



IRISH TIMES

Newsletter of the
Irish-American Society of New Mexico
www.irishamericansociety-nm.com

505-821-5422

AUGUST 2008

Next Meeting: Friday, September 12th, 7 PM

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). The usual meeting location is the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC), 4821 Menaul, NE (west of San Mateo).

Introducing . . . The Reel Thing by The Dancer (AKA Tom Quinn)

[Editor's Note: We are delighted to welcome Tom Quinn as our new Irish correspondent for this newsletter. If you don't know Tom, he lives in Dundalk, Co. Louth, but has been a frequent visitor to NM and is a great friend to Ken and Norita Callahan and other long-time IAS members. In 1990, Tom and his family came to Albuquerque as guests of the Silver Shamrock Ceili Dancers (Norita's original group) and were very involved with the 3rd Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games (RGVCF&HG), teaching dance workshops and performing throughout the day and at the Festival Ceili in the evening. Tom and his family were "honored guests" at the 6th RGVCF&HG, and that year Tom brought with him a troupe of 21 Irish musicians and dancers, *Seisun Cuchulainn*, who performed throughout the Festival. Tom's last visit to Albuquerque was in 2006. (He showed up unexpectedly at Norita's Ceili class at the GAC and surprised everyone!) We know you will enjoy these musings from an IAS member and Irish musician from "across the pond"!]

Céad mile failte from Dundalk! For those who don't know me, I teach Céilí and set dancing in Co. Louth. To all my friends in New Mexico—"Keep it lit!"

In this column expect anything—a bit of this and a bit of that and more importantly a bit of the other. There will be reviews of music, songs, dances, the charts and visits to Neolithic remains and Ecclesiastical sites. What more do you want? Oh! And I will be here too. By the way did you hear this one?

A weary Yank stopped at a remote Irish hotel.

"Have you got TV in the bedroom?" he asked the owner.

"Yes," he replied.

"And have you got Sky?" enquired the Yank.

"Of course," said the owner. "Just look outside your window and you've got miles and miles of it."

And just for fun:

On quiet nights when he's alone, Michael runs their wedding video backwards, just to watch himself walk out of the church a free man

(Continued on p. 4.)

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Irish-American Society of New Mexico Heritage Center, Inc. Board of Directors

The Irish-American Society is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization devoted to furthering Irish-American relations through education, travel, recreation, charity, music, and dance.

Membership is open to everyone and we encourage your support and participation. Dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. For more information, please call Members Chair Norita Callahan at 298-2708.

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Would you like to place an ad in the *Irish Times* newsletter? Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-

1700). You can also put a "click-through" ad on the web site of the IAS (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge. To put your ad online, contact Webmaster Ken Callahan (kecabq@yahoo.com).



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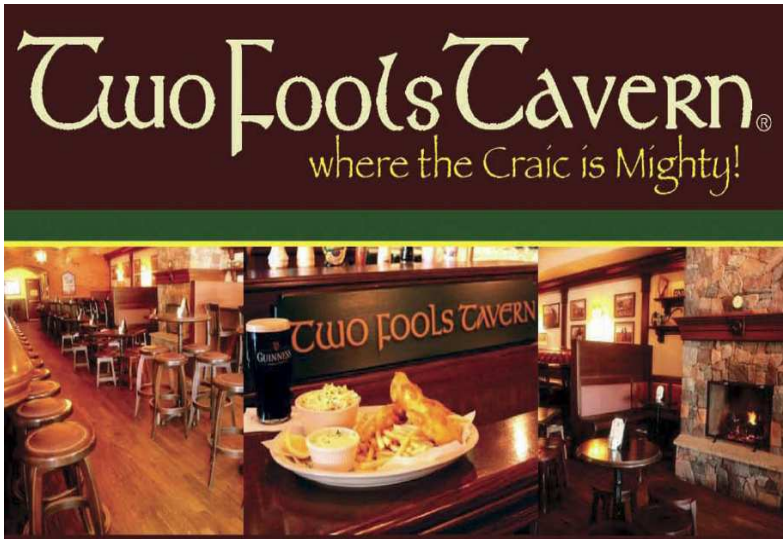
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Céad Mile Fáilte

There are no new members this month.


As of July 16th, the Irish-American Society has 113 family members (times 2) and 110 single members. This is a total of 336 members for the 2008 year.

