



Irish American Society of County Will

Volume 27 Issue 1

December 2007

Awards Dinner

The Annual awards Dinner of the Society was held Saturday November 10, and the Knights of Columbus Hall on Infantry Drive, honoring **Michael Dowd** and **Patrick O'Neil** for their service to both the community .

Dowd has been with CITY Beverage for 23 years, and is currently Vice-president and General Manager of CITY's Markham Facility. This location serves Southern Cook, Will, Grundy, La-Salle, Kankakee, and Northern Iroquois counties. These counties have 2,000 licensed accounts.

Mike is on the board of Associated Beer Wholesalers of Illinois, a Trustee for Teamsters Local 744, on the board for the Boys and Girls Club of Joliet, and was a founding board member of the Irish American Society of County Will. In 2003, he was honored to receive the Career Achievement Award from Joliet Catholic.

Mike is the son of Tom and Alyce Dowd, and has been married to Sharon for over seventeen years. He has one daughter Erin and two sisters Sue (Fazio) and Pat (Abel). Mike has three nephews Paul, Tom, and Tim Ostrem and niece Liz Erasmus.

Mike attended Kellogg business school, graduated from the University of St. Francis, as well as Joliet Catholic High School, and started his schooling at St. Patrick's in Joliet.

Will County Coroner Patrick K. O'Neil was elected to office in November 1992. Currently in his 15th year of service to Will County, he will be seeking re-election to his 5th term in November 2008. Pat has supervised over 30,000 death investigations in his tenure as coroner.

O'Neil is a graduate of Providence Catholic High School and Southern Illinois University. He has over 500 hours of forensic educational training. Pat is both a Diplomat and Board Certified Fellow with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. He is also a Certified Medical Investigator with the American College of Forensic Examiners. *(Continued on p. 2.)*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Advertisers	4
Board and Officers	3
Irish Fest Update	2
President's Notes	2
Quiz #5	2
Quiz #3	2
Shanley Article	3

Dates to Remember

- Jan 21-Mon- Board Meeting
- Feb 18- Mon- Board Meeting
- Feb 29-Fri-Irish Fest !
- Mar 1-Sat-Irish Fest !
- Mar - No Board Meeting
- Apr 21- Mon- Board Meeting
- May 19-Mon-Board Meeting
- June 16-Mon-Board Meeting
- July 21-Mon-Board Meeting
- Aug 18-Mon-Board Meeting
- Sept 15-Mon-Board Meeting
- Oct 20-Mon- Board Meeting
- Nov 17-Mon-Board Meeting
- Dec 15-Mon-Board 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

Christmas Party



Although the weather was not cooperative, with sleet and snow forecast for December 9, members, old and new, gathered at the Galway Tribes in Frankfort, for the IASCW's Christmas Party. Organizer Vikki

Loughrey pronounced it a huge success, in spite of the weather. Tribes owner, Niall Freyne, treated the members to some delicious complimentary appetizers, and the Society gave the members a free pint. Of course, Santa Claus made an appearance, and a musical Session really got the crowd rolling.

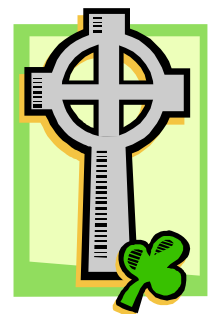
(Continued on P. 2)

Election Results

Immediately preceding the Awards Dinner, the Society held its annual meeting to elect the officers for the 2007-2008 year, and also to elect members of the board who will serve until November 2008. 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. The new member director will serve for one year.

This year, the election committee has placed the following names in nomination: Sheila M. Corrigan, President; Shaun Mojzis, First Vice President; Coley O'Connell, Second Vice President; Vikki Loughrey, Secretary, and Mike Malloy, Treasurer.

In addition, as the board of Directors sits for a three year term, the directors to serve until 2010 are Jim Lawler and Billy Boyle. Per the constitution and By-Laws, the New Member Director, who serves for a one year term will be Jim Curran. They join the other directors : Jim Lawler and David Kennedy, (07);Tom Blackburn and Al Klausmeier, (08); and Dan Maher and David Harris-Johns. (09).



