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White O' Morn In Ruins: "The Quiet Man" Cottage

by Joan Kapp Kreuser

What Irish person hasn't seen John Ford's masterpiece, *The Quiet Man*? Filmed in 1951 in the County Mayo village of Cong, and starring (as if you didn't know) John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Barry Fitzgerald, Ward Bond, Victor McLaglen, and Mildred Natwick, the movie is based on a 1933 *Saturday Evening Post* short story by Maurice Walsh, purchased in 1936 by Ford for \$10. Further payments of \$2,500 when the idea for the movie was sold to Republic, and a final payment of \$3,750 at the film's completion were paid to the author. (Locale scenes were filmed in both County Mayo and County Galway. Director Ford, born Sean Feeney to Galway natives, used many of his cousins and relatives as extras.)

In the film, Sean Thornton, a retired boxer, returns to his birthplace after accidentally killing an opponent in the ring. It is his plan to buy the cottage he was born in, and settle in Ireland.

White O'Morn, a small thatched cottage built during the 19th century, was used as Sean Thornton's birthplace in *The Quiet Man*, and became a bickering point between Thornton and Squire Sean Danaher, over which of them could buy the cottage from the Widow Tillane. As we all know, Sean Thornton made the purchase for the cottage for 1,000 pounds.

The simple Irish cottage, so typical of the thousands dotted throughout the island nation, (at least in the minds and dreams of the American Irish, especially today), was as much a star of the movie as the well-known actors. Many of us know both the exterior and interior scenes from the movie and can describe them in detail if asked.

The exterior scenes of that prettiest of cottages were filmed on site in Cong, County Mayo, but the interior scenes were filmed at Republic Studios in Hollywood in 1951. The film was released in

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Republic Studios in Hollywood in 1951. The film was released in 1952.

Ford's depiction of an idealized Irish village and society brought thousands of fans to his picture, fans to this day who never miss a viewing of the film in March, fans who vigorously supported the restoration of the crumbling icon that is White O'Morn.

The cottage, called White O'Morn, was rented for the film and over the ensuing years has been sold, fallen into disrepair, been burnt, and has been reduced to a pile of rocks, many of them snatched off by visiting tourists. The movie cottage was located in Innisfree, an imaginary village in western Ireland.

The cottage and property have been owned by an American for many years, who once dreamt of restoring the property, but had allowed his dream to lapse, and is now, (praise St. Patrick and St. Bridget), considering a major refurbishment, actually, a complete rebuilding as the cottage is nothing by a pile of rocks today. Owned since 1984 by Gregory Ebbitt from California, a grandson of Irish immigrants, he came to the realization back in the day that his funds would not cover the massive restoration needed of the property, and that other funds at that time were not available. He let the project lapse for many years, and is only now willing to let commence the rebuilding of White O'Morn by allowing and cooperating with those individuals and groups ready to accomplish his goal.

Groups, both here in the USA and in Ireland, are working to find ways to bring White O'Morn back to its original state.

Visit the Facebook site:
[www.Facebook.com/groups/145679675522439] (?White O'Morn' Restoration) and join in on their informational and educational discussion on White O'Morn and Maureen O'Hara.

Visit the website: [<http://whiteomornusa.weebly.com/index.html>] (White O'Morn Foundation, U.S.A.) for detailed info on White O'Morn, its soon to commence restoration, and browse through their informational site and their impressive gallery of photos. Also visit their Facebook page at:
[<http://www.facebook.com/#!/whiteomornusa>].

As June Beck said in her article in the February/March 2012 issue of *Irish America*, on restoring *The Quiet Man* cottage, "It is everyone's hope that Maureen O'Hara, who offers encouragement to these efforts, can see this happen in her lifetime."



Photo of White O'Morn ruins courtesy of Mike Ward

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Milwaukee President's Message

Greetings! What a grand day we had; sunny Galway skies, warm Dublin temperatures and winds as brisk as those found on the Cliffs of Moher.

The day began with a glorious Mass in honor of St. Patrick coordinated by Chuck McLaughlin with the assistance of Maggie Blaha, Gail Neville, Jack Noonan, Teri Maes and Pete Dundon.

An overflow crowd was served a hearty breakfast at the ICHC hosted by Lorraine Neuberg and the students of Victory Christian Church.

