

April 2014
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Cover Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

Editor's Corner

The Honor is Mine

March has been a month like no other. I am a Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade delegate to the United Irish Societies, representing Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival. The UIS are 28 organizations, together, responsible for putting on the Parade. This year's Parade was the 147th Annual.

Each year the UIS select a Grand Marshall, a Mother of the Year and two Chairs; one called the Outside Chair, is selected from organizations outside the UIS, and an Inside Chair is selected from organizations within the UIS. Lifelong friend and fellow Fest volunteer John Lackey nominated me for the Inside Chair honor. The honorees are selected by the vote of all UIS Delegates.



John O'Brien, Jr.

Grand Marshall Andy Dever, Mother of the Year Bridie Joyce, Outside Chair Mark Owens and I are the 2014 Honorees. We followed Andy leading the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. A trademark of Cleveland's parade is that it is always held on St. Patrick's Day.

My earliest memories are of being a marcher with the West Side Irish American Club, and on a bus to the parade, on a day much colder than this year's. I remember sitting on Tom Byrne's lap, him bear hug-

ging me, to keep me warm.

I remember painting at the old WSIA on 93rd with Kevin Jennings, and always getting the calls from Dad, "Johnny, What are you doing? I don't know Dad, what did you volunteer me for?" That led to McDonough's Brigade and the fish fries, cleaning up after events and many other events and tasks.

It was of particular honor for me to stand up this year with these honorees. Mark works with me on the OhIAN, writing Owens Sports. The OhIAN is now more than 7 years old!

I went to St. Mel Grade School with Bridie's children. St. Mel is the nephew of St. Patrick. Eileen Joyce and I were classmates, and Terry and Maureen were on either side of me. I got the opportunity to spend some time with Andy in Ireland in October, as part of the Cuyahoga County Delegation, and have had a few great

chats since. He always teases me because I take a lot of pictures. I always tease him that he will be the centerfold this month.

One of the most gratifying parts of these past week or 10 days, is meeting people who come up to say congrats, and them telling me their stories about the paper, about what it means to them. You never know if you are on the right track, if what you are doing is paying forward the gifts you have received.

There is no easy way to end this: To the UIS, to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, to everyone who said Congrats and shared a story, and allowed me to be a part of their celebrations, I simply say: Thank you.

There are many pics, and more of the story on my facebook page and blog, if you would like to check them out. Links are below.

The finale to all the United Irish Societies events is the

Awards banquet, to be held this year on April 13th at the West Side Irish American Club. It is unprecedented for all four UIS honorees to be from the WSIA< so it is fitting that the banquet be held there. I am looking forward to it, and the opportunity to gather with all the honorees once more, and to say, I am humbled, I am blessed. The honor tho, is mine.

Slán, John

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Dancers from the Murphy Irish Arts Center grace our cover. Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.



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I admit, readers, that Irish lamb is not something I've cooked. I happily indulge in my Dad's BBQ lamb chops and even ate my entire plate of lamb and potatoes at my County Down wedding dinner. My Northern Irish mother-in-law serves up a mean lamb too, but I never got on the wagon, until now.

"I like lamb with sweetness ... carrots, parsnips, sweet baby turnips or peas or even green garlic," said Abra

Many great chefs have passed through the doors of Ballymaloe, including Berens' mentor Rodger Bowser. He was the one that encouraged Berens to look into Ballymaloe.

Once Berens arrived at the school, she was not disappointed. She dove in headfirst, immersing herself in the opportunity to learn from a master, just like Darina Allen did many years before from Myrtle Allen, the farm's



Berens, owner of Bare Knuckle Farm and alumna of the Ballymaloe Cookery School in Shanagarry in County Cork, Ireland. "I like the gaminess to it. I like a big roast cut, such as leg of lamb or the shoulder so that you get some of that fat in the dish, because it smells and tastes more barny."

She had me hooked, almost. I couldn't get past the word 'barny.' I felt better when she said, "As far as lamb goes, people are either lamb lovers or haters." I decided to give it a try.

Berens has done more than try—she has flourished—bringing Ireland back to the Midwest, where she is the co-owner and chef at Bare Knuckle Farm in Northern Michigan. She attributes the way she approaches food and farming to her childhood experiences and to the three-month program at Ballymaloe.

She had an expert teacher, the legendary Darina Allen. Some call Allen the Julia Child of Ireland. Allen is the founder of the cookery school, a farm activist and huge promoter of farmers markets (she reinvigorated the farmer's market movement in Ireland in the late 1980s).

original Irish mother, home cook and a farmer. (Darina married Myrtle's son, hence the shared Allen surname.)

Back, in the Midwest though, Berens' learning experiences with Allen inform her farming and cooking. Berens and her business partner, Jess Piskor, dedicate themselves and their business to small-scale agriculture that supplies a healthful, delicious and diverse array of vegetables to their friends and neighbors. In 2013, they started private farm dinners using the finest Leelanau County ingredients.

At Bare Knuckle, just like at Ballymaloe, you will find chickens escaping and hogs misbehaving. "We had two naughty hogs at Bare Knuckle. A pig was walking straight to the barn where our farm dinner was happening. I quickly had to divert them. The pigs know they aren't supposed to be out," she said.

And once at Ballymaloe, a well-to-do London classmate of Berens' found a freshly laid egg in her kitchen shoe. "Blame the constantly escaping chickens," said Berens. "Working on a farm, you get used to animals getting out."

Escaping animals aside, Berens remembers her time in Ireland with great fondness, and it's clear the experience deeply impacted her on a personal and professional level. "It's a lens through which I view my food. I have a tendency to use Irish dishes—brown breads, rich butter—as ingredients in their own right," she said.

We both laughed over our shared experience with America's attitude toward road trips and the contrasting difficulty of navigating Ireland in a single day.

Upon her arrival, when Berens asked how she could get from Belfast International Airport to Ballymaloe, everyone insisted she take two buses, not one. "You have to stop in Dublin, it's too far to go in one trip," she reminisced. "A busload of people was diverted to Ballymaloe to drop me off. People took time to be open and hospitable."

Berens misses Ireland and stays in touch with Allen, exchanging emails now and then, but she hopes to go back to visit soon. "It's been too long," she said. "Before you arrive, you have an image of what a place is going to look like. After you've walked the road into town every day for two months, it changes," she said. The more familiar the path became, the more at home she felt in Shanagarry.

In the meantime, here's her Midwest take on an Irish Easter lamb. "Thank Myrtle for the cumin," said Berens. Myrtle Allen added cumin to the legendary Irish lamb pies and now Berens always associates that spice with lamb. We will too.

Roast Leg of Lamb with Cumin, Garlic and Herbs

Recipe by Abra Berens

Note: Berens recommends buying lamb at The Butcher & Larder or Publican Quality Meats.

Ingredients

1 leg of lamb, 8oz raw weight per person
4 cloves garlic
1 T cumin seed
½ C olive oil
½ C chopped fresh herbs; parsley, rosemary, thyme, chervil, mint, chives, tarragon etc.
salt and pepper



potatoes, 4-6oz raw weight per person
fresh or frozen peas, 2oz per person
carrots, 1 per person

Cooking Instructions

- In a small saucepan, toast the cumin until it is fragrant and begins to pop.
- Remove from the heat and add the olive oil to cool the seeds and steep the flavor.
- Smash and chop the garlic until into a fine paste.
- When the oil has cooled, add the garlic, herbs, a good pinch of salt and pepper and whisk to combine.
- Season the leg with a healthy amount of salt and pepper. Pour half of cumin oil over the leg of lamb and rub into the meat. Allow to sit for several hours or, better, overnight.
- A couple of hours before serving, remove the lamb from the refrigerator if necessary and bring to room temperature.
- Heat oven to 350F.
- Cut the potatoes into large pieces and scatter over a large roasting dish.
- Rest the leg of lamb on top of the potatoes and roast for approximately 18 minutes per lb. of lamb.
- Wash, peel and cut the carrots into bite size pieces.
- Remove from oven, cover with tin foil and allow the leg to rest for 10-15 min before carving.
- While the potatoes are still hot, toss them with the peas and raw carrot and more fresh herbs, whatever you have around.
- Carve the lamb and serve with the potato salad and reserved cumin oil.



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By J. Michael Finn



Attack on the Grey Ghost

There is no war as bitter and divisive as a civil war. It doesn't matter in what country it occurs or what the issues are in contention. Civil war pits brother against brother, family against family and neighbor against neighbor.

