



Hibernian News



Volume 13 Issue 7

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Inside this issue:

I-AAC	1
Veteran's Day	2
ThankYou!	2
Irish Trivia	2
Clothing Donations	2
In Memoriam	2

The Irish-American Athletic Club I-AAC (Story line suggested by Joe Ryan, written by David Sutton)

As the recent 2012 Olympics roll into memory, we should not forget the contributions of Irish-Americans of the past and their contribution in athletics to New York City and our homeland. The Greater New York Irish-American Association was established in 1897 and adopted the "Winged Fist" as its symbol; "Strong Hand Forever." It purchased 7 acres of land in the Laurel Hill area bordering Calvary Cemetery for \$9,000 in order to build an athletic arena for Gaelic football, hurling, and track and field events. A two story building containing a club house, restaurant, 1000 seat dining room, bowling lanes, and reception and banquet hall was built which overlooked the Manhattan sky line.

The area was also selected because it was within walking distance of the trolley line and therefore provided easy access for people from Manhattan and Brooklyn. In 1898, the name was changed to the Irish-American Athletic Club and its inaugural track meet was held May 30, 1898.

The I-AAC was largely Irish in membership and held many ties to other Irish organizations such as the Clan-Na-Gael, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the United Irish Counties Association. The I-AAC is seen as the predecessor to the Public School Athletic Association (PSAL); the Catholic Athletic League; and the Military Athletic League. The I-AAC hosted numerous track and field events at Celtic Park under the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Even though it was largely Irish, it was the first athletic organization to include people from other nationalities. Myer Prinstein was the first Jewish-American to win an Olympic Gold Medal and Dr. John Baxter Taylor was the first African-American to win an Olympic gold medal as members of the I-AAC. In seven Olympic games held from 1900 to 1924, members of the I-AAC would win a total of 26 Gold, 22 Silver and, 8 Bronze Olympic medals for the U.S.

During its lifetime, Celtic Park hosted 6 AAU All-Round Championships. These championships would become today's modern Decathlon and were held in a single day rather than over two days as in modern times. Martin Sheridan, a NYC Police Detective Sergeant and native from County Mayo won the All Round championships in 1907 and 1909. The N.Y. Times called Martin Sheridan the greatest all-around athlete of his day. *(continued on page 2)*



Irish Breakfast is Back!

Sunday September 9, 2012

Come back for the first fall Irish Breakfast. Enjoy eggs, irish bacon, irish sausage, black and white pudding, home-fried potatoes, pancakes, THE grilled tomato, soda bread, juice, coffee & tea.

Serving from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Only \$7 per person, \$3 for children

(Next Irish breakfast is Sunday October 14th)



Page 2	HIBERNIAN NEWS	Volume 13 Issue 7
A message From the AOH Division 2 President		Upcoming Events (subject to change)
<p>Dear Brothers and Friends,</p> <p>Hope you are all enjoying the end of your summer. There are a number of events and activities happening down at the hall. Stop by for a Friday Night BBQ with the family. Don't forget to come to the hall for the 1st Annual County Picnic on September 15th from 1-6 PM. See the newsletter for all the information. We will have a meeting in September so please come and participate as we head into Fall.</p> <p>In our Motto,</p> <p>Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity</p> <p>Kevin P. Moore</p>		Sep 9 Irish Breakfast - Hall: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.
		Sep 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance - Anywhere: Anytime.
		Sep 15 Orange County Board Family Picnic (Halfway to St. Patrick's Day) - Hall: 1 pm to 6 pm. \$10 p/p, \$25 family.
		Sep 19 Division Meeting - Hall: 7 pm. All members encouraged to attend.
		Sep 28 Orange County Emerald Ball - Falkirk Estates and Country Club: 7 pm - Midnight
		Oct 14 Irish Breakfast - Hall: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm.
I-AAC Continued		
<p>Martin Sheridan would be a five-time Olympic Medalist and was a member of the Irish Whales who were members of the I-AAC and New York City Police force. The Irish Whales would dominate the weight throwing Olympic categories such as the shot put, hammer, discus and, javelin during the early 1900's. In the 1908 Olympics, the entire U.S. Team won 23 Gold Medals, but 10 of these were won by members of the I-AAC. When World War I erupted it was decided not to hold any track and field events while the U.S. was at war. In 1918 Martin Sheridan would die from pneumonia (probably the Spanish Influenza outbreak). Then Prohibition was passed for the next 13 years. The Police made a point of trying to eradicate the smuggling of alcohol into the park. With the pending economic slow down leading to the Great Depression, Celtic park was sold in 1930 to the City and Suburban Homes Company in order to create affordable housing for New York City's working class population. During March 2012, New York City honored the I-AAC by renaming 43 Street, between 48th and 50th Avenues, "Winged Fist Way." Let us preserve not only this, but all the contributions of Irish Americans to the health and strength of our country.</p>		
Thank You		Veteran's Day Ceilidh - November 10, 2012
<p>To Dave Sutton, Kevin Cummings, the Orange County Board, and the ladies from the LAOH for organizing the Our Lady of Knock mass at the Carmelite Shrine in Middletown....and to the cooks who made a delicious Irish Breakfast. What a wonderful celebration uniting our faith and heritage that lets us proudly call ourselves Irish Catholics!</p>		<p>Save the date for a Division 2 Veteran's Day Ceilidh fundraiser for the V.A. at Castle Point. \$20 per person includes food and music; cash bar. The evening starts at 7 pm and ends at 11 pm. All profits go to our veterans. Please support this event and consider bringing a guest, perhaps a veteran or someone who has served honorably. For more information contact John Greehy at 845.534.2528.</p>
Clothing Donations		Irish Trivia
<p>September is back to school time, and for some of us it's back to work. Whether it's off to grammar school or college, or time to buy new clothes for the upcoming fall and winter seasons, many of us will likely have clothes hanging in our family closets that we don't need or use. Consider giving your family wardrobe a good "shake out" and see what you really don't need. Many veterans and their family members are in need of good used clothing. When our young veterans return from service they often have difficulty acclimating back to civilian life. Although they possess skills desired by many companies, their job prospects are not great, especially in this poor economy. Consider bringing your families unused clothes to the hall this fall and we'll make sure they are delivered to the VA facility at Castle Point. Bags can be left inside the front door of the hall.</p>		<p>a. How many counties does Tipperary border? b. How many medals did Ireland win at the 2012 summer Olympics? c. Bonus! How many gold, silver and bronze? Hint-at least one of each. d. Double Bonus!! In what two sports were the medals won?</p>
		<p>Answers (a - 8; b - 5; c - 1 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze; d - boxing and equestrian)</p>
In Memoriam		
<p>Fellow Division 2 Brother Dan O'Rourke passed away on July 15th. Please keep Dan and his family in your prayers. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam (may he rest in peace).</p>		