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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.

Guest contributors are always welcome! Please note, the IACI is an apolitical, non-sectarian organization and requests that contributors consider that when submitting articles. The IACI reserves the right to refuse or edit submissions. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the IACI or any/all contributors to this site. Please submit articles for consideration to cbuck@iaci-usa.org.

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Irish America with White Christmas Mistletoe and Joy

By

Raymond D. Aumack, M.A., M.Div., NC, PSY. P.

After an evaluation of the evidence gathered to date, Dave decided to follow John's advice about the prosecution of the Nicosia case. It was far too dangerous for John and Dierdre to keep pursuing. He will appoint a team of house prosecutors and ask the Justice Department to handle the case immediately. Dierdre will shadow the case with anonymity as will John after his last activity, that of interviewing Sal's wife and searching Sal's office. John will be acting in an ordinary company investigation role, make no accusations, and do nothing out of the ordinary that would be expected of him. Then he would drop out of the case and shadow it with Dierdre.

The following day, he called Sal's wife to make arrangements to interview her and come to her home. He will be accompanied by a city detective, as part of the investigation, who would have a subpoena. This to cover all the proper bases of the investigation to protect the firm as well as you.

"How would that protect me," asked Rita Nicosia.

"Our assumption is that you knew nothing of Sal's activities. If we find anything incriminating about Sal's activities, unless there is a clear indication that you knew something about that, the subpoena keeps you at arm's length."

When they arrived, Detective Fontinelli asked her to review the subpoena and to feel free to question him about it. She read it and stated that she had no questions.

He asked her if Sal had been back home since the incident. She answered, "No."

"Has Sal sent you any money since he left home. She answered, "Not a penny."

"What banks do you use?"

"First Philadelphia Savings and Loan and The Bank of America."

"Do you have an independent account?"

"I have a household account at The Bank of America that is almost depleted."

"Do you have access to the other accounts?"

"No, I don't. That's why Sal set up the household account. I have no idea about family finances. I know the mortgage on this house is paid up. The cars are paid for. That is the extent of my knowledge. Sal felt I wasn't skilled enough to handle the family finances."

"Are you unskilled?"

"I was pretty good at it when we started out, and he couldn't be bothered because he was too busy with work."

"When did he take over?"

"Years ago. The kids were little. He thought he could help me out. All his income was direct deposit, or, at least, that is what he said."

"As an administrator at a firm like Garvey Legal, he must have been doing quite well financially."

"Honestly, I don't know."

John said nothing. He just listened.

“He doesn’t come back for any clothes or food?”

“So far, no. It has been several weeks.”

“No phone calls and no contact?”

“How are you going to survive here?”

“I worry myself sick about that every night.”

“Does Sal have relatives who can help you?”

“I never met any of Sal’s relatives. I know he has brothers, but I never met them, and I don’t even know where they live or if they are married.”

“Do you use a cell phone?”

“Yes, but I’m behind on the monthly payments.”

“May I have the phone number?”

“Yes, Of course.” Detective Fontinelli wrote the number down.

“I understand that Sal had a home office,” said Fontinelli. “I would like to look through that.”

“It is locked up like Fort Knox. I tried to get into it but couldn’t.”

“John, will you come inside with me. I’m asking John to observe and witness my activity. You can come in, too, if you would like.”

“No, thank you. You know what you are doing.”

The detective got into the room without any struggle at all.

“Fingerprint the computer keys,” said John very quietly.

When that was done Fontinelli tried to open the programs, but they were blocked by a password.

“I can help with that,” said John. Very quickly, John opened the programs, and transferred the contents of Sal’s computer to his own.

They went through all the drawers in the desk and everything in the filing cabinets. Detective Fontinelli sealed the cabinets and photographed them. He called his colleagues to come to the house to pick them up and bring them to headquarters for a forensic exam.. He went outside and asked Gina if she had ever heard of the company, Terolla Associates. She hadn’t, but asked, “why.”

“I don’t know. I saw the name on one of the files in the cabinet. It rang a bell, but I can’t make a connection. I’m sorry, but I didn’t find any money in any of the drawers or cabinets. My forensic team will be over very shortly, and I will leave them to go over everything with a fine tooth comb. They will take the file cabinets and the drawers with them. I have to lock the door again to protect the integrity of the investigation.