Ireland's own civil war in 1922 was particularly divisive. What occurred, was division within an already divided country.

After the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921, the 26-county Irish Free State was divided between those who supported the Treaty and those who clearly did not. By the summer of 1922, the heated debate festered into civil war. The opponents and proponents divided into two armed camps: The Pro-Treaty forces, represented by the Irish Free State that had been created by the Treaty, and the Anti-Treaty forces represented

by Republicans who believed the Treaty was a betrayal of republican principles.

The civil war began in June 1922 and lasted until May 1923. It was a bloody affair that resulted in over 3,500 deaths. Encounters between the Free State Forces and the IRA "Irregulars" often ended with casualties and prisoners being taken. In many situations, prisoners were executed or treated badly. Kilmainham Jail was again filled with republican prisoners. This time their jailer was the Irish Free State.

The railway system in Ireland has always been a vital link in moving people and

supplies. During the Civil War it was also vital that the Free State demonstrate that it could keep the trains running, as most areas of Ireland depended upon the trains for transportation and food. Given its importance, the rail system was often a target of the Anti-Treaty IRA attacks.

Tracks and bridges were

cars for use on the railway.

The Corps purchased twelve Lancia Triota Armored Cars, manufactured by the British in 1921; two were equipped with machine gun turrets. The cars were adapted for use on the rails by the Inchicore Railway Works of Dublin. The modified Lancia Armoured railcar reached a speed of 25-mph and 12-mph in reverse on the tracks. They were protected by a shield of 6-mm armour. In addition, they added a new pitched roof or hood over the open driver's compartment. Because of this, they were often referred

The seventh battalion of the 3rd Tipperary Brigade of the IRA decided to ambush the Grey Ghost early in the morning of Sunday, October 15, 1922, between two bridges, just west of the village of Moyglass between Clonmel and Thurles in County Tipperary. The Commander of the IRA battalion was Bill Quirke, he was accompanied by about twelve men, including Sean Hayes, Jimmy Hayes, George Plant and Jimmy Plant.

The IRA's plan was to explode a land mine under the vehicle on its way to Thurles. The explosion would be the

fire. The besieged Free State soldiers, under the Leadership of Lieutenant Quinlan, returned fire, mainly using the Lewis gun, manned by Corporal Tom O'Shea. This began an intense firefight between the occupants of the armored car and the surrounding IRA force.

After three hours of fighting, the crew of the Grey Ghost ran out of ammunition and surrendered, or as Sean Fitzpatrick says in his book, *Recollections of the Fight for Irish Freedom* by 3rd Tipperary Brigade – "They gave up the Ghost."

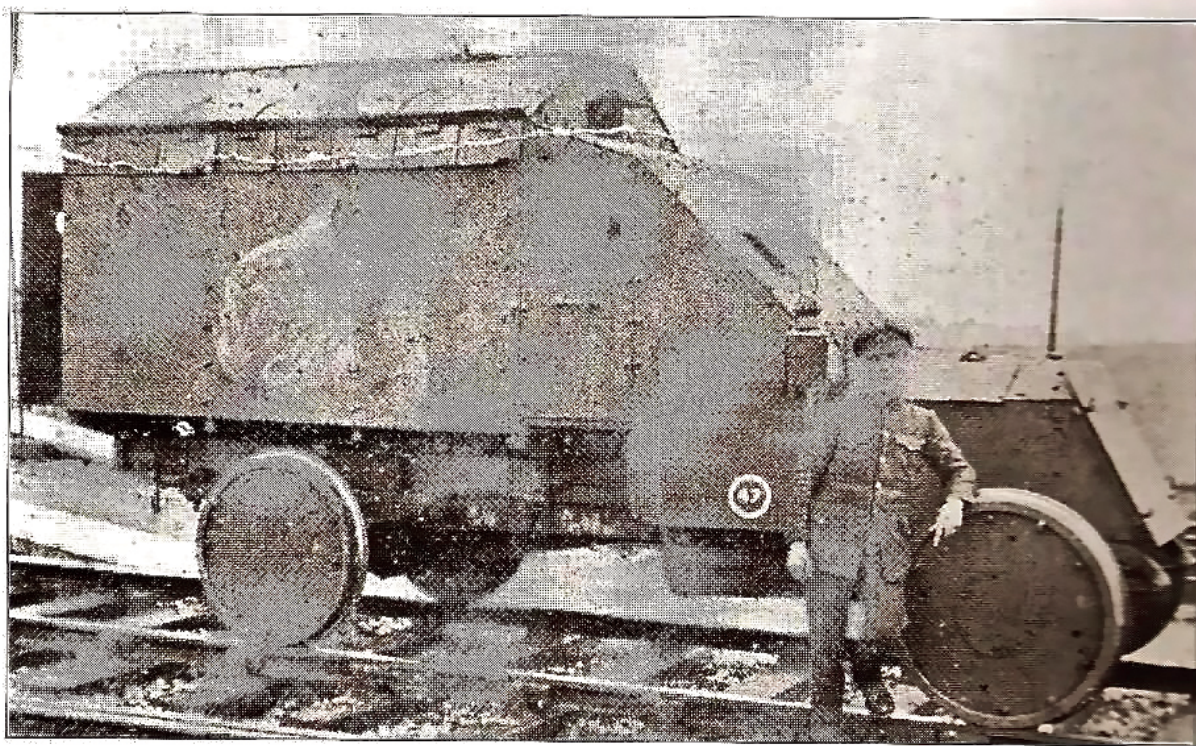
The fire-fight ended without casualties on either side. Prisoners were not taken and the only punishment inflicted on the surrendering Free State soldiers was to relieve them of their weapons and strip them of their overcoats.

The Grey Ghost was set on fire by the IRA attackers but it was only partially burned. What became of the Grey Ghost after the fire is unclear, it may have been refurbished and placed back in service. One of the exterior lanterns from the Grey Ghost was taken away by one of the IRA men and left at Jimmy Cleary's forge in Moyglass, where it remained for some years.

The attack on the Grey Ghost at Moyglass was in many ways a unique event. It certainly lacked the bitterness and bloodshed of most Civil War encounters between the opposing sides.

However, as the story goes, it did have a rather unusual outcome: when the attack was over, both the attackers and defenders adjourned to a pub in Moyglass, where they drank to each other's health.

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blown up or damaged and trains carrying Free State troops were often attacked. Soon after the start of the Civil War, major rail lines were being closed and the distribution of food was being hampered.

In September 1922, the Free State established The Railway Protection, Repair and Maintenance Corps, with headquarters at Griffith Barracks, in Dublin. The first act of the Corps was to establish fortified posts or blockhouses along key railway lines to keep watch in the event attempts were made to tear-up or mine tracks and bridges. The second action was the building of armored trains and

to as "Hooded Terrors".

Each car carried a crew of twelve men, heavily armed with rifles and handguns. The vehicle's main weapon was a Lewis machine gun. The vehicles with turrets had two Lewis guns. The cars became a formidable and effective weapon.

The Lancia armoured cars were used as escorts for trains as well as patrol vehicles. Moving between blockhouses and stations along the rail line, they were meant to discourage sabotage of the tracks and bridges. The most famous of these vehicles was known as the "Grey Ghost," because of its grey camouflage painting and the silence of its movements.

signal for the rest of the IRA force to open fire on the vehicle. The IRA had men deployed on each bridge and in the area between the bridges. On its trip north from Clonmel, the Grey Ghost escaped the attack; the land mine planted under the tracks failed to explode.

On its return trip, the Grey Ghost was stopped midway between the bridges by a stone barrier the IRA had constructed across the tracks. When it tried to pull back, the crew noticed that another stone barrier had been quickly placed behind them, preventing them from withdrawing.

As soon as the Grey Ghost came to a stop the IRA opened

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Site Man Bill Garvey

By JC Sullivan

In April, 2014, Cleveland will host the world premier of Captain America: The Winter Soldier. Director Joe Russo was quoted as saying our town looks great on the big screen. He and his brother Anthony were in town last summer for filming.

While both are Cleveland natives, the locations filmed in the movie were scouted by Marvel movie's Ohio Location Manager, Bill Garvey. A native New Yorker, Garvey moved to Cleveland in the autumn of 2008.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Garvey got his first taste of filmmaking as a runner for Rudy as it was being filmed at the South Bend College. "I was hired as a runner and after that first taste I jumped into the film business straight out of college." Not knowing anyone in the trade, he did what came naturally and sent out a ton of resumes to any and all the production companies he found in the trade papers.

