



**Sep.
2007**

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The Language of the Pipes

by Gail Coss

Bagpipes are a funny thing. My late father, a native son of Scotland and former British soldier circa WWII used to love to play his bagpipe records and strut around our living room with scotch and water in hand after a hard day at work. He'd whoop and yelp at the appropriate times, and smile and nod sadly at others. Only once did he tell me that his bagpipe records could provide mental buttressing when life's events were abrading him. The pipes, you see, can inspire great turn arounds in mental states, both for the better and for the worse.

Me? I was never a big fan until I traveled to Scotland and Ireland as a teenager and saw the real deal. In person, the military spit and polish, and professionalism displayed were quite the eye openers. I began to understand my father's background just a little bit more but never confessed to him that I'd come to love their sound. It was so much more fun to roll my American eyes at his favorite tunes.

I remember sitting with him at the local watering hole after work one day, taking in the evening news. At the time the Falkland Islands conflict between Britain and Argentina was heating up. Margaret Thatcher had called up the troops to protect British interests in that far away land. The news showed a lone soldier piping the troops aboard ship. My dad immediately looked at me and stated that this was a fight for real, not a show of strength or game of intimidation. They were going to fight. How did he know this I asked. The piper. The piper? Yes, the piper was telling each and every individual the world over who understood the language of the pipes that this was serious business. Evidently, a message had been sent but I was skeptical as I was too culturally ignorant to receive its signal.

He told me that the pipes are an ancient instrument, found in many places around the world, origin unknown. The Celts have certainly put their stamp on it. At its core it's a way to communicate in times

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of battle he said. It rallies the troops and tells them when they're winning, or tells them when to step it up. It instills fear in enemies, alerting them a shrill adversary approaches, audible war paint, if you will. It celebrates victory and it voices deep sorrow. For those who know its language, its voluminous sound can be heard above the din of battle and messages can be sent forth into chaos, some quite subtle. So informed my resident expert. Surely a heady assignment for a lone musical instrument.

Recently, I came home from my own hard day of work more physically exhausted than mentally and found myself sneaking an afternoon nap. Suddenly, I was aware of a loud melodious bagpipe playing. The sound of Scotland the Brave was marching through my open window. What's this, I thought. My husband trying to tell me it's time to get up and fix dinner? A joke? But wait, it was coming in the window facing the front of the house, not the back where it would be more likely to emanate from a box. I had to get up, I had to figure out this little mystery. A bagpiper playing in Vernon? Who? Where? Why?

I followed that sound down stairs, out the door, down the driveway, and south along the road to a little cul du sac. There was my piper, a young man named Sean Cavanaugh, and proud member of the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. An introduction was mandatory. He was starting to put his pipes away as I approached, my applause for his playing encouraged him not to pack up so hastily. He revealed he was visiting his friend and was getting in a bit of practice while awaiting her arrival. He was new to the pipes he said and was a member of a band. Which one I inquired. A fantastic group of people he told me, who would actually teach you how to play. Imagine that! They're called... I nearly finished his sentence. Yep, a small world indeed.

Later my husband had to satisfy his curiosity, too. He went with camera in hand. A new conversation was struck. Reeds for the pipes were discussed, techniques of playing and then on to different musical instruments and their requirements. But the subjects also ranged away from pipes to veterinary school and falconry and all sorts of other shared tidbits.

Such a low key, pleasant little slice of life one summer evening was brought about by the sound of those bagpipes. Yes, the pipes do indeed have their own language and I believe they spoke to us that evening, not across a battle field, but across the peaceful greenery of home. Thank you, Sean.



Sean Cavanaugh

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The South Central Shamrock Club News

*Next Meeting at the "Farm Kitchen", Baraboo, WI -
September 16 at 4 p.m.*

Two of our Irish ladies, Patricia McConaghy, Kathy LaMasney will be joining Fr. Bakke and Fr. Monaghan on their tour of Ireland Aug. 6-15. We wish both good craic and a safe trip! Note: Pat and Kathy, we will all expect to hear about the shanigans and sites you visited while traveling with not one but two Irish priests! I encourage all to attend the October meeting at Longley's on October 21st to be sure a lively story of Ireland.

Our Deepest Sympathy to Mary Quinlan and family at the passing of their beloved husband and father Richard Quinlan of Reedsburg – a long time South Central Club Member and a greatly missed community service gentleman. God Bless.

