

American Irish Club of West Citrus County

Incorporated as a non-profit Social, Fraternal, Cultural, Historical, Philanthropic and Charitable Organization

January Newsletter

Volume No.13, 2007

Issue No1

From the President's Desk



On my way driving to the club on Wednesday, I was wondering what I would write about for the January newspaper. When I walked into the cottage I saw part of the Wednesday workers putting up new lights, namely Jack Kennelly, Jim Hynes, Herb Duval, Frank Hughs, Jim O.Connor, and John Foye. John also

cleaned the beer lines which is necessary at times.

Ron Davis was coordinating the removal of about 8 large stumps which surrounded the club. He was also preparing for the Christmas party. What an improvement. Thanks to each and everyone of you. They worked so hard. Herb Duval fixed a fine lunch for everyone.

I checked out the new storage unit and saw another group working on the shed, namely, Charlie Mattingly, Ray Spratt (Ray kept saying, where is my partner Red?, Red was entertaining his sister), Joe Holland, and Larry Stephens. What a great job they are doing. Thank you.

I went back to the cottage and who came in but a group of women ready to spruce up the place for Christmas. Who were they, you ask? Well there was Joan Duval, Doris McHugh, Ruth Doring, Madeline McCabe, and Jane Griffith. My thanks to you beautiful women.

Last month I wrote about Frank Hughs shining the coins for the bar. Well, the coins were placed on the bar and Jim Hynes laminated over the Irish coins and paper money to form a new surface to the bar. It was a professional job. Thanks

My thanks to our librarian, Margaret Szilagyi, who has been working alone since her helper, *Crash McFoye*, has been out of commission.

I'm telling you, this is the first time I saw so many people working like little Elves in the Irish club all at the same time! What a tribute to the best club in Citrus County, the American Irish Club.

God bless the Irish Club and all the members. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.

Jim Foye

The January meeting will be very busy with the collecton of the 2007 dues, Irish Show ticket sales, Super Bowl ticket sales, etc. Get there early and bring your wallets.

Remember the next monthly meeting is **January 16th**

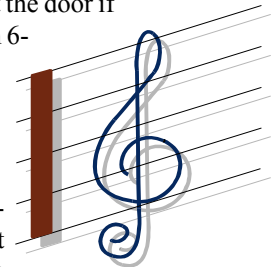
Christmas with the Celts

The American Irish Club of West Citrus is bringing "Christmas with the Celts", a Family Holiday Experience to Citrus County on Friday, December 22, 2006. This Celtic Heritage Show is being held at Citrus Springs Community Center and begins at 4:00 p.m.

Presale ticket prices are: Adults \$12.00 / Children 6-12 \$3.00
Children 5 and under free. Ticket sales at the door if available will be Adults \$15.00 / Children 6-12 - \$5.00

Annual Irish Show

Don't forget that our club, under the direction of Carol-Lee & Owen Shevlin, will put on the Irish Variety Show at Curtis Peterson Auditorium on March 3 at 4pm. Entertainers include Michael Funge, Harriet Earis, Bernard McHugh, Sandie Hartford, and Barry Collins. Get your friends, family, neighbors, organizations ready for our big yearly show.



IRELAND IS NAMED 'BEST COUNTRY'

Ireland is the best place to live in the world, according to a "quality of life" assessment by Economist magazine.

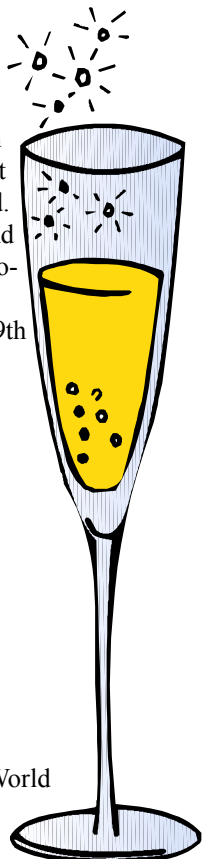
The country's combination of increasing wealth and traditional values gives it the conditions most likely to make its people happy, the survey found. Ireland was followed by Switzerland, Norway and Luxembourg. All but one of the top 10 were European countries.

The USA languished in 13th, while Britain was 29th - the lowest of the pre-expansion EU nations.

