

Newsletter of the Irish-American Society of New Mexico www.irishamericansociety-nm.com

AUGUST 2018

Note: Irish-American Society meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, except during July and August (and for special events). The usual meeting location is the Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC), 4821 Menaul, NE (west of San Mateo).

Next Event: Sunday, August 26th

IAS/St. Andrew Scottish Society Annual Family Picnic!

Noon to 4 PM, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area (Details on p. 8)

REMINDER: There will be no monthly meeting/program in July or August. Our next monthly meeting will be September 14th, but not at the German Club. (See calendar on p. 11 for details.)



2018 Board Members and Committee Chairs

President	Ellen Dowling	307-	Health &	Don Hardy	259-
	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700	Welfare	frananddon@aol.com	3348
VP	Bob Bryers	792-	Newsletter	Ellen Dowling	307-
	tccrrb5@aol.com	2026		edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Treasurer	Kathy Wimmer	249-	Hospitality	Rose Marie Keating	
	(Kmillewimm@comcast.net)	7012		rkeating14@comcast.net	
Secretary	Pete McKenna	345-	Web	Ellen Dowling	307-
	pmckenna101@comcast.net	2566	Manager	edowling@standuptrainer.com	1700
Membership	Norita & Ken Callahan	298-	Telephone	Beth Baker	994-
	noraabq@yahoo.com	2708		adamsonbb@gmail.com	0443
Board	Paul McDonough	294-	Audio	Jim Brauer	352-
	penthormul@aol.com	8205	Services	rkeating14@comcast.net	2195
Board	Jay Vandersloot	362-			





Would you like to place an ad in the *Irish Times* newsletter?

Business-card-sized ads are a mere \$5 a month. Larger-sized ads can be negotiated with the editor, Ellen Dowling (edowling@standuptrainer.com 307-1700). Your ad will also appear on the IAS website (www.irishamericansociety-nm.com) at no extra charge.







President's Message

Dear IAS Members:

By Ellen Dowling

The long hot summer continues apace as I write this, but at least we seem to have scored enough monsoons to mitigate some of the fire danger, which is good news for our ANNUAL PICNIC ON AUGUST 26 at Elena Gallegos Park. (See p. 8 for details.)

Remember, there will be no monthly meeting/program in August, just the picnic on August 26. The Board of Directors will, however, convene on August 7th, and one of our major discussion points will be the results of the member survey we sent out to you all earlier this year. (Thanks again, Laura Banks!) I won't go into the details now, but the times they are a-changin' for the IAS and we hope to have some interesting (and we hope welcome) news for you in the September newsletter.

Until then, keep cool!

Membership Report

By Norita and Ken Callahan

Céad Mile Fáilte (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes) to our newest members: Melissa, Maco, Skye & Katie Stewart, Colleen Keane, Seth Drop, and Sarah Kirkland, and Robert Gallegos.

As of July 17th, there are 81 (x 2) family members, 86 single members, and 6 students. This is a total of 254 renewals, new members, and several Life Members.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE STILL SEEKING PULL-TAB DONATIONS! The aluminum or steel pull tabs donated from beverage cans or ANY kind of canned food (6000 + pounds annually) generate funds to offset the House expenses. YOUR donations make a significant impact and are very much appreciated. Thanks this month to Jim Romero, Lee & Patricia Dickens, Jeanine Blair, and Bruce & Cindy Miller.

Flowers of the Forest

We were saddened to learn of the death of Thomas F. O'Connell, age 90, who passed away on April 22nd after a lengthy hospitalization. He is survived by his wife Beatrice and children.

Tom was a frequent guest at many of our events, and we're sure many of you will recognize him from this picture (taken several years ago at our St. Patrick's Day party). He enjoyed a long and rewarding career as a Bailiff in the Second Judicial District Court and served his community in the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Orient of NM), Masonic Order Mesa Lodge #68, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Knights of Columbus.

A private service will be held in Ireland at a later date. May he rest in peace.



Treasurer's Report June 2018

Kathy Wimmer, Treasurer

Category Income		Category	Expenses
Membership (check/cash)	\$30.00	Ck#3282: Norita Callahan, stamps	\$10.00
		Ck#3282: Ellen Dowling, name tags	\$10.61
		Ck#3284: City of ABQ (balance due	
		to reserve picnic spot for 2018)	\$125.00
		Ck#3284: Edelweiss German-	
		American Club: (1/2 payment for band	
		for Halloween party)	\$225.00
		Ck#101: Kevin Higgins, June meeting	
		entertainment	\$50.00
		Ck#102: Edelweiss German-American	
		Club: Rental of club for 2018	\$800.00
Total Income	\$30.00	Total Expenses	\$1,220.61
		IAS Account prior month's Ending	
		Balance	\$10,677.09
		Plus Income (current month)	\$30.00
		Less Expenses (current month)	(\$1,220.61)
		Current month's Ending Balance	\$9,486.48

Irish Culture Society Now Back in New Mexico! COMHALTAS A message from IAS Board member Laura Banks:



Everyone is welcome! *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann* (pronounced "kol-tus kyol-tori air-in") is an international non-profit organization based in Dublin, Ireland, with 400 branches worldwide. The name translates to "a gathering of Irish musicians." Started in 1951, Comhaltas' purpose is to preserve and promote the traditional Irish arts of dance, music, singing, and language.