Anniversaries In August And September

- Robert and Patricia Hanes married on August 10, 1957
- Robert and Ruth Judkins married on September 14, 1944
- John and Jan Delmore married on September 21, 1975
- Tom and Kay Scanlon married on September 21, 1963
- Derek and Lynn Horkan married on September 9, 1994

An Irish Blessing for All and especially those Celebrating their Union of Marriage:

*May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks,
May your heart be as light as a song,
May each day bring you bright, happy hours,
That stay with you all the year long*

Symbolism Of The Irish Flag

Rarely has a flag possessed such lasting relevance as that of the “Tricolour,” the national flag of the Republic of Ireland. Its three equal stripes illustrate the Irish political landscape as accurately today as in 1848, the year the flag was first unfurled.

- orange – standing for Irish Protestants
- green – signifying Irish Catholics and the republican cause
- white – representing the hope for peace between them

Why Orange? The color orange is associated with Northern Irish Protestants because of William of Orange (William III), the King of England, Scotland, and Ireland who in 1690 defeated the deposed King James II, a Roman Catholic, in the fateful Battle of the Boyne near Dublin. William III’s victory secured Protestant dominance over the island, to the enormous benefit of the 17th-century colonizers of northern Ireland – the English (mainly Anglicans) and Scots (mostly Presbyterians). Sometimes called Orangemen, Protestants in Northern Ireland celebrate the anniversary of the battle each July 12th.

Green for the Emerald Isle? Green as the color standing for the Irish Catholic nationalists of the south may have something to do with shamrocks and verdant landscapes, but more importantly, green symbolizes revolution. An earlier, unofficial Irish flag —the gold harp on a green background— served from 1798 until the early twentieth century as a symbol of nationalism. As the revolutionary James Connolly wrote, just weeks before he participated in the quixotic Easter Rebellion (1916) that led to his execution by firing squad.

For centuries the green flag of Ireland was a thing accursed and hated by the English garrison in Ireland, as it is still in their inmost hearts...

...the green flag of Ireland will be solemnly hoisted over Liberty Hall as a symbol of our faith in freedom, and as a token to all the world that the working class of Dublin stands for the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of a separate and distinct nationality. (–Worker’s Republic, April 8, 1916)

**– Dana Horkan Gant
South Central Membership Chairperson**

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Milwaukee President's Message

Failte. Meán Fomhair. Tá na laethanta ag dul ar siar.

September is finally here, with a mixed blessing for us. The heat of summer is finally abating, but the days are getting shorter.

September in Ireland was the harvest season, and the fruits of the year's labors were collected, the itinerant workers were hired on, and money and food were saved for the coming winter. It was said that the abundance of geese meant that every home on the island had a goose dinner during the month, a tradition that the area parks might like us to continue.

September 29 was Michaelmas, the feast day of Saint Michael. It was considered to be the end of the harvest, and then people could concentrate on the upcoming winter. We plant each year, and hope that we have a good harvest. Some days we do, and other times, we have lean years. But we plant, change the strategies, and keep seeing what will work best.

We wish to welcome the members of the Milwaukee Celtic Soccer Team, who will be playing under the Shamrock Club logo next year. And we wish to congratulate the hurlers, where the Griffins made it to the championship game again. Great news on the sports front.

There will be a lot of good music at the ICHC this month. Present Music Now is putting on "An Irish Stew", and it features our color guard pipes and drums, as well as some really dynamic artists. Member Colleen O'Donnell is one of the people working at Present Music on this endeavor. And Grada, a powerful young band from the Dublin area, will be returning.

Thanks to all who worked at our areas at Irish Fest. Thanks especially to Noreen Barclay, for the sales area, and Kris Pluskota, for the cultural area work. Noreen suffered through a wet La Crosse Irish Fest, along with Linda Tuescher, when our sales booth went down in a thunderstorm. You are really wonderful troupers, ladies. And to Pat Fitzgibbons, who engineered our Golf Outing, that was an ace of a day.

We can use a few people at the Wisconsin Scottish Games on August 31-September 2 at the Waukesha Expo. We will have a booth again, and it was a good time to meet people last year and explain the Club.

– **Brian Witt**
Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com

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Color Guard News and Notes

I almost wish I were heading back to school this lovely September. The best I could muster was my 21st high school reunion a few weeks ago. Better not ask. I still feel 28, and that's all that matters! Can't believe I'm writing about our season winding down. September 17 marks halfway to St. Patrick's Day already. Asides, I love this month for its dry sunny weather, beautiful leaves and for me a birthday that's never had rain in all my 30-odd years on the planet.