So you think you're Irish # 5

1. Who declared that his favorite part of The Last Hurrah was "The part where I die" a)JFK b)William Kennedy c)Honey Fitz Fitzgerald d)James Michael Curley
2. How many Irishmen have won the Nobel Prize for literature? A)none b)one c)two d)three e)four
3. Who named Ireland "John Bull's other Island"? A)J.M. Synge b)Oscar Wilde c)George Bernard Shaw d)John Bull
4. Who was the founder of the US Navy, and born in Co. Wexford? a) John O'Leary b)John Barry c)John Paul Jones d)Flann O'Brien
5. When was Ireland Converted to Christianity? a) 3rd Century b)5th century c)12th century d)10th century
6. What is Bono's real name a) Bob Geldof b)Adam Hewison c)Johnny Fingers d)Larry Mullins
7. What word, meaning "plentiful" derives from the Irish words for enough? A)Loads b)Galore c)Smithereens d) ample
8. Who declared, "Other people have a nationality. The Irish and the Jews have a psychosis"? A)JFK b)Woody Allen c) Brendan Behan d)Oscar Wilde
9. When did Viking attacks on Ireland begin? A) 800AD b) 600AD c)1200AD d)500AD
10. What word derives from the name of an English landlord in Ireland in the 1870s who received hostile treatment from his tenants ? a)Ostracize b)Ignore c)Boycott d)Coventry

Christmas Party (from, p 1)
 Joining Brendan Loughrey were, (l-r) Charlie Champene (Guitar), Mike O'Brien (Bodrahn) and Barb Lavin (Bodrahn)



A beautiful, hand stitched Guinness Rugby Shirt, Donated by Mike Dowd of City Beverage, was won by Barb Lavin. Making

its first appearance at a Society activity was a map of Ireland, mounted on cardboard, allowed people to push a stick pin in on the town where their people came from. Interesting and educational discussions followed. Luckily no fights broke out, owing to some people from Donneybrook and Balleyhooley being in an unusually cheerful Christmas mood.

Answers to "So You Think You're Irish #4—From the October 2007 Newsletter

1. D-The Official color of Ireland is Blue
2. B- Thomas Francis Meagher introduced the tricolor
3. D- "God Save Ireland" was the National Anthem prior to 1926
4. C-Ogram is the early Celtic alphabet
5. A-Donneybrook is the Co.Dublin town
6. D-Barmbrach, fruited cake, is associated with Halloween
7. A-Sir Walter Raleigh introduced the potato to Ireland
8. D-Goose is the traditional meal for Christmas supper
9. B- The Battle of the Boyne was fought in 1690
- 10.A-Daniel O'Connell was the first Catholic to enter the House of Commons?

President's Notes:

Greetings for 2008 !

My dream for this new year is to promote three of our mission statements:

— Learn about our members Irish heritage; where they are from, when they came over, and why they settled here. Hopefully we can honor all of the counties

—Co-ordinate with the various other Irish organizations in the area, and exchange information about speakers, entertainment and information about Irish events.

—to educate our members about the history behind familiar Irish Songs.

All the best in this new Year—

Sheila M Corrigan, President IASCW

Irish Fest 2008

Coley O'Connell and Brandon Lipke have been busily at work behind the scenes. At this time we need business sponsors for the event. This first festival of the year runs Feb 29 and March 1 of 2008. A complete schedule will appear in our next issue. The organizers are also looking for help in various assistant positions. If you can donate some time, contact Coley at Coconnell@lw210.org or Brandon at blipke@lw210.org

Awards Dinner (from p.1)

Pat O'Neil has helped author guidelines for death investigations both nationally with the Department of Justice and locally through Illinois Coroners & Medical Examiners Association, where he currently serves as 3rd Vice President. He volunteers as an elite member of the Illinois Child Death Review Team. Pat also volunteers as an instructor for the Will County Citizens Police Academy, the Will Grundy Emergency Medical Services and as a guest lecturer at local grade schools, high schools and universities.

Pat O'Neil is a long time member of the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners, International Association for Identification, the Fraternal Order of Police, Joliet Rotary Club, Old Timers Baseball Association, the Irish American Society of the County of Will and former member of the Illinois State Police Forensic Crime Laboratory. He is also an active supporter and benefactor of many local charities and civic organizations.

