

est. 2006

# OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

June 2020 • Volume 14 - Issue 6



The Historic Oliver St. John Gogarty's  
Temple Bar, Dublin



# Inch by Inch, Row by Row



## EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

@Jobjr

*Inch by inch, row by row,  
gonna make this garden grow  
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a  
piece of fertile ground  
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless  
these seeds I sow  
Someone warm them from below,  
'til the rain comes tumbling down*

Songs, Stories & Shenanigans, that could probably be the name of this paper, rather than the Ohio Irish American News. We gave that name to our podcast, instead. Have you heard it yet?

The Songs, Stories & Shenanigans podcast features news and events,

including those that came to us after we went to print, save-the-date items, and things that have spurred discussion on our community. We have launched four episodes so far and will continue to release the podcasts every other week, alternating with our eBulletin, which has similar stories at times, and immediate info. Best of all, it goes out to 12,000 opted-in subscribers twice a month.

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Please follow our offerings, wherever they may be, and share, so we can keep a growin'. Suggest business owners, bands, artists and schools, banks and businesses everywhere advertise with us too. They don't have to be Irish, they just have to want to be successful. We nurture our heritage, and our growth, through cultivation, and we need you to share our table, and make our garden grow.

Thank you for all of your support as we try to put COVID19 to bed. Please God, we return to the printed issue for July. Stay safe and sane,

Nuair a stadann an ceol, stadann an rince  
(When the music stops, so does the dance)  
John



June 2020 Vol. 14 • Issue 6

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Out of the Mailbag Bob Carney  
Speak Irish Terry Boyle  
Terry From Derry Maury Collins  
Toledo Irish Maury Collins  
Wise Craic

OhioIANews is published monthly (12 issues a year) on the first day of each month. Subscription is by first class mail. 1 year \$36, 2 years at \$70, 3 years \$100. To subscribe go online at OhioIANews.com, or Email us at jobrien@OhioIANews.com, or call us at 216.647.1144 or mail to address below. OhioIANews is available for free at 275 locations in and around Ohio, PA, NY, IN, MI, & KY. For information on the locations go to [www.OhioIANews.com](http://www.OhioIANews.com) and click on the Ohio Distribution button.

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### About Our Cover:

The Famous Oliver St. John Gogarty's in Temple Bar, Dublin

Photo by Bren Boylan. Bren is a Co. Kildare native and works as an Engineer for NCR Corp in Dublin. He plays bouzouki, mandolin & guitar in the Irish band Shindig. His brother Conor owns 5 Points Tea & Coffee in West Park, Ohio.



**JOHN J. COUGHLIN**  
September 11, 1931 - May 19, 2020



On September 11, 1931, the world was blessed with the gift of John J. Coughlin, Jr. His humor, kind-hearted spirit, and Irish charm encompass who he was. He was a man of great faith and dedication to his family. Proud son of the late John and Mary. Devoted and loving husband to Joan (nee McDonnell) for 56 wonderful years. He was the apple of his two daughters' eyes, Colleen (deceased) (Jim Neville) and Molly. A pot of gold at the end of their rainbow, he was adored by his grandchildren Dominic, Sean, and Dena Neville, and John, Katie, Martin, and Colletta Fanta. A proud Dayton Flyer, John lived a life

rooted in education. A Korean War Veteran, John took great pride in always flying his flag. Known as the Mayor of West Park, he was a friend to all he encountered, lifting countless spirits at neighborhood gatherings from the Red Lantern to the Public House and beyond. To know him was to love him, and he gave us each a glimpse of heaven every time he made us laugh. He was, simply, the best. There will never be another. Because of the current pandemic, the Funeral Mass is private for the family. *Obituary courtesy of ChambersFuneral.com*

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WOBC-FM 91.5 w/Anita Lock

### SATURDAY

9am-11am: **stonecoldbikini**,  
WRUW FM 91.1 w/Christine Hahn

10am-11am: **Johnson Brothers Irish Hour** WKTL-FM 90.7

### SUNDAY

7am-9am: **Sweeney Astray**  
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10am-12pm: **Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours** WHK-AM 1420 w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

11:30am-1:30pm: **Echoes of Erin**  
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# Notre Dame "Traveling Squad" Toledo Connection



**TOLEDO IRISH**

By Maury Collins

@MauryCollins

Tom King, R.I.P., used to tell me about the Notre Dame "Traveling Squad." The members of the squad use to wear white jerseys with green "Traveling Squad" lettering and a big leprechaun. They traveled to all Notre Dame games home and away, by motor homes provided by All American Coach Company in Toledo, and would occupy a spot in the various stadium parking lots with a flag with "King's Island" lettered on it.

The (Toledo) Blade ran an article on Tom Loomis' "Mirrors of Sport" in the August 20, 1978 paper. Tom King made a copy of the article for me with the no-

tation; "Maury, a lot of great memories. It truly was a special time. Tom

Before I highlight parts of the article, let me tell you about the special championship Notre Dame 1977 Football season. It was coach Dan Devine's third season. After a surprising loss to unranked Ole Miss, patience among the fans was running thin, who considered Devine's previous 8-3 and 9-3 seasons as lackluster compared to the team success under Devine's predecessor, Ara Parseghian.

Here is a recap of the first three games: Notre Dame beat number 9 Pitt in the opening game, mostly because Pitt's starting quarterback went down with an injury in the first quarter. The team then lost to unranked Ole Miss. The third game was against Purdue.

The Irish trailed Purdue by 10 points in Ross-Ade deep into the third quarter, 24 -14. Starting quarterback Rusty Lisch had struggled and was replaced by the ever popular second string quarterback, the vaunted Gary Forystek, but he swiftly suffered a year ending injury. It looked bleak for the Irish.

Devine resorted to third string quarterback Joe Montana and somewhere, a light bulb went on. Montana rallied the Irish to a 31-24 victory, with lots of Montana magic, including the go ahead TD pass of 13 yards to Ken MacAfee.

Game 6 brought number 5 Southern



**Tom King**

Cal to Notre Dame stadium. This was the famous "Green Jersey" game. The Irish, inspired and motivated by the surprise green jerseys were leading 22 to 7 at halftime. In the fourth quarter the Irish were ahead by a 42-7 margin and the reserves were playing. The final score was 49 -19.

Notre Dame was victorious in the rest of the regular season games and was ranked number 5 going into the Cotton Bowl against Number 1 and highly favored Texas, led by Heisman winner Earl Campbell. Notre Dame outrushed the Horns 243-131, the Irish getting a comfy 4.6 yards per carry, while holding the ferocious Campbell and the rest of the Horns to just 2.6 yards per carry. Notre Dame won by a 38 to 10.

Ohio State, Michigan and Oklahoma all lost their bowl games. Notre Dame was voted the Division one National Champions.

Now for the article. It was published the following August, but the events included were from the previous year. Tom Loomis's friend and neighbor was Jack Finnegan, the traveling squad's "coach." Jack received that designation when fans at an "away" game mistook him for a member of the Notre Dame coaching staff. Jack gave autographs willingly and was called "coach" by the squad after that.

Mr. Loomis was in Dallas for the Cotton Bowl. The squad quarterback, Tom King, escorted him to a "watering Hole." King, a prominent Toledo attorney, told Mr. Loomis that he had subpoenaed him to explain about the

squad to the Toledo press.

The Notre Dame Traveling squad has 25 members from all regions of the country. Ten were from Toledo. Wives sometimes would accompany squad members to road games by demand (Their demand).

In Dallas, one of the wives asked Mr. Loomis; "Well Mr. Writer, how badly are the Irish going to smash Texas?" She was right, of course.

Notre Dame was the Cotton Bowl handily and was voted the National Champion team. The article goes on to mention a flagpole overlooking Tom King's swimming pool. The Irish Flag flies from the flagpole made from the goalpost that students tore down after the Notre Dame Green jersey victory over Southern Cal. Tom King purchased it from those students and transported it via mobile home to his yard.

There was a bronze plaque attached, which read, "Let it be so recorded on this day, Oct. 22, 1977 from the hallowed ground of Notre Dame. This goalpost was augured by the traveling squad and transported to this spot in commemoration of the Fighting Irish victory over USC 49-19.

The word went out that the "Green Machine" was born and we were there." It was said that when the traveling squad would meet at Tom King's residence, "Coach" Finnegan would read the plague over and over followed by a drink.

I was never a member of the Notre Dame Traveling squad, but I did attend a few Notre Dame football games with Tom King later in his life. I was always surprised at how many people came up to say hello to Tom and share a few words. It takes a dynamic leader like Tom King to bring together so many people for a common cause. He was in constant contact with many people and he made each person, he was speaking with, feel like the most important person in the world. ■

*Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH. Contact him at maury-collins61@gmail.com Web https://mauryirishnewstoledo.weebly.com*

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# Made in Ireland



**AKRON IRISH**

By Lisa O' Rourke

I think of toilet paper, paper towels and all the by now cliché items that the snap in normalcy caused people to hoard. Not to worry though, the lines are forming to return those items in the same bulk in which they were purchased. The next wave of pandemic panic brought shortages of such simple things.

The shortage of protective gear for care workers caused me and many others with sewing machines to have a go at mask making. Except I can't find elastic, I mean anywhere.

I never thought that I would be waiting over a month for elastic to be delivered. Which led me to wonder, we don't make that stuff here- anywhere- really? If we can't get it here in this big country, what are other countries like? What is it like in Ireland?

## HAPPINESS BELONGS TO THE SELF-SUFFICIENT

Aristotle said that "Happiness belongs to the self-sufficient." I think that we are all feeling that one, both personally and globally. Can anyone in any country get by with just native made goods?

Ireland had to have been historically pretty self-sufficient, being a wet island in the middle of the Atlantic. The exception to that isolation being England, an obviously messy story worthy of many books. We can move on to when Independence came to Ireland, a hundred years ago.

Part of throwing off the shackles of English oppression was the defiant insistence of Irish people to have everything Irish. Anything and everything that the native culture could provide; sports, dress, language, really everything should be Irish. To not make a concerted effort to be all-in with the nationalism at that time was a minor act of treason, you were a "West Britain".

This way of thinking has persisted to a degree. My husband was scolded as a young man for playing soccer instead of Gaelic football. As a newlywed, I was told

not to ask for Belleek since it was made in Northern Ireland, hence an "English" product instead of an Irish one.

So, I have plenty of Royal Tara china, manufactured in Galway, thank you very much. And, in some respects, this attitude worked for the country, but in many respects it did not. Ireland of the mid last century was a third world country in many ways.

Part of Irish self-sufficiency might have been that their tastes and ways did not necessarily match the customs of the rest of the world. Hunger once led me to walk into a shop there, some thirty years ago, on my first trip to Ireland. The small local shops at that time were crammed with all kinds of things.

## OVER THE COUNTER BLACK PUDDING

Walking in, I can't forget the sight of black puddings coiled on wax paper like snakes, surrounded by loaves of brown bread and raw eggs, all sitting together right on the counter by the register! My American sensibilities got a bit of a shock at the lack of refrigeration and wrapping, not to mention wondering what those black things were.

I don't think that the world was crying out for Irish goods at that time. Many of the things that I saw on that trip had the rough and ready quality that I saw in those little shops. There are not too many of those shops left as they were at that time; the European Economic Community rules have cleaned them up. But that was thirty years ago, what is happening now?

