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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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FEBRUARY IRISH HISTORY

1st

1943 - Central Bank of Ireland established.

1982 - Corporal punishment banned from schools in the Republic.

2nd

1880 - Charles Stewart Parnell addresses the United States Congress.

1972 - The British Embassy is burned in response to Bloody Sunday.

3rd

1881 - Michael Davitt is arrested.

1917 - The father of Easter Rising rebel Joseph Plunkett wins a seat at Roscommon North for Sinn Féin.

1919 - Éamon de Valera and two others escape from prison in England.

4th

1933 - De Valera's Fianna Fáil win their first overall majority in the Dáil Éireann.

1992 - On the day Mary Robinson becomes the first President of Ireland to visit Belfast, an off-duty RUC officer in Belfast kills three people in a Sinn Féin office before committing suicide.

5th 1992 - Loyalists kill five Catholics in a betting shop in Belfast.

7th 1991 - The IRA mortar bombs Downing Street.

8th 1929 - De Valera sentenced to one month in jail for illegally entering County Armagh.

9th

1983 - The IRA kidnap a racehorse, Shergar.

1996 - The IRA breaks its ceasefire by bombing Canary Wharf.

10th

1922 - Treaty Bill introduced in the British House of Commons, providing the dissolution of the 'Southern Ireland' parliament and the election of a new parliament for which the Provisional Government will be responsible.

1958 - Trade Unions vote to end a 15-year split, forming the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

1972 - The IRA announce a ceasefire.

11th

1867 - Fenians try and fail to seize Chester Castle.

1925 - A resolution is passed making divorce and remarriage illegal.

1926 - The performance of The Plough and the Stars leads to violence in Dublin.

2000 - Devolution suspended in Northern Ireland.

12th

1939 - The Department of External Affairs recognises the government of General Franco in Spain.

1972 - Ulster Vanguard Movement is launched.

1989 - Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane is shot dead by Loyalists.

13th 1966 - The Bishop of Clonfert complains about the content of The Late Late Show.

14th 1981 - Forty-eight young people die in a fire at the Stardust Ballroom.

15th

1956 - Owen Sheehy-Skeffington calls for an end to the corporal punishment of girls.

1995 - English football hooligans riot at Lansdown Road.

17th

1960 - The Television Bill passes through its final stages in Seanad Éireann.

1978 - Twelve people die in the La Mon restaurant bombing.

18th 1948 - John A. Costello is elected the second Taoiseach of Ireland.

19th

1901 - Thomas O'Donnell is prevented from addressing the British House of Commons in Irish.

1987 - Charles Haughey returns as Taoiseach.

21st

1843 - Dublin Corporation debate on the Repeal of the Act of Union.

1910 - Sir Edward Carson becomes the leader of the Irish Unionists.

22nd

1933 - General Eoin O'Duffy is forced to resign from his post as Commissioner of the Garda Síochána.

1995 - Taoiseach John Bruton and British PM John Major launch a framework document for Northern Ireland.

23rd

1910 - St Patrick's College, Maynooth, becomes part of the National University of Ireland.

1943 - 35 children die in a fire at St. Joseph's orphanage, Cavan.

26th

1852 - The Birkenhead, which has sailed with insufficient lifeboats, founders. Recruits to the British Army who had boarded at Queenstown stand to attention while women and children are placed in the lifeboats.

1934 - Protest by boys at a school in Thurles over classmates wearing blue shirts (in support of the Blueshirt movement).

1992 - Ban lifted on a 14-year-old rape victim in the Republic going to England for an abortion.

27th

1903 - Mansion House meeting welcomes a move to establish St Patrick's Day as a national holiday.

1920 - Text of the Home Rule Bill published, providing for two parliaments in Ireland.

1997 - Law providing for divorce comes into effect in the Republic.

28th

1973 - The National Coalition of Fine Gael and Labour win an election in the Republic

1985 - IRA kill nine RUC officers at Newry.

Irish American Triumphs and Trials

by

Raymond D. Aumack

Maeve Garvey returned to her office after a blissful honeymoon trip. She felt like she was walking on air and the elevator to her office gave her the sensation of flying in a big jet plane. Hoping she would land in Bermuda again, the elevator door opened, and she stepped back into the reality of her world of work.

