC Office, 100 Franklin St., Lower Level 1, in downtown Boston (Enter from the side entrance at 60 Arch Street or 201 Devonshire Street).

Mon., Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m. — The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington St. Brighton.

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IIC has moved. Our new offices are located at 100 Franklin Street, Boston in the Lower Level. Please note that entrances are located at 201 Devonshire Street and 60 Arch Street. We look forward to welcoming you to our new home.

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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

**BOSTON IRISH ARTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
TRAVEL & MORE**

Master Fiddler Hayes: Tune is What Counts – Always

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Imagine if you had a one-time-only 30-minute lesson with one of the most eminent Irish fiddlers of the past two decades. Surely it would be like departing a banquet after eating a few hors d'oeuvres, or leaving an Oscar-winning movie once the opening titles had concluded.

That's more or less what Berklee College of Music student Emilio Arredondo thought would happen when he got together recently with Martin Hay Hayes, who has lived in Hartford for five years, is known to most people as the master fiddler from East Clare who has taken the lyrical, slower-paced playing style of his native region and turned it into not only an art form but also a meditation on the primacy of melody in Irish music. In addition, he has cultivated a reputation as a teacher and mentor, especially to young

musicians, whether at Berklee, the now-defunct Gaelic Roots festival at Boston College, or the various traditional fiddle music camps – such as California's Valley of the Moon – that have sprang up over the past decade.

"I would describe Martin as one of the deepest musicians in any idiom," says Matt Glaser, artistic director of Berklee's American Roots Music Program and a renowned fiddler himself. "He's in the mold of the great introverted poet, in that he talks about the avowedly spiritual intent of his art. This is what makes him a great teacher as well as a great musician. One student told me that Martin said to him, 'Don't use your melody to glorify your playing; use your playing to glorify the melody.'"

"For Martin, the melody is a deeply wonderful thing you should revere," adds Glaser. "He talks about the 'old guys' who

would sing tunes to him, and how they clearly loved the melody; that's the philosophy in his playing. It's ludicrous to approach traditional music as virtuosity. You play the tunes too fast, you lose the beauty."

The fact that a place like Berklee, hitherto more famous for turning out classical, jazz, and pop musicians, has now become a wellspring for traditional and roots music is tremendously exciting for Hayes, who sees this development as part of the overall growth in popularity Irish music has enjoyed in the past couple of decades.

"It's great to see the music moving forward, and being accepted in a wider part of the world," says the soft-spoken Hayes. "To be sure, there's something different going on here: Most of these young people at Berklee, or New England Conservatory, or the fiddle camps, don't come to the music with



Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill in concert last month at Berklee College. Says Hayes of his long-time accompanist: "We're very different. Dennis is an analytical, logical kind of thinker, and I'm entirely governed by feeling and emotion. He fills the gaps."

one genre in mind. They might know a little of the Irish, but they've also explored, say, Scottish or Cape Breton styles, or Appalachian, or bluegrass, perhaps even some jazz. So you have to give them

something to think about as they continue their exploration, a philosophy for playing the music that hopefully they can take to heart."

Hayes's philosophy encompasses not only the

importance of melody but also the continual push-pull between tradition and innovation in Irish music. He, along with his long-time accompanist, guitarist/mandolinist Dennis Cahill, is the focus of a feature on page 23.

LEIGH BARRETT – Having A Dickens Of A Time at Lyric Stage

BY R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Lyric Stage Company of Boston is in the midst of tackling the biggest project in its 37-year history – Charles Dickens's "The Life And Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby: Parts I and II."

The Dickensian frenzy of heroes, villains, eccentrics, and men of good heart calls for two dozen actors playing more than 150 roles spread out over two full productions. Lyric is presenting the two part epic in rotating repertory through December

19. While each part may be attended individually on different days, Lyric is offering five "marathon days" when both Parts I and II are performed, afternoon and evening, with a dinner break in between.

In the classic Victorian tale, young Nicholas Nickleby, left penniless after the death of his father, assumes responsibility for his mother and sister. He seeks help from his antagonistic uncle, who hates Nicholas and sends him off to teach in a horrific school for boys run

by a sadistic headmaster. Nicholas escapes, taking with him an orphan named Smike, one of the school's most abused young charges. The two then embark on a series of adventures and interact with an array of Dickens's most colorful characters as Nicholas tries to put his life and family back together.

A familiar face onstage at Lyric is Leigh Barrett, one of Boston's busiest and most popular talents. She plays three characters in the show (perhaps four if you keep

your eyes open) including Miss LaCreevy, an artist who runs a boarding house in London. We spoke just before the production opened. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

BIR: So this is a fairly massive undertaking for you all.

LB: Fairly massive would be correct.

BIR: The premise is that you are a company of actors presenting the story of Nicholas Nickleby. And the actors often speak directly to the audience as they tell the story.

LB: The [production style itself] has sort of become known as the 'Nicholas Nickleby Theatrical Presentation' – any time you do a piece where actors are on stage narrating their own actions,

observing other actors on stage, hanging out in the background and sort of looking on. The narration has been a big focus. (It's) active storytelling to pull the audience into that world . . . It can be a little tricky, so we spent a good deal of time working on that.

BIR: Dickens was very specific in his intent for these characters, wasn't he?

LB: They aren't your typical characters. When you're bad you're just really, really bad. And when you're good, you're really, really good. There's very little middle ground. He really wanted it, I think, to be a very clear message to people. And I do think that people get that. But he ends it with hope,

and I really love that. I think we need that right now. What struck me [in the story] was borrowing money to live beyond your means, and how cavalier we all are about it – even then – until it breaks you. And what do you do when it [does] breaks you?

BIR: His overall theme of social injustice speaks to our own time very strongly.

LB: Absolutely. It's still a very timely piece and I think it's very appropriate to be doing it right now. You think of the haves and the have-nots. It's very distinct, even now.

BIR: So whom did you play?

LB: I, like many of the company, play several different characters. I play is



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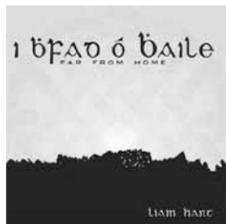
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BIR Music CD REVIEW

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR



Liam Hart, "Far From Home"—Anyone who has seen or heard Liam Hart, whether in concert or at sessions he co-leads at Tommy Doyle's in Harvard Square, knows that he is one passionate guy when it comes to Irish music. And if the purpose of a recording is to capture as much of the performer's essence

and presence as possible, then "Far From Home" certainly succeeds, because Hart's passion fairly pours out of the speakers (or earphones, depending on one's listening preference).

A New Jersey native who moved to Massachusetts several years ago, Hart has amassed an impressive collection of honors for his singing, in English as well as in Irish. He also pens some of his own material, in both languages -- his "Amhran Shandyston Mheiricea" (which may be the first Gaelic song to pay tribute to northern New Jersey) won second place in the New Composed Song category of the 2007 Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann.

Hart affects the full-on, dramatic Irish ballad style (and the accent as well) for much of his singing, accompanying himself on guitar, and whatever one thinks of

the approach there's no questioning Hart's devotion to it. His versions of "As I Roved Out," "The Lily of Tyrone" and "Farewell to Nova Scotia" are classic raise-the-roof affairs. Still, there's a noticeable difference when Hart sings his own English-language compositions, "You Can't Leave Netcong After Seven" and "Their Sons Know Only Beer": His natural, unadorned voice is perfectly fine, which might provoke the question, "Why doesn't he use it more often?"