I found some answers in a program made for the Irish TV channel TG4, called "Déantanin Éirinn" (Made in Ireland). The protagonist set out to discover if it is possible to eat, drink, dress, travel and indulge in hobbies, while using only Irish products.

Travel was the first topic that was covered, and I have to say, I saw that one coming, and yes, he drove around Ireland for the rest of the series in a gray DeLo-rean. Food demonstrated some of the biggest ironies in the series. Potatoes, the most Irish of foods, surely those are Irish, right? No, the potatoes served in Ireland are grown mainly in England and the Netherlands and imported to Ireland be-



fore they are served as a nice bag of chips. The hops used in Guinness are grown in Belgium. Irish sugar, labelled Súicra, (Sugar) started off being manufactured in the old "sugar" town of Tuam, and is now imported from England.

Clothing can be made from Irish tweeds, which was woven in other countries, and tailored in Ireland at ridiculously high prices. The same goes for leather goods like shoes. Tin whistles and flutes are made in Pakistan, again unless you have deep pockets, and can afford the handmade counterparts.

As good as it was, that show is twelve years old at this point. Surely things have changed as much as they have here. People are tired of the mass-produced generic products. Not only are they tired of them, they are a little suspicious of them too.

Way too many things that we use and eat are full of artificial ingredients and chemicals that are just bad on many levels. Even that shop with the snakey black puddings seems a lot more appealing now than it did then.

## THE OLD IS NEW AGAIN

The rise of artisanal simple products; the non-GMO, free-range, grass-fed ones, have been a godsend for Irish exports. They never stopped doing simple. Kerrygold butter is a great example and has profited handsomely around the world as consumers catch up to the old ways.

Internally, there are other places where Irish makers are doing it right and creating their own brands and markets. Just like here, there are breweries popping up, making their own local beers, like Black Donkey in Roscommon.

There are more distilleries appearing

there than we see here in the US. Gin has become very popular with the new distillers, mainly because it is quick. But they are inserting their own botanical flavors like Beara Ocean Gin from Cork. Fish, such a natural to Ireland, is also being marketed in new ways like at Goatsbridge Trout Farm in Kilkenny, which makes things smoked trout and trout caviar.

Ireland is not so different than anywhere else in the world in that respect. People who were once bored and dissatisfied with the old ways of doing things are going back to them again. So, everything old is new again.

This pandemic is showing us that while it is great to specialize, we had best be prepared to do it all ourselves, to not need anything from the outside too much. Aristotle is right, it is satisfying to make and create your own. And hindsight is always twenty-twenty. ■

*Deanta in Eirinn can be found on YouTube.*

*Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaeilge. She runs a Gaeilge study group at the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She enjoys spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.*

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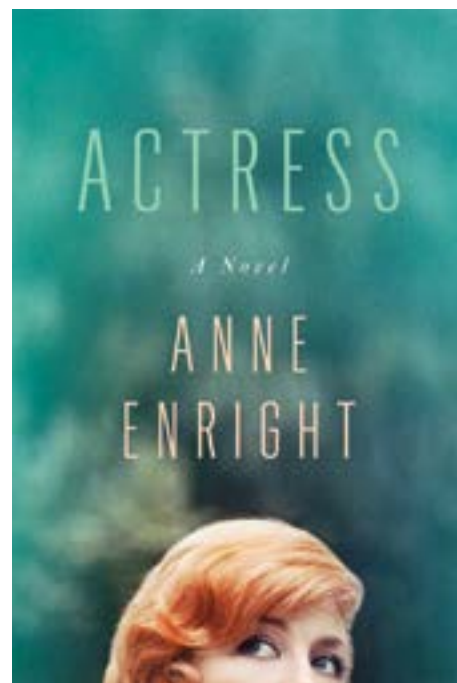


## Actress, A Novel

By Anne Enright  
W.W. Norton & Company Inc.  
ISBN 9781324005629 2020 264 pp.

*Actress*, by Anne Enright, is the third book reviewed in this column by the highly acclaimed Irish novelist. The other two were *The Forgotten Waltz* and *The Green Road*. In 2015 she was named the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction.

A caveat to the reader of this book, you have to keep reminding yourself that the story is fictional. It opens with a question: "People ask me, "What was she like?" and try to figure out if they mean as a normal person: what was she like in her slippers, eating toast and marmalade, or what was she like as an



actress - we did not use the term star."

Norah is the daughter of Katherine O'Dell, who died at the age of fifty-eight, the same age as her daughter, the story's narrator, after a four-decade-long career, which began in the nineteen forties, and brought her to Broadway, to Hollywood and finally back to Dublin. Katherine was born

into a theatrical family, which was part of touring companies often called road-shows or fit-ups, which went from town to town putting on sketches and plays.

Her ascendance, Norah insists, was instantaneous. "A star is not made," she aphorizes. "Whatever a star has, they had it all along."

Norah and Katherine form a tragic mother-daughter pair - their tragedy heightened by their proximity to the stage. From the start the reader is told that Katherine's drama will end in a mental institution, after a strange and salacious incident in which she shoots a well know producer in the foot.

The man she shoots is the "movie impresario" Boyd O'Neill; he survives though he never quite heals. Once she is found guilty and sent to an asylum, the real Katherine disappears completely, as if she never existed at all.

As the mother's life is unraveling, Norah's is taking shape. She marries, has two children and becomes the author of five books. Despite this apparent success, there is one secret

Katherine refuses to divulge to her.

Norah is never told who her father is. She knows that while Katherine was a star of a hit film in Hollywood, she became pregnant out of wedlock and was forced to retreat from the public eye. She gives birth to Norah in Brooklyn, then travels incognito with her daughter back to Ireland, where the rest of her career takes place on stage.

Norah never becomes a resentful victim of her mother's refusal to divulge her father's identity. Neither of them seems to have a great need of a father in the flesh.

The book succeeds as a good novel involving the theater, and although at the end it runs away with itself, the mother-daughter relationship, which is the most fraught of all familial relationships, is its strength. I rate it a TOP SHELF read. ■

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## A Dessert Dad Will Love



*My brother-in-law, Matt swears these are the best cupcakes he has ever had and so this lucky guy gets them for birthdays, anniversaries, and all sorts of special occasions. With Father's Day just around the corner, what better thing to get that wonderfully, important man than something made with love. These cupcakes are worth the effort and smell and taste heavenly.*

### Banana Chocolate Chip Cupcakes with Chocolate Cream Cheese Buttercream

Makes 12-14 standard size cupcakes or one two-layer 9" round cake.

#### Ingredients: Cupcake Batter

- 2 cups AP Flour
  - 1 teaspoon Baking Soda
  - 1 teaspoon Cinnamon
  - ¾ teaspoon Kosher Salt
  - 3 large, ripe Bananas -- mashed
  - ½ cup Unsalted Butter – room temperature
  - ½ cup White Granulated Sugar
  - ½ cup Light or Dark Brown Sugar
  - 2 large Eggs – room temperature
  - ¼ cup Sour Cream or Vanilla Yogurt
  - 2 teaspoons Vanilla
  - ½ cup Buttermilk
  - 1 ½ cups Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- Combine the flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon in a medium bowl and set aside.
  - Peel three bananas and place in a medium bowl and mashed with a potato masher or heavy spoon. Set aside.
  - Cream butter in a mixing bowl with a hand or stand mixer. Add sugars and mix until creamy.
  - Add in eggs, yogurt, and vanilla and mix for 2 minutes.
  - Beat in the mashed bananas.
  - Add in the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Do not overmix.
  - Add in the buttermilk and blend until combined.
  - Fold in chocolate chips by hand.
  - Fill prepared cupcake tin ¾ full with batter for each.
  - Bake at 350\* for approximately 12-15 minutes.
  - Cool completely

#### Ingredients: Frosting

- 3 sticks Unsalted Butter – room temperature
- 1 8oz block Cream Cheese
- 8 cups Confectioners or Powdered Sugar
- 1 4oz Baking Bar – Semi-sweet Chocolate -- melted and cooled slightly
- ¾ cup Dark Cocoa Powder
- ½ teaspoon Kosher Salt



- 2 teaspoons Vanilla
- 1/3 cup Heavy Whipping Cream

- In mixing bowl with a stand or hand mixer - cream the butter for approximately 1-2 minutes, add in the cream cheese and mix until creamy
- Add in the melted and slightly cooled chocolate and mix until creamy
- In small batches add in the confectioners' sugar until combined. This will take a few minutes.
- Add in the salt, vanilla and heavy cream and mix until smooth.
- Add in the cocoa powder and beat for 2 minutes.
- Add additional heavy cream to get the desired medium consistency.
- Using a pastry bag and tip or a large storage/freezer baggie, pipe the frosting onto cooled cupcake.

#### Ingredients Chocolate Ganache

- ½ cup Heavy Whipping Cream
  - 1 cup Dark Chocolate Chips
- In a saucepan, over medium heat, warm the heavy cream until it just begins to simmer. Pour cream over the chocolate which should be in a heat-proof bowl. The cream should just cover the top of the chocolate. Allow it to sit for 2 minutes and with a spoon, stir until completely smooth and blended. This takes a minute or two. Allow to sit for about 5 minutes.

Drizzle the ganache over each cupcake and sprinkle with chocolate chips and top with a banana chip (optional)

**Garnish : Mini Chocolate Chips and Banana Chip**

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*Katie Gagne teaches English at Trinity High School in Garfield Heights. She is also the owner of her in-home bakery Sassy's Sweets and Oh So Much More. You can contact her at (440) 773-4459 or at mkbluebows@aol.com.*



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## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - JUNE

**7 June 1899** - Birth in Dublin of Elizabeth Bowen, novelist and short-story writer, best known for her novel *The Last September*.

**9 June 1886** -The Belfast Riots: The day after the Home Rule Bill had been defeated, a mob of 2000 Protestants drive back members of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Battles between loyalists and police continue to rage all through the summer.

**12 June 1786** - Hanging of George Robert Fitzgerald, "The Fighting Fitzgerald." Notorious for his excessive dueling and his many eccentricities; it is said he captured his father and imprisoned him in a vacant cave for fifteen months, guarded by his pet Russian bear. He was convicted of the murder of a local attorney.

**13 June 2006** - Death of Charles Haughey, Taoiseach of Ireland, serving three terms in office and one of the most controversial politicians of his time.

**16 June 1904** - Today is the day when

James Joyce first went walking with Nora Barnacle; it becomes the date on which everything takes place in *Ulysses* and is known as "Bloomsday."

**18 June 1994** - The Loughinsland, Co. Down, massacre. Six local men were killed in a loyalist gun attack on a public house in the village.

**21 June 1877** - Ten members of the Molly Maguires are hung at Pottsville and Mauch Chunk, Pa. The day is remembered as "Black Thursday", the largest mass execution ever on American soil.

**25 June 1919** - William Martin Murphy (75), founder of the Independent Newspapers and leader of the Employers' Federation during the lockout of 1913-14, died.

**26 June 1963** - U. S. President John F. Kennedy arrives in Ireland on a four-day visit.

**27 June 1939** - Kathleen Clarke (Caitlin Bean Ui Chlerigh), widow of executed Easter Rising leader Tom Clarke, was elected mayor of Dublin.



