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68th Annual Holiday Folk Fair – November 18-20, 2011 Celebrate Culture Without Borders

by Brian Witt

In 1921, Ireland was divided. The new autonomous Northern Ireland was formed from six of the nine counties of Ulster, four counties with unionist majorities, and Fermanagh and Tyrone, two of the five Ulster counties which had nationalist majorities.

It was, in large part, divided between the unionists sections of the North, and the mainly nationalist south. Subsequently, on December 6, 1922, the whole island of Ireland became an independent dominion known as the Irish Free State but Northern Ireland immediately exercised its right to opt out of the new dominion.

The North gave up rights to Donegal, but took the sections of the county that held portions of Derry/Londonderry city. The division also caused an increase of violence, especially in Belfast, where both the Irish Republican Army and the Ulster Volunteer Force took up arms against each other.

A subsequent migration took place, wherein families gave up homes that had been theirs for generations. This in turn led to intense gerrymandering, creating compact Catholic and Nationalist enclaves, and lesser populated Unionist but larger area voting sectors. Laws were then enacted that allowed discrimination against Catholics in employment, which also caused more emigration by Catholics from the North.

The border gave rise to smuggling, a continuation of the ancient Irish practice that had long made Ireland the center of piracy in Europe. Customs controls were introduced on the frontier shortly after the establishment of the Irish Free State. However, the porous borders allowed everything to go back and forth, from cigarettes and alcohol, and produce to automobiles.

When the Troubles started in the 1970s, security on the border suddenly was tightened. The British Army was in charge of patrolling, and smugglers who had worked with impunity for decades discovered their livelihoods were impinged. The search for weapons turned up the whole line of consumer goods that traversed the border. The 1986 movie, "Eat the Peach," was about a pair of brothers-in-law who turned daredevils after their smuggling was curtailed.

The Border also was a psychological barrier for the populations of both sides. When there was a downturn in the economy, people in the North in the 1980s looked across the sea for a better, or a newer life, not the South, as there was a sense they would be treated badly by people of the Republic. Citizens of the south also didn't feel that the northern climate was an inviting one for them, after seeing the abridgement of civil rights on an ongoing basis.

Things thawed, eventually. One of the reasons was entry of both the United Kingdom and the Republic into the European Union in 1992. Passports weren't needed to cross over. Then, over the next decade, life changed dramatically. Manufacturing collapsed in the North, putting thousands out of work, while the Republic was in the beginnings of the phenomenon called the Celtic Tiger. The southern economy was importing people from across the world. Northerners discovered the Republic, and the job opportunities it afforded.

Ongoing cultural organizations also helped to break down emotional and real barriers. *The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland*, established in 1995, brought together young people from different backgrounds and communities, through the medium of music. The northern band *Different Drums of Ireland* took the music of the sectarian communities and decided to marry them, with the lambeg drums and the bodhrans played side by side.

In 1998, the Belfast, or Good Friday, Agreement, was passed. It set out a complex series of provisions relating to a number of areas, including: the future status and system of government within Northern Ireland; the relationship between Northern Ireland and institutions in both the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom; human rights; the principle of respect for each of Northern Ireland's communities and their traditions; and the normalization of British security arrangements within Northern Ireland.

Slowly, the borders between the two entities have softened.

Milwaukee Irish Fest featured the Derry/Donnegal Showcase, highlighting the music, culture and arts of the two neighboring counties. The fact that this was a collaboration between counties in different countries was almost lost in the celebration. Aidan Cassidy, the Deputy Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau, felt that by hosting events such as this showcase, Milwaukee Irish Fest had helped the peace process in Northern Ireland.

This year, the 68th Annual Holiday Folk Fair will have a theme of "Celebrate Culture Without Borders." The European Union helped to break down the older borders of its member states. There is a trading of cultural institutions and traditions in the EU. It is best exemplified by the experiences of the Irish people.

We are again the face of the Irish community in this area. Each year we are called upon to represent the Irish, to show the world what we are, what we have done, and what we can do. To do that, the Shamrock Club will need volunteers for our retail, cultural, and food areas. We also need to sell tickets to the Folk Fair.

Admission is as follows: Adults \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance. Tickets will be available for sale at the November membership meeting. You can also use the accompanying order form to purchase tickets via mail. As a sponsoring group of the Fair we need to sell a number of tickets or make up the cost elsewhere. We will need help in a number of areas. We need volunteers for our sales, cultural and food areas. Please check our "Volunteers Needed" in *Reflections*.

You will receive the annual Folk Fair participant pin, plus admission for Folk Fair for all three days. Trinity Dance School be representing the Irish in dance. The Holiday Folk Fair will have a number of special events during the course of the weekend. They will include Dance Pavilion: a place to learn dances from around the world. Also: Food from around the world; unique gifts for you and someone special; international entertainment; cultural exhibits to assist you in learning about your heritage.

