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AN NASC

Newsletter of The D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N. S.

Volume 1, Number 3, Fall 1988

In this the third issue of *AN NASC*, we have news of recent and future activities of the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies, and items on other local and regional events. We also continue various features started in the last issue, namely Irish Surnames, the Irish Music Box, and our crossword with an Irish flavour. Two new features commence in this issue 'Notes from Ireland' in which Liam Suipéil who lives in County Waterford, Ireland, will keep readers abreast of recent developments and events in Ireland, and a section on Irish books, with an emphasis on ones relevant to the Irish in Canada.

As we stressed in our past issues, we welcome comments and queries from our readers. Finally, for those who missed our first issue and who have contacted us as to the title *AN NASC* - it means 'the link'.

FIRST MEETING OF BOARD OF ADVISORS - FUNDING CAMPAIGN

The first full meeting of the National Board of Advisors of the Campaign to raise \$500,000 for the Chair was held in Toronto, 29 September. Those attending the meeting, reception and dinner were Denis Ryan of Halifax, Campaign Chairman, Elaine Parsons and Craig Dobbin from St. John's, John Reynolds from Charlottetown, Dr. Kenneth Ozmon, Mr. Don Keleher, and Dr. Cyril Byrne from Saint Mary's, Marianna O'Gallagher, Quebec City; Patrick Barthe, Montreal; Ed McConnell, Leighton McCarthy, Don Richerd, Brian Cooper and Paul Farrelly from Toronto. Mr. Matthew Barrett, Vice-President of the Bank of Montreal and Brian Smith attended representing the Bank which provided the venue for the

meeting. Gerald Regan, an Alumnus and good friend of the University attended from Ottawa and J. Patrick O' Callaghan, owner and publisher of the Calgary Herald and the Edmonton Journal flew in from Calgary. His Honour, James A. McGrath, Lt. Governor of Newfoundland, Patron of the Campaign, who was to be the after dinner speaker was unable to attend because of a sudden illness and in his place, Cyril Byrne gave a talk on the Irish in Canada which was very well received and which Paul Farrelly of the Ireland Fund of Canada has requested to publish in the Ireland Fund of Canada Journal. The tone of both the meeting and dinner was very positive and the work of following up the contacts and suggestions will begin immediately. Regrets were received from Richard O'Hagan, Larkin Kerwin, Timothy Findley, Harold Shea, Hon. Earl Caughy, and Peter McLellan, all of whom have also expressed their eagerness to help with the Campaign.

IRISH STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

The Chair of Irish Studies intends to sponsor a wide-ranging series of lectures on Irish topics in the spring of 1989. The Lecture Series, starting in March and continuing through April on a weekly basis, will cover various subjects, including Irish history, literature in English and Irish, and calligraphy. Drawing on the specialist skills of members of the Irish Studies Committee at Saint Mary's and on several guest speakers, this series promises to be an entertaining and educational one. *AN NASC* in its winter issue, will carry more details of these sessions.

NOTES FROM IRELAND / FALL 1988

[Editor's note: In the first of a series of reports from Ireland, Liam Suipéil, Ring, County Waterford, Ireland, looks at some recent developments in Ireland, developments likely missed in the Canadian media.]

Recent Publications: *Irish Studies* - Described as "the complete one volume guide to Irish history, literature, language, culture and society" edited by Thomas Bartlett, Chris Curtin, Riana

O'Dwyer and Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh. Published by Gill & McMillan at IR£9.95. This introductory Textbook is based on the annual IRISH STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL held at University College Galway.

Some interesting figures to emerge from facts compiled by Allied Irish Bank plc, one of the leading banking institutions in Ireland today:

A) Republic of Ireland

	1971	1986
Population	2,978,248	3,537,195
Birth rate (per 1000)	22.7	17.5
Death rate (per 1000)	10.7	9.4
Marriage rate (per 1000)	5.4	5.2
<u>Standard of Living (per 1000 capita)</u>		
Passenger cars	139	202
Telephones	80	194
Television licences	159	239
Tourist Revenue (IR£million)	£96m	£960.2m

B) International Comparisons (1984) - Source OECD

	France	Rep.Ireland	U.K.	U.S.
Population (M)	55	3.5	56	237
Density /sq.Km	100	50	231	25
Telephones /1000	600	253	524	760
Infant mortality/100 birhs	8.2	10.1	9.6	10.6

Rosc 88: A festival of contemporary art held in Dublin every four years is open at present. This year's exhibitions, which include paintings, sculpture, and photographs have attracted a large number

of artists from home and abroad. People like the Argentine painter, Ricardo Cavallon; Shigeo Toya, Japanese sculptor; Rolf Hanson, Swedish painter; Ian McKeever the British artist, and others. A feature of this year's Rosc exhibition is the large number of Russian artists who have works on display. The Irish artists include Tony O'Malley who exhibits four Bahamian paintings and Kathy Prendergast's piece titled 'Another Country' has attracted favourable comment. **Rosc 88** - which is open to the public at two venues in Dublin - is at The Royal Hospital and The Hop Store. It is felt that the exhibition will have a reasonably broad appeal.