# A Day in the Life



**TERRY FROM DERRY**

By Terry Boyle

Each day starts with the same routine; catch up with family and friends, check FaceBook, Whatsapp, and avoid the news, at least first thing in the morning. When we take the dogs out for their walk, I deliberately leave the phone at home because it's too tempting, and, as Oscar Wilde puts it, I can avoid anything but temptation.

It feels good to be outside but being outside these days is never a simple thing. Have I got my mask on? Keep 6 feet between me and someone else, which is sometimes hard to do when that 'someone' has a dog who wants

to be friendly with mine. Without a phone, I reflect on my conversations. For once, my family in the UK and Ireland is faced with exactly the same challenges as I am even though they are thousands of miles between us. My sisters are finding the lockdown, with its restrictions, hard to escape from. And, invariably, our messages are interwoven with a common thread of futile hope and guilt.

Each day we wake up hoping that someone, somewhere, has found the miracle cure. Instead, we find the world-changing virus continues to act as our prison guard. We bemoan our loss of freedoms and quickly feel guilty. After all, we could be infected. We could be on a ventilator. We should be grateful for what freedom we have. There are others no so well off. And, so on and so on.

Having choked the inner bird of

freedom on the bars of reality, we're ready to think about how we might fill our day without leaving the house. Suddenly, all those domestic chores that could be put off in favour of a more pressing meeting, or something more interesting, refuse to go away.

My reasoning to engage with these chores is, if I have to be housebound, I may as well pretty up the cell. Who would have thought that redecorating has become the substance of my conversations? Who knew that I'd be reduced to discussing the right colour for bathroom cabinets. Sadly, my world has shrunk to a paintbrush and pot.

Right on time, the guilt kicks in and I think of how easy I have it. There are those who cannot go outside at all. Those who cannot go to a store, walk their dog, or talk to family and friends. I'm now beginning to appreciate a Catholic education motivated by guilt.

The nuns were right to force feed us our greens while torturing us with stories of starving black babies in Africa. Our parents were right to reign in our childish need for chaos and trouble by reminding us of the omnipresent eyes of the sacred heart picture.

*You might not see him, but his eyes were never off you.* Now, free of nuns, and parents, I'm still careful not to leave anything on my plate and, whether I like it or not, I feel as if I'm being watched when I do something wrong.

Ah, it's good to be outside. Where did everyone go? Traffic has been reduced to almost a standstill, and there's hardly anyone walking. Everyone's at home at their computers enjoying the usual jokes, memes, that make our lives more bearable. Where would we be if this virus didn't stimulate the imaginations of very bored individuals? What else can they do?

If you're stuck in the house, you're either a viewer of these witty satires, or you're selling your soul to the devil for a meme that will go viral. And, since I haven't got the patience or motivation to seek such virtual recognition, I'm the voyeur.

Besides, my soul has depreciated in value since I gave up believing in the devil. Anyway, if he really exists, he

knows he has me in the bag already.

I'm still outside, my mind is wandering as it usually does, and now I wish I'd brought my phone. Why do I torture myself this way?

But when I read the news, I'm faced with exactly the same question. When I read about the same culprits doing the same bloody stupid things, I'm uptight again. My anxiety levels would soar through the roof and into the heavens if they could get that far without touching a hard surface.

Have you noticed that as our outer spaces have decreased, our emotions have increased in intensity? For instance, who knew I could be so petty?

If only I could meditate. I'm praying, even though it's against my religion, that I'm not the only one who finds the thought of meditation depressing. The mere thought of trying to empty my cluttered mind would drive me to want to eat greens for the rest of my life.

I'd prefer to live and die in my religious guilt than try to escape the random inconsequential thoughts of my everyday life. I love my stream of consciousness. It takes me to all sorts of weird and wonderful places. While the sacred heart might see into our hearts and minds, I am truly thankful other people are blind to our thoughts.

The walk back to the house has moved up a gear. Who said that delayed gratification was a good thing? It must have been some sad masochist.

My phone has never left my mind since I left it in the house. I keep reaching into my pocket in the hopes that it's there, but, no, the hand returns empty. My connection to the outside world lies at home on a shelf screaming out my name. And, as if by osmosis, the dog senses my neurotic need for information and speeds up. I think he's determined to get away from the person talking to himself, and back to a dish with his name on it.

We're home. The news is not good. With a heavy heart, I take up the paintbrush and consider painting the dog blue. Of course, no sooner do I think this than I find myself being watched by someone out there on a higher plane. ■

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# Breaking Barriers



**MADIGAN MUSES**

By Marilyn Madigan

This year, the theme for National History Day was Breaking Barriers in History. I am sure when this theme was chosen, no one could anticipate the barriers that everyone would be experiencing this year.

For the past seven years, I have had privilege of judging at both the local and national levels for National History Day. On Saturday March 7, I was able to judge in person the documentaries in Cleveland.

The students' research and work in producing these documentaries was re-

markable. These students are our future in promoting History. Shortly after the local contest in Cleveland was completed, the Ohio History Contest was faced with the challenge of continuing in the face of the barrier of stay home and stay safe.

Ohio History Contest and the National History Day has decided to continue the contest virtually. Please visit National History Day on Facebook. There you will be able to see some of the students' entries from the different states. I look forward to joining with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in judging the virtual entries for the Irish and Irish American Award.

## TRASNA NA TIRE

As a history buff, I was always faced with the barrier of not being able to

attend Irish History Lectures because of physical distances. One benefit of Irish Historians staying safe at home was the introduction of the group *Trasna na Tire*. *Trasna na Tire* is a group dedicated to sharing Irish history by hosting nightly lectures on ZOOM.

I have had the privilege of attending many of these lectures. With this format, you feel as if you are at the lecture in person. I highly recommend anyone with an interest in Irish history to check this out. Many of these lectures can also be viewed on YouTube.

We are living in a very historic time.

Hopefully history will remember us in a positive way. We have faced many barriers. Thank God that we live in a time with great technology.

This technology has helped to keep us connected. Let us remember the historic lessons from the 1918 Spanish Flu. Let us not repeat the mistakes. Yes, we have to get on with our lives, but we need to do it safely for all. Let history look back at this period as a time when we cared for one another, above all. ■

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# Foxglove and Fuchsia



## AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

Like many of you, the recent weeks of living in a vacuum exacerbates my yearning to be on Irish soil. I try to remind myself to be deeply grateful for good health, our comfortable home, fresh food and clean water – necessities of life that are sadly non-existent in too many parts of this modern world.

We can travel to the moon, but we cannot provide sufficient clean water for all mankind on earth. Too many ponderings these days dampen our moods, but as I strive to get on with my days, attempt to accept a new way of life, thoughts of home and of a less embellished life creep into my thoughts.

My last living uncle lives on a farm in Loughlynn, just outside Castlereagh in County Roscommon. Joe is 87 years old. Though plagued with back pain and arthritis, he maintains an optimistic demeanor.

His life is effortlessly organic, and his lifestyle is probably the safest in this rapidly changing world. His home is surrounded by lush green fields and a few neighbors that are well spaced out. His property is adorned with hawthorn bushes, tall sycamores and majestic horse chestnuts speckled with hydrangeas and gorse bushes. Joe has lived here all his life.

He has had a life of fresh air, and locally grown food. Up at the crack of dawn, he spent countless days on his feet tending his cattle, manning his land, fixing stone walls and fences with his faithful sheepdogs forever at his side. I don't believe he ever owned a car.

To this day, he takes his tractor into the village to run errands and to attend Mass. I never asked him, but I don't think he feels that he has lost out of life by not travelling or engaging in a more

modern life. In fact, I have never seen him in a bad mood.

With the lockdown in place and making do with less, I think about how far removed my life is from that of my uncles' and it makes me somewhat envious of his lifestyle. In his younger day, he had no need of a gym. Swag styles, beyond a Sunday suit were never of interest to him.

He wouldn't know what do with our kindle, iPod or smart phone. I doubt he ever watches a movie and so Netflix would probably be anathema to him.

### AN IDEAL IRISH DAY

I'm guessing that mornings spent reading the paper with a pot of tea brewing on the stove; a chat over the wall with a passing neighbor; an afternoon stroll across the fields; a hearty evening dinner followed with lounging in a favorite armchair in front of a roaring turf fire as night beacons, are prime elements of a perfect day for him.

I have no doubt that these times are both scary and difficult for him too. While things are improving in many countries and much advancement has been made in a very short time to produce drugs and a vaccine, the black cloud continues to loom overhead somewhat because we are still unsure of the future and what form it will take. But if we think about it, even under normal circumstances, we never know what tomorrow will bring – never mind the future.

Life as described by Shakyamuni Buddhain, is a state of impermanence<sup>1</sup> that is usually obscured by normal routines and schedules. An upheaval in one's life, or a cataclysm of a global scale, like the current pandemic, can catapult this state to the forefront of our minds, which can shake our very core.

Professor Kees Van den Bos writes, "people have an inherent need to feel certain about their world, their place and their future in it and try to avoid, eliminate or at best manage the uncertainty in their lives".<sup>2</sup> Perhaps this is one explanation for recent feelings



of discombobulation, that are further exacerbated by our bidding farewell to what was our way of living. The future is using a battering ram to break down the door into our lives and thrust us into a new age.

But, we are prepared in some respects for new lives. Technology has allowed some aspects of life to continue – with access to the internet, many employees and students can work from home. Some individuals who traditionally traveled as part of their job are now successfully working from home.

Right now, little of this seems ideal, but at least it is functional to some degree. And most importantly, technology is enabling scientists to hopefully produce a vaccine in two years which to date has been unheard of.

Amidst all this, with the only certainty that our lives will change forever, some things for now remain the same. The sun will continue to shine. The road will rise to meet us. And the foxglove and the fuchsia will continue to adorn the Irish countryside.

To embrace our new reality, we need to work hard to rise to the occasion. Each day I am trying to make a bigger effort to greet the sun with a smile; take my wheaten terrier on longer walks that she so deserves, and to take delight in a summer that is showing lovely signs of bloom in

the bosom of my family. This is what it takes to survive a new life at home abroad.

#### Sources Consulted:

<sup>1</sup> O'Brien, Barbara. "Shakyamuni Buddha." Learn Religions, Feb. 11, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Van den Bos, K. (2001). *Uncertainty management: The influence of uncertainty salience on reaction to perceived procedural fairness.* *Journal of Social Psychology, 80*, 931-941. ■

Regina is a graduate of History and Philosophy from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a post-graduate of Library and Information Studies from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is a former Assistant Librarian of the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin; former Curator of Irish American Archives of the Cleveland History Center; former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Director of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland. She can be contacted at rcostello@ameritech.net

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# Opportunities



## CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

I can't recall the exact year, sometime in the early seventies, a friend played an album for me he had just purchased. A singer-songwriter, his lyrics could make you laugh or if you really stopped to think about them, in some instances would make you cry.

John Prine's self-titled debut album released in 1971 revealed the scope of his writing ability that continued right up to his final album, "Tree of Forgiveness," released in 2018. That first album gave us "Paradise," a song that would become an environmental anthem for many.

"Angel From Montgomery" has been covered by countless musicians, a song written from the perspective of a woman stuck in an unloving marriage. He could see other's point of view well enough that when he wrote a song you could feel the pain.

"Hello in There" written when John was a very young man, is an old man's story of loneliness. Being the seventies, the two tunes that hit me the hardest

were "Sam Stone" and "You're Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore".