The Gaelic songs are lovely, and lovingly done, notably "An Cailin Alainn," on which he's joined on harmony vocals by Melissa Foley, and "Deorai Thir an Fhia," his rendition of a song by Tom a' tSeoige about Lettermullan Island -- a sample of what Hart calls "Connemara Country Music," and accessible even to non-Gaelic speakers.

Hart plays a mean Irish flute, too, as he shows on the album's instrumental tracks, some of which were recorded live. His accompanists, including Sean Connor (fiddle), Martin Butler (bodhran), Phil Harwood (mandolin) and Emerald Rae (baritone ukelele) serve him very well throughout.

Dan Possumato, "Pulling Out the Stops" -- Dan Possumato is a well-traveled musician: The Pittsburgh native has had stays of varying duration in Germany, Ireland, Alaska, and now, Portland, Ore. Along the way, he has taught himself to play one-row melodeon in the push-and-draw style that evokes traditional players from past generations; he has drawn comparisons with the likes of Bobby Gardner and John J. Kimmel.

"Pulling Out the Stops," Possumato's second CD, is full of amiable, down-to-earth musicianship that genuinely fulfills the "sounds more like friends playing together than an album" adage. He's joined at various



times by fiddlers Kevin Burke (yes, of Bothy Band fame) and Brongaene Griffin, pianist Teresa Baker, multi-instrumentalists Mick Mulcrone and Quentin Cooper, and harpist Elizabeth Nicholson, among others.

Possumato's instrumental sets draw upon both tried-and-true traditional Irish material -- like "Mulqueen's" (titled "Kenny's Favourite" here), "Boys of Tandragee," "Tailor's Thimble" and "Miss Langford's" -- and more latter-day compositions by Billy McComiskey ("The Controversial"), Vincent Broderick ("The Haunted House") and Junior Crehan ("The Little Stack of Oats"), to name a few, that fall readily into the ceili band bailiwick. But he's not above going beyond the genre, such as pairing a Jerry Holland tune with a reel by Scottish pianist/accordionist Ronnie Cooper, or a Breton dance tune with an Irish jig.

Keeping with the informal, just-folks character of the CD, Possumato cedes the spotlight for songs performed by Mulcrone, who does a pleasant enough turn on "Boys of Mullaghbawn," "Welcome Paddy Home" and a refreshingly upbeat, roadhouse-style rendition of "Hard Times Come Again No More." (The other song is a hushed *cappella* "Molly Brannigan," sung by Gerard McDonnell, a friend of Possumato's who died two years ago.)

"Pulling Out the Stops" by and large achieves that tricky balance between polish and plain, creating a charmingly uncluttered, unhurried sound. Possumato is not out to dazzle or awe, just to share a little of the music and spirit he's found, wherever he's called home.

"Kisses," a Film

DIRECTED BY LANCE DALY

Pre-teens Dylan and Kylie escape from their bleak, lifeless Dublin neighborhood to search for the boy's older brother, who fled home two years earlier after being overwhelmed by the chaotic, miserable family life that has now pushed Dylan to the breaking point. Kylie is, if anything, more resolute than Dylan about leaving her home -- and, as is revealed later, has a very good reason.

This 2008 feature, which made its way to the US this year, filters the (very) young-love-on-the-run escapism theme of 1970s films like "Melody" and "A Little Romance" through the gritty realism of "Ratcatcher," with a touch of Roddy Doyle's dark humor; you can even detect a "Wizard of Oz" reference in the film's use of color. But unlike those earlier movies, there are few illusions of salvation or fulfillment here: While Dylan and Kylie do encounter random episodes of kindness on their journey -- with a friendly river-dredging boat

operator, a stranger who may be Bob Dylan, and a prostitute whose little bit of folk wisdom explains the significance of the film's title -- the world at large is shown to be an unsettling, quite dangerous place. The kids' hold on childhood innocence is tenuous as it is, and so they seem chillingly capable of developing a tough, profane, emotional/spiritual exoskeleton to help them navigate these potentially deadly waters.

The two young leads, Shane Curry and Kelly O'Neill, are generally equal to the task here, although at times they seem to be merely declaiming or reciting the dialogue. But the chemistry between them feels genuine and believable, especially in the scenes where they are able to be kids, impulse-buying at a mall, or frolicking in a deserted skating rink. And at the end, you're relieved they have each other, whether as friends or lovers or both, because clearly they won't have much else.

-- SEAN SMITH



Shane Curry and Kelly O'Neill portray two runaways who find more than they bargained for when they go out on their own in Dublin.

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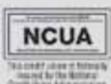
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A column of news and updates of the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest), which celebrates the Boston area's rich heritage of Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton music and dance with a grassroots, musician-run winter music festival and other events during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

BCM Fest 2011: "Words and Music"—Since it began in 2004, the Boston Celtic Music Fest (BCM Fest) has always made room for all types of Celtic performers, whether singers, dancers and instrumentalists. So for its eighth annual festival, which takes place Jan. 7-8, 2011, BCM Fest will affirm the interrelationship of the song and instrumental traditions in Celtic music.

Festival organizers say BCM Fest 2011 will be an opportunity for those musicians who have devoted their talents to tunes to explore the richness of traditional songs and ballads; for those who relish singing all those verses and choruses to lend an ear of appreciation for the jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, marches, strathspeys and airs; and for dancers to discover the joys of dancing to songs, as well as tunes.

The festival begins on the evening of Fri., Jan. 7, with a concert in Club Passim in Harvard Square and the ever-popular Boston Urban Ceilidh—a Celtic dance party—at a location to be announced. On Saturday, BCM Fest will present a day-long offering of performances on four different stages in Club Passim and nearby First Parish of Cambridge. The festival will conclude Saturday night in First Parish with a finale concert organized and led by Boston's legendary fiddle band Halali (Laura Cortese, Hanneke Cassel, Lissa Scheckenburger, and Flynn Cohen) with many special guests.

As always, BCM Fest will feature its inimitable brand of fun and good cheer with special events, including showcase of a Celtic-style rock "power ballads" and "Lift Every Voice," with songs for all to sing along with, as well as the Artie Flynn Open Stage—an opportunity for acts or individual performers to get some live-performance experience, or to introduce themselves to the BCM Fest community.

This year's line-up includes Long Time Courting, Matt Heaton & Flynn Cohen, Lissa Schneckenburger & Bethany Waickman, Highland Soles, Tri, Bob Bradshaw, Feargal Ó Béarra, Lindsay Straw & Armand Aromin, Susie Petrov & Reinmar Seidler, Hannah Sanders & Liz Simmons, the StoneyBatter Band, Liz Hanley & Michael Rose, the trio of Andy Reiner, Stash Wyslouch & Mariel Vandersteel, Plaiditude, Ari & Mia Friedman, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, Michael O'Leary & Steve Levy, the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club, Kyte MacKillop & Friends, and Adam Cole-Mullen & Armand Aromin. [Additions and changes will be announced via the festival website at

bcmfest.com.]

Tickets for the festival can be purchased through Club Passim, at clubpassim.org. Information about festival events and performers will be posted at the BCM Fest website, bcmfest.com, and via the BCM Fest e-mail list [sign-up is available at the website].

Musical swap—A Celtic music concert based on a reality TV show?

Well, something like that.

