



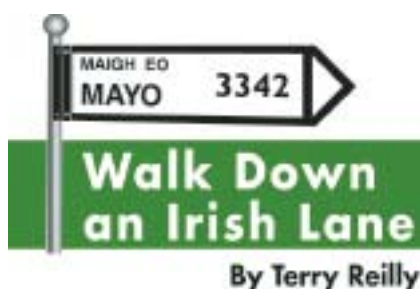
December • 2011

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New Irish President is Published Poet

In Ireland we have a new president, seventy year old Michael D (Daniel) Higgins, a native of county Limerick, who emerged from a pack of seven contenders to romp to victory in a testing campaign which saw two of the early front-runners fall by the wayside.

A published poet, Mr. Higgins was confirmed as the ninth president of Ireland amidst scenes of great jubilation in Galway where he lives—or lived—for he has now taken up residence in Aras an Uachtarain, in succession to the very popular Mary McAleese. She and Mary Robinson had held onto the post for a total of twenty-one years of female domination in which the boundaries of the presidency were greatly explored and made much more meaningful.

An experienced politician, he has been a sociology professor, and published poet. Though born in Limerick he grew up in County Clare. He was the oldest of the seven candidates in the running. He will serve for a seven-year term, at the end of which he may seek another term.

Well known for his international humanitarian concerns, his election has been well received internationally. "Much of the commentary focused on Mr. Higgins' humble background, his poetry and his intellect but there were also plenty of references to his short stature too," wrote The Irish Times.

President Higgins collections of poetry is extensive and includes: Betrayal Poems (1990); The Season of Fire (1993); and his most recent book, Arid Season: New Poems (2004). He has much in common with former or current political or religious leaders around the world who are published poets, including Vaclav Havel who was the president of the Czech Republic from 1993 to 2003 (and of Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992). And American readers will recall that



former American president, Jimmy Carter, published collections of poetry after he left office.

President Higgins' wife (he describes her as his 'rock') is Sabina Coyne, who is an accom-

plished stage actress. She grew up on a small farm near Ballindine, in rural Co. Mayo, in a house without electricity. She described her childhood as idyllic, recalling that her home was full of books. Her mother told them stories from Charles Dickens as she milked the cows. Sabina Coyne believes that her first interest in acting was sparked by hearing these stories. "It was the beginnings of identification with other lives," she told the media.

The couple have four children: Alice Mary, twins John and Michael, and Daniel.

Exiles' Newspaper Survives

Readers may recall me mentioning the *Irish Post* in Britain from time to time. It was the mouthpiece of the Irish community there since the 1970's, and did great work in identifying and standing up for the Irish community, especially when the IRA was launching terrible bombing campaigns on the UK that put Irish people living and working there under enormous scrutiny.

Imagine the angst therefore when the paper was closed down without any advance warning in August. Economic reasons were cited for a newspaper that had a declining circulation of between 17,000 and 20,000 copies weekly.

Its closure, with the loss of over a dozen jobs, had sparked protests in the Irish community in Britain. Many Westminster MPs rallied to its support by backing a very active Save the *Irish Post* campaign.

Well, happy to relate, the *Post* was bought as a going concern by publisher Elgin Loane for an undisclosed sum, and is up and running again. In a statement, Fiona Audley, Chair of Save the *Irish Post* Campaign, said they all looked forward to a new and exciting future for paper. "The voice of the Irish in Britain is back," she said.

Tradition! Is there any culture more tied to its past, full of celebrations and gatherings, the story tradition and an emphasis on passing on its heritage to the next generation, than the Irish? As Christmas fast approaches, that value and respect we place on our past comes into sharper focus as our faith, our heritage and our love for family culminate in the celebration of birth of Christ.

Fresh off Thanksgiving, this month long gratitude and expression of the things that matter most to us carry us through cold weather, snow and the hunkering down that is a winter way of life in a northern state. The slower pace necessitated by six feet of snow gives us a chance to reflect a little bit ~ situational awareness of all the gifts we have, physical and not, are far easier to see at 30 mph than at 70.

We have some great articles for you in this issue. A look back, of course, is always present in the *OhIAN*; a look at tradition, art, food, sports and all the usual columns that we bring to you each month has a little more past than present in this issue, as Christmas influences content, and the mind. I'd love a mince pie. Rachel Gaffney's recipe can be found on page 7. See you at 6?

We greatly appreciate all the kind words as we approach our 5th Anniversary next month. We forget the little details and those shared stories and memories that you have been sending in bring them back—thank you for sharing, and please don't stop, now or ever.

Best Wishes to Toledo's John Connolly, who



John O'Brien, Jr.

is retiring after more than thirty years of performing. A great balladeer, John's dedication to our heritage goes far beyond singing. He has had a significant impact on the Irish community, and not just in Toledo. Proud to know you John, enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Irish Books Arts & Music Showcase, 2011 (iBAM!) was spectacular as usual this year. To

Cliff Carlson, Cathy Curry, the Irish Heritage Center and all the volunteers who worked long and hard to showcase the books, music, artists and culture, thank you from all the Irish community! I was honored to launch my new book at iBAM!, and I want to personally thank you for all your generous work and support.

Five years, sixty issues, and I feel like we are just getting started. A warm welcome to Wendy Clawson, who will be driving advertising sales for the *OhIAN* here in Cleveland. We have grand plans for growing, an advertising driven paper needs advertising, and we are excited about the contributions Wendy will make to our team. We ask your help too; encourage business owners to take an active role in supporting the Irish by advertising in the *OhIAN*. We appreciate all the verbal support, we'd love more partners so we can grow. A gentle word from a friend is all it takes.

Nollaig shona daoibh - Merry Christmas to you and your family. Here's hoping that 2012 is a year full of joy, wealth, promise, and progress.

John

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Alcohol a Real Killer

Unfortunately, in Ireland our young people are known for their horrendous binge drinking. It is not of course today or yesterday that the Irish affinity to 'the drop of the creature' was recognised. The famous temperance crusader, Fr. Mathew, administered the pledge to many,

many thousands before the Great Famine, and in one parish in the west of Ireland in a few days in 1840 an estimated 23,000 people gave up the drink after hearing him lecture on its evils.

While we might look back forgivingly, it is a sad fact that today in Ireland alcohol is esti-

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Stories from the Corner Bard

By Sean McCabe



put it, a poet captures:

*what oft was thought but n'er
so well express'd*

Much as I love Shakespeare, or John Donne, or T.S. Eliot, if I want that home feeling, at any time of the year, not just at Christmas, I will go to Ledwidge for a taste of that landscape that I hail from. Nothing beats the home cooking.

We all have our own Christmas associations, and isn't it interesting how one thing leads to another, once we get going! It's only after I think of Ledwidge that I start picturing in my mind frosty gardens, grey skies, a star in the east shining underneath those skies of grey and way in the distance at the top of some fields the outline of an evergreen tree; one that would look well in our front room, with Christmas decorations on it, and presents around it.

Yes Christmas is here again. And we know that this one will be at least as good as last year's, if not better...

**Born in Co. Meath, Sean has been singing in pubs and at festivals across the US for ten years. His first book, A Good Deed & Other Stories, was published in 2009. He has a new novel out, set in Ireland: The Days. See www.mccabesband.com. Email Sean at navancowboy@yahoo.com.*

Walk Down an Irish Lane Continued from Page 2...

mated to be factor in 45 per cent of all suicides. Teenagers are particularly vulnerable to its influence, according to a leading expert on the subject. Indeed, Ireland has one of the highest rates of suicides in Europe in the 15- to 24-year-old age group, and according to Dr. John Connolly, co-founder of the Irish Association of Suicidology, young people are particularly at risk when alcohol is involved.

Dr. Connolly told a local newspaper, the Mayo News, that teenage suicide tends to be a more impulsive act, and that alcohol can lead to an increase in that impulsivity.

"Alcohol is implicated in up to 45 per cent of all suicides," he explained. "It blinds people's judgement and [causes them to] do things that are uncharacteristic and unusual for them.

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It's hard to believe the Christmas season is upon us again, and that it's almost time to wrap up 2011. Feels like 2011 only just got into its swing. And don't we say this every year when we find ourselves into December all of a sudden? And don't we follow this with the remark: 'where did all the years go...?'