Norita
298-2708
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Bagpipe Lessons

Learning begins on an instrument called a chanter, which is available on loan at no cost. "No need to purchase anything until you know you are committed enough to stick with it," says the instructor.

- When:** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Where:** Cross of Hope Church, 6104 Taylor Ranch Rd.
- Cost:** Lessons are free.
- More Info:** [Email Shirley Tomberlin](mailto:ShirleyTomberlin@crossofhopechurch.org)



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The Reel Thing

(continued from p. 1)

The CD Review

[The Keegan Tunes, by Josephine Keegan](#)

A musical feast for the ears—and the eyes—is what's before us now with the release of this historic CD and book. Josephine Keegan, fiddler, pianist, and composer, has here released an amazing double CD along with a book of transcribed tunes. The two CDs feature Josephine Keegan and 38 musicians from around her home near the beautiful Ring of Gullion and Sliabh Gullion area in South Armagh.

Most of the tunes here are composed by Josephine Keegan. Her compositions reflect a love of the structure and flow of the traditional Irish tunes that she grew up with. But they are not another attempt to "build on" the tradition. They *are* the tradition. Other traditional tunes are unique local versions from her native South Armagh. By including of a book of

transcriptions of the tunes on the CDs, Josephine has made this release of even greater interest to musicians and collectors.

But the book doesn't stop with transcriptions of all the tunes. It also brims with pictures of the places and people of her beloved South Armagh. This makes the book a treasure trove of South Armagh music history. Among the dozens of wonderful tunes is the remarkable *Dúiche mo chroí*. As majestic as it is personal, *Dúiche mo chroí* is a slow air on piano that Josephine wrote about her native home of South Armagh. This is one of those rare tunes that captures without defect the deepest, most private feelings of the composer, and then reveals them to the listener through the universal language of music.

If you can't make the trip to the Ring of Gullion in South Armagh anytime soon, this CD and book may be your ticket. If you can make the trip, get the CD and book to get a sense of the music, beauty, and history that await you.



The Gig Guide

7th JOHNNY KEENAN BANJO FESTIVAL

September 25th - 28th, 2008

www.johnnykeenan.com

September marks the 7th Annual Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival and as in previous years, the lineup comprises the very best Irish traditional, American bluegrass, and folk music.

Some of the highlights of this year's festival include Altan, Barney McKenna, and a very rare appearance by Dolores Keane. Altan play relatively few concerts inside of Ireland, so their appearance presents an opportunity for fans at home to see this hard-working band. Dolores Keane has been relatively quiet musically of late, so her performance on the Banjo Festival stage will be greatly anticipated. Already, the response has been very positive and enquiries for tickets have been substantial.

Having Barney McKenna appear at the festival presents a unique opportunity to see The Dubliners' star perform in his own right, among his most ardent fans. Barney's repertoire consists of a combination of traditional, folk, and Americana. He picks away on his banjo, sings, and tells great stories. Also, this year Barney joins the ranks of workshop tutor at the festival and there is no doubt that some of the visiting musicians

will wish to attend his class, hoping to get some insight into the long successful career of this master.

Workshops at the festival will include Irish tenor banjo, 5-string banjo, mandolin, guitar, bass, singer/songwriter, and more. Most of the top performers of the weekend will double as workshop tutors, including Gerry O'Connor, John Carty, Peter Rowan, Tony Trischka, Thom Moore, Pete Wernick, etc. etc.

The Song

Every month I will publish the words of an Irish song and what better way to start than standing to attention to *The Soldier's Song*, the Irish National Anthem. Written in 1907 by Peadar Kearney, an uncle of Brendan Behan, it was sung outside the GPO during the Easter Rising in 1916, and later at various camps where republicans were interned. Replacing *God Save Ireland*, *Amhrán na bhFiann* was officially adopted as the National Anthem in 1926.

We'll sing a song, a soldier's song,
With cheering rousing chorus,
As round our blazing fires we throng,
The starry heavens o'er us;
Impatient for the coming fight,
And as we wait the morning's light,
Here in the silence of the night,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

Chorus:

Soldiers are we
Whose lives are pledged to Ireland;
Some have come
From a land beyond the wave.
Sworn to be free,
No more our ancient sire land
Shall shelter the despot or the slave.
Tonight we man the gap of danger
In Erin's cause, come woe or weal
'Mid cannons' roar and rifles peal,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

In valley green, on towering crag,
Our fathers fought before us,
And conquered 'neath the same old flag
That's proudly floating o'er us.
We're children of a fighting race,
That never yet has known disgrace,
And as we march, the foe to face,
We'll chant a soldier's song.

