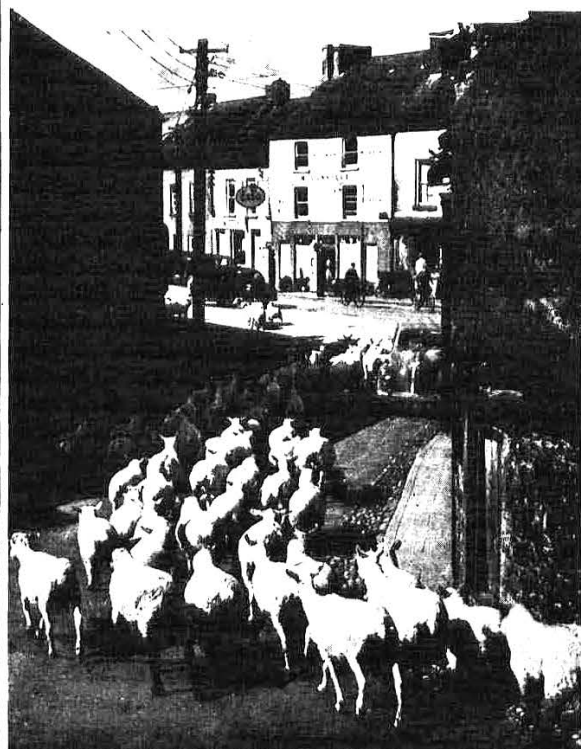


DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH TOWN



Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. Set in beautiful surroundings in the Nore Valley.

A MICROCOSM OF IRISH LIFE

By Patrick Brady



What is a town? It depends to a great extent on the individual. In America and Britain one thinks of a town as being second in importance to a city; it has hotels, a movie house, stores, a post office and a garage. You know what to look for in a town—or you did—'till you came to an Irish town. But here, lulled by green grass and foliage, trees and grazing cattle, half asleep in a dream of thatched farmhouses and prim, neat laborer's cottages, of corn growing among the rocks and children wandering home from school, you see it—a painted sign set in the grass-margin—'Drive Slowly—Town Ahead.' Beneath the admonition

one will see the town name—Thomastown, Slane or other town. The view is still unbroken, no spires or neon signs, only the first house showing a whitewashed gable through the trees. Then, you turn the corner, and surprisingly, you are there, in the one long street of a small Irish town. The tranquil and balanced way of life still prevails in these small towns but is steadily giving way to twentieth century progress.

NEW GERMAN-IRISH AIR PACT

West Germany and Ireland have concluded a new commercial air agreement in Bonn.

It gives Germany's Lufthansa Airline the right to fly to Dublin via Belgium, Holland and Manchester, and to Shannon on its trans-Atlantic routes.

The houses are grey and slate in color, broken by an occasional pink wall or green door. They lie squat together, leaning on each other for support. The wide street is nearly deserted except for a cart or two rumbling through, or a few cyclists coming to a stop with mounting shopping bags. The grocer takes a long good-bye from his customer outside the shop proudly titled, 'Jas. Farrell & Sons, Family Grocer, Estd. 1906.' All along the street bicycles lean precariously against windowsills and walls, against shops,

(Continued on page 282)

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DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH TOWN

(Continued from page 281)

pubs and private dwellings. A policeman stands with folded arms at the barrack door. Then, for exercise, he strolls as far as the Fair Green and back. He looks as if he were trying to remember what, beyond an unlighted bicycle lamp or a drink after hours, a crime was. Women move across the street, talk, gesture, move on again in slow-motion, and rather self-consciously a car passes now and then.

At six o'clock the hardware merchant carries his forks and spades and barbed wire indoors in preparation for closing shop. He then goes upstairs, home to his family. And in several sweet shops old women select books for their library customers, the best Western or the most romantic Romance. Publicans' wives, taking the early shift, hear the day's doings on the farm from men with hayseed in their hair. Past the Fair Green, and beyond the grocer's, you can see the road to the river and the evening mist on the river, so small is a small Irish town.

ONE MUST FEEL THE PULSE OF THE TOWN!

The Town Hall is the movie and playhouse, dance hall and assembly place. Glancing down the street one might think the town has a 'dead look', compared with an Ohio or British town, but one would be grossly incorrect. The best pulse is not the loudest. One must listen before hearing the confident, quiet pulse of a small town.

Each Wednesday, for example, the Town Hall shows evening movies of Roy Rogers and Clark Gable. They are brought to town by the trav-

eling cinema. While they are worn and a bit blurred they are clapped and cheered by an enchanted audience.