Around this time, for some reason, I usually find myself thinking about Francis Ledwidge, the poet from Meath who was killed in the trenches in France towards the end of World War One at the age of twenty-nine. Not that he had any outstanding Christmas poems (that I know of anyway), but because he is the poet from home, my part of the world; and home always has that deeper resonance in our minds around Christmas, whether in fact we happen to be at home or not. Home has an extra mystical feel to it around Christmas time.

Ledwidge was Ireland's romantic poet, cut off as he was entering his prime, and known to the public now as the poet who would have been great had he lived. The Ledwidge Cottage, in which he grew up, just outside Slane in Meath, is now a museum. It shows, if you walk into it, his humble origins; for he was the son of a labourer, and the eighth of nine children. Much of his poetry describes the landscape around Slane; he is a poet of the fields, a true lover of nature, and had he lived, he would have been more or less a contemporary of Patrick Kavanagh, who is now regarded by many as Ireland's national poet, and the ultimate voice of the Irish people...

Maybe the two poets would have been drinking buddies in the pubs of Dublin, as well as being rival scribes! Ledwidge's poetry shows that he possessed a talent that would probably have equaled Kavanagh's. Why the winds of genius should have alighted on these two individuals, both of

them from obscure, small-farming backgrounds, is of course a mystery; and why one should be cut off so young, before having a chance to fulfill his promise, a tragedy; but what we have we have, and it's something to be glad for:

*Lost like a wind within a
summer wood,*

*From little knowledge where
great sorrows brood*

There are plenty of woods around Meath that are beautiful in the summertime, and which invite the casual walker to lose himself in. They don't call Meath 'The Royal County' for nothing. And although this line speaks of 'summer wood,' it always comes to my mind around Christmas time. It's the home thing. Christmas brings out the poetry in all of us.

Is there a reader reading this who is not reminded of the works of a well known poet from his or her own locality, when Christmas comes round? And this, regardless of the time of year that poet tends to highlight in his verse?

Maybe someone in New England thinks of Robert Frost, as he or she goes out for a walk in the woods of a winter evening:

*Whose woods these are I think
I know*

*His house is in the village
though;*

*He will not see me stopping
here*

*To watch his woods fill up with
snow*

This poem certainly has a Christmasy feel to it; and reminds us again, that, as Tip O'Neill once said about politics, all poetry tends to be local. We should cherish our local poets. Sprung from the same soil, they certainly express what we feel, but haven't the words ourselves for. Or as Alexander Pope more eloquently

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Owens Sports – A Year in Review

It's been another hectic and exciting year in Irish sports, lots of success stories along with quite a few disappointments that most would rather forget. The success of Dublin side Shamrock Rovers and their Europa League quest; Rory McIlroy, with mixed success; the Dubs and the shock waves they sent throughout the GAA world in going all the way and winning the Sam Maguire Trophy, my list could go on but we'll start here:

Golf

Rory McIlroy: 2011 proved to be a banner year for the twenty-two year old from County Down. Rory shocked the golfing world in winning the US Open at Congressional. McIlroy would card a final score of 16 under, a new US Open record for scoring earning him a record \$1.44 million in prize money.

Darren Clarke: Carrying on the tradition of fine golfers from Ireland, Clarke amazed everyone in winning the British Open and the famed Claret Jug.

Football

Shamrock Rovers: Rovers made Irish Football history in qualifying for the prestigious group stages of the UEFA Europa League. The Dubliners labored through the qualifying stages of the competition and would ultimately defeat Partizan Belgrade to qualify for the 'money' stages. Their success has breathed a new sense of confidence into other sides that will be competing in Europe next season, such as Derry City and Sligo Rovers.

Trophy, having been tried all the way to the end by both Sligo Rovers and Derry City.

Derry City: Two years ago the team from the Banks of the Foyle were facing relegation, bankruptcy and the risk of falling into football wilderness, but having won the League of Ireland First Division last year, the Candystripe's are back where they belong, playing amongst the elite clubs in Ireland in the Premier Division. A hard fought season saw Derry challenge all the way for the title as well as winning the

EA Sports Final, defeating Cork City in the final. With such a successful season in the books, Derry City can look forward to once again playing in Europe and hopefully putting some cash bank in the bank.

Republic of Ireland:

Hopefully as you are reading this, the national team will have qualified for the 2012 Euro Championships to be held next summer.

Rugby

Ireland: What a year it was for Irish rugby in 2011. Despite a stuttering start to their 2011 Six Nations Campaign, the Irish came away being labeled as one of the favorites to win the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand (September/October). Leading up to the finals the Irish looked anything but favorites as they lost several warm up games, and those that they won they did so in very unconvincing ways. But when it came down to it, our boys didn't disappoint.



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy wins the 2011 US Open at Congressional Country Club in Maryland.

The success of Shamrock rovers this year was not just limited to European competition. For the 2nd year in succession the Dubliners lifted the Airtricity Premier Division

Cricket

Ireland: Now we're in uncharted territory, a cricket article in *Owens Sports*. There is a good reason though. This year saw the Irish cricket team pull off a historic victory, one for the ages. A victory that would lead to several sports publications to run with the headline 'biggest shock in cricket history'. So what type of victory am I talking about? Well the Irish beat England at



Ireland beat England in Cricket

their own game, the Irish shocked the English in one of the biggest upsets in world cricket history.

In the annals of Irish sporting victories, it is the most unlikely ever. Beating England at cricket is the equivalent of Ireland beating

the Yankees at baseball. To quote Enda Kenny, the Prime Minister of Ireland: "Ireland's victory marks one of the finest days in Irish sport. Their supreme effort will lift the spirits of every single Irish person, no matter where they are in the world."

GAA

Football: The footballers of Dublin shocked everyone this year when they won the county's first All-Ireland Football Championship since 1995. Before the season started the talk was of



Dublin wins the All-Ireland Football Championship

Kerry or perhaps Cork going all the way, not too many even had Dublin listed in the top three or four teams. But this year's Dublin team proved

Continued on Page 6...



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Saints And Sinners

By Edna O'Brien

Back Bay Books; ISBN 978-0-316-12272-6; 2011; 245 pp.

This month's *Off The Shelf* column reviews two recent short story collections by two of Ireland's most acclaimed writers, Edna O'Brien and Colm Toibin. Both of their books were finalists for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award, the first time two Irish authors made the final cut in the same year. On 16 September 2011, the award was given to Edna O'Brien for her short story collection, *Saints and Sinners*.

Her stories are about ordinary Irish men and women, not embellished with ornament but simple stories told in O'Brien's rich prose style. *Sinners* is a simple, stunning story of a woman's stunted interior life, brought into focus when a visiting family at her bed-and-breakfast reveal their easy intimacy which leaves her enthralled, yet repelled.

"Madame Cassandra" features a married woman desperate to know if her husband has fallen in love with a "buxom young convent



girl," young enough to be her granddaughter. She seeks out the advice of a fortune teller but is rebuffed in her effort when the fortune teller refuses to answer her door having just met with the

convent girl on a similar question.

In "Manhattan Medley," an Irish woman living in New York City begins an affair with a married English architect. The story sizzles with sensual intensity despite her friends' attempts to discourage the liaison.

In "Black Flower" a woman strikes up a relationship with a released Republican prisoner. Though free, the man fears that he will always be wanted. The woman who taught him painting in prison wrestles with the horrific details of the man's past as the two

share a peaceful county lunch.

The Empty Family

By Colm Toibin

Scribner; ISBN 978-1-4391-3832-8; 2011; 275 pp.

Colm Toibin's collection is equally stunning in its portrayal of people linked by love, loneliness, and desire. The open-

ing story, "Silence" is based on an incident in the life of Henry James, an American born writer who Toibin featured in his award winning novel, *The Master*. The story centers on Lady Gregory the Irish poet and playwright. Seated next to James at a dinner, and knowing that he enjoys being entertained with anecdotes which he can draw upon in his work, Lady Gregory creates a fiction of her own by relating a story of a long ago love affair over which she still suffers.

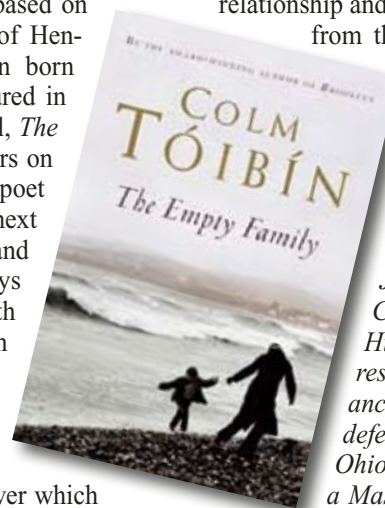
In "Two Women" an arrogant set designer from Los Angeles returns to Dublin, where a stranger's resemblance to the only man she ever loved, but lost, topples her off her pedestal and brings her back to her former lover's sphere.

