



IRISH 'COTTAGE' — This is a typical Irish country "cottage," which tends to provide seclusion and a quiet, serene style of living typically Irish.



PETE AS FUEL — This pile of Pete, taken from an Irish field, will be dried and burned in the fireplace. Our guide Hughie Quinn told us the supply is inexpensive and inexhaustible.

Medieval castle dinner an appropriate climax to interesting tour through Ireland

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one the feeling of an antebellum estate in the south in our own country. The 30-foot ceilings are decorative in nature and rooms have the huge chandeliers we have become accustomed to. And mirrors: they measure about four by six feet in size and are literally all over the place.

The dining room has excellent food, served on linen covered tables by waiters and waitresses that are experienced and able.

While the group was "riding the ring" Arch took an afternoon walk into the small downtown area of Killarney, and upon returning had occasion to speak to the three surrey drivers we learned to know in the morning. The conversation had to do with the troubles that surrounded Northern Ireland, and this country's innate hostility toward England.

One driver, speaking in quick, clipped sentences in Gaelic-accented Irish, said, "Why, I hate (English Prime Minister) Margaret Thatcher so much I even named my horse 'Margaret Thatcher'."

This antipathy goes way back, to the time when England refused to lend the Irish a hand when their potato crop failed in 1845 and the now-famous Potato Famine reduced their population from eight million to two million. Many who left Ireland at that dire time in very inadequate boats for England and America went down to sea, accounting for part of this loss.

Also, when King Henry VIII chose to dump his wife Catherine of Aragon and thus break relations with the Pope, to form his own Church of England, the Irish opted to stay within the Catholic fold. All of this has festered over the many years and finds some heritage in the troubles in Northern Ireland today.

Heat With Pete

But back to the hotel. The tourist season in these parts is winding down and we're in on the tail end. It is becoming cold, fall weather.

The large main rooms in the Great Southern each have a small fireplace that provides the heat. There is also a central



ANOTHER 'COTTAGE' — This is also a typical Irish "cottage." They usually have thatched roofs or slate as is the case here. And the concrete or stone fence circling the property is also commonplace.

heating system, but it is too early for that. We were interested to learn that Pete is burned in these fireplaces. It is something like our muck, is cut and stored to dry out. It needs sufficient draft to burn, but creates a roaring fire that gives off plenty of comfortable heat. It's nothing to see people cluster around these cozy fires, drink in hand, just before the dinner hour. "This is living," someone commented — and we agreed.

That evening we attended another cabaret in the hotel's annex — all pure Irish. The humor and song this country has developed and been identified with is unique in the world.

Through what we heard in the cabarets and listening to Hughie our driver, we've come to know "Gallway Bay" as good as any Irishman... or nearly so.

This little country of less than three and a half million has

developed a national character of love and warmth that is contagious. When you stop to think there are three times as many Irish immigrants in the United States as live in Ireland today, it's little wonder they have their St. Patrick's Day parades in our major cities.

You come away with the feeling that the cabaret is a vehicle to point up this characteristic. If it doesn't get to you, you must be impervious to any romanticist feelings.

These Irish males appear to be shy of nature, according to a story we picked up, and often don't marry until their 40s or 50s. They call it "momism" and some factions are worried about this trend. We thought for a time it had something to do with economics, the expense of keeping a wife and family and all that. But we're told this is not the case. "Why get married; what's there to it?" we were asked.

Our bathroom scale in the Great Southern Hotel measured in "stones," not pounds. Someone told Della a stone is 20 pounds, and when she jumped on the scale and found it was nine stones, she said she knew she had gained weight but didn't really think she weighed 180 pounds!

Indeed not! A stone is 14

pounds, and her nine stones brought her weight to 126 pounds — more in line with what she left the USA with.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, our group of touring journalists were destined to wind our way back toward Shannon where we would board a plane for New York on Monday, the 12th.

From Killarney we motored northward through the colorful

countryside, with little traffic to impede our progress. They called the area Shannonide, and to get there we passed through the towns of Tralee, Listowel and Limerick. The latter is a fairly large city. Much of this passed along the River Shannon, quite a large and broad bay area that led to Shannon.

We were to spend our last night at the Clare Inn at Newmarket-On-Fergus, a handsome two-level spread of 121 rooms on an attractively-groomed nine-hole golf course. Its 121 rooms rested nest-like high on a hill overlooking field and dale that led to the busy Shannon Airport just nine miles in the distance.

