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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

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# **Irish American Moments**

by

Raymond D. Aumack

Maeve Garvey had planned a tour of her client companies for the period before Christmas. Most of her clients came from the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York areas. Those visits she could spread throughout the year. She would be able to travel with her new friend, Irish Literature scholar, Katie O’Bierne who was internationally known for her studies on Myth and Irish Mythology. Her book on the subject was well received and her agent and publishers, inhaling the sweet fragrance of an enormous profit, rare in higher education publishing these days, arranged this college tour to promote her book and her scholarship.

Her next stop was in Florida at a small university, Ave Maria, the most conservative Catholic University in the country. It was started and funded by a cabal of extremely conservative and wealthy Catholic laypersons who were a profound influence on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. They also control the vast wealth of the Knights of Columbus that fund most of the religiously conservative causes in the country. They prefer that Church practice revert to its status of 175 years ago. If they don’t oppose the Vatican Council representing the Church’s expression of a twentieth century mission and ministry, they try their best to not support it. They prefer the “beauty” of the Latin liturgy. They are quick to blame the Church’s sex abuse crisis on homosexual clergy, an accusation that every responsible study on the subject has rejected. On the positive side, they consider themselves loyal and committed Catholic laypersons and practice their traditions with the blessing of most of the country’s Catholics, even those who radically disagree with them, most of whom are never disagreeable. They are also generous in the face of crises and support Catholic relief programs.

Katie has a client in Naples and would fly with Maeve and attend Katie’s presentation and share her quarters as her guest. Katie was the wealthiest woman in Ireland, far more wealthy than anyone in the loyalist Catholic group, though few would know that. Her money comes from a judgement against a London tabloid that publicly slandered both her and Shane, her fiancée at the time. She has used her money to establish three chairs of learning at the University of Ireland at Galway, an impressive interfaith chapel at the University, a center for battered women and children, a top of the line professional orphanage, a Catholic prep school linked with the university, urgent health care centers in every county in Ireland, coastal sea rescue centers with services linked with the Irish Navy, and a foundation for their local parish that would provide basic financing in perpetuum.

Almost all of this is financed just from the annual investment proceeds of the Kathleen O’Bierne-Ryan and Shane Ryan Foundation that continues to grow each year, thanks to the amazing fund-raising skills of Shane. Each component of her largess is professionally managed

under the direction of boards of trustees. All are very successful. She is a friend of Bono, even more wealthy than she and Shane, and equally as generous, and a linguistic consultant for the U2 band, a gift that keeps on giving.

All of this is in addition to personal funds that she and Shane held back for themselves that is also professionally managed by the University Financial Institute and overseen by a board of trustees. Other than building a large house to accommodate their growing family, Katie and Shane have committed themselves to living only on their salaries from the University and the Glowing Lantern, the pub/restaurant that Shane owns with two partners. Both have impressive salaries.

Monday was a sad day because Shane and the children returned to Ireland. Michael and Dierdre clung to each other with such intensity that one would think they were attempting the Guinness world record for the longest hug. They were blessed to have at least these two weeks. They promised to Skype every day and Michael said he would apply for overseas study and ask Katie to help him arrange it.

On the day before the next leg of Katie's tour, Maeve took Katie to her mom's favorite lunch spot. Maeve was a well-known customer, but it was Katie that caught the attention of everyone in the room. Katie is a beautiful woman, medium tall, with flaming red hair. She walked with the stature of the mythical warrior-queens she wrote about in her articles and books. She was impeccably dressed in a business suit with slacks. She had a radiant smile with a "thank you" for the waitress who seated them.

Katie observed the situation and said, "Wow, we should travel together more often. All of these gawkers know me, but it is you who got their attention."

"I don't know whether to be offended or pleased. Are Americans like this all the time?"

