



Irish American Society of County Will

Volume 26 Issue3

June 2007

Fr Kevin O'Neill Shanley, O.Carm. — 10.17.1931 - 2.25.2007

It is with a heavy heart that I set fingers to keypad. Since the last newsletter, Fr Kevin Shanley had a severe stroke and died. His funeral was March 2, the opening day of Irish Fest. That seemed appropriate, knowing his love for journalism, the Irish and his priesthood. To honor him, the IAS engaged Bruce Quintos, the Pipe Major of the Emerald Society, to pipe him home at the funeral. The weather was absolutely terrible. The snow was blowing horizontally in gale force winds. Bruce stood by the hearse, wearing his Emerald Society uniform, replete with kilts, and played until all of the mourners had left the Church. Jim Albritton, past president of the Society was one of the pall bearers.

The Chicago Tribune, *The Joliet Herald News* and the *Irish American News* all gave really nice tributes to our friend, and founding "father" of the Society. Having heard his sermons since I was in eighth grade, a student of his in high school, the priest became a teacher and the teacher became a friend.

I knew of his father's incarceration after "The Troubles". It was not until his wake that I read the telegram from Eamon DeValera to Fr. Kevin's father congratulating him on Fr Kevin's ordination to the priesthood. During and after the Irish Civil War, Mr. Shanley served as DeValera's bodyguard, before emigrating to the United States.

Fr Kevin loved the Irish, and the Will County Irish, especially, having spent most of his adult life in the Joliet Area. Always a teacher, he, along with Princess Grace of Monaco (nee Kelly) helped to found the Irish Way program, and was one of the first chaperones of the program. At the March board meeting, the Board unanimously voted to rename the Irish Way Scholarship in his honor. It will henceforth be known as the Fr Kevin Shanley scholarship. If you wish to make a personal bequest, they can be made to the IASCW Scholarship Fund/ % Mike Malloy / 902 Caprice / Shorewood IL 60404. We have lost a good priest, scholar and friend.



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Dates to Remember

- Wed July 18 Board Meeting
- Wed Aug 15 Board Meeting
- August 30—Irish Night with the Jackhammers — at Silver Cross Field
- Wed Sept 19 Board Meeting
- Wed Oct 17 Board Meeting
- Sat Nov 3 Annual Meeting
- Board meetings are held at the Joliet Elks Lodge I-55 and Jefferson Sts—Joliet
- Consult CountyWillIrish.net for last minute details, changes and corrections

Irish Night at Silver Cross Field

Join the IASCW for an evening of fun on Thursday, August 30th. We are hosting "IRISH NIGHT" with the Joliet Jackhammers baseball team. Catch Great Baseball Action, Family Entertainment and Irish Craic!, beginning at 7:05pm.

The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) invite you to celebrate Irish Night and has reserved a block of box seat tickets on Thursday, August 30 when the JackHammers celebrate Irish Heritage and take on the Schaumburg Flyers at Silver Cross Field. This exciting game will feature Irish Dancers and a special pre-game demonstration by the Shamrock Rugby Club. Of course Jammer, the JackHammers' popular mascot, will also be there to entertain and amuse the fans - kids and adults alike.

Enjoy watching great local baseball. Have a hot dog, popcorn, beverage of your choice and let the kids play in the wide open spaces of Silver Cross Field. Grassy hillsides, the playground, the "Bounce House" and the fast pitch booth are sure to keep the younger fans entertained and occupied while you enjoy the game.

(See **Jackhammers** on p3)

Manhattan Irish Fest XIII

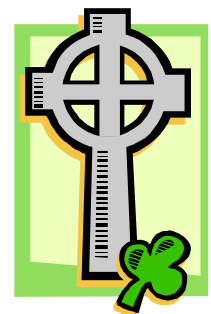
Every few years, the weather refuses to cooperate with the most carefully laid plans for the Society's Irish Fest celebration in Manhattan. It most certainly was the case in 2007. Temperatures hovered in the 20's and a stiff wind gusted up to 30 miles per hour, made for a day only the hardy could enjoy. the thousands who attended, however, were not deterred by the terrible weather.