"There's a hole in daddy's arm where the money goes" a line in "Sam Stone" a story of a Vietnam Vet that comes home with a purple heart and an addiction. PTSD had not even been recognized yet.

The second song was about misguided patriotism. John didn't play this song for many years, but brought it back in recent years, citing the political climate that has arisen of late. These are only a few of the songs on that debut album.

### SINGING MAILMAN

After a stint in the army, where he served stateside, John went to work as a postman. People remember him being followed by children on his route, he'd give them rides in his mail bag. He'd been writing songs since he was fourteen and performed at small clubs and coffee houses in Illinois. One evening, Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert caught one of his shows.

Ebert's headline, "Singing Mailman Delivers a Powerful Message in a Few Words," would change John's life. Prine's friend and musical partner, Steve Goodman was able to convince Kris Kristofferson and Paul Anka to

attend one of John's performances, and with their introductions he soon signed his first record deal.

In 1988, John was in Ireland, where he met a Dublin recording studio business manager, Fiona Whelan. She returned to Nashville with him and they married in 1996. A small growth was discovered in John's neck the following year, tests found it to be stage four cancer. A small tumor was removed altering his appearance and speech.

His future in music was doubtful, he didn't think he'd ever sing again, but a year and half later he was back on the road. A spot on his lung was discovered in 2013 and six months after the cancer was removed he was performing again.

In April of this year, John Prine passed away at a hospital in Nashville from COVID19, leaving behind his wife Fiona, his family and millions of fans. Social media has been full of tributes from musicians of all genres whom he had affected. Many sharing personal stories of this talented, kind and humble man.

Originally, my thought for this column was to offer up the possibilities or opportunities we have before us now that we are trying to find a new normal. We've experienced every human emotion and shortcoming as a species we possibly could have in the past months. What now?

Do we embrace the positive things, the time with our children, the walks with our dogs, reaching out to our

extended family or any of the other things we never seem to have time for? Or do we let our teachers and coaches raise our children as we rush to get back to work?

Will we look the other way as environmental protections are bypassed to build up the economy? Will we allow the pandemic to be used as an excuse to promote xenophobia? Are we capable of finding balance? I just keep thinking about what John would have written about our opportunity.

■ SÍOCHÁIN agus GRÁ ■

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## Brave the Sea



## Dogwood Road



## And the Bands Play On



### COLUMBUS IRISH

By Molly Truex

Ohio is filled with great music; the Irish that we love, and ties to just about every other form too. Country, Rock, Blues, Jazz ... the connections are now worldwide. Following, we continue our peak at Central Ohio area bands worth seeing, with Brave the Sea, and Dogwood Road.

#### BRAVE THE SEA

OhioIANews: How was Brave the

#### Sea formed, how long have you been together?

In the summer of 2015, Matt Toskin got together with Will John, Matt Bibler, and Nick Phillips and started A Pirate's Life, which was a Celtic Rock cover band with a pirate theme. After writing some original material and treading further away from the pirate theme, the band recruited Vito Gambil on vocals, Ryan Boggs on bass, and Dennis Berendts, who stepped in to replace Nick on drums. The first album is named after the old band's name.

#### Have each of you always been musicians or just started?

Each of us have always played music in some capacity. Dennis has the longest tenure in the band, having played in several hardcore bands over the years,

including Black Dove, Vile Gash, and Nukkehammer. Will and Ryan both used to be in a Rock band called New Contagion.

#### What has been your most memorable gig?

There have been a lot of amazing shows that we've played over the years; I'm sure each member would have a different answer. One that sticks out to me (Matt T) was being able to play our hometown, Newark Ohio's, first annual LGBTQ Pride celebration. We're all pretty passionate about our hometown and also try and be advocates for love and equality. Being able to be a part of our town's history in that way and seeing so many people come together was super cool.

#### What is your best memory, non-

#### show related?

We had a Baltimore, MD gig close to Christmas one year and four of us decided to drive there and back the same day (yeah we know, yikes). The four of us who headed home still stayed for most of the show, but that meant we didn't depart until after 10 PM.

We were all starving and "hangry" at each other. I had just missed an exit which made things worse, but it luckily lead us to a specialty pizza place that was the *only* open restaurant we had seen since leaving downtown, and it was *so delicious*. We never go to Baltimore without getting Pasta Mista now.

#### What genre of music do you play the most?

As a band, we try and keep everything close to some sort of Celtic feel as possi-

ble. When we're not playing our music, though, all of us are all pretty into metal. A typical band bus ride contains a good portion of bands like Unleash the Archers, Iron Maiden, and Blind Guardian. A few members are also really into 90s Country. I can't vouch for it, but I've heard it enough on road trips.

#### How have you all been staying busy during the Stay at Home order?

I think we're each focusing on our own things for now. We hesitate risking practicing together too much and our inconsistent technology across members makes it hard to do quality group live streams. It seems like each of us have had a lot of time and have written some cool things.

Things suck right now, but I really do think we as a band are going to have some of the most creative and collaborative music coming out of this.

#### OhioIANews: What is your dream

#### gig?

I think each of us would be tickled to be even in the same venue as Flogging Molly or Dropkick Murphy. In a genre as niche as ours, it's clear who the top dogs are and what the "dream gig" definitely looks like.

#### If people want to come to see you where can they find listings of your shows?

We keep our Facebook up to date with shows, but they can also visit our website at [www.bravetheseaband.com](http://www.bravetheseaband.com).

#### DOGWOOD ROAD

#### How was Dogwood Road formed, how long have you been together?

Under the name Dogwood Road, we have only been around since late 2017. Prior to that we performed under the name Wohlwend & Moore and that started in 2014.

Dogwood Road formed as an offshoot of the band Two2Many. Tyler Moore and Karl Wohlwend both live in Columbus OH, while the other members lived in Cincinnati. There were several small performance opportunities that made

more sense for a duo to play and that sparked the idea of putting something more permanent together.

The two bands, Two2Many and Dogwood Road, coexisted very well, and even though Two2Many disbanded offi-

*Continued on facing page*

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**Bands Played On**  
*Continued from previous page*

cially at the Dublin Irish Festival in 2018, Dogwood Road has been honored to have their former band mates join them from time to time.

**Have each of you always been musicians or just started?**

Both of us have been musicians from

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the very start. We both started playing our respective instruments in grade school and continued through college earning degrees in Music Performance, though not at the same time or in the same place. We have both played professionally in other groups and genres, from Classical to Jazz to Rock and of course Irish or Celtic. Aside from Two2Many, Karl and Tyler have also performed with other Celtic bands; Knot Fibbin and Homeland, respectively.

**What has been your most memorable gig?**

It's to say that the most memorable gig as Dogwood Road would be our first CD Release party at Byrne's Pub. It was a fantastic gig, members of Knot Fibbin' came up on stage with us, and we were surrounded by some of our best friends and fans.

**What is your best memory, non-show related?**

Not on stage, I think we can agree that our best memories come from the trips to the gigs. Being on the road, stuck in a car for hours could be dreadful, but we do a lot of talking and brainstorming then. We've had some of our best conversations and said some of the dumbest things we ever hope to forget while in the car on the way to a gig.

**What genre of music do you play the most?**

Dogwood Road is obviously an Irish group, so that's easy there. As individuals it's tough to say. As mentioned earlier, both of us have degrees in music performance, Classical performance, and we have both performed our fair share

of Classical repertoire, but we have both also performed with several other bands: Rock, Celtic Rock, Klesmer, Flamenco, Jazz. Most of our teaching is Classical in nature; technique and repertoire. So on a daily basis it's possible we play more Classical material, but it's fair to say that the lion's share of our performing is Irish and Original compositions.

**How have you all been staying busy during the Stay at Home order?**

Practicing, putting together online shows, playing outside for people to hear, as well as continuing to teach private lessons. We both teach lessons and have moved to online formats during all of this, though we look forward to actually seeing our students again. It's not easy, or as much fun, to teach through a screen.

**What is your dream gig?**

The next one? Ha! We would love the chance to play in Milwaukee. We'd also love the chance to open for other larger groups here in Columbus, or anywhere really. The real dream is to have regular gigs that allow us to grow as a group and further the excitement for the genre. One big gig would be nice, but steady gigs are the goal.

**If people want to come to see you where can they find listings of your shows?**

We post all of our shows online on our Facebook page, including our regular Friday Happy Hour, 6pm on Facebook Live. ■

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Father McCarthy; "Ah, good morning, Mrs. Murphy, and how is everything?" "Sure and I'm having a great time of it between me husband and the fire. If I keep my eye on the one, the other is sure to go out."

One day a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw a guy eating grass. He told the driver to stop. He got out and asked him, "Why are you eating grass?" The man replied, "I'm so poor, I cannot afford anything to eat." So the layer said, "Poor guy, come back to my house." The guys say, "I have a wife and three kids." The lawyer told him to bring them along. When they were all in the car, the poor man said, "Thanks for taking us back to your house; it is so kind of you." The lawyer replied, "You're going to love it there ... the grass is a foot tall!"

Two Irish women walking through the forest one day hear a voice coming from near a log. "Help me." They lifted the log and underneath found a frog. "Help me" said the frog "I am an investment banker turned into a frog by an evil curse. I need to be kissed by a woman and I will turn back into an investment banker." One of the women grabbed the frog and stuffed it into her handbag. Aghast, her friend said, "Did you not hear the frog? He needs to be

returned to being an investment banker." "Listen", her friend said. "These days a talking frog is worth a lot more than an investment banker."

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her funeral service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

O'Toole worked in the lumber yard for twenty years and all that time he'd been stealing the wood and selling it. At last his conscience began to bother him and he went to confession to repent. "Father, it's 15 years since my last confession, and I've been stealing wood from the lumber yard all those years," "I understand my son," says the priest. "Can you make a Novena?" O'Toole said, "Father, if you have the plans, I've got the lumber."

Casey married a rich widow, but they didn't get along. One day she said to him, "If it wasn't for my money, that new television wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for my money, that grand piano wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for my money, this house wouldn't be here." Casey mumbled, "If it wasn't for your money, I wouldn't be here."

The nurse called back to the doctor, saying there was a man in the waiting room, who claimed that he was invisible. The doctor replied; "Tell him, I can't see him today."

Father Flanagan was walking down the street when suddenly he heard a scream followed by a thud. To his hor-

ror he saw that a lovely young lass had been hit by a speeding motorist. In fact she had been hit so hard she had all of the clothes knocked off. Father Flanagan being a gentleman placed his hat across her privates. Meanwhile Michael was just inside a pub. He'd been having several pints when he decided enough was enough and he stepped outside to the accident. "Christ" says Michael "The first thing we got to do is get that man outta there."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honor' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

Mary Murphy's husband died and she was speaking with Father Sullivan about the eulogy for the Mass. Mary said; "He was a very good man. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus and the AOH. He volunteered at the hospital and at the soup kitchen." Father Sullivan said; "I heard the he was also a member of the KKK." "Father what is this KKK?" questioned Mary. Father replied; "you know, Mary. It's those devils beneath the sheets." "Oh Father" said Mary, "He was a charter member of that." ■

Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH. Contact him at maurycollins61@gmail.com Web https://maurycollins61@weebly.com

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# Shillelagh Law, Part 1



Ur, and an increase in the arts and culture. The *Epic of Gilgamesh* was translated from its original Sumerian and was used to unify the people. It is one of the earliest surviving works of literature. That was 1800 BC in Babylon.