Coláiste na Rinne: the Irish College at Ring, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, is undergoing major renovational work at present. This establishment, founded in 1909, has served students -- at all levels of the Irish educational system -- through the medium of the Irish language since the turn of the century. The College Authority is acutely aware of the need to consolidate existing programmes and to plan for new courses. With the approach of 1992, and the Single European Act, it is felt that the Irish language, as taught in our schools, may come under threat from other European languages -- French, German, etc. This fact, coupled with the belief that the College has, and will have an important role to play in the survival of this small Gaeltacht, has set new objectives for Coláiste na Rinne.

Hurling, the Irish team game played with a camán (hurley stick) and sliotar (a hand stitched leather ball -- approximately the

size of an open fist) and reputed to be one of the fastest field sports in the world, is developing links with its Scottish counterpart, Shinty. At a recent Hurling/Shinty International at Inverness in Scotland, it was felt that the potential for progress for the two sports in such competitions, was great.

Unforgettable Fire, a book written by Eamon Dunphy about the famous Irish rock group U2 has had 160,000 of the 190,000 copies printed, ordered in Ireland alone. However, it is revealed in *U2's fan club* magazine, Propaganda, that coverage in the book of the group's personal lives has been too explicit.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN IRELAND

(Fr.) Langley MacLean, O.M.C.
Springhill, Nova Scotia

Tá mo bhuíochas ag gabháil le COLAISTE NA hOLLSCOILE in Galway, Ireland. This was the best of experiences in language training, in An Cheathrú Rua, Conamara, Co. Galway. We all came away reluctantly from this experience in a modern Gaelic community. The people are well into the computer age with a micro-chip industry in an area where fishing and farming remain important.

In the short space of a month we became people who loved to speak Irish (Gaeilge) because we came to love the people who speak it in their daily (and nightly) routine. Talking about nightly routines, the pubs are marvellous.

Ireland is part of the Common Market and Irish is one of the languages recognized in modern Europe. Young people were attending from Finland, Japan, Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, the United States and Canada. The handful of us who claim maturity by reason of age came from England, the Netherlands, Japan, Canada and the United States to be fully accepted into the young crowd as we studied, danced, sang and travelled around the Conamara area together (including some wonderful trips to an teach ósta for a pint (of diet pop for those of us under restraint), sailing, and a day on Inis Mór in the Aran Islands with its pre-Christian and early Christian surprises).

Naturally, our dearth of full Gaeilge expression necessitated accommodation on the part of special guests including the head of the regional economic council and special people with authority in history, literature, music who communicated to us in English, mainly, through the seanchaí was obliged to tell his stories in the original Gaelic of perhaps a thousand years ago. One of the stories, concerning Finn MacCumhaill was told to me in exactly the same words on Barra in Scotland by Elizabeth MacKinnon (Nec) who passed on the stories in her repertoire to her grandchildren before she died, showing that Tara still exists in a diminished linkage through the scéalta, the ancient stories held in a common language of unified Gaeldom.

Accommodation was arranged through the college staff, and all of us were much more than satisfied with our hosts who,

like the teachers, succeeded in making our experience of the Gaeltacht a profound, emotional immersion in language, music, history, day to day living and friendship. We stayed in modern homes with every modern convenience, foodstuffs imported worldwide and domestic. We were transported to and from the school, the bus calling at each house. Some of us needed to walk and this we did, munching on the wild blackberries growing along the side of the road as we strode along.

As a former teacher, I was impressed with the high quality of classroom work. I learned a lot, and in some cases was able to confirm my own strategies followed when I taught among the Ojibway and Cree, though these classes in An Cheathrú Rua were especially enjoyable. On the last day, grown young men and women were seen to shed a tear as they bade farewell to teachers who had made learning an adventure, a time of laughter and a time when our hearts were won to a culture without which the world would be impoverished.

I pay special tribute to Ruairi Ó hUiginn, Mícheál (Mór) Mac An Iomaire, Peadar Mac An Iomaire, Máire Nic Donncha, Bríd Ní Dhonnchú and Pádraig Costello for all that they tried to accomplish for my sake. Go raibh maith agaibh.

The costs for this one month experience were relatively inexpensive: Tuition, including all bus transportation, lunch and coffee breaks around \$700 Canadian; Room and board, single room £19 Irl per diem,

(considerably less when accommodation is shared). Write to *Irish Language Summer School, Summer Extension Department, University College of Galway, Galway Ireland.*