The Sliabh Sandia New Mexico branch, originally formed in 1994, has been re-established with a mission to connect and support those who enjoy Irish arts through performance, participation, or patronage, and encourage a new generation of Irish cultural artists in New Mexico. The name of the branch (pronounced "sleev san-dee-a") joins the Irish name for mountain with the Spanish name of a beautiful New Mexico mountain range that famously glows red at sunset (like a *sandia* or watermelon).

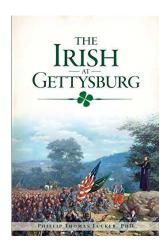
Membership is open to anyone in New Mexico who enjoys Irish music, dance, singing, poetry, and storytelling, or wants to learn more about Irish arts. We welcome experts and explorers, and members of all heritages and histories. Members of the local branch automatically become members of the international Comhaltas organization and receive discounts on registration at national and international events, as well as the quarterly publication, Treoir. By joining Sliabh Sandia New Mexico, you will be supporting musicians, dancers, singers, and poets, and helping to establish a framework for youth in New Mexico to develop creative skills and become ambassadors for Irish traditions. Sliabh Sandia New Mexico partners with other Irish cultural organizations in New Mexico, including the Irish-American Society and the UNM Irish Studies Program, to support local, national and international Irish cultural artists. To join online, click here: Comhaltas New Mexico Membership or contact Laura Banks at LLBanks64@comcast.net (505-249-5063).

The Irish Book Club

The Irish Book Club is now online! If you are on Facebook, just type The Irish Book Club into the search bar (or click on https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022642747761043/), and you'll find us. It's time to get up to date, so here are reviews of our May book, *The Irish at Gettysburg*, by Philip Thomas Tucker, as well as our June book, *The Light of the Diddicoy* by Eamon Loingsigh (last name pronounced "Lynch"). Right now (July) we're still reading *Solar Bones* by Mike McCormack, which we'll start discussing on July 31. (This book just won the International Dublin Literary Award.) Feel free to jump in at any time and join us!

The Irish at Gettysburg, by Philip Thomas Tucker

From Amazon's description: "At the outbreak of the Civil War, Irish citizens on both sides of the Mason-Dixon answered the call to arms. That was no more evident than at the Battle of Gettysburg. Louisiana Irish Rebels charged with the cry, 'We are the Louisiana Tigers!' Irish soldiers of the Alabama Brigade and the Texas Brigade launched assaults on the line's southern end at Little Round Top. During Pickett's Charge, Gaelic brothers fought each other as determined Irishmen of the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry repelled Irish of the Virginia Brigade in one of the most decisive moments in American history. Author Phillip Thomas Tucker reveals the compelling story."



A review from IAS member Tracy McGuire Rice: This book has provided me with a perspective on the Civil War that I had not gotten anywhere else. Specifically, this war was fought to a very large degree, on both sides, by Irish immigrants. These men and boys fought fiercely, and valiantly, for ideals that they were willing to sacrifice their lives for, and in fact did so at a rate greater than any other ethnic group involved in the war. I think these quotes from the book sums up well why the Sons of Erin on the Confederate side were so willing to fight:

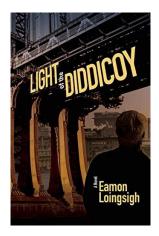
"For the Irish, the South's struggle for self-determination was not novel or new, because the act of rising up in revolt against the government had become a way of life for generations of Irish. A deep-seated nationalism and a longing for liberty had never died among the common people of Ireland. Quite simply, the most ancient of Irish aspirations had been faithfully resurrected on Southern soil in 1861."

"Thousands of Irish across the South viewed the defense of their adopted homeland against Northern invaders in the same way (a sacred duty) that generations of Irish had viewed nationalistic struggles in defense of their beloved Emerald Isle against invading Norsemen and then Anglo-Saxon invaders from England." Ironically, few Irish or Scots-Irish in the South owned slaves, nor cared about the slavery issue. This was a racial war to them, but "between English brothers and Celtic brothers in a long-existing historical confrontation that had been transferred to the Atlantic's west side." The Celts fighting on the Union side, could not understand how their brothers could fight against the land of liberty. Those on the Confederate side failed to see how an Irishman who wished for the freedom of his native isle could fight against a people striving to secure their independence. I found a particularly poignant quote from John Mitchell, Jr.: "I die willingly for the South, but oh! That it had been for Ireland." The book also recounts how many of the same factors existed during the American Revolutionary war with respect to the Irish and Scots-Irish. They made up over 40% of the Continental army; twenty-two generals of the Continental army were either born in Ireland or were the sons or grandsons of Irish immigrants.

Bottom line, I came away with a new respect for these brave people, our ancestors, who held strong convictions, and were willing to die for them.