In "The Street," Toibin's focus is on the relationship between two gay Pakistani immigrants living in Barcelona, as they face the fears of others finding out about their

relationship and the insecurity which flows from their fears of having to be returned to their native country.

This writer rates both books as **TOP SHELF** reads.

*Terrence J. Kenneally is the president of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Fairview Park, Ohio. His practice consists of representing insured's and insurance companies in insurance defense litigation throughout Ohio. He is presently pursuing a Masters Degree in Irish Studies at John Carroll University. He can be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.



Rating Legend:

Top Shelf

Get it. A good story or recording, entertaining, an authentic setting and/or good educational content.

Middle Shelf

Worth a read or a listen if this particular subject/area/person is of interest to you.

Owens Sports

...Continued from Page 4

everyone wrong. They proved that they were back with a vengeance.

On route to this year's final, the Dubs beat Laois, Kildare and Wexford on their way to the Leinster Championship. In the Championship Quarter Finals they beat favorite's Tyrone. In the semi's, Dublin came up against a resolute Donegal side, yet prevailed by a score of 0-8 to 0-6 to set up a mouth-watering clash with Kerry. In what was a great game overall, Dublin came from behind to edge out Kerry by 1-12 to 1-11 in a tense and exciting encounter at Croke Park. Goalkeeper Stephen Cluxton converted a winning free in stoppage time to give Dublin the title.

Hurling: Kilkenny added yet another title to their every growing list of honors when they defeated defending champion Tipperary. The victory for Kilkenny was their 33rd title in all, which is a record that may never be beat.

Trivia

First last month's question: *this month's article*

discussed the history of the GAA in North America, the All-Ireland Football Final has only be held outside of Ireland on one occasion. Where was it held, when and who played in that year's final? **The New York Polo Grounds on September 14th 1947, contested by Cavan and Kerry, with Cavan running out 2-11 to 2-7 winners in front of just over 34,000 spectators.**

This month's question: *Golf in Ireland has had enormous success this past few years with a new breed of golfers, but which Irish golfer owns the distinction of being the 1st Irishman to win of golf's professional majors?*

*Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001 where he is employed by State Farm Insurance Companies, having previously spent time studying at John Carroll University. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markowens@ireland.com.

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Real Ireland

By Rachel Gaffney



Mince Pies

Mince pies in Ireland are as much a part of Christmas as Midnight Mass, spiced beef and the Christmas turkey. Omitting them now, would be gross negligence on my part!

Throughout my travels, I have tried several varieties from home made to store bought and still to this day, the mince pies made by Margot Gaffney, also lovingly known as 'Mum' to me, are without a doubt, the best. I wonder what makes them the best?

Every year, our kitchen was a hive of activity, with the cupboards and fridge brimming with fresh ingredients including, oranges, lemons, fresh herbs, potatoes, brussels sprouts, carrots and meats.

Everything was made from scratch months and weeks ahead. The traditional Christmas cake and puddings were prepared well ahead of time, preserved with plenty of alcohol and neatly wrapped in 'Mason Cash' pudding bowls and wrapped in brown paper and twine.

I have fond memories of mum making a fresh batch of mince pies on Christmas Eve, and my father waiting eagerly to be the recipient of the first one. I idled around, also waiting for these sweet treats to emerge, listening to Bing Crosby singing "White Christmas" in the background. The memory of that first bite of pastry melting in my mouth and the taste of the sweet and spiced filling is indelibly printed in my memory bank.

Mince pies, or minced pies as they were once called, were a delicacy in the medieval times before arriving at the Tudor Court in England. They

were indeed made from minced meat. Everything from swan to veal and later mutton and beef. They were then mixed with spices, apples and dried fruits. The mince pies that I grew up with were made from suet instead of



actual minced meat. Suet is the fat from mutton and beef found around the kidneys and loins of the animal. This fat was shredded and mixed with spices, lemon zest, sugar, brandy and dried fruits. If you did not want to get suet from your butcher then you could purchase Atora brand suet in a box which was suet mixed with flour.

I watched my mother bake these delicacies year after year. Growing up next to your mother in the kitchen is by far the best way to learn how to bake and cook. Many years later I lived in Chicago, now with a family of my own, and whilst there, I asked the butcher to save me some suet for my Christmas baking. He expressed surprise as it had been a long time since he had been asked for suet. My mother always told me that your butcher is a great friend to have. Those were different times but there are indeed some great butchers still around, and my advice to you is

to seek them out.

One such butcher in Ireland is Pat Whelan from County Tipperary. Proprietor of 'James Whelan Butchers,' award winning butchers for over forty years. Recently I read Pat's beautiful book *An Irish Butcher Shop*. It arrived, wrapped in brown paper and tied with twine. The photographs in this book are simply a work of art and one of my personal favorites is a photograph of succulent lamb chops, with a smattering of rosemary and a sprinkling of sea salt. These photographs almost jump off the page, inviting you to try. This book is available on www.amazon.co.uk and www.jameswhelan-butchers.com.

Recently, Pat and I were talking about Christmas and although we are now an ocean apart, we both have the same nostalgia associated with Christmas. His customers are nostalgic and are on a quest to create the perfect holiday, recreating childhood memories.

"I think in a funny way," says Whelan, "the smells associated with winter are my favorite—the smell of the fire burning, the warm feeling that it gives me, but particularly the smell of seasonal food cooking reminds me of times past. One of the most unique smells for me at Christmas time is Spiced Beef, it's one of those products that makes Christmas unique because it's not available at any other time of the year."

Smells become memories and it is those memories that evoke nostalgia.

I know that my mince pies are delicious, but what makes my mother's mince pies the best are the memories.

I also know that what comes along with those delicious treats, those sweet morsels, are the memories of Bing Crosby singing, my father, almost childlike waiting for that hot pastry, the aroma of baked dried fruits, the sound of a crackling fire and the flickering candle on the window sill, guiding those weary travelers.

The secret ingredient for a great tasting mince pie is love. The love of a mother.

Mince Pies With Kerrygold Butter Crust

Ingredients

2 cups all purpose flour (I prefer King Arthur unbleached)

1/2 teaspoon salt

12 tablespoons KERRYGOLD unsalted Butter, cut into cubes

6-10 teaspoons ice cold water

1 egg yolk (reserve egg white for pastry)

Filling

1 jar of mince meat. (if you are not making home made)

Utensils... Food Processor, Rolling Pin, 2 cookie cutters 3-1/2" & 3"

Cup cake pan, fork & pastry brush.

Method

Preheat oven to 425° F. You will need to grease a cup cake pan. Keep your water in the fridge until needed.

In a food processor, whirl together flour and salt. Add butter next, pulsing until it resembles coarse meal. Add egg yolk. Slowly add water, 1 teaspoon at a time and pulse again until dough begins to form a ball. You can wrap this dough in plastic wrap and keep in fridge until ready to use or just flour surface and roll with rolling pin.

You will need 2 cookie cutters. Round or fluted edge. I prefer fluted for decorative purposes. Roll the dough out and, using your 3-1/2" cookie cutter, cut out the pieces and place in pan. Spoon mince meat into the center, then using your smaller 3" cookie cutter, cut out the tops and place on top as lids.

You can use the egg & milk wash as a seal for the lids by brushing the pieces before placing them on top.

Prick each mince pie with a fork, once in the center.

Bake for approx. 20 minutes. Let cool on a wire baking tray. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

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By J. Michael Finn



Spying for Ireland

During the Irish War of Independence, Michael Collins was helped by a network of spies and informants who worked inside the British intelligence machine in Ireland. Although these individuals risked their lives as informants, amazingly, none of them were ever detected. They helped Collins break the back of the British spy ring whose chief goal was his demise. The information they provided helped to bring the British to the bargaining table. We will look at just three of Collins spies: Eamon (Ned) Broy, David Neligan and Nancy O'Brien.

In those years, the main seat of English authority in Ireland was in Dublin. Here the combined efforts of British Intelligence, the British military and the Dublin Municipal Police joined together to gather dossiers on any individual or group they deemed in conflict with the Crown. Information was accumulated as the spies from these organizations combed the streets and pubs of Dublin in an effort to arrest and imprison the rebels.

