



Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc. Newsletter

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~ Message from the President

by Harry McCarthy, substitute for Ryan Dunn

Dia dhuit (Hello).

I'm filling in this month for Ryan as he has some especially important and exciting business to take care of these days.

Congratulations to Natalie, Ryan and Patrick Dunn! A new little baby girl, **Violet Maren** has joined their family at 11:29 a.m. on October 26, 2020! Everyone is doing well and it's so nice to have some good news to share with everyone! Our best wishes to the Dunn's!



*The Dunn's welcome
Violet Maren
October 26, 2020*

The pandemic continues to raise havoc with our attempt to plan upcoming events. We regret to announce that our Shamrock Club Christmas Party has been canceled.

The club's annual membership drive is underway. Dues will remain the same for the coming year with family \$35.00 and single \$25.00. A form is enclosed for use in renewing your membership. We ask that a prompt renewal be returned to help the club to plan for the coming year and we hope you will help spread the word about the club. Also, the newsletter needs advertisers. Any help will be appreciated.

It's time to submit your nomination for **2021 Irish Person of the Year**. Each member can submit one nomination by December 31. Nominations can be sent to Ryan Dunn via email at ryandanieldunn@hotmail.com or via US mail at PO Box 259277, Madison 53725. When sharing your nomination, please include a short reason as to why the person should be considered. Members or non-members may be nominated. A selection will be made by the Board of Directors at their January meeting. Last year's Irish Person of the Year was Dr. Shannon O'Mahar.

The **Dane County Shamrock Club** is honored to partner with Rebecca Shields, a linguist from UW Madison to promote an Irish language learning group. She is looking for people interested in learning to speak Irish. This is a small group in the Madison area from complete beginner to advanced. If you are interested, complete the requested information at: <https://forms.gle/QR5HzsxZBc9HiQYt9>.

If you have any suggestions about the club, we ask that you give them to a board member or submit them to the club mailbox.

Best wishes from the **Board of Directors** for a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving with your families.

 Harry



~ *What's in a Name?* **Feeney**

Feeney is a surname that is very common in counties Sligo and Mayo. It can also be found in Galway and Roscommon. The Gaelic form of Feeney means "soldier." The original roots of the clan are believed to be located in the two towns of Ballyfeeney (town of feeney) in County Roscommon. The name was more common in the past.

Seeney

Chuck Feeney is one of the most generous philanthropists.

- ♣ Brian Feeney wrote "Sinn Fein, A Hundred Turbulent Years."
- ♣ Kathy Feeney wrote over 25 books about animals and wildlife.
- ♣ Geraldine Feeney is a member of the Irish Parliament.
- ♣ Tom Feeney is a Florida member of the House of Representatives.



~ *Thoor Ballylee* *By Bill Rafferty*

It was a Hiberno-Norman square stone tower, one of many built in County Galway by the deBurgo (Burke) sept, located near Coole Park, home to friend Lady Gregory. It represented to William Butler Yeats a step into the Irish past, Gaelic mythology and poetry. Yeats purchased Thoor, (Gaelic for tower), for 35 pounds in 1917 and it became a home to his family and a residence for his poetic muse.

He had William A. Scott, Professor of Architecture at the National University prepared the drawings and a local builder Thomas Rafferty (referred to by Yeats in letters as Rafferty) to begin the work. Because of a shortage of materials (the war) he acquired an old mill "great beams and three inch planks" and iron work at Burke's forge in nearby Gort. Despite the troubles, work continued sporadically until by the end of 1919 he and his family were able to occupy Thoor.



Yeats continued to write much of his poetry here and in 1923 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, an honor not only for him self but also for the emerging Republic. Fame and demand for his presence elsewhere made his visits less frequent, and due to ill health, by 1928, his use for Thoor had ended.



The Lower Floor of Thoor Ballylee

Carved on a stone at the site he left the following:

***I the poet William Yeats
with old mill boards and sea green slates
And smithy work from the Gort Forge
Restored this tower for my wife George
And may these characters remain
While all is ruin once again***

As seen in the inscription, the tower fell into ruin and was not saved until 1965 by the efforts of the Kiltartan Society and funds by Bord Failte. It was declared open "by the poet Padraic Colum on Sunday, June 20, 1965, centenary year of Yeat's birth."