In 2002 Pat was able to convince the county board and county executive of the growing need for a county morgue. He designed, supervised construction and opened Will County's 1st morgue on July 15, 2002.

Pat O'Neil was born and raised in Lockport. For many years he helped manage the 4th generation family funeral home with his parents, Pat & Joyce O'Neil and sister, Kim Golob, a business his grandfather, Joseph T. O'Neil, started in 1918 and was Will County's First funeral home. Recently the O'Neil's became involved with the partnership of the 1st Community Bank of Lockport and Homer Glen where Pat proudly serves as the family spokesman and director. Pat has been married for 9 years to his wife, Jennifer. They have two children, Shae, 7 and Ryan, 5. Pat O'Neil truly is "the last guy to let you down".

2007-2008

Officers

- President:
Sheila Corrigan
- First Vice President:
Shaun Mojzis
- Second Vice President
Coley O'Connell
- Secretary
Vikki Loughrey
- Treasurer
Michael Malloy

Board of Directors

Timothy M. Brophy, Chairman

- 2008 Tom Blackburn
Al Klausmeier
- 2009 Dan Maher
David Harris-John
- 2010 Jim Lawler
Bill Boyle
- Irish Fest Chair:
Coley O'Connell
- New Member Director
Jim Curran
- Historian:
Col. Wm. Ferguson
- Rugby Club Representative:
Jim Hanley
- Membership:
Michael J. McHugh
- Honors and Degrees
James W. Lawler

Answers to IAS Quiz #5

For those of us with bad memories, we will henceforth be printing the answers to the Irish Quiz in the same issue as the questions, printed upside down, so you can't cheat!

- 1 (D) James Michael Curley
- 2 (c) Four - Shaw Yates, Beckett and Seamus Heaney
- 3 (c) George Bernard Shaw
- 4 (b) John Barry
- 5 (b) 5th century
- 6 (b) Adam hewison
- 7 (b) galore
- 8 (d) Oacar Wilde
- 9 (a) 800AD
- 10 (c) boycott



Irish Volunteer remembered—1916 Easter Rebellion

By Fr Kevin O'Neill Shanley, O.Carm.;

Editor's Note — Fr Kevin would often send us columns that he had written for other publications. They were always written on his famous manual typewriter, and had to be manually re-typed to fit the columns. This is one of the last columns he mailed me.

"It was to let the world know that Ireland wasn't dead," said the old Irish rebel who remembered Easter Week of 1916, when a small force of Irish Volunteers joined with the Irish Citizen Army to free Ireland from British control. The rebel who remembered well was Michael J. Shanley, a member of the Fingal Irish Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, then a teenager, and my father. It was the start of the "Troubles" which would eventually give Ireland "Free State" status. But the task was more than difficult.

"They all knew the rebels couldn't win – even the rebels knew I," added Shanley. "First of all, the rebels had blown up the Great Northern Railway bridge between Skerries and Dublin to keep off the troops from / Belfast. Next they blew up or obstructed most of the rest of the ways into or out of the city.

"The rebels didn't have enough food available to hold out very long – it was all over in a week." . Or so the "Sassenach", (English) thought,; Michael Shanley didn't really believe this.

Joining the Volunteers

As a young Skerries grocery clerk, he and ten friends joined the Fingal Irish Brigade, named for the area between Dublin and Meath. They skirmished with the British in Skerries while the main British Army troops drove to reinforce the siege in Dublin.

"They called it the 'Schoolteachers Rebellion' – Pearse, DeValera, Collins, Tom Ashe – They were all teachers or professors. It was doomed from the start. But when Pdraig Pearse read the Proclamation (Probacht na hEireann) proclaiming the Irish Republic, we knew what the rising had been for," he added.

The fighting broke out on Easter Monday. By Thursday, Shanley was a prisoner of the British Army. The rebels held out in the general Post Office on Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) until Saturday, then surrendered to the relentless British juggernaut.

Teenager Michael Shanley remembered with bitterness the march through Dublin to Arbour Hill Military Barracks and eventually to Wakefield Prison in England.