This year, so far, for the band has been incredibly successful. We've added to our ranks, redefined our goals and won awards. Speaking of awards, the tally to count is four.

Many of our parades during the season are unjudged, but the ones that were, we placed.

Best Float (hee hee) in our very own St. Patrick's Day parade, (this was a special award given by the kind judges to honor the band). In June, Best Band in the Thiensville Parade and 2nd Place in Waubeka, and most recently, Best in Parade at South Shore Water Frolics. That one is always my favorite.

August was a great parade month and led us up to what we wait for all year. IRISH FEST. A big thank you to Irish Fest who sent us a very generous donation for the band earlier in the year. We are grateful, as always, to be a huge part of what is the gold standard of Irish festivals. And honored that you chose us to donate to. I can't tell you how it feels to lead the parade around the grounds surrounded by many Irish aficionados cheering us on. That is why I march, and I suspect why many of us march. To be part of something that we are very proud of. Sunday's performance was stellar. I knew you all could do it! The color guard was flawless and the band fantastic. And we have fun doing what we do. That, the most important of all.

A few things to note:

- Congrats to Sean Cavanaugh on his first parade as a piper. Glad to have you in our ranks now.
- Congratulations to Holly Pfeiffer who is now Holly Heiden. Or is it Holly Pfeiffer-Heiden? I heard the wedding was an absolute smash.
- Bobby Hamill and Kelly Quinlin are now off to college. Have fun. We'll send care packages soon.
- Our star drum sergeant and bass drummer is back from medical

leave. Thanks to Patrick for doing a great job in his place during the summer.

- It's been one year since the Culver Clan (Mary, Dave, Sean, Dominique, Matt and Clay) saw us at Irish Fest and decided to become a huge part of our ranks. We enjoy having you with us, and I can't remember the band without you guys. It was a lot less fun for sure!

- Thank you to the Shamrock Club for hosting a fantastic picnic, and to Neil McCafferty to holding a fun after picnic grillout. I think we need more Glenfiddich!!! Mmmm!!

And we're not done yet! In September you will find us in St. Francis on September 1, at the Highland games on the 3rd, and a performance for Present Music's Irish Stew on the 15th.

We have two parades in October, and our season is sadly, over. I have good news though, looking forward, that the band will host a Christmas Party at Paddy's Pub on December 15. Stay tuned for more details.

As you are reading this, I'm in Scotland enjoying the rain and a pub or two. I'll send you all a postcard soon. Until October my friends;

– Noel Tylla, 4th year piper

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Celtic Women First Fridays

DATE: Sept. 7, 2007

TOPIC: "I Divorce You, You're too Fat; and Other Aspects of Early Irish Law and the Lives of Irish Women"

SPEAKER: Shay Kelley

A look at the most ancient and democratic of legal systems in Western Civilization as it existed in Gaelic Ireland.

All lectures are held from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is \$7 for all. Tea and biscuits are served. Everyone is welcome.

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Milwaukee's Annual Picnic A Lovely Day In the Park







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Shamrock Club Griffins

The Griffins went into the final week with a chance to regain the top seed over County Clare. However, the Clare Cats pulled off the win to force the Shamrock Club team into the number three seed. Playoffs took place on August 12, with #2 Club Garibaldi playing the Shamrock Club. Number one seed County Clare took on McBobs. The finals took place on August 26, and the final results will be posted in the October Reflections, but we do know the Shamrock Club Griffins went to the hurling finals with a victory over Club Garibaldi.

Congratulations to captains Dan McAuliffe and Mike Larson for guiding the Griffins into the playoffs for the 6th consecutive year. And thanks to the 2007 team, consisting of John Clifford, Tim Dombrowski, Anna Downs, Ed Hogan, Matthew Johnson, Trent Kiely, Sara Koenig, Tim Kraft, Matt Krueger, Kate Kunz, Tim McCaffery, Andrew McKee, Evan Pilak, Mark Prudhom, Rebecca Russel, Jonas Schuster and Aaron Stehling.

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Hallamor Fall Concert Series

Grada

September 22, 2007

Grada, formed six years ago, is a new breed of Irish musician who

grew up with one foot in the world of traditional Irish music and the other in popular music. They are musicians who “play with obvious respect for the ancient roots of their music, but also without any apparent fear that they might break it through experimentation,” said Rick Anderson, All-Music Guide.