CROSSWORD// CROSFHOCAL

Clues - Across

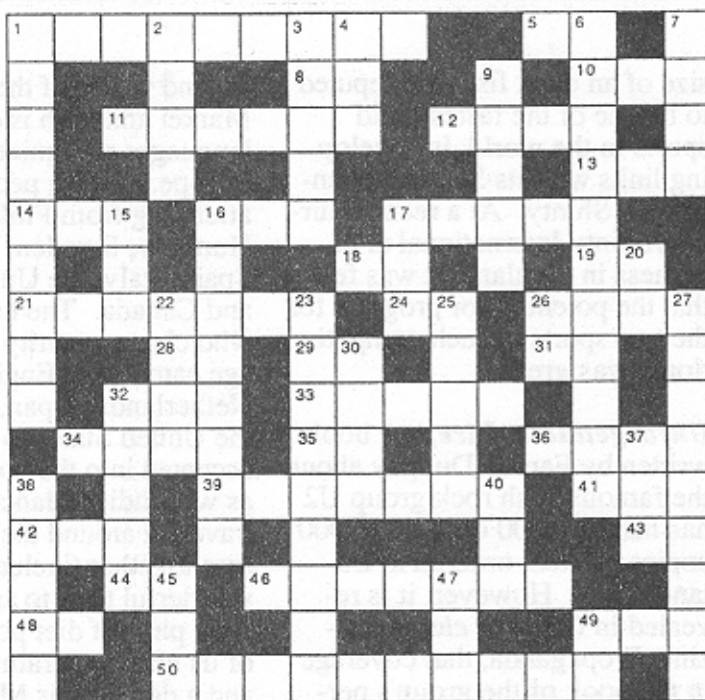
1. A famous Irish cyclist (4,5)
5. The head of an Irish monastery (2)
8. George Russell or " " (2)
10. Is it a man, is it a bird? No, it's ___ Lingus (3)
11. An Droichead/The ____, a bilingual Irish magazine (6)
12. "To ___ or Connaught", said dear Oliver (4)
13. The Crúiscfn is full, says the song (3)
14. A sister of sorts (3)
16. "A dhuine uasail..." (3)
17. This county has won most All-Ireland football crowns (5)
18. 'Caitlín ___ Uallacháin', a poetic name for Ireland (2)
19. What the Shannon is to Ireland, this is to Italy (2)
21. You'll quickly find this place in both Ulster and PEI (7)
24. This abbreviated disease used to be the scourge of Ireland (2)
26. As you go up the Mourne Mountains, you'll really be in a contradictory place (5)
28. The Irish ___ by Somerville and Ross was adjudged good (2)
29. "Tá mé", I ___ (2)
30. Irish gold you should know by now (2)
32. An Irish tavern (3)
33. He went to Tír na nÓg with Niamh Chinn Óir (5)
34. You too should know the leader of this famous Irish rock group (4)

35. "___ maith liom é", I like it (2)
36. Black toast and black tea, the usual fare on this Irish loch (4)
39. Blarney, Cahir and Kilkenny all have these (7)
41. Ron isn't there either, perhaps (3)
42. "Is liom é," I ___ it (3)
43. Hugh Leonard's play about the father, as they say in Ireland (2)
44. Be it MT&T or Telecom Éireann, phone home you strange movie character (2)
46. Charles, the Irish Prime Minister (7)
48. "___ mé", I am (2)
49. A children's game of chase (3)
50. Brendan Behan's famous play, first written in Irish (3,7)

Clues - Down

1. Richard de Clare's nickname (9)
2. James Joyce's wife (4)
3. Guinness certainly is not this (5)
4. It flows through Cork (3)
6. Ronald Reagan's people come from this Tipperary village (11)
7. One of Fionn Mac Cumhaill's dogs (4)
9. It connects Dún Laoghaire and

- Holyhead in Wales (5)
 15. The negative of 'Tá' (3)
 16. A false Irish stone, perhaps! (8)
 17. One's sports equipment or gear (3)
 20. He initially wrote *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2)
 22. This Doyle ran from place to place singing (4)
 23. The official title of an Irish Prime Minister (9)
 25. An Irish town or townland (5)
 26. Your singular in Irish (2)
 27. An ancient burial mound in County Meath (9)
 30. Smit can give you a light Irish fog, perhaps (4)
 32. "Derry, Aughrim and the ___" (5)
 37. This Stewart, a rockstar, and that Steiger, an actor, are certainly not Irish (3)
 38. The smallest Irish county (5)
 40. A boy called Mary, or Patricia or ___. Johnny could cash in on a song like that (3)
 45. A child or a measure of Irish whiskey (3)
 47. You would wear that headgear in Canada and Ireland (3)
 49. Warm and Irish (2)
- (Solutions on Page 10)



Raindí Abú

Caithfidh go raibh mo Random cóir naoi mbliana déag d'aois nuair a casadh an bhanríon, Soft Bhaer, air den chéad uair. Ar cuairt chuig an institiúid ardléinn a bhí sí siúd is ní nach ionadh, d'iarr cead ar na húdarais bualadh le cuid de na scoláirí. Tugadh dream acu os a comhair, díorma séimh sibhialta, dea-bhéasach. Cuireadh cruacheisteanna orthu, agus freagraíodh iad a bheag ná a mhór ar bhealach measúil. Níorbh fhada gur éirigh an stáidbhean mhaisiúil dubh dóite de mhac-chaint shuarach ghéilliúil na mac léinn. Níorbh é seo an comhrá inleachtúil idéiluchtaithe a raibh sí ag dréim leis i bhforas foghlamtha na príomhchathrach. An ar dhobhráin den saghas seo a caitheadh an t-ionnús ríoga, ar amadain is ar óinsíní nár thuig an difríocht idir an léann scolártha is an bhaothfhoghlaim de ghlanmheabhair, idir an plé criticiúil agus an scaothaireacht leanbaí. Is go mífhoighneach a d'iompaigh an bhrúineall a droim ríoga orthu, a leag a tóinín ríonaí ar a cathaoir, go dtí gur díbríodh na mic léinn as an seomra.