She was enthusiastically greeted by her friends and employees. There were flowers on her desk. Most of the corporate mail was handled by Susan, who carefully put it aside for Maeve to review. On her desk were notes of congratulations from clients around the country and a lot of mail with donations for the parish food pantry. Maeve and Patrick requested the donations in lieu of wedding gifts.

She would ease her way into work, she decided. After a greeting celebration with her staff, they gathered in the conference room for coffee, donuts and catch-up conversation. Her friend and Chief Operating Officer, Susan Boyd, and her closest friend and confidant, Theresa Malone, the Director of Human Resources Consulting, a division of the company about to be launched, had everything under control. They chatted amiably about her trip. Maeve told them about the huge breakfasts they had at the West Virginia farm. She described the various stops they made, about the mystique of driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway, living in a log cabin heated only by the fireplace, the beauty of the Outer Banks, and the people they met along the way. She told them about the entire village coming to the main house for dinner each evening in McAllen, West Va.

Bermuda was a different experience. The weather was like spring and everyday was beautiful. She described the adventure of driving and riding on a motorcycle.

She tried to describe the joy of walking barefoot through the pink sand on a Bermuda beach.

"How is Patrick," asked Theresa, inquiring about her brother, now Maeve's husband?

"Patrick is perfect in every way," responded Maeve. The full meaning of her reply was not lost on Theresa.

"I am easing my way back into the work world," said Maeve. "Bear with me for a week but push me when you need me. We'll meet after lunch to review the plans for launching Theresa's department."

"I have already had some work with a few employees from local companies," said Theresa. "All of them would be hourly billings. Dave came by and we reviewed my work. He was very satisfied."

Susan asked if she could chat with her before she settled into the day's work.

"My dad is in jail. He and my mom had a row that has been developing for 35 years. My father is a racist, anti-Semite, misogynist, and a religious bigot, especially against Catholics. Apparently, he and my mom had a big fight over celebrating Christmas and my mom's intention of following after my footsteps to become a full-time Catholic. She started meeting with Father Milos."

"This is no secret, by the way. The office staff has been a big help to me. All of our work has been covered like a glove."

"My mom was staying at my apartment. He spied her car parked a block away and figured that was where he would find her. When he started pounding on the door and screaming, mom called the police. When she knew the police were in the hallway she opened the door. He pushed a policeman out of the way, ran through the open door and viciously hit her before the other police officer could grab him. He fractured her cheekbone,

dislocated her jaw, detached her retina, perforated her eardrum, and left her an emotional wreck. The police were very restrained and professional. My dad was hand cuffed and another police detail took him for booking.”

“When the police officer learned I worked here, he became even more supportive and told me that the Police Department owed the Garveys big time.”

“Yeah,” said Maeve. “When the city council wouldn’t pay for bullet proof vests, my dad paid for them and set up a foundation, managed by the police, to continue to supply them.”

Susan continued, “Brian set up one of his top criminal lawyers to handle the case as his own personal client, and my dad refused when he found out that he would have to pay for services. He ignores the fact that he is eligible for up to twenty years in prison. He wants one of his bar stool buddies who has no criminal experience to handle the case, because he doesn’t think he will have to pay the bill. My dad thinks this is simply a domestic dispute and has no idea why the police are involved or why he is in jail, or better, refuses to believe he did anything wrong. If he doesn’t post bail this week, he’ll be sent to prison. He is determined to fight for his own ‘justice.’ “

“What is the plan,” asked Maeve?

“Michael helped set this up. Brian’s colleague is waiting in the wings. He and I are collaborating. He spent over two hours with my dad who eventually refused his services. If my dad gets any break at all, and he doesn’t deserve one, he’ll be in the tavern bragging to everyone who will listen about how he beat the system. My dad hasn’t had any preliminary hearing yet. He insists that he won’t pay bail or get a lawyer, let alone paying the thousand or so dollars after insurance for my mother’s treatment.”

“Can he afford all of this?”

“Outside of their home and cars, my parents had very few expenses. I had a scholarship for undergraduate school, my sister worked her way through college. I paid my way for the MBA. I am certain he can afford it. It will be a bite, but he can do it. I can take care of my mom.”

“Where is Michael in a of this?”