Della was taken by the well-stocked little gift shop, and chief among their attractions was the fact that they were closing for the season and offering tasteful merchandise at discount prices. Della bought herself an angora coat and Irish linen dress as going-away (from Ireland) presents.

On the other side of the ledger, the Clare Inn must have shut off the heat for the winter, for it was one of the coldest nights we had spent on the entire trip. And another thing, their small bar was understaffed, and by the time one finally got a drink, he was either out of the notion or it proved an most exquisite drink. Either or.

The following morning, however, we enjoyed an excellent breakfast in the Clare Inn dining room, set with white linen and sparkling silverware.

A Medieval Dinner

A delightful treat awaited members of our tour group as we were winding down our stay in Ireland, and it came unexpectedly. We were to have what was billed as a Medieval Dinner with all its ancient accoutrements at the famous Bunratty Castle, the last of four fortresses to stand on the majestic site overlooking the Shannon River. The structure was built in the middle of the 15th Century by a local Chieftain, Sioda MacConmara, and later came into the hands of the O'Briens, Kings and later Earls of Thomond.

In 1646, Bunratty was captured from the 6th Earl of Thomond by Admiral Penn, Commander of the Commonwealth Forces. It is believed that William Penn, Founder of Pennsylvania, then an infant, lived for a time in the castle.

The castle now stands furnished, as it was five centuries ago, and each evening the merriment and revelry of the Middle Ages are brought back again to its ancient walls when guests assemble for the Medieval Banquet.

And these are the surroundings we found ourselves in when we

crossed the narrow drawbridge to enter the castle. We were met by young ladies "of the court" and were given a cup of Mead, an ancient potion that guaranteed a certain levity to anyone who imbibed of it. All at once we became not Mr. and Mrs., but m'lord and m' lady. What fun!

After this and after a number of us had signed in, we were taken to the dining room where Ted Serrill our tour leader was "crowned" king. The royal butler announced each course, beginning with barley soup, followed by delicious ribs carefully selected from the king's larder, followed by capons with other side dishes. Each course was appropriately announced and described by the butler before the ladies served it.

There were no utensils (as was the custom in the days of the kings) except for a small knife resembling a paring knife. Obviously, finger bowls were made use of.

The young ladies who served the food also sang and one played a violin, another the harp. The festivities were punctuated with the sending of one diner to the dungeon "for trifling with the ladies." But he repented and was asked to return, providing he favored the diners with a song.

Finally, it was back to the main room for coffee, and a lot of picture taking. It was indeed a night to remember.

The next morning we were back in our bus headed the nine miles for Shannon Airport and our return trip to the United States. We were about to bid farewell to the Old Sod, the Land of Erin.

Many of us composed limericks to Ted and Peg Serrill, who served as our tour leaders on the 10-day trip through Ireland, and who helped wrinkle out all the small inconveniences so well.

These were read over the bus loudspeaker by those who composed them as the bus slowly wound its way through the small road to the airport. It added a nostalgic touch to the group which was by now just getting to know one another. And it apparently touched Ted and Peg, for Ted expressed his appreciation to the group and Peg stating she "was at a loss for appropriate words" to express her thanks.

Our driver and guide Hughie sang "Sein Na Finna Fail," the Irish National Anthem and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen" as a fitting goodbye, then said, "If you enjoyed the trip (in Ireland) go back to the United States and tell everybody; and if you didn't enjoy it, keep your bloody mouths shut!"

All in good fun, and a real "goodbye" from Hughie, an excellent representative of his Irish homeland.

Insurance Institute dents driver education program

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drivers appear to load large numbers of their friends into their cars, they were especially likely to have passengers in their vehicles die."

• "Fatal crashes of younger drivers are more likely to involve only the passenger vehicle they were driving than were crashes of older drivers."

This isn't the first time the insurance institute has concluded that abolishing high school driver education would save lives.

"At least 2,000 fatal crashes per year that would not otherwise occur are attributed to increased licensure of 16- and 17-year-olds because of driver education," a November 1977 report by the institute said.

The 1977 study, which looked at driver education experience in 27 states, indicated "that 80 percent of the 16- and 17-year-olds who took driver education obtained licenses when they would otherwise not have obtained licenses until they were at least 18- or 19-year-olds."

But few states, school districts or schools have followed the institute's recommendation.

