



**Sep.
2006**

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The Rebel Girl And Mother Jones

by Brian Witt

As September and Labor Day come together, the gains made by unions in changing working conditions are celebrated on the day set aside to honor the working man and woman. The Irish had always been at the forefront of the labor movement in the United States. The rise of the Mollie McGuires, in the coalfields of Pennsylvania in the 1850s and 1860s, was the first time there was a viable revolt against coal company owners. Although their organization was destroyed, and their leaders were executed, the Mollie McGuires served as a template for other labor groups to follow. Terence Vincent Powderly, the son of Irish immigrants, was to become a force in the movement with the Knights of Labor. Peter J. McGuire of the Brotherhood of Carpenters was one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor.

Two women who were instrumental in organizing workers were Irish. Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was Irish born, though raised in Canada. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was born to Irish immigrants, social and labor activists, as well as Irish nationalists, in New Hampshire. Though almost sixty years separated them in age, their dedication to workers' rights, in the most radical of fashions, made their fervor similar sides of the same coin. Both of them fought against child labor, and both were involved in the International Workers of the World, or the Wobblies.

Mary Harris Jones was born in Cork City in 1837. As a child, her family moved to Toronto, after the hanging of her grandfather for his participation in the Irish Republican Movement. As a young woman, she worked as both a teacher and a seamstress in the United States. Her introduction to unions came about with her marriage to George Jones, a prominent member of the Iron Molders' Union, whom she married in

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1861. However, her life was altered when her husband and four children died in Tennessee during a yellow fever outbreak. A subsequent move back to Chicago, where she owned a dressmaker's shop, saw her losing all of her possessions to the Great Fire in 1871.

She found herself gravitating to the nascent labor, movement and joined the Knights of Labor, a predecessor to the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or "Wobblies"), that she helped found in 1905. She was active as an organizer and educator in strikes throughout the country at the time, and was particularly involved with the United Mine Workers (UMW), which she also helped to found, and the Socialist Party of America. As a union organizer, she gained prominence for organizing the wives and children of striking workers in demonstrations on their behalf. In 1903, she organized children working in mills and mines in the "Children's Crusade"—a march from Kensington, Pennsylvania to Oyster Bay, New York, the home of President Theodore Roosevelt—with banners demanding "We want time to play!" and "We want to go to school!" Though the President refused to meet with the marchers, the incident brought the issue of child labor to the forefront of the public agenda.

Mother Jones's low, pleasant voice had great carrying power. It was said that her intensity caused people to become alert and listen to her message. No matter what impossible ideas she brought up, she made the miners think she and they together could do anything.

Flynn called Jones "the greatest woman agitator of our times." She was denounced in the U.S. Senate as the grandmother of all agitators. Mother Jones was proud of that title and said she hoped to live to be the great grandmother of agitators. She worked as an organizer well into her nineties, and was still on the front lines with strikers, facing arrest and prison, at that age. She left the UMW in the 1920s, when John L Lewis took over as president, and, even though she was a few years away from it, she proudly celebrated her 100th birthday at 93.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was born in 1890 in Concord, New Hampshire. She was born into a radical, activist, and working-class intellectual family: her father was a socialist, and her mother a feminist and Irish nationalist. The family later moved to the South Bronx, and she attended public school there. She became active in socialist groups and gave her first public speech when she was 15, on the effect of women in Socialism. She also began making speeches for the IWW, causing her expulsion from high school in 1907. She then became a full-time organizer for the IWW.

In 1908, she married a miner she met while traveling for the IWW, Jack Jones. Their first child, born in 1909, died shortly after birth. A second, son, Fred, was born the next year. In the meantime, Flynn continued to travel with her work for the IWW, while her son often stayed with her mother and sister. Flynn's organizing took her across the nation, meeting a variety of industries' workers. Her charismatic personality attracted many to her, and caused the writer, Theodore Dreiser, to call her "an East Side Joan of Arc." Flynn was arrested ten times during this period but was never convicted of any criminal activity.

In 1912, she was active in the Lawrence, MA, textile strike, when 14,000 workers left the job after wage cuts, and where one of the issues was the use of teenage children as machine operators. The wage cut came about after a new state law went into effect that reduced the hours in a week that could be worked by women. It was a well documented strike, where a number of women and children were beaten into submission by police, and a legion of photographers recorded the action. It was a high point of Flynn's organizing, as over 10,000 citizens of Lawrence joined the IWW. However, after a depression two years later, the local membership dropped to about 400.