What does a Location Manager do? "My first task is to meet with the director and production designer to discuss their interpretation of the locations in the script. Then I set out to scout multiple options for each location, guided by their vision. I'm also the person responsible for negotiating contracts with property owners, coordinating with city and county government for permits and municipal support, insurance, payments and solving the logistical issues associated with moving a film crew of 100 to 200 in and out of each location efficiently. I liken it to when the carnival comes to town, with a parade of trucks arriving all at once."

Garvey started out as a production assistant (gofer-coffee getter) on a Jenifer Aniston/Cameron Diaz comedy called She's the One. After a year as a PA he was hired to be a Location Assistant for a

comedy called Half Baked starring Comedy Central's Dave Chappel. "I ended up working with that Location Manager for four years on the Sopranos TV show, working my way up through the ranks, and moved on to a four year stint on Law & Order as an Assistant Location Manager." Since then, Garvey's worked primarily on movies and commercials.

Garvey spent much of his time escorting directors and producers around Cleveland. "They are always impressed with the wide range of architectural looks available to them within such a short distance in Cleveland, ranging from classical to modern, rural farmland less than 30 minutes from urban skyscrapers. That is not the case in New York or California. To reach farmland in New York is at least an hour and a half drive. That extra time moving a company of 20 tractor-trailers and 200 people to a location costs a lot of money. That's only one of the many reasons Cleveland is such an attractive place to film movies. In New York, every beautiful location has been filmed in one movie or



Cleveland's own Bill and Carol Garvey

another. I find tremendous satisfaction in stumbling upon a beautiful building that has never appeared on film before, and that is still possible in Cleveland."

One of the influential events that benefited Ohio was in 2011, when Michigan eliminated its film tax incentive. The Avengers was originally scheduled to shoot in Michigan until the change in tax incentive. The very next day Marvel producers called the Cleveland Film Commission to move the production to take advantage Ohio's tax incentive. Ironically, I was already scouting locations in New York City for six months for The Avengers when this switch from Michigan to Ohio took place. I ended up working on it for over a year."

The most recent Analysis and Economic Impact of the Film Industry in Northeast Ohio & Ohio was published in March, 2012. Prepared by Candi Clouse, M.S., Center for Economic Development, Cleveland State University, it reported the industry accounted for \$35.5 million in household income, \$113 million in output and \$64.2 million in value-added impact. In northeast Ohio alone this translates to \$27.3 million in household income, \$87.1 million in output and \$49.3 million in value-added impact. Take away what it cost the State of Ohio (\$29.9 million) and the bottom line is a return on investment for the state of \$1.20.

Twenty years in the film business has not dampened Garvey's enthusiasm for his work. He says a movie is like a stew. "It stirs together a mixture of acting, cinematography and set design in pursuit of cinematic magic. But we never know exactly what movie we will have until the end of the meal because there are so many variables that affect what ends up on the screen, and the script is only one part. The magical process from script to screen continues to fascinate me and fuels my enthusiasm for my job."

Both Garvey's parents were New York City School Teachers. "We were able to spend a month every summer of my childhood in Ballina, County Mayo, with my Grandparents." Bill currently resides in Rocky River with his wife Carol (Pavlik), a Parma native, and their 20 month old daughter Sara. "I have felt so much at home since moving to Cleveland in 2008. It is such a wonderful place to raise a family because it has such great culture, schools, amenities, museums, restaurants, as well as an affordable cost of living."



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It was my privilege last month to be invited to see the last performance of the Irish Rovers in this area. The Rovers, after 50 long years a'rovin, have decided to hang up their touring boots while they can still reach the hook and enjoy the home life. Their farewell tour is taking them all over the US and a goodly part of the world. I remember buying

legion and extend into every part of the populace. They were the first Irish band to crossover into popular music, even before the Chieftains.

Their most recent release, timed to coincide with their final tour is a three CD mega collection called "50" and crowned with a piece of artwork to dazzle the eye. The cover is a copy of an original painting called "The Life of the Rover" by Hamish Douglas Burgess. It was created in the style of the "Book of Kells" and combined with a modern twist to tell the story of the Irish Rovers, from their origins in Ireland, through forming the band in Canada, noting significant songs through their long career and right up to present day. Within the piece there are 26 historical

their first album (vinyl) in the late 60's at a time when "Irish" records were few and far between. I remember when their single of Shel Silverstein's "Unicorn" went shooting up the charts and added that song to Irish repertoires everywhere. The Irish Rovers joined that small group of Irish artists that everyone knew, whose fame extended beyond the "Irish community" becoming one of the most recognized "Irish" bands ever.

The last concert I saw was very much like every other Rovers concert I saw, packed with fans who knew most of the words to most of the songs. Always a happy crowd, they were banging their hands together and singing along with cousins George and Ian Millar, the lead voices of the Irish Rovers, while Wilcil McDowell played the accordion, Sean O'Driscoll played banjo, Fred Graham handled percussion, Morris Crum manned the keyboards and Geoff Kelly played whistle & flute. Their fans were

references and 11 song references. To get the full story on what's what in the painting and more details on the art, you can visit Hamish's website at mauiceltic.com (yes, he lives in Hawaii!). The painting is available as an art poster from the Irish Rovers website (TheIrishRoversMusic.com) or as a 2'x2' limited edition Giclee print from Hamish himself through his website. Hamish has furnished many of the band's CD covers in recent years, plus has artwork on the Irish Rovers website, staging and other merchandise, and a trip to his website will give you a glimpse of this fascinating artist's work.

The beautiful big 3 CD collection has music from all phases of the Rovers career, some of which were previously only available on vinyl and at least one that is brand new for this tour "Rovers Farewell". It has not been released for general distribution at this time but is available through their website and, of course, at their concerts. Their

tour schedule is also available on their website.

The band plans to continue recording and may play the odd date here and there but, for the most part, they will be taking a very well-deserved break from the intensity of the tour. They are, after all, getting on into middle age.

One more quick note on a fantastic CD that just came in as I was writing this. Leonard Barry, one of the finest, most innovative uilleann pipers I've ever heard, has released "New Road". If you like the pipes as I do, you'll sit slack-jawed as you listen to the music this man draws from his pipes. It is stunning.

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The Time of My Life

By Northern Ohio Rose of Tralee, Kelsey Higgins

I could start at the beginning of my Ohio Rose journey, but there isn't enough space. I can tell you, however, that my dream of becoming a Rose started when I was just 15, and my dear friend, Jackie O'Donnell, who lives in Cork, Ireland, suggested I try out when the time was right. On April 19, 2013, the time was right; I was crowned the Ohio Rose.

It has been a whirlwind year for me and I will recap as much of the highlights as I can. After being crowned the Ohio Rose, my first stop was at a darling little Irish cottage right here in Ohio, where I met with many ladies who offered advice. The best advice I received was "be yourself".

Afterwards, I was honored at a cocktail party at the top of Terminal Tower. It was very posh and I had a great op-



portunity to meet so many of you who support the Northern Ohio Rose. During that get-together I received a Proclamation from the Mayor of Westlake, Dennis Clough. I also received the key to the city of Westlake, which I thought was given only to dignitaries! May 18th, 2013 may have seemed like any other day to you, but to me it was special, for it was

declared Kelsey Higgins' Day in Westlake. Shortly after, I had the honor of being invited to the Ohio State Senate, on May 18, 2013.

There I received a beautiful Recognition on the Senate Floor given to me by Senator Tom Patton. Then I was quickly rushed over to the House of Representatives, where Representative Nan A. Baker also gave me Recognition on the floor of the House of Representatives. To top off my month of May, I made the cover of the Ohio Irish American News, May edition. With my grandparents living in Strongsville, we swiped as many copies as possible! We didn't know it, but the fun was just beginning; summer came and I headed to Portlaoise, Ireland, where I competed in the semi-final round of the Rose of Tralee.

I met women from all over the world, and made friendships I will cherish for a lifetime. I did not make it to the final round of the Rose of Tralee, but the memories and friendships I made I will cherish for all my life.

Upon arriving back in the States, I made my first appearance on the Gerry Quinn show, and I danced a treble jig. Yes, on the radio! It was great fun. Following the Gerry Quinn show, the festivals began. First was in Painesville, where the New Barley-corn spotted me and asked if I would do a jig with them. Of course, I didn't hesitate, even in my 5-inch wedges!