The most active of these intelligence units was the Dublin Municipal Police (DMP). The intelligence unit was known as G Division. The men who worked there were known on the street as G-Men. Most were Irish. They were generally hated and despised by the populace who saw them as traitors to Ireland.

Eamon (Ned) Broy – Ned Broy was born in 1887 at Rathangan, County Kildare, Ireland. Broy joined the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) and rose to the rank of Detective Sergeant. He worked as a clerk inside the DMP G Division which was located on Great Brunswick Street. In 1918, Broy approached Michael Collins and offered to serve as a double agent. Collins accepted and Broy copied sensitive G Division files for Collins. The files were passed to Collins through Thomas Gay, the librarian at the Caple

Street Library. On April 7, 1919, Broy smuggled Collins into the G Division's archives. This enabled Collins to identify G-Men, six of whom would later be killed by Collins.



(L-R) Eamon "Ned" Broy; David Neligan; Nancy O'Brien

When the war ended, Broy supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 and joined the Irish Free State Army during the Irish Civil War, reaching the rank of Colonel. In 1925, he left the Army and joined the Garda Síochána (the Irish national police). He served as Commissioner of Gardaí from 1933 to 1938.

In 1934 Broy oversaw the creation of the "The Auxiliary Special Branch" of the Garda. This was formed mainly of hastily-trained anti-Treaty IRA veterans. It was nicknamed the "Broy Harriers." The unit was first used against the Facist Blueshirts. The "Broy Harrier" nickname persisted into the 1940's, though Broy himself was no longer in command. He also served as President of the Olympic Council of Ireland from 1935 to 1950. Eamon Broy died in 1972.

Neil Jordan's film, *Michael Collins* (1996), inaccurately depicts Broy (played by actor Stephen Rea) as having been discovered, tortured and killed by the British. Broy was once detained on suspicion, but, thanks to Collins quick action, no evidence was found and he was released. In addition, the film inaccurately depicts G Division as being based in Dublin Castle.

David Neligan – David Neligan was born at Templeglantine, County Limerick, Ireland in 1899. Against his father's wishes, David joined the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1917, and he was recruited into the G Division in 1919. In May 1920, David's brother Maurice, a member of the IRA and friend of Michael Collins, con-

vinced him to resign his position with the DMP. Already disillusioned with his work, he returned to his home in Templeglantine.

Shortly after his return, Maurice was killed in a motorcycle accident. Neligan received word that Michael Collins wanted to see him. Collins persuaded Neligan to return to the DMP, this time as a double agent who would supply intelligence information to Collins. Neligan returned and became a spy.

In 1921, Neligan was recruited into British Intelligence. He used this as an opportunity to memorize their passwords and the identities of their agents.

All of this was passed on to Collins. He thus became Collins' most important mole inside Dublin Castle. The information he supplied was instrumental in allowing Collins to kill fourteen British Intelligence officers on Sunday, November 21, 1920.

Neligan left the intelligence service in June 1922, and joined the Free State Army, with the rank of Commandant. He was involved in the seaborne assault on Fenit and spent the remainder of the war serving as the local intelligence officer.

In 1923, Neligan was promoted to Colonel and succeeded Diarmuid O'Hegarty as National Army Director of Intelligence. In 1924 he handed over his post to Colonel Michael Costello and took command of the DMP (which still continued as a separate force within the newly established Garda Síochána), with the rank of Chief Superintendent. In 1925 he transferred to the Garda when the two police forces were united. When Eamon de Valera was elected to power in 1932, his Republican followers demanded Neligan's dismissal. He was subsequently transferred to an equivalent post in the Civil Service.

Until Neligan's death in 1983, Neligan drew pensions from the DMP, the British Secret Service, the Garda Síochána and the Irish Civil Service. During the time he served as one of Michael Collins spies, he was never discovered. He wrote a book about this exploits titled *Spy in the Castle*.

Nancy O'Brien – Not too many things amazed Michael Collins; however, when his second cousin, Nancy O'Brien, was hired as a clerk in the General Post Office, Collins was said to have been amazed. He was heard to

comment, "In the name of Jasus, how did these people ever get an empire?!"

Of course, Collins recruited his cousin as a spy, and she began smuggling communications from the GPO that went directly to Collins. In fact, Collins often found out about troop movements before the officers in the field. Nancy smuggled the messages out of the GPO hidden in her hair.

At the time of the War of Independence, the General Post Office was the main communications center for the British Army. All military dispatches and communications passed through or were generated by officers in the GPO. In late 1919, Nancy O'Brien had received rapid promotion in the Post Office. She was sitting in her office when she was sent for by the head of the British Post Office (she thought then that her work as a mole had been discovered).

He said to her, "We are aware of your dedication and your work. To get to the point, Miss O'Brien," he said, "Whitehall is now so worried (about leaks) that they are going to send the vital information necessary for running this outpost of our Empire in code, and we have decided, because of your dedi-

cation... that you will be the person to decode all of these messages." Nancy had done such a good job the British were promoting her to decode all of their secret messages, completely unaware that everything she typed went directly to her second cousin, Michael Collins.

Nancy retired from spying, married Michael Collins' brother John and raised a family. She died sometime in the 1960's.

These were only three of Collins many spies. Some of his operatives remain unknown and each operative did not know of the others existence. The resourcefulness of Collins was remarkable. He kept the pilfered information out of the hands of the British, thus protecting his spies from discovery. These individuals have never been fully recognized for their significant contributions to Irish freedom.

**J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is also Chairman of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history and Ohio Catholic history. You may contact him at FCoolavin@aol.com.*

The Dogs of Ireland - Irish Wolfhound

By Ray Cavanaugh

This towering hound would make a fine guard dog, except that its good nature often makes it friendly towards strangers, even those with bad intentions. That being said, the formidable presence cut by a Wolfhound's sheer size might suffice to deter unwanted guests.

Now a big teddy-bear of a dog, the Irish Wolfhound was once a bloody menace on the battlefield. Wolfhounds are described as "war dogs" in certain Celtic manuscripts of the early-Christian period. Some suggest that the breed came to Ireland over 5,000 years ago. Pre-Christian woodcuts depict Irish Wolfhounds, and Julius Caesar mentions them with a touch of awe.

Centuries later, Oliver Cromwell would use them to control the population of wolves in Ireland. Cromwell seemed to think highly of the breed. In fact, he passed a law that only members of the nobility could own an Irish Wolfhound.

By the 19th century, the breed had become scarce. With Ireland's wolf population mostly eradicated, Irish Wolfhounds were no longer employed as hunters; they were declining status symbols. It seemed the Irish Wolfhound was soon for extinction, but along came Scottish army officer George A.

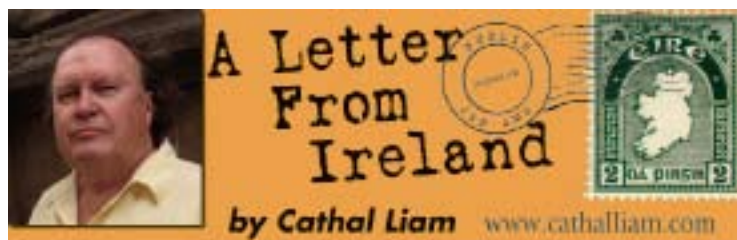


Graham, who spearheaded the effort to ensure the breed's survival.

Because so few accessible Wolfhound specimens remained, it is believed that they were crossed with Deerhounds, Great Danes, and the Borzoi (Russian Wolfhound).

Eventually Graham, along with other supporters, established the Irish Wolfhound Club in 1885. Ensuing decades would see a Wolfhound resurgence. These days, the Irish Wolfhound worries little about breed extinction. This is a dog with an even-keeled disposition.

The breed usually shows an awareness of its immense size and displays an especially gentle streak towards children. Sadly, this cuddly colossus has among the shortest of canine life expectancies. Many succumb to the ravaging effects of bone cancer.



Can you believe it? Another year is coming to an end... the fifth for this monthly Irish newspaper. Considering the state of things, sure it's a bloody miracle you're reading this.

If it weren't for you... for your faithful support and steadfast interest in all things Irish; for our loyal advertisers who carry the financial burden of bringing you this newspaper; for the millions of words submitted by its many contributors; for the incredible efforts of your Cleveland-based, Co-Publisher/Editor John O'Brien, Jr.; for the behind-the-scenes work of its Chicago publisher Cliff Carlson and for the unnamed others who contribute to putting the paper together, the *Ohio Irish American News* would never have seen the light of day much less this, its sixtieth edition... a truly collaborative achievement.