Tar éis di an pus banríúil a chur di, ordaíodh do na boic mhóra cúpla ollamh le léann a thabhairt isteach. Rinneadh sin ar an toirt. Bhrostaigh an t-aos léinn faoina róbaí is gona mboilg ollmhóra chuig an áras. Ag súil leis an suaithéadh léannta, leis an chforadh domhain, is leis an ghéarthuisicint a bhí an bhean bhocht. Ní bhfuair sí de bharr a hiarrachtaí ach smeathairí smaioseacha is sleamhnánaithe slibrí nach raibh uathu ach tosaíocht a

bheith acu ar a chéile ina láthair. Is go luath a ruaigeadh brealsúin na béalastánachta as an seomra. Ar tí tabhairt faoi na boic mhóra a bhí an ríon óg nuair a thug sí faoi deara go raibh stócach i mbun agóide lasmuigh den fhuinneog. Bhí meirge crochta aige, agus é ag clamhsán faoi chaighdeán an bhia san institiúid, de réir dealraimh. Tugadh os comhair na banríona é agus cuireadh na cruacheisteanna ríoga airsean. Thaitin a fhreagraí díreacha leis an bhé bhláithchaoín. Ordaíodh do na comhairleoirí bailiú leo. Ba bhreá léi dreas cainte a dhéanamh leis an ógfhear seo, a d'fhógair an bhean. A luaithe is a bhí lucht na Cúirte imithe leo, tharraing an bhanríon Random Access chuici. Níor dhiúltaigh sé di. Nárbh í a rialtóir í. Drochbhéasach a bheadh sé gan géilleadh don drúis ríonaí.

Le críochnú

Publications:

Irish Heritage in Canada

The Abeqweit Review. Vol. 4 / No. 1 (Spring 1983); Vol 5/No. 1 (Winter 1985) and Vol 6/No. 1 (Spring 1988) Guest editor: Brendan O'Grady, on the Irish in Prince Edward Island.

Cyril J. Byrne *Gentlemen-Bishops and Faction Fighters: The Letters of Bishops O'Donel, Lambert and Scallan and other Irish Missionaries*. St. John's: Jespersion Press, 1984.

Cyril J. Byrne and Margaret Harry, eds. *Talamh an Eisc: Canadian and Irish Essays*. Halifax: Nimbus, 1986.

Cyril J. Byrne and Terrence Murphy, eds. *Religion and Ethnic Identity*. St. John's, Nfld: Jespersion Press, 1987.

Robert Driscoll and Lorna Reynolds, ed., *The Untold Story: The Irish in Canada* (Two Volumes), Toronto: Celtic Arts of Canada, 1988.

Robert Driscoll, *The Celtic Consciousness*, Toronto: McClelland and Stewart 1981.

Anthony A. MacKenzie. *The Irish in Cape Breton*. Antigonish: FORMAC 1979.

John Mannion. *Irish Settlements in Eastern Canada: Study in Cultural Transfer and Adaptation*. U of T Press, 1974.

Nova Scotia Historical Review. Vol. 6 No. 1 1986. Contains a number of interesting articles on the Irish in Nova Scotia.

*Terrence M. Punch. *Some Sons of Erin in Nova Scotia*. Halifax: Petheric Press 1980.

*Terrence M. Punch. *Irish Halifax: The Immigrant Generation, 1815-1859*. Halifax: International Education Centre, 1981.

P. M. Toner, ed., *New Ireland Remembered*, Historical Essays on the Irish in New Brunswick, Fredericton: New Ireland Press, 1988.

*Terrence M. Punch is the author of numerous important articles on the Irish in Nova Scotia which appeared in *The Irish Ancestor* of which there is a complete run in the Patrick Power Library at Saint Mary's.

Recent Activities in Irish Studies

Dr. Tom Power, who delivered the Irish Studies History Series of Lectures at Saint Mary's in the Fall of 1987, is teaching two Introductory courses in the Chatham, New Brunswick area this year. Under the auspices of the University of New Brunswick courses are being offered in the Irish language and in Irish history.

Pádraig Ó Siadhail from the Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's University addressed the As an Nua Irish language literary group in New York on September 29, 1988. The subject of the talk given in Irish, was the Irish author Eoghan Ó Tuairisc known for his writings in both Irish and English.

Cyril Byrne, Pádraig Ó Siadhail, and Donal Begley, Chief Herald of Ireland, attended and took part in the Mill River Irish Festival in Prince Edward Island in early July 1988.

This year's Irish Festival in Chatham and Newcastle, New Brunswick in July 1988 included an Irish language workshop, run by Pádraig Ó Siadhail.