The Nov. 8 edition of BCM Fest's monthly Celtic Music Monday series at Club Passim will be "Celtic Wife Swap," for which prominent Boston-area Celtic music couples are split up and paired with different partners. These swapped-off duos will work together prior to the concert and come up with songs or tune sets to perform that evening.

While the concept is all in good fun, fiddler-vocalist Laura Cortese, the concert's organizer, says "Celtic Wife Swap" also can provide an insight into the creative process.

"When you're in a long-term duo, it's easy to get comfortable with your strengths and weaknesses, both individually or collectively," explains Cortese, who is married to bass guitarist Matt Malinkowski. "But if you're suddenly partnering with someone else, you get a chance to work in a different way, because the mix of personalities, styles, and temperaments isn't the same. So perhaps you find yourself playing a role you haven't before.

"And maybe, when it's all over, you might have an idea you can bring back to your 'other' partnership."

Cortese says the "Celtic Wife Swap" performers—their names will be announced on the BCM Fest website, bcmfest.com—also will take part in a Q&A session to discuss what it was like to collaborate, a segment Cortese thinks "could be quite comedic."

"It will be a different kind of concert, but there will certainly be some great music and a few laughs as well."

Tickets for the Nov. 8 concert, which starts at 8 p.m., are \$12, \$6 for members of Club Passim, WGBH and WUMB. For reservations and other information, see www.clubpassim.org.

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

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LEIGH BARRETT – Having A Dickens Of A Time at Lyric Stage

(Continued from page 20) Miss LaCreevy, who is, more or less, a business woman of her time. She owns a boarding house in London. She has rooms to let but she's also an artist [adding with an English accent] 'She paints portraits in miniature.' More out of love than out of business, she paints the portraits.

There's a beautiful description in the text of how she wakes up very early in the morning because the light drives her to the studio to paint. And she's really driven by that. She's a very kind hearted friend, one of the first friends – perhaps the first friend – the Nicklebys make when they get to London.

BIR: From Lyric to SpeakEasy to Stoneham to New Rep to benefits to concerts, you've become a mainstay on Boston's stages. Plus, you're a native, aren't you?

LB: I'm originally from Wakefield. I sang in school. I was a viola player. It was always music, music, music. I went to college to major in voice performance.

BIR: Where was that?

LB: Baldwin-Wallace College & Conservatory in Ohio. And I got there because my best friend was auditioning.

I really just lucked out with my education there and my training as an opera singer, and as a musician in general. I had a really great voice teacher, Melvin Hakola. And on the advice of a Broadway music director who was the accompanist of my teacher when they were in school, he suggested that I come back home and get some more experience if musical theater was what I wanted to do. And I did. And every time I'd start to head off to New York, something would happen. I met my husband doing a summer stock show. Then we got married. And when we were heading off to New York again, I got pregnant with my first son – Nicholas, ironically – and so we stayed and I just kept getting work after work after work. Ultimately that's what I want to do. I just want to do good work with good people.

BIR: And you've been very busy.

LB: I'm very lucky.

BIR: I'm also told you have an interesting ancestry.

LB: Well, I do. My grandfather's last name was Budd. His father was first generation Irish. They always told us that he and his brothers were pirates. I cannot refute that. I cannot cor-



Kate Nickleby (Elizabeth Rimar) and her uncle Ralph (Will Lyman) engage Miss LaCreevy (Leigh Barrett) for a miniature portrait in "The Life And Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby: Parts I and II" at Lyric Stage Company.

roborate that. [Laughs] I just don't know. They all left [Ireland] en masse and came to Canada first, in the Muncton area, and started a railroad – The Budd Railroad. And then they slowly trickled down here to the South Shore and settled in Abington and Holbrook.

My grandmother's last name was MacDonald. And my great, great, great grandfather – maybe one more great – on the MacDonald side was a powder boy in the Revolutionary War. He married his second wife when he was in his 80's and had three daughters. He had his last

daughter when he was 88 years old.

BIR: That's resourceful.

LB: It's just amazing, [laughing] thereby making me, I guess, eligible to be a DAR.

"The Life And Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby: Parts I and II," in rotating

repertory through December 19 at Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon Street. Tickets: 617-585-5678 or lyric-stage.com.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of *OnStageBoston.com*.

For Master Fiddler Hayes: Tune is What Counts – Always

(Continued from page 20) a multi-influenced jazz-rock band called Midnight Court.

"It was a period of open-ended exploration," he says. "I just felt I needed to break out of where I was, go and see what else I could do, and rejuvenate myself."

"And what happened was, I came all the way back to the tradition." So Hayes returned to his roots with a renewed love for the music he had known growing up, and with two other important elements. One was the idea of experimenting with music, exploring the components, and putting it all back together.

The other was fellow Midnight Court member Cahill, with whom Hayes had formed a personal as well as musical rapport. "Dennis has delved into so many different kinds of music, and it was plain to see he had a great way of accompanying Irish music," says Hayes. "The thing is, we're very different. Dennis is an analytical, logical kind of thinker, and I'm entirely governed by feeling and emotion. He fills the gaps."

That intellectual-emotional balancing act is a major feature of their live performances, as one might have glimpsed at their recent concert at Berklee, following Hayes's mini-residency that week.

It's pretty well understood that when you go to a Hayes-Cahill concert, you go to listen; hand-clapping and foot-stomping along to the music by the audience is virtually non-existent, except perhaps during the finale or encore (in the case of the Berklee concert, a sprightly "Foxhunter's Reel"). There's an invitation – not quite a demand – for you to pay attention to the way Hayes unfolds the melody, sometimes with full bow strokes, sometimes letting his fingering do more of the work. Cahill, who uses a nylon-string instead of a steel-string guitar, will subtly underline Hayes's playing with gentle arpeggios and with

chords that tend more to shift than change.

At times, each man appears to be entirely within his own world, but then there's a definitive transition, whether to another tune or to a more upbeat tempo (or both), and they lock into eye contact. It often seems to be a pretty intense staring contest, but now and then they exchange a slight smile as they navigate the remainder of the tune, and the set of which it is part.

Which raises the obvious question: How much of what they do is planned, and how much is left to chance? "Well, we do have the tunes laid out in an order," says Hayes. "But in

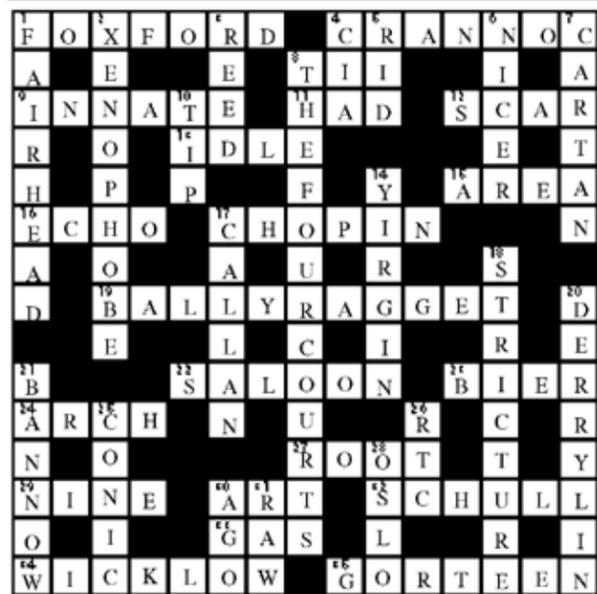
terms of how many times I'll play a tune, or how far we'll push it, that's the music of the moment. That's when the feeling comes in."

