

Revelations

As April's here, sure 'tis not England at all, but Ireland is going to. 'Tis the time of Ireland's spring festival, AN TOSTAL, when the Irish people are in a gay and festive mood waiting to welcome you to their beloved country with such a celebration as you nowhere else in the world.

Beginning with the Pageant of St. Patrick on Easter Day, lasting until May 9th, there is such a program of events as would stagger the imagination of any but the Irish. St. Patrick landed near the mouth of the river Borne when he returned to Ireland as a missionary. On Easter Sunday in 432 A.D., he lit the Paschal Fire of the Hill of Slane. The whole story of the Christianization of Ireland will be re-enacted with a cast of thousands and prominent Irish actors will have the leading roles.

From Balle Atha (Dublin to you) where a floral pageant will form part of the National Opening ceremonies to County Donegal where there will be a gathering of the Tir Connall Clans, all Ireland will be in a holiday mood. No matter what interests you, you will be able to find it somewhere in the Emerald Isle during An Tostal.

You like sports? You have come to the right place. There is the magnificent Dublin Spring Horse show. One of the features will be the jumping competition for the Tostal International Cup. They say that there is something in Ireland which helps them breed better horses than are bred in any other part of the world. It may be the climate which keeps the grass alive through the cool summer and the mild winter. It is more probably the limestone and dolomite formations - where these are found are the best stud farms. Then Irish managers have proved to be the most successful. They know horses, they use more common sense and more imagination. They breed great winners for generations, not just isolated ones here and there. And ride? How the Irish can ride, how they can jump! It's more than mere skill, it's often outright daring that gives such zest to their superb performances in steeplechases all over the world.

Ireland is a paradise for fishermen. During this spring festival, there is a Tostal World Angling Competition. Competitors can fish for four classes of fish - salmon, trout, pike and perch. They are not limited to specific waters but can fish on any lake, pond or river that suits their fancy. There will be local angling competitions, too, and you might even win two prizes, one local and one national.

An inveterate fisherman will stay for the unequalled Mayfly fishing which starts about the second week of May. They call it dapping the Green Drake. The rise begins usually on Lough Derg on the Shannon. By the end of June the fly is up on Loughs Mask and Carra. The trout appear to go crazy during this time and discard all their natural cunning. It is a fishing holiday that will make any listener green with envy whenever the tales are told. One of the most valiant fighters is a species of trout called a Gillaroo. You'd be most apt to find it at Lough Melvin near Bundoran.

The hundreds of fishable rivers and streams are free from pollution, and the salmon fishing is unequalled. There are fifteen major salmon rivers all prolific with the noble fish. Many of the best waters are preserved, but stretches can be rented for short periods. Many hotels have fisheries in their neighborhood which are reserved for the hotel guests. Fishing is much less expensive in Ireland than in any other country. No fishing license is necessary for trout nor for what is called coarse fishing, pike, perch, bream, and rudd. And a 20 pound pike is nothing unusual!

In Galway on May 8th and 9th will be held the first National Curragh Racing Championships. What is a curragh? It is a flimsy canvas canoe. The design of this tricky craft is exclusively Irish, and the courageous and skillful fishermen who man them on the Western Irish Seaboard are among the world's finest sailors.

There will be an International Seven Day Cycling Race during An Tostal. It will start in Dublin on April 25th and will take the riders all over the country through the towns and cities in Ulster, Connaught, Munster and back through Leinster.

Many top American, British and Irish golfers will play in the Tostal Amateur and Professional International Foursomes held at the Hermitage Golf Club in Lucan, County Dublin. But one of the earliest events will be the Golden Ball Golfing Marathon - only the delightfully humorous Irish could have dreamed up such a competition. It will be held in Curragh, County Kildare on May 8th and 9th. There is only one hole! You must drive off the first tee at the Cill Dara Golf Club outside the town of Kildare. The objective in the eighteenth Green on the Curragh Golf Club five miles away. You traverse the beautiful plains of the Curragh of Kildare. And you are allowed only three clubs - your own choice. What a sporting event that will be!

In lovely, lovely Killarney there will be a Pan-Celtic Festival from April 27th to April 30. Celtic music, songs and dances will be performed by representatives from Brittany, Scotland, Cornwall, Ireland and the Isle of Man. And this year, who knows, may see the appearance of the great O'Donoghue who once ruled over the country which surrounds Lough Linn. He revisits his ancient domains at sunrise on May-day morning, the anniversary of his departure.

My grandfather who lived past 98 told me that he once saw the great man on a May-morning long ago. Only the favored ever see him, and ever after they have great good fortune. The first beams of the rising sun had turned to gold the summit of Glenna. The water was hushed and still. Suddenly near the eastern shore of the lake the water became violently agitated. A huge wave rushed across the lake. Behind the wave mounted upon a snow-white horse appeared O'Donoghue, fully armed, followed by numerous youths and maidens who moved lightly over the water accompanied by enchanting music. As they entered the narrow strait, a mist obscured them from view, but the music continued, growing softer and softer until it finally faded. My grandfather would croon to me a bar or two of that celestial music. And if ever I hear those strains again, I shall know that O'Donoghue is near.