The institute says that is because it has some powerful opponents, including the National Education Association, and some with vested interests, like the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, which represents driver education teachers.

Opponents say the institute's

failure to convince many people to pursue its recommendation stems from the institute's "inaccurate, misleading and unwarranted" findings used to back the recommendation.

For ammunition, opponents point to the insurance industry practice of offering lower premiums to teens with driver training than to those without it.

DRUG QUIZ

by Curt Scarborough, Ph.D.
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QUESTION - Which of the following symptoms indicate possible glue sniffing?

- Poor muscular control (staggering)
- Drowsiness or unconsciousness
- Excessive nasal secretion and watering of the eyes
- All of the above

ANSWER - All of these symptoms are possible indications of glue sniffing. Other telltale clues to look for include the odor of the substance inhaled on breath and clothes, slurred speech, and the presence of plastic or paper bags or containers containing dry plastic cement.

Correct answer - d.



M'LORD AND M'LADY — We had to get used to these appellations as we entered the historic Bunratty Castle for our Medieval dinner. We found a cup of their famous Mead, served by two beautiful Irish maidens, helped us adapt to the ancient custom.

Early start possible on Leisure Living complex

The accepted bids on the Leisure Living complex that is to be constructed in Milford were announced Tuesday, Dec. 8, during a meeting held in Milford's Community Building.

Architect James McCleary of Warsaw and Paul Reith, president of Leisure Living, discussed details with Mel Mast of D & M Construction, whose bid was accepted for general contracting and interior work, and Larry Depew of Depew Plumbing, Heating, and Electric of Ligonier, whose bids for plumbing, heating and electric work were also accepted. Also in at

tendance was Robert Brown of Phend and Brown, Inc., who received the contract for asphalt paving.

The landscaping bid was rejected as being too high causing this area to be under re-evaluation at this time with bids continued to be accepted.

During the meeting the possibility of an early start on construction was discussed.

Contractors will submit a proposed construction schedule before this can be determined.

Contractors were asked to provide weekly itemized work sheets with hourly breakdowns of

work done to submit to HUD, who is subsidizing the project.

It was suggested by McCleary that construction be started on the community building, one building of several planned for the complex, so it could be used as a contractors office.

The complex, which will be a 16-unit for senior citizens will be constructed on east Catherine Street in Milford.

Rieth said he will request an "early start" from the Farm and Home Administration to allow work to begin before the loan closing because of the coming winter weather.

Robert Auer resigns from Milford Town Board

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Milford. The company was given the official go-ahead in September. Mrs. Lopez will ask a company representative to attend the January town board meeting.

The board will also ask Street and Water Superintendent Ron Conley to contact ConRail to ask why the sidewalk crossings haven't been repaired yet. The board said they were suppose to be repaired this fall.

In other business, the board reviewed the town's employees' health insurance coverage with

insurance agent Bill Nellans of Warsaw. Nellans suggested a Golden Rule Company insurance policy. The board said they will take the matter under advisement.

The board gave street department employee Randy Veach the okay to check prices for a new two-ton floor jack to aid him in servicing street department vehicles.

The next regular meeting of the Milford Town Board will be Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Washington Watch

Sen. Dick Lugar

that they can spend them as they see fit, not as you would spend them. The Big Spenders have not been defeated, only slowed down temporarily, and the tax cuts are essential to keeping spending and inflation under control in future years."

"Those of us who favor a growing America are going to have to work together as never before if we are to preserve the unique American dream of economic security through hard, honest work," Lugar concluded. "That dream has to stay alive. To do that we have to work together to make government do the necessary job to plow and water and fertilize and create conditions for a greater economic harvest, not just parcel out last year's crop."

Merit Committee

Senator Lugar has announced that his Military Academy Merit Selection Committee will meet on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Indiana Central University.

Lugar said the academy committee will interview 60 outstanding young men and women interested in attending one of the United States military academies. The applicants were chosen from more than 300 individuals who submitted applications to the academies.

The merit committee will select the names of 10 individuals to be nominated by Senator Lugar to each of the Air Force, Navy and Army academies. The academies will make selections from this group of individuals.

When Lugar came to the Senate in 1977 he established the merit selection committee for academy nominations to ensure that nominees were not chosen on a political basis.

Still popular as an energy saver is the wrap and snap warmer. Evening TV watchers can lower the thermostat by using the blanket-style warmer.

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