And for Hayes, "the feeling" is a critical link to the tradition in which his musical character was formed, and to which he still feels very much connected.

"I'm very conscious of the

past," he says, "but I'm also aware of playing the music now in the real world. To me, first, it's music; and second, it's Irish music. If you get it around the other way, you get involved in other things, like the culture and the history. And that's fine, but for me I value the connection to the spirit and intention of the music."

PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 25



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Traveling People

Grace Kelly had this thing about Drimurla in Co. Mayo

(Continued from page 1)

For years, we'd been told that Grace Kelly's ancestors came from the Newport area and we had little reason to doubt it, as there is no dearth of Kellys in the town itself. There's a small and good restaurant at the top of the main street called Kelly's Kitchen and next door is Dominick Kelly's Butcher Shop, where we often stop to buy the famous, award-winning flavored sausage and black and white pudding.

So, we decided last spring to find out for ourselves just exactly where her grandfather had lived. We drove out the R311 to a sign for Drumgoney Lough, better known as "Leg of Mutton Lake," turned down a country lane and saw several ruins but couldn't find the holiday home that might have been built by Grace and her prince. We finally stopped a woman who was leaving her house and she directed us to the first ruin we had seen on the way in.

One exterior wall of Grace's ancestral home is now part of a paddock for the cows that graze the greenest of fields between the house and lake. One end of the house holds up part of the fence that contains the small herd.

The ruins are nothing to see or photograph now, but there is still a certain mystique about that pile of rocks and the surrounding area. We wondered whether the Rainier family still owns the land and ruins? It seems that a local development association asked permission to erect a memorial to Princess Grace on the land at Drimurla and Princess Caroline, her daughter, said the family would donate the cottage for restoration as well as surrounding lands if they received an acceptable proposal. That was more than 15 years ago.

MAYO NEWS REPORT

We read an October 2007 *Mayo News* column online called "County View," in which John Healy writes that a Castlebar photo exhibit by Fr. Mattie McNeely (who died in September, 2010) included some images of the Kelly's ancestral home.

"Forty years ago," Healy wrote, "Princess Grace and her husband, Prince Rainier, visited the small cottage which her grandfather, John Bernard Kelly, left for a new life in Philadelphia. It was a visit that captured the attention of the world media, the visit of the fairy tale actress-turned-princess to the ancestral home.

"In 1976, the Rainier family purchased the old cottage and adjoining lands and prepared to construct a 2,000 square foot holiday home on the site. But all of the plans came to naught with the death of Princess Grace in a road accident in 1982. The dream died, too.

"Apart from one brief visit by Grace's son, Prince Albert, the link to the Kellys has been forgotten. The cottage is derelict, and the visitors who still come to



These ruins are all that remain today of Grace Kelly's ancestral home outside Newport, Co. Mayo.

search out the roots of the film star Princess go away disappointed.

"It is several years now since local county councillor Frank Chambers mooted the idea of turning the cottage and the Kelly connection with Newport into a tourist attraction. Few would quibble with the idea. The story of the emigrant Kelly whose grandchildren won fame on the silver screen and as Olympic athletes was the stuff of the American dream. Surely that ancestral cottage could be made a tourism Mecca for those who came back across the Atlantic?"

Healy added that "for whatever reason, Frank Chambers's suggestion was never acted on. The Kelly cottage is now well on its way to disappearing into the undergrowth. The last surviving signs of what was truly a unique story of emigration and its aftermath is about to be wiped from the landscape. Only in Fr. Mattie McNeely's gentle photographs will survive the family home of Princess Grace of Monaco.

"Whether it is too late to do something to retrieve the tumbledown structure and to make it into the tourism magnet it could be is another day's work. It is hardly for want of funding, but more for lack of will, that it should be left the way it is. Or maybe, the name of Grace Kelly, the Rainier royal family, and the emigrant success no longer holds the interest it once did."

We will certainly do further research when we return to Mayo in the spring.



This is the view of farmland and a lake that John Kelly would have seen from his home in Drimurla, near Newport, Co. Mayo, before he emigrated to Philadelphia in 1887. (Judy Enright photos)

For the uninitiated, Grace debuted in the film *14 Hours*, in a minor supporting role, starred in *High Noon*, and appeared in *Mogambo*, which won her an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress. She won the Golden Globe and Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role of 1954 for *The Country Girl* and a gold record for the song "True Love" from the movie *High Society*.

Grace and Prince Rainier had three children: Princess Caroline, Prince Albert, and Princess Stéphanie. If you happen to be in Monaco, be sure to visit the Princess Grace Irish Library, which opened in 1984 and is just a short walk from the palace. The library holds conferences, symposia, and film screenings and focuses on all things Irish. Monaco also observes St. Patrick's Day with special events and performances.

CROSS OF CONG

The Cross of Cong recently returned to Mayo for first time in 170 years and is on display at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Turlough Park, Castlebar.

An e-mail from the Museum of Country Life says that The Cross of Cong is one of Ireland's greatest treasures. "It was created in 1123 to encase a fragment of the True Cross that was brought to Ireland and displayed in different places around the country. The medieval Annals of Tigernach record that Tairdelbach Ua Chonchobair (Turlough O'Connor), king of Connaught and high king of Ireland, asked for part of the Cross to be kept in Ireland. On his instructions, a shrine was made in Roscommon to house

the fragment - long since lost. That shrine is the Cross of Cong."

For further details about the exhibit, visit museum.ie/en/exhibition/cross-of-cong.aspx

The museum also has a well-stocked museum shop with books and hand-crafted gifts as well as a café with seasonal meals and yummy freshly-baked treats.

Visit museum.ie for details of events planned through December and contact tpark@museum.ie if you would like to be on the mailing list. The Museum of Country Life is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays.

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A post-Christmas three-night break includes accommodation starting at 420 euro per adult. The package is available from Dec. 27-30 and includes a full Irish breakfast and one night's dinner for two.

For those who want to ring in the New Year in Ireland, Dromoland has three great New Year's Eve specials. For more information, visit dromolandcollection.ie

TRAVEL

It is "off-season" and you can find great fares and offers from many airlines that service the Emerald Isle. Try aerlingus.com for direct Boston-Shannon and Boston-Dublin service and look at other US carriers that fly to Ireland. For details about what's going on in Ireland this month, visit discoverireland.com/us/

If you're older than 66, take a look at the free Golden Trekker pass, which gives you free train travel all over the Republic of Ireland. For details, call Tourism Ireland at 1-800-SHAMROCK or visit the Discover Ireland website at least 48 hours prior to your arrival in Ireland.

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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Here are some review questions.

How do you ask,
 "What time is it?"
 "Where are you from?"
 "Who is it?"
 "What is that/this?"
 "Whose boat is this?"

Answers:

Cén t-am é?
Cad as duit?
Cé atá ann? or Cé hé sin?
Cén atá an sin/an seo?
Cé leis an mbad seo?

We have been learning the "Wh- words" for several months now. Do you know that you can literally teach yourself a new language by mastering just a few simple questions? This system was developed by two European linguists. Peace Corps found this out many years ago when Volunteers faced the problem of learning a local language in addition to the National Language which they had been taught.

The so-called "Wh- words" are "Who?" or "Whose?, What?, Where?, When?, Why?, "How?" and "How much/many?" So far in Irish you have learned a number of these, all begin with C-, pronounced /k/, but just as in English some require a secondary word or alteration to convey meaning as **Cé?** /keh/ "Who?" but **Cé leis?** /keh leish/ "Whose?"