Thoor Ballylee (*pictured above*) is a monument to the cultural renaissance of Ireland and all who visit this land should visit Thoor and meditate on the literary treasures of Ireland.

Sources: A Literary Guide to Ireland, Susan and Thomas Cahill
A Writers Ireland, William Trevor
Thoor Ballylee-Home of William Butler Yeats, A pamphlet by Mary Hanley & Liam Miller



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Happy
Birthday!

*To our Members with
November Birthdays!*

4	Karen Moser
10	Lauren Klink
14	Janaan Sampson
19	Ruth Tormey
20	Robert McGinn
22	Sophia Nemoir Cheryl Sullivan
23	Greg Moser
25	Patrick Dunn Elizabeth Sullivan
27	Juli Hillebrand

~ A WEE BIT OF IRISH HISTORY



~ **Rosemary Kennedy** was born in Brookline, MA on September 13, 1918. No doctor was available at the birth. She suffered from a lack of oxygen. She experienced seizures and violent mood swings. Her father arranged for a lobotomy in 1941 when she was 23. The procedure was a failure and resulted in her being barely able to walk and could speak only a few words. She spent most of her life hidden from the world at St. Coletta in Jefferson, WI.

By kindergarten, Rosemary was considered "retarded" and such children were considered defective. The Kennedy's were obsessed with the family image and considered it a disaster. She had the mind of a two-year-old and was unable to do anything for herself. Her parents told people she was teaching handicapped children in the Midwest when she was actually in a home called St. Coletta in Jefferson, WI.

The other Kennedy children learned the truth and visited Rosemary and brought her to Boston on several occasions. Eunice Kennedy based the Special Olympics on her sister. She broke the family's silence in the Saturday Evening Post, but it was not until 1987 that the story of the lobotomy became public. Rosemary died in 2005 at the age of 86. She is buried in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline, MA next to her parents. Kate Clifford Larson wrote the tragic story of Rosemary Kennedy "The Hidden Kennedy Daughter" in 2015.



~ **Kennedy Boat PT-59**



PT-59 – Kennedy's Boat

John Kennedy's wartime service aboard *PT-109* is remembered for being sunk by a Japanese destroyer and causing Kennedy and his crew to swim for four hours in shark-infested waters to reach safety on a small island. Following this Kennedy took command of *PT-59* where he continued to attack Japanese ships in the Solomon Islands. He even rescued a 10-man crew of marines who were stranded on the northern part of the islands.

PT-59 quietly ended her days in the 1970s after having served as a fishing boat in Manhattan. When the actual identity of the fishing boat was discovered, James "Boat" Newberry, founder of PT Boats Inc., attempted to obtain her; however, her ownership was tangled up in NYC probate court. After an unexpected fire, the boat sunk at its mooring, beside the 207th St. Bridge over the Harlem River, around 1976. The hull sat for years and slowly rotted away.

In May 2017, Kennedy biographer William Doyle announced preliminary explorations in the Harlem River near 208th Street indicated a strong possibility that *PT-59* could be found and recovered. He is looking to raise funds from Kennedy focused organizations to fully explore the area. In June 2020, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced that parts of the boat had been recovered during preparations to construct a seawall.



~ **How the Irish Workers Got up in Time for Work**



Did you ever wonder how hard-working folks in Ireland got up to go to work before the alarm clock? It wasn't until the beginning of the 1920's that the alarm clock became available. So how was it that the working people of Ireland managed to get up for work every morning? The answer is the knocker-upper; a person who would shoot dried peas at a sleeping workers windows. This was a profession that lasted into the 1920's.

The knocker-upper could use a short heavy stick to knock on client's doors or a longer light stick to reach windows on upper floors. The knocker-upper would go door to door and would not leave the house until their client was roused. In the large cities a larger number of people were hired to carry out this role. The job was usually carried out by older men or women but sometimes by police constables. Larger factories and mills would employ their own knocker-upper to ensure their employees made it to work on time. Although the alarm clock was the main replacement from the 1920's, the knocker-uppers work continued into the 1950's and 1970's.

