



## July 2007

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## The Irish Silly Season

*by Brian Witt*

The silly season was the time in mid summer, when newspapers and broadcasters used to look for more lighthearted stories to fill space and time. With the dawn of the internet and 24 hour news channels, this season is either a thing of the past or more manifest than ever before.

Here are a few of the seasonal items in the news from Ireland.

### **Amateur thief has case adjourned for a year**

Limerick Post. An amateur thief who tried to rob a village pub with an imitation firearm used a car registered in his own name as his getaway vehicle, a court has heard. John Connolly, 19, pleaded guilty at Limerick Circuit Court to attempted robbery with an imitation firearm.

Garda Tim Hartnett told the court that Noreen Ahern was in the pub, which is also a shop, when the accused walked in wearing a mask, and demanded cash. The court heard that Ms Ahern told Mr Connolly to go away and that a man who was having a pint in the pub at time told him to go. The accused left the premises and drove away in his car which was parked outside and registered in his own name. When gardai located the car, they found a pellet gun and two balaclavas inside.

Mr Connolly told gardai that he had cut eyeholes in the wrong place of the first balaclava and that he, therefore, had to make a second one. Garda Hartnett said the accused came from a good hard working family and that he had never been in trouble before.

Judge Carroll Moran said it was a very serious offence to go into a shop with a gun and demand cash. The Judge added that it was very stupid of Mr Connolly to park his own car, outside the front door of the pub.

### **Irish naturists rally against raw deal**

Scotland On Sunday. Ireland, the only country in Europe which still bans

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nude bathing, is facing a mass campaign by naturists for a change in the law. The Irish tourist board has been bombarded with e-mails from hundreds of nudists from Ireland and across the continent urging them to help establish a beach for those in search of an all-body tan.

The Irish Naturist Association, which is leading the campaign, claimed it was being backed by four priests who are members. The tourist board is being asked to help persuade local authorities that the provision of such a facility could entice tourists from countries such as France, Holland and Germany, which have a combined total of 4.6 million registered naturists. Being naked in a public place is currently illegal in Ireland, but hundreds of holidaymakers break the law by stripping during the summer at about 20 beaches around the country.

Pat Gallagher, president of the Irish Naturist Association which has 1,000 members, said that Ireland's first nude beach was long overdue and would bring in thousands of overseas visitors every year. "Irish tourism is missing out on a great opportunity," he said. "Lots of Europeans would love to come here, play a round of golf and then retire to a nude beach."

Frank Quilter, a businessman, claimed that Irish tourist bosses were missing out on a chance to boost business. "All they seem to talk about is heritage centres," he said. "I don't think anyone packs their bag and says, 'I can't wait to get to Ireland to visit heritage centres.' But if there was a nudist beach, they really would be in a hurry to get here."

#### **Unmarked Garda patrol car hit with flying bag of rubbish**

The man who threw the bag of rubbish out of his car window, while he was driving, received a €1,000 fine. Garda Noel Sexton told Millstreet District Court he was driving an unmarked car when the driver coming in the opposite direction "flung a bag of waste out his window and it hit the windscreen".

Garda Sexton told the judge he stopped Brendan Lafferty at Keale, Dernigree on October 15, 2006. "He admitted that he did throw the bag of waste out the window. He also said he was unaware it was an unmarked car."

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## **The South Central Shamrock Club News and Tidbits**

No Meetings in July or August

Election of New Officers on June 3 – not available for July deadline so will be announced in the August issue.

If one is going “Across the Pond” this summer there are many beautiful sites to see in Ireland and one of my favorites that I visited was Old Heads Golf Links, Kinsale, Ireland. Even if you aren’t a golfer the majestic vista of this course is extraordinary and is one of the premier courses in Ireland. Over 440 golf courses to choose from so take a “drive” and experience another view of the forty shades of “green”.. We’re told Head Golf Links is built on a 220-acre diamond of land, jutting out over two miles into the Atlantic Ocean. The promontory is almost an island with numerous caves running beneath your feet as you play the course. The links and practice area occupy 180 acres and the remaining 40 acres of unspoiled cliff (rising in places to over 300 feet) frame the course.

Designed and constructed by a unique team, Ron Kirby, former designer at Jack Nicklaus’ Golf Design Services, Paddy Merrigan, Australian course architect and agronomist, Liam Higgins, one of Ireland’s best known golf professionals currently on the Seniors Tour, the late Eddie Hackett, former Irish golf professional and golf course designer, the late Dr. Joe Carr, Ireland’s most successful international amateur golfer, and finally, Haulie O’Shea, building contractor. Old Head, par 72, comprises of five Par 5s, five Par 3s and eight Par 4s – stretching to over 7,200 yards from the tips, with a minimum of six tees per hole. Nine holes play along the cliff tops, and all eighteen holes provide stunning ocean views. With the ever-changing sea breezes, the course provides a stern test to the touring pro and the high handicapper alike.

August Irish Festivals schedules:

LaCrosse Irish Fest: August 10-12

Milwaukee Irish Fest: August 16-19

Radio Station in Chicago to tune into... Good Morning Ireland - Chicago Irish Radio 1450 AM WCEV [<http://www.goodmorningireland.net>].

The Good Morning Ireland Radio Show features a wide selection of music from all facets of Irish music including The Saw Doctors, The Pogues, Sharon Shannon, Daniel O’Donnell, The Corrs, Mary Black, The Waterboys, Foster & Allen, The Dubliners, Kevin Prendergast, U2, The Hothouse Flowers, Johnny McEvoy, The Wolftones, The Furys & Davy Arthur, Paddy Reilly, Westlife, Delores Keane, The Chieftains, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, Charlie Landsborough, Leahy, Gaelic Storm, Christy Moore, Jim McCann, Joe Dolan, The Irish Tenors, The Celtic Tenors, Enya, The Celtic Women and many more.

Have A Safe and Good “Craic” Summer!

– Dana Horkan-Gant, Member. Chair

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**Rock County**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUGUST 21 – Shamrock Club Picnic

As in other years, we will have our annual Club Picnic on the third Tuesday of August. As of right now I do not have all the details as to time, place and what to bring, so be sure to read the August issue of Emerald Reflections. All of that information will be there.

– Tom Kennedy, Scribe

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### **Milwaukee President's Message**

Failte. It is July, and our summer is well underway. We celebrate our country's declaration of independence, and a fight that included a revolutionary army that was upwards to fifty percent Irish. George Washington said he never could have made the fight against the British without his "Irish soldiers." A number of British officers and soldiers went home to Ireland, and were among the founders of the United Irishmen revolutionary group that led the disastrous 1798 uprising. But still, there is hope. In May, longtime opponents Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness formed a power sharing government in the North of Ireland. With any luck, the devil will continue to skate around the netherworlds for years to come. In election news, Fianna Fail retained control of the Dail in Ireland, but will have to form a coalition government, most likely with the Greens. Bertie Ahern will more than likely remain as taoiseach, or Prime Minister, but some ministers might lose their posts. And the son of Ballyshannon, Donegal, Tony Blair, has stepped down as Prime Minister of Great Britain after a long run.

We have had our elections, too. Welcome aboard to new members Malkin Wallace and Josh Walton, the new sergeant at arms and parliamentarian. They represent two spectrums of the Shamrock Club, from the relatively new member to the long time. Thank you to Ed Mikush and Del Canon for their years of dedicated service. We will also have a dinner to install the new honorees. It is July 12, at Derry's Pub. Look for the sign-up form in Reflections. This replaces our July meeting, and it is going to be held one week later than normal, because of the July 4 holiday.

Our picnic will be July 28 at Sacred Heart Parish. Please bring along a side dish, if possible. We will provide the meat, (thanks to Pat Fitzgibbons and his employers at Cargill), as well as the beverages, and entertainment. We will also have a raffle beyond belief. It is a family affair, with games for adults and children of all ages.

In August, we will need volunteers for Irish Fest in our cultural tent booth and sales booth. Call Kris Pluskota at the ICHC to volunteer, if you can give up four hours. We can use you to represent the Club, and can also give

you free passes to get in.

We will also be participating in the Hank Aaron Trail Run Walk on August 11. If you would like to run or walk, let us know. We will subsidize a portion of the cost, and if we get more than eight participants, our logo will also be included on the shirt. Such a deal, and you help out a state trail in its drive for nature conservancy.

Our Griffins are still ahead in the standings in the Milwaukee Hurling Club Harp division. Games are Sundays starting at 12:30 p.m.

Let me know why you don't come to meetings. We would like more people to attend them, but know there are a variety of factors as to why they don't. And don't forget two things – one is that we are a 501 C 3 corporation, so you can make tax deductible donations to us, and help ensure our future. And two, the membership in the Shamrock Club can be a really great gift for those hard to shop for family members.

So, until we dance during Lughnasa, slan.

– Brian Witt

[Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com](mailto:Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com)

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## **Celtic Women Complete Ten Years of Lectures**

The Celtic Women First Friday Lecture Series will take the summer off until September, having completed ten full years of presentations at the ICHC. Thank you to everyone who has supported the lectures and enjoyed them through these years. The following speakers are confirmed for next season:

Alphabetically: Kevin Dixon-Seidl; David HB Drake; Christine Hamlin; Shay Kelley; Jeannie McCue; Kim Robertson; Mary Waller. A couple more will be added soon.

Friday, September 7, mark your calendars. One lecture before the Conference of Celtic Women returns to the ICHC with a terrific line-up on October 4-6. This year's conference will be very special and it will have some "once in a lifetime" moments. Try to join the Celtic Women presenters from Ireland, Scotland, Upper Nodd, New Orleans, Virginia, Maryland, and Wisconsin. See you there!