Flynn would later go on to form the American Civil Liberties Union, after she worked in trying to get the convictions of Sacco and Vanzetti reversed. Later, she would join the Communist Party of America, an action that would result in her expulsion from the ACLU. In the 1950s, she served two years in prison for violating the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which forbids people to advocate the violent overthrow of the United States. Even though she never held such advocacy, the prosecution used the words of Karl Marx as the basis of their case. After her release, she later became the head of the US Communist Party, in 1961. It was during a visit to Moscow in 1964 that she was stricken and died. She received a state funeral in Red Square. Her ashes were buried in Chicago's Waldheim Cemetery, near the graves of the Haymarket Square strikers, as well as others in the IWW.

Flynn and Jones were both the subject of songs. Joe Hill, the IWW organizer who was executed in Utah after being framed for a murder, wrote "The Rebel Girl" in Flynn's honor. Mother Jones has the distinction of being the "she" in "She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain".

What brought these daughters of Erin to the far radical side of both unionization and politics? They were often out of step with even the mainstream of union politics, and they paid the price by being jailed, ostracized and denounced. Was it their families' Irish nationalism that made them as strident in their support, of what they saw as the side of the underdog? Whatever it was at their core, they seem to have thrived on working as hard as they could for what many would have abandoned very early on as lost causes. Most importantly, they did change the face of the American workplace.

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Milwaukee President's Message

Well, we survived Irish Fest. The 26th year, and it all seems so new each time. Now, we all get to recover for a bit, and start all over again.

Quiz time: Who were the Molly McGuires, Terence Vincent Powderly,

Mary Harris Jones, Peter McGuire and Matthew Maguire?

Labor Day helps start the month, and the Color Guard will be marching in the September 2, St. Francis Labor Day Parade, starting at K. K. and Howard Avenues. As many are aware, the labor movement was greatly enhanced by the presence of the Irish. As you take the time to relax, recall the efforts of the many who worked to make the workplace safer, and the wages more equitable.

At the September 7 meeting, Dennis McBride will be talking about the role of the Irish in worldwide terrorism. It is at the ICHC, is free and open to the public. And we like having new people visit us. Thank you to Jane Anderson and Irish Fest for her appearance at the August meeting. Thank you for the gifts that were grabbed up.

We will be a part of the festivities at the Wisconsin Scottish games over the Labor Day weekend. Look for our booth, or, better yet, volunteer for a shift, to explain the Irish connection to Wisconsin. A two to four hour shift would really help us out.

Noreen Barclay's sales booth has been a boon for our chapter. She has been ready to go and sell again and again, and her July sales at the feisiana netted about \$1000. We can't wait to see the final results for Irish Fest. Thank you's to all who represented the Club at the festival.

The State Advisory Board met at Irish Fest on August 20. I hope many of you got a chance to meet other chapter members that day.

Looking forward to October, there is the Irish Mass of Remembrance on October 7th, 2006, at St Rose of Lima Church, 30th and Michigan Streets, at 4:30 p.m. It is sponsored by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and St. Rose of Lima Church. Mass will be followed by the William Ryan Drew Scholarship Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds provided to St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy, Nativity Jesuit Middle School, Notre Dame Middle School and local Irish cultural activities. Featured groups will be the Irish Fest Choir for Peace and Justice, Knights of Columbus and the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. Stop for the Mass, stay for dinner, and see what you can round up in the raffles. And feel good about aiding charities for the youth of our metro area.

Into the future for our upcoming meetings... In October, we will be featuring UWM Professor James Liddy. Jim has a new book out, and is also featured in a book about 20th century poets. He was for many years the head of our Shamrock Club UWM Scholarship committee. In November, we will be at the Irish Fest Center. Kaitlin Hahn, our 2005 Shamrock Club scholarship winner, will be leading the Irish Fest music school attendees in our entertainment. And then in December, we will have our annual, stupendous, nonpareil Christmas party. Food, music, fun.