Following that festival I went to the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, where I had a great time meeting fellow Irish Americans and revisiting the old stomping grounds of the Cleveland Feis. It brought back a lot of wonderful memories.

Next stop, the Dayton Celtic Festival, where the Kentucky Rose, Savannah Miller, joined me. Then we were on our way to the Dublin Irish Festival; this time we had four Roses attending: the San Francisco Rose, the Toronto Rose, the Kentucky Rose and me! We

spent the evening seeing bands and enjoying the delicious food, and we all did a reel step out on stage with the Parade of Champions, introduced by Mary McGing.

Events started to slow down after summer, then came my invitation to visit the Chernobyl Children's International Charity. I was thrilled at the prospect of visiting the amazing kids at the Vesnova Children's Mental Asylum. I knew immediately that I was going, however, I got a bit of push back from my parents. Their fears were valid, but then they realized what an amazing opportunity this would be for me; I received their full support.

Representing Ohio at the orphanage was one of the most life changing experiences one could ever imagine. During my time there, I fed

This charity, started by Adi Roach of Cork, Ireland, has raised over 100 million euro. It has changed the lives of hundreds of orphans. The Irish community has built Homes of Hope for older orphans to keep them from going to the adult mental asylum at the age of 18. Unfortunately, not all can stay in the home and three of the children we met faced the doom of going to the adult asylum this week. They are not "adult" in anyway mentally and they will not receive the care they so desperately need. I also encourage everyone to view the Youtube video by Brendan Galvin of our trip this year. All you have to do is type in Belarus Chernobyl Rose Trip 2014.

These are the things that stand out as I think of my friends at the Ohio Irish American News; you have all become my friends



the children, played with them and showered them with all the love and affection I could give. I learned the importance of loving one another.

Some asked about the language barrier - I had no issue with a language barrier between me and the children because the only communication that was needed was love - pure love. I know that I made a difference in these children's lives and I cannot wait to go back to shower them with love and affection again - something they so desperately need and deserve.

I encourage everyone to research the Chernobyl Children's International charity.

through your support in this most amazing of years. As my year winds down and another lucky woman is crowned the Northern Ohio Rose, my best advice to her is "be yourself".

As I was on the plane headed to Ireland, I started reading a little book given to me by my mentor, Denise McConville. Her inscription to me said it all "Remember to always be true to who you are. That is perfect and good enough. Have the time of your life."

Boy, did I ever have the time of my life!!

Kelsey Higgins
2013 Ohio Rose

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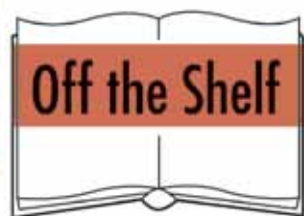
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by Terry Kenneally
A TOP Shelf Selection

Philomena

By Martin Sixsmith

Pan books ISBN 978-1-4472-4522-3 2013 452 pp



of her. With the help of an English writer, she sets out to find the child she lost. Their quest is the subject of the book. So, for those

readers who have not seen the movie, it's denouement will not be revealed here.

For those who have seen the movie, the book adds a substantial amount of detail on the practices of the Catholic Church in Ireland in the 1950s with regard to out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The chief primate in Ireland at that time was Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, a man who "ruled" Ireland ecclesiastically, and who used an unyielding, iron-fisted approach towards girls who found themselves in this situation.

Philomena, the book, is a fine compliment to the movie, which was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Picture in 2014. I rate this book a TOP SHELF read.

The Wily O'Reilly - Irish Country Stories

By Patrick Taylor

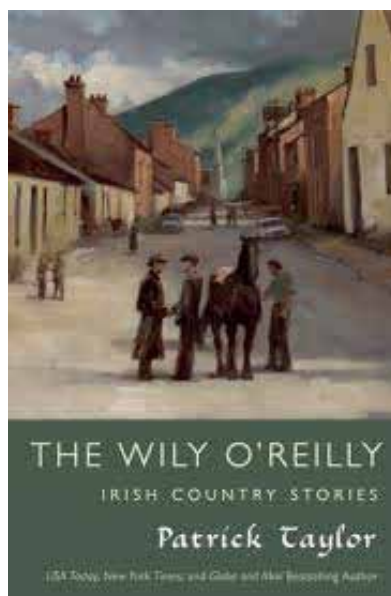
A Tim Doherty Associates Book ISBN 978-0-7653-3838-9 2014 335 pp

The Wily O'Reilly is a collection of short anecdotal stories about Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, who the readers of this column will recall was the focus of Patrick Taylor's bestselling novel, *The Irish Country Doctor*, previously reviewed in the OhIAN. The humorous stories were originally published in *Stitches: The Journal of Medical Humour*.

O'Reilly is a general practitioner whose practice is located in Ballybuckebo, a cozy little Ulster village. The stories are all set in the 1960s. O'Reilly is described as an "ex-navy boxing champion, classical scholar, crypto philanthropist, widower, and hard-working general practitioner."

The author, Patrick Taylor, uses various figures of speech to describe the people and events in the numerous stories included in the book. Describing an accident between a bicycle and one of O'Reilly's patients who appears several times in the book, the author writes: "the resultant collision wasn't quite of the magnitude of the meteor that smacked into planet Earth and it's rumoured, put paid to the dinosaurs but the fallout was dramatic." Other than the fact that Taylor probably goes a bit overboard with the number of stories, I found "Wily O'Reilly" a TOP SHELF read.

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River, Ohio. His practice consists mainly in defending insured's' through their insurance companies throughout the state of Ohio. He has a Masters Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University. terry@tjkenneally.com



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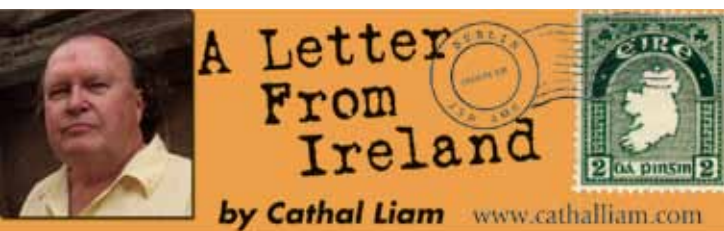


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"Ireland unarmed will attain just as much freedom as it is convenient for England to give her; Ireland armed will attain ultimately just as much freedom as she wants."

This was the strident admonition published in the Gaelic League's newspaper, *An Claidheamh Soluis* [The Sword of Light], in November 1913. Penned by Ireland's father of twentieth-century republicanism, Patrick Henry Pearse, it appeared under the heading "The Coming Revolution."

As part of Pearse's justification for the eventual events that occurred in April 1916, he ominously continued, "I am glad, then, that the north has 'begun' [with the creation and arming of a paramilitary force, the Ulster Volunteers, in 1912-1914]. I am glad that the Orangemen have armed, for it is a goodly thing to see arms in Irish hands. I should like to see the A.O.H. armed, I should like to see the Transport Workers armed. I should like to see any and every

body of Irish citizens armed.

"We must accustom ourselves to the thought of arms, to the sight of arms, to the use of arms. We may make mistakes in the beginning and shoot the wrong people; but bloodshed is a cleansing and a sanctifying thing, and the nation which regards it as the final honour has lost its manhood. There are many things more horrible than bloodshed, and slavery is one of them."

Today, many might find fault with Pearse's words, but in the ninety-eight years since Ireland's 1916 Rebellion, much has changed. As so many before him, Ireland's rebellious schoolteacher had grown tired of England's unfilled promises for Irish self-governance and of Ireland's own inept attempts at achieving it. Too many Irish had died for whatever reasons...from self-promoting British social policy, from arrogant political and economic duplicity or from dominating military bullishness.

Pearse had little faith in the

possibilities of pending Irish Home Rule by mid-1914. He felt, whether granted or not, Ireland's present-day plight would remain effectively unchanged.

"We [Ireland]", to summarise Pearse, "have lost our manhood. We suffer plights men do not suffer. We redress our grievances in ways men do not employ. We have allowed the Sassenach intruder to disarm us and we shun the use of violence."

