



**Oct.
2009**

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The Freeman of Ennis – Muhammad Ali

by Brian Witt

"Waiting waiting waiting..." That was the Facebook status update from Siobhan Peoples on Sept. 1, 2009. What she was waiting for was the arrival of Muhammad Ali, making his first appearance in his ancestral home of Ennis, Co. Clare.

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was made the Honorary Freeman of Ennis at a Civic Reception in the Co. Clare town that afternoon. The three-time world heavyweight champion had also visited the birthplace of his great grandfather, Abe Grady, who left Ennis in the 1860s. At the Civic Reception, Ali met several of his distant cousins and afterwards was driven to the nearby Turnpike Road area, from where his great grandfather hailed.

Freedom of the City is a medieval military honor bestowed upon the heroic. In Ireland, it is an honorary distinction outside of the City of Dublin where the Freeman may sell his goods without license, graze his sheep in the parks and keep armor in case of invasion. Ali was the first person in 600 years to have the honor bestowed upon him in the west Clare city. The turnout was large, with the entire city centre filled with people. As Ennis Mayor Frankie Neylon said, "As mayor of Ennis, representing the town council and the people of Ennis, we are overjoyed at the fact that Muhammad Ali is coming to visit us."

Ennis, considered the capital of traditional music in Ireland, was absolutely agog at the spectacle of the boxing champion making his appearance in their city. The crowd was estimated to be upwards to 60,000, almost tripling the normal population of 23,000. The day started with a concert of traditional Irish musicians, who played for almost two hours straight. There were signs welcoming him all over the town. One was, "Welcome home, O'Grady Ali."

Ali's great grandfather Abe Grady emigrated from his home on the

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Turnpike Road in Ennis to the United States in the 1860s. Grady sailed from Cappa Harbour in Kilrush, County Clare, eventually settling in Kentucky, where he married an African-American woman. Their son, John, also married an African-American and one of the daughters of that union was Ali's mother, named Odessa Lee Grady. She married Cassius Clay, senior, and they settled in Louisville, where their son was initially given his father's name on his birth in 1942. He later changed his name to Muhammad Ali when he converted to the Nation of Islam after winning the world title in 1964.

Ali and his retinue finally made it to the town centre about 3:30 p.m. According to the Kerryman newspaper, Ali's wife Lonnie spoke on his behalf at the ceremony. She said, "You, the people of Ennis have been so overwhelming in your outpouring of love to this man. We are sincerely appreciative and thankful for each and every one of you and now that we know that Mohammad is an Ennis man we will be back. It's interesting, because when you look at Mohammad's pugilistic skills and his loquacious ways, I'm sure if his great grandfather were alive he'd swear it came from him."

Peoples remarked in one of her running updates, "Good God lads, I'm not often star struck but I have to admit I had a tear in my eye... an amazing experience to look into his eyes at eye level. He is an absolute legend!" Another eyewitness reported, "I got a bit wobbly in Abbey Street Carpark when the first shots of him at the Town Council offices came on the big screen, while Sharon (Shannon) was playing away on stage."

Ali later attended a charitable function at Dromoland Castle before flying back to his home in Kentucky. Ali's trip to Ireland came during a worldwide tour to raise funds for research into Parkinson's Disease. The former champion is fighting the disease. Ali was his usual loquacious self, offering up written quips to the assembled crowd. On education "Stay in college, get the knowledge, stay there until you're through. If they can make penicillin from mouldy bread, they'll make something of you." And, on golf, "I'm the best, I just haven't played yet."

The crowd loved Ali. Peoples noted, "Jeez, the hair is still standing on the back of my neck. Tell your mates it was worth the sore calves!!" One final comment from a woman in the crowd said, "Well that's it. I saw him for a sec although he was sitting at the 'wrong' side of the jeep but I SAW HIM!!! I can report that he waved rather enthusiastically when he saw O'Dea's."

Thus ended Muhammad Ali's day in Ennis.

