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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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On this Day in Irish History

June

1st 1944 - Fianna Fáil wins the general election.

2nd 1942 - Speed limits are introduced to reduce wear on tyres.

4th 1984 - US President Ronald Reagan addresses both houses of the Oireachtas.

7th 1921 - James Craig is elected first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

1944 - Further rationing of electricity is announced.

1996 - Garda Jerry McCabe is shot dead by the IRA in Limerick.

2001 - Ireland rejects the Nice Treaty in a referendum.

8th 1886 - Home Rule Bill is rejected, triggering riots in Belfast.

9th 1903 - University of Dublin agrees to award degrees to women.

10th 1961 - Prince Ranier and Princess Grace of Monaco are received in Dublin.

1983 - Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams is elected MP for West Belfast.

11th 1843 - Tuam is the location of the first of a series of Monster Meetings calling for Repeal.

12th 1986 - Two giant pandas arrive at Dublin zoo.

13th 1951 - Éamon de Valera becomes Taoiseach with a tiny majority.

14th 1928 - Amendment to the Court of Justice Bill ensures certain judges must have competency in Irish.

15th 1977 - Fianna Fáil win the general election.

1988 - IRA kill six British soldiers in Lisburn.

16th 1871 - Westmeath Act allows detention without trial.

1904 - James Joyce meets Nora Barnacle, and later sets Ulysses on this day.

1922 - A general election in Ireland shows 75% support the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

1997 - National University of Ireland, Maynooth, comes into existence.

18th 1969 - French President Charles de Gaulle meets President De Valera in Dublin.

1992 - Referendum in the Republic approves the Maastricht Treaty.

20th 1890 - St George's covered market is opened in Belfast.

1936 - Irish government declares the IRA an illegal organisation.

22nd 1911 - Sinn Féin protest Irish participation in the coronation of King George V.
1932 - 31st Eucharistic Conference opens in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin.

23rd 1914 - Government of Ireland Bill introduced to the House of Lords.
1929 - Pontifical High Mass at Phoenix Park marks the centenary of Catholic emancipation.
1993 - Dáil Éireann passes a bill to decriminalise homosexuality.

24th 1973 - Éamon de Valera retires from office aged 90.

25th 1938 - Douglas Hyde is inaugurated as the first President of Ireland.
1945 - Seán T. O'Kelly is inaugurated as the second President of Ireland.
1959 - Éamon de Valera is inaugurated as the third President of Ireland.
1966 - Éamon de Valera is inaugurated for a second term as President.
1970 - Bishops lift the ban on Catholics attending Trinity College Dublin.
1973 - Erskine Childers is inaugurated as the fourth President of Ireland.

26th 1887 - Highest temperature ever recorded in Ireland (33.3C, measured at Kilkenny Castle).
1949 - 80,000 people attend a Pioneer Total Abstinence Society meeting at Croke Park.
1991 - The wrongful convictions of the Maguire Seven are quashed.
1996 - Crime reporter Veronica Guerin murdered in Dublin.

27th 1963 - US President J. F. Kennedy addresses both houses of the Oireachtas.
1998 - The Republic of Ireland qualifies for entry into the Economic and Monetary Union of the EU.

30th 1922 - Anti-Treaty forces storm the Four Courts and take 33 prisoners.
1932 - The Tailteann Games open in Croke Park.
1981 - Fine Gael leader Dr Garret Fitzgerald is elected Taoiseach.

Irish American Expansion

By

Raymond D. Aumack MA, M.Div., NC. Psy. P

Maeve Garvey Malone had invited Rosellen Dowd to a long lunch at her favorite Philly Steak House. Rosellen was finishing her final semester at St. Joseph's University with a bachelor's in social work. She will also be the valedictorian of her class. She has an interest in confronting systematic racism, crippling poverty, unacceptable housing, and chronic unemployment, along with limited or inadequate education. The battle is also against the hopelessness generated by alcohol and drug abuse and the crime it fosters. These are all issues that concern Maeve and now that her business has grown in size and profitability, it is time to confront the issues that really concern her and about which she thinks she can do something. She hadn't the slightest idea of what to do, how to do it, or even where to begin. Neither does she know about the kinds of services her firm can provide.