At the ICHC for September, the fall concert series starts out with a bang. On September 16, there will be a Halfway to St Patrick's Day celebration. The featured entertainer is Jeff Ward, and there will be more announced soon. On September 30, Liz Carroll and John Doyle will be at the Hallamor at 7:30 p.m. If you ever want to meet royalty, the queen

of Irish fiddlers and the king of Irish guitar are well worth sharing an evening with.

Answers: They were all names in the labor movement in the United States. Peter McGuire and Mathew Maguire were responsible for the creation of Labor Day. Peter was general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor. He is largely credited with having been the first to suggest that a day be dedicated to American workers and their accomplishments. But many believe that it was Matthew Maguire, who was secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York in 1882, who first proposed the holiday. And the Molly McGuires were coal miners who carried on a radical form of unionizing in the coal fields of Pennsylvania.

So, there you have September. Onto the end of summer this month, and the beginning of another Wisconsin fall.

– **Brian Witt,**
info@shamrockclubwis.com

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Rock County

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SEPTEMBER 19** – Regular monthly meeting at Janesville Senior Center, 69 South Water St., 7 p.m.

This year we have two presidents. Ann Lehr and Sally Churchill have accepted the office as Co-Presidents. Let all of us cooperate with these new officers and give them all of the help we can. If we all work together, maybe we can get this club growing again.

The program at the September meeting will be a video on Ireland.

– **Tom Kennedy, Scribe**

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Lafayette County News

This year we are celebrating 25 years!!!!

We started the celebration with our raffle ticket fund raiser. Then followed our St. Patricks Day parade up with the drawing of the lucky

winners. During our current busy parade season we took some time and celebrated at Canoe Fest in Darlington, WI. During Canoe Fest we held our 2nd annual red hair and freckle contest. We always have so many cute kids it's so hard to decide. This has become a local favorite.

Our chapter picnic was August 5th in Darlington. The club provided brats, hot dogs and buns. And on August 26th, club members Joe and Sherri had a barn dance. Our upcoming events include the September 4th Gratiot Labor Day parade; Monroe Cheese Days on September 17, where we will march, lining up at the fairgrounds at 10 a.m. On September 23 we will march in the Warren, IL Pumpkin Fest parade. Our September meeting will be on the 10th, as it is each 2nd Sunday at 1 p.m. at Annie's Bar and Grill in Darlington, WI.

Our new website is located at [<http://lafayetteshamrock.tripod.com>].

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Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day

After Irish Fest, the ICHC is able to continue the celebration of our heritage and raise much needed money in the process! On Saturday, September 16, this Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Party will have all the ingredients for a great celebration. Two tremendous yet diverse bands, Cé and The Jeff Ward Band, will entertain.

In addition to the music, we will have a super raffle, a fabulous shopping adventure at the Irish Stew, and delicious food including World Famous McBob's Corned Beef Sandwiches will be available.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. with the music beginning at 6:30 p.m. The cost for the evening is \$10 at the door. Questions, please call (414) 345-8800.

– **Gwen Sisk**

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Member News

Congratulations to Brian Smith and his U12 San Francisco Hurling team for winning 2nd place in the 2006 CYC meeting in Boston. The meet was hosted by Boston and had teams from New York, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco. He is the grandson of Tom and Julie Smith.

Derry Hagerty spent a few weeks back home in Ireland.

Member Bobby Hamill was a part of the Irish Fest Choir that toured Ireland in August. He is starting college at Eau Claire in September.

Megan Fitzgibbons attended classes this past semester in Ireland and Northern Ireland. She returned home in May. Megan went with the UWM Irish Studies Program. She learned a bit of the language, history, and culture. Emily Fitzgibbons returned in late July from a two week holiday in and around Belfast. They are the daughters of members Pat and Jane Fitzgibbons. Megan has her own membership in the Shamrock Club.

Ed and Betty Mikush went on a tour of Ireland and Scotland with John Gleeson.

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Sunshine Club

Danny O'Donoghue was recently hospitalized.

Bill and Jane Maher were both recently hospitalized.

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The Irish Mass of Remembrance

Sponsored by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and St. Rose of Lima Church, The Irish Mass of Remembrance will be held Saturday, October 7, 2006 4:30 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, 30th and Michigan Sts., Milwaukee.

Mass will be followed by The William Ryan Drew Scholarship Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds provided to St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy, Nativity Jesuit Middle School, Notre Dame Middle School and local Irish cultural activities.