Needless to say, I've given considerable thought to what I'll say marking this memorable occasion. Finally, I decided to look back over the past five years of letters and select a few tidbits upon which to reflect. But first, a few words about our recent presidential election.

As you know by now, the seventy-year-old, former Labour Government Minister and TD from Galway West, Michael D. Higgins was the run-away winner, becoming Ireland's ninth president. He's a passionate Irishman, raised in humble circumstances and possessing the common touch. Michael D., as he's popularly known, is a poet, human rights' activist and was his Labour-party's nominee. Receiving just over one-million votes [ca. 3.2 million were eligible to vote while 1.8 actually did], this fluent Irish speaker survived an often brutal, embittered campaign with his usual grace and dignity.

I remember when he was Galway's Mayor in the 1980's and again in the 1990's, but ultimately, his national notoriety surfaced as Labour Minister for Irish Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht in the middle 1990's. He helped reinstate the Irish Film Board, established an Irish-speaking television station and championed

the lifting of a ban proscribing Sinn Féin members from speaking live on RTÉ. Just recently, president-elect Higgins thanked the Irish people for their confidence in him and spoke of leading the country with both his heart and head.

He was my second preference choice behind Martin McGuinness. The nomination of Sinn Féin politico and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland's assembly caught most by surprise. Held in esteem not only by Irish republicans, but by many nationalists, unionists and peace-loving people around the world, Martin ran a strong, positive, all-Ireland campaign. Despite his early years in the IRA, this Derryman is widely respected for his political stance on peace-making and peace-keeping at home and elsewhere.

Yes, both men possess a profound love for Ireland and for its people. Individually, they've a great faith in our country's future. Sure Ireland will be in safe hands with Michael D. and in seven years, maybe in Martin's.

Now, turning to some reflections... I still remember the day John O'Brien rang me in the autumn of 2006. He invited me to submit 'something' for the first issue of a new Irish paper scheduled for publication in January 2007. But with December's usual buzz and my beginning a new book, I was busy. As a result, I didn't give John's project more than a fleeting thought.

All that, however, changed. With the advent of the New Year, a bundle of something packaged in a plain brown wrapper arrived into the house. Jokingly, my wife accused me of sending off for something risqué. With my curiosity peaked, I opened the packet. There, inside were copies of the premier issue of John's *IANOhio*. To my delight, its cover, bedecked with wild flowers along an Irish coastline, greeted my eyes. What a welcome sight on a cold Ohio winter's day.

Happily, on pages 8 & 9, I discovered my initial offering, *Shona's Circle*. My goodness, two full pages de-

voted to my story about a Scots-Irish woman from Chicago... and yes, the entire paper was very professionally done... full of so many interesting pieces. Leafing through it, I remember thinking, "John is certainly off to a flying start."

Unusually slow to cop on, I suddenly realised what John's undertaking was all about. An Ohio Irish newspaper filled with heartfelt editorials, articles, photographs, announcements and appealing adverts. Something for everyone with an Irish bent. His dream had become reality.

Next month saw the Irish Sopranos, each wearing Valentine-red dresses and seated on a red couch, attractively gracing February's cover. So yes, from the very beginning, John's eye-catching front pages consistently pictured the best in Irish art and photography. Besides its interesting and informative content, *IANOhio* covers quickly became the newspaper's signature trademark.

It didn't take long for me to realise what a wonderful vehicle this newspaper could become for Irish journalists. Selfishly for me, it offered an opportunity to share one of my loves, Ireland, with others. Sure there was much to say... a medium to write about the people and places I hold dear and a spot to offer my observations about Irish history, politics and culture. I might even mention books I've read or films seen... and of course, there were all those pubs and restaurants I love to blather on about... a virtually endless list of them.

Looking back, my next month's submission featured a description of a visit to Dublin for the 90th Easter-Week commemoration. Tagged *Head for the Country*, my opening paragraph lamented: "The changes are almost too much to take. Bewilderment and sadness replace old feelings of homey comfort and enthusiastic pride in the so-called Celtic-Tiger phenomenon. In self-defence, I retreat to The Palace on Fleet Street, one of Dublin's old, traditional nineteenth-century public houses, for a quiet pint and some reflection."

It wouldn't be until the July issue that John's creative genius settled on the now familiar column banner with its simple heading, *A Letter From Ireland* featuring a 2P [pence] cancelled Irish postal stamp. Early on, the column's identity became fixed.

I'll share a few more of my *IANOhio* remembrances next month, but until then, I wish you a joyous *Nollaig Shona Duit*. God bless and keep you... always, Cathal

*Cathal is a freelance writer and

the author of *Consumed in Freedom's Flame*, *Forever Green*, and *Blood on the Shamrock*. His new book, *Fear Not the Storm*, was released in March. www.cathalliam.com.

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Toledo Renowned Irish Singer John Connolly Retires

By Maury Collins

John Connolly recently announced that he is retiring from a fifty year singing career.

John was born in the tiny village of Castleconnell in Co. Limerick, just north of Cork, where John's father was born.

John's music began as a child in Castleconnell. He was part of a group known as the "Penny Whistle Band." John also learned to play the button-box accordion at that young age.

He came to Toledo in 1967 and started a group called John Connolly and the Limerick Rakes, performing in the Toledo area for over 20 years. In the early 1990's John formed John Connolly and Company, with John singing Irish tunes, his



daughter Kathleen Connolly singing country and Jim Barker singing contemporary and classic rock.

John recorded four CDs of his music: *Maggie, John Connolly, Still At It, Celtic-Country-Classic*, and *The Limerick Rakes in Nashville*.

John performances were an essential part of renewed interest in the Lucas County Hibernian St. Patrick's Festivals.

Numerous surgeries on both shoulders led to John's deciding that he had enough of lugging around heavy road cases, setting up hours before a show and then having to tear it all down in the wee hours of the morning. "The singing and entertaining was the easy part," he said. He will continue *Echo's of Ireland*, his top rated radio show, with Ted McHugh, on WCWA (1230 on the AM dial) Sundays from

11:30am until 1:30pm. Listen to the show on the Internet. www.wcwa.com, the click Listen Live.

John Connolly is a musical treasure, who has given countless hours to preserving, promoting and presenting Irish music and the Irish culture to audiences around the world. We wish him a grand retirement, well-earned, and are grateful for the gifts he shared so readily with us.

More information about John Connolly is available on line at: <http://www.johnconnollymusic.com>. To Purchase CDs, contact John at LimerickR@aol.com.



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Walk Down an Irish Lane Continued from Page 3...

It can increase a person's depression, which is a big factor in suicide. Teenagers tend to be far more impulsive than older people, who tend to plan things more... Alcohol can increase that impulsiveness, there is no doubt about that," he said.

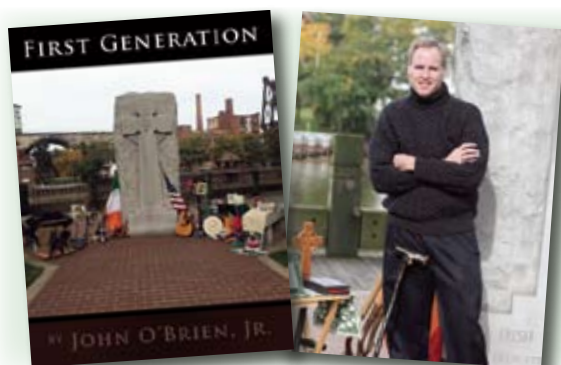
Dr Connolly feels that parents and guardians should be aware of young people's impulsive nature and try to support them. He also feels that the binge drinking culture in Ireland has more of an effect on teenagers than adults, and that access to alcohol is too easy for young people. "Alcohol is widely available to young people. I do know that a developing brain deals with alcohol in a different way to mature adult brains... There is a particular culture here to go out and get smashed rather than have a sociable drink."

Sad, very sad, and a stark reminder that we should avoid the glamorising of drink (as seen during Barack Obama and the Queen's visit to Ireland earlier this year) and treating it much more responsibly. The Government has indicated that it intends to raise the price of alcohol and curtail discounted promotions in a bid to get to grips with the scourge. We shall see.