John shook Detective Fontinelli’s hand and thanked him. John and Dierdre’s public roles had ended with that handshake.

He took Gina aside to tell her that Dave Garvey, the firm’s owner and president, had arranged for her to have “severance pay” sent to her directly every two weeks for six months. The company would cover her daughter’s tuition balance till the end of the second semester. ‘This is very confidential. You did not commit a crime. Sal

did. The only people who know about this are my dad, you and me and our payroll supervisor. Your first check will be mailed out this week. You should have it by Friday. If Sal turns up, you are to say nothing to him about this. My suspicion is that Sal has already depleted the account at the First Philadelphia Savings and Loan company. I suspect that he may have another account someplace else. The money will be charged to Sal's payroll account for tax purposes. You won't have to worry about that.'

"Why are you doing this," asked Gina?

"You know that my dad has an extraordinarily big heart. Sal committed the crime. You and your family are victimized by Sal's crime as well. The boss doesn't think that is fair to you. If Sal was fired, he would have been entitled to that pay. My dad doesn't want to see you hurt. If your son wants to enter the seminary, let me know. We have some influence there. He seems like a fine young man.

"He is," said Gina.

"Here is my card. I can be reached on my cell most of the time. Let me know if anything goes wrong."

"Thank you," Gina humbly said.

The next morning, Dierdre met John at his Coral Gables office. They had coffee and crullers together and then retired upstairs to John's computer room.

"We have a lot of things to look for," said John.

"First, let's look at these two accounts"

John opened the Bank of America account. Predictably, tens of thousands of dollars were removed, leaving a balance of \$100.00. He then looked at the account at the First Pennsylvania Saving and Loan. Again there was a balance of \$100. "I wonder why there was so much money in their household account before he took it out. There might be another account someplace else, and he temporarily parked it until he could safely remove it.

"The scoundrel did not leave anything for his family."

"Dierdre, call Fontinelli and ask him to check flight manifests. He might have left the country. He would probably be using an alias supported by a fake passport. Ask them to check airport parking lots to see if his car is there. There should be films of him boarding the plane. Check all the manifests going to the Caribbean and Brazil."

OK, now we can try to trace Toralla Associates. The "companion chat line" had an address and a telephone number. John started there. He double checked with the phone company to see if there were any links. He found fourteen and they were all associated with shops selling adult books, magazines, and paraphernalia. Checking again through phone company links, he found several apartments in the city. John's suspicion was that they were houses of prostitution. He copied the addresses and phone numbers and e-mailed them to Fontinelli. He told him that he should check flights to the Caribbean or to South America. There should be photos of Sal boarding an airplane. They should also check the airport in Atlantic City.

They also checked out the attorney that Sal hired.

It turned out that Sal's attorney had very few clients and a very large bank account.

We'll send that out to Fontinelli as well, but I also think we should send this file to the FBI investigators. I feel that we should have double checks on everything. Everything that has Fontinelli's name on it should go to the FBI. Use the company's computer, not your own. Our story, and it is truth, is that we started a preliminary investigation and felt that it should be turned over to the FBI.

“You don’t trust Fontinelli,” asked Dierdre?

“I have no reason to trust him except that he is a police officer. If anything in this investigation goes awry, I want all the bases covered, especially ours.

“Why did we turn it over to the FBI?” asked Dierdre?

“The adult shops and the prostitution suggest an organized criminal network. That is their responsibility to investigate. We’ll follow it by computer. Remember, we have both been attacked by a crime syndicate. We don’t want them remembering our names.”

The FBI may want to speak with us even though Fontinelli has all the information we have.

The phone rang. It was Detective Fontinelli.

“John, you saved our team a week’s worth of investigation.”

“It wasn’t me. Detective. We have a highly professional Security Department skilled in undercover work. Detective, we are off the case now. Because of the possible connection with organized crime, it is now totally in your hands with the FBI. You’ll be hearing from them. If we hear anything from our own network, we’ll pass that information on to you. I was impressed with both your compassion to Mrs. Nicosia and the careful, methodical way you conducted the preliminary investigation.”