~ Fairy Bridges and Wishing Chair

The Wild Atlantic Way stretches the entire west coast of Ireland from Cork in the south to Donegal in the north. It is the longest driving route in the world. Bundoran's Tulian Strand is a Discovery Point in County Donegal which is noted for its 360-degree scenic views. You can see back to Mullaghmore, County Sligo and across Donegal Bay to the magical Slieve League Cliffs. There are strange rock formations in the area causing blow or puffing holes where the seawater crashes through blowing the water upward. As far back as the 1700s, local people thought these to be haunted by the fairies and named it the Fairy Bridges.

Legend claims it is advisable to approach the Wishing Chair with caution. Wishers are advised to sit down slowly while holding on to both "arms" of the chair and then pause to take in the stunning scenery before making their wish which must be done in silence. The wish must be kept private in order to increase the chances of the wish coming true. Tapping the seat twice as you get up will make sure your wish is a genuine one.

The Fairy Bridges has received a Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor in recognition of consistent excellent reviews of the travel site. They also received the Travelers Choice Award putting the Fairy Bridges in the top 10% of global attractions.

Pictured: *The Wishing Chair, it is said that many of the town's famous visitors over the years have sat here overlooking the wild Atlantic Ocean – from poet William Allingham to golfer Christy O'Connor Jr to Viscount Enniskillen to 10 times world champion surfer Kelly Slater – they're all believed to have sat in Bundoran's famous Wishing Chair.*



~ Big Jim O'Leary

James Patrick O'Leary was born in 1869. His parents were Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. Catherine was born in Ireland. They lived at 137 DeKorven Street in Chicago. Catherine had a barn at this address. It is said that this is where the Great Chicago Fire started in 1871. James married Annie McLaughlin who lived next door to the O'Leary's. They had five children.



Jim O'Leary worked for local bookies when he was a teenager and eventually began as a bookmaker himself at Long Beach, Indiana. He soon went bankrupt and worked at the Union Stock Yards where he got the nickname of "Big Jim." He opened a saloon on Halsted Street and operated a pool hall and book parlor in the rear. O'Leary became one of the leading gamblers in Chicago. In 1904, he began operating illegal gambling on Lake Michigan aboard a steamship. This venture failed in 1907 because without police protection, police raided the ship each time it docked. His saloon was protected with Iron doors which were said to be fireproof, bomb proof and police proof.

O'Leary was able to take control of gambling on Chicago's southwest side around the Union Stock Yards. By the time of his death in 1925, O'Leary had become a millionaire several times over. Despite numerous police raids, O'Leary was found guilty only once. He died of natural causes at the age of 56.



~ Deadly Viper Found in Ireland

A nine-year-old boy found one of the world's deadliest snakes in Ireland. He found it in his own backyard in County Offaly on September 20. Fionn Kilmurray found the highly dangerous viper which is responsible for more human deaths than any other snake. The snake is believed to come to Ireland in a shipment of stone from India. This is the first time that the snake has been found in Ireland.

The family was unaware of how dangerous the snake was, and they called the National Reptile Zoo. The snake was taken to the zoo in Kilkenny and will be part of an anti-venom research program. The incident highlighted the need for stricter monitoring of cargo contents in the future. Fionn Kilmurray was anxious to go to school to show the pictures of the snake.



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~ How the Irish Saved Thanksgiving



The first Thanksgiving was owed to the generosity of the Irish people. A ship arrived from Ireland and landed in Massachusetts Bay in the winter of 1621 filled with provisions. The first Thanksgiving was actually celebrated on February 21, 1621 when a band of starving Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock were saved by the arrival of the ship from Dublin carrying food and supplies from Ireland.

The Pilgrims were starving during the winter of their first year and they faced the end of their plans to colonize the "New World." "The Lyon" was the ship from Ireland. The grateful Pilgrims created the first Thanksgiving. The wife of one of

the prominent Plymouth Rock Pilgrims was the daughter of a Dublin merchant and he was the one who chartered the ship, loaded it with food and sent it to Massachusetts. The band of starving Pilgrims were saved at the last minute by the arrival of the "Lyon."

Thanksgiving is an American holiday, but the world should embrace the celebration. The Massachusetts historical records revealed the story and gave the Irish the credit for saving Thanksgiving.



In Memoriam



Mark Heinrichs of McFarland passed away on September 20, 2020 at the age of 68. Mark was preceded in death by his mother Eileen Heinrichs who was a long-time and faithful club member, his father, Donovan and sister, Michelle.