Until next time, slán.
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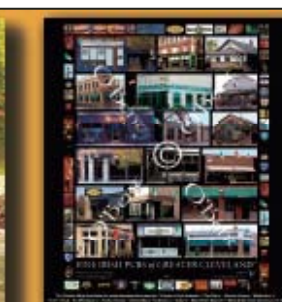
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The Fall Of Dublin

By Liz Gillis

Mercier Press, 157 pp.

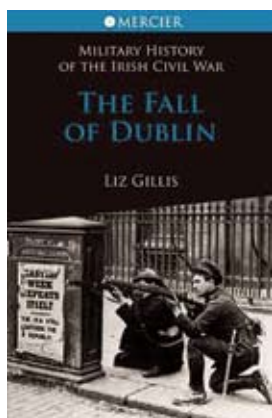
Reviewed by Cathal Liam

Before an eager audience inside the hallowed walls of Kilmainham, which saw its share of Civil War involvement, Liz Gillis, researcher, historian, writer and Kilmainham Gaol guide, launched this, her first book. Gillis introduced the third in a series by Mercier Press on the Military History of the Irish Civil War. Two additional volumes are anticipated this autumn.

On first read, the similarities between the opening salvo of the Civil War in the summer of 1922 and Dublin's 1916 Easter Uprising bear a remarkable resemblance as two ill-prepared forces face off against each other: one ensconced in city-centre buildings while being out-flanked by

the other. This time, minus the British, the protagonists are the fledgling Irish pro-Treaty National army, with a lion-share of the weaponry, who've encircle its opposition, the newly reconstituted anti-Treaty Irish Republicans.

As in 1916, the fierce fighting in Dublin lasts but a few short days, 28 June to 5 July. Once again, the surrounding forces win a decisive but embittered victory. Later, the conflict spreads throughout the provinces as it did during the War for Independence, the aftermath of the Easter Rebellion. In both instances, the city centre is left a burned-out, jagged ruin and, though



both armed adversaries experience loss, it's the civilian population that suffers most egregiously.

Less a military analysis and more a historical retelling, Gillis does a masterful job of recounting the opening days of this internecine conflict from which Ireland still hasn't completely recovered. The civic divide created by this heart-breaking struggle still tears at the national fabric. For many, it turned family members and friends against one another, leaving behind bitter memories and fractured lives.

The author wisely hurries over the late-1921 Treaty encumbrances, focusing instead on how the military, not the politicians, vainly try to resolve their differences after the January, 1922 'split.' Surprisingly, she spends precious few words on the roles of the two Irish adversarial giants: Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera. In fact, she fails to

mention that Collins too lies among the dead, a Civil War victim himself, buried in a National army grave in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery.

Gillis' skill as a writer blossoms in her descriptions of the daily battle scenes raging through Dublin that fateful week. The naivety, the emotional tenor and the military hopes of both pro- and anti-Treaty elements are described with care and insight. She openly, without pointing an accusative finger, examines the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the Four Courts complex and its prized historical records during the first days of the war.

Using many carefully selected first-hand remembrances, the author adds much detail to her historical recounting. Personal deeds as well as specific geographical descriptions bring the eight-day conflict alive in the reader's mind.

Liz Gillis's new book deserves to be read by everyone with an interest in Ireland's twentieth-century. Though few have chosen to delve in depth into this tragic episode, Gillis has made a major contribution in understanding Ireland's Civil War divide.



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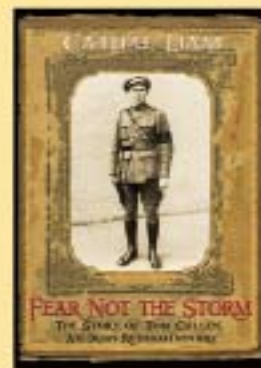
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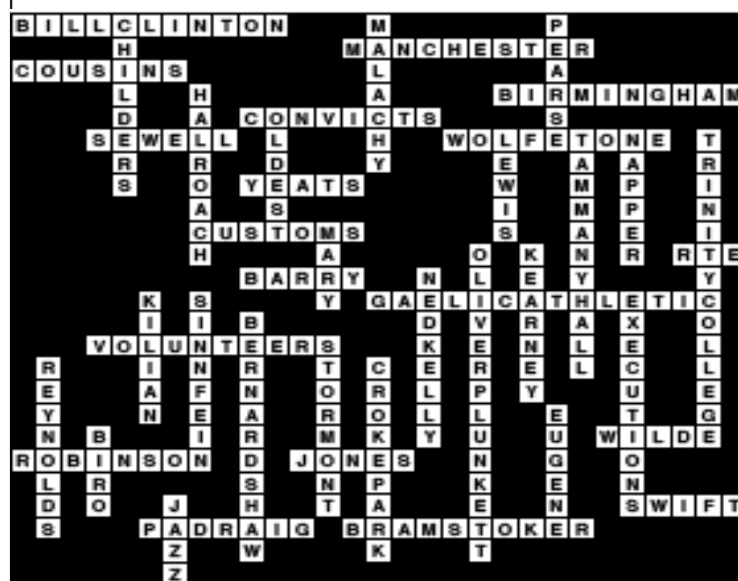
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author of
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Blood On the Shamrock
and
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www.cathalliam.com

November Crossword Puzzle Answers On This Date



On This Day in Irish History Irish Trivia Dec. 2011

Dec. 4, 2009 - Death of Liam Clancy, the last surviving member of the Clancy Brothers.

Dec. 5, 1933 - U.S. Federal Judge John M. Woolsey ruled that the book *Ulysses* was not obscene, but rather was a work of literary merit.

Dec. 6, 1921 - Representatives of the Irish government, including Michael Collins, sign the Anglo-Irish Treaty, ending the Irish war of Independence against England.

Dec. 10, 1977 - Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, co-founders of "Peace People" in Northern Ireland, are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

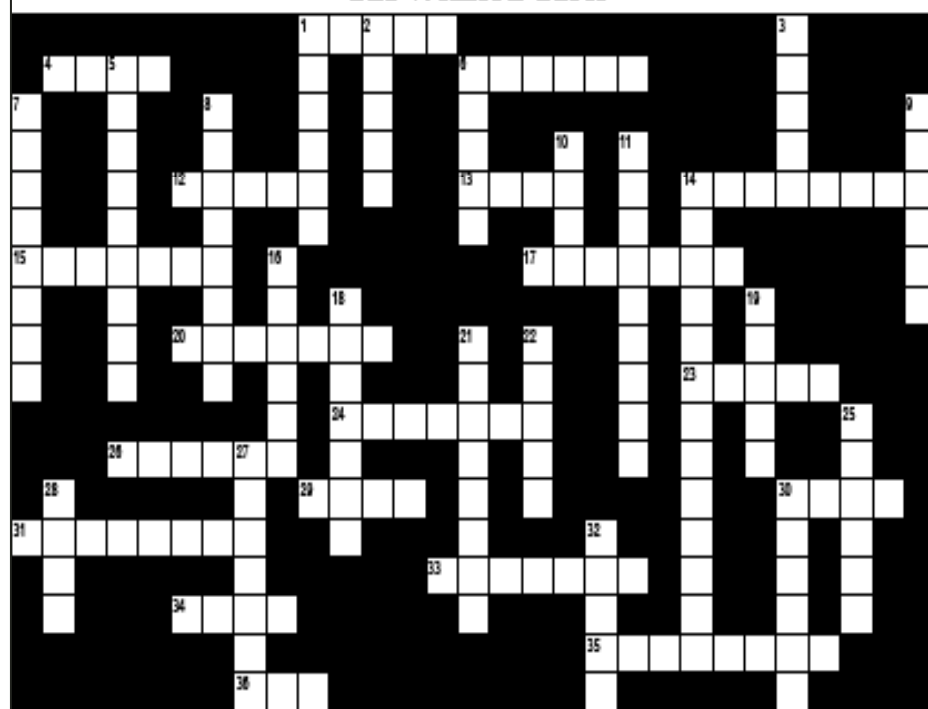
Dec. 13, 1955 - Death of Grace Gifford Plunkett, Irish patriot. She famously married Joseph Plunkett hours before his execution in 1916, for his part in the Easter Rising.

Dec. 19, 1973 - The Supreme Court of Dublin rules that a ban on contraceptives is unconstitutional.

Dec. 20, 1865 - Birth in Dublin of Maud Gonne, Irish revolutionary, feminist, and actress.