“Thank you, John. You’ll probably hear from me from time to time.”

“Oh, by the way Detective, Mrs, Nicosia will show signs of income. That is from us. My dad decided to give her Sal’s severance pay for six months, about \$4000 twice a month. It should finance their household for about a year based on Sal’s executive salary. That information should be shared only on a need to know basis.”

“Thanks John. I do need to know that it isn’t coming from Sal.”

“That’s it for us, Dee. We’ll check on the investigation every day.”

“He called him “Sal,” said Dierdre, “Police don’t usually refer to criminals by their first name.”

“Good pickup, Dee. That’s why I want duplicates of everything Fontinelli gets. Can you follow him on his computer and phone?”

“Yes. I have his number on his card. I can also trace private calls. I have better equipment in my office now than I had at Camp Lejeune when I was doing international spy work for the military and the State Department.”

“Meanwhile, I’ll have my undercover crew scan the manifests. We can track down Sal wherever he is. We won’t arrest. We’ll watch to see who contacts him.”

“Thanks Dee. You are fun to work with. Meanwhile, I’m going to work on banking relationships and Post Office contacts. He couldn’t carry cash to his destination, but he could mail it there. The location of the Post Office he uses could give us a clue to his living arrangements. Remember, Sal is a top of the line attorney, so he knows all the tricks. My hope is that he is arrogant enough to slip up.”

At her office, Dierdre received a call from Dave. “Can you join me for lunch in our cafeteria?”

“I can, Boss, I’ll meet you there at 12:15.”

Dierdre got to the cafeteria at about noon and worked her way back to Dave’s table after greeting many fellow employees of the firm. When she looked-out for him, she could see that Dave was on his way.

“Dierdre, what have you and John been up to. I just signed off on severance pay for Sal’s wife and family.”

“I’ll keep you up to date, Boss. I’m just sorting it all out now. Sal emptied two bank accounts that his family had. He left the family with nothing. There is no sign of him since he left the jail. He didn’t come back for clothing, food, and anything. The search for his home office is still in progress. The police are going through the filing cabinets as we speak. John’s cursory search did not yield anything. We are formally out of the investigation now, but John and I are tracking it on the computer. He owned fourteen porn shops and I don’t even know how many apartments for prostitutes. He had an empire under the name of Frank Toralla Associates. He had a lot of money, tens of thousands, in the First Pennsylvania Savings and Loan. It is interesting that he kept a lot of money in that local bank and his household account in the giant Bank of America. The FBI should examine First Pennsylvania because that is a red flag. We are trying to track him down at airports and railroad stations. We think he may have taken off to the Caribbean or Brazil.”

“Brazil has no extradition laws and a corrupt government,” remarked Dave.

“We are going to quietly find him, let him be and see who he contacts or who contacts him,” stated Dierdre.

“John and I are officially off the case because, since we were both involved in organized crime attacks, John doesn’t want the Mafia remembering our names.” Dierdre did not mention their suspicion that the lead detective on the case might be compromised.

“But you are staying involved.”

“Let’s say that we are monitors and you are the only person that knows that.”

“Wow! I am so glad that you guys are on my side,” remarked Dave.

The conversation for the rest of the meal concerned the holidays, family, children, and her husband Tom’s expanded responsibilities at the Jesuit Urban Mission.

Brigid Garvey telephoned her daughter and invited her and her friends to go on a Christmas shopping tour. Susan and Theresa were available because Dave O’Keefe was at the office working with Jimmy who was being promoted to the Human Resources Division. Maria was still teaching at the high school. It was a big boost for the high school’s reputation to have a Ph.D. author on the staff. June couldn’t come because of several scheduled meetings with her staff. The program of the Jesuit mission was getting quite complex, and June was working toward addressing that and tightening the organizations communications structure. Grace was at an out-of-state university and wouldn’t be back in Philadelphia until sometime the next day..