## BRING ON THE BRONZE

Ireland saw the production of items in bronze and gold. The introduction of metalworking and the late Bronze Age saw a change in the Irish climate, with more precipitation and colder temperatures. The square mileage of bogs and forested land expanded on the island.

Increased weaponry in the archaeological record included swords, spears, rapiers, knives, dirks and halberds. The Irish were ready for false accusers in a period described at the "rise of the warriors" by some archeologists.

In Ohio, Archaic people practiced hunting and gathering and began to store food. The most important natural resource was flint mined in present day Coshocton and Licking County. There was not a political structure in place, but early records tend to indicate that the Eastside of Cleveland was a preferred location.

It was in the early to mid 19th century that the American political landscape was changing. More and more landless white men were being given the right to vote and hold office. The young United States was witnessing the Industrial Revolution and advances in science and technology.

Steamboats traversed the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and the Erie Canal opened in 1825.

The age of the railroad and the swift clipper ship would soon alter Americans

understanding of space and time. In 1844, the telegraph debuted and Americans were connected like never before. The McCormick reaper appeared in 1831 and the John Deere steel plow in 1837, both contributing to large scale agriculture and the first stage of the market economy. The National Trades' Union was founded in 1834 to protect and advocate for the American worker in a transitional economy.

## HERE COME THE IRISH

The global financial panic of 1837 and the Famine brought millions to America. The years from 1845 to 1854 witnessed the greatest proportional influx of immigrants in US history, 2.4 million, or about 14.5 percent of the total population in 1845. This scared the ruling class in America, and they were proactive in their maintenance of their power.

When the Irish arrived, they had the numbers to potentially alter the established order of things. It is clear the large numbers of immigrants greatly assisted the growth of the American economy and the transition to a market economy. However, how was the state going to maintain order?

In the American colonies, religion provided a code and a means to control the populace. In 1830, the percentage of Americans regularly attending church had doubled since 1800. Yet, these new immigrants included a vast majority of Irish and German Catholics.

Might as well try to convert them, a go to in the British playbook. Didn't work so well, as the Kensington Riots and the founding of the Catholic schools illustrate. It did not take long for the Irish to begin to dominate the public school teaching ranks either.

What the elite did was turn to the law. Hammurabi had that figured out 4,000 years before. That did not stop the Protestants from social programs and that prohibition thing. But the law in America was not what the Irish were used to in Ireland. In America law could not function as it did in Babylon or with English "hanging judges."

In the American context, the Irish had too much power, economic and political, for the lack of justice to continue to systematically prevail. That did not stop the murder of the Molly Maguires, but law had to adapt.

Clifford Gertz characterized this as the "webs of culture," a change in one part of the socio-cultural web is felt by the entire

web. And change it did.

The environs of social strife engendered by economic shifts and global and domestic population resettlement during the early and mid 19th century caused elites shrewdly ascertained the potential capability for a systematic pirouette. Local political and religious institutions had yet to acclimate to the new American reality. The judiciary evolved as the brokers of the state to promote social order necessary for financial development and individual security.

## NO PLEA BARGAIN

In the global history of law, from the time of Hammurabi, there was no plea bargain. Clemency, yes; but the unique feature of the American courts was the widespread practice of the plea bargain. Counter-intuitively, the practice recompensed explicitly those charged with offenses. That cooperation functioned in part as the violation of moral laws could result in a public admittance of guilt and brokered penance. Justice is blind, but the streets have eyes.

Plea bargaining arose during the 1830s in Boston as part of an American process of political harmonization and an endeavor to legitimize institutions of self-rule vital to the re-amalgamation of political power of the established social and economic aristocracy. Conflict was for the courts, not the streets.

Whilst the Irish in America advanced in volume and influence, the legal system witnessed participation by the Irish in all facets of the judiciary. That included the plea bargain. In some municipalities, the plea bargain resolved 10-15 percent of all cases in 1830. In 1880 the same municipalities settled 85-90 percent of their caseload by plea bargain. Next month we will examine how that was manifest in Cleveland. ■

*Francis McGarry holds undergraduate degrees from Indiana University in Anthropology, Education and History and a Masters in Social Science from the University of Chicago. He is an assistant principal and history teacher. Francis is a past president of the Irish American Club East Side. He is the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.*

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# Séimhiú agus Urú



In the pursuit of the Irish language, we have obstacles to overcome, that at first can be very daunting. Over time, they become stepping stones.

One of these has to do with the change of form at the beginning of words. These changes are called séimhiú or lenition, and urú or eclipsis, both occur because of the word that precedes them.

But why? Like almost all spoken languages, celtic languages want to flow easier, much like music. It is no surprise that many people enjoy the sound of a solo cello being played by an artist who has spent a lifetime studying the instrument. Of all the stringed instruments it resembles the human voice the closest. Language and music share many traits, pitch, timing, rythm, and intensity, all to help convey emotion.

In almost half of the languages spoken in the world, words can have a completely different meaning depending on the pitch used. Linguists refer to pitches as tones.

Mandarin has four tones, "ma" can mean different things depending on the tone used. Not as in tone of expression, as "Ma!" for exasperation, or "Ma?" as a question. Rather, "ma" on a high tone means mother, with a falling tone it means reprimand, with a rising tone, rough or coarse. Spoken with a drawn out tone, "ma-a-a", it means horse.

In the Hmong language, spoken in parts of China and Southeast Asia, there are seven tones a syllable can be spoken, resulting in completely different meanings. Speak these languages monotone and you're not really saying anything intelligible, or you could be referring to someones mother as a horse!

Tones can also be used as grammar, as in the African language Edo. If you say "EE-ma" it means I'm showing, but if you say "ee-MA" it means I showed. Tonal languages can be found in Asia, Africa and the indigenous languages of Mexico

and South America.

## POETRY IS THE MUSICAL FORM OF WRITING

When Christianity came to Ireland, the poets continued to practice some of the functions of the druids. The word for poet in Irish is "file" or seer, one of the words for poetry, "éigse" is of a similar nature to "feiscint" or seeing.

Poets were apprenticed for a long period, and then were held in high esteem even by kings. After all, the poet could make or break him with his rhymes.

The celts from the first millennial believed their poets could even kill with magical satire. Early Irish law criminalized satirical "crimes of the tongue," equitting it with theft or spousal rape.

"It was long thought that the rhyming syllabic meters of Irish verse were formed under the influence of late Latin verse, but more recent scholarship argues just the opposite, that the versification of early Irish poetry influenced Medieval Latin verse." Exc. From The Princeton Handbook of Multicultural Poetries. Shakespeare even referred to the rhyming powers of Irish poets to get rid of a plague of rats, probably from folklore imported from Ireland as a result of English conquest.

So, intial mutations are there to enable the flow of speech. By now we've encountered them many times and without getting into the grammar behind them (this column is way too short!) we'll at the least identify them.

SÉIMHIÚ (lenition) this change occurs to the following consonants

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b – bh f – fh p – ph  
c – ch g – gh s – sh  
d – dh m – mh t – th  
the consonants h l n r cannot be lenited

URÚ (eclipsis) this change occurs to the following consonants

b – mb g - ng  
c – gc p – bp  
d – nd t – dt  
f – bhf  
the remaining consonants, h l m n r s cannot be eclipsed

## INITIAL CHANGES TO VOWELS AND THE LETTER S

The letter t can be placed before an intial vowel, it is followed by a hyphen except when the vowel is a capital letter.

t-a tA t-o tO  
t-e tE t-u tU  
t-i tI

There is never a hyphen between t and the intial s ts

An h can be placed before an intial vowel. There is never a hyphen used ha he hi ho hu.

The sounds that these changes make vary depending on the consonant being either broad or slender. The easiest way to determine if it is broad or slender is to remember that i and e are slender vowels and the spelling rule in Irish "leathan le leathan agus caol le caol" (broad with broad and slender with slender).

That means a consonant can only be touching one kind of vowel, an m next to a means that m is broad, m next to e makes it slender. Mh next to a broad vowel makes a w sound, next to a slender vowel a v sound.

Even though this appears complicated, we've been encountering these changes almost monthly in our phras-

es. One final note: if you're having a difficult time looking up a word in the dictionary (teanglann.ie) try looking it up by the second letter, it might be getting eclipsed, or if the second letter is an h, eliminate the h and try it that way, it may be lenited.

FEICFIDH MÉ SAR I BHFAD THÚ! Feicfidh mé sar i bhfad thú! (fek-ay may sar ih vahd who) I'll see you soon (fad a word meaning duration or long is being eclipsed, while the word for you, tú, is being lenited. ■

*Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday @ PJ McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dog organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighan and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com*

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# What's Meant for You Won't Pass You By



**DUBLIN DIARIES**  
By Margaret Mary Hicks

Trinity, my social life, nights out and just having my life back seems so far away. While many of these things just seem like small drops in the ocean of the world's problems, the loss of control and suspension of time has been getting to me.

However, I try to stay as mindful as possible. It is important now to monitor how I am feeling and reflect upon how lucky I am to still be here and be safe. While I can ruminate and worry about all of the what-ifs, could-have-beens and what the future will look like, it can be hard to get out of that mindset.

To get out of the spiraling worries, I try to focus on what I can control in my life and how I can better myself as a person

during this time in isolation. While it can be easy to fall into dwelling on shortcomings and the unknown future awaiting me, I remind myself that better days will come, and this won't last forever.

One of my favorite sayings is, "What's meant for you won't pass you by." It's an old Irish proverb and it always comforts me whenever I stress about the future. Since graduating, I have been trying to find my new identity and honestly my early twenties have been at times very lonely.

I was so unbelievably lucky to be surrounded by the best friends I've ever had in college at Ohio University. After graduation, it was an incredible loss and for a while I felt like I'd lost touch with myself and who I was before moving to Dublin.

It was very hard to let go of those meaningful times in Athens and I find myself missing those times now more than ever. Even though I am living my absolute dream here in Dublin, I can't help but think about how much joy and love I was surrounded by back home. Despite this, I know I am not losing that friendship and this lockdown has made me appreciate how wonderful it was to have had that experience.

As I approach my 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, I can't help but wonder about what could be or if I am living my life fully as I intended. While I am grateful for all the privileges

and the life I have been given, I can't help but feel that some of the most important times of my life are being stripped from me.

I recently got a call from a friend back home who expressed his frustrations

"I BELIEVE THIS SITUATION WILL CAUSE US TO GROW IN EVERY ASPECT: PROFESSIONALLY, PERSONALLY, MENTALLY AND EVEN SPIRITUALLY."

with me as well. We are both in similar situations, thousands of miles away from home and very uncertain of our futures ahead. We just got our lives together and it seemed like our new beginnings were finally happening. Now, it seems like our dreams are slowly slipping away from us.

While it is very likely there will be struggles ahead, it will also likely cause us to work harder and enhance our skill set. Most importantly, I believe this situation will cause us to grow in every aspect: professionally, personally, mentally and even spiritually.

During this time, I encourage you to reflect and do things that are within your control. That is how we can truly feel in charge of our lives again and focus on improving ourselves. Stay strong and remember, if it's meant for you, it won't pass you by.

Slán go fóill. ■

Margaret Mary is a postgraduate student studying marketing at Trinity College Dublin. She is an alumna of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and is from Cleveland, Ohio. To keep up with her adventures abroad, follow @margamary on Instagram."