Some of the basic questions are these:

To find the name of an object:

Cén atá an seo / an sin?

Alternatively, "What is the name of that/this?"

Cén t-ainm atá air? /ken TAN-uhm TAH air?

"Who is he/she?" **Cé atá ann?** Both of these help you to identify some one or some thing, even the "doer" of an action (verb).

"What is/are he/she/you doing? This tells you the verb.

Céan atá ar bun aige/aici/agat?

/ken TAH ahr boon EH-guh, EH-kuh, Ah-gat/

"How?", **Cá?** /kah/ or **Cad?** /kahd/, will tell you the manner in which something is done.

You have already learned, "How much? **Cá mhéad + Noun in Genitive Form.**

"How many?" is **Cá mhéad + Noun Singular – Cá mhéad carr?** "How many cars?" This formation is different from English as it requires a **singular** instead of a **plural noun**.

"When?" is expressed in much the same way, **Cá huair?** /kah HOOR/, literally "What hour?" but can refer to any time in the past or future. You can ask or will hear, **Cén uair?** /ken OOR/ which will have the same meaning – but don't forget to separate the two vowels of **Cá** or **Cé** from **uair**, the first with **h-** the second with **-n**. **Cá huair?** or **Cén uair?**

Cá huair a tharla sé? /ken OOR uh HAR-luh shey/ "When did it happen?"

Tharla is the **past tense** of **tarlaigh**, "to happen."

In English we can use many of the "Wh- words" as conjunctions" as in, "I saw him *when* he was at the shop." Similar to English "that" as a "pointing word" – "What is that?" **Cén atá an sin?** but "that" as a conjunction, "I hope *that* he comes soon."

In Irish, however, these will be different words, **Cá huair** as a question but **nuair** as a conjunction.

"Where?" is literally, "What place?", **Cén ait?** /ken AWCHT/, again with an **-n** separating the two vowels.

We will keep working on these "Wh- words" for a while. Americans have largely lost the difference between "What?" and "Which?" but Irish has not – so we will reserve "Which?" and "Why?" for a future column.

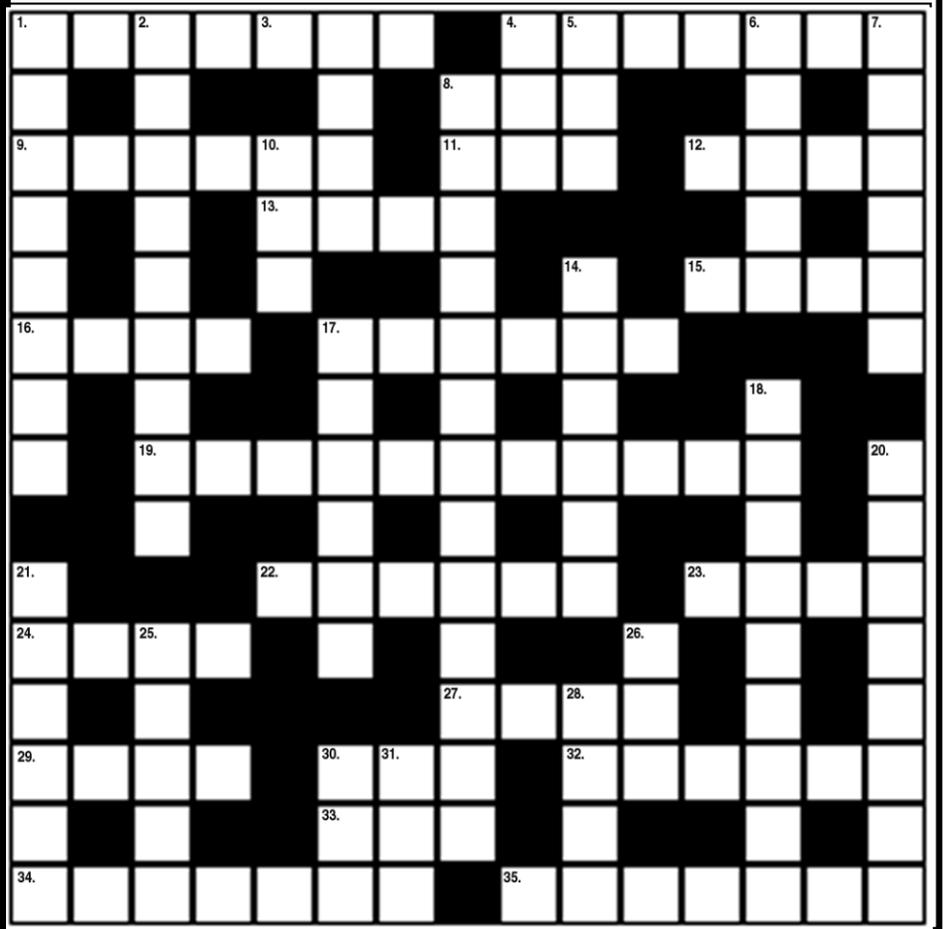
Now, see if you can translate these sentence and phrases into Irish. 1.) "Where did it happen?" 2.) "How many girls?" 3.) "How much is a cup of tea?" 4.) "What is your name?" 5.) "Where is he from?" 6.) "It's half past ten." 7.) "Where is your boat?"

Answers: 1.) **Cén ait a tharla sé?** 2.) **Cá mhéad cailín?** 3.) **Cá mhéad cupáin tae?** 4.) **Cá an t-ainm atá ort?** 5.) **Cad as dó?** 6.) **Tá sé a leathuair eis a deich.** 7.) **Cén ait atá an mbad agat?**

I hope that you remembered to eclipse "boat" above when you said, "the." **Bad** is "a boat" but "the boat" is **an mbad**. Also, did you recall that there is an "unwritten" vowel sound /uh/ between **n** and **m** in **ainm**?

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

- Loud reference to English city of 'dreaming spires' in Mayo town known for its woollen industry. (7)
- Con rang up the ancient Irish lake island fort. (7)
- After tea apparently, that is to say, secure with cord. (3)
- Nine at odds with natural consequence. (6)
- Owned that one was a victim of a trick commonly. (3)
- Mark took the cars out. (4)
- Lied about being unemployed. (4)
- Quantity of land in Clare acreage. (4)
- Reverberating mountain nymph heard in Ballymote choral production. (4)
- No chip cooked for the Polish piano man. (6)
- Get ball Gary, it's over in the small Kilkenny town where Black Thomas was captured in 1600. (11)
- There's nothing in the hairdressers' becoming a bar. (6)
- Ale, we hear, one for the last road? (4)
- High feature in Glencar church. (4)
- Put together or back to back to fix firmly in the ground. (4)
- " -- bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee." Yeats. (4)
- "What charm can soothe her melancholy What – can wash her guilt away?" Goldsmith (3)
- Sound head needed in West Cork village by the River Ilen and Roaring Water Bay west of Skibbereen. (6)
- Fun commonly describing a substance that is neither solid nor liquid. (3)
- Lamp burner not up much in Leinster county town on slopes of Ballyguile hill where Captain Halpin of the 'Great Eastern', which layed the transatlantic cables, was born. (7)
- Lose way to green in Longford village near Ballymahon where Leo Casey, the balladeer lived. (7)

DOWN

- Fade hair (anag.) Antrim N.E. extremity of Ireland with view of Scotland, also known as Benmore. (4,4)
- Open box he smashed led to him hating strangers. (9)
- Peruse the book we hear, in a rush at the side of the water. (4)