For the first time ever, an intensive three week Irish language half-credit course was offered at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown this past summer. Twelve students took part in this course, which was given by Pádraig Ó Siadhail from Saint Mary's. At present, another Irish language course for

credit, one day per week, is being offered at UPEI, and taught by Dr. Ó Siadhail.

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We welcome financial contributions which will allow us to extend the activities of the Chair of Irish Studies.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I enclose \$ _____ as a contribution to the work of the Chair of Irish Studies. (A tax receipt will be issued for all contributions over \$5.00)

Cúinne an Cheoil -- Music Box

Bádaí na Scadán

For-eann a' bhúid a bhfeurr a d'fhóg In- is
 Fraoigh - 'Suid a' tarr-angt san áit a mabh bíd - a' na
 scat-án 'na luc An- buil-ig gur fáig- adh is gan
 tarr-tháil or-thu fa-raor 'S mo bhru-chall-in
 bán deas a sheum-leadh an fheidil 'S a' fhíob'

*Is measa liom Eoghan ná scór de fhearaibh an tsaoil
 Is é a chuirfeadh ar bord is nach mór a lagaigh sé an tír
 Tá Macán bocht buartha, Nóra bheag is a níon
 Is dár liom ar ndóigh go bhfuil dólás mór fada ar a mhnaoi.*

*A Fheargail, a dheartháir, má tá tú i bhFlaitheas na Naomh
 Iarr furtacht ar an Ard-Rí lena bhfáil ins an chladach seo thíos
 Mura bhfaighí ach a gcnámha dá mbíodh ar na leaca ag n-a thaobh
 Bheadh a athair bocht sásta agus áthrach mór fada ar a shaol.*

*Níor mhaith liom do shúil riú bheith brúite tursach i ngreann
 Is do chorpán geal úr a bheith ag súgradh ar bharr na dtonn
 Na maidí bhí fút a' lúbadh tharat anall
 Bhí do lámh ar an stiúir is tú a' dúil le bheith 'bhFlaitheas gan
 mhoill.*

*Dá bhfeicfeá Eoghan Mór is é ag cuartú cladach is poll
 'G iarraigh tuairisc na mbuachall a fuadú amach ar an toinn
 Shiúil sé na cuantaí ach níor dhual dó a leithéid a fháil ann
 Ach go bhfuarthas a dtuairisc thuas ar an lomaire Cham.*

The heavy loss of life amongst the community of Nova Scotia fishermen this year has brought to mind once again the dangers faced daily by those who make their living from the sea. Most recently, a fishing boat from the port of Sambro foundered in heavy seas and went down with all hands, leaving one family almost entirely bereft of its menfolk.

The fishermen of the West coast of Ireland, like their Nova Scotia brethren, fish upon the open ocean. The rugged coastline, from which headlands push far into the open waters causing dangerous currents, a coastline dotted with reefs and isolated rocks which remain submerged even at low water and cause the large ocean waves to suddenly crest and break, are all familiar hazards to

fishermen of both these countries. The suddenness with which bad weather can appear, the short time between relatively calm water and an ocean filled with crisscrossing seas whipped into a frenzy, crashing upon a coast fully exposed to the prevailing winds; these too are the lot of those who fish the both sides of the North Atlantic.

This beautiful lament, "Bádaí na Scadán" is the story of an open herring boat which leaves the island of Inishfree (Inis Fraoigh) in Donegal to join the other boats already lying to on the herring grounds. The boat, and its men, never return. The old woman from whom Seán O'Boyle collected this moving song, ended her singing with a traditional curse upon the sea which had swallowed up so many fishing craft and decimated so many families: "An fharraige bhradach. Deirtar go rachaidh sí isteach i dtí ghogán cárta Lá an Bhreithiúnais". "The thieving sea. They say it will go into three quart jugs on the day of Judgement".

I mentioned last time the old adjacent tone system developed by Irish and Welsh harpers, a system which gives to many Irish tunes their characteristic "Irish" quality. "Bádaí na Scadán" does not, as a piece of melodic writing, belong to this family of tunes. It is, rather, a modal song. Modal music is ancient, going back to Greek and Egyptian times, and was the precursor of our major/minor tonal system which came into use at the beginning of our modern epoch. Gregorian chant and other forms of early church music were based on the

so-called church modes; their modal quality is immediately recognizable to the ear, at once powerful and simple, gentle and complex, with an eternal quality which is derived from the use of only certain notes belonging to the mode in which the piece is written and to the utter lack of concern with establishing a root tone or tonality. Modal tunes are keyless.

Our modern instruments, such as the guitar, usually accompany a song by reference to chords. These chords are based on the modern system of keys or tonality. Hence, which chords are to be placed where in a modal song such as "Bádaí na Scadáin" is really a matter of personal judgement. One sings the melody over and over until certain chords suggest themselves as possible harmonic accompaniments to certain parts within the melody. I have provided chords for piano or guitar in the places which please me when I sing the song; you may want to place them elsewhere, or replace them entirely. Or, you may wish to sing it exactly as O'Boyle heard it, and as it has no doubt been heard for many generations; that is, simply unaccompanied.

