



Sep. 2010

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America's Pastime and the Irish

I was listening to the singing of "Take Me out to the Ball Game," during the seventh inning break at a Brewers game recently and I was thinking about the opening lyrics of the song now long forgotten for the most part.

The song, which was written by Jack Norworth in 1908, with music by Albert Von Tilzer, started out, originally, with: "Katie Casey was baseball mad. Had the fever and had it bad; Just to root for the home town crew, Ev'ry sou Katie blew. On a Saturday, her young beau Called to see if she'd like to go, To see a show but Miss Kate said, "No, I'll tell you what you can do." "Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack?" And you know the rest.

However, by 1927, Norworth changed the lyrics and the protagonist to Nelly Kelly. The new version went, "Nelly Kelly loved baseball games, Knew the players, knew all their names,

"You could see her there ev'ry day, Shout 'Hurray,' when they'd play. Her boy friend by the name of Joe

"Said, 'To Coney Isle, dear, let's go,' Then Nelly started to fret and pout, And to him I heard her shout. 'Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd?.' "

That both young women had Irish surnames is to have been expected. For decades, many of the best players were either Irish born or second generation. Hugh Daily, Tom McManus, Tony Mullane, Sleeper Sullivan and Ted Sullivan were all playing in the 1880s.

The history of baseball seems to be a convergence of the English games of cricket and rounders, and the Irish game of hurling. Most of the earliest matches were played by English immigrants, and seemed to have become a slightly evolved form of cricket. By the time of the 1880s, the game had taken its present form, with

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overhand pitching, and a more aggressive base advancement. One early proponent of the game, Albert Spalding, wanted the rounders portion of the history of the game to be played up. (Ironically, the rules of rounders was first codified by the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884.)

The first mention of the game was in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1791. The game acquired the name “base ball” in 1823, in New York’s Greenwich Village. The game gained traction along the Atlantic seaboard, especially in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, in the 1840s and 1850s. In 1857, sixteen New York area clubs, including the Knickerbockers, formed the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP). The start of the Civil War saw the expansion of the game across much of the country. The large influx of Irish into the army later showed up in the ranks of the baseball teams.

By the time the 1870s came, the sight of an Irishman on the field was common. In the 1880s, many of the players were Irish born, or were second generation. George McManus was born in Cork, and was the manager of the St. Louis Brown Stockings in 1876 and 1877. Ted Sullivan was born in County Clare, and would own minor league teams in Milwaukee and Dubuque. He also gave Charles Comiskey, the founder of the Chicago White Sox his start, in 1882.

Some have claimed that the Irish had an advantage in that they were often hurlers, and were used to the underhand or straight batting styles that were needed to pop the ball down the field. Whether that is true or not, by the turn of the century most baseball teams were being managed by Irish players.

Some of the best known were Cornelius McGillicuddy, better known as Connie Mack, owner and manager of the Philadelphia Athletics; John McGraw, manager of the Baltimore Orioles and New York Giants; Hugh Duffy, manager of the Milwaukee Brewers of the American League; Jake O’Connor, of the St. Louis Browns; and Jimmy McAleer, player and owner of the Boston Red Sox.

When Katie Casey and Nelly Kelly were calling out to those players, she must have been shouting out to many an Irish boy. When the song is sung this fall, maybe you can think about the sons of Erin whose shoes trod on the playing fields of American ball fields this past century and a half. So, possibly take her out to the ball game, and buy her some peanuts and Cracker Jack. It is an Irish tradition, after all.

– Brian Witt

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance

September 25, 2010

Humphrey Scottish Rite; 790 North Van Buren Street, Milwaukee

\$75 per person

Evening Schedule:

- 5-6 p.m. Cocktail Hour
- 6-6:30 p.m. Performance by the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums
- 6:30-7:15 p.m. Dinner (choice of: Chicken En Croute: Stuffed with Bacon and Mushrooms, Baked in Puff Pastry, Served with White Wine Cream Sauce OR Roast Pork Loin: Medallions of Roast Pork Loin Served with a Charcutiere Sauce
- 7:15-8 p.m. Program
- 8-11 p.m. Dancing to the band *Our House*

For questions, contact Malkin Wallace,
(414) 234-0653; email: [mwallace@shorewest.com]

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Milwaukee President's Message

Greetings! What a summer. The record heat and rainfalls are hopefully behind us and cooler, dryer, more comfortable days hopefully are ahead. But before we bid summer adieu lets review:

Dawn and Pete Fleming hosted a luau/picnic that was a truly original outing. Beautiful weather combined with an eclectic slate of musical talent made for an event that is still being spoken of. The only thing missing was a limbo contest... Oh yeah scratch that.