"Oh, by all means be pleased. I used to get that kind of attention, but everyone here is accustomed to me. I used to be embarrassed but my mother pointed out that I should be grateful for my blessings. My mom gets the same kind of attention from the older set, who should know better. She handles herself like a movie star, with grace and dignity, though she came here with nothing from a Donegal mountain farm. My parents visited her sister over Thanksgiving. Most people seldom encounter a woman as attractive as you. Consider gawking a salute."

"Maeve all of your friends are stunning and when they are with you, you are obviously their warrior queen."

"That is an interesting observation. The warrior queen is a persona I sometimes adopt when necessary in business. It is very effective. I hope my relationship with my friends is a lot more jovial. It is such a joy to be with them."

"And joy it is. I enjoyed meeting them and being with them and their joy is catching."

After their lunch they walked the few blocks to Maeve's office. Dave greeted them with great enthusiasm. Katie had already met Susan at Thanksgiving. Jim was breathless.

Maeve laughed. "It is not all Americans, but in this room, 25% of us, and we are all Irish-Americans as well."

Jim was embarrassed.

"Oh, this was just something that Katie and I were discussing at lunch. Consider it an inside joke at your expense."

"I'm so happy to meet you, Katie. You have been the talk of our office for the past two weeks."

"A happy and graceful recovery," noted Maeve. "The kid is growing nicely."

"I'm so happy to meet you too," said Katie. "All of you. I can't tell you how often I heard about how wonderful you are."

Maeve had everyone talk about what they do. Dave, as expected, minimized his role. Maeve quickly attacked his humility. "Dave does everything; we wouldn't be able to do much without him. He has trained everyone in this room, me included."

Dave quipped, "Ah, but the student has quietly become the mistress."

In the quiet of her office, Maeve explained that she had about 175 client companies, most of them in the greater Philadelphia area.

"I personally visit our client companies each year just to keep our client relationship warm. It is a business where clients do not require our services every day. By visiting them frequently, when they have a problem, I am the first one they think of. The warrior queen image with a smile doesn't hurt either."

"We are currently working on sexual harassment training programs. We will also be presenting services on career management and outplacement services. We believe it is a huge boost to a company's credibility to provide training and support services to employees who have to leave the company for one reason or another. That is what I want Theresa to do."

"My dad is working on my plan to give all the employees, now the three you just met, ownership in the company. I will always be the CEO and managing partner, but I have a strong feeling that employees should own their good work."

"Self-employment is so risky," observed Katie. "Shane owns one third of the Glowing Lantern and it was a struggle for him in the beginning. When he became famous, the Lantern emerged as a first-class restaurant with tourist busses stopping a couple of times a week. Of course, he has to be there most of the time to smile and shake hands. He plugs the Lantern whenever he does his endless round of fund-raising trips around the country to fund our charities. U2 is a big help. They do a concert each year gratis in a hundred thousand seat football stadium. We pay the staff from the concert receipts. Everything that is left over, more than three million euros, goes into the charity foundation."

"I think it is wonderful that you are able to do that."

"Thank the London Sun for being jerks."

“Therese will love to run something like that. She is our local Mother Theresa.”

“Am I right to note that she has a special relationship with Fr. Paul?”

“You observe well. So far it is working out well for both of them. They are insisting on a chaste relationship. Therese is a little, actually a lot more flexible than Mother Theresa. Both are in spiritual direction, Therese with one of her favorite Jesuits and Paul with a saintly retired priest who has the gift of insight.”

“Ach, celibacy is way over-rated. They are showing good sense though.”

“Thank you for this special day with you. You have to take me back to St. Joseph’s. I have to pack for our trip.

“I’ll make arrangements with Uber to pick me up first and then we’ll pick you up at St. Joseph’s. From there it is a short trip to the airport. I’ve arranged for first class seats, at least for this part of our trip. It will give us a chance to talk privately.”

The day was gorgeous. The flight time would be about four hours. They were very relaxed in their first-class seats munching on an almost elegant airline breakfast.

“Yesterday, when we were talking about Paul and Therese’s relationship, you said that celibacy is over-related. Pat and I have decided, or rather, I decided, and he capitulated, that we wouldn’t have sex until we married.”

“Ah, we did the same thing,” said Katie. “I thought we were unique when compared to my students. I didn’t think that sex would be sinful at our age and within our already committed relationship. However, I still deal with a half lifetime of traditional church teaching on the subject. In Ireland it is the only topic that has religious significance. I started dating Shane on and off since we were in graduate school together. He was the typical Irish “devil may care” type of guy. Extremely good looking, athletic, and poor. When his father died, Shane left the fishing fleet. He joined with two friends who had enough money to buy a pub. They needed Shane because he is a great front man. As the restaurant progressed, Shane made enough money to pay for his share. Meanwhile I was working on my doctoral dissertation and I don’t even remember going to the pub during that entire year though I probably did.

“Shane was also the captain of the Sea Rescue Squad and that was also a modestly paying, though extremely dangerous, job. When his life was threatened in that vicious storm, I realized how empty my life would be without him. We waited for hours on the dock and in the Lantern for radio contact that wasn’t coming. We didn’t know anything about the fate of the Nina G, the name of the distressed ship, and the nine families of the crew were in the Lantern waiting for their hearts to break. About midnight the deadly silent radio started to crackle. We tried to clear up the contact, and about fifteen minutes later we could hear the sound of Shane’s voice, “Rescue 10, calling Station 10” over and over. Shane’s partner kept fiddling with the radio. “Station 10 calling Rescue 10, come in please.”

“Suddenly, the static stopped, and Shane’s voice was clear. “We are wet, cold, and safe. The Nina G is lost but her crew is safe and uninjured, as is the crew of Rescue 10. We rode a rogue

wave for a long time. I have no idea where we are but we're going to ride in toward the shore wherever that is. The rain has stopped, and the wind is calming. The compass still works. I am maneuvering southeast. I will look for the Lantern lights. Point one of them into the sky and I'll look for the beam.

"Everyone cheered that the crews were safe, but we still had no idea what happened."

"I'm sorry to get off topic. The point that I wanted to make is that I knew I wanted to marry him. I had no idea at that time, about his heroics on the ocean and that he would become Ireland's new folk hero. I'll tell you the rest of the story another time."

"In addition to the church influence, it was obvious that Shane talked a good game about a serious relationship, but he just wasn't showing it. I thought if I had to break it off, if we weren't having sex, it wouldn't hurt as much."

"Also, and this was Shane's idea, we committed ourselves to work with our local priest, a good man and a great priest. He helped us to identify the critical issues that we had to discuss. We met every week and he had us writing letters to each other about our thoughts and beliefs about these issues and how they would be integrated into our marriage. He had very little to say. He sat on the other side of the room as a resource if we needed one. We had to communicate with each other. What a concept! We met each week and sometimes it took several weeks of discussion to exhaust our topic. He was our encouragement, our referee, and our resource as we moved along. The sessions were one to two hours long and frequently when we had our time together, we would continue our discussions. It was a great experience to speak our truth from the heart. I still marvel at our personal growth during this time as well as the depth of our commitment to each other."

"Also, I had an apartment at the university and Shane lived in a cottage on the Lantern's property. When I was in town, I would stay there and when he was in Galway, he would stay with me. We shared a bed, and while we had enough physical intimacy, we never had sex. It wasn't easy, but it was an effort that was genuinely worth-while and chastity helped mold our commitment to each other. When I look at Shane now, I see the man I dreamed he would be, and I have every confidence that he feels the same about me. It was literally a year of growth that has definitely continued."

"Many of my students have asked me to counsel them about these issues. I make the suggestion for chastity, but I never criticize their decision to have sex. I teach them the letter-writing discussion techniques and refer them to the wonderful Catholic chaplain we have at the university."

Maeve responded, "You have me crying. That is such a beautiful story. I'm going to suggest that to Patrick. I love the idea and I think he will, too. You have made me feel wonderful. I would like nothing more than sharing serious thoughts and discussing them."

"Not just thoughts," Maeve. "You want to discuss the serious issues about marriage, money, children, parenting, work, sex, where you are going live, vacations, anything you feel you might encounter in your future. Your first meeting will be to identify the serious life issues that you

want to discuss. For things that come up later, you set aside time and space. While our pastor never said much, he was indispensable. The three of us prayed together before and after each session.”

“I’ll talk with Patrick about this. I’m sure he’ll agree. I also know the perfect priest, a Jesuit, who will be perfectly honest. If I’m being an airhead, he will be sure to let me know.”

The pilot announced their descent into Naples, and that everyone should fasten their seatbelts.

“Wow,” said Katie. “Great conversation certainly makes time go fast. We didn’t even drink our champagne. I think I like first class. I don’t think publishers arrange it unless you are Nora Roberts or Norman Mailer. Actually, I know Nora, and she is well attuned to mythology, which is different from the notion of myth. She captures both beautifully in many of her novels.

Later in the afternoon, Maeve hired a Huber pickup to take them to Ave Maria University. When they arrived twenty minutes later, it was hard to tell where the University began. It was a beautiful community artistically designed. Every building appeared as clean and new. Maeve’s briefing indicated that this would be a difficult stop because everything she said would be challenged. This was the seat of reactionary Catholic conservatism and that I could expect a negative response to my presentation.

Also, they had not scheduled any reception; there was not presidential greeting; they didn’t offer overnight residence; no wealthy donors were invited to the presentation.

“I have given this presentation four times now, and I am pretty facile delivering it. They were quite challenging at Georgetown and my presentation opened doors to some of their political problems relating to racism and diversity. It was interesting and fun to dialogue with these impressive scholars. My briefing papers describe Ave Maria as the domain of extremely wealthy Catholics who wield a lot of power in the Church as well as in government, and industry.”

Katie’s presentation was as smooth as silk. The response was polite applause. After a brief break, Katie was positioned between two history professors for the Q and A period.

The first question was from a student. She was concerned about my work with Bono and did I know that U2 are all fallen-away Catholics. Katie responded that she was indeed an advisor to U2. she knew Bono the best of the four. She didn’t know the religious affiliations of the other three, but she did know that Bono was never a Catholic. They had discussed religion and Catholicism many times and she can testify that Bono is impressed with the Church. I should also point out that about seventy percent of Ireland is made up of fallen away Catholics.

Another question suggested that her work was sowing the seeds of heresy and undermining the integrity of Sacred Scripture because myth suggests a fabrication.

Katie carefully pointed out that myth surrounds us and was a viable way of passing on the traditions of peoples. That is pure history. She pointed out that the concept of myth was overwhelmed by the Industrial Revolution of late nineteenth century.

“The diversity of America makes myth difficult to track and I hope there are American scholars who will study and write about that. The various nationalities bring their myth with them and the American experiment is to blend peoples of many nations, including native Americans into one, even with each having their own their history. I am impressed with how the various nationalities are celebrated in your major cities. In doing so, they are preserving and celebrating their myth.”

There was a rumble of disapproval with her response.

As for Sacred Scripture, the Protestant and Catholic research of the past century and a half, has made the spiritual depth of the Scriptures a reality for the ordinary person. The Vatican Council II has verified the veracity of these studies and it would probably make a wonderful graduation thesis the track the literature of the biblical revival and research the literature from Pope Pius XII to Vatican II. In fact, the Gilgamesh Myth from the Persian Empire, present day Iran, has been celebrated in the body politic of the United States. President Reagan used the metaphor of America as the shining city on the Mountaintop and President Bush 41 used the image of a thousand points of light. It is the Gilgamesh myth that infuses the fourth Gospel, attributed to St. John who is known to have lived for a time with Matthew’s community of Jewish Christian Syrians in Syria. A study of the literature leading up to the Council’s decree on Sacred Scripture would make an interesting study.

The discussion went on in a similar vein for another half hour. Katie deflected a couple of appropriate questions to both the professors, giving them some time in the spotlight.

Katie finished the evening by thanking the university for the opportunity to present the fruits of her research. It is the objective of any university to present a diversity of views along with a road map of how these views were achieved, all to the benefit of the intellectual growth of the student body.

Again, the applause was modest and polite.

Katie sold and signed only two books, one to each of the professors.

The next day, Katie and Maeve flew to St. Louis, Maeve to visit with a client and Katie to the Jesuit hospitality and intellectual stimulation at St. Louis University. Following that, Maeve was off to Ohio where she would visit three clients. Katie would be at the University of San Francisco followed by a visit to Stamford. They would meet in Detroit where Katie was presenting and where Maeve had a client to visit. After Katie’s presentation at the University of Detroit, they would fly together to Scranton and, from there, to Boston, where Katie had presentations at Harvard and Boston College and Maeve had a client. Maeve would stay with Katie and they would fly home together. They would take time during the day for rest, light shopping, and sightseeing, chauffeured in an Uber limousine.

Maeve had arranged a farewell dinner for Katie at Bookbinders. Katie had become quite friendly with the after Mass brunch group. She had already invited Fr. Paul, Therese, and Sandra. Shane and the children had already flown home at the beginning of the previous week.

Desmond was obviously working but the empty chair gave him the opportunity to join the group when he wasn't needed on the floor. Liam and June would also join them. They had become a couple over the course of the month.

The almost two weeks was the longest time Katie had been separated from her family and she was aching to see them. She was in touch with them via Skype phone every day. She also phoned into the university to report to her boss, who was also her step father, after each presentation. When Maeve told Katie about it, she was thrilled. Shane has been talking about Bookbinders every night when we speak on the phone. She insisted on paying. The publishers had given her a food budget. St. Joseph's would not take her money in payment for anything. The Jesuit hospitality with receptions, dinners, and a room to sleep in was most generous. Katie's friends would not accept the money for the Sunday brunches that Shane offered even though he could have purchased the entire restaurant just with his credit card.

"I appreciate everything you have done for me, and especially the gift of your friendship. Let me express my gratitude in this way." Maeve accepted Katie's gesture.

On the flight home, Katie said that she owed Maeve the rest of her story, if she wanted to hear it. Maeve, of course, wanted to hear it.

"On the dock, when I saw Shane, I ran toward him and threw my arms around him. I remember telling him that I was so afraid of losing him and that I did not want him out of my life. It was then that he said that he wanted us to visit with Fr. Jim and lay out a weekly plan of preparation for marriage for at least six months. I didn't know anything about his heroics nor did he say anything about the events. He had two quick shots of Irish. He told me that he was going to the cottage for a shower and a change of clothes. The crew had started telling their story. Now it was four in the morning. As too much time passed, Shane's partner, Liam, asked me to go and check on him. I went into the cottage and he was sitting in the chair stark naked, quivering and crying. I quickly got his robe around him and sat next to him gently rubbing his back.

He mumbled, "I don't know what happened to me."

"I told him that a huge amount of adrenaline was withdrawing from his body. Take deep breaths and relax. I'll be right here with you. I kept stroking his back."

At first, we couldn't find the boat. It was pitch black and the sea was running high. I kept turning the boat in a wide circle hoping they would see our lights. One of the crew thought he saw a light between the waves at about two o'clock. We steered in that direction and sure enough they were about two hundred meters ahead of us. They were all in the water and they had only minutes to live. They had lashed themselves together with a rope from the overturned lifeboat. The Nina G was bow down under the water and was gone to the bottom within the next few minutes while we were pulling the crew on board. There were nine of them and our boat was unstable in the rough seas. We got them on board and quickly got them into them into dry clothes. I turned the boat for home when one of the guys shouted, 'Glory be to God, will you look at that.' Behind us, a huge wave had formed and was bearing down on us. I estimate that it was over sixty meters. It would have flipped us like a canoe. I turned the boat into the wave and rode up its slope on a slant. I had

one of the guys call into Sea Rescue so that at least they would find our bodies. It was as if something was in my head telling me what to do. As we got near the top, almost as far as we could go without turning over, I saw the wave start to crest. We were on full power and I cruised into the curl. We zoomed in the curl at an unbelievable speed. I just prayed we wouldn't hit anything like a log or a whale. We went for miles in the curl until the wave started to dissolve. As it did, the crest fell into our boat, but the pumps quickly cleared us out. That is when I started to call home. I knew I was far away and northwest of where I wanted to be. The radio wasn't working and one of the guys from the Nina G was a technician and worked on it. I could hear voices on your end, but the static was deafening. Bertie, the technician, found the problem. The beating the boat had taken loosened some wires. I told them all was well, but I was concentrating on what I was doing. It stopped raining and the wind wasn't as strong, but we were sailing into it. I asked Liam to turn one of the lights into the air, so I could see the beam from a distance. The only thing that was working was the compass, so I knew I was in the right direction. It was also pitch black on the water and we were driving blind. After of couple of hours of sheer uncertainty, way off in the distance I saw the light in the clouds. We headed for it. We were going to be safely home in another hour. When Rescue 10 pulled into bay, the whole town had gathered, and great cheers filled the pre-dawn morning. The crew of the Nina G were effusive with their thanks. Nine husbands and fathers went out into the turbulent dark waters of the wild Atlantic Ocean. At that time, only the two crews knew what happened. By noon, Shane was the biggest hero in Ireland."

"A half hour later, Shane was dressed and ready for the soup without a clue that he was a hero."

"That is an amazing story."

"The next time we meet, and I hope it is in the summer, I'll tell you how he rescued our two oldest from the inferno that consumed their home."

"He is very modest about his exploits. He is not afraid to tell the Great Wave Story at fundraisers, He tells the story but when it is repeated, he is a hero even greater than Cuchalain. We laugh whenever we hear others repeat the story."

The plane was landing, and Maeve was so riveted by the story, she had even forgotten she was in the air.

That evening the meal at Bookbinder's was both exciting and fun. Everyone had stories to tell, jokes that made everyone laugh, and good-spirited ribbing with tales about shopping with Maeve, stories about her reception at Stamford, that was outstanding, Harvard, equally as good, compared with Ave Maria. It was almost as if they were briefed on how to attack her academic positions. She was quite sure they didn't read the book. At the other schools there were several faculty members, other authors, and university friends, in the in the audience. The dialogue was always interesting, and she learned a few things from them. That is the way it is supposed to work.

As the evening was coming to a close, Desmond provided after-dinner drinks, courtesy of Bookbinders.

The following afternoon, Maeve drove Katie to the airport. Unknown to Katie, Maeve had switched her tickets to first class. Katie wouldn't even know that until she boarded the plane.

As Maeve watched the plane take off, she already missed her new-found friend and was looking forward to her next visit to Ireland.

The following Sunday, just a few days before Christmas, Maeve announced that she would host an after- Midnight Mass, now celebrated at 10:00 PM, a coffee and hors d'oeuvres gathering at her apartment. This would include a traditional Christmas coffee cake called stolen.

The evening was perfect. Fr. Paul led a concelebrated Mass. The choir was spectacular, the church was beautifully and tastefully decorated, the congregation participated with gusto. By the time they arrived at Maeve's condo, everyone was filled with the spirituality of Christmas and that created a great aura over what she expected would be a low-key celebration. She ordered the hors d'oeuvres from Bookbinder's and Desmond made sure there were several trays of his own favorites. They were delivered while her guests were still at Mass. They made two urns of coffee that would be ready when they arrived from Mass.

The gathering was a spectacular success even though she had to heat and serve the hors d'ouvres. Desmond helped. Theresa took over the piano to lead Christmas carols, drinks were plentiful, the snacks were terrific, and the conversation obviously stimulating. Laughter and singing filled the now late evening.

After everyone left, and Maeve realized that she would have to clean up in the morning, she just sat with Patrick in front of the fireplace and rested her head on his shoulder. The spirituality of the evening, the decorations, and the magnificent Christmas tree that he helped trim, the flickering fireplace created a surreal atmosphere, alongside the obvious debris of the party. Patrick told her that he had a gift for her. He stood and knelt on one knee and asked her to marry him. Maeve helped him to his feet, kissed him passionately, and said "yes," that she would be honored to marry him. He slipped the ring on her finger. They would announce their engagement at dinner at her parent's home the next afternoon.

# Irish Trivia

Who is Irish writer Cecilia Ahern's famous father?	Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern
What is said to have been used by St Patrick to teach the concept of the Trinity?	Shamrock
Which Irish band had hits such as Clare Island and Will It Ever Stop Raining?	The Saw Doctors
What is a Galway hooker?	It's a boat
What islands are famous for the heavy woollen knitwear worn by the local fishermen?	Aran Islands
What symbol has been associated with Irish flags since the 1640s?	A harp
What is Cashel Blue?	It's a cheese
What is a Kerry Blue?	A native Irish breed of dog
What is the main use of Wicklow's Glen of Imaal?	An Irish Army firing range
Who or what is Lughnaquilla?	A mountain in County Wicklow
Where in Ireland is the main training centre for the Irish Army?	The Curragh Camp in County Kildare
What iconic Dublin building was wrecked in the 1916 Rising and reopened in 1929, but still bears bullet marks today?	The General Post Office
Fifty years after the Easter Rising a massive statue of which British naval hero was toppled in an explosion in Dublin?	Lord Nelson
Dublin statues are famous for their nicknames. Who is the 'Tart With The Cart' in Dublin city centre?	Molly Malone
'The Time in The Slime' was a clock installed in the Liffey in the 1990s for what purpose?	The Millennium Countdown
What is St Brendan commonly known as?	The Navigator
What is the other main ingredient of champ with potatoes?	Scallions (spring onions)
What is 'a wake'?	A celebration of the life of the deceased
How many leaves does a shamrock have?	Three
Which Irish newspaper was first published on 5 September 1931?	The Irish Press
Who played the part of Eamon de Valera in the 1995 film "Michael Collins"?	Alan Rickman
Which Irish Columban priest spent 5 months in jail in the Phillipines during 1984?	Fr. Niall O' Brien

## On This Day in Irish History - January

- 1st** **1801** - Legislative Union of the Ireland and Great Britain in the United Kingdom.  
**1926** - Irish Free State broadcasting service 2RN is opened.  
**1957** - Two IRA men are killed in an attack on an RUC base in Brookeborough.  
**1973** - Ireland joins the EEC along with Denmark and Britain.  
**1974** - First day in office for the Northern Ireland Executive.  
**1990** - The Northern Ireland Fair Employment Act becomes law.
- 2nd** **1922** - Anti-Treaty Republicans publish the newspaper *Poblacht na hÉireann*.  
**1941** - Three Carlow women are killed in a bombing raid.
- 3rd** **1935** - Anglo-Irish Coal-Cattle pact signed.
- 4th** **1906** - Irish Parliamentary Party MP William O'Brien calls on nationalists to extract maximum concessions for Ireland from each British government.  
**1969** - Loyalists attack civil rights demonstrators in Derry.
- 5th** **1907** - Ireland's first motor show opens in Dublin.  
**1911** - Protestant church leaders condemn the Catholic *ne Temere* decree.  
**1922** - De Valera offers to resign after the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty are published.
- 6th** **1955** - National Farmers' Association is formed.  
**1961** - Seán Mac Eoin leaves Ireland to serve as General Commanding Officer of the United Nations.  
**1991** - Irish EC Presidency launched.
- 7th** **1922** - The Dáil Éireann votes narrowly to accept the Anglo-Irish Treaty.
- 8th** **1902** - The Great National Convention takes place in Dublin.  
**1952** - Peig Sayers travels to Dublin for the first time at age 81.  
**1968** - Northern Ireland PM Terence O'Neill and Taoiseach Jack Lynch meet in Dublin.  
**1979** - Betelgeuse tanker disaster.
- 9th** **1967** - Demonstrations by the National Farmers' Association block the roads.
- 10th** **1922** - Arthur Griffith is elected President of the Provisional Government. De Valera and supporters walk out of the Dáil Éireann.  
**1952** - An Aer Lingus plane crashes in Wales with the loss of twenty lives.  
**1970** - Huge anti-Apartheid demonstrations in Ireland as Ireland plays South Africa at rugby.
- 11th** **1954** - The Irish Council of the European Union is formed in Dublin.  
**1970** - Sinn Féin splits into Official and Provisional wings.  
**1988** - John Hume and Gerry Adams meet in Belfast.
- 13th** **1847** - Irish Confederation established.  
**1923** - The residence of President W.T. Cosgrave is set on fire.

- 14th 1965** - The Taoiseach Seán Lemass arrives in Belfast for a historic meeting with its Prime Minister Terence O'Neill.
- 16th 1881** - Lowest temperature ever recorded in Ireland (-19.1C, at Markree, County Sligo).  
**1900** - Three lion cubs raised by an Irish red setter go on show at Dublin zoo.  
**1960** - A 103-year old shipping service between Cork and Glasgow comes to an end.
- 17th 1914** - Sir Edward Carson inspects a parade of the East Belfast Regiment of the UVF.
- 18th 1953** - Sinn Féin decides to contest all twelve constituencies in Northern Ireland.  
**1978** - Britain is found guilty in the European Court of Human Rights of inhuman and degrading treatment of internees in Northern Ireland.
- 20th 1992** - Peter Brooke offers to resign as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland after singing on *The Late Late Show* only hours after an IRA bombing.
- 21st 1919** - First meeting of the Dáil Éireann at the Mansion House in Dublin, where an independent Irish Republic is declared. The Anglo-Irish War begins with the shooting of two policemen in Tipperary.  
**1946** - Work starts on a comprehensive English-Irish dictionary.
- 22nd 1923** - Irish becomes a subject for examination in the Civil Service.  
**1972** - Jack Lynch and Patrick Hillery sign the Treaty of Accession to the European Communities.
- 24th 1957** - Sir Alfred Chester Beatty becomes the first honorary Irish citizen.
- 26th 1907** - The performance of *The Playboy of the Western World* in Dublin triggers a week of rioting.  
**1944** - W. T. Cosgrave resigns as leader of Fine Gael.  
**1996** - 'The Mitchell principles' are proposed as conditions for talks in Northern Ireland.
- 27th 1995** - First formal discussions between the Taoiseach John Bruton and Gerry Adams.
- 29th 1887** - Pro-Unionist newspaper *The Union* founded in Dublin.  
**1932** - Ten years of Cumann na nGaedhael rule come to an end.
- 30th 1913** - House of Lords rejects the Home Rule Bill.  
**1972** - Bloody Sunday - 13 demonstrators killed by British paratroopers in Northern Ireland.  
**1992** - Charles Haughey resigns as Taoiseach and leader of Fianna Fáil.
- 31st 1984** - Teenager Ann Lovett dies after giving birth in a religious grotto.