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South Central Shamrock Club News

Next meeting: October 11. Sure to be full of Balarney! Mass at 10:30 at Sacred Heart on October 11. A meal following at the Reedsburg Country Club and the entertainment is a presentation by Luanne (Sheahan) Krohn and Norma Jean Peters fascinating the crowd with a scintillating presentation of their recent visit to the land of forty shades of green!

Written by: Luanne Sheahan Krohn, South Central Shamrock Secretary and Great Craic Lass:

“My dream vacation all began on March 21, 2009 when my husband won first prize in the raffle held by the South Central Shamrock Club... a trip for two to Ireland! As he doesn't like to fly, he decided to give the trip to my daughter and myself. We increased the economy of Ireland by two-fold as we each took a friend. The four of us met at the Shannon Airport (two flying from Savannah, Georgia and two from O'Hare International) on Tuesday morning, August 4. We rented our car (and a GPS, a device I highly recommend when traveling in Ireland!) and we set off for our first B&B in Ennis. We stayed two nights there and visited many scenic spots including the Cliffs of Moher. We left there for the Dingle Peninsula and as we traveled we took a car ferry across the Shannon River. We also stopped for an afternoon in Listowel at Sheahan's Pub (my maiden name was Sheahan) where we had a fine conversation with the locals. Our bartender told us the folks out on the peninsula were "fierce weird" in his humble opinion. When asked to explain himself he told us they put up all their road signs in just Gaelic, no English! Which explains why I suggested the GPS as a handy tool for travel! We found the area to be beautiful... both wild and unique with many folks speaking "Irish— as they call their language. The scenery is simply breathtaking. *National Geographic* has called it one of the most beautiful places in the world and we heartily agreed! We spent a couple of days in Killarney where we visited the National Forest (via a jaunting cart!) and the Muckross House and gardens. This is another beautiful area of the southwest part of the country. A short visit to Kinsale (it is considered the culinary capital of Ireland and it certainly deserves the name) and then on to Adare, a quaint and picturesque village just south of Limerick. We left for the U.S. On Thursday, August 13. It was a magical time for all involved and I thank the Shamrock Club for offering such a wonderful first prize. I am looking forward to the day when I can return!"

October Birthdays: Kate Horkan 10/5; Bill Wilde 10/6; Rebecca Murphy 10/12; Teresa DeVault 10/13; Dana Horkan-Gant 10/30.

October Anniversaries: Willard R. Gant III & Dana Horkan-Gant 10/8.

Prayers to Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his family—he will

be deeply missed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

– Dana Horkan-Gant, SCSC Member

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Milwaukee President's Message

As the autumn leaves drift by your windows, are you welcoming the opportunity to get out and rake them? A mulching mower may be helpful, but the sound of leaf blowers in the early morning will knock you out of bed. We are as busy as God's creatures preparing for the winter season, especially if it's nine months long again. Get outside, enjoy the fresh air and start looking for a pumpkin to transform into a jack-o-lantern. If you feel the urge to dance around the bonfire, just explain it's your heritage bursting forth. At least that's the story I'm going to use.

Thank you again to all of you that participated in our 50th anniversary raffle. We hope you are reading this and saying how happy you are that you won a prize. I know the entire 50th anniversary committee appreciates your participating, and in being able to use these funds to assist in our 2010 celebration. Look for Heather Majusiak to purchase your pins and the new T-shirts designed for your enjoyment. The T-shirts were designed with ideas from Pat Fitzgibbons, and Heather, and input from the committee. The price is a very reasonable \$15, and part of the fund-raising effort. We only had a limited number printed, and will reorder if needed. They certainly would be a nice stocking stuffer for those planning ahead. They can be worn by any Shamrock member throughout the state, so let's get those orders rolling in.

Let's start looking ahead to the Holiday Folk Fair in November. We will need volunteers for every area we represent. The Shamrock Club represents the Irish community for all in attendance.