(See **IrishFest** on p3)

Mailing List

At the behest of the board, the Mailing list of the Society has been Purged of recalcitrant members prior to the 2000 dues year.

The board regrets any hard feelings that this might cause, but due to the high cost of publication and postage, a "Complimentary" newsletter is not feasible anymore.



So you think you're Irish#3

1. When you are going for good crack, where are you going? a)to buy drugs b) A good time c)the gym d)none of the above.
2. What what Irish name does the term "Paddy" derive? a) Patrick b)Padraig c)Michael d)Sean
3. What famous work begins, "Soldiers are we, whose lives are pledged to Ireland"? A)The Irish Constitution b)The Proclamation of Independence c)The Irish National Anthem d) The revised Irish Constitution
4. The treaty of December 1921 marked the beginning of what episode in Irish History? A)The Easter Rising b) The War of Independence c)the Civil War d)The Penal laws
5. How many men were executed after the Easter Rising? A)none b)ten c)two d)fifteen
6. What saint was made welcome on the night of January 31 in Irish households by placing food on the windowsill or rushes on the threshold? A)St Brigid b)St Mary of Knock c) St Francis d)St Patrick
7. On St Patrick's day, what do people in Ireland wear? a) Green Clothing b)A shamrock c)Red,white and Blue d) Orange Sashes
8. On whose novel was John Ford's The Informer based? a)James Joyce b)Frank O'Connor c)Leon Uris d)Liam O'Flaherty
9. Where in Ireland was Ryan's Daughter filmed ? A) Letterkenny, Co Donegal b) Dunquin, Co Kerry c) Skerries, Co Dublin d)Drogheda, Co Louth
10. Where in Ireland was The Quiet Man Filmed ? A) Youghal, Co Cork b)New Ross, Co Wexford c)Kilenaule, Co Tipperary d) Cong, Co Mayo.

New Members

Please give a warm welcome to the following, who have joined the IAS-CW for the first time.

Melissa Gallaway-Theiss	Caregiver	Elwood
Mary Catherine Rodeghero	Caregiver	Joliet
John & Maureen Keane		Homer Glen



Answers to "So You Think You're Irish #2—From the Jan 2007 Newsletter

1. B) Louis H. Sullivan , who practiced with Irving Adler in Chicago is considered to be the father of the modern skyscraper.
2. A) *Gaeltacht* areas abound in Ireland, where Irish is spoken as the first language of the people.
3. B) Smithereens is a direct transliteration of the Irish word Smithirini, meaning small pieces. Just ask board director David Harris-John!
4. C) The United States was the first country to recognize Ireland's Independence.
5. D) Lyndon B. Johnson said the quote in 1974.
6. C) The Irish National Anthem
7. B) Peadar Kearney, in 1907
8. A) During Lent
9. A) Blue, the color in the field of Ireland's coat of arms.
10. B) Sean McBride, in 1974 and 1977 respectively.

Society Awards Scholarships

By the time this column makes it into print, two teenagers will be discovering their heritage in Ireland on the Irish Way, because of the scholarship offered by the society. Michael Blatti, a senior from Joliet Catholic High School, and Kara Erb, a Junior from Joliet Central High School, were selected to represent the Society on the Irish Way. To date, the Society has sent 33 high school students on the Irish Way, since 1983. All winners are listed on our website at : http://www.countywillirish.net/arch_schol.htm.

Dan Malloy, Scholarship Chairman, as well as members Jim Albritton, Mike McHugh, Bob Donnelly selected the winners from almost a dozen applicants. Malloy noted "The selection process gets harder and harder each year. There are some really great kids out there, hungering to learn more of their Irish roots. This is a really great thing that we do for the community.

The Irish Way consists of a five week course of study for High School Students from the U.S. It is organized by the Irish American Cultural institute of Morristown New Jersey. This year, it is celebrating its 31st year, and the Society has been its longest , continuous sponsor. This year, the students will study in Dublin, Galway and Waterford., as well as a spend a week with an Irish Family in various locales around the country. You can find out more details of both the cultural institute and the Irish Way by accessing their web site at <http://www.iaci-usa.org> . While there, the students study Irish History, Dance, cooking, literature and sports.