“He is part of our little conspiracy. We are just awaiting it out until my dad caves in. Packey Boyle, the lawyer my dad wants because he thinks he can manipulate him and cop a freebee on the fee, is going to see him tomorrow. Packey also knows the entire story. ”

“Everyone in the legal system knows Brian,” said Maeve. “He is a legal genius, though John is the smartest of us all.

“Brian is as wise as Solomon and developed this strategy. It requires waiting, but it will work in the long run.”

“Let me know how we can help you and your mom.”

“So far, everything is going according to plan. Thank you, Maeve! Just knowing I can talk with you is a major consolation.”

“By the way, my dad wants to charter a plane to take us back and forth for Maria and Desmond’s wedding. I suggest we offer to pay him our fair share. He probably won’t accept it, but will be pleased that we offered. John will find out how much it costs.”

“How will he be able to do that?”

“Don’t ask. John has mysterious sources of information from his network.”

“We’ll fly down on Friday before the wedding, in time for the rehearsal and a rehearsal dinner.”

At 1:00 PM sharp they met in the Board Room. Dave, in his retirement role as Consultant at Large, was present, but Theresa made the presentation. She started with an overall business plan and everyone had a copy. Theresa cut to the chase and focused on the business aspects of the plan.

When she finished her presentation, she shyly looked at the rest of the staff around the table.

“Wow,” said Maeve. “I am really impressed. Are you comfortable with this?”

“I was really nervous when it came together, but once we started doing some actual work with clients, mostly people who were slated for promotion, I quickly became very comfortable. Dave was a big help.”

“I’m not surprised, said Maeve. “This company owes its existence to Dave. I almost tanked it. Understand that we have no weaknesses because we are a team.”

“The next part of the plan is Marketing. Here we have the written material we will distribute this week. I would like to have a wine and cheese party and invite all the business people in our network. There is a party room in this building that we can rent for a fair price. Susan has invitation models all made up and we have a fold out brochure with the variety of services we can offer. “

“That is a great idea,” said Maeve.

“I was hoping you would agree because we are all ready to go with it. The invitations will go out in tomorrow’s mail for delivery on Wednesday.”

“How did you get that expensive room at such a low rate?”

“Negotiations are easy if the other party thinks I would permanently injure them for not cooperating.”

Everyone laughed, until Susan said, “I never told you guys this story.” When I was being debriefed by the police officer, he asked me where I worked, and I told him. I said, I wish my colleague, Theresa, was here before my dad hit my mom. He asked me if that would be Theresa Malone who single handedly, and without a weapon, destroyed the Colombian cartel.”

I told him that was a little exaggeration, but may the legend continue to grow.

Theresa blushed but everyone laughed.

Dave remarked that it doesn’t hurt to be famous when you are trying to start a business.

“The third piece would be to make personal calls to the CEO’s and the COO’s on our target list.”

“Who is on our target list,” asked Maeve?

“The invitations to the party are global. However, our target groups are vulnerable companies such as banks, utilities, and other companies with public exposure who can afford our services, such as banks and finance companies, real estate, and law offices. Our services are global enough to serve everyone. We will target the big guys but be open for everyone. Susan has some great PR ideas to keep the company in public view without being obnoxious. We’ll be emphasizing the Peter Drucker commandment, ‘know that your most valuable resource is your human resource.’ “

“The fourth piece we have already discussed. I will join Maeve on her national tour to meet, greet, and present to already existing clients.”

“I am so impressed,” said Maeve. “I wanted to wallow in honeymoon reflections, but you guys are dragging me back into the work atmosphere. I am so excited by this and our amazing team. Thank you, Dave.”

“I did very little, I assure you. Susan is your new ‘go to’ person. Susan, you are amazingly brilliant. I knew that before I retired and also knew I was passing the baton on to you. Maeve is blessed to have you.”

“No Dave, I am the one who is blessed. Garvey Consulting Associates has totally changed my attitude and the direction of my life.”

“I know how blessed I am that you are here with us, too,” said Maeve. “I am so glad that you are here for my business, but even more important, I am glad that you are part of my family and my life. You are a great friend.”

The meeting ended with a group hug.