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I've been struggling lately. And I know I am not alone in saying that, especially during this time. I find myself having really good days and not so good days. I grow frustrated and increasingly feel that my emotions are indescribable a lot of the time. It feels like many things have been stolen from me.

My last moments as a student at

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By Dottie Wenger  
@DottieWenger

# KIDS CRAIC

## CELEBRATING FANTASTIC FATHERS!

**Father's Day (in America and Ireland) is June 21<sup>st</sup> this year!**  
Father's Day took a long time to become an official holiday in the United States. The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington. In 1924, United States President Calvin Coolidge recommended the day as a national holiday.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation for a day to celebrate fathers and declared that an official Father's Day be held every year on the third Sunday in June. In 1972, President Richard Nixon made the proclamation a law.

While the holiday originated in the United States, other countries, including Ireland, have adopted the celebration. Irish children honor their dads in much the same way American kids do on the holiday, with gifts and family activities.

### Craft Corner

Here's a Father's Day gift idea kids can make for their dad, granddad, stepdad, or other favorite guy:

- Materials:**  
Inexpensive picture frame, any size  
Collection of small rocks to fill the outside of frame  
Glue gun and glue sticks  
Paper to fit inside the frame  
Crayons, colored pencils or markers

Using the crayons, colored pencils or markers, kids can print the words, "Dad, you ROCK!" on a piece of paper to fit inside the frame. With help from a grown-up, insert the picture inside the frame and then use a hot glue gun to attach small rocks to the frame.

**FUN FACT**  
The average height of men in Ireland is 5'8"

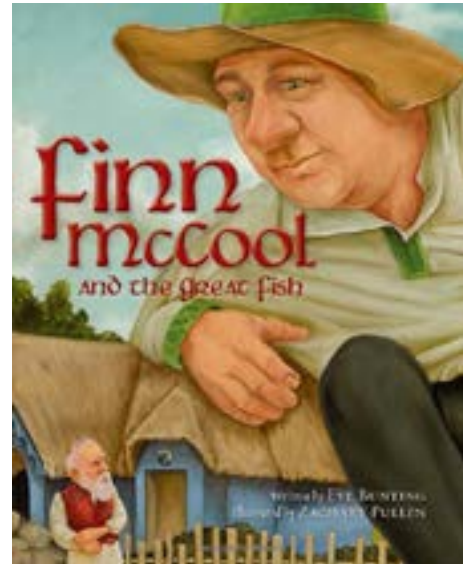
**Also in June ...** In Ireland, the first Monday of June (June 1<sup>st</sup> this year) is "June Bank Holiday." It's a public holiday, observed as a day off for the general population. Schools and most businesses are closed.

The weather in Ireland is usually mild and pleasant at this time, so families use the long weekend to spend time outdoors when possible. Popular activities include picnics and barbecues (similar to Memorial Day weekend in the United States), camping, sailing, outdoor music festivals and sporting events.

### Irish Words of the Month

**Fir** (pron. fih) meaning: men  
**Mna** (pron. mnaw) meaning: women

(Look for these words if you're travelling in Ireland and you need to use the restroom)



### Literature Highlight

Finn McCool and the Great Fish, written by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Zachary Pullen  
Finn McCool is a legendary figure in Irish folklore. He's a friendly giant, a great warrior, but not very smart. He learns that he can gain wisdom by eating a fish. Read what happens once the fish is caught! ■

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Dottie taught kindergarten and second grade for a total of thirty-two years, and she now handles marketing and promotions for Yorktown Service Plaza in Parma Heights. In her spare time, Dottie is a baker extraordinaire, and also enjoys participating in 5K events in order to offset collateral damage from this hobby.



# The Sea



## BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

"I have been beach combing, through that flotsam world between high-tide line and dune, driftwood, ocean-gnawed, chalk-brittle starfish. It is good to stand in the acrid scent of kelp, world's edge."

—Old Mariner by John F. Deane

One summer my family took a road trip to New England. My mother had never seen the ocean.

During the Korean War, my father was stationed in New York. On leave, he went to Coney Island and walked along the boardwalk. He always had a love for water: fishing trips to Lake Superior, camping in tents along the pebbly shores of forgotten lakes. My dad wanted to show my mom the rocks in Maine and eat lobster rolls as the sun set by the sea.

On our first stop in Maine, we stayed at a hotel with a supposed ocean view. The sea waters did flow into a small inlet behind our rooms. Drawn by

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Elaine Connaghan at the aquarium.

the sound of seabirds and the smell of brine, we left our old tennis shoes on to protect our feet from the sharp stones and stepped into the cold water.

The tides did not rise and fall in the small secluded space; the water lay stagnant, choked by seaweed. Despite the putrid smell that would linger with

us for days, I was drawn to the allure of the sea. Its waters flowed to a mysterious chord that did not belong to the land.

When my family finally arrived at Perkin's Cove, Maine, our daydreams became a reality. We stayed in a beautiful old inn with a white wrap around porch. The nights were cold, forty-five degrees at best.

Despite the chill, I would open the window above my bed as the breeze from the ocean blew directly overhead. I was lulled by the even rhythm of the tide. At the break of day, I rose to the cry of gulls, while the waves continued on their steadfast course.

The sea holds mysteries that have engaged the curiosity of humans throughout the ages. Myths about the lure of the Siren's song and the dangers these provocative creatures held on sailors still exist today.

### TITANIC AND FITZGERALD LEGENDS

Warnings became etched into tales about unexplainable patches in the

sea where ships have entered, never to be seen again. Tragic shipwrecks, like the Titanic in the cold waters of the Atlantic and the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald in Lake Superior, a lake whose power rivals that of the ocean, evoke powerful feelings of sadness and wonder.

These stories have become the fabric of myth and legend. Somehow the facts have blended with fiction and fantastical tales of prophecy have emerged.

The unknown harbors unease and fear, but also intrigue and allure. This philosophy coats the dichotomy of the sea. The sea is at once calming, yet terrifying: an old grandfather who soothes as well as scorns.

Far below surface waters creatures swim and float, slither and dive. Marine mammals like dolphin and porpoise frolic alongside small vessels delighting humans with their seeming smiles and playful behaviors.

During a particularly mild summer, one of our Irish cousins was kayaking in the waters along Keem Bay and a

mischievous seal popped its silky head above the water looking at her with knowing eyes. While startled, the cousin did not feel threatened.

On the contrary, she was merely surprised at her good fortune. This was indeed a rare opportunity to connect, albeit briefly, with a creature from the sea.

### SELKIES

Tales of supernatural sea creatures abound. The selkie myth, stories of seal maidens who are drawn to men and shed their skin for love, is ubiquitous in Irish and Scottish lore. Bodies of water, from the smallest tide pool or lagoon, to the bottomless oceans are thought to be protected by water fairies: sprites and nymphs.

Mermaids and mermen are long believed to swim below the ocean depths. Their loyalties, however, are crossed, as some protect innocent sailing vessels from peril, while others protect the sanctity of the sea by destroying human life through sudden storms.

Myths and fairytales aside, the facts of the sea are also cloaked in magic. Skate and shark embryos float protectively encased in egg sacs called the Mermaid's Purse. Deep sea Lantern Fish live 3,000 feet below the ocean surface. Their mouths are grilled with long teeth and their bodies produce light.

Varieties of seaweed, artistic constructs born from nature, wash up upon the ocean shores. Dillisk, Dulse, Carrageen Moss, and Bladderwrack are harvested to nourish the body. Their names belong to fairytales and stories of pirate adventure. Fact and fiction blend seamlessly in matters pertaining to the sea.

During a recent family trip to Ireland, we visited The Achill Experience Aquarium and Visitor's Centre in Keel, Achill Island. The resident aquarist, Tom Honeyman, regaled us with facts that resounded like fiction.

We met the resident blue lobster, a peacock blue beauty so different from our familiar red lobsters. Tom delighted us with a scallop who when gently provoked displayed a bit of harmless fun, squirting water into our curious faces. Tourists indeed! We left the aquarium with a bit of childlike lightness in our steps.

I could not help but think of the long

Saturday afternoons I spent at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium with my parents, and the awe I felt when the sharks were fed in the mammoth circular glass tank that commands the center of the museum. I still remember the beauty of the tropical Asian species who swam with the lightness of ballerinas in the red, Mandarin-inspired tanks.

Despite this sea born idyll, reality remains. Today, we cannot travel far from our homes. If one lives by the sea, the world may seem endlessly beautiful or infinitely lonely.

We can however assuage feelings of isolation and indulge in maritime novels and haunting tales of nautical lore. Budding oceanographers can visit aquariums across the world through virtual tours on-line. Perhaps we choose to simply sit in our favorite chairs and remember that first visit to the sea or our last.

Until our world reopens, revel in the knowledge that life continues beneath our oceans. Perhaps through the course of our hiatus from travel and the controversial progress of civilization, we are assisting in the rebirth of a new aquatic species or purifying our waters.

Humans will always bear witness to fear and doubt. Likewise, if we face trials with open minds and hearts, we will experience moments of joy and hope. We will embrace the paradoxes that challenge our understanding of our interconnectedness to the sea, to the earth, to one another.

As poet William Butler Yeats once wrote, "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper." Let us look toward our future and enjoy the present moment with patience and with grace.

\*Sources Consulted: *Wild Atlantic Way: Family Holidays: Irish Folklore, Stories from the Wild Atlantic Way.* Deane, John F. "Achill: The Island." *Currach Press: Dublin 2018.* ■

Susan holds a Master's Degree in English from John Carroll University and a Master's Degree in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at [suemangan@yahoo.com](mailto:suemangan@yahoo.com).

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# Pull Up a Seat at Our Virtual Pub



AN EEJIT ABROAD  
By CB Makem



You're not heading to the pub anytime soon. We at Ohio Irish American News understand. But ho-ho fear not, dear readers, for we have a near perfect solution. We're bringing the chat directly to you. Now you can enjoy our virtual pub discussion right in your own home. It'll be like you're really there.

So, go grab the beverage of your choice from the fridge, pull out a packet of Smokey Bacon Taytos and hoist up your legs on your favorite recliner. (Note: the management at OhioIANews is not responsible for any lost time in the reading of this column. It cannot reimburse wages if consumed while you're supposed to be working, nor does it offer refunds of any kind, especially for you Larry, so don't even try.)

CM: Cheers. Anyone sitting here?

**Regular Patron:** Doesn't look like it. CM (with a nod to the bartender and a raised index finger): Pint of Guinness, please.  
**Bartender:** Righto.  
The speakers behind the bar are softly discharging a glossy pop band inappropriate for the age group gathered at the

establishment and yet no one seems to care. Yes, it's wonderful to be in Ireland.  
CM (to the regular patron): What do you recommend for a bite?  
RP: An agitated Pitbull usually does the trick.  
CM: What if I can't find one of those?  
RP: Soup's good. Veg today, I think.  
Several moments of silence.  
**Bartender** (placing full pint glass in front of CM): Now.  
CM: Cheers. Veg soup today, is it?  
**Bartender:** Aye.  
CM: Could I grab one of those as well?  
**Bartender:** No bother. (Retreats)  
**Patron at the wall under a newspaper clipping** (twisting around on his stool): Ronnie!