- American company is initially the third I article indefinitely. (1.1.1.)
- Revolutionary takes a note from 3 down. (3)
- Northern Region leaders take in frozen water, that's more agreeable. (5)
- Tag ran when laundered in Donegal lake with a modern Celtic Cross where St. Colmcille was born. (6)
- Thus force tour around Dublin's centre of justice which was shelled during the Civil War. (3,4,6)
- Mine turned over at the extreme end. (3)
- Six grin about maiden in a Megastore on the quays in Dublin. (6)
- All can come over to Kilkenny town where O'Carroll and 800 men were slain in 1408 by the English. (6)
- Curt rites will suffice as a criticism. (9)
- Dry liner crumbles in Fermanagh village on the upper Lough Erne near Trasna Island. (8)
- Embargo at this time in Wexford old town, the first corporation town built by the Normans. (6)
- With a circular base tapering to a point in Kilcormac on ice. (5)
- Irish third level educational institution seen initially included in art colleges. (1.1.1.)
- Nordic city referred to in Portnoo slogan. (4)
- In time past in Bunrana golfing. (3)
- " – towns that we believe and die in; it survives, A way of happening, a mouth." W.H. Auden - In Memory of W.B. Yeats. (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

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."

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Thirty-Two Counties

Antrim: Residents of Glenam now have to travel the two miles to Carnlough in order to post a letter, following the removal of the village's post box. The box had been set into the wall of the sub-post office on Toberwine Street and its removal follows the closure of the sub-post office six months ago following the resignation of the sub-postmaster. Responding to complaints about the sudden removal of the box, a Royal Mail spokesperson said they were seeking planning permission for an alternative venue for the post box. She also suggested that residents hand their letters to the postman for posting.

Armagh: A partnership comprising the Department of Social Development, the EU and Craigavon Borough Council will see major work carried out on the park in Portadown. The 7.2-million euro project will include a large children's play park, a garden trail that will reflect the history of McGredy's Roses, and a lake. An entrance feature will be the base for full-time park rangers whose function will be to educate the public on the amenities available. It is expected that work will begin on the twenty-seven acre site once the tendering process is complete, and it is expected to be completed within two years.

Carlow: A survey carried out in Carlow town has found that more than ninety per cent of those questioned claimed to have some level of Irish, while of the remainder more than half were born outside Ireland. "Survey on People's Experience and Opinions of the Irish Language in Carlow 2010" questioned three hundred people in the town, which had one of the earliest Gaelscoils in the country. Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc opened almost thirty years ago while the secondary school, Gaelcholaiste Cheatharlach opened in 1990. Among those whose children have been educated through Irish is Sarah Clarke, who is married to a Spaniard.

Cavan: On loan from the National Museum of Ireland and Armagh Public Library are two artifacts which are to be on display in Cavan County Museum for ten days. From the National Museum comes The Breac Maedoc, or St. Mogue's Shrine, a bronze case dating from the ninth century which originally housed the saint's relics and which was kept at Drumlane Abbey in the Middle Ages. Legend has it that the Bell of St. Mogue, the second item on display, was given to him at his birth by St. Killian. Before being moved to the Armagh Public Library it was kept on Mogue's Island for centuries.

Clare: A bottle thrown into the sea off the coast of Florida found its way to Clare where it was picked up by a student on holiday in Kilbaha. The bottle was found by Adam Flannery from Athlone who took it to local bar owner Bernie Keathing for help with opening it. There was a note inside to the effect that the bottle was part of an oceanography project and the Flannery family e-mailed the high school from which it had been one of 150 bottles dispatched into the sea. It had taken the wine bottle more than a year to make the 3,700-mile journey.

Cork: The Bridhaven Nursing Home in Mallow has received a total of three quality awards, the first nursing home in Ireland or Britain to achieve the distinction. Opened twenty-one years ago and owned and run for the past six years by Paul and Maryclare Rochford,

the nursing home holds the ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard, the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard, and the OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Standard. Last year the Rochfords added an extension to the building and earlier this year opened the Clyda Suite for dementia patients.

Derry: Restoration work has been carried out recently at the Guildhall in Derry city and in the course of the work a time capsule was uncovered. The capsule dates from the time that work started on the new city hall in August 1887 and contains a selection of coins from the period, copies of newspapers and other documents. The capsule was found under the foundation stone of the Guildhall and, according to the head of museum services in the city Roisin Doherty, the discovery emphasizes the human side to the story of the building.

Donegal: Art Parkinson from Moville has landed a part in the new television series "Game of Thrones," in which he will act along with Sean Bean. The series, based on the novels of George RR Martin, is to be filmed in Belfast, Malta and Morocco, and the eight-year-old from Moville was in competition with young actors from England and Scotland for the part. A pupil at Gaelscoil Cois Feabhail, Art had his own trailer on the film set, complete with a television and fridge. His mother, Movania, is an actress who runs her own drama school.

Down: A reunion was to be held late last month for former colleagues of McCann's bakery in Newry, at Newry and Mourne Museum which is the former site of the bakery. The bakery was run by five generations of the family before being taken over by Irwin's in the 1990s and it features in a permanent display at the museum. When restoration work was taking place in the past decade a number of artifacts were found, including a message from employees from sixty years ago, and these will be on display at the reunion. Among those attending the event will be Peter McSherry and former manager Gerry Murphy.

Dublin: Dave Grennan was about to go to bed when he decided to take one last look through the powerful telescope he has installed in an observatory at his Raheny home. And he has now recorded the most significant discovery ever made by an Irish astronomer, a supernova exploding star which was the first to be discovered from Irish soil. The supernova, designated 2010IK, was officially confirmed by international astronomy authorities, and software developer Dave and his wife Carol opened a bottle of champagne to celebrate their discovery.

Fermanagh: Although it was devastated by flooding almost a year ago, the leisure centre at the Share Centre in Lisnaskea reopened last month after major repair works had been carried out. In last November's floods, when three months' worth of rain fell in three weeks, Lough Erne overflowed into the swimming pool at the centre. Last month's official opening of the facility was carried out by Dame Mary Peters, though Assembly member Tommy Gallagher has warned of further problems, since an adjacent caravan park was again under water over the last few weeks.

Galway: Galway city is to have a Christmas market this year, similar to those held in Germany and other European



countries. In a few weeks, work will begin on the construction of some one hundred wooden chalets on Eyre Square and the market, which is due to run for four weeks, is expected to attract up to 300,000 shoppers to the city. Local hotels have already put together 'stay and shop' packages for prospective customers. The market, which met with some opposition from local traders, is being organized by the Galway City Business Association.

Kerry: A bottle found by gravedigger John Dennehy at the graveyard at Kilbonane, Beaufort has now found a permanent place in the Kerry County Museum. John found the bottle while tending his parents' grave and realized it was very old. It bore the words "JJ Harrington Steam Factory Tralee" and can be traced back to the factory, which produced gases for mineral waters, making it some 140 years old. It is presumed that the bottle was brought to the cemetery as part of the tradition of bringing holy water to bless the graves.

Kildare: When Joseph Lynch, principal of Rathangan National School, arrived at the school on his last day he was greeted by banners and flags to mark the occasion. Joseph, a Kerryman, has been teaching in the school for thirty-five years, twenty-two of them as principal. For two hours during the day the staff and pupils were joined by parents for the cutting of a celebratory cake. Tributes were paid to him by Michelle McComm of the parents' association and Maureen Hamilton, chairperson of the board of management.