Besides this obvious challenge to take up arms and face the foe, Pearse feared his homeland had abandoned its Irishness under England's relentless bombardment of social, economic and political pressures to conform to her mores. Ireland had grown comfortable, dependent on its island neighbour. English ways dominated Irish life. They overshadowed its social behaviours; ruled its politics; governed its business practices. Unquestionably, Englishness had crept in ... eroding Ireland's centuries-old uniqueness; snubbing its unique cultural traditions. Unless Ireland acted decisively and very soon, Pearse feared it might be too late to undo the damage. So, as you well know, Ireland rose on 24 April 1916 and struck for its 'manhood.'

Now, as we near the one-

hundredth anniversary of that historic, watershed event, the query perennially arises, "Was Pearse right?"

It is only recently that a more complete picture of 1916 surfaces. In many cases, historians, some of them unmistakably revisionists, give Pearse short shrift. It seems these anti-republican authors happily paint Pearse as an ultra-Catholic nationalist, a blood-seeking separatist, or, even a few, a child molester.

In portraying Pearse so, I wonder if these historical



Patrick Pearse

writers are trying to distance themselves from the man for their own personal reasons? Are they jealous of him for his Irish patriotism...for being the man he was...a man who willingly devoted his life and his meagre financial resources to the cause of Irish freedom, and later, for dying a hero's death before a British firing squad?

From a retrospective, Pearse was a complicated man...someone deserving of even-handed study. But to answer the query straightaway, no, I believe his optimism was misplaced.

I think he was right to advocate the use of arms in support of Ireland's cause for independence. Since the 1880s and the days of Parnell, Ireland tried negotiating with England, hoping to gain some measure of freedom from its imperial overlord.

So, as the new century dawned, Britain begrudgingly granted Ireland limited land reform concessions, but little else. Sure, it was just as Pearse feared. Ireland continued slipping further and further under England's controlling thumb. Irish nationalists and republicans repeatedly had to bow to the dominant wishes of Rule Britannia's well-oiled political and economic machinery.

Whether publically acknowledging the fact or not, Pearse and a handful of others, in circa 1914, decided some action was needed to shake Ireland from its doldrums. A bold statement, backed by decisive action, needed to occur, refocusing the Irish people's attention and disrupting England's hypnotic hold on it island neighbour.

If it meant, some had to die, even themselves, so be it...it would be worth the gamble. Consequently, to a limited degree, the brazen uprising succeeded. Despite the sacrifice of the rebellion's leadership, plus the lives of some five-hundred others, the Easter Insurrection shook Ireland from its stupor.

Over the next five years, the Irish people fought on, winning an imperfect War for Independence. But try as they might, Ireland was unable to achieve the full measure of independence it sought and for which Pearse had hoped. Again, outmanoeuvred at the bargaining table by English interests, Ireland settled for a partial victory.

I have no doubt in the years to come, Ireland will achieve that full measure of autonomy Pearse spoke of, but until then, it is incumbent on all those who seek an unflawed freedom to continue pressing onward.

As fifty-nine year old Tom Clarke, the first man to sign the 1916 Easter Proclamation, so eloquently stated just prior to his 3 May 1916 execution, "I and my fellow signatories believe we have struck the first successful blow for Irish freedom. The next blow, which we have no doubt Ireland will strike, will win through. In this belief, we die happy."

God Save Ireland, Cathal



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



A Threat to Economic Recovery

Morgan Kelly belongs to that very rare breed of Irish economic analyst to have emerged in the public eye since the crash who does not seek to hog the media limelight; indeed he positively shuns celebrity status, which partly explains the near three year lag since he last entered the fray—he has not written about the Irish economy since May 7th, 2011. Kelly's forecasts had become increasingly resonant from the late noughties onwards, in proportion to his proven ability to consistently call the game correctly.

Back in 2011, he predicted national ruin if Irish finances were permitted to run their natural course. In other words, if the collection of mortgage and business loans was enforced with any rigour, mass default would be the only option open to a great number of people in debt, and the entire economy would tank. Shivers spread across Ireland's four provinces when Kelly wrote of ruin and its political consequences.

Kelly has just broken his silence by delivering a public lecture on March 4th, and this time his subject was Mario Draghi. Draghi, who succeeded Jean-Claude Trichet as President of the European Central Bank in November 2011, set himself the task of doing 'whatever it takes' to save the euro. Over two years on, the ECB seems to have picked the right man at the right time. Nobel-prize winning economist Paul Krugman, lecturing also at UCD this February, heaped praise on Draghi for managing to steer a path past European austerians to enable growth. With his focus on enabling investment flow to the periphery, Draghi has heralded, in the words of Krugman, an 'institutional culture at the ECB [that] is now substantially more open-minded'; and that is 'a good thing for Europe'.

While Kelly acknowledged that Draghi and his ECB colleagues have indeed gone easy on Irish debtors, he also warned that without such leniency a swathe of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) could not survive. Therein lies a problem. We know too little about the SMEs' ledgers to make a proper estimate of how many of them are genuinely sustainable, but undoubtedly a great many are burdened with large property portfolios and would not survive stern pressure to repay their debts. Given that seven out of ten Irish employees depend on SMEs for their livelihood makes this matter very serious. What happens if the ECB ceases to be understanding and starts to call in its debt?

When such a question is posed in Ireland, a standard reflex of our politicians is to insist that that could never happen. Yet this time, perhaps because of Kelly's past record, our Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, immediately responded to Kelly's comments. Noonan suggested that the Central Bank of Ireland should welcome consultation with Kelly and stated that Kelly's arguments will be taken seriously: 'I still would like to examine Morgan Kelly's views in detail, and maybe if the Central Bank, who have the primary responsibility here, would contact him [to] have a conversation about his concerns, that might be helpful'.

But the Central Bank will hesitate to contact Kelly. The suggestion that it should reach out to him will have rankled the Central Bank's governor, Patrick Honohan, who was the butt of a rather personal philippic of Kelly's in 2011.

What can we make of all of this? It is certain that Noonan does not, like his predecessor, wish to ruffle feathers in the eu-

rozone's core; but, surely, neither does he wish to be undermined by his central bank governor in the manner in which his predecessor was at a crucial moment in deciding the future of Irish finance. Creating a major role for Kelly in the Central Bank would suddenly throw fat in the fire from Europe's point of view—they are not used to Irish negotiators being tough and realistic—but it would be a good appointment for Ireland, and for Europe in the long-term too.

Kelly's preference for a low-key profile has ironically heightened his attraction to the people who control the levers of power, insofar as there is any real governmental power, in Ireland. And Kelly has emerged once again as evidently the best brain to negotiate our position in Europe. He is aware that Irish banks need to grasp a stinging nettle—the volume of people and businesses that are effectively insolvent because of their boom time loans—sooner or later. When the Irish banks do that will depend on the European Central Bank, which so far has blithely let Irish debt flutter in the wind. Under what other circumstances would almost 20% of a country's mortgages be underwater and an untold amount of SME debt go unpaid without the imposition of a resolution? As Kelly put it, the ECB keeps 'pumping sweet, sweet credit into our veins and we haven't had the real crisis yet'. But that could change at any minute and, as Kelly suggested, more powerful European countries may opt to use Ireland as a guinea pig to witness what happens to a peripheral country when the current of credit is switched off.

Draghi is not stupid and plotting to bring disaster to any eurozone country (above all one that was held up as exemplary, a people who took pain which was the making of them) would be a bad move for him too. So in what scenario, if any, would he allow that to happen? Embarrassing as it is to admit, Ireland's economic survival depends on the forbearance of Central European bankers since we cannot survive without the artificial financial floor provided for us. Draghi needs to sell continuous leniency and,

ultimately, a significant measure of debt forgiveness to his ECB colleagues and backers who do not all, by any means, agree with that approach to managing the eurozone. Kelly's iceberg on

the horizon is a very real one and a definite swerve to avoid it is required at the European level for us to pull through. Until that happens, Ireland remains trapped in the endgame.

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Malcolm's first CD was chosen as one of the year's best by Radio Scotland's folk programs, Travelling Folk and Celtic Connections and he was dubbed "The new male voice of Scotland." Jim has given songwriting and song accompaniment master classes at many festivals, including Scotland's foremost festival, Celtic Connections in Glasgow.

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Ireland Past and Present

By Niamh O'Sullivan



Some Anniversary Reflections

It is four years since I last visited Kilmainham Prison; it is too painful for me to be there. I loved that grey limestone heap dearly and I miss it. The ugly place witnessed so much human suffering and courage. This late spring will number 98 years since its infamous Stone-breakers' Yard was put to such terrible, brutal, early morning use: the executions of fourteen bound, blindfolded men.