Chorus

Sons of the Gael! Men of the Pale!
The long watched day is breaking;
The serried ranks of Inisfail
Shall set the Tyrant quaking.
Our camp fires now are burning low;
See in the east a silv'ry glow,
Out yonder waits the Saxon foe,
So chant a soldier's song.

Chorus

The Ecclesiastical Site

Every month we'll visit a Neolithic remains or an Ecclesiastical site starting in South Armagh with Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone.

The site of Kilnasaggart, the Church of the Priest, is located in a valley floor which is thought to be part of the legendary Gap of the North. It was located on one of Ireland's five great main roads, the *Slighe Midhluachra*, which ran from Tara through the Moyry Pass to Dunseverick in north Antrim. Standing more than two metres high, it is believed to be the earliest historically dated inscribed stone in Ireland. This inscription translated reads: "This place, bequeathed by Ternoc, son of Ceran the Little, under the patronage of Peter the Apostle." Ternoc's death is recorded in the annals as happening circa 714 - 716, so a construction date of around 700AD seems probable.

According to legend, a crock of gold is buried below the pillar. It was overturned by treasure seekers in the 1830s and was reset shortly afterwards. The whole area west of Slieve Gullion is known as Gleanna-Samhaisce, The Glen of the Heifer. The heifer, who, according to legend lived in this glen, gave milk in abundance to all who came, always filling the bucket. One day a person, through greed or malice, tried to milk the cow into a sieve. The angry cow stamped her foot on the ground and then left the valley forever. The shape of a hoof can still be seen on a stone beside the pillar stone.

And in conclusion . . .

What do you think?

Atlas was the first hold-up man.

Creating Eve was the first splitting of the Adam.

Dracula was the first blood count.

Well that's all folks! Until the next time, "Keep the faith!"

Tom Quinn



Traveling in Ireland

By Carla Evans

While planning for our recent week of driving around southern and western Ireland, we queried everyone we knew about where to eat and what to see. Responses came in the form of "You can't go wrong with the fish and chips," "Pub food is plentiful and good," and "The western side of Ireland is especially beautiful." They were right on all accounts, but I was looking for something a little more specific.

For food, the pub experience was our first choice. It isn't unusual to see families having a hearty meal and enjoying their favorite sporting event on TV. It's a friendly, relaxed, homey atmosphere and the food was so good and inexpensive, we made it our mission to eat and raise a pint in as many as possible.

We were fortunate enough to eat at two pubs in the same day: 1. County Waterford, [The Holy Cross Inn](#) on N25 heading west out of Waterford City, with thatched roof and timber exterior. Inside you will find a warm welcome and excellent food. We both enjoyed a plate piled high with succulent and delicious roast beef and chestnut gravy, boiled potatoes and potato croquets, cabbage, and a puree of carrots and parsnips.



Blair's Inn, Co. Cork

2. County Cork, [Blair's Inn](#), 5 minutes from Blarney on the R579.

The guide describes it best: "Pretty as a picture with white-washed walls and an abundance of hanging baskets. Secluded riverside setting in the heart of the country." The lamb medallions and the strip steak were outstanding, served with mashed potatoes, snow peas, and carrot/parsnip puree. The wine list is primarily French, but the beer is definitely Irish.

Other notable pubs and restaurants we visited along the way were E.J. King's Pub in Clifden on the Connemara peninsula for lamb shanks over mashed potatoes, and fish and chips; and The Creamery Bar and Restaurant directly across from the Bunratty Folk Park—do yourself a favor and skip Durty Nelly's in favor of the food at The Creamery (their

lamb stew is amazing). We also visited the Guinness Storehouse Restaurant in Dublin where you take the tour—what a wonderful surprise! Try the Guinness beer stew or the *Tian* (mound) of

smoked salmon wrapped around caraway potato salad (the stew recipe is on the Guinness Storehouse website); and Cooper's Restaurant and Pub in Dublin on Upper Leeson Street. Excellent steak and fried potatoes in a garlic butter sauce and outstanding shrimp pasta with a coconut milk, Thai pepper, garlic and lime sauce.

If you would like a copy of my full travel log, please feel free to email us at markcarlaevans@msn.com.

Free to Good Home!