Our sponsored sports teams, the Shamrock Club Griffins Hurling Club and the Milwaukee Celtic Soccer Club, both had outstanding seasons.

The July meeting / Instillation was a huge success. The proceedings dignified; the food spread varied, bountiful and delicious. Thanks to all who participated.

Can you believe 30 years of Irish Fest? Our members have played

a vital role in each and every year of the Fest's existence as coordinators, supervisors and volunteers. Thanks to Denis Donohoe for setting up the Membership booth in the cultural area. And a great big thank you to Kris and Daryl Pluskota for stepping forward on short notice to run the retail booth. And not just at Irish Fest but also over Labor Day weekend at the Waukesha Highland Games and later this year at the Holiday Folk Fair. The retail booth is a vital source of revenue for the Club so please volunteer when Kris comes around with her volunteer sign-up sheet.

I hope you were able to catch the Friday performance of the SC Color Guard Pipes and Drums. Or caught them in the daily parade.

September 25th is the day for the 50th Anniversary/ Honoree Dinner Dance. The fabulous Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, renown for its elegance and fabulous food *is the place*. Stroll down memory lane and view 50 years of memorabilia. Our emcee for the evening is Channel 58's Michelle McCormack. Swing with or rock out with the band *Our House* who play 50 years of musical styles. Reservations for \$75 per person are due September 10. See you there.

Until next time,

– Josh Walton, President joshwalton1@yahoo.com

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Shamrock Club Of New Dublin

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin had a terrific time serving great Irish beer down at the 2nd Annual Oshkosh Irish Festival in June. If you haven't been there, mark it on your calendars for next year the weekend of June 3, 4 and 5. It's a wonderful Irish "family" Festival.

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin has plans underway for its first (hopefully annual) Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day Ceili! Planned for September 19, from 1–4 p.m. at the VFW Hall in New London, it's sure to be an afternoon of fun and entertainment featuring the "McGuinness Session Group", with Bob Pillsbury calling. Admission is free. Hope to see all of our friends there!

Also, on September 20, the club will celebrate it's own half-way to St. Pat's Day with a picnic at Flease's Resort, then it's down to the business of planning the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in Wisconsin to be held on Saturday March 19, 2011.... stay tuned to details.

Sláinte

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Color Guard News & Notes

Hi Everyone; My favorite time of the year, September! After the August wet blanket weather we had, September is always a welcome relief with warm days and cool nights.

The band is coming to a close on our marching season, as the college kids go back to school.

Another huge thank you to the band moms and dads, water carriers, banner carriers, hand clappers and all around cheering sections for our parade year and support at Irish Fest. Thanks also to Irish Fest for our great Saturday noon performance spot and allowing us to lead the way in the parades through the grounds. It's always an honor to be a part of the festivities and be the only Irish pipe band in town. The chance to network with other bands, performers and would-be members is huge. It's a gem of a huge festival, only our fair city of Milwaukee could support. Lastly, a huge *thank you* to each and every member of the color guard and band for learning the moves of the Irish Fest performance with patience and style. It turned out absolutely brilliant and we glowed in the spotlight. It was a growing and good year, and yet again, we have proved that *no one*, absolutely *not one* of any of the naysayers can or will affect us. Great job everyone, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Asides, *congratulations* again to Rich Watt and Katie Swank Watt on their lovely nuptials at Paddy's Pub in August. A great time was had by all. Great music, southern food and best of all, *friends!* I'll see if I can put up one of the photos from that night in next month's column. I also have a bit of information to share! After a long year and a half of unemployment, I have finally found travel work (albeit temporary) at a lovely and rightly famous company here in Milwaukee. I love the job and the people I work with and am honored to work at a long standing pillar of the community. Also, sisters Beth and Luann Andrews returned from their awesome cruise overseas. Can't wait to hear the details of far flung places, ladies.