-Antoine Ó Máille-

Irish Dance Classes

Saturday afternoons
2 - 4:30 pm
Crichton Avenue Community
Centre
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Instructors:

Beth Greene: 434-0531
Rose Marie Paul: 425-0869

The Nova Scotia Irish Association

Pat Curran
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has a rich Irish heritage. The Irish and their descendants have helped form the life and character of the province. Most Nova Scotians of Irish extraction are more than a century removed from Ireland and have never visited there. Still, the psychological ties remain strong. The mere mention of Ireland causes our hearts to stir and our senses to tingle.

In this time of multiculturalism, people of many nationalities whose influence on Nova Scotian life has been much smaller than that of the Irish, have provincial associations. It is strange, then, that there is not a provincial Irish association.

There is, of course, *The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax*. For generations it has served, through its good works and through its annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner, as a reminder to Haligonians of their Irish connections. More recently, again primarily in the Halifax area, the *Chair of Irish Studies* at Saint Mary's University has become the academic focus of Irish language, literature and history, and the links between Ireland and the Atlantic Provinces. However, by their very nature, geographically and otherwise, neither the Charitable Irish nor the Chair of Irish Studies can fully satisfy the appetite of Nova Scotians for Irish culture.

Since 1983, New Brunswick

has had its *Irish Canadian Cultural Association*. That Association holds a wildly successful Irish Festival each July in Chatham as well as countless chapter activities throughout the year and the province. Irish New Brunswickers now have justifiable pride in their ongoing history. The Irish of Prince Edward Island are taking similar steps with their *New Ireland Society*. It is time for Irish Nova Scotians to do likewise.

I envisage an organization that would promote Irish and Irish-Nova Scotian culture throughout the province, encourage genealogical study, foster cultural exchanges with Ireland, and organize charter tours of our ancestral land. I am convinced that many Nova Scotians would jump at the chance to experience Irish language, music, literature, history and folklore.

The new organization should work with the Charitable Irish, the Chair of Irish Studies and other groups within and outside Nova Scotia. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.

If you are interested in forming such an Irish association in Nova Scotia, please write to me at the following address:

Pat Curran
3231 Union Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 5H2

I hope there will be a founding meeting in 1988. Watch *AN NASC* for further news.



GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIP: Susan MacDonald (Centre) is presented with the certificate for the first Annual Margaret M. Fallona Irish Studies Bursary by Garth McAdoo of Air Canada, which co-sponsors the award with the Chair of Irish Studies. On the right is Margaret Fallona, London, Ontario, a generous benefactor and friend of the Chair of Irish Studies.

Gaeltacht Report

Susan MacDonald

Hopewell, Nova Scotia

This past August, I had the opportunity to go to Ireland for two weeks of study of Irish culture and the Gaelic language. I was fortunate to be selected as the first recipient of the Annual *Margaret M. Fallona Irish Studies Bursary*, jointly sponsored by the Chair of Irish Studies and Air Canada. I left Halifax on July 28, changed planes in London and went onto Dublin. I arrived home (Halifax) on August 15.

When I got off the plane in Dublin, I couldn't quite believe that I was actually there. The Chief Herald of Ireland, Mr. Donal Begley, and his wife met me at Dublin airport, and I was their houseguest for my first night in Ireland.

I noticed on the drive through the city many things which one would not see at home. Aside from the expected differences, such as driving on the opposite side of the road and the green double decker metro buses, there were other differences. For instances, wooden houses are almost non-existent. I saw only one home where the upper portion was wood; all other houses are made of stone and

cement. Also, the streets are lined with small walls which give some privacy to the homes much the same as a hedge would here. Dublin has many spectacular parks where you can walk for hours almost forgetting that a city exists at all. I really enjoyed the city.

The next day, however, I had to leave Dublin to head northwards to Donegal county which is in the Republic of Ireland. Enroute, the bus passed through Northern Ireland where the countryside is just as beautiful as it is in the south. However, it was the checkpoints with the armed soldiers and barbed wire which brought home to me the seriousness of the situation in the north. Altogether I was on a bus for about 5 1/2 hours before I reached Gleann Finne where I was to stay for the two weeks.

As students, we were billeted out to local families who speak Gaelic. I stayed with the McGlinchey family who had five children of their own plus three other students besides myself. It was a full house, but an enjoyable one!

While we were in Gleann Finne, we had a chance to see some of the surrounding countryside. A group of us went into the Bluestack Mountains on two occasions. The scenery is beautiful there. Elderly people living there are native Gaelic speakers.

One afternoon, a bus was rented and we all headed off to Glenveagh National Park which is farther northwest than where we were staying. The scenery is absolutely beautiful in this area. The hills were huge and appeared to have been chiselled

out of the earth. It was a great trip.

The course itself was well structured. Most of our time was taken up with classes, but there were other events scheduled as well. Classes were given in sessions three times a day -- morning, afternoon and evening. I was in the beginners class, so, we concentrated on pronunciation, sentence structure and understanding. The other classes were concentrating on expression. There was very little English spoken at the school, and it was preferred that you not write notes, although we did anyway.

The main method of teaching was to expose the students to the language completely as well as to the traditional culture of the Irish people. The latter they achieved by putting on céilithe and step dancing classes -- these I thoroughly enjoyed! It is safe to say that we all came away having learned a great deal.