**Source: Terrence J. Kenneally; the Encyclopedia of Ireland

The Wexford Carol



ACROSS

- 1 For there you'll find this _____ man,
 4 The shepherds went the _____ to find,
 6 They did our _____ Christ behold.
 12 And as God's _____ had foretold,
 13 To God with _____ this Christmas day
 14 _____ well and bear in mind
 15 With gifts of gold and _____ earnest.
 17 "_____ and go", the angels said.
 20 In sending his _____ Son.
 23 There were _____ wise men from afar
 24 Were long time _____ up and down
 26 To whom God's _____ did appear
 28 But mark how all things come to _____;
 30 With _____ holy we should pray
 31 As long _____, their refuge all
 33 There was a _____ Messiah born.
 34 And by his side the virgin _____,
 35 From every door _____ glad!
 36 What our good _____ for us has done

DOWN

- 1 They _____ cast them at his feet,
 2 And when they came unto that _____,
 3 Until they came where _____ lay,
 5 In _____ upon that morn
 6 Was but an humble cot's _____,
 7 Directed by a _____ star,
 8 And on they _____ night and day
 9 The noble _____ and her guide
 10 Which put the shepherds in great _____.
 11 Near Bethlehem _____ did leap
 14 Good people all, this _____.
 16 Their _____ of lambs and leading sheep,
 18 Where our beloved _____ was,
 19 Who came on _____ to end all strife
 21 A _____ babe, sweet Jesus born.
 22 The _____ before that happy tide
 25 'To Bethlehem, be not _____,
 27 To find a _____ in the town
 28 Attending on the _____ of life,
 30 Within a _____ he was laid,
 32 With thankful _____ and joyful mind,

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Created by Linda Fulton Burke

Padraig McCaul: A Contemporary Irish Landscape Artist

By Susan Mangan

In December, it is easy to believe in the workings of fate in our lives. Sentiment and glad tidings resound in the words of our neighbors. A dusting of snow beautifies the bleakness of the winter earth, if only for a moment. It is also a season for reflection and introspection.

Last holiday season when my son qualified for the World's Irish Dancing Competition in Dublin, Ireland, I never thought his personal journey would introduce me to an artist whose paintings have held me enthralled. In the spring of 2011, The Doorway Gallery in Dublin featured the official opening of artist Padraig McCaul's exhibition *Sentinels*. A large oil on canvas portraying Achill Island's stunning Keem Beach was displayed in the store front window of this elegant Georgian-style gallery. Taking a risk, I rang the bell for admittance and brought my bedraggled ten-year-old son into this sophisticated place.

Open-mouthed, I stood admiring McCaul's unique perspective. Somehow, he brought contemporary feeling to images of bog and strand, mountain and sky, that are as old as time. Dublin-born artist McCaul is most inspired by the landscape of Ireland's Western Coast, from West Cork to Donegal.

McCaul, like modernist Irish artist Paul Henry before him, is particularly drawn to Achill Island, County Mayo. He reflects on his first visit to Achill and how his vision of the Irish countryside was forever changed. "At each turn in the

rising, winding road a new vista appeared—more beautiful than the last."



Padraig McCaul

swam and fished. Regardless of one's personal connection to Ireland, McCaul brings the essence of Ireland's stark and isolated beauty to life.

Through McCaul's unique perspective and interesting use of color, he can make mist appear to rise out of the canvas. His paintings are texturally alive. McCaul muses that art

should "evoke response in people." Color is used to create atmosphere and feeling.

In his painting, "A Soft Day—Achill," the colors are bold: bright blues, greens, a yellow sun breaking through gentle clouds. My father-in-law used to say, "On a fine day, Achill is like Heaven; when storms blow it is like Hell." Padraig McCaul

remains true to the heart of Achill. He doesn't shy away from painting a lonely image of a barren farmhouse dwarfed by a mountain and threatened by the changing clouds in the

Continued on Page 15...



"A Soft Day - Achill"

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Irish Heritage Center

Library by appointment/ Genealogy for members. Tea Room by reservation. Irish Language Classes, Tuesdays 7pm / Irish History Classes, Thursdays 6:30pm/ Saturday Art Classes / Children's Saturday, Adult Tuesday Irish Dance Classes. Irish Heritage Center, 3905 Eastern Ave. 513-533-0100. www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com.

Cleveland

Dobama Theatre
Premier of *The Seafarer*

Dec...2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. 2340 Lee Rd., Cleveland, OH 44118-3444; 216-932-6838. www.dobama.org.

Flat Iron Café

Dec...2nd-Jim & Eroc, Classic Rock Duo; 9th-Becky Boyd; 16th-Kristine Jackson; 23rd-Donal O'Shaughnessy. 1114 Center St., Cleveland, 44113-2406. 216-696-6968. www.flatironcafe.com.

The Harp

Dec...2nd-Walking Cane; 3rd-The Portersharps; 7th-Lonesome Stars; 9th-Kristine Jackson; 10th-James Wailani; 14th-\$100.00 Trio; 16th-Cats On Holiday; 17th-Fior Gael; 21st-Lonesome Stars; 23rd Brent Kirby; 28th \$100.00 Trio;



Cleveland (cont'd)

30th-Chris Allen; 31st-The Boys From Co. Hell. 4408 Detroit Rd., 44113. www.the-harp.com.

PJ McIntyre's

Dec...1st-Chris Allen; 2nd-Kreellers; 3rd-Craic; 7th-Monthly Pub Quiz hosted by Mike D.; 8th-Craic Brothers; 9th-Time Warp; 10th-That 80's; 16th-Stiletto Overdrive; 17th-Charlie in the Box; 22nd-T and Rich; 23rd-Wayne's World; 30th-Spazmatics; 31st-VelvetShake. 17119 Lorain Ave., 44111. www.pjmcintyres.com.

Stone Mad

Dec...4th-Traditional Irish Session 7pm-10pm; 11th-Walking Cane; 18th-Little Big Horn; 19th-Annual Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire Party w/The Ohio City Singers. Live music entertainment every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Traditional Irish Session 1st Sunday of ea/month, Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4-7pm. 1306 West 65th St., Cleveland, 44102. 216-281-6500.

Treehouse

Dec...4th-Walkin' Cane; 11th-Chris Allen; 18th-The Treehouse Annual Customer Appreciation Christmas Party w/The Ohio City Singers @ 8pm; 25th-Doors open @ 8pm; 31st-Come Celebrate New Years @ The Treehouse. Open to the Public, Champagne toast @ midnight! 820 College Ave., Cleveland, 44113. www.treehousecleveland.com.

West Park Station

Dec...1st-Jim & Eroc-Happy Hour & DJ Omni 10pm; 2nd-

Cleveland (cont'd)

Kristine Jackson HH & DJ Ace of Spades 10pm; 3rd-Drunk Betty 10pm; 4th-Chili Cook-off; 5th-National Repeal Day Party; 7th-Station Karaoke Finals; 9th-Tricky Dick & The Cover-ups 10pm; 10th-UFC 140 & DJ Ace of Spades 10pm; 15th-Rkade HH & DJ Omni 10pm; 16th-Jackson Rohm HH & DJ 10pm; 17th-Trailer Park Ninjas 10pm; 23rd-Faction 10pm; 24th- Kitchen Closes @ 3pm, Bar open til 12am; 25th-Christmas Day Bar Opens @ 7pm; 30th-The Porter Sharks HH & DJ Ice Cold 10pm; 31st-Picture Perfect New Years Eve Bash with DJ Kidd. Thursday-Ladies Night w/ DJ Destro! Wednesday-Station Karaoke Challenge! Sunday-Magic Man Paul Gallagher from 6-8pm and Every Sunday MINUTE TO WIN IT 9pm. 17015 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, 44111. 216-476-2000. www.westparkstation.com.

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

Dec...3rd-Ann Richens Memorial Party; 4th-Gen. Meeting; 9th-Markley Christmas Concert; 10th-Kid's Christmas Party; 16th-Statehouse Dinner. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd., Columbus, 43207. 614-491-4449. www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com.

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side

PUB: 7:30-10:30. Dec...2nd-Craic Brothers; 9th-Mossy Moran; 16th-

Euclid (cont'd)

One More Pint; 18th-Cahal Dunne Christmas Dinner Concert \$25; 23rd-Kid and Me; 30th-Marcus Dirk and Friends. IACES, 22770 Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid, 44123. 216-731-4003. www.irishamericanclubeastside.org.