Obviously, working there day to day, year to year, I was not often afforded the luxury of experiencing such a strong sense of occasion, but every so often on a rare quiet day, when I had the time and the privilege to make my way out and sit alone in that grey stone enclosure, I did sometimes think, "right - here". Right where those silent simple metal crosses now stand, they gave their lives for an ideal infinitely bigger and grander than themselves; right here, their hearts stopped beating; right here, between the high windowless walls, under the grey sky, standing on grey stones. Right here.

But of course, things do not simply begin, or end, in that yard. Today still, not far from Kilmainham in the centre of Dublin city, there is a terraced row of near-derelict houses which lie huddled together, each one holding its neighbour upright, or so it would seem to the casual observer. This is Moore Street. Having escaped on the Friday of Easter Week from the burning GPO on Sackville Street and tunneled their way through the walls of this now dilapidated row of buildings, some of the men and three of the women finally found themselves on

the Saturday in Number 16, Moore Street, which became the last outpost of the GPO.

Here, five of the seven men who signed the 1916 Proclamation (or declaration of independence) and were later shot in Kilmainham Prison, held their final council of war. Among them was the severely wounded James Connolly, commander of all the Irish forces in Dublin. Amidst eerie echoes of the distant past, an image of Robert Emmet was displayed in the room where he lay in bed.

Here, in Number 16, Padraig Pearse, looking out the window, witnessed a Dublin family of three being killed in the crossfire between Irish and British forces, Pearse understood then that the time had come to surrender; Here, outnumbered in the subsequent voting, the determined old-before-his-time Tom Clarke witnessed the death of his dream; here, Sean MacDiarmada asked for a piece of white cloth that could be used as a flag of surrender, and from here, nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell set out on one of the most dangerous journeys in Irish history, to meet with Brigadier General Lowe on the British side, and to afterwards carry the surrender orders to the remaining Irish commanders all across the burning, ruined city.

Kilmainham Prison is saved. Restored in the 1960s and containing both a museum and archives, it is visited yearly by over two hundred thousand visitors both from Ireland and abroad. But that tumble-down row of houses on Moore Street - the Yorktown, the Appomattox - of Ireland, has for many years now faced the very great danger of being demolished and turned into a shopping mall.

After a lengthy campaign for it to be saved and protected as a National Monument, it has been announced in the Irish Parliament, as I'm writing, that numbers 14 to 17, Moore Street, will be preserved, and turned into a museum. In two years, we hope to commemorate the centenary of the Easter Rising. Better late than never? Some of the relatives of those who fought and those who took the deci-



sion to surrender in the Moore Street area do not believe this small measure will suffice, and that the entire area surrounding, being of such enormous historical importance, should also be protected and preserved.

I worked in the Kilmainham archives with a paper conservator who could always be relied upon to save and beautifully display shabby and torn letters, diaries and autograph books from the past. Pat McBride was not political, he just enjoyed conserving old papers. But working alongside us on the various exhibitions and displays in the old prison, he would find himself getting caught up in the stories against his better judgement. He would then pull himself up forcibly, and get on with the conserving.

Pat had a theory which we would frequently discuss. He thought, given everything that has happened since in Ireland, in almost every sphere of life, that the men and women of 1916 should have just stayed at home during those fateful days, and enjoyed their Sunday dinners, their own lives

and their own families. From time to time, I felt compelled to agree. Then there is German playwright Bertolt Brecht's famous dilemma: "Unhappy the land that has no heroes." "No, unhappy the land that needs he-

roes." Take your pick, Ireland.

Even the memories within memories can suffer. Many Irish people remember Joseph Plunkett, involved in the momentous decision to surrender in Moore Street and married hours before his execution in the little chapel in Kilmainham Prison to Grace Gifford. But how many people still recall his two younger brothers; George and Jack? Both sentenced to death after 1916, and both reprieved.

George continued the struggle during the War of Independence, and endured a lengthy hunger strike during the Civil War. He had a family of his own, who spent many a long day missing their husband and father, during the times when George was forced to lead a lonely life on the run.

After George's too early death, Jack, himself ravaged by a 56 day hunger strike during the troubled 1920s from which he was not expected to recover, stepped in to assist his brother's young family, making personal sacrifices of his own for which he was greatly loved. Unhappy the land...

I am honoured to have been able to mark the last few April / May anniversaries of 1916 with the readers of the Irish American News Ohio. What can we expect in Ireland, in two years' time?

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



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Morrissey's Autobiography

Spring break is always a good time for me to catch up on some serious reading, and this one was no exception. As a music fan, particularly of the more challenging and acerbic, I had designated my holiday to reading Morrissey's Autobiography. The Singer/songwriter has always had a very strained relationship with mainstream media, particularly the British press, for his strong opinions; a polite way of saying Morrissey is his own man and refuses to be anything less than an individual.

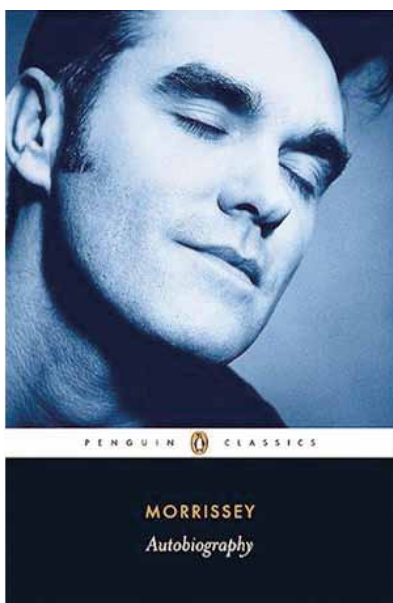
The Smiths, the band fronted by Morrissey, came to prominence in the early 80s, and listeners were divided in to the love/hate camps of complete adulation or disdain. Whatever the man from the North (Manchester) said or did inevitably raised the hackles of the dogs of Fleet Street while conversely strengthening his prophet non grata status among fans.

Known for his Bastille views of the British monarchy, zealous animal protectionism, and his refusal to be sexually labeled as anything but 'humasexual', he poses a threat to the ardent journalist who likes his/her music celebs to fit the sex, drugs and rock n roll mantra, for he does not. Morrissey is not a conundrum to anyone who understands the complexities of being 'human' and it is refreshing that his quest for authenticity is so provocative to those who believe in individualism but not individuals.

The Autobiography was released by Penguin in 2013 and received good critical reviews. The singer/songwriter had emerged from the Californian desert with a work of prose that is wonderfully constructed to reveal and hide. For the fan, Morrissey teases with the slight lifting of the veil, without too much personal disclosure. His critics, however, must be at a loss for words when it comes to Morrissey's erudite use of language. Quoting from Herrick, Hous-

man, and Auden, Morrissey's love of literature informs his readers of his intellectual sensibilities. This Charming Man has a brain. Citing novelists, poets, film makers and artists, he wields his literary insights like a cleaver at those salivating in wait for the predictable 'kiss and tell' or the two dimensional miserable git they see him as. Instead, his literary arsenal runs the gamut of the arts.

Morrissey's family origins (Dublin) are important to his development in which the Irish banter is lyrical against the Manchester blank



astonishment. The sense of attachment with his Irish roots is felt in the blood, the deep family connections. His humour, self-effacingly Irish and sacrilegious, is best seen when as a young teenager, he sports a bright streak of yellow in his hair to the consternation of his teacher. 'Yes', snaps Miss Power, 'and YOU'RE another one not content with the hair colour given to you by Christ.' Baffled, I immediately imagined Christ setting my hair beneath a blow-dryer.

The heart must surely relate to his disappointment with the English press and those in the music industry who actively seek to rubbish, or minimize, the bigmouth's successes. Trumped up charges of racism, and

self-indulgent misery become synonymous with reports on Morrissey.

Maligned for his radical honesty, he takes heart in the throngs of fans who ensure him top ten hits, and sold out concerts. Morrissey's account of the rise to fame or infamy, the very public break up his band and subsequent legal wrangling is partly rendered as self-justification, but who can blame him? The singer/songwriter is not the forgiving/forgetting type and the Autobiography is his way of setting the record straight. There is no doubt he finds pleasure having the last word, giving his foes a nail scratching that would please any drag queen.

Choosing to live in L.A., Morrissey is not in retreat. His solo career continues to outstrip his achievements with The Smiths. The new world offers him a break from the insularity of the English music scene.