At noon the first units stepped off from 3rd and Wisconsin in nearly record temperatures and to sidewalks crowded to the max with eager parade onlookers. Our honorees, Parade Marshal Mary McAndrews, Irish Rose Mary Culver and Irishman Glen Nowak all looked resplendent in their sashes. Milwaukee was treated to a spectacular Irish parade thanks to the efforts of Parade Manager Denis Donohoe, Parade Production Manager Mike Boyle with Meghan and Erin assisting and Stacie Callies and Marisa Miller of the Westown Association. This year's parade saw the return of some old favorites plus the addition of new and exciting units.

Thanks to the downtown businesses and our parade sponsors who made this year's parade possible. Please support them and thank them personally.

And finishing up this fine day was the Post Parade Party. Barry Stapleton put together an excellent slate of family entertainment as he has done year after year. The soccer club worked food and the Quinlans and friends served adult beverages.

Overseeing it all was Sue Dueschke and Glenn Nowak. Working

the retail booth was Veronica Ceszynski and membership booth Mary Stephens. A huge thank you to you and to those I have failed to mention.

The Easter Rising Mass will again be celebrated at the ICHC on Easter Sunday April 8 at 9:30 a.m. by Fr. Terry Brennan, SJ. Brian Witt is coordinating this year's Mass. And Veronica has volunteered to host the post Mass breakfast. See *Reflections* elsewhere for more information.

At the April general membership meeting we will continue to take nominations from the floor for the elections to be held in May. This is your opportunity to nominate a member whom you deem worthy to offer the Club a fresh input.

Don't forget to sell your Scholarship raffle tickets and order more from Sandy Quinlan. Download a scholarship application from our website and pass it along.

This club is made up of many outstanding individuals, those who unselfishly give of their time and talent. I think special recognition should go out to two of these individuals.

First to Chuck McLaughlin who stepped forward again to coordinate the St. Patrick Mass during difficult family times. At the general meeting I only smiled and said I was looking for him and Chuck said, no problem it's taken care of, I'll do it again.

And to our Irishman of the Year, Glenn Nowak who instead of truly celebrating his honor worked tirelessly during the weekend to set up the ICHC Friday night for Saturdays' breakfast and post parade party. As Glenn said, he wasn't comfortable until things were right because his name was attached to it.

I'll see you and your friend at the next meeting.

– **Josh Walton, President**
joshwalton1@yahoo.com

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42nd Annual Easter Rising Mass

Sunday, April 8, 2012

The 42nd Annual Easter Rising Mass will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, on Sunday, April 8, 2012. The Mass will start at 9:30 a.m. Father Terry Brennan will be the celebrant. The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums will again be a part of the

Mass. The Mass honors the 1916 Easter Monday Rising in Dublin that led to the Irish Revolution.

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Easter Rising Mass Breakfast

A community brunch follows Easter Rising Mass. We need your offerings of coffee cakes, breads, spring goodies, etc. Lots of morning foods are necessary. This has become a large and popular gathering, people of all ages enjoy this family Easter get together. It has become the way many can connect with their family members before going off in separate directions. I do need help with set up on Saturday (at 10 a.m.) and with serving during the brunch. Each year we get new members as a result of our hospitality.

We are asking for a free will offering to defray the costs of breakfast

Call Veronica Ceszynski at (414) 228-8621

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Graham and Hart in ICHC Parlour on Thursday, May 3

Traditional Irish singer Len Graham and singer-musician and *sean-nós* or “old-style” dancer Brian Hart, will perform in the warm and intimate Parlour of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3.

Graham, who was born in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, won the Senior All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann traditional singing competition in 1971. A generation later in 2002, Hart’s name was added to the long list of noted singers who have also been awarded this prestigious prize, a list that includes Joe Heaney and Frank Harte. Hart was the first American to win this award as well as the youngest winner in the competition’s history at age 24.

Graham brings memories of a lifetime of collecting and singing Irish songs ranging from ballads to music hall pieces and tales of politics, love and emigration to his concerts. He has many solo and collaborative recordings to his credit and has won numerous awards including the Keeper of the Tradition from the Tommy

Makem Festival of Traditional Music in 2008.

Hart is currently a member of the Chicago-based traditional band *Bua* and his evocative singing, often in Irish Gaelic, and dancing are central to that group's sound. (*Bua* performed in the ICHC Parlour on Feb. 4.) Hart earned degrees in Celtic Studies and Irish Traditional Music Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Limerick, respectively.

General admission tickets are \$12 and are available at the door. For more information, go to [www.ichc.net] or call (414) 345-8800.