Celebrants of the Mass are Rev. William J. Kelly S.J and Rev. Dennis J. Lewis, Pastor. Also featured will be the Irish Fest Choir for Peace and Justice, Knights of Columbus and the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. The William F. O'Donnell Civic Achievement Award will also be given at the mass.

District Atty E. Michael McCann will be our speaker: "38 years as the

District Attorney of Milwaukee County”. Program begins at 4 p.m.

Following the mass all are invited to the William Ryan Drew Spaghetti Dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the St. Rose Gym adjacent to the church. Tickets are \$7 (half price for kids) and can be purchased at the door or through AOH members.

The Mass of Remembrance provides special recognition for your loved ones. Their names can be entered in the Book of Remembrance located in the back of the church before mass or by printing their name on a piece of paper and sending to the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, c/o ICHC 2133 W Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee WI 53233. A call can also be placed to Cary Merkl (414) 453-1960.

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Color Guard News and Notes

Go raibh maith agat! (Thank You) to all the well wishers, hand clappers, cheering sections, and parade watchers at Irish Fest a few weeks ago. We could not have done it without each and every one of you. It seems like a lifetime ago last year the ideas were wrought together for the unit you see now. We're always honored to represent the Irish Community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the United States and will continue to do so for many years to come.

We sure had a busy schedule of everyday performances and parades. I think we even fit in a bit o' craic in our spare time! I know I took in my fill of Bunratty Meade, that's for sure.

Did you catch your favorite band? See anything new? My favorite was the addition of the Nova Scotia/Cape Breton showcase. A different, but very important part of Celtic Lineage.

My grandmother came thru Halifax upon emigrating from Scotland many, many years ago. I had a chance to find out quite a bit and look forward to going next July when the Nova Scotia International Tattoo comes a'calling.

Hopefully, you've had a chance to catch our upcoming band and color guard. If not, we've got a few more in September and October for you:

- Sep. 2: St. Francis Labor Day Parade 11 a.m.
- Sep. 4: Waukesha Highland Games
- Sep. 9: Possible Brewer Game Outing
- Oct. 7: A.O.H. Mass and Dinner, 430 p.m.
- Oct. 8: Mayville WI Parade, 12 noon
- Oct. 14: Sister Bay Fall Fest 11 a.m.

It's always a sad time of year, when the realization hits that the season is

almost over. We head back indoors for practice and start on our wishes for next year. We've grown so much this year as a band, numerically as well as emotionally. I know many members feel this is their second family and enjoy spending time with the group.

We are still looking for new members for all sections of the band and color guard. No experience, but a love of wearing a kilt is required.

Other news:

- New uniform bits were unveiled at Irish Fest.
- It's back to school for the younger members of the group.
- Bobby Hamill is off to his first year of college. Keep up with the pipes! We'll miss you.
- Congrats on NEW PIPER Keri Quinlan of the infamous Quinlan Clan. I knew you could do it. That makes 19 pipers and counting.
- Welcome to her sister, Kelly, on being a part of the color guard and a wonderful lead at our performance. I knew you were worried, but did a great job!
- Congrats also on Clan Cobb's new addition of beautiful baby daughter, Sarah.

We currently have the three month old practicing on the chanter and she'll be the newest addition to the piping line in 12 years or so.

That's all the news that's fit to print. Until October, Adios my Celtic compadres!

– Noel Tylla, 3rd year piper

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Schooner Fare At ICHC

Maine's Schooner Fare will perform at the the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are \$18 for adults and \$8 for ages 18 and younger.

Brothers Chuck and Steve Romanoff are continuing in the tradition of exuberant Schooner Fare concerts chocked full of carefully crafted harmonies, intelligent lyrics, storytelling, and "Down East" humor. Following the death of Tom Rowe in 2004, the Romanoffs felt that after 29 years as a trio, they could not replace Tom. So they did what they knew he would want and as Chuck said, "We tuned our guitars and started singing."

Schooner Fare released a first duo album, titled “And Both Shall Row,” in August 2005. That same month, they returned to headline for a 17th year at Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Tickets and information on the November concert are available by calling Kathy Schultz at (414) 332-8521. More information on Schooner Fare is available at [www.schoonerfare.com].