It was a learning experience in itself meeting so many people from so many places. There were Irish people -- some from the Republic and some from Northern Ireland. There were people from England and from Scotland, and quite a few Americans also attended. Other than myself, there was one man from Canada -- Seamus Craegg from Ontario, and indeed, there was one fellow who came all the way from Japan!

The two weeks seemed to fly by in hardly any time. The education we received was not just academic -- learning about a different people and culture makes us appreciate them as well

as our own.

I would like to thank the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's, Air Canada, Aer Lingus, the McGlinchey family of Gleann Fhinne, the Begleys of Dublin, and Oideas Gael for putting on the course.

CARRAIG BOOKS

Grosse Ile, Gateway to Canada. by Marianna O'Gallagher. From 1832, the year of the first cholera epidemic in Canada, until 1937, this island station was the reception centre for thousands of immigrants from Europe. The book traces the activities preceding the establishment of the station; its daily functions during the summer navigation period and its impact later on Canadian health, as well. Two touching chapters recount the Famine Migration of 1847 from Ireland, and the reaction of the Quebec City Irish and their French Canadian neighbours in their compassionate reception of the orphaned and the helpless. It contains a priceless list of 600 orphans and their adoptive parents.

Saint Patrick's Quebec. This is the story of the building of the first "Irish Church in Quebec City. Against the background of the flooding immigration of the nineteenth century into this port city, it recounts the gradual growth of the Irish from immigrant status to productive citizens with a role to play. The inter-play between the Irish committee of management of Saint Patrick's and the Church

wardens of the mother church of Notre Dame de Quebec is portrayed in the light of the eventual acceptance of the existence of the Irish church.

The Voyage of the Napari-ma, by James Mangan. F.S.C. No library of Irish immigration should be called complete without this plaintive story of a family's travels and travails during the fearsome '47. Based on a school teacher's diary, the book is a record of a cross-Ireland trek to Dublin, and the ensuing voyage on a sailing vessel to Grosse Ile during the height of the famine.

Saint Brigid's Quebec. With the famine migrations, the Irish of Quebec had to face the fact of caring for their people. Beginning with a collection among the soldiers of the garrison, the parish priest and some volunteers were able to rent a house, and raise enough money over the years to maintain and amplify their work of caring for orphans, widows, old people, and transient workers, too. A good story with a few chuckles.

Order from: Carraig Books, C. P. 8733, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, G1V 4N6

Solution to Crossword/Crossflocal





IRISH STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL: Participants and instructors who attended the first Irish Studies Summer School at Saint Mary's University in July 1988. Included in the group on the right of the second row is Donal Begley, Chief Herald of Ireland.

Summer School in Irish Studies

Ralph Curran
Halifax

How can I spend a week in July without a game of golf or a visit to the beach? Will I be expected to exercise the gray matter in my skull?

With such apprehensions I managed to wait 'till (or slightly past) the last minute before applying to attend the **Irish Studies Summer School** at Saint Mary's University.

Having finally succumbed I wended my way to S.M.U. bright and early on the morning of July 4th only to find there was no one at the Inn. There were, however, instructions to proceed to a new meeting place, which I did, and there I encountered one of the Wee people, or at least I thought it was. It turned out to be Pádraig Ó Siadhail, a mountain of enthusiasm with a case of St. Vitus dance. After the first session, presented by Dr. Ó Siadhail, I felt the rest of the sessions would be a letdown but this was not to be

the case. There wasn't a minute during the week that wasn't interesting, informative or entertaining, or all three. An indication of the quality of the presentations can be gauged by the fact that all of our sessions ran overtime and no one fell asleep in the hot, muggy, weather. It should be noted that these comments come from one who doesn't believe that a "good" performance deserves a standing ovation.

My fellow students were a fine group of people with varied

interests and backgrounds, running the gamut from a tinker to a thinker. I quickly felt at ease with them and the lecturers.

In such a short space of time one could not expect much more than a dash of wisdom, nevertheless the fire is stirred and the coals will burn far into the night. One question only remains, "When can we do this again?" A question posed by most of the participants.

IRELAND'S MOST NUMEROUS SURNAMES

Terrence M. Punch

In 1890, Robert Matheson produced a statistical analysis of the annual report of the Registrar-General of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland. This analysis remains the best available information about the number and location of Irish family names in more modern times. If one groups the variant spellings with the main form of the surname, one comes up with a list, which gives the following as Ireland's twenty-five leading names in terms of numbers, in the order given:

Murphy, Kelly, Sullivan, Walsh, Smith, O'Brien, Byrne, Ryan, Connor, O'Neill, Reilly, Doyle, McCarthy, Gallagher, Doherty, Kennedy, Lynch, Murray, Quinn, Moore, McLaughlin, Carroll, Connolly, Daly, O'Connell.

Most, though not all of these surnames have Gaelic origins.

The exceptions include Walsh which is Norman, Doyle which is Norse, and Lynch which is sometimes Norman.