'TOP TEN COUNTRIES'

- 1 Ireland
- 2 Switzerland
- 3 Norway
- 4 Luxembourg
- 5 Sweden
- 6 Australia
- 7 Iceland
- 8 Italy
- 9 Denmark
- 10 Spain

The survey was prepared for the Economist's "World in 2005" publication, with the remit: "Where will be the best place to live in 2005?"



AMERICAN IRISH CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jim Foye	(352) 527-0147
Vice President	Herb Duval	794-7465
Secretary	Madeline McCabe	795-7510
Financial Treasurer	Bob Bianculli	746-3947
3 Year Director	Ron Davis	527-2209
2 Year Director	Jim Hynes	527-7049
1 Year Director	Roland Rieck	362-2503

Standing Committees

Audit Budget/Finance	Marge Nichols	628-1746
	Cathy Clark	344-9630
Activities-Entertain	Carol-Lee Shevlin	382-1631
Building	Jack Kennelly	795-4871
Grounds	Jimmie Barnes	621-0617
	Owen Shevlin	382-1631
	Larry Stephens	382-4926
Membership	Linda Hynes	527-7049
Publicity	Ron Davis	527-2209

Service Committees

Attendance	Ann Harmon	628-2395
By-Laws	Mike Colbert	746-1331
	Jan Cody Foye	527-6757
	Jim O'Connor	746-4240
Chaplain	John Foye	527-6757
Food-Breakfast	Ron Higgins	746-2873
Historian	Delois Dick	637-4088
Hospitality	Jeannine Davis	527-2209
House	Roland Rieck	382-2503
	Vernon Budd	382-2109
	Pat O'Halloran	746-4515
	Russ & Ruth Doring	795-4548
	Wes Beaton	341-3768
	Larry Stephens	382-4926
Kitchen	Joan Duval	794-7465
	Jeannine Davis	527-2209
	Pat Kennelly	795-4871
Newsletter	Bob Bianculli	746-3947
Phone - Citrus	Teresa Stimpfl	341-1116
	Katy Hoey	341-2417
Sergeant at Arms	Ray Spratt	621-3895
Sunshine	Trish Higgins	746-2873

AMERICAN IRISH CLUB MEETING SITE

The American Irish Club of West Citrus County meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month (except Jun, Jul, and Aug) at the American Irish Cultural Center, 4342 Homosassa Tr (CR 490), Lecanto, FL. (It is located across from Pope John Paul II RC School)

For information, call the Club on Wednesdays at (352) 527-4890, or Jim Foye at (352) 527-0147. Email us at AICeditor@tampabay.rr.com. You can write to us at P.O. Box 760, Lecanto, FL 34460-0760.

Our website is <http://www.americanirishclub.com> check it out.

If anyone would like to submit an article, photo, or other information for consideration, to be included in *your* newsletter, send it to AICeditor@tampabay.rr.com

The Blarney Corner

[1] In the 1981 census what was the population of the Republic of Ireland?

- a) 3.5 million
- b) 1 million
- c) 10 million
- d) 6.5 million

[2] What is the approximate population today?

- a) 5.7 million
- b) 12 million
- c) 2.9 million
- d) 4.2 million

[Answer on page 3]

BEST COUNTRY *continued*

Researchers took into account not just income, but other factors considered important to people's satisfaction and well-being.

They included health, freedom, unemployment, family life, climate, political stability and security, gender equality and family and community life.

The Economist said: "Ireland wins because it successfully combines the most desirable elements of the new, such as low unemployment and political liberties, with the preservation of certain cozy elements of the old, such as stable family and community life."

The magazine admits that measuring quality of life is not a straightforward thing to do, and that its findings will have their critics - "except, of course, in Ireland".

Breakdown in Britain

The Republic has made significant gains from its membership of the EU, earning the soubriquet Celtic Tiger for its economic progress. Commentators say it is widely admired by the EU's newest members, and has become a model for what they hope to achieve.

Although European nations generally do well in the survey, the continent's major industrial powers of France, Germany and Britain finish 25th, 26th and 29th respectively.

The researchers said although the UK achieved high income per head, it had high levels of social and family breakdown.