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Tannahill Weavers To Perform At ICHC April 14

The *Tannahill Weavers*, one of Scotland's premier bands, returns to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 14.

Pre-concert music in Quinlan's Pub will be provided by the traditional Irish band *Ceol Cairde*. Based in Milwaukee, the group, whose name means "Music of Friends", has been performing since 1989.

Known for exuberant performances that blend the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms, the *Tannahills* were inducted into the Scottish Hall of Fame in December 2011.

Emerging from a music session in Paisley, Scotland, more than 40 years ago, they took their name from the town's historic weaving industry as well as local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, a contemporary of Robert Burns. One of the first popular bands to use the Great Highland Bagpipe, their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with beautiful ballads sung in tight, three-part harmonies as well as fiery, foot-stomping reels and jigs.

The current line-up includes original members Roy Guillane and Phil Smillie. Guillane is the lead vocalist, storyteller and guitarist. Smillie, who was 16-years-old when the band started, plays flute and the hand-held Celtic drum, the bodhran, as well as providing vocals. Long-time member John Martin is the fiddle player and adds his bass voice to the harmonies. One of Scotland's most exciting pipers, Colin Melville, plays the Highland bagpipes as well as the Scottish small pipes and whistles.

Tickets are \$19 in advance and \$23 on concert day. Students with an ID are \$15. Call (414) 345-8800 or go to [www.ichc.net] for

more information.

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Celtic Women International

The Annual CWI Gathering for 2012 will be held on April 27, 28, and 29 at the Inn On Woodlake near Kohler, WI. For hotel reservations phone 800-334-2838 and reiterate "I am part of a group-block under the name of Celtic Women International. Special rates, if booked by 5 p.m. on March 28. If you have questions, contact Gail McAleese at (414) 536-5306.

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40th Annual Shamrock Club Scholarship Raffle

- Hand Pieced Queen Sized Quilt
- Allen Edmonds Certificate
- \$250 In Cash
- County Clare Inn Certificate

Tickets are \$3 each – two for \$5 – 10 for \$20

For tickets, call (414) 571-0722 or (414) 690-0722

Drawing May 3, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

The proceeds from this raffle will be used to replenish the Shamrock Club Scholarship Fund. Your support will help some deserving person or persons achieve their goals. This fund has paid out over \$25,000 in scholarships since 1974 to students across Wisconsin and Illinois. All college age students are eligible, no matter where they live, so please help us in this raffle.

If you need more tickets, please contact Sandy Quinlan at (414) 571-0722, or mail her at 1773 Juniper Circle, South Milwaukee, WI 53172-1022.

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Jim and Ellen Clarke are New Dublin's 2012 Irish Man and Irish Rose



Ellen Clarke (left) and her husband Jim Clark (right) have been honored as this year's Irish Rose and Irish Man.

*by Tim Beimal [tbeimal@jrn.com]
Article courtesy of County Post East*

NEW DUBLIN – Jim and Ellen Clarke are this year's Irish Man and Irish Rose.

Ellen was born and raised in New Dublin, growing up on her family's farm. She is the daughter of George and Ann Cooney, who were very proud of their Irish heritage. Ellen shares that pride, as she is 100% Irish. George Cooney and his son Terry are both former Irish Men.

Jim is not a native of New Dublin, but has been helping to celebrate St. Patrick's Day for many years. He came to New Dublin in 1958 after spending his early years moving between six states. Eventually, he landed in New Dublin. Jim is part Irish, and jokingly refers to himself as "Heinz 57" when it comes to nationality.

Jim and Ellen have been involved with the Shamrock Club for the past 15 years, and Jim served as Club President for two of those years. Jim also served as Tentmaster for about six years, while Ellen helped with ticket sales.

The Clarkes have four sons?Shane and Andy are in the New Dublin area, while Matt is in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Chad is in St. Petersburg, Florida. They have two daughter-in-laws?Mary and Dawn?and three grandchildren: Brett (9) Ashlyn (7), and Braden (2).

Jim has been retired for 15 years after concluding his career as a plumber. Ellen works at Most Precious Blood in the religious education department.

The Clarkes say St. Patrick's Day festivities are all about people coming together to have fun as a community.

"People don't know how much effort goes into all this—the parade, the tent, the Ceili—but all of the Shamrock Club members pitch in, and the whole community comes together to make this a special week," said Jim.