All present are expected to wear clothing representing their country. The food booth has green skirts and white blouses for the women. The men wear dark trousers, white shirts, an Irish sweater or vest, or a kilt if they have one. This booth is a great opportunity to not only serve food native to Ireland, but the neighboring food booths, are always willing to share items. Mary Culver is always happy to welcome volunteers to help any day. Linda Tuescher brings the finest choices to the public in the retail area, and would be pleased to see you assist, whether it would be before, after or during the Folk Fair. Heather is looking for people at the Cultural area, and that means during the same times. We need help in set up, and take down times if you can do this, please see one of us,

call us, or sign up at the October and November meetings. It will be here before you know it. We will hold the monthly board meeting there, and board members are expected to assist after the meeting.

Now you can get ready to celebrate the Celtic New Year at the end of October, it's all part of the heritage. We have a bonus this month with my niece Katie Stephens' wedding at St. Thomas University chapel. Her fiancé Jason Spangler has already learned to love Irish dance, and if that hasn't scared him off, it looks like a winner.

Didn't I catch a glimpse of you at the last meeting, or was that someone else? See you there at this one.

– **Julie Smith, President**

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Treasurers Report

The Shamrock Club's Balance sheet for the year ending June 30, 2009 was as follows:

Checking: \$31,538

Scholarship Fund: \$5,377

Parkway Bank CD: \$15,137

Morgan Stanley Trust: \$12,032

TCF CD: \$947

New Worth: \$65,031

– **John Fisher, Treasurer**

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**MHC Champions
Shamrock Club Griffins**



Team photo: Shamrock Club Griffins, 2009 Milwaukee Hurling Club Champions.



The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums provided an escort at the final game of the hurling championship.

The Shamrock Club Griffins won the Milwaukee Hurling Club Championship on Sunday, August 23, with a victory over Trinity 3 Pubs, 19-16. It was the Griffins' first championship, in a hard fought and entertaining match. Joel Travis, in his 14th year in the MHC, saved the victory by blocking a shot on goal in the final minutes of the 4th period.

The Shamrock Club was proud to sponsor the Shamrock Club Griffins for the 9th season. The team is headed up by Dan McAuliffe and Dave Goelz. The Griffins ended up with a 7-1 record, and were the Number 1 seed for the hurling finals. Congratulations to Dan and Dave for their great work.

Members of the 2009 team are: Zach Alpert; Sean Churchill; Michael Connolly; Brian Dake; Darren Garry; Dave Goelz (C); Joel Guinane; Mike Hering; Anna Krajcik; Gavin Mantyh; Kevin Mantyh; Brian Marsolek; Dan McAuliffe (C); Tim McCaffrey; Drake Reinick; Michael Shapiro-Barr; Michael Stuht; Joel Travis; Todd Witt; Andrew Wozniak.

Color Guard News and Notes

Hello my pretties, and welcome to October, the month of Halloween. It is hard to believe that the marching season is over, and that we will be finishing up in a few weeks for the year. Summer slipped by too quickly. We were at the Waukesha Highland Games in September sadly, to end summer. A big sigh. But now onto fall.

We will be at the AOH annual Mass of Remembrance and William Drew Scholarship dinner on Saturday, October 3. the event starts at 4 p.m. It is at St. Rose Church on 31 and Michigan. Our final parade will take us to the Sister Bay Fall Festival October 16 to the 18. This is always a blast for us. The Door County people treat us very well, and we enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

On November 7, the annual Triploi Shrine Tartan Ball will be at the Triploi Shrine on 31 and Wisconsin. This is an elegant event. All the dress kilts will be out in full display, and the gowns, as well. The dinner is just magnificent, and the whiskey is smoother than most nights. The piping will be magical.

Just a quick hello to all the members of the SCCGPD who are in or back at college. Our practices get scarce in late August when the dorms fill up. And Kari Quinlan put down the pipes long enough to compete in the South Milwaukee Junior Miss contest. She didn't win the contest, but she did win the scholastic scholarship and the essay contest. That's our Kari, beautiful enough to win, but even more impressive with her brains.

Until November, remember that Halloween is the Celt's New Year. Celebrate accordingly.

– Noel Tylla, 6th year piper

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Upcoming Meetings:

We are planning a whole series of interesting and fun entertainment for the fall and winter meetings. These include a return to Irish Fest, and our annual Christmas Party, with music by the *Reilly Trio*.