The worst of the 111 countries to live in was considered to be Zimbabwe, "where things have gone from bad to worse under [President] Robert Mugabe"

Soup-A-Thon



Will be held at the club in March. Can we beat the selection of 28 soups that we had last year??

A donation list will be circulated in January. Soup-A-Thon hours will be from 11:30am to 2:30pm. Cost will be \$6.00 and for those that donate soup it will be \$3.00. Soup, French bread, dessert, iced tea/lemonade/coffee included.

The American Irish Club Golf Invitational

Will be held at the Spruce Creek Preserve Golf Course on Rt. 200 on Saturday, April 14th, 2007. Proceeds will go to club projects, charities, and programs that our club supports. Cost of \$60.00 per person includes cart, round of golf, and dinner. The cost for "dinner only" guests will be \$25.00.

WHEN PLANNING YOUR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, KEEP THE AMERICAN IRISH CLUB IN MIND. YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP TO ENSURE OUR FUTURE

JANUARY

Bring Your Aluminum Cans and Newspapers to the Clubhouse

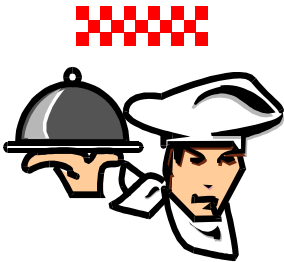
We save aluminum cans and dry newspapers for extra revenue. The bins are located off to the side of the clubhouse. We have made several hundred dollars by doing this. We thank the people who have saved, sorted and hauled the recycled items to the recycle center.

American Irish Bingo

The Bingo wheel generally spins on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, however there are changes for November and December. These dates are Nov 7 & 28 and Dec 5. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.. The first number is called at 12:45 p.m. A lite lunch is available before the game for a nominal charge. Bring your family and friends for a fun time

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Bingo	10	11	12	13
14 Breakfast	15	16 Membership Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Bingo	24	25	26	27
28 Breakfast	29	30	31			

American Irish Sunday Breakfast



Breakfast is served on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.30 + tax. Members and guests are encouraged to join us for one of four entrees, including either eggs, pancakes, french toast, sausage, bacon, potatoes and sausage gravy with biscuits.

Newsletter Booster Club

Costs for printing, paper, ink and postage are defrayed by the generosity of our booster club members. Please be as generous as possible and mail your donations to the club or give it to one of the officers. We need your support.

The following members have kindly contributed during the last month: **Margie & Dick Connell**

Superbowl XLI Party

Will be held at the club on **February 4th, 2007**. Tickets will be \$9.00 per person and will include a Happy Hour followed by Dinner and the game. Doors open at 5pm. Get in the football pools early

The American Irish Club will now offer the option, for you to receive the Newsletter by way of e-mail. If you would like to sign up and join a number of members already using this option, send an e-mail with your name and e-mail address to AICeditor@tampabay.rr.com
This option will also allow us save some money on the production of the newsletter.

IRISH LANGUAGE

Irish (*Gaeilge*), a Goidelic language spoken in Ireland, is constitutionally recognized as the first official language of the Republic of Ireland, and has official recognition in Northern Ireland as well. On 13 June 2005, EU foreign ministers unanimously decided to make Irish an official language of the European Union. The new arrangements will come into effect on 1 January 2007.

According to census figures released by the Central Statistics Office in 2004, there are approximately 1.6 million people claiming a self-reported competence in Irish. Of these, 350,000 reported using Irish every day, 155,000 weekly, 585,000 less often, 460,000 never, and 30,000 didn't state how often. Of the 350,000 who were reported to use Irish every day, the majority are schoolchildren who use it during their classes in Irish.

The number of people in the Gaeltacht (the region mainly in the west and northwest of Ireland) who use the language as their daily mother tongue has been variously cited as between 70,000 and 83,000.

Do You Like To Cook?

There are many talented cooks in the club. Would some of you like to try a recipe out on the club? We need your help with cooking for the membership meetings. You would be supplied with both the food and the volunteers you need. Just advise the board what ingredients you need from our supplier and any other ingredients you purchase yourself will be reimbursed with receipts.

Don't be afraid. There will be lot's of assistance for you.

Answer: [1] 3.5 million; [2] 4.2 million (The population is still below the number before the famine, which was 8.5 million)