– Jean Bills

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## **Milwaukee Shamrock Club Picnic**

A Day of Food, Fun and Frolic

Sacred Heart Church grounds: 49th and Wells Streets

**JULY 28, 2007 • noon. til 6 p.m.**

• Beverages • Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Veggie Burgers and Sausages.  
Please bring a dessert or vegetable tray to pass

• Music by the Tinker Boys and Atlantic Wave

• Piping by the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums and the  
Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipe Band

• Irish Dance Exhibitions by Glencastle Irish Dancers

• Join in sessions with local musicians

• Pin the Tail on the Leprechaun, Kid Games

For Information call: (414) 687-2049

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## **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing**

**Sunday August 26, 2007**

Edgewater Golf Club, Grafton

1762 W. Cedar Creek Road

(I-43 north to Hwy 60, west 1.7 miles to 12th Avenue, right 1.4 miles to  
Cedar Creek Road, left to course)

There will be Door Prizes, a Putting Contest, and other events too  
numerous to mention.

Golf will begin at 1 p.m.

Carts Included

Cocktail Hour: 4:30–5:30 p Buffet Dinner: 5:30–7:00 p

AWARDS to be presented during dinner

[Click here for sign-up sheet in Acrobat format.](#)

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## Color Guard News and Notes

I'm back from my writing hiatus and looking forward to filling you in on the happenings around the band.

Our parade season is in full swing. June 2 saw us at the Highland games and the University of Phoenix Commencement Ceremony downtown. The folks at U of Phoenix were kind enough to hire a coach to pick us up at the games and bring us downtown, to feed and water the band (and with not just water!) and then take us back to the Games. We had a great time, and they liked us so much they asked us back for next year. The spectators gave many, many compliments. Just another ace in our pockets. Thank you to everyone. We are on a roll.

We also rounded out the month with parades in Appleton, Waubeka and Thiensville.

It's also been a very busy month for our members! Here's the scoop:

- A very Happy Graduation to Ms. Kelly Quinlan. She's off to the wilds of Minnesota, I think, for college. Thanks for inviting us all to the shindig, as we all had a great time. Have fun and study hard.
- A fond adieu to Alicia Smocke, who is off to Californ-I-A for a new adventure and job. She joins her brother and former piper Shawn there, so now Mom and Dad have places to stay for vacation. Alicia, I'll miss you most of all. I know the band feels the same. Good Luck!
- Welcome back Bobby Hamill, fresh off his freshman year at college. We're glad to have you back, even though it's just for the summer.
- I heard if you need to sell a home in seven days, just ask Malkin.
- A little birdie told me we have some scholars amongst us who made the honor roll or dean's list. Congrats guys and gals...JJ Garsombke, Nate Cobb, Kari Quinlan, Dave Culver and Bobby Hamill. Apologies to anyone missed. Let me know so I can put your name in lights!
- We have quite the contingent attending the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums. Dan MacCormack, Nathan Cobb, Beth Andrews, Kelly Quinlan and JJ Garsombke.

As for me, I'm off to Nova Scotia to perform in Pipefest Halifax. 1000 pipers marching down the street to join up with the ranks at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo. If you remember my Scottish Friend from Irish Fest last year, Thomas Grotrian, he is the one heading up this big shindig. He tells me the plans take over a year to unfold. It's quite the spectacle I'm told, and I'll get to rub shoulders with the 78th Highland Frasers, one of the

top 10 pipe bands in the world. I'll bring back lots of pictures!

The Color Guard has already many practices under their belt for Irish Fest. A mere six weeks away! Way to go guys.

We, as always, are looking for those who love to wear the kilt, love being part of a "family", and love to have fun. No experience necessary. We need banner carriers and water bearers, too. It is still not too late to get involved. Come on, what do you have to lose?

July is full of practices, parades and parties. Look at our revamped website at [www.sccgpd.org]. Come see us!

- July 1 – Hartland
- July 4 – Bailey's Harbor
- July 14 – South Shore Water Frolics
- July 28 – South Milwaukee
- July 29 – Douseman Derby Days.

We also have another fundraiser at Pizzeria Piccola, 7606 W. State Street 4–9:30 p.m. on July 1st.

Come join us and support our group.

Until the merry month of August my friends. Adieu.

– Noel Tylla, 4th year piper

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## **Installation Dinner 2007**

**Thursday July 12, 2007**

Cocktails (Cash Bar) 5:30–6:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: Cost \$16.50 Per person

For information call Tom and Julie Smith (414) 384-4119

### **Installation Dinner Reservation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$16.50 @ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and mail to:

Tom and Julie Smith  
1107 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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## Sunshine Club

We wish to express condolences to the families of Mary Lou Shea, Captain Dick Flynn, and Julia Catherine Conerton, on the loss of their loved ones who recently passed away. They will be missed. Also, former longtime member Annie Goral, sister of Josie Nash, passed away recently.

Eugene Eliszewski died on May 25 and his wife Eileen died May 30. They were the sister and brother-in-law of Cate Harris.

The family of Jane Ward sent a thank you card to the Shamrock Club for the Color Guard's Honor Guard's presence at her funeral. Also, the name of Jane's son, Jack, was somehow omitted in her notice last month.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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## Members' Doings

Andrew Harris has been accepted as a candidate for the Priesthood at Sacred Heart Seminary. He will be entering in late July. Andy is the grandson of Cate Harris and a former drummer of the Color Guard.

Joe and Catherine Donovan celebrated 60 years of marriage recently. Bob and Gloria Donovan are celebrating 58 years

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