There will be an Interdenominational Religious Service on Sunday at 10 A.M. Holiday Folk Fair International is produced by the International Institute of Wisconsin. The International Institute is a not for profit organization dedicated to international cooperation. They try to develop a multiethnic, multi-cultural perspective, through education, exchange, communication, social activities, and immigration and naturalization services. Their website is [<http://www.folkfair.org>].

The borders are still a place of interesting happenings. During 2001, customs officers in Northern Ireland seized thousands of gallons of smuggled diesel, millions of smuggled cigarettes, bootleg liquor, fake CDs, DVDs, computer games and football team merchandise. And in 2011, the smuggling of cheaper diesel fuel into the South, due to the increase in the carbon tax on fuel, has led to the Republic increasing border inspections.

Some things will always be a part of the Irish nature, it seems, borders or not.

2011 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR

State Fair Park • November 18, 19, 20, 2011

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!

The Shamrock Club must sell 125 Holiday Folk Fair Tickets

Any unsold tickets must be purchased by the club at full value.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and must be purchased by Monday, November 14, 2011.

(Ticket price at the door is \$10)

For Information contact Malkin Wallace at (414) 234-0653, or e-mail: [Malkin218@aol.com]

Tickets will be sent to you by return mail and are good on any of the three days of Folk Fair.

If you are a teacher, please contact us on advance tickets.

SAVE NOW ON ADVANCE SALE FOLK FAIR TICKETS

Please send me _____ advance sale Holiday Folk Fair Tickets at \$8 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Make your ticket request to: Malkin Wallace, c/o ICHC,
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

Volunteers Needed For Holiday Folk Fair

We will need help in a number of areas. If you would like to work a four hour shift at the Holiday Folk Fair, please contact the Shamrock Club's Holiday Folk Fair Chairwomen: (General) Malkin Wallace, (414) 234-0653, or [Malkin218@aol.com]; (Food) Mary Culver at [redheadgardener@hotmail.com]; or (Cultural) Denis Donohoe, (262) 309-0723 or [djvdonohoe@sbcglobal.net]. Bridget Jaskulski is our dance school coordinator. Or contact us at our e-mail address, [volunteers@shamrockclubwis.com]. You will receive the annual Folk Fair participant pin, plus admission for Folk Fair for all three days

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Milwaukee President's Message

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving to all. Another busy and important month is in store for us.

At our November General Meeting the membership will be voting on the proposal by the ICHC Committee to donate a total of \$20,000 (\$10,000 a year for two years) towards the ICHC Capital fund. (The report can be found elsewhere in *Reflections*). Detail of the measure will be discussed and a vote taken on the proposal.

The Honoree Dinner is being held on November 13, a non-Packer Sunday, at Klemmer's Restaurant. Mary Jo Kaufmann is the chairperson for the event and she will be taking reservations at the meeting. Again, complete details for the dinner can be found elsewhere in this month's *Reflections*.

It's also Holiday Folk Fair time at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. As we all know, this is the largest indoor multi-ethnic festival in the United States. This year's theme is Cultures without Borders as symbolized by the kite. It's a great event to interact with those ethnic groups that are too small to stage a festival anywhere else. Volunteers are always needed for the retail (Kris Pluskota) food (Mary Culver) and cultural (Denis Donahoe) booths and set-up and tear down. This is the Club's largest source of income so all are asked to participate in one form or another. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the meeting.

Kathy Donovan will again be taking up a collection of money and/or non-perishable items for Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed to those in need in our community. Last year we were able to provide four families with Thanksgiving dinner. Hopefully we can improve upon that this year.

If you have not done so already, please donate a roll or two of holiday wrapping paper for The Boys and Girls Club. New toys are also wanted. Theresa Schnieder and Dawn Flemming will collect the donations and give us updated information about the gift wrapping party.

Thanks to County Clare who offered the Club a membership outreach booth at their first annual fall festival. Unfortunately the weather did not co-operate and blustery winds blew the tent over where the Club was to have set up. Hopefully we can try again next year.

And finally in the spirit of the season, huge thanks to all of our members who volunteer their time and talents to make this such an outstanding organization.

See you at the next meeting and bring along a prospective member.

– Josh Walton, President joshwalton1@yahoo.com

Shamrock Club Christmas Party Dec. 1

Make plans for the 2011 Shamrock Club Christmas Party. It will be held on December 1 at the ICHC. More details about side dishes will be listed later.

Report from the ICHC Fund Raising Committee

On September 6 the Committee met to finalize the report on the request from the ICHC for a contribution to the fund to do extensive remodeling, repair, and reconstruction to their existing building. The committee consisted of Maggie Blaha, Tim O'Brien, Ed and Betty Mikush, Tom and Gail McAleese, and Josh Walton. Also present was Karen Pendergast from the ICHC Board.