OTHER DIVERSIONS

The small town has a dramatic season too! Such plays as "Father Matthew", "The Money Doesn't Matter", "The Croppy Boy" and others —have real actors and real scenery. Even a circus comes to town once a year and may be seen under canvas on the Fair Green. This is a sight to be talked about for weeks.

Then for the sober citizen there is the Gun Club and Young Farmers' Club. On Sunday a football or hurling match can be seen on one of the local fields.

FAIR DAY

Besides the regular entertainment there are certain days when the town itself is en fete. First of these days, because it is the town's livelihood, is Fair Day.

From six in the morning, on that day, all roads are filled with the sound of cattle—sheep, pigs and horses converge on the center of a circle in the town. Dealers' cars edge and slip by cattle. Cattle run in various directions while the farmers shout at both their stock and their sons. The carts of lambs fill the lower end of the town, backed right up against the houses, leaving little room on the pavement or street for people to pass.



Buying or selling a horse! On Fair Day everybody throngs to town.

Dealers haggle, farmers shake their heads, the lambs bleat continuously like hoarse auto horns until lorries take them away or a disgruntled son drives them home—without his half-crown pay to break the unpleasant news to his mother, "we didn't sell."

On and beyond the Fair Green all is chaos and confusion, cattle everywhere, pigs everywhere, unshaven men and hardy boys everywhere, (Continued on page 283)

DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH TOWN
(Continued from page 282)

around the side show performers and even the ice cream vendor.



Fair Day everywhere in Ireland provides a welcome opportunity to meet old friends.

A GOOD DAY FOR CREDITORS

In the pubs, men laugh and jostle each other, pursued by the tax collector, the rent collector and the man you owe for bull money. ("Ho there, Jack, I hear you had a lovely calf from that cow you bought last Spring. Aye, ten bob (10 Shillings) and you may have luck!")

Intrepid salesmen drag farmers out to look at a 'lovely yearling', hanging on to their arms until all hope of a sale is past.

The bus crawls through, inch by inch, and disgorges a host of women bent on buying everything for the house. McDonagh has a notice out 'Good Food', and the Western Bank has opened its office for this one day every month and is doing a roaring business. At three o'clock the animals have all gone; only men, women and boys roam and wonder, gorge and buy on this, their monthly holiday. But for the townspeople it is far from a holiday. The next day brushes are out cleaning away the sawdust and remains. It is a quiet day given to profit-reckoning.

THERE ARE OTHER HOLIDAYS.

There are other holidays. For instance, there is the Summer Regatta on the lake. The shooting galleries are open and Aunt Sallys and Hoop-la, girls in bright dresses and young men shout to their favorite crews. Later in the year is held a Grand Carnival of Dancing (Continued on page 284)

IRISH BOOKLETS AND THEIR PANES

Documentation Seems Surprisingly Obscure

By Perry Adams, E.P.A. #84

Certain questions having to do with early phases of Irish philately after the Treaty, are asked again and again, and it is difficult to accept the idea that documentation which appears almost non-existent, may not have been made available in some of the older handbooks and certain almost forgotten philatelic magazines. Failing such records, and granting that new, original research is always preferable, a current stumbling block is often the extreme difficulty of assembling the items involved, for study. They are rarities.

DEARTH OF INFORMATION ON STAMP BOOKLETS

Perhaps nowhere within the Irish list is the foregoing more applicable than to the group of stamp booklets, with their diversity of panes, covers and interleaves, dating back to the period of Ireland's first definitives and continuing into the present. Booklet covers carry a serial number and year of issue in that order, although in the early ones this order was reversed—the year came first. The most recent booklet known to this writer is #37 of 1954 (37—54). To the best of my knowledge, the numbers between 1 and 37 have all been used for successive booklets, so that between 1922-23 and 1954 there have been the 37 issues indicated, which means that in some years there have been more than one. Piecemeal, a considerable part of this material has passed through my hands, and I greatly regret not having kept careful records as the procession marched by. But the truth is that I little dreamed how difficult it would prove to obtain the required information, until too late.

GIBBONS OMITTS LISTING—SCOTT LISTS ONLY PANES

Of the two standard catalogs most familiar in the United States, that of Stanley Gibbons omits all reference to Irish booklets and panes, while Scott lists panes only, without specific mention of the booklets in which they were stitched. Because the panes repeat themselves in booklet after booklet, the Scott method, in one sense, thus avoids a mass of repetitive detail. Unhappy however, such listing also cuts off a large amount of (Continued on page 285)

THE NATIONAL TRUST RENTS SHAW'S HOME

The National Trust, which acquired the home of George Bernard Shaw in 1944, has finally rented it to Christopher Casserley. The new tenant is a public relations man who likes all that Shaw hated—tobacco, drink and meat.