Going forward, we are still practicing at the lakefront (but check the website for updates) and have a few more performances ... September 5 (my anniversary of my 25th birthday) in the St. Francis Labor Day Parade, and on September 25, the Shamrock Club 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Humphrey Scottish Rite. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Well everyone, back to work for me after a short break writing this.
Hope to catch you all in October.

– Noel Tylla, 7th year piper

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John Doyle and John Williams at ICHC on Oct. 16

Guitarist John Doyle and button accordion/concertina player John Williams, two of the most influential and celebrated performers of traditional Irish music, will present a duo show at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16. The concert marks the first in the ICHC's fall Hallamor series.

Pre-concert music in Quinlan's Pub will be provided by the exiting and innovative Milwaukee quartet *Myserk* from 6:30-7:15.

Founding members of the groundbreaking Irish-American band *Solas* in 1995, Doyle and Williams each moved on to solo careers as well as collaborations with a who's who of other artists. A recent collaboration for Doyle and fiddler Liz Carroll led to a 2010 Grammy Award nomination for the album *Double Play* in the traditional world music category, while Williams is known for his partnership with guitarist Dean McGraw. A reviewer for the *Irish American Post* said of their performance at Milwaukee Irish Fest, "Their tour de force playing left audiences dizzy."

Born in Dublin into a family of musicians and singers, Doyle was called "a dream guitarist" by *Irish Edition*. He pioneered a highly rhythmic, sophisticated approach to Irish guitar and set a new standard for the instrument. Because of his contemporary approach along with his gifts as a songwriter, vocalist and producer, Doyle is credited with playing an essential role in the ongoing renaissance of Irish traditional music.

"John Doyle has a voice that sends chills down your spine ? (he) has gained his prominent reputation as a master of his art with guitar." – *The Celtic Cafe*

Williams was born in Chicago and absorbed the heart and vitality of his family's County Clare roots during summers in Doolin. Williams has five All-Ireland titles to his credit and was the first American to win first place in the Senior Concertina category. A multi-instrumentalist, he has been featured on numerous TV and

radio programs including *A Prairie Home Companion* and *The Grand Ol' Opry*. His piano playing is heard on the Academy Award-nominated film score for *Road to Perdition*, where it is “performed” by Paul Newman and Tom Hanks.

“To witness the passion of a John Williams’ live performance is truly astounding. ? His playing seems to come from beyond him, as if the accordion is playing him?” – *The Irish American Post*

Tickets for the show are \$19 in advance and \$23 the day of concert with discounts for students and groups. The subscription price for the three Hallamor concerts is \$51.30. To order online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Milwaukee Membership News

I would like to welcome the following new Members joining in July of this year. They are: Jeanne Barnes Cissne, Holly Wilinski (Ted & Deanna) and Darrel & Janine Schroeter.

We now have our new durable static cling Label/Stickers that will last longer and can be easily placed on windows in cars and homes without worry of fading. If you did not get one at the August meeting, please let me know via e-mail or find me at the September meeting and I will give you one.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before Sept. 1 for those who’s expire 8/31/2010. Hope to see all of you at the 50th anniversary dinner !!!!

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

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Celtic Soccer Wins League Title; Finishes 10-0 in Spring

by Joel Carstedt

The Celtic Soccer Club dominated the Spring Campaign, winning all 10 of their games. The men in green overcame injuries, sweltering heat and tough competition to take the 2009-10 Championship in epic fashion.

To get to the Final, Celtic needed to first get by their most-challenging foe, Caribbean Kickers. Throughout the year, the two met three times, all ending with injuries and victories for the men in Green. The two faced off again on July 10 in 90 degree weather to begin the four-team playoff for the 1st Division Championship.

“These guys are physical and play an ugly brand of soccer,” said Celtic Captain Abdallah Elsayed. “We had to forget about all the problems we’ve had in the past and focus on playing 90 minutes of quality soccer. Today we did that and proved we’re the better team.”