The Committee questioned Karen extensively on the progress of the fundraising, on the initial work, and on the long term goals for the building.

While much preliminary work has been done to secure sponsors, the feeling among the contacts is to wait for someone to step forward with a significant donation to show support in the Irish community. It was the Committee's initial thought that we would also wait for an indication of support from other groups, but considering the fact that the Shamrock Club is the most prominent Irish group, and the one most visible in the building, the Committee decided that it was our responsibility to take the first step.

The ICHC Board will concentrate on new accessible toilets, a remodeling of the lower level bar to be available for private business groups, and other features designed to make the building more desirable for renting, thus increasing the income. Some items may need to be handled sooner than planned due to building code requirements or emergency repairs.

The ICHC is starting a membership drive, with dues and donations, providing members with certain privileges.

The ICHC has no intention of abandoning this building and feels that they have a Board and staff dedicated to improving and maintaining the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center.

The possibility of Naming Rights in some form was discussed, but the Committee did not consider it worthwhile. The ICHC did not require an official written proposal, although the Board may feel that a signed document would be appropriate. We assume that this might lock us in to the second year.

The ICHC Fund Raising Committee recommends that the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin pledge to the ICHC the sum of \$10,000 for each of the next two years. At the end of the fiscal year 2012-2013, a Committee be appointed to review the progress of the renovation and the status of the Club finances, and consider a further donation.

– **Submitted by the
ICHC Fund Raising Committee**

Shamrock Club Honoree Dinner

The Shamrock Club honors Irishman of the Year Bob Towne, Irish Rose Patsy Grimes Tierney and Parade Marshal Malkin Wallace.

Sunday, November 13, 2011

- Klemmer's Banquet Center, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave. (Telephone: (414) 541-0401
- Cash bar at 6 P.M. and Dinner at 7 P.M.
- Meal choices will be: Sirloin Steak, Herbed Chicken, or Cod Almandine
- \$25 per person or \$45 per couple

For more information, please contact event chair Mary Jo Kaufmann at [mjkmusic57@gmail.com] or (414) 248-7821.

Send reservation money to Shamrock Club Honoree Dinner, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 by November 5, 2011. We can also take cash, check or charge at the dinner.

There is no Packer game that day.

Fiona Molloy at Irish Cultural and Heritage Center on Nov. 12

Some of southeastern Wisconsin's finest Celtic singers, musicians and dancers will be featured when Irish singer Fiona Molloy and special guests *Dublin O'Shea* perform in the Hallamora of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 P.M. They will be joined by bodhran player David Klawes, Highland bagpiper Sean Cavanaugh, and the Kinsella Academy of Irish Dance.

Although she now calls Wisconsin home, Molloy is originally from Derry, Northern Ireland, where she was dubbed the Songbird of Peace for her performances during the "troubles" in the 1970s. Her "angelic" voice has been heard by many world leaders and she has been a favorite of Milwaukee Irish Fest audiences. Molloy's songs range from original ballads and rowdy pub favorites to songs by other artists including Joan Baez. An engaging performer, she can make an audience laugh one moment and bring a tear to their eyes the next.

Accompanying Molloy will be David Klawes, who has performed at Irish Fest and plays regularly with the well-known duo *Frogwater*.

The beauty and precision of Irish step-dancing will be showcased by champion dancers from the award-winning Kinsella Academy. The dancers have earned top honors at local, national and international level competitions.

Opening the night's entertainment are the free-wheeling and fun-loving band *Dublin O'Shea*, known for energizing audiences with songs from Ireland, Scotland and the nautical tradition.

Sean Cavanaugh will add the thrilling swirl of the bagpipes to the evening's festivities. Cavanaugh is a member of the Milwaukee Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes, and Drums.

Reserved seat tickets are \$19. To order tickets and also view the full Hallamora concert series, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

Irish Fest Celtic Boutique – Nov. 19

The annual Irish Fest Celtic Christmas Boutique will take place Saturday, November 19, at the Irish Fest Center. Many artisans, crafters and Irish retail shops will grace the historic Milwaukee Irish Fest Center, 1532 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. Enjoy lunch at the Cafe Celtique. Shop for unique Christmas gifts, crafts and more from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

For more information, call (414) 476-3378, or go to [<http://www.irishfest.com>].

Five Clues

Congratulations to Eamon O'Brien for his answer of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, for the October Five Clues. Send your answers to [info@shamrockclubwis.com].

Here is November's person of interest.

1. I was born in Mallow, County Cork, but my father died a month after my birth, and my mother moved us to Dublin.
2. I studied law at Trinity College, and was admitted to the bar.
3. Even though I was trained for the bar, I joined the Nationalist movement, and wrote articles for *The Nation*, the newspaper I established.
4. I wrote one of the most famous Irish songs ever, still sung to this day.
5. My death at 36 of tuberculosis put an end to many literary projects I had planned.