Mr. Shaw left no endowment for the upkeep of his home and the National Trust found it a drain on its funds to keep the place in repair. The 12 room house is located on a 4 acre plot of land at Ayot St. Lawrence, 20 miles north of London.

Mr. Casserley will pay \$490 a year in rent and \$257 in taxes. As a part of the agreement tourists will be admitted to Shaw's study and garden on Saturday afternoons.

DOLLARD 10/ "THE PERFECT S PLATE"

In reviewing the host of Irish rarities in Mr. T.E. Field's collection at Fipex, one observed that Mr. Field thought enough of one little known variety to include it in his showing.

The particular item in mind is the 10/- Dollard from the plate with the so-called "Perfect S" in Postage. Most of us have seen so few of this specimen in our years of collecting that we begin to wonder just how many do exist. So, let us conduct a census. If you have a 10/- Dollard from the "Perfect S" plate just jot the information on a postcard and mail it to President Mal. O'Reilly. The results of this poll will be published in the January-February issue of THE REVEALER.



THE IRISH SELDOM COMMIT SUICIDE

The World Health Organization, At Geneva, has issued a report showing that Ireland has fewer suicides than any other nation in the world.

Japan is at the head of the list while the United States is listed at the center. The report further states that the ratio between men and women is roughly three to one.

MR. BOLAND TO REPRESENT IRELAND AT U.N.O.

The former Irish Ambassador to London, Mr. F.H. Boland, will represent Ireland at the UN. 286



MY FAREWELL AS EDITOR OF THE REVEALER

By Neil Stack

Since the formation of Fire Philatelic Association—back in the fall of 1950—I have acted as editor of your publication, THE REVEALER. I have tried to do a good job although it hasn't always been an easy one.

I have made many, and lasting friendships in this country and abroad. To me, E.P.A. has always represented more than just an association of Irish Stamp Specialists and collectors—It represents one of the finest groups of men and women one could desire.

Through the years that I have served as your editor I have grown to know most of you personally. In meeting some of the members I have been amused when they told me that they were under the impression that I am paid a salary as E.P.A. editor and that the organization pays office rent for me—that I have an editorial and office staff. The truth is, I have none of these hoped for niceties. All of my work for E.P.A. has been done at home.

But now, due to pressure at the office, my time to be devoted to our splendid organization has been greatly curtailed. In fact I feel that I can no longer do justice to the position of editor. For these reasons, including my desire to see a new editor spark our periodical, I will say so long—but not good bye. I will still remain on the finance board and keep an eye on the conservation of our funds.

AN APPEAL FOR A NEW EDITOR

Our President, Mr. Malcolm G. O'Reilly has asked me to notify E.P.A. members that the editorship of The Revealer is open to anyone desiring it. All inquiries are to be directed to Mr. O'Reilly at the address listed on page 282 of this issue.

Until such time as my successor is selected, an editorial board will publish The Revealer. This board will be headed by president O'Reilly.

MY BABU—IRISH STALLION—ARRIVES IN U.S.

My Babu, the 11-year old Irish stallion has arrived in this country after a plane trip from Ireland. An American syndicate purchased him last year.

CORRECTION OF ARTICLE IN JULY-AUG. ISSUE

On page 277, of the July-Aug. issue of The Revealer, Illustrations of the Rialtas Positions were incorrectly assigned.

The Top Cut Should Read: Positions 8 & 28
Middle Cut Should Read: Positions 13 & 33
Bottom Cut Should Read: Positions 4 & 24

IRISHMEN, IRISH HISTORY ETC.

ON THE STAMPS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

(Continued from the July-Aug. issue-Page 279)

CHILE In 1945 a belated issue of 4 stamps was released to honor the centenary of the death of O'Higgins. They were in denominations of 15, 30, 40 and 1.80 centavos.

GREAT BRITAIN The 10/ (in light blue & ultramarine) and the 1/- brown of George VI, designed by Hon. George Bellow, an Irishman. The 1949 1/- U.P.U. was also designed by Bellow.

HOLLAND Saint Willibrod, who died in 739, is shown on the 1939 issue in values of 5c and 12½c. When 20 years of age he went to Ireland and spent 12 years at Abbey Rathmelsigi—identified by some as Mellifont in County Louth.

ITALY The Marconi portraits of 1938 on the 20c, 50c and L 1.25. Marconi's mother was Irishwoman. Also the 6 values of the radio set of 1947—6 to 50 Lire.