Kilkenny: The 2011 All-Ireland and International Sheep Shearing Championships have been confirmed for Cillin Hill indoor arena over the June Bank Holiday weekend next year. Hosted by Clara GAA Club, the event is expected to attract up to 15,000 visitors from at home and overseas. The championships themselves will be run alongside a family-focused program to include arts and crafts exhibitions, information seminars, music, entertainment and artisan foods. According to event co-ordinator Marie Doyle the event is expected to give a 4-million euro boost to the local economy.

to complete the work.

Louth: The title of Supreme Cheese, awarded at the inaugural Irish Cheese Awards at the RDS in Dublin last month, was given to the Bellingham Blue cheese, made at the Glyde Farm at Mansfieldstown in Castlebellingham. More than 100 cheeses were entered for the title and Peter Thomas of Glyde Farm welcomed the award, commenting that it not only recognized the hard work that went into producing the cheese, but it would also have a positive effect on the Glyde Farm brand. The Thomas family have been making the blue cheese for the past ten years.

Mayo: Chairperson of Iompar Castlebar Therese Ruane is calling for the Town Council to consider the possibility of developing a walking and cycling link with the Great Western Greenway. Her proposal would see an initial trail established to link Lough Lannagh and Bilberry Lake, and Islandeady in the first phase, while the second phase would see the link extended to the Greenway. Councillor Therese Ruane is also hoping that trails can be developed in the one hundred acres of woodland in Rehins Woods, in collaboration with Coillte.

Meath: A report on a significant earthwork discovered at Crewbane has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of an objection to the route of the proposed N2 bypass running east of Slane. The discovery was made by archaeologists from the Brú na Bóinne Research Project at the instigation of former attorney general John Rogers, who lives close to the site. Three years ago a souterrain was found at Crewbane, and it is now thought that there is a second and possibly a third souterrain in the area. The earthwork averages four meters in height and extends for twenty-three meters.

Monaghan: Eamon McEnaney from Castleblayney has been selected to become manager of the county senior and under-21 GAA teams. Eamon, who is principal of St. Mary's Boys National School, succeeds Seamus McEnaney, better known as Banty, who has held the post for the last six years. The new manager has chosen as his co-selectors Stephen McGinnity from Drumhowan and Declan Smyth from Carrickmacross, both former county players as is Eamon himself. The trainer for the teams will be Colin O'Hare.

Offaly: As part of its fundraising campaign The Carers Association organized a dance event in Market Square in Tullamore next weekend hoping that hundreds would turn up to dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." The event was part of a global world record attempt for the largest simultaneous dance to the hit, and almost 300 people had pre-registered to take part in the Tullamore event, for which they were encouraged to dress up as zombies. Rehearsals for the annual event took place at Joe Lee's bar on Church Street.

Roscommon: When a group of Pakistani workers were made redundant from Dawn Meats in Ballaghaderreen they decided to use their time to start a cricket team and this year the team brought home the Connacht League title for the third consecutive year. This is the first time this has been achieved, with the club being unbeaten in all twelve matches this year. Club captain Sajjad Hussein, who works as a barber in the town, says there are

(Continued on page 27)

NEWS DIRECT FROM IRELAND

FROM THE IRISH EMIGRANT
First Minister in North Calls For End to Funding for Church Schools – Northern Ireland's First Minister, Peter Robinson, has called for an end to Government funding for Church schools, in other words for Catholic schools, saying that the five education boards should be replaced by one authority. He went on to describe the current education system as "a benign form of apartheid." First to respond was Dónal Flanagan, chief executive of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. He questioned Robinson's timing and motives, noting that the comments were made, not in an educational environment, but at the installation of a DUP mayor in Castlereagh.

Bishop Donal McKeown, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor, defended the right of parents to choose a faith-based education, a right he described as the "hallmark of a stable and pluralist society." Later Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness took issue with Robinson, saying, "If Peter thinks taking on the Catholic Church, the Catholic bishops and indeed the Protestant churches for that matter and other interest groups is a sensible route to go, I think that is a big mistake". He urged him to seek consensus on the future of education.

Children's Hospital to open in 2015 – Details of the proposed National Children's Hospital were released last month at an event in the Grand Canal Theatre. Work on the spectacular 16-storey building on the Mater Hospital Campus is expected to start late next year and to be completed in late 2014. The debate on the location, which should be long dead, is, however, continuing.

The hospital should open in early 2015, a year behind schedule, but when it does open it will indeed be state of the art. The top eight stories, in which the wards will be housed, is an elongated elegantly curved structure that will dominate the skyline of north Dublin; it will be taller than Liberty Hall. Much of the roof space, which is at different levels across the entire site, is given over to gardens and play areas. Each

Ireland Today: Worried About Jobs But Still Among Europe's Happiest

A Eurostat survey on mental health has found that the Irish are among the happiest in Europe, with 79 percent saying they were happy for most or all of the four weeks prior to being questioned. Irish people have the lowest level of physical or emotional problems, are less likely than most to be tense or depressed, and are among the most likely to feel calm and peaceful. Another statistic on job security suggests that the Irish should be depressed and worried. One Irish person in three felt that their job was under threat, compared with one in six in Germany.

of the 445 individual rooms will include a drop-down bed for the use of a parent who needs to be with his or her child.

The choice of site has been controversial since it was announced over four years ago. While the team tasked with choosing the location gave accessibility as one of the reasons for its choice, others have been arguing since that the streets around the Mater are usually congested.

Those opposed to the site are willing to accept further delays in the opening of the much-needed hospital and have promised to lodge objections with An Bord Pleanála. The matter isn't helped by the media, which gives more exposure to one dissenting retired pediatric consultant than to the dean of the faculty of pediatrics at the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland who represents 140 paediatricians.

The project is expected to cost 650-million euro.

Inflation rate now 0.5% – The Consumer Price Index increased by 0.5 percent in the year to September but there was a 0.1 percent decrease on the previous month. The annual rate of inflation for Services was 2.1 percent, while Goods decreased by 1.6 percent. Using the EU Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), prices were 1 percent lower than a year ago and 0.2 percent lower than in August. The most significant monthly price decreases were in airfares and medical insurance, while the price of clothing and footwear rose due to a further

recovery in prices following the traditional summer sales.

New cars sales up 106 percent – New car sales in September jumped by 106 percent when compared with September 2009 although the number of cars sold in September of last year was the lowest for the month since 1967. The total sales in September of 4,683 was higher than in September 2008. Renault (752) was the most popular make, followed by Toyota (681), Volkswagen (479), and Ford (432).

Teenage births decline – Figures released by the Central Statistics Office show a decline in births to teenage mothers over the same period last year. In the first quarter of 2009 3.1 percent of all births were to teenage mothers, while for the same period this year the figure was 2.8 percent. The figures also show an overall decline in births, with 252 fewer babies being born during the quarter, compared to 2009. The average age of women giving birth in the first three months of this year, at 31.4 years, has risen by almost two months in comparison with the figure for the same period in 2009, while there has been a similar rise in the average age of women giving birth to their first child which now stands at 29.2 years.

Gardaí uncover dissident republican arms cache – Gardaí dealt another blow to dissident republicans by uncovering an arms cache during searches in Counties Louth and Meath last month. More arms were found in Tallaght and

the PSNI appear to have made significant arrests in the North.