Grada has gained international recognition for their instrumental virtuosity complemented by an elegant, timeless, refreshingly distinct vocal style. Irish Music Magazine states that “Grada combines both globe trotted experience and musical accomplishment. Multicultural backgrounds help bring a fresh approach to playing and present a unique slant on traditional music.” Grada had toured for more than seven months of the year prior to recording their last CD, Cloudy Day Navigation.

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

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

– Gwen Sisk

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Present Music Celebrates Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day with Irish Stew

Present Music, Milwaukee’s internationally acclaimed new music ensemble celebrating its first concert of its 26th season, performs Irish Stew, half-way to St. Patrick’s Day, Saturday, September 15, 6 p.m., at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue.

Irish Stew begins with Guinness soup and pre-concert entertainment in the pub by Celtic band Ce. At 7:30 p.m. the concert then moves to the main hall for performances by the Trinity Irish Dancers, Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums, students from the Irish Fest School of Music, and Tim Britton, Uilleann pipes virtuoso.

Internationally acclaimed singer, Mary Jane Lamond and fiddler Wendy MacIsaac travel from Nova Scotia to perform traditional Gaelic music. Irish Edition proclaims, “...she (Lamond) is one of the best women performers singing today”, and the Irish Post stated, “(Lamond)...casts a spell over those who hear her voice...”

Present Music performs music by Ireland’s most exciting living composers including Piano Quartet #2 by Gerald Barry, and Do

You Remember the Planets by Linda Buckley. After the concert the party continues with refreshments, food, Ceili dancing, and live music in the pub.

Tickets for the concert are \$37, \$27, and \$16 and can be purchased by phone at (414) 271-0711. Student and group rates are available. Tickets will also be sold at the door based on availability. For more information visit [www.presentmusic.org], [www.myspace.com/presentmusic25], send e-mail to [newmusic@presentmusic.org], or call (414) 271-0711.

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Schooner Fare At The Irish Fest Center Sept. 29

Schooner Fare's Chuck and Steve Romanoff will bring their spirited brand of Yankee folk music back to Milwaukee on Sept. 29 for a concert at the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. General admission tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$17 for adults and \$8 for ages 18 and younger.

Performing at the Irish Fest Center will seem like coming home to the Romanoff brothers, who played the first of 17 Irish Fests in 1982. The Maine group, which included the late Tom Rowe, became Irish Fest favorites for their many original songs on both contemporary and traditional themes as well as their gorgeous harmonies and Down East humor. Following Tom's death in 2004, Chuck and Steve felt that after 29 years as a trio, they could not replace Tom. "So we did what he would have wanted – tuned our guitars and started singing."

The September concert will draw songs from the well-known Schooner Fare repertoire as well as showcase songs from the 2005 duo album, aptly titled "And Both Shall Row." The album, as well as their concerts, reflects Chuck and Steve's love of folk music, storytelling, harmony and performing.

For tickets and information, call Kathy at (414) 332-8521 or e-mail [kathy@daverowemusic.com]. More information on Schooner Fare is available at [www.schoonerfare.com].

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Sunshine Club

Condolences go to the families of Mary Sullivan and Rosemary Schmidt, who passed away recently. Rosemary was the person who put together our original Shamrock Club newsletter in the 1960s.

Ed Mikush was recently hospitalized. Mary Hippler was ill recently. Tom Smith was also hospitalized in recent weeks.

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

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Members' Doings

Dan and Renee Devine recently welcomed new son, Liam, into the world. Erin Hughes was recently engaged to Andy Rinderle.

Pat Fitzgibbons watched son Jack compete in the youth National Hurling games in Chicago. Karen Fink hosted a number of officials from the Gaelic Athletic Association when they visited Milwaukee recently.

Welcome to new members: Colleen O'Donnell; James Simons; Michael Simons; Erin Hughes.

Congratulations to the U12 hurling team from San Francisco. They won the championship for that age category at the Continental Youth games at Gaelic Park in Chicago on July 29. Our member Brian Smith is a member of this team. Nice to see members Sean Minster and Jack Fitzgibbons representing our Milwaukee Hurling Club, too.

Tom Smith, Jr. of the San Francisco Police Dept was awarded a bronze medal for rescuing several people from a burning home. He saw the building on fire while on patrol with his partner.

Another Smith story, Maeve Smith placed 18th at the North American Nationals in Canada. She competed in the U8 group of 139 participants.

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