Packey Boyle, a practitioner of family law and tax issues, especially for the poor, sat in the attorney’s waiting room at the county jail waiting for the guards to bring in David Boyd. He knew Dave from then local tavern where Boyle stopped on his way home each day for a single pint of Guinness. He was well known in the neighborhood, and indeed throughout the entire congressional district. He was a good man and his “pro bono” generosity was more than supplemented with his vast clientele. Brian had called him and incorporated him into Michael’s plot. A connection with Brian Garvey who was also generously “pro bono” was a good thing to have. He didn’t know Brian well, but he was in awe of his courtroom professionalism. He knew that Brian was marrying a Black woman in October and that elevated his esteem considerably. He was always annoyed at David Boyd’s disdain for anyone who was not White or agnostic, and usually left his pint unfinished whenever David started to rant. As a practicing Catholic, he had little tolerance with David’s ravings about popery.

The guards brought David into the room in handcuffs that were exchanged with cuffs with a longer chain that bound him to the table.

“Packey, you’ve got to get me out of here. I didn’t do anything wrong. This was simply a domestic dispute.”

Packey stared at him for an uncomfortable length of time. “Really, Dave. I have studied your case carefully. You forced your entrance into a private residence doing damage to an expensive security door. You assaulted a police officer, aggravated assault is the charge. You assaulted your wife fracturing her cheekbone, dislocating her jaw, detaching the retina of her eye, puncturing her eardrum, and damage possibly requiring dental work. She is in therapy now for anxiety. You were also stalking her and resisted arrest.

“See Packey. That is all made up stuff. It was my daughter’s apartment. I have a right to enter it. The cop was in my way, so I had to push him away. Yes, I hit my wife, but you have to slap them around a little bit every now and then just to keep them in line. I shouldn’t have been arrested. It was a domestic dispute. The police have no business being involved.”

“First of all, you have no right to enter your daughter’s private residence. You damaged the door to her apartment. You put hands on a police officer. That is considered a serious offence by the courts. You have absolutely no right to commit aggravated assault on your wife. That is considered a very serious crime. You also resisted arrest.”

“Those aren’t serious crimes and they can’t prove anything.”

“Dave both officers have recorded the whole incident with their body cameras. They also have voice recordings of the entire incident. The evidence is undeniable, and the police officers are eyewitnesses to the entire incident. The cameras and recordings back them up. Any jury would find you guilty in five minutes. You are facing seventeen to twenty-five years in prison.”

“But Packey, you know me. I am not a criminal.”

“Yes, I do know you, Dave, and now you are a criminal?”

“So you are not going to help me?”

“I can’t, Dave. I have no experience in criminal law. I always refer criminal cases to attorneys who are professional in that area. Who was the attorney who previously visited you?”

“Wait, I have his card. Clement O’Sullivan.”

“I know of him. He is regarded as one of the best in the business.”

“How much could this cost me?”

“The attorney fee should be around ten thousand dollars plus expenses that could be considerable. You are going to have some kind of jail sentence, Dave. No attorney would ever try to defend the indefensible. A good attorney will try to get you the best reasonable deal. You will also have to pay bail or at least get a bond. I think your bail is twenty-five thousand. You will also have to pay for your wife’s medical expenses and for the cost of replacing the door to your daughter’s apartment.”

“I have my company’s health insurance.”

“I checked with your company, Dave. You should have received the letter. You have been terminated. Given the nature of the charges against you, the company had to terminate you. After all, it is a cosmetic’s company and the negative publicity of aggravated assault on a woman would negatively impact their business”

“Even after 35 years of service. What am I going to do?”

“Call a relative, remortgage you house, sell your car. You’ll find a way, Dave. By the way your wife has been advised to withdraw half of the money in your banking and savings accounts. She still owns half of the house and even half of your car and half of any other money you might have hidden away.”

“But that is all mine.”

“Actually, it isn’t. The marriage laws in Pennsylvania are designed to protect both parties in a marriage. Your wife has taken only what she is entitled to. She is also entitled to half the money you might have hidden away. Be assured they will find it. Call O’Sullivan. He is among the very best. He’ll get you out of jail and try his best to get you a favorable deal with the courts. To my mind, your best option is to plead guilty and throw yourself on the mercy of the court. If you push for a jury trial that you can’t possibly win, you will certainly get the maximum sentence. You should want to avoid that. O’Sullivan may be able to shave about ten years from your sentence. However, it is the judge that makes that determination and in my experience, judges have little tolerance for guys who slap women around, especially their spouses. By the way, you won’t be released until all those bills are paid”

“You are going to charge me, Packey?”