Separately the Irish News reports that a leading member of the Continuity IRA, who is suspected by his fellow republicans of giving information to the PSNI in connection with an attack on a PSNI trainee in Co. Fermanagh last November, has been taken into a garda witness protection scheme along with his family. The Ballyshannon man was being sought by dissident republican leaders following the arrest of two senior members during the Fermanagh incident.

Aberdeen academic seeking returned emigrants – Christina Noble of the geography department in the University of Aberdeen is seeking Irish emigrants who returned to the west coast of Ireland during the years of the Celtic Tiger. Ms Noble's study focuses on their experiences of returning and the challenges involved in settling back into the country, in order to have a clear picture of the social and cultural impact of migration over the last 20 years. Anyone interested in volunteering for the study can contact Ms Noble at christina.noble@abdn.ac.uk

Hunt defies ban on stag hunting – Despite the recent ban on stag hunting in this country the Ward Union Hunt has issued a list of fixtures for the season in the hope that a legal team engaged will be able to find a loophole in the recent legislation. The list of fixtures has been forwarded to gardaí by animal rights activists who hope to see the hunt officials prosecuted. However Ronan Griffin, spokesman for the hunt, insists that whatever course of action they take will be within

Aer Lingus maintains schedule despite 'work to rule' – Aer Lingus flights were operating normally in mid-September despite the threats from the IMPACT union that its cabin crew members would revert to old rosters, which included long meal breaks and frequent rest days. IMPACT has also told its members not to accept assignments on the airline's Madrid-Washington DC service. It is not clear if any staff have refused to follow

management's instructions, as doing so will lead to the withdrawal of travel privileges and possible dismissal. Soon after the "work to rule" commenced, it was learned that Aer Lingus pilots had voted to take industrial action in a similar row over rosters. Details of the pilots' proposed action were contained in a trading statement in which Aer Lingus upgraded its operating profit while at the same time stating that this depended on staff not disrupting operations with industrial action.

The high price of official cars – Arising from written questions to the Dáil by Fine Gael's Simon Coveney concerning the cost of government cars and drivers, it has emerged that over the past two years it has cost 11-million euro to provide Garda drivers and State cars to a number of Government personnel. These include Cabinet Ministers, the President, the Chief Whip, Ceann Comhairle and former taoisigh. Coveney, party transport spokesman, said Fine Gael would introduce civilian drivers for State cars apart from those used by the Taoiseach and Minister for Justice, and would also encourage TDS to do their own driving.

Georgina Campbell Award winners announced – L'Ecrivain in Dublin has been named Restaurant of the Year at the 2011 Georgina Campbell Awards. Other major awards went to Henry Stone of Sha-Roe Bistro, Clonegal, Co. Carlow (Chef of the Year); Kelly's Resort Hotel, Rosslare, Co. Wexford (Hotel of the Year); and Hargadon's, Sligo (Pub of the Year).

Wanted urgently: uilleann pipe makers – Founding member of The Chieftains Seán Potts has warned of a shortage of uilleann pipe makers in this country, with fewer than 20 left, while pipes are manufactured in Britain, the US, Canada, France, and Germany. Addressing the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Sport, Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Potts said that Irish players may have to wait as long as seven years for their own set of pipes, with a backlog in orders valued at 7-million euro.

THIRTY-TWO COUNTIES

(Continued from page 26)
 members from aged thirteen to sixty-four including Pakistanis, some Irish and one Indian, and they practice in the local golf club as they have no funds to secure their own grounds.

Sligo: Two men from Sligo town and one from Mullaghmore have completed their 9,500-mile drive to Mongolia which they undertook to raise funds for North West Hospice. Tom McGuinn and David Armstrong, along with Mullaghmore man Brendan McGowan, left Sligo early in July in a Volkswagen Passat which was auctioned at the end of the journey and the money donated to a children's orphanage in Ulan Bator. The trio raised 8,500 euro for the hospice, some of it by means of a raffle, with Michael Coleman from Tawley winning the 1,000-euro prize.

Tipperary: The hostel in Cloughjordan, Ireland's first eco-village, is almost complete and is due to open this month. With thirty-two beds and ten en suite rooms, it is hoped that the hostel will boost tourism in the area by attracting groups of walkers, cyclists, fishermen, and those interested in watersports. According to Pat

Finucane, hostel manager, it is expected that tourists coming to see the village itself will also avail of the accommodation at the hostel, while a number of third-level colleges have also expressed an interest in running courses in association with the eco-village.

Tyrone: Glen Huey of Oakdene farm in Castlederg is leading the way in energy conservation with the installation of a wind turbine on his farm that can be seen for miles around. The organic dairy farmer uses the energy provided by the turbine for the running of the farm, and supplies the surplus to the national grid. Glen plans to install more of the huge turbines on his farm in the future, and has also received enquiries from other farmers in the area so he expects others to follow his example and erect their own turbines.

Waterford: The proposed visit to Ireland next year of Britain's Queen Elizabeth may well include at least a one-night stay in Lismore Castle. Owned by the Duke of Devonshire, a close friend of the royal family, the castle is believed to be particularly suited to the security necessary for such a visit. Word

that the queen might come to Lismore has been welcomed by Mayor Orla Russell, who said she would be welcome to Lismore just as any other visitor would. Meanwhile Councillor Bernard Leddy stressed the economic benefits to the town of such a visit.

Westmeath: When Norman Thompson, originally from Mullingar, opened his front door in Washington last week he was rendered speechless by whom he found on the doorstep. For standing there was his younger brother Trevor, who was one of the winners of the National Lottery Big Money Game TV show. Trevor had not seen his brother for sixteen years, although he had been in the States on a number of occasions, and this time he had contacted Norman's wife Michelle to warn her that he was on his way. The Mullingar postman traveled to the US with his wife Tara.

Wexford: Some 100 family members and friends gathered at Clonard Church one day last month to say goodbye to a group of friends who were catching PJ Walker's bus en route to Dublin Airport and a flight to Perth in Australia. Darren Bergin,

John Wadding Byrne, Lee Gogins, David McCarthy, Sharon McCormack, Glen McManus, Calum O'Neill, Shane O'Connor and Johnny Waters were mostly employed in the construction industry in Wexford and jobs have disappeared in the last year or so. The group had a going away party at the Danby Lodge last weekend.

Wicklow: A total of twenty-seven heifers are on their way to needy families in Rwanda after spending eighteen months at Shelton Abbey Prison being

cared for by the prisoners. The Spring Calf Appeal is run by Bóthar, a charity that specializes in providing African families with the means of a livelihood and the heifers were donated to the charity. Under the same scheme the prisoners have already reared a large number of goats at the prison's on-site farm and, according to prison governor Michael Lawton, the prisoners appreciate the opportunity to give something back to society.



IRELAND'S WEATHER

REPORTED MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010

It was a particularly pleasant week with plenty of sunshine although it has turned colder with ice on the car windscreen on Wednesday morning for the first time since last winter. The only appreciable rain came on Friday. We should wake up to another frost today but then it will turn milder, although wet and windy, for much of the week. The frost could return on Friday night.

Latest Temperatures:
Day 10C (50F) Night 1C (34F)

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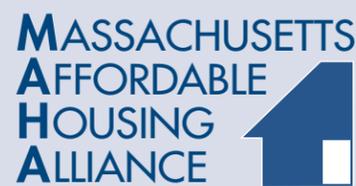
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