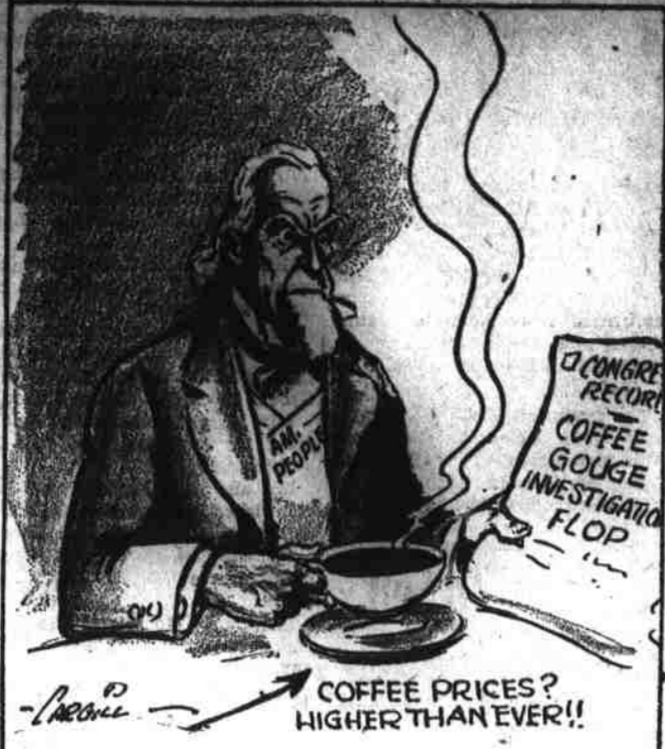
It may sound fanciful to you unless you are Irish, and if you aren't, then you are to be pitied. But no child who has been sung to sleep with the strains of the great O'Donoghue is ever afraid of water. It may be that we know that under the water here is a country called Tir-na-nog - which means the country of the young. And those who have seen it even in their dreams remain forever young in heart.

And there will be a Choral Music and Dancing Festival at Cork - with dancers from many countries. At Athlone the All Ireland Amateur Drama Festival will be held. All Irishmen can act - it is part of their nature. The most humble task becomes glamorous when it is dramatized, and no one with a drop of Irish blood hesitates to dramatize anything which comes his way.

Yes, Ireland is the place to be now that April's here. You will be greeted with such warm and sincere hospitality. You will be greeted in the spirit of the charming Gaelic song:

"Oro, 'se do bheatha abhaile,
"Nois ar theacht an tSamhraidh,"
which means simply
"Welcome, welcome home
At the coming in of summer."
HELEN CALDWELL CUSHMAN

DARK BROWN TASTE



SENATOR LENNON REPORTS

WASHINGTON - Several weeks ago I wrote in this column about my position on Congressional investigating committees. As your Senator, I felt you have a right to be informed on this important question.

Background

My position has not changed. I believe we need to change the rules of the committees to halt "one-man" investigations and to change the desire for headlines. I will not repeat my remedy for this evil, but simply say that new rules of procedure for investigating committees should incorporate the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

Lie Detector

When the time comes - and it has already - that the investigators have to be investigated then the people have a right to wonder if their sacred rights will be protected. I was shocked to see that there had been a suggestion that lie detectors be used in the current Army-McCarthy investigation. It does not appear to me to be the proper procedure to use when tampering with the fundamental rights of citizens. While we are completely opposed to atheistic communism, we can certainly have more effective methods of committee procedure which will do the job of rooting them out.

Indo China

But in spite of these domestic and economic problems - and they are important - I believe the eyes of our country are focused on the grave international situation. I refer to Indo China, the far-away land seven thousand miles from our shores where the cancer of communism continues to gnaw at the articles of free men. This war has

been going on for about seven years. It was being waged while we were fighting in Korea. The United States has been footing the bill for this war by paying about 80 percent of the cost. This bill amounts to a round a billion dollars.

Another Korea? It may well be that the Administration will call on the Congress to become more involved in this serious matter. We are furnishing supplies; we recently added technicians in a non-combat category. I am not ready to vote to send American boys as combat troops to Indo China in what seems to be developing as another Korea. I favor the continuation.

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ation of military aid to France to help fight this war. There are rapidly developing signs that do not look good to me.

What Next?

The hydrogen and atomic age may well teach the evil forces of the world that the dignity of man is paramount; that no nation can go it alone without spiritual leadership; that communism offers only tyranny, fear, poverty and death. Democracy is the only answer.

Highway Bill

Early last week the Senate passed the Highway Bill. Most of the debate on it concerned the various amendments. Final passage was by voice vote.

This-And-That

Washington got hot last week for a time - the weather climbed to 83 degrees and a big thunderstorm cooled things off. The weather was so cold that the Cherry Blossom Pageant had to be held indoors. Reports reaching our office indicate the excise tax reduction has helped

business. That's one of the rewarding things of public office - the opportunity to get things done to help the people.

Smokey Says:



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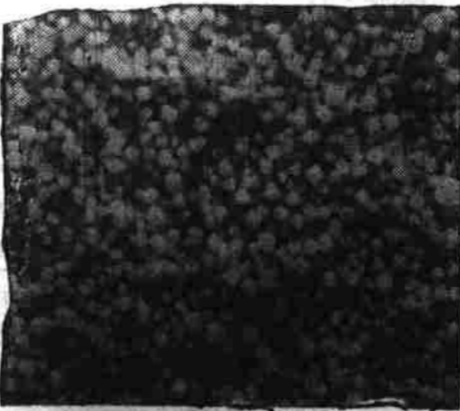
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THE DUPLIN TIMES

Published each Thursday in Kenansville, N. C., County Seat of DUPLIN COUNTY

Editorial, business office and printing plant, Kenansville, N. C.
J. ROBERT GRADY, EDITOR - OWNER
Entered At The Post Office, Kenansville, N. C. as second class matter.

TELEPHONE - Kenansville, Day 255-6 - Night 215-1
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$3.50 per year in Duplin, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Sampson, New Hanover and Wayne counties; \$4.50 per year outside this area in North Carolina; and \$5.00 per year elsewhere.

Advertising rates furnished on request.

A Duplin County Journal, devoted to the religious, material, educational, economic and agricultural development of Duplin County.



W. W. WOODRUFF, JR.
100 North J. Street - Kenansville, N. C.

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