Celtic started off the scoring as they did all year with a beautifully served through ball from Joel Carstedt on the right wing to Mike Kroeger who again, showed his class by finishing a strike past a charging Kickers keeper. Kroeger was a lightning rod for the Celtic offense all year, winning the team’s Most Valuable Player Award in 2010.

“He makes it look so easy,” said Carstedt. “Just get him the ball with a little bit of space and wait five seconds to celebrate the goal. Done.”

Carstedt got lucky with Celtic’s second goal of the first half, serving a corner kick off a Caribbean defender and into the back of the net. The score remained 2-0 into the second half until the Kickers launched a charge of their own, netting a breakaway to bring the score within one.

Mohammed Elsayed then took the game into his own hands, ripping a free kick from 30 yards out past a diving keeper and into the ol’ onion bag. The Kickers then countered again, scoring off a broken down clearance and heading in a cross from the left side and bringing the score to 3-2.

Trevor Hess finally broke free late in the second half to put the game out of reach, neatly placing a breakaway goal to give the Celtic a 4-2 victory and a place in the Finals.

On July 18, the men in green squared off against Verdi for the Championship. However, they had opponents they weren’t used to dealing with: low numbers and an early, game-ending hip injury to Carstedt.

“We knew we’d be a little short on guys for the Final, but when Joel went down in the first five minutes, I was worried we’d buckle with this heat,” said defender Tim Devlin. “We knew it was going to be a battle right from the start.”

Thankfully, Devlin was wrong as Celtic showed their resilience and togetherness by scoring the first goal. Newcomer Mike Schlecht broke free, elegantly guiding a cross from Brandon Chapman into the net. Schlecht took the team on his back again 15 minutes later, scoring a breakaway to give Celtic a 2-0 lead. However, Verdi was able to bring the game within one, scoring just before the end

of the 1st Half.

Just as Celtic thought the game was won, Verdi struck again with a late, game-tying goal with mere seconds to go in the match. In first half of extra time, Celtic battled to a scoreless draw and began planning for penalty kicks if the second half finished with the same result. Then came Trever Hess?

Hess, tirelessly in his approach throughout the game, received the ball near the top of the 18-yard box and struck the ball with all his might. Willed by the team's season-long effort and determination, the ball skidded past a diving keeper, giving Celtic a 3-2 victory and the right to be called 1st Division Champions.

"This is what it's all about," said an exuberant Al Moss. "We were the best team all year. Today we proved it. I'm going to enjoy this one for a bit, but then it's onto defending our title."

The Celtic Soccer Club would like to say a special thanks to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. Without your support, none of this would have been possible. United in Green, We Stand.

Celtic Soccer Club

10-0, 1st Division Champions.

The Perfect Season.

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Repasts To Come

Welcome to all new members. Join us before the meeting to enjoy a meal and new friends. We generally get together at 6:15 for a little dinner, drink and friendship. Members bring some food to share and the club provides the meat, etc. The meeting officially starts at 7:00. Themes for the meetings are as follows:

September: Festival month celebrations. Bring a taste of your favorite festival, ie: Irish Fest potatoes or Shamrock cookies; Italian brochette or biscotti; Polish sausage or pirogue; Mexican tacos or tamales; Indian fry bread or buffalo tacos. Or, whatever ethnic food you prefer. There are usually about 60 people at the meetings for this fellowship so a little from you goes a long way when combined with other offerings. Shamrock Club will provide cold cuts and buns, the butter and mayo. etc.

October: Fall goodies and Halloween treats. Remember turnips are Irish.

November: Thanksgiving Sampler. Last year it turned out to be a full Thanksgiving dinner!

December: Annual Christmas party. Pulled pork and special dishes of the season.

January: Chili Competition again! Registration begins December 15. Lots of fun.

Again, welcome to new members. Look forward to meeting you at the September 2 meeting! If you have questions, please call Veronica at (414) 228-8621.

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Celtic Women First Friday Lectures

How soon summer slips away and already its “Back to School” time, or should we say “Back to Lecture” time. On the second Friday of September we will resume our on-going lecture series with a nostalgic tribute to Margaret Glasgwyn, who was an original board member of Celtic Women International, representing Wales. Her mother was a founding member of the Waukesha Women’s Welsh Club and Margaret carried on the same active participation. Margaret Glasgwyn suffered a debilitating stroke several years ago and she lives now at Luther Manor, 4545 N. 92nd Street.