RP (spinning on his stool): ...  
PATWUANC: What's that clown with the teeth again?  
RP (Ronnie): Pennywise.  
PATWUANC: That's the one. Needs an orthodontist that one. And who's the writer?  
RP (Ronnie): Stephen King.  
PATWUANC: The very man. (Spins back to face his cohorts)

RP (Ronnie) (turning to face the bar again): Sips from his lager.  
CM: Never saw it.  
RP (Ronnie): By it, you mean "It?"  
CM: I do. Don't really enjoy horror flicks.  
RP (Ronnie): Well, your man's just delving into them now. Can't get enough.  
CM: Just discovering them, is he? What's his age?  
RP (Ronnie): Oh, he's near on eighty now.  
CM: And he's into horror movies.  
RP (Ronnie): Not for the scare, mind you. For the laughs.  
CM: Finds them funny, does he?  
RP (Ronnie): Oh, aye. You'll hear him across the room roarin' and laughin', and him recalling something from Netflix last night. "Don't go in the room, ye stupid git!"  
CM: Fair play to him.  
RP (Ronnie): "They're always splitting up! Why wouldn't they stick together? There's only one of them murderers out there and there's six of them. Sure,

Continued on facing page

## Virtual Pub Continued from facing page

they'd all still be kicking if they'd a brain amongst them."

CM: I suppose he's got a point there.

RP (Ronnie): Oh, aye.

CM: And his wife... is she still around?

RP (Ronnie): She is that. She'll outlive us all.

CM: Does she enjoy the movies as well?

RP (Ronnie): Not like your man. They'll put something on, but she'll be reading a book all the while.

CM: Doesn't see the humor in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

RP (Ronnie): She lacks vision, no doubt there.

**Bartender** (placing soup and bread in front of CM): Now.

CM: Thanks. (Sips Guinness and starts the buttering procedure—a process that can take an extended period of time according to some people with knowledge of CM's eating habits.)

RP (Ronnie): That's not looking so bad about now.

CM: It's just what the doctor ordered.

RP (Ronnie): Brian!

**Bartender** (looks up from wiping a glass)

RP (Ronnie): You wouldn't have a spare bowl of that stuff you've given him?

**Bartender (Brian):** Just the bit that's fallen on the floor.

RP (Ronnie): Any chance you'd scrape it up and throw it in a pot?

**Bartender (Brian):** Will do.

CM (carefully opening the foil from a second pat of butter with his knife and eyeing the quickly cooling soup, still annoyed that the butter was refrigerated and tough to spread): C'mon yiz.

PATWUANC: Ronnie!

RP (Ronnie) (spinning around on his stool): What is it Patrick?

PATWUANC (Patrick): Come and give us a yarn.

RP (Ronnie): I'm just after ordering some grub.

PATWUANC (Patrick): What'd ye get?

RP (Ronnie): The soup.

PATWUANC (Patrick): It's carrot, is it?

RP (Ronnie): Veg.

PATWUANC (Patrick): Veg, eh?

Well, that's a whole different kettle of fish.

RP (Ronnie): That's what I said.

PATWUANC (Patrick): Who's your man up there?

RP (Ronnie): Dunno. (To CM): What do they call you?

CM: Conor.

RP (Ronnie) (to PATWUANC, Patrick): Conor.

PATWUANC (Patrick): How's the soup today, Conor?

CM: Haven't tried it yet. Still slathering on the butter, which is putting up a valiant fight.

PATWUANC (Patrick): Good man. Let us know how you get on.

CM: Nearly there.

PATWUANC (Patrick): Don't hurry it. You're doing the decent thing.

RP (Ronnie): Sure, they've warm butter out back too. Brian'll fetch you some.

CM: That's good news that could've been timelier. The job's nearly done.

**Bartender (Brian)** (placing soup and bread in front of RP (Ronnie): Now.

RP (Ronnie): Cheers Brian. You wouldn't have a bit of butter at a spreadable temperature for your man here?

**Bartender (Brian):** Yeah, sure.

CM: I'm all set, last few strokes.

RP (Ronnie): Well, I'll have his then.

**Bartender (Brian):** Easy enough.

CM: Done (takes a bite of bread and a sip of soup). Oh, that's nice.

RP (Ronnie) (to PATWUANC, Patrick): It's a thumbs up on the soup.

PATWUANC (Patrick): That's me sold. Brian, I'll have a lepping of that as well.

**Man across from Patrick:** Make that two.

**Woman next to man across from Patrick:** Three.

**Bartender (Brian):** You've started a movement, Conor. Well done.

\*Conor Makem spent 22 years traveling and honing petty gripes as an Irish musician, and enjoyed a further 13 years of people not returning his calls as a journalist. He is fluent in English, American and old Kerry farmer. More of his photos are on Instagram under cb.makem.

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# The Irish and the Boer War



**ILLUMINATIONS**  
By J. Michael Finn



Major John MacBride  
1854.

The Boer War, also known as Second Boer War, or the Anglo-Boer War, was fought from October 11, 1899, to May 31, 1902 between England and the two Boer republics, the South African Republic (also known as the Transvaal) and the Orange Free State.

Although the issues and origins of war were complex, most historians agree that the war was about British control of the rich Witwatersrand gold-mining complex, located in the South African Republic (SAR). It was the largest gold-mining complex in the world. At the time, the world's monetary systems were dependent upon gold and England was a believer in the "Golden Rule" – "He who has the gold makes the rules."

The discovery of gold on the Witwatersrand in 1886 allowed the SAR to make progress with modernization efforts and compete with Britain for domination in southern Africa. The Boers (a Dutch word meaning farmer) were descendants of Dutch colonists to southern Africa in 1652.

British proposals, but British rejected all of them.

The British government sent additional troops to reinforce the British garrison in southern Africa. They began arriving in August and September 1899. This buildup of troops alarmed the Boers.

On October 9, 1899, the Boers issued an ultimatum to the British, declaring that a state of war would exist between England and the two Boer republics if the British did not remove their troops from along the border. The ultimatum expired without resolution, and the war began on October 11, 1899.

## GUERRILLA ACTION

The Boers, who were vastly outnumbered by the British troops, fought a guerilla action against the British, using hit-and-run tactics to cut the British supply lines and delay their advances. Early in the war the British were overconfident and ill prepared, resulting in some early Boer successes. As more British troops arrived, their response to guerrilla warfare was to destroy civilian farms and livestock as part of a scorched earth policy.

Irish support for the Boers can be traced back to 1877, when several Irish parliamentarians, such as Charles Stewart Parnell, opposed laws that would have annexed the Boer republics

under British rule. When rumors of a war with the Boers began to surface in 1899, protesters led by James Connolly, Arthur Griffith and Maud Gonne (all members of the Irish Transvaal Committee) took to the streets in Dublin in August 1899 and public meetings were held across Ireland in support of the Boers.

## PROTESTS FOR FREEDOM

Several weeks later in Dublin, a crowd of nearly twenty thousand marched in protests against the planned British invasion of the SAR. The Irish saw the struggle of the Boer republics in South Africa as similar to their own struggle for self-determination and freedom from British rule.

In South Africa, the Irish Transvaal Brigade was established days before the outbreak of the Boer War and initially consisted of Irishmen who worked in the Witwatersrand mines. For joining the Brigade, the volunteers were given full citizenship of the two Boer republics. The brigade was formed by Colonel John Y. F. Blake, an Irish-American former officer in the U.S. Army.

In addition, fifty-eight men of the Irish American Ambulance Corps traveled from Chicago to New York City, where they were welcomed as heroes, for the purpose of joining the Boer War effort. Soon after their arrival in the SAR, they removed their Red Cross arm bands and joined the Irish Transvaal Brigade.

Blake's second in command of the Irish Transvaal Brigade was Major John MacBride, from Westport, County Mayo. MacBride was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Beginning in 1893, MacBride was labeled a "dangerous nationalist" by the British government.

In 1896, he went to the United States on behalf of the IRB. He then immigrated to the SAR.

MacBride was commissioned with the rank of Major in the Boer army and given Boer citizenship.

*Continued on facing page*

## Boer War Continued from facing page

### MACBRIDE'S BRIGADE

He was successful in recruiting both Irish South Africans as well as Irish nationals into the Brigade. When Col. Blake was injured at the Siege of Ladysmith, MacBride took over sole command of the Brigade. It would come to be known as MacBride's Brigade.

The Brigade was operational from September 1899 to September 1900. During that time, it fought in about twenty engagements, with eighteen men killed and about seventy wounded from a force that averaged no more than 300 men.

At the Siege of Ladysmith, the Brigade manned the famous and effective Boer artillery piece, called Long Tom, and they fought alongside SAR troops successfully at the Battle of Colenso. Having worked in the gold mines, they had a well-deserved reputation as demolition experts. They delayed the British advance on Pretoria by blowing up bridges. The brigade disbanded after the Battle of Bergendal in September 1900.

In August 1900, Lord Herbert Kitchener took over as the British commander. Kitchener ruthlessly pursued the Boers. The farms of Boers were destroyed, and the inhabitants of the countryside were rounded up and held in segregated concentration camps under horrific conditions. Thousands died during their incarceration.

The plight of Boer women and children in the carelessly run, unhygienic camps caused an international outrage. The war went on for two more years before the Boers were forced into negotiations.

### SURRENDER

The last of the Boers surrendered in May 1902, and the war ended with the Treaty of Vereeniging, signed on May 31, 1902. Under its terms, the two Boer republics were absorbed into the British Empire, with the promise of self-government in the future.

In the war, the British lost 22,092 soldiers, with the Boers suffering only 6,189 killed, for a total of 28,281 military deaths; however, 46,370 Boer

women and children died of starvation and disease in the British concentration camps.

When Major John MacBride became a citizen of the Transvaal, the British considered that, as a citizen of the United Kingdom, he had given aid to the enemy. So, after the war, he travelled to Paris, where Maud Gonne was living.