Also, as a result of the monies garnered from Manhattan Irish Fest, the Society awards two scholarships to the King and Queen of the Fest. This year, the winners were Adam Molloy, Lincolnway Central High School and Brie Anna Andrew of Peotone High School.

2006-2007**Officers**

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Membership:

Michael J. McHugh

Honors and Degrees

James W. Lawler

Jackhammers (From P.1)

Remember to get there early - the gates open to the general public at 6:05pm - and the first 1000 fans over age 21 will receive a Budweiser Pint Glass. The IASCW will have box seats together and be welcomed on the video board and over the P.A. system during the game! In addition, all group members will have the opportunity to enter the group raffle (pennants, baseballs, etc.) and enjoy Irish dancers and the Irish National Anthem before the game!

For a great, affordable evening with friends and family, come out to Silver Cross Field in the heart of downtown Joliet to watch the JackHammers in action on Irish Night!

Parking is free in the many lots surrounding the field. Tickets are only \$8.00 each, for all ages. The membership will be contacted via post card this summer. For more information or to order tickets, members should contact Coley O'Connell at chachi240@hotmail.com.

Due to the increased number of activities the Society is undertaking, there will be **NO family picnic** this year. If someone wishes to chair the event for 2008, please contact any member of the board.

Irish Fest (From P.1)

The brave and hardy souls who ventured to Manhattan were able to enjoy an incredible line up of Irish Musicians. for the best line-up of Irish talent in the area. Entertainment on two stages offered an incredible variety of Irish Music, from the traditional music of The Hatfield Sisters and Freshwater to the more contemporary songs of The Young Dubliners and Brendan Loughrey. Not wanting to leave out Manhattan's favorite, Finbar McCarthy, who made his possible farewell tour of the town. With three of the best pipe bands performing, and three Step Dance companies, an afternoon of Irish Entertainment was guaranteed!

Aside from the music in the entertainment tent, the principal sponsors enjoyed complimentary grub and grog in the VIP tent, and a cultural area was set up in a corner of the tent, where visitors could discover the Irish connection at the Joliet Area Historical Society's exhibition.

The society looks to heavily expanding this area in 2008. Coley O'Connell has agreed to chair the event again. This mammoth undertaking, however, cannot be done alone. Organizational volunteers are needed to help with marketing, sponsorship, entertainment and the cultural area. Please contact

Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the Society's Citizen of the year. Although the full criteria are listed on the web site, a person of Irish-American descent who has significantly contributed to the common good or a non Irish-American from Will County, who has significantly contributed to the Irish-American cause.

Any member may nominate an individual, in writing, and submit it to the Board of Directors. They turn over the names to the Selection Committee, who pick as many candidates as they deem worthy, based on the candidates individual basis of worthiness.

The Chairman of Honors and Degrees notifies the candidates of their selection, and prepares the appropriate material for publication.

Elections

According to the Society's Constitution and Bylaws, elections are to be held at the annual meeting in November. Any member, whose dues are paid in full may serve as an officer. Board positions are for a two year term, with the exception of the new member director, who serves for one year.

The first and second vice presidents, the secretary and the treasurer are annually elected. Two Board members also have their terms expiring on November 1, 2007. Likewise, there are several chairs which also could use a volunteer or two. The Officers and board of directors would like to see more members involved !

**Cultural Affairs Committee Sets Agenda**

This fall, quarterly (at least) gatherings, hosted by the Society, will allow you to further explore Irish Culture and History. Second Vice-president Sheila M. Corrigan, and Mary Keigher, assistant chair, have gotten together a group of members who expressed interest in hearing more about our history. Sheila and Mary will coordinate and focus on the history, music and literature from one Irish county at a time. A speaker will focus on the history and traditions, and perhaps teach a song or two particular to that area.

A questionnaire will be sent to the membership, to give the committee some guidance on the direction. Hopefully interest in this will be high and the Society will be able to do this more often. Watch your mail / email for more details.

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