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Celtic Women First Fridays

DATE: Sept. 8, 2006

TOPIC: “The Daley Debutantes”

SPEAKERS: Sherry, Marcy and Patti (Daley)

At age 15 Sherry Daley started her own team of baton and drum corps, back in 1955. Fifty-one years later they are still going strong and a familiar sight at local parades, Irish Fest, competitions, TV and movie shows. The three sisters, Sherry Daley Jung, Marcy Daley Blaufuss and Patti Daley Wertschnig, will relate a lifetime of memories and stories.

All lectures are held from 5:30–7 p.m. at the ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is \$5 for all. Everyone is welcome including men and non-members as well as Celtic Women members. Tea and biscuits are served. Please join us for a delightful few hours of Celtic education and entertainment. You may call the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 for more information.

Parking Note: Please observe the parking areas surrounding the ICHC and follow the posted signs designating the lots where parking is allowed for the ICHC. Thank you.

– **Jean Bills**

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Hallamor Concert #1

LIZ CARROLL & JOHN DOYLE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

Join us for an evening with two consummate artists who enjoy playing together and sharing their great love of Irish music. Liz on fiddle and John on guitar and vocals present an evening that combines great music with a

lot of fun as well.

“(They) are a duo in every sense of the word here: synaptic in communication, instinctive in reaction, tight in execution, rich in ideas, and unabashedly having a ball. So will everyone else...” – Earle Hitchner, Irish Echo

Opening at 7 p.m. Rirá, “mischievous merriment” in Irish, plays traditional music with a vengeance! Fiddle, keyboard and bodhran deliver a lot of music from jigs and reels, hornpipes and airs, to polkas and waltzes. Tenor Stuart Mitchell expands Rirá’s traditional offerings to include songs and ballads evocative of the great Irish tenors of years gone by.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
414-345-8800

Tickets: Advance/reserved \$19, \$21 Day of Concert

– **Kristina Paris**

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Shamrock Club Picnic

The Shamrock Club’s annual picnic was a success, in spite of the high temperatures. We moved to Sacred Heart Church grounds, 49th and Wells, and still had about 350 people for the afternoon. The large canopy of trees helped to keep the temperatures in the mid to high 80s, unlike the 95 plus in the open.

Thank yous to our entertainers, Tinker Boys, Glencastle Irish Dancers, Atlantic Wave, Milwaukee Fire and Police Band, and The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. Also, a thank you to our organizers, Pete and Dawn Fleming and Kathy Donovan for making it a wonderful time.

The Flemings wanted to thank Tom and Julie Smith, Ed and Betty Mikush, John and Danette Smith, Joe Lynch for the Irish sausage, Pat Fitzgibbons for the hamburgers, Mike O’Leary for the soda, Tom Tibbals for the buns, Dennis and Karen Donohoo for the ice and bar, Sue Suit for the water, and Beechwood Distributors for the Guinness and Harp. In addition, the following contributed to the day, working, cooking, bartending, serving, selling raffle tickets and cleaning: Bob Donovan, Patrick Repeach, Corey Fleming, Juan Guzman, Richard Stover, Marianne Fisher, Pat and Terry Markowski, Joe Hughes, Tim O’Brien. The new stage was built by Tim and Pete Fleming, and will be stored at Sacred Heart Church. John Karr from Atlantic Wave provided the sound system.

The raffle took in the most money yet for a picnic. Final figures for the day will be released when they are completed. Thanks also to our raffle

sponsors, Glencastle Irish Dancers, Packy's Pub, Don's Pub, the Shamrock Pub, Discount Liquors, the Milwaukee Hurling Club.

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Sales Booths At July Feises

Noreen Barclay and others staffed the Shamrock Club sales booth at the Badger State and Cream City Feises July 15-16, 2006. Sales netted \$1,060.84, about \$400 better than last year.

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New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee: Terence and Jaclyn Browne; Vickie Byrne (referred by Kathy Donovan); Will Conroy (referred by SCGPD); Dan Cull (referred by Will Conroy); David and Holly Delgado (referred by Pat McGovern); Maura and E. Timmel Heck; Pat and Fran Holloway (referred by Mary Beth Holloway); Spencer Hoyt; Liz, Tom, Ted, Patrick and Kate Sanders; Kathy Shields.

– Tom Smith

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