Members of the Welsh Club and other friends of Margaret will reminisce with old stories and memories when Margaret was so active in the community, running her own little business in Waukesha, giving several First Friday lectures and always ready to help others when needed.



Please join us to pay tribute to a wonderful woman.

DATE: September 10, 2010

TOPIC: “A Tribute to Margaret Glasgwyn”

SPEAKERS: Friends of Margaret

All lectures are held from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus. Plenty of meter street parking at the door with a wheel chair access ramp. This is our 13th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7

admission.

New Celtic Women Web Site:

<http://celticwomenworldwide.ning.com>

Please check out this new site to bring back many memories and add so much more of the seven Celtic nations. If you are planning a vacation to the old sod, there are many photos of places you might like to visit or just recall when you saw them last. And a variety of videos from Celtic women and men who may be familiar to you. Keep returning to the site because new items are added almost daily. You may even add your own memories to the mix. Celtic Women Worldwide welcomes you and yours.

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Milwaukee Hurling

The Milwaukee Hurling Club finished its season on August 29, with the championship game. Details for that match will be in the October *Reflections*.

The Shamrock Club Griffins played a stellar season, with only one regular season loss, a hard fought match. The Griffins won their first playoff game against the Irish Pub in convincing fashion. The club cheer resounded a lot this year, "Who rocks? Shamrocks!!!"

The picnic was a day of great celebration. It happened on August 15. The music was good, the matches were great. Thanks to the Shamrock Club for the use of your stage.

We had a great time at Irish Fest. We welcomed back for a second year in a row master craftsman and hurley maker, Philip Doyle, Sr. Philip traveled from the mountains of County Wexford to demonstrate the very fine art of hurley making, a true cottage industry in Ireland. Philip is considered among the best hurley makers in the world and we were honored to have him back.

Our annual game against Irish players went well, with the Milwaukee side showing magnificent advances since the matches began. We were honored to have Eamon O'Cuiv, Minister of the Irish government, again take up the ash against us.

Come down to Chicago's Gaelic Park Labor Day weekend, and watch the MHC's traveling team compete for the second year in the senior level of the North American County Board hurling championships. They will be happening at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest.

We will also be at the Wisconsin Scottish Games at Waukesha's Expo Center for demonstrations.

Thank you, again, Shamrock Club, for the support these past ten years. It has played a major role in the MHC's success.

– **Karen Fink, Admin director. Brian Leonard and Dave Goelz, coaches**

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Annual Milwaukee Picnic 2010

(photos by Mary Culver)



A Gasp of Hawaiian Shirts



The Flemings and Atlantic Wave

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Donate to the Shamrock Club

The Shamrock Club is a 501(C) (3) corporation. If you donate to us, you can write this off on your taxes. Donate to our Scholarship fund, our general fund, or to the parade. Thank you!

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By-Laws Review

The Shamrock Club will be holding its bi-annual review of the bylaws. If you have suggestions, or would like to join the by-law committee, contact Tom McAleese at [mcaleese@wi.rr.com], or call (414) 536-5306.

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Members' Doings

Wedding bells rang for Rich Watt and Katie Swank in August.

Some baby news: George Patrick Fadeski arrived July 30, son of Dennis Fadeski Jr. and Brooke Dreske Fadeski. The grandparents are Shamrock Club members Dennis Fadeski Sr. and Erin Regan Fadeski. Larry and Kathleen Gietl welcomed new grandson Teig Gietl.

Liam O'Neill recently went to Ireland for a wedding. Liz Sanders went to a family reunion in Pennsylvania. Maura and Timm Heck went to Los Angeles and Disneyland recently. Thomas J. Sabourin and fiancée Sharon Lake visited Los Angeles and New Hampshire in August.

Bob and Peg Hamill recently gave their daughter, Colleen, away in Holy Matrimony.

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Sunshine Club

Kelly Shefchik is still in rehab at Clement Manor.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call us at (414)

344-0688. We have a new email address. Please note: [slainte41-shamrock27@yahoo.com].

– **Maggie and Tom Blaha**