He is presently unsigned to any record company, but he is not adrift. This Autobiography reveals the man who is an artist. His staunch opinions are proudly exhibited as exciting disturbers of the peace. Refusing to accept that the monotonous in life must be protected Morrissey offers the listener Something other than safe and dreary.

Undernourished and growing out of the wrong soil, I knew at this time that a lot of people found me hard to take, and for the most part I understood why. Although a passably human creature on the outside, the swirling soul within seemed to speak up for the most awkward people on the planet....I risked unpopularity with my adrift physicality; but there it was, and how could the world possibly be in need of yet another Phil Collins.

Reading Autobiography one gets more than simple titillation, in which secrets of the heart and flesh are bared. What one gets from reading Autobiography is a man's soul. As I devoured this book, I was reminded of Robert Frost's epitaph that he wrote for himself. I had a lover's quarrel with the world. Morrissey passionately loves this world he finds himself at odds with, but, ironically, it is this contention that makes his work sing.

*Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in Chicago and teaches Irish and British Literature at Loyola University, Chicago. terryaboyle@gmail.com

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Solution on page 20*

ACROSS

2 See whole families of dolphins, as well as spectacular scenery, on the Carrigaholt Dolphin ____.

3 Take a walk on the pristine sandy beach in ____.

8 Attend the Bunratty Castle ____ Banquet for a fun evening of entertainment and a great meal.

10 Learn about the history of the GAA at the Michael ____ Centre in Carron.

12 Go to a show at the ____ Irish Music Centre in Ennis.

13 Get a chance to play hurling or ____ football for yourself at "Go Gaelic" in Ennis.

14 Attend the Medieval ____ at Knappogue Castle near Quin for an entertaining evening with an excellent meal.

16 Tour Dysert '____' Castle and Archaeology Centre. A beautifully restored castle without the crowds in Corofin.

17 Visit Bunratty Castle and

____ Park, where rural and urban life in 19th century Victorian Ireland is recreated.

18 See the spectacular Cliffs of ____ soaring over 700 feet above a wild 5-mile stretch of County Clare.

20 Attend Mass at St. Senan's Catholic Church in Kilrush and check out the beautiful Harry Clarke stained glass windows.

23 See the multimedia exhibition centre depicting and explaining the Burren, its flora, fauna, archaeology, geology and architecture at the Burren Centre in ____.

26 Take a short stroll or a long hike through Cratloe ____.

27 See Caherconnell Stone Fort and sheepdog ____ demonstrations near Carron.

29 Play a round of golf at the Lahinch Golf ____, one of Phil Mickelson's favorite courses.

32 Take a stroll through Ire-

land's history at ____ near Sixmilebridge.

33 Be sure to explore the ____ National Park, a bare limestone plateau where plants from all over the earth are growing.

34 Visit the Kilfenora Cathedral and see its many ____ crosses and the bishop's head carving.

35 Meander through the Van-deleur ____ Garden and enjoy the beautifully laid out gardens in Kilrush.

36 Spend a few some time at the Burren Birds of ____ Centre, Ballyvaughan.

37 Participate in mock combat with military-style mock weapons and tactics at ____ Airsoft, Lahinch.

DOWN

1 Explore the Aillwee ____ near Ballyvaughan.

2 Take a ride in a nineteenth century railway carriage on the ____ Clare Railway in Moyasta.

4 Wander through the maze and labyrinth or visit the

Holy Island at Aistear Inis Cealtra in ____.

5 Visit Doolin, known as the "____ Music Capital of Ireland."

6 Visit the Loop Head's Kilbaha ____ and climb to the top for beautiful views of the cliffs in the area.

7 Take the ferry from Kilrush and explore the ancient ____ of Scattery.

9 Stop at the 3,000 year old Mooghaun hillfort, Ireland's largest, near the ____ Castle grounds.

10 Dance to the traditional tunes of the Kilfenora ____ Band.

11 Spend a musical and historic evening at East ____ Heritage Centre in Tuamgraney.

15 Visit Quin ____ Friary, a 13th century friary named a National Monument in the late 1800's.

17 Tour the Ennis ____, a 13th Century Abbey started by the O'Brien's.

19 Stop at the Burren's Poul nabrone Dolmen, a tomb radio-carbon dated to 3800 -3600 B.C., holds the remains of 22 neolithic individuals.

21 Enjoy fantastic views of the majestic Cliffs of Moher, Aran Islands, Burren and Galway Bay on horseback from the Mountain View ____ Riding Centre, Lisdoonvarna

22 Spend some time at Corcomroe Abbey, an early 13th-century ____ monastery located in the Burren region.

24 Take a stand up paddle board (SUP) lesson and tour of Lower Lough Derg from ____ in Killaloe.

25 Stop in at the Burren ____, where the perfumes, soaps, lotions, and oils are made from plants growing in the Burren.

28 Learn about the history of one of Ireland's High Kings at the Brian ____ Heritage Centre in Killaloe.

30 See the largest stalactite in the Northern Hemisphere in ____ Cave.

31 Take some time to reflect and say a prayer at St. Brigid's ____ in Mountbrigit.



The Parish

I grew up in Chicago, where it seemed your entire existence revolved around the parish boundaries in which you lived. As young elementary students, we never knew that other churches and parochial schools existed outside of our own. When we reached our junior high school years, the world broadened a bit. Occasionally, we would meet kids from other schools at football games or at the roller rink. The first question we always asked was, "What parish do you live in?"

For the most part, the families that lived in my parish had lived for a few generations; grandmothers attended the same school as their grandchildren. Fathers and mothers received First Holy Communion in the same wooden chapel as their children. Unless, you were an Italian, Polish, or Irish immigrant, relatively new to the neighborhood, your roots were as deeply set in the parish as the wild clover that grew amid the cracked city sidewalks.

Our neighborhood was simple and safe. No one had much money. Children spent the summer months swimming at Portage Park pool, eating chocolate dipped ice cream bars from the Good Humor truck, and playing baseball in the school's parking lot. Trips to Disney World were unheard of in my day.

Each and every weekend, we walked to mass with our families. We looked forward to the friends we would see. Many of our homes were without air conditioning, and the cool marble walls of our main church provided a respite from blazing temperatures. During the summer, this was about as good as life could get.

Our church was built on an embankment. A foot and a half-high beige stone-wall landscaped the outside perimeter of the church. Despite our parents' warnings, we would walk the banks of the church, careful not to step onto the well-manicured lawns lest the wrath of God would be brought down on our heads; no one was to walk on the grass that skirted the walls of the church.

Three wooden crosses were erected on the lawn during the season of Lent. The children marked time by the shrouds that were placed on the middle cross. Purple denoted our Lenten fast. During Holy Week, a pink shawl lay about the cross. When Easter finally arrived, a white shroud signified Christ's Resurrection.

Despite Lenten promise and parental warnings, the "ne'er do wells" in our class would chase the girls after school. Boldly, the leader of the pack would try to knock the books right out of our arms, defiantly racing across the forbidden land once they were out of eyeshot of the teachers. Not all students were as conscientious as my girlfriends and me!

In September, the children's folk choir practices began. After practice, we walked past the white statue of Mary that graced our pathway home.

Twilight dimmed the courtyard connecting the church, the chapel, and the rectory. Laughing and singing church tunes, we never paused to think how much this routine added to our days, to our friendships, or how beautifully uncomplicated life was then.

Our "Folk Mass" was held on Sunday morning in the wooden chapel that adjoined our parochial school. Having practiced each and every Thursday, we young choir members would raise our voices in unique harmonies. The Joan Baez version of "Our Father" was always a favorite, and the most coordinated student was given the coveted role of tambourine player.

I can still hear the creak of the floorboards and inhale the smell of wood polish that permeated the walls of this chapel. The chapel doors connected to the first floor of our school. Funny, that I can walk through the doors of this chapel in my mind's eye as though time had never passed, some thirty-eight years ago.

Novelist John R. Powers grew up in the South-Side of Chicago during the late 1950s and early 1960s. He wrote a charmingly astute fictional account of growing up Catholic. "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" pokes a bit of fun at the unwavering traditions and staunch belief systems that defined the lives of Catholic schoolchildren, in particular the main character, Eddie Ryan. Nonetheless, the novel underscores how influential the parish was in the coming of age of many students.

Oftentimes, we allow the routine of mass, the structure of school, or the demands of work to override our appreciation of that which lies before us. It is only in memory that we fully come to understand that which we always had.