The women visited a number of small shops that were not quite hidden away from walk in off the street traffic. Brigid was known and welcomed everywhere they visited. They picked up a number of attractive curios that would make interesting Christmas presents. Curios were compared and discussed before purchasing. They went to an educational toy store to pick out gifts for their seven month old babies. Each would find a teddy bear under the tree almost as big as they were. Both were standing and mobile in their play area but probably will not be walking until after Christmas. They decided to go to Coral Gables Country Club for a relaxing lunch. Going in and out of shops was fun, but so was lunch with each other. Also, Susan’s Mom will be able to join them, since she was the banquet manager at the club, a job that she loved. There was no need to investigate her budding relationship with Grace’s dad. She was positively radiant.

After settling in with favorite warm-up beverages, the conversation began to flow. “I just love the Christmas season,” remarked Theresa. “It is a time of year when peace and charity are evident. Everyone seems to be more

polite and thoughtful of each other. It was nice to be out this morning. I just enjoyed people watching. Did you notice³ the joy on the face of that elderly woman when she found the scarf that she wanted to buy.”

The ever skeptical Susan chimed in, “Theresa, that is just one of the many reasons you give us to love you. You always see the brighter side of life.”

“Yeah” said Maeve, “like when she totally decked a rapist and two assassins, one of whom had an assault rifle, and then fretted that she may have mussed her hair before her talk to the students.” They never mentioned the incident again.

“Well, sometimes those things happen in life, but I don’t think that the negative should overwhelm the positive.”

“Atta girl,” said Brigid, “Don’t let these negative wenches discourage you.”

“Mother, she doesn’t need any more encouragement. That is how she became Philadelphia’s Mother Theresa.”

“Out of which we have a service oriented Jesuit Mission, that you, ‘Ms. do gooder’ who financed the Jesuit Mission into solvency with a fantastic gala.”

“That was Patrick’s idea. We have to go to all these gala balls at Christmas time because our company is a sponsor, and we bought the tickets. By the way, we should all go to some of these. It is good to be seen there.”

“Well, Patrick had the idea, but it was you who carried the water. It was you who recruited Bono through your Irish friend who still makes a generous donation each year. Bono recruited Jon Bon Jovi. I wonder who recruited Michael Grobin.”

“He volunteered” said Theresa. “We met him at a club in Atlantic City where he was performing. John was as much of an influence as I was.”

“All of these headliners came without cost to us. I wonder who we can ask to donate their services again.”

“I have some ideas,” said Maeve.

“I’m sure you do,” said Theresa. “I wonder who went to her father and came away with a quarter-million dollar lead sponsorship, Ms. Do-Gooder.”

“And now my Dad is Chairman of the Board of Directors and loving it. He has really bought into Dierdre’s proposal. Both Dierdre and my Dad have influence in Congress and both have the President’s private telephone number.”

The group had a good time chatting away until Maeve looked at her watch. “Somehow, it got to be 4:00 PM. We better go back and rescue our babies before they sell the business out from under us.”

And so the shopping trip ended. Dave O’Keefe was having fun playing with the babies who were having a wonderful time, though both were delighted to see their mothers. Their caregivers had them all changed and prepped for leaving. It was a wonderful arrangement. Maeve and Susan were able to make time to visit and play with their children during the work day. Theresa, whose office was on the second floor with the nursery was able to spend a lot of time with them and they were very excited to see her. Aunt Theresa was the guarantee of a lot of fun. Theresa’s baby would be joining them in September after Maternity leave, as would the babies of June and Maria. Theresa and June both planned to do some work during their maternity leave.

John found Sal Nicosia in the Cayman Islands. The FBI was immediately alerted, and agents were dispatched to surveil him around the clock. John did not inform Detective Fontinelli. He would leave that to the FBI.

Following up John's suspicions, the FBI agents were conducting a side investigation of the police department. They also shared John's sensitivity about being exposed to the Mafia. Fontinelli was a lieutenant. He had rank and respect. But the FBI agent in charge saw him conferring with the other officers in a manner the agent felt was inappropriate. Fontinelli was also very interested in the investigation as he well should have been. The agents held back critical information because they felt there were too many red flags. They gave him harmless bits of information with an emphasis that Nicosia seemed to disappear. They didn't want Fontinelli to know that they found him. There were just too many red flags. Meanwhile, Dierdre had a constant monitor on Nicosia in the Caymans. John was working on finding Sal's brothers. Every communication Sal made was recorded. Sal had discarded his old phones, but Dierdre easily picked up the new numbers.