Norita Callahan has 200 copies of the magazine, *Ireland of the Welcomes*, sitting on her desk and she needs to clear some space! If you'd like to take some of these off her hands, contact her at 298-2708 (noraabq@yahoo.com).

From [the magazine's website](#): "First published in 1952, *Ireland of the Welcomes* portrays the best of Ireland's history, culture and lifestyles to many people worldwide. Some of our readers are Irish-born, some have Irish roots, while others simply enjoy reading about the country which they are planning to visit or perhaps, re-visit. From the letters and one thing is certain: all our readers know that they will find something to entertain, amuse, alert and educate them about this land of ours."

[Editor's Note: Carla says she would love to read about other IAS members' trips to Ireland. You can send me both text and pictures of your trip and I'll post them in the newsletter.]



Flowers of the Forest:

We were saddened to learn of the death of IAS member Suzy Andregó's father, Ron England, on July 4th, 2008.

Our condolences to Suzy, Tom, and the family. May he rest in peace.

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The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival Association wishes to thank the volunteers,

directors, and board members for their hard work and participation in the 20th Annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in 2009, Please contact us at: abqcelfest@yahoo.com



Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland . . . A Year After

It's been a rather strange summer this year, what with no teenagers visiting New Mexico from Northern Ireland. But the spirit of CFPNI lives on in the form of the Barrett Award (named for founder Peggy Barrett), which will be awarded this year for the last time to a pair of teens who most exemplify the spirit of CFPNI. The award primarily recognizes and applauds those teens who bonded fiercely to each other during their US summer of 2007, and who are still best friends in Northern Ireland today (along with their parents, who also meet frequently and communicate readily).

Don Baker and I have nominated our teens from last year, Siobhan McElroy and Rachel Smyton. We don't know if they will actually win the award (I'll let you all know one way or the other), but I thought you might like to read what I wrote in the letter:

"It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Rachel Smyton and Siobhan McElroy for the 2007 Barrett Award. One year after completing the program, these teens (now best friends) certainly typify the spirit of CFPNI. I firmly believe that, had CFPNI not disbanded, they would have continued as role models for future teen participants.

Siobhan and Rachel have kept in contact with their host family (myself and Don Baker), throughout the past year. We exchange frequent emails and send presents for special occasions. At the Reunion in October of 2007, we stayed with Siobhan's family and had dinner with Rachel's, all of which gave us an opportunity to see firsthand how their two families were interacting and communicating. The teens report that their folks continue to meet and chat, further cementing a strong and vibrant friendship, despite their religious differences.

Rachel and Siobhan continue to communicate with each other nearly every day, despite the fact that they attend different schools. They send text messages to each other or call each other up to chat. Now that they both can drive, they spend lots of time at each other's houses and go to the cinema together at least once a month. Siobhan has attended a band practice at Rachel's church and Rachel attended a hurling match and a Gaelic football match with Siobhan.

I'd like to conclude this nomination letter with a direct quote from Siobhan: "When we met up for something to eat last week, we were actually talking about who had still remained friends or at least in contact, and to be honest—both of us couldn't name even one of the teens we both knew, which is really sad because both of us were unbelievably lucky to be matched together because I don't remember even one argument at all in New Mexico, only laughter . . . From the bottom of my heart though, I'm not that bothered at all if we don't get the award because at the end of the day I think we gained the most out of everyone anyway, and the award won't change that because I love Rachel to bits anyhow."

It was an honor for us to host these lovely young women and we know that they will continue to work for peace through interaction in their communities.

Sincerely,
Ellen Dowling and Don Baker,
CFPNI New Mexico Coordinator and Host Family (2007)"



Culture All Around

Dance Classes:

- ♣ McTeggart School *Irish Step Dancing*. Saturdays, 10 AM – noon. Call 866-5867.
- ♣ *Ceili dance classes* are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:30 PM, \$2.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708.



Special "Mini Ceilís"
(friendly gatherings with live music and dance)
will be held on the first Wednesday of each
month.

(See the calendar on p.15 for details.)

- ♣ *Celtic de Santa Fe School of Irish Dancing*. Classes in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. CRN curriculum. Ages 3 and up. Email: cdsf@mac.com or call 505-984-1139. Website: www.celticdestantafe.com
- ♣ *Scottish Country Dancing*, Friday nights, 7:30 PM, at the Friends Meeting Hall (corner 5th and Bellamah, N.W.) First class free; \$5 per lesson after. Call Marcy 237-9039 for info.