*He is survived by Club members,
his brother Michael and nephew Jackson Heinrichs
and his sister Sheila Jessen.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Heinrich family.



. . . . News of Interest

- ♣ The Irish Republican Brotherhood was formed in 1859 in New York City. Its members were known as Fenians because they were followers of the ancient Celtic warrior, Finn.
- ♣ The "Twelve Apostles" was the nickname given to Michael Collin's personal Assassination Squad that targeted British agents and spies. The scope of "Bloody Sunday" was so huge that the Squad could not handle it. The Dublin Brigade was brought in to assist them. One of these was Sean Lemass who went on to become a member of de Valera's cabinet and helped establish Aer Lingus and Ardmore Studios before becoming Prime Minister in 1959.
- ♣ Joseph Mary Plunkett was a mysterious leader. He served as the Risings foreign minister, traveling to Germany to drum up support for the coming insurrection. At the time of the Rising, he was dying of tuberculosis. Michael Collins was his personal bodyguard and aid-de-camp. Hours before his execution he married his fiancée, Grace Gifford, in the Catholic chapel at Kilmainham prison. Immediately after the wedding he was taken out and shot on the morning of May 4, 1916.
- ♣ Demonstrations in New York protesting the death of George Floyd desecrated St. Patrick's Cathedral with graffiti scrawled on the walls. A total of 100 rioters were arrested and 15 vehicles were burned during the protest.
- ♣ Amadan Mor is from Irish folklore and means "Great Fool." Amadan dubh means "dark fairy."
- ♣ Russian prosecutors seek an 18-year sentence for Paul Whelan who is accused of espionage. Whelan is a former US Marine and an Irish passport holder. He was arrested in December 2018 and has been imprisoned in Russia.
- ♣ Hundreds of J-1 visa holders no longer living in the US, received economic impact payments of \$1200. Cashing the checks could affect future attempts to enter the US and subject a person to fines and penalties.
- ♣ The story of Eileen Gray has come to film, "The Price of Desire." Gray was an Irish feminist and designer. Her role will be played by Orla Brady. Gray lived to be 98.
- ♣ When the Romans first visited Ireland, they called it Hibernia. They referred to Ireland as a cold land populated by a fierce people.
- ♣ David Shanahan from Castleisland, County Kerry has committed to play football at Georgia Tech. Shanahan has accepted a scholarship and will be considered to be the punter.
- ♣ Cork Town has been named one of Europe's most beautiful towns by Conde Nast. The scenic harbor town has been recognized and recommended to travelers by the publication.
- ♣ University of Ulster archaeologists discovered a 5,000-year-old quay on the bottom of the River Boyne near Newgrange.
- ♣ Fungie, the playful dolphin who resided off the coast of Dingle, County Kerry for over 37 years is missing visitors. Fungie interacted with boats and swimmers but they are now banned due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- ♣ The "Rose of Tralee Festival" was canceled for the first time in its 61-year history due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was scheduled to take place on August 21-25.
- ♣ Former Prime Minister Leo Varadkar is working one shift per week in a Dublin hospital to help fight the coronavirus. He is also helping with the testing in Blanchardstown.
- ♣ Ireland is the third largest island in Europe and the twentieth largest island in the world. Over \$700,000 was embezzled from the American-Ireland Fund which is a charity based in Dallas. The fund has sued to recover the missing funds.



DANE COUNTY SHAMROCK CLUB, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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FACEBOOK	Ryan Dunn & DeeAn Martin	See above	See above

December Newsletter Deadline ~ Newsletter articles are written by Harry McCarthy unless otherwise indicated and set-up by Pat McCarthy. We encourage members to submit articles on their Irish travels, special interests and photos. Please submit articles for the December newsletter to Harry McCarthy at himac98@charter.net or mail to 2656 Mica Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 by Oct. 20, 2020.

Classic Irish Books to Read During the Pandemic

"A Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man" (1916) by James Joyce - A semi-autobiographical novel about Joyce's formative years.

"At Swim Two Birds" (1939) by Flann O'Brien - The novel was included in Time Magazine's 100 best English novels.

"Importance of Being Earnest" (1895) by Oscar Wilde - One of the best told stories. It is a farcical comedy.

"Gulliver's Travels" (1726) by Jonathan Swift - Written by an Irish writer and clergyman, a satire on human nature.



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