Dierdre will be her top resource. She found a place to start. The lead water pipes in a run-down district have been removed and replaced. Dierdre had insisted that most of the labor should be provided by residents of the neighborhood. Union wages are paid with health insurances and pension benefits. The money is provided by the Federal Government and professional contractors are hired to manage the projects. Joe O'Grady keeps track of every penny, so no one is going line their pockets with any loose money. Two contractors' have already been arrested for lining their pockets and giving "no – show" jobs to favored friends and relatives. Dierdre's projects are already creating hope in depressed neighborhoods with depressed residents. The next step is to help people rise up, but they can't because there is a knee of poverty and joblessness on their neck holding them down. That is where Maeve thinks Rosellen can make a contribution.

Rosellen had written her graduation thesis on Dierdre's project. She pointed out that Dierdre had a number of charisms that helped her along. A woman with a Congressional Medal of Honor and a chest filled with military medals for heroism. She has contacts in Washington and the President's private number.

"Rosellen, we are part of a team. Everyone's contacts are available to everyone else. The resources of my Dad's law firm are available to us. In fact, my Dad is working closely with Dierdre now but is very interested in the project we are discussing. It won't be all on you. You will wear the banner of our firm. I won't be expecting profits. What I need is your intelligence and insight as well as your ability to control what might be several projects going on simultaneously. Moreover, this can be dissertation material if you choose to go for the Doctorate.

"The whole idea is very exciting. I can't believe the salary you want to pay me, remarked Rosellen."

"First of all," said Maeve, you will earn every penny, I'm sure of that. The construction managers in Dierdre's project are earning on the same level I propose for you. While it will draw on our company resources, I expect that we'll be able to attract private investment into some of the projects and that should reduce any impact on our corporate resources. I believe that every Black executive in the city will have an interest in your project and there are many high earning Black executives who will want to be involved in your work. There are Black men and women who are genuine leaders in our community who will love the opportunity to be part of the project. The response to Dierdre's projects provides ample evidence of that."

"I agree, not only for Blacks but for Hispanics and every immigrant of whatever color, who needs a start in our country. What about illegals," asked Rosellen?

“I will have some fun with that,” said Maeve. “June and I have been fighting those wars for the last fourteen years. June is not an attorney, but she is always my second chair in these situations. We’ll be able to get visas and provide classes that lead to citizenship. We have them at the Jesuit Urban Mission and our volunteers work with them under my supervision.”

“What about safety issues. I’ll be the only White woman in many circumstances.”

My Dad provides security. You won’t know who they are. My mother didn’t do much and she gets credit for taking down the Mafia in Philadelphia. Actually, Dierdre handles security issues. She and her team actually took down the Mafia, my mom was involved, for sure, but giving her the credit takes all the heat off of Dierdre. My dad took Dierdre off of a project in Ireland, a sizeable one. She and John monitored the whole thing by computer and advised the FBI, Scotland Yard, and NATO. Their work solved the urban crime wave problem, set up an urban security plan for the future, and saved a lot of dollars and lives, guiding the entire project as totally undercover private citizens. We have that kind of power available to us.”

“If your Dad and John are involved, I feel safe already.”

“The bad guys won’t dare challenge Dierdre or Theresa again. It costs them too much. The Mafia thing happened at the Police Annual Ball. Once the ball (the pun was not intended) started rolling, it took them all down, including a group of police officers who had sold their souls, as well as their retreat and staff in the Cayman Islands.”

“You’ll be working out of our company’s offices. We’ll be moving to Michael’s building in another couple of months. With your input and approval, we’ll set up a development office staffed by the people that emerge as project leaders. You will want to set up consultant advisors from the community with whom you’ll be working most of the time. I’ll want you to have maximum visibility.”

“I’m excited for you, Rosellen. Graduation, a marriage within the next few months, the pending birth of a baby brother, and a house of your own to live in, and the possibility of adopted children in your own future. You’ll make Maria a grandmother while she is still in her 30’s. By the way, the company provides childcare. We all share the cost, but believe me, it is top notch care and supervision at minimal cost. We even have an early childhood educator on staff. Susan and I get to see our children often during the day.”

“And a new job,” interjected Rosellen. “We have a deal. This is daring but I would never be able to find an opportunity like this. Can I start on August 1st? Can I squeeze a honeymoon into our contract whenever that might be? Maria is helping me with the planning. We’ll be married at St. Joseph’s Chapel and Fr. Fred will be officiating. We’re waiting on Sean’s schedule to set a wedding date. I’m asking Maria to be my Maid of Honor. Will you be in my wedding party?”

“Yes, to everything,” said Maeve.

“Meanwhile, I’ll connect with Dierdre and pick her brain.”

“Call on any of us if you need help with wedding plans. How was your pre-Cana?”