CARROLL
(Variants: O'Carroll, MacCarroll, MacCarvill)



CARROLL is twenty-second among Ireland's most numerous names, and it is concentrated in counties Cork, Kilkenny, Offaly and Tipperary. There were half a dozen septs of the name but only two, those of Ely (Tipperary-Offaly) and Oriel (Monaghan-Louth) maintained a distinct identity into recent centuries. The surname derives from Cearbhal of Ely who was one of the leaders of the victorious Celts at Clontarf in 1014. The Gaelic form of the name is Ó Cearbhaill. The MacCarrolls of Ulster were MacCarbhaills, and this has been anglicized more usually as McCarvill, a name sometimes found in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. The presence of the Carrolls is recalled in Irish townlands named Ballycarroll, Carrollspark, Kilcarroll and Liscarroll.

Among well-known Carrolls will be found Anna Ella Carroll (1815-1893), an American political pamphleteer; a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll of Carrolltown, Maryland (1737-1832); the first Catholic bishop in the United States, John Carroll (1735-1815), also of Carrolltown.

More recently, Marie-Madeleine Bernadette O'Carroll made her mark as a film actress. Very well-known author, Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), was neither Irish nor a Carroll. The writer of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass was the thoroughly English mathematician, Charles L. Dodgson.

In Nova Scotia the name attained prominence when William F. Carroll (1877-1964) of Inverness began his long career as a jurist and legislator in 1911. He retired from public life only in 1953. Three brothers of a Carroll family settled first at Melrose, New Brunswick, made their mark: Msgr. Francis, John R. as an educator, and James J. as a physician in Grand Falls, Antigonish, and Glace Bay. Rev. John Carroll (1809-1884) who was born on an island in the Bay of Fundy, moved to Ontario where he became a leading author and Methodist preacher. The present provincial archivist of Nova Scotia, Carman Carroll, traces his family to Sheet Harbour and Antigonish.

Carrolls appear early at St. John's, Harbour Grace, Port de Grave, Placentia and Fogo, while more recently the name is found in Fortune Harbour, White Bay North and St. John's. Carrolls are noticed in early records for Alberton, Carleton and Charlottetown, P.E.I, while the name appears in Nova Scotia mainly, though not exclusively, about Halifax, Antigonish and Margaree. Patrick Carroll who emigrated about 1795 was the progenitor of the Carrolls in the

Shubenacadie area. In New Brunswick we find the name in Saint John, Dalhousie, Moncton and Emigrant (otherwise Melrose), Westmoreland County, a century ago. In Northumberland, instances have been noted at Alwick, Bartibog, Bay du Vin, Blackville and Chatham.

RYAN

(Variants: O'Ryan, O'Mulryan, Mulrain)



This is the eighth most numerous surname in Ireland where as many as 28,000 people today carry this name. Most Ryans derive from the sept Ó Maoilriain of Owey, an ancient area straddling the borders of the counties Limerick and Tipperary. A much smaller group took their name from Ó Riain, a sept whose leader was Lord of Ui Drona (Barony of Idrone, County Carlow).

One colourful character was Eamonn a'chnuic (Ned of the Hill). This Edmond O'Ryan (1680-1724) was a soldier, Gaelic poet and rapparee. The Gaelic word rapparee meant a short pike and the term came to be used of Irish pikemen of the Williamite period. Many such men, displaced by war, turned to freebooting in order to survive.

Another poet was Rev. Abram Joseph Ryan (1838-1886), the "Poet of the Confederates" during the American Civil War. Buffalo had a Bishop Stephen V. Ryan (+1896), while Philadelphia had Archbishop

Patrick J. Ryan (1831-1911). One aptly-named man was Thomas Fortune Ryan (1851-1928), the son of penniless immigrants to America, who was worth millions at his death. Cornelius Ryan (1920-1974) was an author and journalist, a trade he shared with Claude Ryan, recently Liberal leader in Québec province. A contemporary, Nolan Ryan, is a first-rate baseball pitcher.

Ryan is ubiquitous wherever any number of Irish settled. In Newfoundland, the name has been present since 1752 when George Ryan was a surgeon at Fermeuse. Many Ryans reached New Brunswick before and during the Great Famine of 1846-49, but the earliest notable was John Ryan (+ 1847), a Loyalist from Albany, New York. Settling in what was then Parrrtown, he and William Lewis published the "St. John Gazette". In 1797 he removed to Newfoundland and was King's Printer there for many years. In Nova Scotia, important families of Ryans struck roots in Inverness, Guysborough, Cape Breton and Halifax counties. Most of these came out from Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Limerick. Ryans have been associated with the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax since 1796 when Patrick Ryan became a member. W. A. "Bert" Ryan and his brother James Ryan were stalwarts of that organization in the 1950s and 60s. Their father, bandmaster Michael Ryan, was a well-known leader of the military bands which once performed out-of-doors in Halifax's Public Gardens.

D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies

Irish Studies Program
Saint Mary's University

January - April 1989

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Irish: I

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For further information on these courses, contact Irish Studies (902) 420-5782 or the Registrar's Office at Saint Mary's University

An Nasc is the newsletter of the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's University.

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