“That is how I take care of my family and feed my wife and children. I gave you about \$500 worth of good advice, Dave, that could save you several years of prison life. I hope you take that advice. The ball is in your court.”

He summoned the prison guard and left without another word or even a look back.

As soon as he got into his car, Packey called Susan. “Everything went according to plan. Unless he follows our advice and pays the bills, he will get a jury trial with a court appointed attorney and spend the maximum time in jail.”

John Garvey and his dad, the founding president of Garvey Legal Associates, were having lunch together in the cafeteria of his dad’s building. Sometimes they did this casually because his dad, Dave, enjoyed mixing with the employees as much as they enjoyed seeing him among them. However, John and his dad were meeting to discuss their roles in the upcoming trial of Sean Michael McNeil.

“What is your prognosis, Dad.”

“Well if they approach it in a traditional way, they’ll try to do everything they can to shift the blame to us as the provokers of the episode. It is an old trick called ‘blaming the victim.’ Their goal will be to try to get Sean Michael a lighter sentence. Now John, up to this point, no one knows of your involvement. They only tagged you because they knew that I would be with you. Remember, we were going to help each other move something from our cars. They never expected the women to be with us. He certainly never anticipated Theresa. Fatherly advice, son. Start referring to her as Theresa the Terrific. After all, she is a trained killer.”

“Dad, if Theresa never has to use those skills again, she’ll be very happy. A funny thing happened with Susan’s tragedy. The police officer that debriefed her asked her where she worked. In the course of the conversation, the officer connected Maeve and Theresa and said, “Do you mean Theresa Malone, who single handedly and without a weapon dismantled the Colombian cartel. Susan laughed and said that it was a bit of an exaggeration, but let the legend grow.”

“How is her mother doing?”

“ Her injuries are getting better, but I’m afraid her father is destined for jail. He thinks he has the system all mapped out.”

“How would you help him, John?”

“I would explore the ramifications of an insanity plea. That would get him a reduced if indeterminate sentence, and treatment for his xenophobia.”

“Is that treatable?”

“ It is treatable but not really curable. It can be toned down. He will have individual therapy plus group therapy with Blacks, Hispanics, Jews, and Muslims. That could either soften or sharpen the edges of his hatred.”

“John, I would rather keep your involvement out of Sean Michael’s trial. It is nice to have your secrets remain a secret. The difficulty will be to explain away how we knew the amount of money and where it was found, and still be honest.”

“And we will be honest. That is our trademark. Dad, did you suspect that McNeil had silent partners.”

“Yes, I immediately thought of the Mafia or one of the cartels. I also thought he would have a lot of money hidden away to support the Ponzi scheme.”

“You’ve been in the business for a long time, Dad. Finding that money should be a piece of cake for you. Remember, we found the laundered money by accident.”

“You are right. Actually it would be. What if they ask me to identify my investigator?”

“It was not the investigator’s business, nor is it any of the prosecutor’s or the defense attorney’s business. Given what happened, you don’t want to needlessly put anyone else in the line of fire. If they get exceptionally probative, we will ask the judge what would be the benefit of having the name of an investigator exposed, who has played such a minor role. Then we’ll ask for a recess or chamber’s meeting to discuss the situation. Meanwhile, I am going to play the poor victim. I’ll even limp a little.”

“John, I wish you were on some of my legal teams. Don’t say anything, but I may ask Maeve, Brian, and Michael to represent us. What do you think?”

“That would be an awesome team.”

“Dad, you know that I would drive anyone in those conservative legal circles absolutely crazy. I am only too glad to help out at a distance. Also, we’ll figure out specific strategies when we get to the deposition stage. However, I may ask to join your Board after our wedding. I would enjoy shaking the place up a bit. It would be easy. Everyone would think I am the heir.”

“That would be interesting. Who do you think should be the heir?”

“Brian and Michael, of course, the two best lawyers in Philadelphia”

“So I hear. What would your role be?”

“I could be the silent partner/resource, pretty much like I am now.”