“Even after three years of college and a semester of grad school, I still feel like a neophyte. My dad and Maria have been an amazing help. Thank God, Sean and I can talk about everything. During some of these conversations, I feel like I am getting absolution.”

“That is already a forgone conclusion. The past is a learning experience. Your dad and Maria provide all the light to dispel the darkness.”

“The darkness still haunts me. I don’t know what happened, my dad and my late mom were and are saints.”

“I’m sure Fr. Paul can help you with that.”

“I do have to speak with him. I am training my successor with the help of some of the volunteers at the food pantry. They had fun picking my successor though, I did subtly push her into it. She should work out very well. I think she is better at it than I am.”

“That is what every executive wants. Someone who can do the job better than he or she did it. Do you have time now? I’d like you to come to the office and see relaxed chaos in action.”

“I would love that.”

“We’ll visit the babies, too. I haven’t seen Brigid since early this morning. A highlight of the day is visiting them even now and then during the day. They play so well together, and they’ll be bossing the other kids around in no time. We have an early childhood educator. We’ll have another child care specialist when the other babies start arriving. Susan, who actually runs the company, makes an outstanding cup of coffee. She has a friend in Hawaii who sends us the most perfect coffee grown on the planet. We get two packages every week.”

“I won’t be disturbing anyone by coming with you, will I?”

“Certainly not. Someone must be working because we are earning an awful lot of money,” replied Maeve. “As you can imagine, we socialize all day long. Most of the companies we work with would not tolerate such frivolity. We all work hard but we have fun doing it.”

When they arrived, indeed everyone had chilled down and were enjoying each other’s company at the end of the day. Maeve walked in with a big smile with Rosellen trailing behind her. Friends, meet our new Director of Community Services. When she starts in August, the dream that we discussed for this company is being realized. Dierdre is going to help Rosellen with her training, and we will dovetail with the Federal community development project that Dierdre is running for the Jesuit Urban Mission. Everyone was very enthused that another friend was joining the company. The company has three new employees, an assistant for Maeve and Susan, another for Theresa, and yet another for the new Community Services Department, though it is not up and running yet, she is being trained in the overall work of the business and becoming accustomed to the jovial work environment. Her name is Mazie and Rosellen was very pleased to meet her. She asked Maeve if she could sit in with her meetings with Dierdre.

Theresa was about three weeks away from delivering John Patrick who was moving a lot and letting her know that he was anxious to get out and play with the other kids. Theresa has twelve weeks of maternity leave ahead of her but has already announced that she would be coming in an out and would still be considered on leave. There will be “Baby Show and Tell.” John Patrick will have an opportunity to play with his cousins, Brigid Theresa and Michael David. Of course, he won’t care for several months.

Rosellen was very pleased with the atmosphere of the work environment. She called to see if she and Dierdre could sit down together. Dierdre was delighted and looked forward to discussing what she had discovered about the community. They set an appointment for two days hence.

Meanwhile there was another transition occurring at Garvey Legal. Dave Garvey was moving out his office suite and taking a smaller space for himself and Brigid to share. This was part of their retirement plan. As co-founders of the firm, they considered many Associates as family. Two offices were being prepared within the suite for the new co-Presidents, Michael and Brian Garvey. It would take some time to assess the flow of the firm and distribute different levels of responsibility. Their oldest brother, John, serves on the Board of

Directors and will advise his brothers appropriately. John is an oracle of wisdom and knowledge, and his brothers know that. John will guide them every step of the way. Both are very successful attorneys and managed several attorneys in their own firms. Michael had been doing a considerable amount of work with Maeve's firm. The plan was to continue to do that while assessing how to fit that component in their plans. Both Michael's firm and Brian's firm have been folded into Garvey Legal. The three brothers will be doing a lot of talking and thinking over the next several months. Meanwhile Dave was planning to announce his retirement in October and to further announce that his sons would fill presidential chairs. The Department Directors will still report to Dave with Michael and Brian participating until they fully take over in October.

Theresa and June were having a "luxury" lunch at the new conference room at the Jesuit Urban Mission. It was a joy for the very pregnant friends to be able to relax in the soft chairs that they would still be able to rise from without help. Both are scheduled to deliver their babies in early May. Father Jim joined them for a while and they enjoyed a meal from the Mission's own cafeteria, along with scintillating conversation with his current president and his founding president.

"June, I am amazed at what you have been able to achieve," said Theresa.

"Why are you surprised. It was your plan," replied June.

"Actually, it was our plan with Maeve and Maria."

"Yeah! That was the fun when we had nothing but suffering people to care for and no money with which to help them."

Fr. Jim laughed. "Nobody knows better than you that I am not a gifted charismatic leader. Look at what you achieved."

"We couldn't achieve anything with the gifted charismatic leader who had enough courage to listen to us. Great leaders know how to depend on their team. Ask Dierdre. She knows better than any of us about leadership. Remember, her soccer team required five or six games to realize they were something special. Once they did that, they rolled to a NY State Championship. She got everyone to work with her."

"Dierdre is extraordinarily talented and so are both of you. Theresa, the lives you saved with your extraordinary skills are the things that angels sing about. June, you never played on a losing basketball team."

"I had a team of four others on the court and six on the bench."

"That you made into what they became."

"I love talking with you, Jim. You always find gold in a mudhole."

"Speaking of gold, I have to swear both of you to secrecy about this information."

"I swear," said Theresa. "Me too," said a curious June.

"Grace O'Malley has matched her father's gift. Her father will eventually find out because he manages her money. That gives us \$2 million a year for ten years with an option to renew. That just about covers our total operating budget. The Health Care Center is covering its costs and helping with the mortgage. Our cafeteria is turning a profit even with everything subsidized. Our automobile repair enterprise is profitable. Our apartment building is generating a nice income. Our other apartment is reserved for Jesuit and volunteer residences. Dierdre's project to rebuild the city, which is part of the Jesuit Mission Services, is going quite well and she is spending millions without losing a penny thanks to Joe O'Malley. Things are really looking up."

“Listen, you guys enjoy your long lunch. Thank you for your compliments. Both of you scare the hell out of me and that is a good thing.”

“Wow!” said Theresa. “To rephrase an Easter Gospel, ‘Weren’t our hurts burning within us as he related these accomplishments.’”

“Yeah, I live with these amazing surprises every day. I know that Maeve is creating a program that will approach all the human problems that we deal with, and the long and short-term services should be paid for as well.”

“Rosellen just accepted Maeve’s job offer today. She starts in August after her wedding. Maria will be her Maiden of Honor. The rest of us will be Bride’s Maidens. She will coordinate with the Jesuit Mission and Dierdre’s project.”

“I am so glad to hear that,” said June. “Working within the community is essential. Rosellen is the perfect choice. She is going to be the valedictorian of her class at graduation. It was the missing piece in our plan because we needed both a leader and team player in that slot.”

“This baby is enjoying my lunch,’ said Theresa. “He is very active today.”

“Mine is too,” said June. “I think he may be arriving faster than expected. It feels like he is learning to dribble even before he has a ball.”

Maeve left work early. She was going over to her dad’s Law firm to meet with Dierdre. Dierdre did not lose her associate who was hiding from her. She was teaching her staff of guards to be invisible while on guard duty. The joke was that she couldn’t find one of her staff members because he was so invisible. The fact is that Dierdre knows where everyone is all the time. They met in Dierdre’s office and Maeve was anxious to tell her that Rosellen had agreed to work with them.

“Fantastic” replied Dierdre.

“She will start in August after her wedding.”

“I can’t think of anyone who will work as hard and be resilient at the same time.”

“She’ll work out of my office,” said Maeve. “She’ll have an assistant. She’ll also set up an office in one of our target neighborhoods. The neighborhood office will be for the neighborhood leadership. That will be a meeting place where strategies are plotted, and needs identified. By the time that gets up and running, you’ll be able to bring your twins with you.”

Dierdre patted her belly. “The twins go wherever I go now,” she laughed.

“How is your house hunting going,” asked Maeve?

“I have been searching and Tom is also searching. We are starting to realize how hard it is to please us.”

Maeve offered, “I want to talk with John and, if you’re interested, find property around the golf course to build a house on. I remembered that John once mentioned that a large parcel of club property is reserved for potential housing.”

“I would like to explore that,” said Dierdre. “I know that John is in his office this afternoon, let me call him.”

Ten minutes later, John sauntered into Dierdre’s office. “This is a surprise little sister. Welcome to Garvey Legal Associates.”

“Well thank you big and bold oldest brother.”

“We are here discussing a possible mission. I remember you mentioning that there was property around the golf course that was reserved for housing. Dierdre and I have been discussing the possibility of building houses.”

“Yes, the property hasn’t been touched for any other purpose. I think it was Dad’s dream that we would all live around Coral Gables when he bought it.”

“I think that we could build a house somewhat like Dad’s. I want five children and Deirdre wants ten.”

“Whoa,” said Dierdre. “Let’s see how well it works with two to begin with.”

John laughed. “Let me find the maps tonight. I think there is room for seven homes like Dad’s. If you choose to build a home, the land is free to you. It is already owned by our family and intended for family use.”

“Would homes like Maria’s and Desmond’s be possible.”

“I think that is what the property is scaled for. Dad was clever about things like that, but he hasn’t thought about it for years. It sounds like a good idea. Let me run it by him later.”

“I’m not part of your family. Do I have a chance at something?”

“Dierdre, you are part of our family.”

“Wow, I didn’t want to be presumptuous.”

“Not at all,” said John. “I think Dad would be very pleased to have everyone around him.”

Later that evening, Dierdre and Tommy were sharing dinner. Dierdre asked, Tom, what do you think about building a house on John’s golf course?

“It would be nice to have friends around us,” replied Tom.

“So far, it is just Maeve and Patrick and us. John said that it was his father’s original dream to have us all around him.”

“Is there that much room,” asked Tommy?

“Yeah, I walked over it with Maeve today.”

“What do you think of a house modeled on Desmond and Maria’s house? I’d love to live in a place like that. It is perfect for raising children. I think we can accomplish this within a year.”

“If the Dowds don’t have the architectural plans, Fr. Paul might. The parish built that house as a residence for Nuns who only lived there briefly,” replied John.

“I didn’t really know that, but I guessed it since Maria’s office was obviously once a chapel with the gorgeous stained-glass window.”

“I hope we can find them. We could save a lot of time and money if we had those plans.”

Rosellen and Sean met for dinner. Rosellen told him about the conversation with her parents. They wanted to host an Open House type of party for her graduation, now only a few weeks away. Then after that they want to concentrate on wedding preparations. “I told them that I would prefer a small wedding at St. Joseph’s

Chapel and a reception at Bookbinders. My dad has many friends who would feel snubbed if they couldn't be part of the celebration. Sean nodded his approval. To both plans."

"Where would you like to have a honeymoon. I would only object to Afghanistan, said Rosellen."

Sean laughed. "I'll certainly second that. I have a thought. How about Paris while it is still the vaunted Springtime? And then I would like to tour Ireland. Can we take three weeks?"

"I don't see why not," said Rosellen. "That would also be our summer vacation. Theresa's brother can take us on the grand tour of Dublin."

"I'm told that the real Ireland is to the west, north, and south of Dublin," said Sean.

"Dad tells me that the Shelborne Hotel is a great place to start from. Then we can use our mapping skills to drive up the east coast and down the west."

"Do you have mapping skills?"

"No, but I'm a good reader. I'll ask for a good guide book and discuss possible stops with my Dad. He knows the country quite well and he'll gently suggest we visit his brothers and sister in Kerry. Also, if we like it enough, we can always go back there. I know of people who have gone back a dozen times."

"I'm game if you are."

"Count me in," said Rosellen.

"On a whole new plain, David Garvey offered me a job with his firm. I am a little squeamish given the history with my dad. He tells me that he isn't interested in any retribution. That he has followed my Law School career and is convinced that I can become a really good lawyer. I'm not sure that I want to spend my entire career as a lawyer. I think I would eventually like to get into what Dierdre is doing. It is a hard living, but we really don't need to money. My inheritance will keep us affluent for a lifetime. My dad was distracted by greed. It almost destroyed Mr. Garvey and it eventually cost my dad his life. I think I want to use my time and talent to leave behind a legacy of good."

Rosellen looked at him for a minute and then reached across the table to kiss him. "I am so glad to hear you say that. Our work will crisscross. Maeve still works on tenant issues with the Jesuit Urban Mission. I'll definitely need a good attorney in my work. The underserved communities get into trouble all the time. June isn't an attorney but has served as Maeve's second chair for about fourteen years. My dad tells me that in all those years they never lost a case. June is as much of a strategist in the courtroom as she was on the basketball court."

"She was a helluva ball player. She could have played on the Villanova men's team. I understand she left a lot of coaches with broken hearts when she chose Immaculata."

"Yeah, she wanted a more rounded college experience than just being a basketball player. Then she divided her Valedictory award with Maeve and Grace who were within a point of her. I think she is more famous for that than even the four national championships. Brian has a room in their apartment just for her trophies."

"I grow in amazement of your friends with each passing day."

"I'll talk with the Chaplain tomorrow and see if can set a date for our wedding. Early June is probably the best time. Obviously, my dad has flexibility with Bookbinders. I'll also call Fr. Paul if I don't see him on Monday. Can you believe it. We are finally getting married?"

“I think we have a great life ahead of us.”

Later that evening, Rosellen looked in on her Dad and Maria. “I think our plans will be solidified in a couple of days. Tomorrow, I’ll have a date for the chapel at St. Joseph’s. I will have Fr. Paul in place and dad you can work on Bookbinders as soon as I have a date set.”

We won’t have invitations to the open house because it is an open house,” said Maria. “You can circulate the party info to your friends. But we’ll arrange formal invitations for the wedding reception. Desmond, that is your responsibility.”

“Dad, in lieu of gifts, can we ask for donations to the food pantry?”

“Of course we can, and that is a generous gesture.”

“I forgot to mention that to Sean. I’ll do that tomorrow. I’m sure he won’t have any objections.”

“For our honeymoon we are going to Paris for few days and then we want to take a tour of Ireland.”

“That sounds wonderful,” said Maria. “Dad, we’ll visit with your family. It should be a good time. We’ll both start work in the beginning of August. I’ll have to clear that with Maeve.”

“Dad, did you know that Dave Garvey offered Sean a job with his firm.”

“I didn’t, but I am not surprised.”

“Sean wants to work on the legal end of social services. We’ll be working together as things develop. He says he wants to use his legal skills to do some good. With his amazing inheritance, we really won’t need the money and that frees him to do the good he wants to do.”

“He’ll still receive a Garvey Legal Associates salary and that is nothing to sneeze at, especially with the generous bonuses. Both of you will do very well and he can invest his inheritance.”

He is already signed up with Joe O’Malley.

“That is really exciting, Rosellen,” said Maria.

“Where will you live,” asked Maria.

“Would you believe that I haven’t even thought about that. Oh well, we’ll be talking again tomorrow.”

“All great plans,” said Maria. “But we need the action.”

“We’ll be in great shape by the end of the week.

The next day, Monday, John Garvey picked up the phone and called Sean McNally, his closest boyhood friend, and invited him to come over to the club at lunchtime. John was aware that his dad had offered Sean the job at the firm. Sean is considering it but has not yet accepted the offer. All indications are that he will.

Rosellen and Dierdre met in Garvey Legal’s cafeteria. Rosellen was impressed at the length of time it took to get to their tables. Everyone wanted to say something to Dierdre, who, in turn, introduced Rosellen to everyone by name.

When they did get back to the Executive Business Meeting dining room, Rosellen said that she was so impressed that Dierdre could remember everyone’s name.

“It is not easy,” said Dierdre. “I learned by observing Dave Garvey. I think he gets absolute loyalty because he can remember everyone’s name. I work at it like it is a daily mental exercise. My coworkers are impressed by my celebrity. I am impressed with their legal skills. It has become a mutual admiration society. I have also become friendly enough with many employees, that I can ask them for names. They are also impressed that I need help remembering. I come in here mostly with Dave. He thinks it is important to come to the cafeteria at least twice a week, just to be seen. He is still the boss. He remembers everyone’s name so I can pick on his memory.”

“Thanks for that trick. I’m going to try to learn that. While most of my work will be outside the office, I hope to be developing many projects that will require an office in the community. I am going to have to rely on the community to identify their needs and then work from that.

“That is the fun part,” said Dierdre. “I started addressing a real need, replacing lead water pipes. Now I am installing Belgian block curbing and planting trees throughout the city so folks can see real evidence of progress. The place will really be beautiful with blossom trees developed for an urban atmosphere. The next project is to work on easing the traffic congestion. throughout the city. I have a task force working on the details right now. Then we’ll start improving the parks. That is just the public stuff. Right now we are providing in depth training for adequate police surveillance of the city. We have to make the city safer. We are quietly installing cameras, throughout the city, every hundred yards or so. We need to protect our citizens, identify perpetrators, and identify and capture criminals on our streets. We are encouraging cameras in all the stores. If we see an outbreak of violence, we want to be on the scene as rapidly as possible. Also, there will be police officers on the street and also police cars consistently patrolling every neighborhood. I’m surprised that some of this is not even noticed yet. All the better. When we announce the results, we’ll have better crime stats and that will please the citizens even more and generate more cooperation. Then we can start working on senior housing and low-cost housing.”

“Your dreams are being realized.”