### NOBEL PRIZE

In 1903, he married her and they had one son, Nobel Prize winner Seán MacBride. After returning permanently to Dublin in 1905, MacBride joined other Irish nationalists participating in the 1916 Rising. He was executed by the British on May 5, 1916, and is buried in the mass grave at Arbor Hill Prison in Dublin. ■

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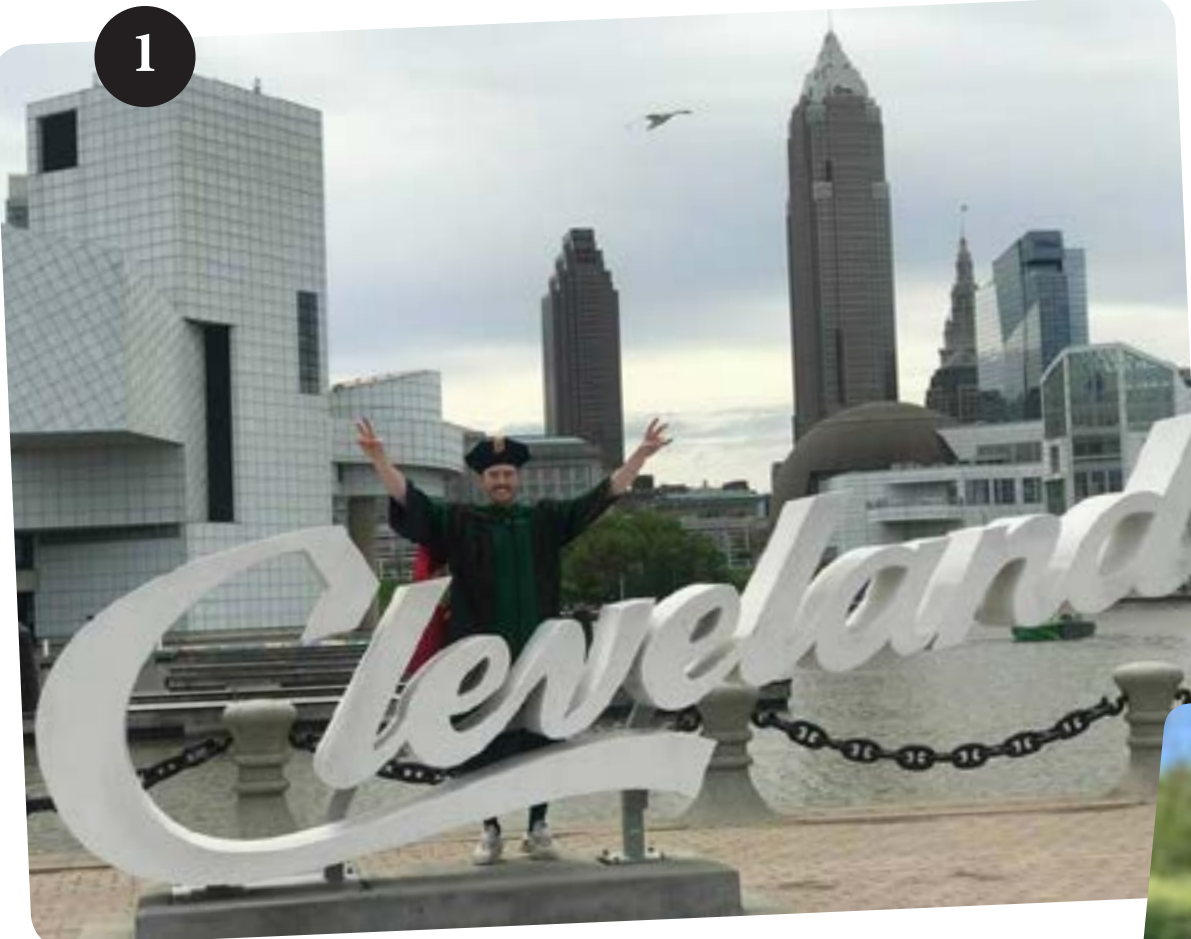
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# Midwest GAA



some saying to open the clubs, pitches, and training sessions; while others argue for no return until there is a vaccine; and still others advocating for intercounty senior matches in empty stadiums.

A Club Plyers Association (CPA) poll this week shows that 57% of club players are willing to return to play before a COVID-19 vaccine is administered. It is important to remember that there is no North-South border in the GAA and never has been. For inter-county play, the organization will have to navigate the orders of the Republic and the UK for equity amongst all counties in training and game regulations.

Whilst the county waits, the Croke Park social media team, GAANOW, has been pumping out archival footage. It is worth a watch – visit gaa.usgaa.org to get your fix of some classic football, hurling and camogie matches.

**Go raibh míle maith agaibh** (thanks y'all) to our readers and supporters. We need your help and involvement, but would most like to share the fun of Irish sport and Cleveland community with you. Consider getting involved at any level. Fáilte (welcome) to all.

The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish



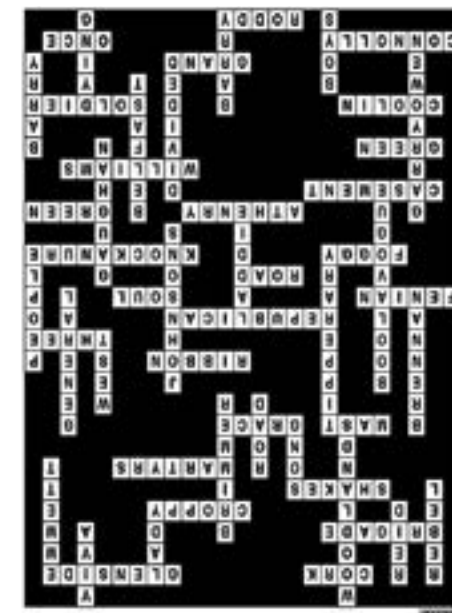
language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to all who want to play competitive sports, meet new people, and join an athletic, fitness-minded club for all ages.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2020 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or, visit ClevelandGAA.com. ■

*Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Clevelander and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA. His Irish is a cross of dialects from the University of Cincinnati and An Cheathrú Rua. With his wife, Michelle, he enjoys watching time absolutely fly by as their children, Ambrose (10), Bernadette (9), and Cedric (5), grow. His other hustles are teaching Irish at PJs, coaching CYO basketball at St. Mary of Berea, coaching soccer in Olmsted TWP, and slangin' some engi-*

neering skills on local concrete and pipe projects.

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Sláinte chugainn ar fad! Health to us all. Despite the unknown future, Cleveland GAA met the April 30 registration deadline with 44 male and 24 female footballers. The club is able to register new players throughout the summer – it's not too late to join – including our newly organized hurling team.

With some state restrictions being lifted, stay tuned to our social media outlets for updates. The USGAA is advising all clubs to follow local guidelines and orders.

Cleveland is developing plans for an intercity league – should be fun days ahead!

In other news, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association held their annual congress on March 7<sup>th</sup>. An interesting rule change is that a 45m free kick will now be worth 2 points starting this year (May 1<sup>st</sup>).

In Ireland, counties have been asked by Croke Park (aka HQ aka GAA Headquarters) to suspend all activity until July 20<sup>th</sup>, and have ruled out inter-county matches before October. Much like here, celebs of the game are weighing in on both sides of the ban –





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# Irish Rebel Songs

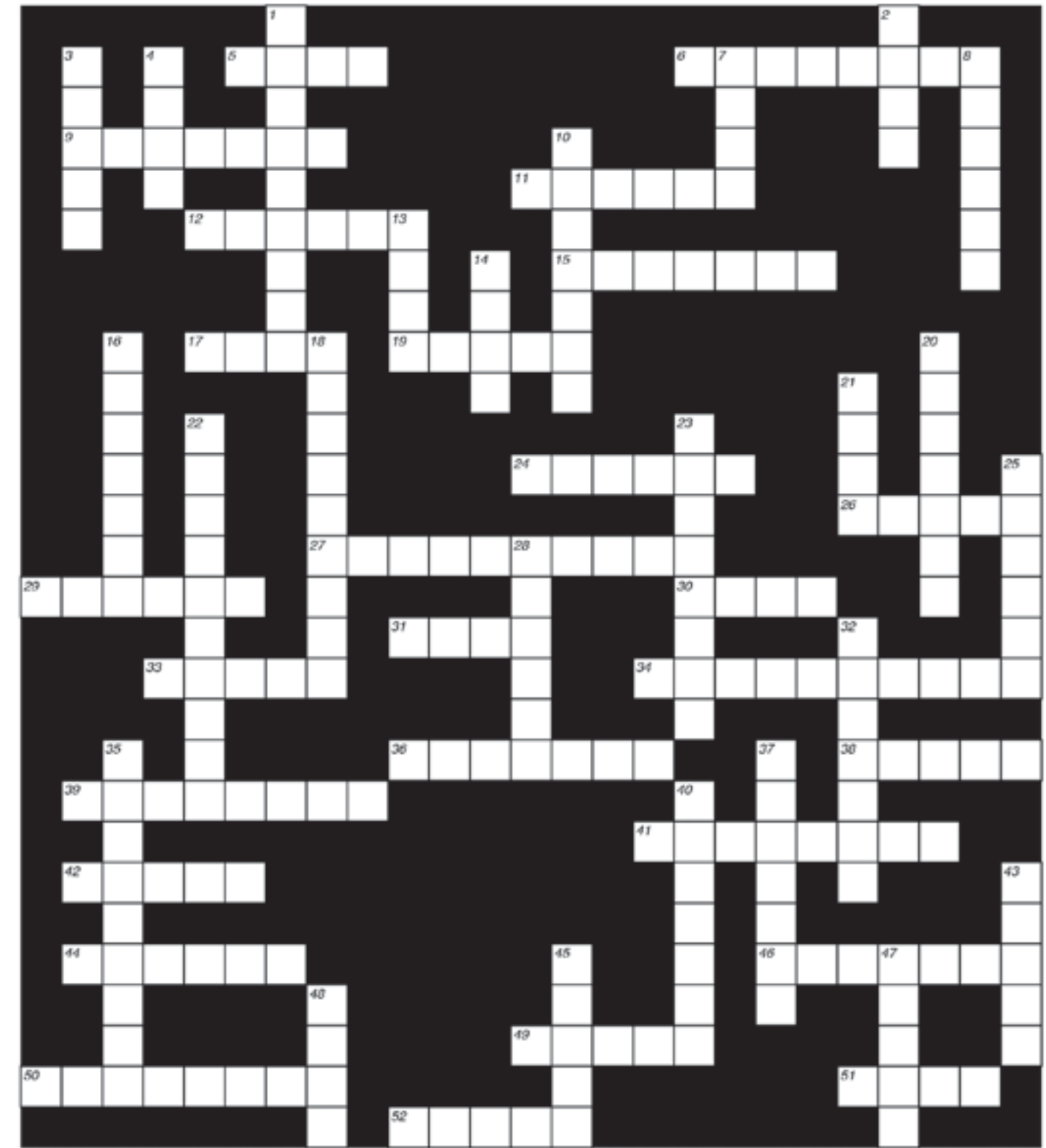
Linda Fulton Burke

## ACROSS

- 5 The Boys from County \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Down by the \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Boys of the Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 The \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 12 The Wind That \_\_\_\_\_ the Barley
- 15 The Manchester \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 Take it Down From the \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 Joseph Mary Plunkett was married to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24 Three Coloured \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Flowers
- 27 Irish \_\_\_\_\_ Army
- 29 The Bold \_\_\_\_\_ Men
- 30 Shall My \_\_\_\_\_ Pass through Ireland
- 31 Ashtown \_\_\_\_\_
- 33 The \_\_\_\_\_ Dew
- 34 The Valley of \_\_\_\_\_
- 36 The Fields of \_\_\_\_\_
- 38 Four \_\_\_\_\_ Fields
- 39 Roger \_\_\_\_\_
- 41 Tom \_\_\_\_\_
- 42 Wearing Of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 44 The \_\_\_\_\_'
- 46 Irish \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 49 It's a \_\_\_\_\_ Old Country
- 50 James \_\_\_\_\_
- 51 A Nation \_\_\_\_\_ Again
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ McCorley

## DOWN

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ of Loughlinn
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ La Quinta
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The Ballad of Billy \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The Floral \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Bold Robert \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Broad Black \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 The Soldier's \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 On the One \_\_\_\_\_



- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ on the Moor
- 25 Free the \_\_\_\_\_
- 43 \_\_\_\_\_ Column
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ So Far Away
- 28 Irish Soldier \_\_\_\_\_
- 45 Kevin \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Munroe
- 32 Michael \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Rebel
- 21 The Men From the \_\_\_\_\_
- 35 Sean South of \_\_\_\_\_
- 48 The \_\_\_\_\_ From County Mayo
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ aka Father Murphy
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ Brigade
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_' Motor Car
- 40 Ireland \_\_\_\_\_

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