“What about Maeve?”

“The way human resource issues are developing, by the time you retire Maeve will need a good legal arm. She could have partner status and a seat on the board.”

“We’re kind of functioning that way now. Maeve’s company has had a fantastic year. I handle all her financials and Hugh Quinn takes care of all her bookkeeping and accounting needs.”

“We’ll see what happens now that Dave is retired.”

“Susan is the new Dave and Dave is in awe of what she can do.”

“That is good to know and I’m happy to hear it. I really like Susan and I’m glad that she and Michael have found each other.”

“How is life with Theresa?”

“Dad, every day is like peeling a rose. Every new layer is a new adventure. I’ve never known anyone quite like her. She is going to have a great run with Maeve. You should see the business plan she created for her department.”

“Well, I am finally enjoying seeing you kids grow up.”

“Well our parents are quite a role model to follow. Don’t worry about the trial. When they depose us, we’ll get more information from them than they get from us.”

The mail announcing the new human resources consulting department went out the next day, as planned. It asked for an RSVP for the sake of the caterer of the wine and cheese party and there was every hope of a successful launch. There were numerous photos of Theresa in the foldout brochure. The announcement was made by Maeve. The mailing featured an executive bio of Theresa, articles she authored, and television appearances made. These were made in the context of her heroism against an international drug cartel in the recent attack on the Garvey family and exposing an international money laundering scheme. This was deliberately downplayed but also deliberately mentioned.

Susan put the announcement onto the Facebook page and also adapted it to the company’s Twitter account. Susan was an excellent writer and composed a model announcement for the press of all the newspaper, and periodical outlets in Philadelphia. She sent a similar announcement to the radio and TV stations’ business departments with a direction toward women’s employment issues including sexual harassment. Garvey Consulting was the first Philadelphia company to professionally focus on this market, a fact that Susan emphasized. They were also consultants to a number of major companies spread throughout the country.

In the mail they received that day was an invitation to the White House. Dierdre and her two female colleagues had received the Silver Star for heroism under intense enemy fire. They were a search and rescue team and were prepared for combat but seldom experienced it. Dierdre had received the Croix de Guerre from the French government for saving a wounded French soldier during a firefight. They were searching for a small unit that had been cut off from a larger combat unit because of a communications failure. Normally not involved in combat, the trio radioed for support, because the situation was desperate. The separated unit was about to be overrun by an enemy force of considerable size. Theresa’s friend, Dierdre, currently an employee of Garvey Legal Associates, as the senior officer, immediately created a plan to distract the enemy by mobilizing an attack on their vulnerable flank making it appear that there were many more than their number. The trapped unit was now able to fight back and thereby created an intense firefight by the time reinforcements arrived. Thanks to the three women, the enemy retreated, creating an escape route for the trapped unit and their rescuers as well.

The Marines wanted to highlight the heroism of their female officers. The White House, and the President would re-present the honors they had already received. Maeve, Theresa, Susan, June, Grace, and Maria received invitations. David Garvey, and a few of Dierdre’s associates at Garvey Legal Associates also received invitations. After the President’s televised presentation, there would be a reception in their honor. The presentation would take place on George Washington’s birthday, February 22nd.

There was great excitement over the invitation but mostly in support of the honor for Dierdre. Tommy Farrell, Dierdre’s friend, was also invited as one of the rescued squad. Tommy suffered a wound to his left leg that has long since healed and is a victim of PTSD. He was doing quite well and working with a re-entry specialist from the Marines to find his way into a job. It was June Gilliam, Executive Director of the Jesuit Urban Mission who immediately reached out to him. She felt that whatever he was learning from the Marines would serve the job development program she was starting. She had spoken with Tommy’s training officer and counselor and was able to get a professional trainer’s manual for her own program and for Tommy’s ongoing support.

David Boyd reluctantly and painfully called Clement O’Sullivan and asked him to come to the jail.

“Only if you’re ready to discuss a decision about your defense, Mr. Boyd. My time is very expensive, and I don’t needlessly waste it.”

“We have to discuss your fee.”

“Mr. Boyd, you are in no position to negotiate.”

“I don’t have that kind of money.”

“Mr. Boyd, you had about \$400 thousand squirreled away in a lot banks in neighboring towns. At this point, \$200 thousand belongs to your wife.”

“How did you know about that?”

“Mr. Boyd, one of the reasons that I am so expensive is that I am very good at what I do. I leave no stones unturned.”

“You are giving \$200 thousand to my wife? That is my money. I earned that.”

“Actually, half of that is not your money. It belongs to your wife.”

“How much money are you spending for the cultivation and care of Dolores Rossi. You must have had a tight relationship. I noticed that she hasn’t contacted or visited you. Did she know you were married?”

“How do you know about her?”

“I told you I was good.”

“Be ready at 3:00 and bring your checkbook.”

“You’re going to rob me blind.”

“I provide justice Mr. Boyd. You, robbing your wife blind, is a criminal act.”

“Later that afternoon, O’Sullivan was in the Attorney’s Conference Room.”

“Boyd came into the room snarling.”

“After he was chained to the to the table, O’Sullivan spoke. “Mr. Boyd, write a check for \$25,000 made out to County Bail Bond Association. You will get that money back at the end of the proceedings, if you don’t try to run away”

“Now write out another check, payable to me, for \$10,000. There will be additional billings for costs such as the work of my office staff and the investigator.”

“Now, write out another check for \$4029.35, made out your wife to pay for medical expenses for the damage you inflicted.”

“Write a check to Patrick Boyle for \$500 for consulting fees.”

“What, Packey is charging me \$500. All we did was talk.”

“I estimate that that conversation saved you about 22 years in jail. “

“Finally, write another check made out to your daughter for \$800 for the damage done to her security door. She’ll pay the landlord with it.”

“Thank you. I’ll provide detailed receipts for your records. I’ll wait two days before I cash these checks. Make sure that the money is transferred to your checking account.”

“Now Mr. Boyd, you have options for your defense. If we add in the attempted grand larceny charges, you are eligible for a sentence of over thirty years in federal prison. You can opt for a trial by jury. My prognosis is that it will take a jury about five minutes to reach a unanimous verdict for conviction. Two police officers are eyewitnesses, verified by body cameras to the forced entry into your daughter’s apartment and the assault on your wife. Judges are notoriously harsh, dealing maximum sentences to wife-beaters. They also don’t like assaults on police officers. One might consider the attempted grand larceny as paper work, but it is a federal crime.”

“For you, at age 55, you are facing the rest of your life in jail.”

“On the other hand, pending a psychiatric examination, we can plead insanity. You will be sentenced to a minimum of seven years in a state psychiatric hospital with an unspecified maximum if you don’t make progress.”

“Someone who hates as much as you do, has a lot of work to do. The hospitals do excellent work. They are clean. You don’t have to wear a uniform. The personnel are professional and generally pleasant people. There are chaplains who visit regularly for your spiritual convenience. You will be allowed to leave the hospital with supervision once you establish a level of integrity. Choose the latter and with the approval of a psychiatrist, you will save about 30 years of imprisonment.”

“In the first case you can plead not guilty, take your chances with the jury, which most certainly, given the evidence, will vote for conviction. In the second case you plead guilty and throw yourself on the mercy of the court. Would you like to think about this over night?”

“Oh by the way, there is no need to go looking for the comforts of Ms. Rossi. She left her apartment and her job and moved on to the next mark somewhere.”

“What is there to think about? I’ll plead guilty. Get the psychiatrist in here.

“I’ll set the psychiatrist’s appointment for tomorrow. I’ll process the bail bond, and you may be able to leave tomorrow afternoon. I’ll set an appointment with the prosecutor for a hearing as soon as possible. I will escort you home. Remember, any bad behavior, anything that comes to the attention of the police, you lose your bail money and the plea deal is automatically nullified. Is that clear?”

“Yes, it is.”

“I’ll be here to pick you up once I am notified that you are free to go.”

O’Sullivan sat in his car and dialed Susan’s number. “He took the deal, Susan. At least he’ll be able to get help. He will not be able to be in your lives for the next seven years. From my perspective that is his greatest punishment. I don’t think he will ever realize that. He paid all his bills except for some of my expenses. I will forward to you the money for your landlord and your mom’s co-pays, with all the proper receipts. Right now, she has no medical insurance. Put her on yours or buy her a policy.”