Celtic Jam at the Flying Star:

7 - 10 PM, Thursdays, at the Flying Star on 8th and Silver. Musicians of all skill levels are invited to participate. For information, call Chuck Butler at 293-1421 (chuckjacobbutler@msn.com).

Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the new O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill). For more info, visit <http://www.oniells.com/>

Celtic Music at Two Fools Tavern:

Celtic jam on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of each month, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Two Fools is located at 3211 Central NE (www.twofoolstavern-nm.com). For jam info, contact Chuck Butler at 293-1421 (chuckjacobbutler@msn.com).

For all the news about what's going on at Two Fools, visit www.2foolstavern.com/blog, where you can read their monthly newsletter.

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web

- ♣ **The Thistle and Shamrock** program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Sundays at 9:00 PM.

- ♣ **Celtic and Beyond**, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)

- ♣ **Irish Music on the Web, All the Time**

<http://www.midwestirishradio.com/> Midwestirishradio.com is a brand new, fully dedicated Irish Radio service available on the net.



Celtic Connections: For general information about Celtic events going on around the West, visit <http://www.celticconnection.com/>. Food, humor, books, sports, history and much more!

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The Next Chapter

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Emily Anslover

Young fiddle player

Contact: father, Frank Anslover (296-6484)

Brad Fitzgerald

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Contact: Brad Fitzgerald (869-1527)

Three Leaf Shamrock

Irish, Scottish, Welsh (no English!)

Contact: Jack Russell (830-6924)

Shennanigans

Celtic and American Folk with a twist, variety of instruments and vocals

Contact: Kathy Wimmer (293-6403)

Gerry Carthy

Musician and singer from Ireland

Contact: Gerry Carthy 505-424-1942 (Santa Fe)

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Contact: Chuck Butler (293-1421)

chuckjacobbutler@msn.com

McTeggart Irish Step Dancers

Contact: Beverly Coleman 866-5867

revalanc@aol.com

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

Michele's Harp

765-1288 (buchanan@cybermesa.com)

Celtic Coyotes

Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Contact: Doug Cowan

celticcoyotes@yahoo.com (710-0583).

Michael and Donna Coy

Celtic, Folk, Bluegrass, International, Cowboy, and Traditional (296-2017)

Calendar of Events

IAS/IHC Events

Date	Day	What
September 9	Tuesday	<i>IAS Board Meeting</i> , 7 PM at the GAC. All members invited to attend.
September 12	Friday	<i>IAS Monthly Meeting and Program</i> , 7PM at the GAC. Program by Michele Buchanan, harpist.
September 14	Sunday	<i>IAS Annual Family Picnic</i> , at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area, event shared with members of the St. Andrew Scottish Society. (Details in the September newsletter.)

Celtic/GAC Events

August 1-3	Fri, Sat, Sun	<i>Fort Collins Irish Festival</i> , Fort Collins, Colorado. (www.FortCollinsIrishFestival.org)
August 6	Wednesday	<i>Mini Ceili</i> at the GAC, 7:30 PM, with live music (<i>Five Bucks a Month</i> band). Cost is \$3 per person. For info, contact Norita (298-2708 noraabq@yahoo.com).
August 23	Saturday	<i>Weinfest</i> at the GAC, 5:30 – 11 PM. For info, call 888-4833.

The Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser Project

The IAS is no longer collecting aluminum cans, but we ARE collecting the pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House here in Albuquerque (managed by IAS member Sharon Nolen).

IAS members, please save the pop-tops and bring them to meetings in a baggie or grocery bag. I'll take them to the collection area.

Recently, I received aluminum pull-tabs from Annie & Corky Adams, Lottie McDonald, Caroline Barham, Mike Chavez, Henry Drees, and Jesus Rodriguez.

THANKS!

Norita



Information Needed on Antique Purse:

Dorothy Gregory has an antique purse, which she thinks might be of Irish origin. She is hoping that someone in the IAS may know something about this purse, or be interested in purchasing it. The circle measures 5" in diameter. The back of the purse is suede, as is the inside, which has a small pocket. There are two small tears near the hinges. The fabric on the front is a tightly woven beige material. If you know anything about purses of this type, or are interested in it, please contact Mrs. Gregory at 344-1436.

Irish-American Society of Albuquerque, NM
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please check one: New Membership Application _____ Renewal _____
If this is a renewal, has your contact information changed? Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to **The Irish-American Society**
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