"John! Nicosia received a phone call from. guess who, Fontinelli. He is in the Cayman Islands. I'm working on identifying a location. The message was standard. He asked how he was, how the weather is down there, (beautiful), told him that no one realizes that he is missing, yet. Keep using the Toralla name and passport. "Don't overspend. That raises a red flag that you don't want. When they can't find you, maybe the FBI will give up the search. Keep in touch with Carlos Carbinari. He is your 'go to' guy. He'll get you an apartment in one of his buildings. Enjoy the good life but not to the extent that you stand out. Stay out of the casinos and the hotels. They have facial recognition cameras. Carlos will let you know how things develop up here..".

John was immediately on the phone.. Dee, that is amazing. I'll alert the FBI to send agents to cover Nicosia and they will open an investigation and dossier on Fontinelli.

"Give me some time to find a precise location for you," said Dierdre.

"Ok! I have an address for Carlos Carbinari."Thanks, Dee. I'll take it from here."

"Keep monitoring and we'll pile up evidence. If you intercept any calls, make sure you record them. Also, play totally dumb if anyone contacts you especially from the Police Department. Don't show anyone your office equipment, especially the police. Right now you are technically off the case. It is in the hands of the FBI and they haven't consulted you at all. You are much too busy with office security and policies as well as training. Anyone who approaches you is a red flag of suspicion. Just deflect them. They should have no suspicions. Meanwhile, I'll keep track Fontinelli and see if I can uncover his police network."

Time went fast through the month of November. John had three jobs and Dee had three as well. The project with the Philadelphia Mayor and Counsel's office was starting to take off. They were evaluating the flood zone and, the water-pipes, as well as the water quality in the Fourth Ward. Dierdre was working closely with the town planners as part of her Jesuit Mission activity. They set a goal for a report to the Council by the end of December, including identification of the problems, proposals for solutions, cost estimates for the project, and a cost-benefit analyses.

Meanwhile, Maeve was planning the pre-Thanksgiving dinner for the Saturday before Thanksgiving. She made arrangements for all the cooking with Bookbinders. They will provide everything, wait-staff, table extensions, tablecloths, napkins, dinnerware, and dinner for twenty- two guests including Fr. Fred and Fr. Jim. She placed calls to everyone to make certain they were coming. The babies were crawling and standing by now. She was playing with baby Brigid when Patrick came home.

Maeve said, "I made arrangements for our Thanksgiving Dinner for a week from Saturday." Brigid squirmed away from her to crawl over to her dad. He picked her up and swayed her from side to side while she relentlessly laughed. He gave her a warming hug, put her down on the floor, and hustled to the bathroom. He then went into the bedroom to change into casual clothes. Brigid followed him with her eyes and then crawled toward the bedroom when Maeve picked her up and carried her back to the living room. "You are getting harder

and harder to keep up with, kiddo. It is going to be fun when your cousin comes over here next week. It'll be even more fun next year when you organize your cousins in a plot against us." She then smothered her with kisses.

"How was your day, Maeve asked?" Roselle's grades for the first quarter came in. She has straight As in every subject from the day she started.

"That was your faith in her, Patrick. She is juggling a complex job and a boyfriend besides."

"That describes 90% of the student body," replied Patrick. "I couldn't do that at Notre Dame or Loyola." I used to teach at the University of Chicago to get any pocket money."

I worked in the bookstore at Immaculata and for my father for Law school at Villanova."

"I wanted to ask you about me hiring Rosellen. I can give her responsible work in her area of interest. It would give her professional experience and material for a graduation paper or even for a graduate school thesis. I haven't spoken with her about it. I wanted to bounce the idea off of you. I'll talk with him about it, too. I won't speak with her until I have spoken with all the players."

"That is fine with me. I would enjoy seeing her become successful in the job market."

"Grace and Charlie were just notified that \$60 thousand went to the Food Pantry from their wedding guests. Another \$45 thousand was generated by Dierdre and Tommy's wedding guests. That should help them out for a while. The next wedding of Tom and Rosellen will be at least another year away. But the Food Pantry has done well just from the weddings of our family and extended family."

Maeve went into the kitchen to prepare dinner and Patrick turned his attention to his daughter who was ready to rock and roll again.

Maeve's Thanksgiving dinner became legendary because of all the connections that were made there. Her three brothers eventually met and married Maeve's friends, Susan, Theresa, and June. Her college friend, Grace O'Malley brought her future husband and introduced her date, Charlie Colombo. They would marry just more than year later. Dierdre and Tommy were new friends long before anyone, but her father knew of her military exploits and fame. She is the most decorated of all the military personnel in America. but no one would have known that. Her friends only discovered that when she received all the publicity accompanying the Medal of Honor. Otherwise she was normal among them as was her husband, Tommy Farrell.

The evening was delightful and a beautiful transition into the Christmas season.

It was amazing how much of the world's activity slowed down during the Christmas season, except for the retail industry and their dependence on the Christmas season for their financial stability. People were still busy being a lot nicer. Maeve and Patrick enjoyed attending benefit balls for the support of various local charities, along with Susan and her husband, Maeve's brother Michael, and Theresa and her husband, Maeve's oldest brother, John. Susan had joined the Local Kiwanis Club. All of this was for good business, but it was delightful personally connecting with all the key players of the Philadelphia world. At each ball, Maeve personally knew everyone in the room and thoroughly enjoyed introducing Patrick as a professor at St. Joseph's University and probably the most widely published professor in the country with the help of their friend Desmond Dowd, an acknowledged specialist in Irish Mythology. Her father's company Christmas party was a spectacular success. He is the founding president of his 100 attorney law firm. He also hosted a White Mistletoe party for his extended family and friends.

These were people of great faith and the underlying motivator to four weeks of celebration was celebrating the birth of Christ. The group still gathered for a afternoon-long brunch after Sunday morning Mass. There was

always raucous laughter, stories, and great camaraderie. Charlie's niece kept the babies occupied while the parents dined and celebrated their friendship. As much as their lives changed, the anchor was their faith and the love they shared among each other. Dave Garvey, the patriarch marveled that at a time when young people were pulling away from the Church, his children and their friends remained faithful and lived the Beatitudes. They were all exponents of the social gospel practiced in the parish and with the Jesuit Mission Bureau. As loud and raucous as the Sunday scene was, there was always the serene peace that that was a characteristic of their love for each other. They were all very aware of the maelstrom of life and were unafraid to promote healing with their own lives and talent as well as their personal fortunes.

Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king.



**IRISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTE**
Jersey Shore Chapter

Noted Historian to Launch Book on Ireland

Press Release: Irish American Cultural Institute-Jersey Shore (IACI-JS)

On Monday, December 6, at 7:00 pm, the IACI-Jersey Shore Chapter will host an in-person talk from noted American-born Irish historian, Joseph E. A. Connell. The get-together, which will take place at the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, 815 16th Ave., Belmar, will double as a launch of his new book on the Irish War of Independence entitled *The Terror War*. In his book, Connell brings a different lens through which to view Ireland of 1921 and his analysis is thoughtful and occasionally provocative.

Formerly, Connell headed a successful California law practice which followed a distinguished academic career. His interest in Ireland and particularly in history reflects his Irish heritage. That interest in Ireland and its people and history has deepened over the years. He has published several books about Ireland's Revolutionary Period, including the critically acclaimed, *Dublin in Rebellion* and a biography of Michael Collins. He is a columnist for the journal "History Ireland," and a contributor to the website www.kilmainhamtales.ie where he shares stories about the personalities, locales, and events that took place in Ireland between 1913 and 1924.

Dr. Peter Halas, chairman of the IACI, said, "This will be the chapter's last event of the year and we are fortunate to have Joe join us to share information about his new book. His talk and his book, *The Terror War*, will focus on the Irish War of Independence fought largely in 1921. It's just the right summation of our centenary theme for this year, "Remembering Ireland, 1921."

This last event of the year is an in-person event, rather than online as the others have been. It is the perfect opportunity for members and guests who haven't been able to spend time with each other all year to come together for an end-of-year gathering and holiday celebration.

Guests are welcome to attend for a \$10 admission fee. Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night of the event. To make the evening more attractive for members and guests, there will be a giveaway of upwards of one-hundred Irish history and biography books available for the taking, the only condition being a promise to read at least some of what one takes!

To stay informed on future IACI-JS programs, go to facebook.com/IACIJerseyShore/events. For questions or for membership information, send an email to irishacijs@gmail.com. New members are welcome to join at any time, annual dues are \$50. The IACI-JS is a federally recognized non-profit national organization and is the only Irish-American organization that has as its patron the President of Ireland.

This Day in Irish History – December

2nd 1999 - Irish government ratifies changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution.

3rd 1925 - The Boundary Commission recommends no change to the border.

4th 1967 - The first independent computer in Ireland is introduced at Shannon Airport.

1971 - 15 people die in the bombing of McGurk's Bar.

6th 1890 - 44 members of the Irish Parliamentary Party walk out in protest at Parnell's leadership.

1921 - Treaty signed in London, allowing for the creation of a 'Free State' in a partitioned Ireland.

1922 - Irish Free State officially comes into existence.

1976 - Dr Patrick Hillery becomes the Sixth President of Ireland.

1982 - The INLA kill 17 people with a bomb attack on the Droppin Well Inn.

7th 1979 - Charles Haughey is elected leader of Fianna Fáil.

1933 - Blueshirts banned by the Irish government.

1980 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the first British PM to visit Ireland since independence.

9th 1973 - The Sunningdale Agreement.

10th 1974 - Seán MacBride wins the Nobel Prize for Peace.

11th 1920 - British forces set fire to the centre of Cork.

1979 - Charles Haughey becomes Taoiseach.

2000 - President Clinton arrives in Dublin.

12th 1928 - First Irish coinage issued.

1936 - Following the abdication of King Edward VIII, the Executive Authority (External Relations) Act is passed to abolish the crown and role of the king in constitutional law.

1955 - Cork Opera House is destroyed by fire.

13th 1867 - Attempted rescue of Richard O'Sullivan Burke from Clerkenwell Jail results in twelve civilian deaths.

1922 - Oireachtas meets for the first time.

1972 - President Éamon de Valera signs documents covering Ireland's entry into the EEC.

14th 1955 - Ireland is admitted to the United Nations.

15th 1844 - St. Malachy's Church in Belfast is dedicated.

1993 - Downing Street Declaration issued by Taoiseach Albert Reynolds and British PM John Major.

16th 1921 - The British House of Parliament accepts the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

18th 1946 - The Irish government announces the release of 24 internees, including Brendan Behan.

1953 - The Censorship Board bans almost 100 publications.

19th 1974 - Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh becomes the fifth President of Ireland.

1981 - The Dublin-registered Union Star sinks on its maiden voyage with sixteen casualties.

20th 1961 - Robert McGladdery becomes the last man to be legally executed in Northern Ireland.

21st 1916 - Announcement made at the British House of Commons that all prisoners from the Easter Rising will be released.

1948 - President Seán T. O'Kelly signs the Republic of Ireland Bill at a ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin.

23rd 1895 - Opening of Grand Opera House in Belfast.

1939 - Ammunition is stolen from the national arsenal at Phoenix Park by the IRA.

24th 1889 - Charles Stewart Parnell publicly accused of adultery.

1895 - Fifteen people die in the Kingstown Lifeboat Disaster.

25th 1945 - In his presidential address, Seán T. O'Kelly calls on the young to support the Irish language.

27th 1997 - LVF leader Billy Wright shot dead in prison by the INLA.

28th 1821 - Four lifeboat men drown while rescuing the brig of the crew Ellen of Liverpool at Sandycove.

1918 - Sinn Féin win a landslide victory in the Irish general election.

29th 1908 - The Irish Transport Workers' Union is founded with James Larkin as general secretary.

1937 - The Constitution of Ireland comes into force.

1967 - A new redundancy payments scheme is announced.

31st 1909 - Harry Ferguson becomes the first person to fly in Ireland, using his own monoplane.

1961 - Teilifís Éireann goes on air.

1998 - The punt is traded for the last time and the Euro is launched.