“Finally, the ugliest of all, you will never hear from Ms. Rossi. She is long gone. We can find her, but, why!”

Peggy Boyd sat in Fr. Milos’ office in the old Victorian rectory, their comfortable arm chairs separated by the almost floor to ceiling Victorian window.

“Peggy, the next chapter is up to you, said Fr. Milos. You are certainly eligible for an annulment if you decide to remarry.”

“Well, for the moment, I am going to sell our house, it was hardly ever a home. I’ll move into Susan’s apartment.”

“If you still want to be part of the RCIA program here, you are welcome. They also have a fine program with very good people over at St. Rita’s.”

“Susan is very established here. I don’t want to be her shadow. I’m strong enough to start on my own. They are also very welcoming at St. Rita’s and they love Susan. I’m sure I’ll be back here often. I can’t thank you enough for what you have done for me. Your healing hand has genuinely blessed me. It is little wonder that Susan loves it here.”

“It is not my hand, but the healing hand of the Lord. You have been in a yolk for so long, freedom must be refreshing.”

“It is father and it is even more strange to have my daughter as a role model.”

“Well, the Spirit guides us through trials and surprises.”

“Thank you, father! May I hug you?”

Thus began a great adventure; a new life in mid-life.

Lament for Thomas MacDonagh

By Francis Ledwidge

HE SHALL not hear the bittern cry
In the wild sky, where he is lain,
Nor voices of the sweeter birds,
Above the wailing of the rain.

Nor shall he know when loud March blows
Thro' slanting snows her fanfare shrill,
Blowing to flame the golden cup
Of many an upset daffodil.

But when the Dark Cow leaves the moor,
And pastures poor with greedy weeds,
Perhaps he'll hear her low at morn,
Lifting her horn in pleasant meads.

Thomas MacDonagh was one of seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic

Tomás Mac Donnchadha was born on Lá Bríd 1878 in Cloughjordan, County Tipperary.

He was a poet, a literary scholar, and friend of William Butler Yeats, as well as a teacher of English and of French, first at Saint Kieran's College in Kilkenny (where he joined *Conradh na Gaedhilge* – **The Gaelic League**, and where the railroad station is now named for him), then at **Saint Coleman's College, Fermoy in Cork**, and, finally at **Scoil Eanna**, where he was both a lecturer and assistant headmaster, under Pádraic Pearse; MacDonagh was also a lecturer in English at the National University, where he developed a friendship with Eoin MacNeill. In 1910 he became the Irish tutor, and close friend, of Joseph Mary Plunkett – the two men later married sisters, Muriel and Grace Gifford.

In 1913 he was a co-founder, and named to the Central Committee, of the newly formed **Irish Volunteers**, as well as given command of the 2nd Dublin Battalion; he later became commandant of the entire Dublin Brigade. He organized the Volunteers, who participated in the **Howth Gun-running** in July 1914. He was on the General Council of the Irish Volunteers and Director of Training. 1915 saw Tomás Mac Donnchadha join the **Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)**, and, at the request of Tom Clarke, plan the Lá Lughnasa funeral of **Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa**, where Pearse's oration would prove a major milestone on the road to the **Rising – Easter Week 1916**.

Mac Donnchadha had been co-opted onto the secret Military Council that planned the Rising; he set up a strong position at Jacob's Biscuit Factory in Dublin,

on Easter Monday. His immediate superior was James Connolly, Commandant General of the entire Dublin Division. He was assisted by Wexfordman Michael O'Hanrahan, and by Major John MacBride, Mayo Christian Brothers Boy, who had fought (Irish Transvaal Brigade) against the English in the Second Boer War. Mac Donnchadha was personally responsible for the initiative, which brought the **Hibernian Rifles** of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Irish American Alliance into participation in the Rising.

Although his position was strong, and his men willing to continue the fight, Thomas MacDonagh surrendered on Sunday, 30th April, once the surrender order had been authenticated. After conviction by English court martial, **along with Tom Clarke and Pádraic Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh was executed, on 3rd May 1916**, by firing squad in the stone-breakers yard of Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin.

A pilgrimage to the GPO, to Arbour Hill and to **Kilmainham Gaol** can have the same psychological effect as the renewing of one's baptismal vows.†

Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam uasal.