"Being raised and surrounded by Irish people, we always celebrated St. Patrick's Day in my family. I went to Most Precious Blood as a child, and St. Patrick's Day was always celebrated there as well. My parents were always excited to sing and play piano—they would howl up Irish songs and we always had a good time. Lots of what this celebration is about can be traced back to how many of us grew up," Ellen said. "It's exciting to see it become what it is today.

"I've always wanted to be involved in this week of festivities," continued Ellen. "It's unbelievable that this celebration has escalated from something small to something that gains national attention and attracts visitors from many surrounding states."

Jim was one of the original pallbearers at Finnegan's wake, and was very involved in the earlier "unorganized shenanigans." Ellen said that the younger generation is always excited about St. Patrick's Day festivities, just like she and her friends were as little children.

"Kids love this celebration," Ellen said. "My grandkids really enjoy it, and I don't think it's ever going to fade away. It's cute that the younger ones are enthused about it. The future is bright, and this celebration will move forward as long as people are willing to step up and help make it a great event."

The Clarkes noted that the current group of St. Patrick's Day boosters is made up of volunteers who love to put on the festival.

"The parade is always a highly anticipated event," continued Ellen. "The activity fires you up. Seeing the crowd, hearing the bagpipe music, and spending the day with so many people is really a family reunion of sorts. We have old high school classmates that attend the event, and even friends from Florida come up for this celebration. The Irish program on Thursday night features lots of local talent, and all of the week's events are things that people wait for all year long. Everyone really looks forward to it."

Though they get much enjoyment from New Dublin's festivities, the Clarkes love of Irish heritage extends far beyond the city and across the sea to Ireland.

"We visited Ireland in 1999 and were able to locate my ancestors' home," Ellen said. "We had a group of 16 people that went on that trip. We didn't have a tour guide, we just rented vehicles and took off. We had such a great time.

"When we got to the area where my ancestors had lived, the family

that is there now welcomed us in and took good care of us,” she said. “There were tables full of breads and hams?it was a huge banquet. There was Irish singing, and we all had a wonderful time together. Later, they took us to the rubble of my great-great-grandfather’s home. That was another special part of the trip.”

The Clarkes also had a uniquely Irish experience in a local pub.

“There were three brothers mourning the death of their father; one of them had moved to the United States many years ago, and was disenfranchised from the family,” Ellen explained. “He wasn’t informed of this until he came home for his father’s funeral. His two brothers stayed in Ireland and helped their father with the family farm, and so they inherited it. The disenfranchised brother was very upset about it all. He was drinking and getting angrier and angrier. Finally he got up and blindsided one of his brothers, sending him flying across the room. He knocked me over, and we both got tangled up in a stool.

The next morning, the reverend who had officiated the funeral sat with the Clarkes at breakfast. He had seen what happened the night before, and said, ‘only three punches were thrown. T’wasn’t much of a fight!’

“A trip to Ireland is definitely worth your while,” Ellen said with a grin.

Whether across the Atlantic Ocean or right at home on the banks of the Wolf River, the Clarkes will always be supporters of all things Irish. The week of Irish festivities brings out the best in New Dublin’s finest, and the Clarkes expect that to continue for many years.

“It’s a lot of work, but it’s so much fun,” said Ellen. “We are hoping the next generation will step up and continue to work with us to make this a great week. The website (www.newdublin.com) is really attracting people from beyond this area. People tap into that, and it’s helping us grow.”

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Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 p.m. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at 8 p.m.

The dances are called, and direction is given, by two of the Midwest’s best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy on Fridays and Julie Clark on Saturdays.

April – June 2012

- Fri., April 6 – *Frogwater*
- Sat., April 21 – *Ceol Cairde*
- Fri., May 4 – *Wise Maids*
- Sat., May 19 – *RíRá*
- Fri., June 1 – *áthas*

Entrance is \$8 Adults, and \$5 for Students, Seniors, and Children.
All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.

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Color Guard News and Notes

Ah, hello all. March is over, and April is here. The March weather made us feel that July snuck in in its place.

We had a wonderful month. We had our concert on March 1, the Mass, Parade and Post Parade Party, and then wowed the crowds in New Dublin on March 17. We won the Thomas J Smith Award For Best Irish Unit for our parade. We always like honoring Tom Smith. And our picture in the *Journal Sentinel* was great!

Yes, yes, that was Sean Cavanaugh minus his locks. It takes us all a bit to get used to seeing his hair not wave in the wind anymore.

While we were walking in Downtown, director Rand Harteau and wife Char were seeing the round towers of Ireland.