Nov. 5 – Barry Stapleton on the Irish Music Archives at Irish Fest.

Dec. 3 – *Reilly Trio* performs at the Christmas party.

– Sandy Quinlan, VP

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Upcoming Board Meetings

Here is a list of upcoming board meeting for the Shamrock Club (Milwaukee): October 28; November 18; December 17.

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50th Anniversary Meeting

We have ordered a 50th Anniversary Flag.

Float. Contest posted in *Emerald Reflections*. Float Theme: Bringing all things Irish to Wisconsin for 50 years?

Parade Float Essay Contest Rules and Qualifications:

- Theme: Why we want to ride on the 50th Anniversary Float
- Maximum 200 words
- Typed and double spaced
- No real names used within the essay
- Entrant must be a Shamrock Club member
- You may enter more than once
- No age restrictions
- Deadline: January 2, 2010

The essay will be judged on originality, grammar and spelling, and how the essay relates to the topic. Essay to be judged by Mary Moze and Maggie Blaha.

We will highlight different events and people in 2010 at general meetings. The calendar of events for this is as follows:

- January: Parade Marshals and Float Winners
- February: Irish Roses
- March: St Patrick's Day Parade, past/present
- April: Sports Teams: Soccer, Hurling Demonstrations in Uniforms
- May: SCCGPD past/present, slide show?
- June: Irish Dancers All Schools Invitation Dancers in school

uniforms?

- July: Installation Dinner
- August: Pipe and Drum School winners
- September: Irishmen of the Year Dinner Dance
- October: Ireland
- November: Folk Fair and Overview of trip to Ireland
- December: Christmas Party

Letter to be written to invite the participating groups to the appropriate meetings. Josh Walton will write letters.

Our next meeting is on Monday, October 12, 2009 at Josh Walton's home, at 7 p.m.

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Veronica's Corner Cupboard

Many of you spoke with me at the September meeting and said you liked the idea of monthly food themes for each meeting. Several people wanted to join Mary Culver and me for the January Chili competition because their chili was "the best". Please register with me by December 15. Votes will be counted! Prizes will be awarded!

October: apples and pumpkin. Kathy Donovan will bring her famous Caramel Apple Salad. Other contributions welcomed. I need your phone calls in order to supplement and have enough goodies for the 40-50 members who usually attend meetings.

Thanks and I want to hear from you.

– Veronica Ceszynski, (414) 228-8621

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ICHC Concerts

Fiona Molloy
At ICHC Oct. 10

Fiona Molloy will bring her "angelic" voice to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center's Hallamor concert series on Saturday, Oct. 10,

at 7:30 p.m. The concert is a benefit for the ICHC.

A native of Derry, Northern Ireland, and now living in southeastern Wisconsin, Molloy's songs range from original ballads to songs made famous by others including folksinger Joan Baez, who told Molloy, "You have an extremely lovely voice

Molloy was singing and playing piano by the time she was three years old, added the guitar as a teenager, and went on to study classical voice. Among those who have heard her sing are former President Ronald Reagan and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

This year's Hallamor series introduces lower prices with individual concerts varying from \$13 to \$18 for advance sales. The four-concert package is \$55. Tickets for the Molloy show are \$15 in advance and \$17 the day of the concert.

Mustard's Retreat in ICHC Parlour Concert Oct. 30

Mustard's Retreat will bring their spooky songs about banshees, rings of standing stones, and "the time when the moon howls and the wolves are still" for a *Samhain* (the Celtic ancestor of our Halloween) concert in the Parlour of the ICHC on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Along with songs for *Samhain*, Michael Hough and David Tamulevich will have the audience singing, tapping and clapping along on original maritime music, gentle love songs, vivid ballads and tall tales, as well as songs from America's traditional song bag.

The Michigan-based duo has been engaging audiences at many of this country's most prestigious venues for over 30 years. Roots of American Music Festival at New York City's Lincoln Center producer Spike Barkin it seemed that David and Michael "take your living room on the road? and invite people in as friends."