LITHUANIA

The 1936 set of 3 stamps celebrating the first stage of Vatikus' transatlantic flight from New York to Ireland.

LUXEMBURG The Willibrod set of 6 released in 1939. See Holland above.

MONACO The Grace Kelly-Prince Ranier set, released at the time of their nuptials, The former Miss Kelly is of Irish descent.

MONTSERRAT This British Colony, discovered by Columbus, was colonized by the Irish under Sir Thomas Warner in 1632. Many of its stamps include the Erin and Harp designs.

NEWFOUNDLAND The transatlantic air post of 1919. The Alcock and Brown flight from St. Johns terminating in Ireland. Also, the 3 printings of 1928-29, 29-31, and 1931 showing their plane leaving for Ireland. These printings were on the 15¢ stamps. The Humphrey Gilbert set from 1 to 24¢ issued in 1933. Mr. Field believes that Gilbert was an Irishman but is not sure.

SWITZERLAND The 10¢ Pro Juventute of 1923, showing the figure of Fridolin, who was born in Ireland.

This listing will be completed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of The Revealer.

ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN E.P.A.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| No. 254 | M.D. Buchalter
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Dublin
Ireland |
| " 255 | Paul S. Mastine
R.F.D. 4
Laconia, New Hampshire |
| " 256 | William J. Murphy
M.P.O. Finance
Cleveland 13, Ohio |
| " 257 | John Keenan
Villa Maria, Sallynoggin Road
Dun Laoghaire
County Dublin
Ireland |

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- | | |
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MITCHELL APPOINTED NEW E.P.A. SECRETARY

Rudolph Mitchell of 303 Heilig Ave., Salisbury, North Carolina, has been appointed to fill out the 1956-57, unexpired, term of former secretary George Stevens. All renewal of dues should be mailed to Mr. Mitchell, who will take over his new duties on Sept. 15.

Mr. Stevens has been removed from office by the Board of Directors for neglect of office.

THE JOHN BARRY COMMEMORATIVE

By Neil Stack

While the release date, by the Irish Post Office, is not definite it is believed that the John Barry commemorative will be issued at 12.01 a.m. on Monday, September 17th. First Days of Issue will be at Wexford City (not at Waterford City as erroneously reported on page 277 of the July-Aug. issue), the General Post Office in Dublin and at Galway City.

The postal vignette, of single design and in values of 1 shilling and 3 pence, will illustrate a Barry statue, the work of Wheeler Williams, the American sculptor. It represents Commodore Barry, at the age of 32, attired in his naval uniform, with sword in hand. To the right of the statue is the name "John Barry". The name of the State, "Eire" (Ireland), appears at the bottom of the adhesive.

Cast in bronze at Somerville, Massachusetts, the statue is a gift by the United States Government to the people of Ireland. Mr. Williams based his likeness of the Commodore on a painting by Gilbert Charles Stuart (1755-1828). The statue will rise in Wexford Harbor from a granite pedestal constructed by John Harbeson of Philadelphia.

At this writing the color of the new adhesive has not been announced. It will, however, be printed on paper watermarked "E", by Messrs. De La Rue at their Clonskeagh plant in Dublin.

FOUNDER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

Barry came from a corner of Ireland renowned for seafaring men. The traffic across the narrow seas to the Continent had over centuries built up a great seafaring tradition on those coasts. Barry was born in Tacumshane in 1745 and the penal legislation of the time denied him at home the advancement his talents merited. Like many other Irishmen of the period he had to cross the Atlantic in search of opportunity and at the age of 21 he sailed as a merchant shipmaster out of Philadelphia. It was the eve of the American War for Independence that was to lay the foundations for a great new nation and by its influence, to shake the despotic monarchies of Europe. When that struggle commenced, Barry took his part with those who fought for liberty. In 1775 he outfitted the first American fleet. From that moment on, his deeds are past history.

His achievements helped to draw the pattern of the naval tradition of the United States. His best actions, out of many, were against the British ships *Atalanta* and *Trepassey*, both of which he captured. He was a stern disciplinarian but was popular among his men. Among his enemies he gained a reputation for gallantry and chivalry. Returning the swords of captured naval officers, he softened the humiliation of surrender by saying: "Your king should give you a better ship."

Barry died in 1803, the year that Robert Emmet was executed in Dublin. His statue will now stand as a memorial to the fact that an Irishman played a substantial part in the growth of what is now the world's greatest navy.

DUBLIN'S ZOO

*is one of the
world's finest*

ITS SETTING

*in Phoenix Park
is beautiful*

DON'T FORGET

*to visit the Zoo
when you*

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