I want to express condolences to former Color Guard director Chuck McLaughlin on the death of his wife, Bonnie. She fought a brave fight. Also, keep Sean's dad in mind and prayers as he has suffered a major illness. Both these families could use your love and prayers.

We are all set for the Easter Rising Mass April 8. Until then, looked at my snow shovel and realized it has not been used this winter,

– Noel Tylla, 8th year piper

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Celtic Women First Fridays



Kathryn Herman

A little delayed because of Easter on April 8, the April lecture will be held on the second Friday. A most unusual story of a local woman of Cornish heritage and how she and her husband ended up with a Cornish cottage.

Date: April 13, 2012

Topic: "I Have a Home in Cornwall"

Speaker: Kathryn Herman

Like a storybook tale, Mr. and Mrs. Herman went to vacation in Cornwall at a rented cottage. The one next door was for sale; one thing led to another and, voila, they became owners of their very own Cornish cottage. Living in Penzance as a part-time resident takes Kathryn close to the everyday concerns of the community. It makes for experiences which are both hilarious and sobering and we will hear about some of them.

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 15th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited. We offer tea and home-made snacks. \$7 admission.

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2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade Winners:

- Best Marching Unit: Milwaukee Police Academy
- Best Musical Unit: Navy Band - Great Lakes
- Best Float: Shamrock Club Of Wisconsin, New Dublin Chapter
- Thomas J Smith Award For Best Irish Unit: Shamrock Club Of

Wisconsin Color Guard Pipes & Drums

- Best Parade Unit: Glencastle Irish Dancers
- Parade Directors' Award Of Merit: Cronin Irish Dancers

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Irish Word Of the Month

Fion - Wine

Irish phrase: *Bhí an fíon maith.* (Vee an Fee-on my.) English translation: The wine was good.

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Five Clues

The answer for March was St. Patrick. Congratulations to Nancy Vose for her extremely quick response.

The questions for this month are:

1. I was born to a Dublin family. My father had been Catholic, but converted to the Church of England. My mother and sister remained Catholics.
2. While a student at Trinity College Dublin, I founded a debate society that is still in existence.
3. I supported myself as a writer, and later was elected to the British Parliament. I would support the grievances of the American colonists.
4. My writings found great readership, especially among those who used them to justify the push towards democracy.
5. I did not support the French Revolution, and pushed for war against the revolutionaries.

If you know the answer, please send us your answers to [info@shamrockclubwis.com]. Address your answers to Five Clues.

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Milwaukee April Membership News

Well, was a season of St. Patrick's celebration!! A wonderful mass, breakfast, parade, and post parade in addition to St. Patrick's Day itself, but the best was the weather on the 10th, although not the 70 degrees I hoped for but close enough. It's always one of the best times to encourage and recruit new members whether at Mass, the Parade or Post-Parade Party.

For March, please welcome our new members; Ray and Lucy Christensen, Donald and Cynthia Navit, Eric and Heather Poster, and Catherine J Tune.

For January, we had nine membership renewals and no membership drops from non-renewals in the Milwaukee chapter. As of April 1, the Milwaukee chapter has 333 memberships with 152 families, 162 single, and 19 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our membership totals 434 memberships where the others receive a copy of our *Emerald Reflections* newsletter.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before April 30 for those who's expire on or before 4/30/2012. Also, check out the new Club apparel we have for sale.

See you at the next meeting.

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

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Nomination of Milwaukee Officers

Nominations for officers of the Milwaukee chapter will take place at the March and April meetings. Persons nominated must be members in good standing of the Shamrock Club, with dues paid in full, and must be present for their nominations. Elections will take place at the May meeting.

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Glenn's Corner Cupboard

The Shamrock Club dinners before meetings continue. Here are the next few month's menu ideas:

April – Snacks

May – Mother's Day, Guys bring a dish to share, Ham to be provided.

– Glenn Nowak

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Members' Doings

Rand and Char Harteau recently spent March in Ireland.

Liam O'Neill, son of Cynthia Nazario, was cited for his work in setting up a CPR program at Rufus King High School. He is a freshman.

If you have done anything you want us to know about, send it to [Membersdoings @shamrockclubwis.com].

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Sunshine Club

Jeanie Flynn is recovering from a serious fall this past November.

Bonnie McLaughlin passed away in early March. Please keep Chuck and the family in your prayers.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call me at (414) 344-0688 or send e-mail to: [slainte4142 z-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– Maggie Blaha

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