For the Oct. 30th concert, the "living room" will be the ICHC Parlour. Admission for the Oct. 30 show is \$12 and \$10 for students. The next Parlour concert is Nov. 7 when Paddy Keenan, recognized as one of the greatest living virtuosos of the uilleann pipes, will perform. To order the season package as well as individual tickets online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800

For reservations and information for the *Mustard's Retreat* concert, call (414) 332-8521.

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Milwaukee Celtic Fall Season

The Milwaukee Celtic Soccer Team kicked off its fall season on September 20. We play in the Wisconsin Adult Soccer Association. Our upcoming matches are Oct. 4, 2:30 p.m. v. Milwaukee Brewers at Polonia; Oct, 11, v. Verdi, 12:30 p.m. at Grant; Oct. 18, 2:30 p.m. v. USA Palermo Due at Grant; Oct. 25, 12:30 p.m. v. AUACa at Grant; Nov 1, 2:30 p.m. v. Polonia; at Polonia; and Nov 8, 11:30 a.m. v WC Rampage at Grant. We play in the Shamrock Club colors, and are members of the Shamrock Club, so please come out and let everyone know you are backing the Irish. The fields are Grant Park #1 East, Lake Drive and College, and Polonia, 10200 W. Loomis Rd., Franklin.

– Mike Simons

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Milwaukee Currach Club Rowing Lessons

The Irish Currach Club of Milwaukee welcomes anyone interested in trying out our sport. Whatever your age, physical ability, rowing experience or interest in Irish currachs or culture, contact us to get out in a boat.

We are looking to have post-season rowing lessons for people who are interested in learning to row. Classes will be taught by Dee Talley. There will be eight sessions, starting in October, and running through December. Classes will cost \$50 per person. Contact Maggi at (262) 376-0356, or send e-mail to [throwinggoddess@yahoo.com].

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Celtic Women First Friday Lectures

All lectures are held from 5:30 p.m. at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus. Plenty of street parking at the door with a wheel chair access ramp. This is our twelfth year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea, cookies, other goodies and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

SCHEDULE

- October 2, 2009 Topic: "Welsh Love Spoons" Speaker: Joe Whitmore, Welsh Club of Milwaukee Area
- November 6, 2009 Topic: "Signing for the Hearing Impaired" Speaker: Linda Lascelle Hillebrand, signer for Irish Masses
- December 4, 2009 Topic: "Knitting – Becoming a Lost Art in Ireland" Speaker: Shirley Grade, owner of The Yarn House
- January 8, 2010 Topic: Scottish Stories and Songs (This is the second Friday) Speaker: Ian Day, Scottish native
- February 5, 2010 Topic: "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" Speaker: Peggy Ruetz, State Commissioner of Clan Donald
- March 5, 2010 Topic: St. Brigid Cross/Straw Workshop Speaker: Linda Daly, experienced straw weaver and teacher
- April 9, 2010 Topic: "The O'Neil Family" (This is the second Friday. Easter is Apr. 4) Speaker: Mary June Hanrahan, one of the famous family [tenoneilsisters.com]
- May 7, 2010 Topic: "James Joyce: Bloomsday" Speaker: John Gleeson, Irish native
- June 4, 2010 Topic: "A Session With Martin Hintz" Speaker: Martin Hintz, Publisher of The Irish American Post
- July and August: No lectures during these summer months.

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Members' Doings

Brigid O'Sullivan Alba and Ryan Alba recently became parents of Rosin. Brigid is the daughter of Jerry and Beth O'Sullivan.

Tom Fisher, a Shamrock Club scholarship winner, and former SC Griffin player, recently completed his thesis in Irish Studies at NUI Galway, in Ireland. Tom is the son of Mary and John Fisher.

Cathy and Ed Ward spent time in Florida with daughter Caitlin.

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Sunshine Club

Catherin Donovan is in Lutheran Home for a rehabilitation stint

after breaking her hip. Muriel Crowley is undergoing rehabilitation, as well. Please send cards and good wishes.

The father of Tim O'Brien died recently. Our condolences to the O'Brien family.

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

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