Irish Word Of the Month

Capall - Horse

Irish phrase: *Tá an capall tuirseach*. (Ta an Ca-pall chur-shack.)

English translation: The horse is tired.

Celtic Women First Fridays



Brian Witt

The First Friday lecture series welcomes a very familiar figure for the November presentation. Brian Witt not only has served as president of the Shamrock Club (more than once), Irish Man of the Year, and long-time editor of *Emerald Reflections*, but he is the custodian of our history and enjoys sharing those memories and insights from time to time. This will be a special retrospective for him since the Shamrock Club is now over 50 years old. Please join us and catch up on some old memories of the Shamrock Club, its good works in the Irish community, and special people who have been a part of the ride.

Date: Nov. 4, 2011

Topic: "One-Half Century of the Shamrock Club in Wisconsin"

Speaker: Brian Witt

Brian Witt is a past president of the Shamrock Club, former music promoter, and is the Milwaukee Irish Fest Cultural co-coordinator. He will be talking about the history of the Shamrock Club, which is in its 51st year. He is currently the editor of the newsletter, *Emerald Reflections*, as well as the webmaster.

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. 2011-2012 is our 15th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

Tartan Ball November 5, 2011

The Tripoli Scottish Highlanders 38th Annual Tartan Ball will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at the Tripoli Shrine Center, 3000 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208. Cost is \$55 per person / \$110 per couple. Cocktails are at 5:30 P.M., Dinner 7 P.M. Entertainment 8 P.M. til Midnight. Tickets will be held at the door. Dress is Scottish, men business formal.

All are welcome to join us and enjoy Highland piping, Scottish and Irish dancing, haggis ceremony and scotch tasting. For Additional information contact Shamrock Club member Tom Cobb at (414) 422-9235.

Nominations For Irish Honorees

Nominations for the 2012 Irish Rose, Irishman of the Year, and Parade Marshal, must be received by 6 P.M. January 27, before the start of the Shamrock Club Board Meeting.

Nominations must be in writing, or e-mailed, and be made by members in good standing. Nominations can be mailed to Shamrock Club, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233, or e-mailed to Josh Walton at [joshwalton1@yahoo].

iBAM Chicago November 12-13

iBAM! is a gathering of authors, artists and musicians from around the world, under one roof, for a two day Irish cultural celebration. It takes place at the Irish American Cultural Center, 4626 North Knox, Chicago. It opens 11 A.M. both days. Tickets are \$10/day in advance and \$15 at the door. For more information, go to the website: [http://ibam-chicago.com], or call (773) 282-7035 ext. 10.

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.

November – December 2011

- Fri., November 4 – *Frogwater*
- Sat., November 19 – *RiRá*
- Fri., December 2 – *Cream City Ceili*
- Sat., December 17 – *áthas*

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

10th Annual Fire and Police Chili Cookoff

The Greater Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipes and Drums 10th Annual Chili Cook-off takes place at Derry Hegarty's Irish Pub, 5326 W. Bluemound Rd., on Saturday, November 12, 2011, from Noon to 6 P.M. Advance tickets are \$6, or \$8 at the door, children 10 and under are free. The chili will be ready at roughly 1 P.M. with judging to begin about 2:30. There will be great raffle prizes, music, dancing and, of course, chili!

For more information, contact us via e-mail at [info@bagpipesmilwaukee.com].

– John Finnegan

Milwaukee Nov. Membership News

Now that the leaves have fallen for this year, it's that time to get together this November and give thanks for the good times so far this year and get ready for Folk Fair. Remember that we have extended our membership survey deadline until our November meeting. If you have not had a chance to fill one out and/or have one to turn in, please bring it back to the next meeting, thanks.

For September, we had 17 membership renewals and 11 membership drops from no-renewals. in the Milwaukee chapter. As of October 6, the Milwaukee Chapter has 364 Memberships with 167 Families, 178 single, and 19 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our Membership totals 461 Memberships where the others receive a copy of our *Emerald Reflections* newsletter.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before November 30 for those who's expire on or before 11/30/2011.

We hope you can attend our November meeting and see you soon and check out the new Club apparel we have for sale.

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

Members' Doings

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

Sunshine Club

Longtime member Pat Jameson died recently. Denis Donohoe's dad Vince, died Oct. 14. Bob Towne had knee surgery. Karen Walton, Josh's sister, had a heart attack followed by stints. Please pray for all of these families.

November 5 is Joe Donovan's 90th birthday. His younger wife, Catherine's was October 26. Send birthday wishes to 10200 W. Bluemound Rd #906.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call me at (414) 344-0688. I have a new email address. Please note: [slainte4142-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– Maggie Blaha