The Light of the Diddicoy, by Eamon Loingsigh

From Amazon's description: "Light of the Diddicoy is the riveting and immersive saga of Irish gangs on the Brooklyn waterfront in the early part of the 20th century, told through the eyes of young newcomer Liam Garrity. Forced at age 14 to travel alone to America after money grew scarce in Ireland, Garrity stumbles directly into the hard-knock streets of the Irish-run waterfront and falls in with a Bridge District gang called the White Hand. Through a series of increasingly tense and brutal scenes, he has no choice but to use any means necessary to survive and carve out his place in a no-holds-barred community living outside the law. The book is the first of Irish-American author Eamon Loingsigh's *Auld Irishtown* trilogy, which delves into the stories and lore of the gangs and families growing up in this under-documented area of Brooklyn's Irish underworld."



A review by IAS board member Pete McKenna: [Note: "Diddicoy" is a pejorative (if that's possible) of "traveler" and used to designate unlanded/stable folk as the lowest form of slime.] I think the author takes an interesting tack to present his narrative. Like the historical novelist Bernard Cornwell, Loingsigh introduces a main character who has connections with the main group of interest—Brooklyn Irish ghetto-ites—but is at a slight remove from them, so the lead character retains some degree of autonomy and dispassionate observational power, which is displayed as a "recall of life" from Liam as an old man.

Liam has an Irish poet's soul, but he is cast into a self-contained melting pot of desperate Irish first-generation immigrants. Liam Garrihy decamps at Ellis Island and is immediately rechristened "Garrity" by a tone-deaf immigration clerk and shuffled off to the Brooklyn ferry. And tone-deaf extends to almost every category of interaction Liam faces, from his "uncle" who beats and abandons him, to his poverty-savaged peers, and to his eventual temporary "savior" and mentor, the savvy ruthless leader of the White Hand gang, Dinny Meehan.

Dinny pulls our hapless hero starving off the streets and saves his butt, for reasons that are pure self-interest and self-preservation; he puts Liam in a debt of honor that is only satisfied by Liam's assassination of his uncle. The gang, whose multi-faceted "character" is reflected in the nature and personalities of Dinny and his main lieutenants, runs the gamut from brutish reactionary violence (here things are always solved with violence at some point), to the long-game strategies of Dinny to keep the dockworkers of the White Hand gang loyal to him (and by extension the aims of the gang), and his "vision," which is basically "trust no one, talk to no one, no one cares about you but ME"). And so ANY Dinny-perceived variation from the code is a brand of disloyalty and to be punished—usually—by death, which the odious Swede will happily mete out. When Liam's uncle aligns (early in the story) with organizations other than the White Hand, his fate is sealed; we can see what Dinny is doing and who he is going to use to exact his vengeance long before it happens.

This book reads, or at least I so read it, as a fast, swirling, and turbulent descent into chaos, like the confusion and disassociation from reality Liam experiences as he enters the "grail" of America, and eventually straightens out into an almost-insider's narrative of the formation processes and rationales of survivalist societies based on and segmented by ethnic origin. And they can be brutal. One must suppose, today, that these processes will continue to occur in the absence of a humane, well-thought-out, and consistently enforced immigration policy. And don't you forget it Patrick Kelly, er Jose Garcia.

Albuquerque Genealogical Society Special Annual Book Sale

August 8, 2018 Community Room, Lower Level Main Library, Downtown at 5th and Copper Clearance Sale @ 1PM - Everything Must Go!

All proceeds from the sale go to the Genealogy Center at the main library for new books and equipment.

There are over 550 books in the sale on genealogical reference and research, history, family stories, and much more.

Free Parking! Two hour parking at the SE corner from library, just get your ticket stamped at the library.

And Speaking of Research:

The IAS website received this message recently: "Hi there, I live in a small village called Ballyknockan in the Wicklow Mountains, which is about 20 miles from Dublin. Ballyknockan is a village based on granite quarries and the local church in Valleymount (about two miles away) is architecturally very unusual. It has a facade in a late Spanish colonial style. The facade was built around 1835 and the story attached to it is that local stone cutters from Ballyknockan went out to New Mexico with some of the Earl of Wexford's men and came back to Ireland just as the new facade was being planned. These emigrants sketched a New Mexico church they were familiar with and their design was accepted and carried out. I can't find any documentary evidence to support this local tale and wondered whether you might have any access to archives in New Mexico which might help? Just Google St Joseph's Church,

and you'll find plenty of images! Many thanks, Liz Gardner"

Free Genealogy Research days!

Interested in learning more about your family history but don't know where to start? Come to THE GENEALOGY CENTER at the ABQ Library (2nd floor), on the corner of 5th and Copper, where volunteers will help you one-on-one in your quest.

There are experienced researchers available to assist you in the following areas of investigation:

- Revolutionary War Ancestors
- Mayflower Descendants
- Jamestown Research
- Huguenot Research
- Scandinavian Research
- German Research
- Hispanic Research
- ♣ Celtic Research (1-3 PM last Tuesday of the
- ♣ Assistance using the Internet for Research
- Assistance with DNA in Genealogy

Free, full access to the Library's Genealogy Computer Lab with the best genealogy sites.

Free parking for two hours at the parking garage on the SE corner from the library, just get your ticket stamped at the library.

This event is sponsored by the Albuquerque Genealogical Society. The research days are always

> