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

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

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Irish American Pride

by

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Joe O' Malley arrived at the lobby of Garvey Legal Associates looking forward to spending time with Dave Garvey, the founding president of the firm. It was a massive ten-story building with everything you expect from the largest law firm in Philadelphia. A lot of very well-dressed people seemed to be hustling to and fro.

Joe thought, at first glance, it represented his expectation of a well-run company. The receptionist's replacement arrived, and she asked Joe to come with her. They took the elevator to the tenth floor, to the Executive Suite. Dave walked out to the hallway to greet Joe.

"Thank you, Helen. You can now brag that you escorted royalty. Mr. O' Malley is the great, great grandson of our queen of Connaught, Grace. Turning to Joe, he stated that Helen was the chief consultant on all things Irish. Helen blushed and stated that only after asking Brigid if it was true. Irish history reads like a novel, because it is. Joe replied, "Yes, I have become a reader of all things Irish. If my great, great grandmother was as colorful as she is described, she was quite a lady."

"Ah, she was all that and more," replied Helen.

"Thank you, Helen," said Dave. Joe also thanked her as he followed Dave into his office.

"I am impressed with your building and this office," said Joe. I am even more impressed that you know the name of your receptionist."

"I know everyone in the building by name. The same is true of our two satellite offices. That is part of my current job description. This is a big enterprise with a hundred lawyers in this building and their support staffs.

"I have a Board of Directors who are super helpful and well paid. The business structure is inspired by our Church. My Board is like the Vatican. I function as the Pope. Every functional breakdown of services is managed by the equivalent of a bishop. They have their assistants for a deeper managerial structure. I make sure that every level is accountable. I am the rainmaker. I go to a Kiwanis luncheon every week. I am on several charitable boards and I'm active in all of them. Our philanthropic budget is ridiculous by the objective standards of our accountants until I point out that our revenues increase eight times over the costs of our philanthropy. I was buying into their concern until my son, John, pointed out the profits they generate. I never have to make a sale. My presence at their affairs automatically generates business. Brigid loves attending them with me. John is now on the Board. I promised he could have fun. It keeps everyone on their toes because they logically think he is going to succeed me. John has absolutely no interest in heading up this firm. Meanwhile, I get reports on everything. If something smells bad, I have my divisional leader in to explain the problem. Sometimes, I just pass it on to John to quietly fix it. If I am required, I'm there to help. I'm also working with Michael and Brian to actually take over the company. They will blend their highly profitable firms into mine."

"I waved to Brigid."

"She was here from the very beginning and in fact made the sale that made us a legitimate Law Firm. We were so busy, I was run ragged hiring and training additional attorneys. Brigid would quietly screen them and let me

know if this was the one I should hire. Her judgement was and is impeccable. I can't say the place runs itself, but with the help of our marvelous team, it runs efficiently. We are the largest firm in Philadelphia, and I dare say, the best."

"The size and obvious efficiency of your firm is mind-boggling."

"We work at it. When it is time for an associate to move on into his or her own practice, we help out by throwing business their way. Sometimes I'll send John as a consultant to help them get started. I am proud that much of our loyal competition had their start at our firm. It guarantees great attorneys for our community."

"How did you learn to do this?"

I took extra courses in Business Management at Drexel University. I still belong to the Peter Drucker style of management even though the great theorist is out of style. I believe in the humanness of our enterprise. It certainly works for me. Could I make more money doing something different? I know we can. I want to do something more than making money. I want to elevate respect for the Law, as well as elevate the dignity of my attorneys and their staffs, and at the same time, respect and elevate the dignity of our clients."

"I heard you have friends in high places."

"Yes, I am blessed with many. You are probably referring to Joe Biden. I always liked Joe. He is a good man, and his heart is in the right place. He walks with God. We speak on a secure phone almost every week. Just between us, he wanted me to be the number two man in the Justice Department. I am a better friend and a more objective advisor. I don't want anything political. John is available if he needs anyone for something clandestine. John and Dierdre are arguably the best computer researchers and analysts in the country."

"You are coming to my home for dinner on Friday," said Dave. "Let me take you to lunch in our cafeteria. I have a special pride in it."

"I would be surprised if you didn't," said Joe.

Joe was impressed at the greetings to Dave as they walked through the cafeteria. Everyone obviously loved him, and Joe knew from his research that Dave's approach to business was working. He responded to every greeting and called everyone by their first name.

"Grace told me about the two times Dierdre rescued you and your family.

"I'm sure Grace told the story well. Just to be sure, Theresa had the key role. She destroyed two assailants and was able to leap over their broken bodies to push the third who was about to shoot me. At the same time Dierdre was flying through the air somehow and shot the potential killer just as Theresa pushed him enough to distract his shot. He and Dierdre fired simultaneously, and the bullet intended for me tore through her hair. Her shot was true, and he died instantly."

"I can't imagine that Teresa can do all of that," said Joe.

"You are quite right. Teresa took Karate at Villanova and earned her Black Belt. She enjoyed the exercise and the spirituality."

"Just to change the subject, how do you spread the word about your company philosophy?" asked Joe.

"I didn't plan this but my daughter, Maeve, an attorney and a genius, started a very successful Corporate Relations consulting firm. She is all over the country. She structured her company so that all of her key employees are also owners. You wouldn't believe her success and she is just about ready to expand again to the next level."

"But enough about me, Joe. What are your plans?"

Well, Grace and Charlie are marrying in November. I am negotiating with my company over the clients I serve. It is an issue of over a billion dollars that is involved. I think we are working toward a solution. I want to open a small practice here. I want to work with poor people and bring them to a level where they can have a healthy savings' account. I want to raise the economic level of the working poor. I would like to do that with the Jesuit Urban Mission. Maybe I can help Tom Farrell with the homeless.

Your income will be modest at best."

"Dave, I don't really know how much money I have. I have an accountant working that now. I estimate that it is between four and five billion dollars."

"Will you accept my children and myself as clients?"

"Of course," said Joe, "but you seem to have done well on your own."

"I have, but the Market is changing rapidly and I'm finding it hard to keep up. In addition to the accounts that I have for them, my children have their own investment accounts. I do their taxes, or my staff does. Maeve has salted away couple of million dollars as a corporate slush fund for emergencies such as a recession or depression. Michael is buying a building. If Maeve doesn't take two of his floors, I will."

"Are you aware of a small space that I can use?"

"Desmond has a cottage in the center of town. He lived alone for several years after his wife died. He is about to purchase the house he was renting across from the street from St. Paul's. I'm sure that he will be interested in selling or renting his cottage. Maeve knows everyone in Philadelphia. I'm sure she can help."

"I'm looking for a far more modest home than the one I have now. My wife insisted that it was good for business. It turned out to be. I was like a king in my own castle, but I was alone in it. I have a housekeeper who I hope will come here with me. I am not opposed to marrying again. I hope you can introduce me to some of Philadelphia's social life."

A notice went out to all the Department heads at Garvey Legal inviting everyone to a reception for Dierdre. Dave was hosting a surprise lunch hour reception and he wanted it to be a secret. Joe O' Grady, her co-department director, will arrive with her at 12:10. Lunch hour for the entire staff was extended to mid-afternoon if possible. Knowing the demands on the attorneys, and their demands on their staffs, it isn't obligatory. However, everyone admires Dierdre and those who are able to know her genuinely love her. Dave was hosting the celebration, so everyone was getting a free lunch. Tables were setup around the cafeteria with various foods available simply for the asking. Joe was to bring Dierdre into the cafeteria at approximately 12:15 with her assistant notifying the cafeteria when they left the office. Joe came into her office and very solemnly stated, "Dierdre, we have to talk, and we'll do it in the cafeteria. I don't do serious conversations without a sandwich or a drink. Since we're on duty, it will have to be a sandwich."

They solemnly walked to the cafeteria. It was strangely dark. Dierdre asked Joe if they were opened. Joe pulled on the door and when he did, the lights went on. Bedlam broke loose. There was applause and cheers with the Marine Hymn blaring on the loud speaker. Everyone cheered and many ran up for hugs and handshakes. There was a podium set up on a platform and David Garvey had this silly smile on his face.

“Dierdre, we are very happy you were able to make this. It took some subtle planning to get you here. We wanted to honor you as a firm because we are so proud of you and proud that you are one of us.

Dierdre was startled and stunned. Susan Garvey’s mom, Tommy, her fiancé, June Garvey, Fr. Jim and Fr. Fred all came to her side. John was there with Peggy Boyd, Susan Garvey’s mom.

Dave invited the two priests to say, “Grace.” Both stepped up, and Fr. Fred deferred to Fr. Jim and blessed everyone as Jim spoke the words of blessing. Dave said that the speeches would remain at a minimum. He thanked everyone for pulling off the surprise at a moment’s notice. He wanted a surprise for Dierdre, and she got one. He talked briefly about Dierdre’s Medal ceremony, the graciousness of the President and Vice President. One of the rescued soldiers she saved for herself and introduced Tommy as her fiancé. He used the President’s words to describe her unwavering courage in the face of fierce combat in over 50 firefights saving hundreds of American and NATO soldiers. Dierdre and her team of two had a nickname, The Ladies from Hell. The highest honor our country gives is the Congressional Medal of Honor and we are so proud of her and honored that she is with us every day. In her honor, Garvey legal is offering a competitive scholarship of \$100,000 each year, the Dierdre O’Rourke Scholarship, available to the children of our firm, based on a combination of grades and community service. I am making the awarding of the scholarship a task of the Board of Directors. Now, let me get down and turn the microphone over to Dierdre O’Rourke.

“Hello Folks. I was never so frightened in combat as I am now. It is true we were called The Ladies from Hell. I know we were called that by the Taliban. Our troops called us Angels from Heaven. I kind of like that better. No one achieves what we did alone. My team is scattered in California and Colorado. Both received Silver Stars. I trained them so hard they looked at going into battle as a vacation day.

Dave referred to the Medal as an honor, one that genuinely humbles me. It is not an award. Those are for pie eating contests at the company picnic. War is an issue of mayhem, destruction, serious wounds, blood, and death. I told the Marine brass that there can be no winners in modern warfare. We better find a more effective way to settle disputes. The entire room burst into applause.

I am thrilled to be working here with you, and that is the only honor that is really worth-while. Garvey Legal is a very special place, and all of you make it so.

I thank you for this reception. I thank you, Mr. Garvey, for the honor of having my name attached to the scholarship. It is a wonderful idea and a wonderful gesture. It is an honor that I genuinely appreciate. I have found friendship here. I have found love here. Tommy and I will marry in early September. Again, huge applause.

I’ll hang around for a while. I’d love to speak with as many of you as I can.

God bless you all.

Ringling applause accompanied her off the podium.

True to her word, Dierdre stayed in the cafeteria to greet people, sign menus, and just take the time to chat with her fellow employees.

Dierdre received a notice that the two Senators who represent Pennsylvania will be together in Philadelphia the following Monday. She spoke with Dave to try to get a handle on the Senators, their interests, their party affiliations. Dave said that he knew them both, they were very nice guys and he asked Dierdre if he could join her. It might loosen a little of their professional tightness. Dierdre welcomed the opportunity to have Dave work with her. Of course, as a Jesuit Urban Mission Board member, Dave has a vested interest in the potential of this project.

Joe O'Grady drove them in the company limo to the meeting, one of the rare times it is used. Dave wanted to have it available for the sake of optics whenever he thought they were necessary or helpful. They arrived at Senator Nelson's office near the library and were enthusiastically greeted. The Senators were effusive greeting Dave and had genuine congratulations for Dierdre's honor. Dave gave a one sentence description of the project. He then turned the meeting over to Dierdre. She gave them packets that they could look at later. She described the Jesuit Urban Mission stating that both she and Dave were Board members, Dave being chairman. Dierdre then described her urban redevelopment project. She showed them preliminary designs that Susan had worked up. We want to revitalize housing without displacing anyone. Our goal is to raise working people out of poverty.

"What do you want us to do?" asked Sen. Liebowitz.

"Right now the purpose of our meeting today is basically to let you know what we are planning to do. Any input you have is welcome. We just want to let all the players to know that the game is on. There will be design, redesign, trial and error. But in the last analysis, this is a project that can be replicated in every tired city in the country. We think of this as a bold venture that could be a vital part of every government project for housing and social engineering. We think it could be a part of every infrastructure program. It has worked before in late the 19th century New York City. The engineer was Cardinal John Hughes of Philadelphia before he became Cardinal Hughes of New York. They called him Dagger John because of the cross before his name as he signed anything," said Senator Nelson, who happened to be Catholic. Within three decades, the Irish ruled New York. He integrated the Irish Catholic, uneducated, and starving community into the heart of an upscale, well educated, Presbyterian community.

"Yes, he was a bold and creative Social Engineer long before the term was created."

Dave beamed as Dierdre unfolded her preliminary plans. "I know where we want to go," replied Dierdre. "Since we have a goal, with a lot of help from our friends, we'll find a way to get there,"

"I was raised in Rochester," said Dierdre. "Now there is a tired city. When we get Philadelphia half done, we can reach out to every city in the country and teach them what we learned."

Maeve Garvey Malone drove her new Volvo Van to pick up Susan Boyd Garvey, her friend and the Chief Operating Officer of her company. Maeve has two car seats for the babies they are bringing to their office for "show and tell." Both two-week-old children graciously went along with the activity knowing, as most children do, that being in the car meant a good nap.

Theresa was well prepared and looking forward to their arrival. She had a nursery built and furnished up on the second floor and two bassinets brought down for the comfort of their infant guests. Michael David Garvey

and Brigid Theresa Malone looked around at all the new faces in their lives and scoped out the surroundings of the room. Theresa picked up baby Brigid and introduced herself as Brigid's aunt. You carry my name, and I am going to be your Godmother. Meanwhile Dave Moran was carrying Michael around the room and said it was a long time since he held baby. If you don't mind, I'll come to visit you when you start work in a couple of months. I'll teach you everything I know, and you and your mom can discuss it each evening after dinner. Jimmy wanted to hold a baby as did Karen, Maeve and Susan's Assistant. Hugh Quinn came out of his office and immediately stole Brigid Theresa. You are going to be your mom and dad's first big tax deduction.

Theresa had arranged snacks for the babies' first office party. It was a fun afternoon for such a busy business. The beauty of the business was the deep relationships among everyone in the room. The hope was that the next generation would ultimately capture all that love.

Baby Michael started crying and Baby Brigid brought up the chorus. For such little people, they made a lot of noise. Everyone else was eating and they weren't. They were also getting tired of entertaining all of these fawning adults. Maeve and Susan took them into Maeve's office to feed them. After being fed and changed, both babies fell into a deep sleep. Maeve and Susan announced their departure, thanked everyone, and admonished everyone to take good care of the company and each other.

The next public appearance of the babies was on Friday at their grandparent's home. The guest of honor was Joe O' Malley, but Dierdre's office reception and her pending wedding with Tom Farrell was going to take place early September with Grace O'Malley and Charlie Colombo being wed in early November.

The dinner was being catered by Bookbinder's and Brigid was excited about being part of the party and enjoyed talking with everyone and holding her grandchildren. Maeve had been over that afternoon to spread the tablecloth and set the table. Grandma Brigid had a wonderful visit with granddaughter Brigid. They sang songs together and Brigid helped the baby dance in her lap. Maeve and the baby left soon after so both could grab a nap.

Bookbinder's staff served the four-course dinner, and everyone spoke of Grace and Dierdre's weddings, the church and the receptions. Joe O'Malley talked about his pending retirement, he'll move to Philadelphia so he can play with his grandchildren. He talked about the business model he was envisioning to help poor people accumulate savings. Dierdre talked about her pending visit to Rochester and how unimportant military life had become because no one called her Colonel yet. Tommy talked about the graciousness of the President and Vice President. Dierdre talked about the charm of the First Lady.

Joe and Desmond Dowd talked briefly about Joe's interest in buying or renting the cottage. He wanted to make it over into an office. He was also interested in exploring real estate for a residence. Maeve perked up when she heard that. She and Patrick had been quietly discussing purchasing a house. Looking ahead, they knew that they needed a home like Desmond and Maria's'

Brigid and Theresa were sitting together entertaining their mutual namesake. Next to them, John and Brian were entertaining Michael David. Joe O'Malley was in awe of the joy of this family celebration, and his daughter observed that. The doorbell rang and Fr. Fred came in for his turn to hold the babies. June, Grace, Dierdre and Maria were awaiting their turn.

The objectives of the dinner were all achieved. The meal was outstanding and elegantly served. Brigid enjoyed it as never before. She was an actively involved participant and enjoyed every minute of it, especially the scintillating conversation.

Joe was warmly welcomed and felt honored at least after the two newborns who were really the center of attraction. He was inducted into the circle of his daughter's friends for the first time in their thirty-three years together, and moreover, he liked it. Philadelphia would be his new home, and it only took thirty-three years to do that.

Dierdre felt the warmth of love from Tommy, and from her new friends. She doesn't need any further honors that she didn't expect in the first place. She needed her innate brilliance to keep herself and her teammates alive and safe. However, she never thought of that in the first place. Her brilliance was just part of her style and she would never think of it in any other way.

Maeve and Susan both reveled in their new status and title, MOTHER. Their babies just enjoyed being loved. Every adult had time with the babies.

The grandparents were in their glory and sparks started to show between Joe and Peggy Boyd.

The single and young married women were looking forward to filling the house with babies when they had celebrations like this. Maria and June especially were looking forward to motherhood. It was still too early to know for sure and much too early for announcements.

It was a very successful dinner, and as the scion of the Garvey family, Dave felt a great deal of pride.

Before dinner was over, Joe tinkled his glass asking for the attention of the group. He took the opportunity to thank Dave and Brigid. He was definitely going to move to Philadelphia and negotiations were on-going about his retirement and a continuing relationship with his company. Thanks to Desmond, he had tentative hope of having a quaint office in the center of town and a nearby apartment. He would see everyone for Mass on Sunday before returning home in the afternoon. He expected to be back frequently on business and would try to time those visits with a weekend so he could join them on Sundays for Mass and brunch. Once more he congratulated Dierdre and did address her as Colonel Dierdre. He thanked everyone for embracing him as a friend. And to Fr. Fred, he thanked him for taking such good care of this flock. You are truly a Good Shepherd, referring back to the previous Sunday's Gospel. And June, please mention the same gratitude to Fr. Jim.

The following morning, after Charlie rustled up a fantastic breakfast. Joe mentioned that tonight's dinner would be at Bookbinder's as they promised. The ever-efficient Grace had already made reservations for 8:00 PM. Joe stated that he needed an hour of their time just to review some finances. First of all, Grace was an heir in her mother's will. That would amount to about \$ 2 million. She was also heir to her mother's share of their castle home, the value of which was estimated to be between \$3 million and \$5 million. Grace's share would be half of whatever the sales price would be unless Grace wanted the home for herself. Grace shook her head, "No!" Joe had opened a million-dollar account for her college education. Grace had a full scholarship to Immaculata and worked part-time during her time at Immaculata for all her personal expenses. That money that was set aside for you was never spent, so it is yours now. When you were born I started the college account. I also started another savings account for you. I have been investing in that account ever since, thirty-three years ago. It is now valued at 34 million dollars.

Dad, that is over \$40 million.

I know that you had no idea. You have a great job that is producing a good income. I observed how frugal you were. That pleased me a great deal. Your mother could afford to be reckless with money. Also, I want to pay for your wedding.

“Dad, I can’t let you do that. Grace, I never gave you a graduation present from high school. I didn’t give you a present when you graduated from college. It is not that I was a cheap skinflint. You were taking care of yourself. Most of this money was always yours.”

“Dad, that is an incredible amount of money.”

“Please let me pay for the wedding.”

“Can I discuss it with Charlie and let you know in a week.”

“Grace, you know that you are my only heir. You had better become accustomed to being a wealthy family.

“Dad, you don’t have to worry about that. Charlie and I will continue to work. When it is time for me to stop working, I will. I presume most of this money is safely in growing investment accounts.”

“Yes, they are safe from both recession and inflation.”

“Charlie and I discussed this eventuality during our pre-Cana program. We promised each other that we would thoroughly and responsibly discuss any financial transactions. And that is what we’ll do. If we have to bring you into the discussion, we’ll do that on one of your visits or after you settle here.”

“Fair enough,” said Joe.

Dad, I don’t want to seem ungrateful. We will never have to worry about money. I am very grateful. I just don’t know how to accept \$40 million. When we make our decision, will you continue to manage it for me?

Of Course.

Charlie and I have resolved to continue to live simply, at least according to the life-style of University graduates and professionals. When it comes time to buy new automobiles or a larger house, we’ll be able to pay for them without a mortgage. We will save a bundle of money doing that.

“I know all their tricks,” said Joe. “When that time comes, I’ll help you negotiate.”

“Charlie are you on board with this,” asked Grace?

“Of course,” replied Charlie. “We laid out our options in pre-Cana. When you asked me out on our first date, we were both university grads. I didn’t know you owned a house, and you didn’t know anything about me. Our first date was for the 10:30 Mass at St. Paul’s. I will live with what we have decided. We will live on our salaries. The money is there for philanthropy. And of course, no one in our companies has to know about our financial status.”

Will we need any legal issues resolved? For instance, wills, power of attorneys and I have no idea what else.

“There will be no pre-nup,” said Grace. “I have complete faith in you Charlie, and I trust and love you.”

“And I love and trust you too. I would not have been offended if you chose to do that. Joe, I have two savings accounts and an investment account. One of the savings accounts is to buy out the mortgage on my parent’s house. I am going to give them their ownership papers for their anniversary next month.”

“I commend you, Charlie. When you do that, please invite me along for the transaction. You are dealing with professional thieves and I can help you with that.”

“Thanks Joe, I will. When you know it, let me have your schedule of when you are coming back to Philadelphia.”

Joe was going to skip lunch in favor of Bookbinders. He wanted to take a walk, read a bit, and have a nap before their evening out.

While Joe was out, Charlie and Grace discussed his offer to pay for the wedding.

“Charlie, what do you think?”

“Grace, he wants to be the father that he never had the opportunity to be. Your mother was suffocating you and Joe never seemed to have the opportunity to break into that relationship. It is not going to break his bank. He just wants the opportunity to be your father. My vote is to let him do it.”

“Charlie, where did you get all the wisdom and compassion. You are right, of course. I just couldn’t think it out the way you just did.”

“Tell him tonight at dinner. We are very grateful for the offer, and we accept it.”

The dinner went exceptionally well. Desmond welcomed them as if they were royalty and he knew better than anyone that they actually are. Desmond also knew that Joe was one of the wealthiest people in America. Even Joe didn’t know this. It was not his style to pursue honors or rankings. As soon as cocktails were served, Grace addressed the issue of paying for their wedding.

Dad, Charlie and I have discussed your offer to pay for our wedding. With the understanding that most young couples pay for their own wedding, we accept your generous offer to pay for our wedding. Our plans are simple. We will marry at a Nuptial Mass at St. Paul’s. The reception will be at Coral Gables Country Club. John Garvey, owner and member will sponsor us. Susan’s mom is the Banquet Manager. Our honeymoon, at least as it is now, will be a cruise down the Mississippi River, with a few days at Mackinac Lake and Resort. The wedding date is November 10th, and it can’t come fast enough. Susan will make up the invitations. This is her standard wedding gift. They are works of art and a real keepsake. Oh! I almost forgot, Maeve, Theresa, and Brigid will help me select a wedding gown, purchased locally. Vera Wang can stop holding her breath. She will not be seeing us.

The dinner was outstanding, and Joe was suitably impressed. Joe is certainly not gastronomically astute. He seldom went out to restaurants since his wife’s illness. However, he did recognize five-star excellence whenever he encountered it. The conversation was easy and even informative. Joe was interested in their pre-Cana, especially of the dynamic of being in charge of the whole event. Grace assured him that Damian Kelly, SJ, was very professional and an excellent referee. On most evenings they didn’t even know he was there. He took a lot of notes. We didn’t necessarily agree on everything, but we were able to talk through everything to each other’s satisfaction.

“The great part of this is that if anything comes up, even years from now, we have the tools to deal with it as adults.”

“The things we disagreed about were minor. I like the Pirates, he likes the Phillies. We both like basketball. He prefers to root for the Nets. Money was the big thing that we had to discuss. Both of us prefer a more simple life style. Joe likes my plans for philanthropy.”

Desmond came over with four unordered desserts, the Chef's special, and a gift of the house. Joe invited him to join them if he can and Desmond accepted.

"Do we still have interest in the cottage," asked Desmond.

"I drove by it yesterday and it seems perfect."

"If it is not a deal-breaker I would like to rent it rather than sell it. However, I can make renovations to meet your needs. Is that alright?"

"The next time you are in town, we'll go through the place with my contractor to draw out a plan for renovations."

"By the way, Maeve is interested in selling her apartment to purchase a house."

"Dad, I have been there several times. You will love it. It is in New Jersey, about a ten-minute drive to the cottage."

"That sounds great," said Joe.

The evening ended well. Joe had already arranged to return his car. He will leave after Mass on Sunday.

THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - JULY

1st 1892 - Edward Carson sworn in as Solicitor-General for Ireland.

1916 - First day of the Battle of the Somme. The 36th Ulster Division sustains 5,000 casualties on this day alone.

1950 - The former British Representative, Gilbert Laitwaite, becomes the British Ambassador to Ireland.

2nd 1970 - Neil Blaney is cleared of conspiracy to import arms.

3rd 1918 - Lord Lieutenant bans Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan.

1924 - Teaching of Irish to be made compulsory in schools.

4th 1921 - James Craig refuses to attend a peace conference in Dublin because De Valera had addressed the invitation to him personally instead of using his title of Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

1957 - The Ne Temere boycott at Fethard-on-Sea is debated at the Dáil.

5th 1922 - Cathal Brugha refuses to surrender to pro-Treaty forces and is badly injured.

1977 - Jack Lynch is elected Taoiseach.

6th 1907 - Irish state jewels are stolen from Dublin castle.

1946 - A new republican party, Clann na Poblachta, is founded in Dublin.

1953 - Sit-down protest by the unemployed in Dublin.

1962 - First ever episode of The Late Late Show.

1997 - Violence flares at an Orange Order march down the Garvaghy Road.

7th 1905 - Drunkenness (Ireland) Bill debated in the British House of Commons. Irish MPs object that it is offensive.

1913 - Home Rule Bill carried in the House of Lords, despite Andrew Bonar Law's attempts to obstruct it.

1966 - A new secondary education scheme is announced.

9th 1959 - The first twelve female recruits are selected to join An Garda Síochána.

10th 1914 - Provisional Government of Ulster meets for first time in the Ulster Hall.

1917 - Sinn Féin's Éamon de Valera is victorious at the East Clare by-election.

1927 - Minister for Justice Kevin O'Higgins assassinated by the anti-Treaty IRA.

11th 1901 - The Celtic, now the largest ship in the world, is launched in Belfast.

1921 - Truce in the War of Independence.

1938 - Three Cork harbour ports are returned to the Irish government.

13th 1922 - The Irish government appoints a War Council, including Michael Collins.

1962 - The Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, arrives in Dublin.

14th 1935 - Sectarian rioting in Belfast leads to five deaths.

16th 1971 - The SDLP withdraws from Stormont.

17th 1974 - The Contraceptive Bill is defeated at Dáil Éireann.

18th 1951 - The Abbey Theatre in Dublin is burned down.

19th 1997 - The IRA declares a ceasefire.

20th 1982 - The IRA kill ten servicemen in bomb attacks on two parks in London.

21st 1914 - Buckingham Palace conference to allow Unionists and Nationalists to discuss Home Rule.

1972 - Bloody Friday: nine people in Belfast killed by IRA bombs in Belfast.

1976 - The UK Ambassador Christopher Ewart-Biggs is killed by the IRA.

22nd 1848 - Habeas Corpus is suspended so that the Young Irelanders can be detained without trial.

1957 - The Gough Monument in Phoenix Park is blown up.

1985 - The Virgin Mary is seen to move at Ballinspittle.

23rd 1803 - Robert Emmet's attempted Rising in Dublin.

1916 - Thousands gather at Phoenix Park to discuss British proposals to partition Ireland.

24th 1990 - The IRA kill three policemen and a nun in a bomb attack.

25th 1917 - Irish Convention meets for the first time.

1957 - A boy who was beaten at school is awarded £100 compensation.

26th 1914 - Erskine Childers and his wife land 2,500 guns for the Irish Volunteers at Howth.

28th 1927 - Ireland's first automatic telephone exchange opens in Dublin.

1957 - The Carlisle Monument in Phoenix Park is blown up.

29th 1848 - The Young Ireland rebellion in County Tipperary is a failure.

1915 - Republicans under Patrick Pearse take over the Gaelic League at its Dundalk Conference, forcing the resignation of Douglas Hyde.

1959 - The Department of Transport and Power is established.

31st 1893 - Gaelic League established by Douglas Hyde and Eoin MacNeill.

1947 - The Soviet Union blocks Ireland's entry into the United Nations.

1969 - The halfpenny is withdrawn from circulation.

1972 - Operation Motorman begins in Northern Ireland.

1975 - Three members of the Miami Showband are killed by the Ulster Volunteer Force.