"The people just didn't understand. They jeered and spat at us. It almost broke my Heart."

In the aftermath of the 1916 Rising, the British made no promises to the Irish. They knew their only hope, with World War I still raging on the western Front and elsewhere, was to crush the rising quickly, and if need be, brutally, inevitably, atrocities occurred, and initially the people blamed the rebels.

"They took us to Arbour Hill Barracks and from there, after the fighting was done, we could hear the periodic fusillades early every morning in Kilmainham Jail across the Liffey. These told us the executions were taking place."

But the British were in a terrible war in France, Belgium and on the seas. One reason for the start of the "Trouble" had been British threats of conscription even though one-third of the British Army at the front was Irish. Now the British grew afraid that a "war at their backs" would undo them. A general amnesty was proclaimed and, among hundreds of others, Michael Shanley was freed. This was in May of 1917.

After he returned to Ireland, Shanley joined the Dublin Brigade of the Old IRA, and continued to "go out on jobs" during the Anglo-Irish war of Independence (the Black and Tan War) from 1919-1921. He was captured again in Dublin one night after the 7 p.m. curfew. He was trying to get home after a rebel meetings. Without much evidence against him, the British soon released him.

As a signal repairman for the Great Southern Railroad in Ireland, Shanley was free to move around the southern part of Ireland with information and instructions for other rebel "flying" columns. During this time, he also served in the bodyguard detail to protect the then Irish leader, Eamon deValera.

"He was so tall and sharp-featured," added Michael Shanley, "that it was difficult to disguise him."

Shanley remained active as a rebel guerrilla until the Anglo-Irish phase of the war ended in 1922, with the partition of Ireland into the Irish Free State and the six counties of part of Ulster. Then came the bloody Irish Civil War, in which he refused to take part, even though offered a commission in the Free State Army.

"I just couldn't fight against my old comrades in the IRS," he explained.

Off to America

In 1926 Shanley married his young sweetheart, Mary O'Neill, a great nationalist herself, at Fairview Church on July 12. After a brief honeymoon in Youghal, he took ship for America and a new life. His bride followed the next year, and they settled in Jersey City, N.J. where they raised for sons; Raymond, Desmond, Kevin and Michael. He remained active in Irish groups until his death in 1968. The family received a letter of condolence from the then Irish President Eamon deValera:

"The old comrades are now passing daily from us, and I hope that the people of Ireland will never forget that is what these men, men like your father, who secured for them the freedom we now enjoy. (4/17/69)

Please patronize our sponsors

308 Woodworth Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60438



KATHY CAWLEY FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE: 815.726.2823 TOLL FREE 800.809.7600

FAX: 815.726.7088 EMAIL: kathy@voyagergroup.com

Additional Services and Securities offered through Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc. Member NASD/SIP

Timothy J. McGrath
Attorney at Law

440 S. State Street
P.O. Box 615
Manhattan, IL 60442

(815) 478-4080
Fax (815) 478-4084
mcgrathlaw@sbcglobal.net

(815) 722-2280

Fax (815) 553-0489



3197 S Chicago Street Joliet, Illinois 60436



State Representative
Jack McGuire
Assistant Majority Leader

Springfield:
Stratton Building 62706
(217) 782-8090
Fax: (217) 667-6465

Joliet:
121 Springfield Avenue 60435
(815) 730-8600
Fax: (815) 730-8121

Patrick J. Caveney



**PROCRAFT
CARPENTERS
INC.**

718 Cove Ave.
Lockport, IL 60441

Office 815-836-8600
Cell 708-805-5183



Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

302 N Chicago St, Joliet IL 60432
815 740 4600



Michael J. McHugh
Manhattan
815.478.3772
MchughInsurance.com

Auto Home & Business
Insurance

Insurance Value since 1958



FORE
THOUGHT™

O'NEIL
FUNERAL HOME P.C.

1105 East 9th Street • P.O. Box 326 • Lockport, IL 60441

Patrick J. O'Neil
President

(815) 838-5010

Please patronize our sponsors

The Irish American Society of County Will
PO Box 81
Manhattan IL 60442-0081