In Newport, County Mayo Ireland, St. Patrick's Church has witnessed the births, First Holy Communion, marriages, and deaths of many faithful parishioners. Along with her siblings, my mother-in-law received her childhood sacraments at St. Patrick's Church. My husband and his family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of his grandparents during a celebratory mass in which his entire family was in attendance. Even my children have attended not only Sunday masses while on holiday in Newport, but also have celebrated Christmas Eve mass at St. Patrick's Church. Through our worship, we became part of the history behind this parish.

St. Patrick's Church is an architectural and artistic gem among the many churches that rise up from the fields and mountains in the West of Ireland. Dublin-born artist Harry Clarke was commissioned in 1926 by Canon Michael MacDonald of Newport's St. Patrick's Church to design a series of stained glass windows. Clarke is said to have been one of Ireland's most talented stained-glass artists. His works can be viewed

in churches across the Irish countryside.

The windows erected behind the altar in St. Patrick's are quite unique. The design reflects the Last Judgment, with Christ in the center, and the damned and the saved on opposing sides. Brilliant in color and artistry, the stained glass holds a secret. Harry Clarke included his self-portrait among the damned. Modest in nature and suffering from tuberculosis, Clarke positioned his likeness in an upside down image that blends in with the images of the damned. Symbolically, this depiction represents the artist's real-life suffering.

Clarke's mysterious self-portrait reminds us to look toward life with active awareness and an appreciation for both tradition and the unexpected gifts that can arise from daily routine. We are encouraged to find comfort in the security of family and the support of our parish families.

If we choose to remember the past with child-like innocence, our present is sure to be less jaded, less complicated. Much like the white shroud that symbolizes the Resurrection, our memories can serve to refresh and remind, while the future can be inspired and filled with hope.

*Susan holds a MA in English from John Carroll University and a MA in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.

Source consulted: Enright, Judy. "Irish-Treasure: Harry Clarke's Stained Glass Windows." Boston Irish Reporter, November 30, 2012.

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Cleveland

The Harp 2nd - lonesome stars, 4th - irish session, 5th - the porter sharks, 9th - chris & tom, 11th - walking cane, 12th - chris allen, 16th - lonesome stars, 18th - kristine jackson, 19th - fior gael, 21st - dyngus day Edie Rodick Polka Band, 23rd - chris & tom, 25th - brent kirby, 26th - pitch the peat, 30th - lonesome stars. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

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*Austin Walking Cane
- 11th - The Harp,
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Flannerys, 18th - The Harp,
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4th - Pop Culture, 11th - Big in Japan, 12th - School Girl Crush, 18th - The usual Suspects, 19th - Abbey Rodeo, 25th - Samantha Fitzpatrick, 26th - Collage. All starts @9:30. Every Tuesday - Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Every Wednesday - Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.



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Owens Sports
By Mark Owens



Euro's 2016 – Ireland

The draw was made for the 2016 European Championships which will be hosted in France. The Republic of Ireland, now under the new management of legends Martin O'Neill and Roy Keane, were hoping for a favorable draw in an effort to get the Irish back to a major tournament, having missed out on qualification for this year's World Cup in Brazil.

Unfortunately, the draw was not as kind as all had hoped. The Irish will have their work cut out for themselves in their efforts to make Euro '16.

The biggest news with the draw was that Ireland will once again face Germany, favorites to win this year's World Cup, and who will be undoubtedly be favorites to win it all in 2016 as well. During the country's last campaign to qualify for Brazil,

you may remember that Ireland were thrashed by the German's in Dublin's Aviva Stadium by a score of 6-1, followed by a 3-0 loss in Germany when temporary manager Noel King was in charge.

Ireland have been drawn into Group D. The other teams include Scotland, Poland, Georgia and international newcomers Gibraltar. The good news out of all of this is that for the first time ever, a total of 24 teams will qualify for the actual tournament, rather than the recent traditional 16 teams. This means that the top two teams from each group will automatically go through, plus the 3rd placed team with the overall best record. Additionally, the remaining 8 third placed teams will contest play-offs, with 4 ultimately going through.

We Irish are always looking for a good omen, and in this case, I have found one - the Republic of Ireland were last involved in a group with Scotland when they qualified for Euro '88, so let's hope history repeats itself. Ironically, Gordon Strachan, who replaced Irish manager Martin O'Neill as manager of Celtic several years ago,

ners, but that "it looks like a group, apart from Germany, where teams might be able to take points off each other".

On the flip side, Scottish manager Strachan commented that: "the commercial manager is happy. Every tie, there's something in it. You've got Gibraltar, new to the competition; Germany, one of the best teams in the world; the

GROUP E: England, Switzerland, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, San Marino

GROUP F: Greece, Hungary, Romania, Finland, Northern Ireland, Faroe Islands

GROUP G: Russia, Sweden, Austria, Montenegro, Moldova, Liechtenstein

GROUP H: Italy, Croatia, Norway, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Malta



now manages Scotland, so there should be a healthy rivalry with the two gaffers.

Poland and Ireland played out a scoreless 0-0 draw in November. Ireland beat Georgia on both occasions they faced off, in the run up for qualification for the 2010 World Cup, although in both games the Georgians proved to be stubborn opposition and have got slightly better since then.

Gibraltar are a completely unknown factor; this is the first tournament they have tried to qualify for – they were only recently approved as an official country football association. It would be normal to expect full points against the minnows, but football can be a funny auld game sometimes.

After the draw was made, the Irish manager commented: "It is a difficult group, but an exciting one, and the games against Scotland will be a great occasion". O'Neill suggested that the Germans would likely qualify as group win-

ners, but that "it looks like a group, apart from Germany, where teams might be able to take points off each other". He added "it's exciting, there are some groups you might call mundane, but we're definitely in an exciting group".

The full draw of groups in team is shown below. Qualifiers will take place between September 7, 2014 and October 13, 2015, with the play-off matches in November 2015. Ireland will start their campaign away to Georgia on September 7th this year, followed by a home game against new boys Gibraltar.

GROUP A: Netherlands, Czech Republic, Turkey, Latvia, Iceland, Kazakhstan

GROUP B: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium, Israel, Wales, Cyprus, Andorra

GROUP C: Spain, Ukraine, Slovakia, Belarus, Macedonia, Luxembourg

GROUP D: Germany, Republic of Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Georgia, Gibraltar

GROUP I: Portugal, Denmark, Serbia, Armenia, Albania

Trivia: First, last month's question: The Republic of Ireland will unfortunately not be at this year's football world cup that takes place in Brazil this summer; when was the last time they played at the tournament? 2002 - when they qualified for the Korea-Japan World Cup and where they reached the final 16.

This month's question: When Ireland played at the 1988 Euro's, they beat England 1-0. Christy Moore wrote a legendary song about it – who scored the only goal that fine afternoon?

*Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001. Mark is the Director of Marketing for Skylight Financial Group in Cleveland. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markfromderry@gmail.com



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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY

4 April 1774 -

Death of Oliver Goldsmith, a novelist, poet and playwright. His works include *The Vicar of Wakefield* and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

5 April 1962 -

Guinness formally adopts the harp as it's symbol.

8 April 2003 -

Paul Muldoon, a 51 year old Belfast poet, is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for his work, *Moy Sand and Gravel*.

10 April 1838 -

Fr. Theobald Mathew launched his temperance movement in Cork. In the span of three years, over half the population had 'taken the pledge'. This eventually became the Pioneer's Total Abstinence Association.

13 April 1939 -

Seamus Heaney, a poet and scholar, was born near Castledawson Co., Derry.

15 April 1912 -

The White Star liner, *Titanic*, sank on her maiden voyage, after striking an iceberg.

16 April 1874 -

Birth of playwright, John Millington Synge.

23 April 1014 -

In *The Battle of Clontarf*, near Dublin, Brian Boru defeats an army of Norse (Vikings).

23 April 1926 -

Birth of novelist, J. P. Donleavy, son of Irish immigrants, in New York. He later moves to Ireland and writes, *The Ginger Man*, which becomes one of the top 100 selling books of all time in Ireland.

24 April 1916 -

The Easter rising begins.

27 April 1953 -

Maud Gonne McBride, a revolutionary and iconic figure in Nationalistic mythology, dies.



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Fri., Apr. 25 - The Bar Flies
Sat., Apr. 26 - Walkin' Cane



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