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub

Dec...2nd-Maiden's Four; 3rd-The Kreellers; 9th-Nickle Plate; 10th-Highland Reign; 21st-Traditional Session; 31st-Dulahan. 414 South Main St., Findlay, 45840. 419-420-3602. www.logansirishpubfindlay.com.

Lakewood

Beck Center for the Arts

Dec...2nd-31st-Encore production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; 3rd-4th-Beck Dance Workshop presents *Nutcracker... Jazzed Up!*; 5th-10th-Bring A Friend Week; 8th-Hear & Touch the Music; 9th-18th-Beck Youth Theater presents *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; 10th-Super Saturdays @ Beck with Usbourne Books; 10th-Beck the Halls! Holiday Boutique; 15th-Early Childhood ABC. 17801 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, 44107. 216-521-2540. www.beckcenter.org.

Sullivan's Irish Restaurant & Pub

Dec...10th-New Barleycorn. 13368 Madison Ave., Lakewood, 44107. 216-529-8969. www.sullivan'sirishpub.net.

Medina

Sully's

Dec...2nd-Scully; 3rd-The New Barleycorn; 9th-Donal O'Shaughnessy; 10th-The Craic Brothers; 16th-Callahan & O'Connor; 17th-The Island Doctor; 23rd-Marys Lane; 30th-Westside Steve; 31st-Music Men. Every Tuesday 6-8pm, Magician Paul Gallagher performs tableside. 117

Medina (cont'd)

West Liberty, Medina, 44256. www.sullysmedina.com.

Mentor/Willoughby

Croagh Patrick's

Dec...8th-Mossy Moran; 10th-Lunch w/Santa; 13th-Irish Session; 17th-Dear Jimmy Band, Ugly X-Mas Sweater night; 22nd-Celtic Christmas Party, open @ 8pm Xmas Eve & Xmas Eve night; 31st-New Years Eve Party. 4857 Robinhood Dr., Willoughby, 44094. 440-946-8250. www.croaghpatrickspub.webs.com.

Hooley House

Dec...2nd-Itex; 9th-Matt Johnson-Dueling Pianos; 16th-Brigid's Cross; 17th-Abbey Rodeo; 22nd-Nick Zuber; 23rd-Richie Reece Show; 31st-NY Eve-DJ & Dinner Dance Party. Every Tuesday-Open Mic w/Nick Zuber, Every Wednesday-Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd., Mentor. 440-942-6611. www.1funpub.com.

Mullarkey's

Dec...3rd-Kevin McCarthy; 10th-One More Pint; 17th-Dan McCoy. Karaoke Wednesdays. Thursday Ladies Night w/D.J. 4110 Erie St. www.mullarkeys.com.

Olmsted Township

West Side Irish American Club

Dec...5th-Andy Cooney Dinner & Concert; 31st-Ring in New Year 5-10pm. Every Friday 5:30-? Food & Music in the Pub. WSIA Club, 8559 Jennings Rd., 44138. 440-235-5868. www.wsia-club.org.

Solon

Celtic Christmas Concert

Dec...11th-Murphy Irish Dancers. \$13 Adults, \$10 Students & Seniors. Solon High School, 33600 Inwood Rd, Solon. Call 440-876-7057.



Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Beck Center December 2nd-31st. Photo by Kathy Sandham.



Andy Cooney at the West Side Irish American Club December 5th.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
from all of us at the Ohio Irish American News



Ohio City Singers @ Stone Mad December 19th.

Padraig McCaul

...Continued from Page 13

sky. Great beauty can be found both in images of hope and despair.

Self-taught, McCaul first began painting professionally in 2004. From an early display in St. Stephen's Green to a stand at an Art Ireland fair, to a successful exhibition in Dublin's chic The Doorway Gallery, and recent autumn exhibitions in London, Wexford, and Dublin, McCaul's talent is undeniable.

With a background in philosophy and music, McCaul recognizes the need for thoughtful introspection. In fact, his paintings request that of the viewer. In his Sentinels series, McCaul's farmhouses appear abandoned, yet not forgotten. He expresses that there is a "simple beauty in the silent stone farmhouses... the peeling whitewash... the cracked walls."

McCaul reflects on the 1940's song in which John McCormack sings of the wave of Irish who leave Ireland in "The Old House." No matter how many inhabitants leave, the house still stands, guarding, waiting for the family to return.

Padraig McCaul's images evoke in the viewer a sense of one's past and what the future might hold. No matter what twist in the road life presents, nature moves on cyclically and at times ruthlessly. One hundred years from now, McCaul hopes that his paintings will still engage the viewer in a dialogue with the past—the ancient quality of rock and sand, earth and water, the Irish who will currently be living and those from distant generations

who have tread the exact same paths.

McCaul shares his vision with other aspiring artists by hosting regular seminars in plein-air painting in Achill. His workshops are two to four days in length. Anyone from the beginning to experienced artist can gain insight into use of color, perspective, and atmosphere in communion with others who share a passion for art, nature, and Ireland.

For those of us who prefer to absorb rather than create art, McCaul's paintings are on display in The Doorway Gallery, Dublin, The Western Light Gallery, Keel, Achill Island, County Mayo, and The Hungry Hill Gallery, Beara, West Cork. Furthermore, all of McCaul's portfolios are available for viewing on-line at www.padraigmccaul.com.

Inviting, provocative, unforgettable, the art of Padraig McCaul is a treasure awaiting anyone who has experienced the profound beauty of Ireland. For those who are longing to discover Ireland, a glimpse at McCaul's art will seal a fated union.

**For more information regarding Padraig McCaul's works, including a delightful new line of greeting cards for the holiday season, search www.padraigmccaul.com. Also, if traveling in Ireland, stop in any of the following galleries to view Padraig McCaul's paintings: The Doorway Gallery—www.thedoorwaygallery.com, Dublin, Ireland; Western Light Gallery—www.seancannon.ie, Keel, Achill, County Mayo, Ireland; The Hungry Hill Gallery—www.hungryhillgallery.com, Beara, West Cork, Ireland.*

Multi-Award-Winning Irish-Speaking Teddy Bear "BB"

BB Bear, the world's first Irish-speaking toy, is winning awards and securing a firm place in children's hearts around the globe!

BB was a huge hit at his first Christmas last year. Over 30,000 BBs have now been sold and the toy is available in over 100 stores in Ireland as well as online, and is currently available in stores in 14 states in the US.

BB has also just signed up for an animated TV series for pre-schoolers, *BB agus Bella*, incorporating language learning that will be seen on TG4 in 2012, funded through the BAI.

This cuddly and colourful teddy bear teaches toddlers and children 33 words in Irish. BB has bright buttons to press and in response the teddy speaks the friendly-sounding Irish words for basic numbers, colours and shapes.

You can check out the teddy bear on the interactive website www.babog-baby.com, where toddlers, young children—and adults!—can meet BB.

The teddy is the brainchild of children's toy company, Bábógbaby Limited, based in Moycullen, Co. Galway. Adrian Devane set up Bábógbaby in early 2010 to provide tools and toys for toddlers, children and parents to learn those first cúpla focal.

BB the Irish-speaking teddy bear costs €29.99 plus postage and packaging and is available for delivery throughout the world at www.babog-baby.com.

You can also check in on BB via Facebook and on Twitter—just search for Babogbaby.

BB is also available on Babog Baby Iphone, Ipad and android app.

Ongoing Traditional Irish Sessiúns

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Akron Hibernian's Ceili Band Sessions, Wed. 7:30pm. The Akron AOH Mark Heffernan Div 2 Hall, 2000 Brown St., Akron, OH. 330-724-2083. Beginner to intermediate.

Croagh Patrick's 2nd Tues. every month, 8-10pm.

Bardic Circle at The Shamrock Club of Columbus—Beginner-friendly, intermediate-level Irish session meeting every other Thurs. 8-11pm.

Claddagh Irish Pub, Legacy Village, Lyndhurst 6-9pm.

Wooster Street Center, 1124 E. Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH—2nd & 4th Mon., 7-8pm.

Blarney Pub—Toledo, 1st Sat. of the month 5-8 pm.

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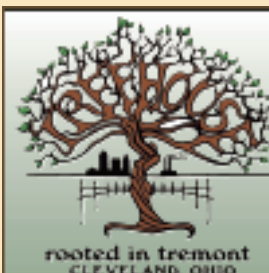
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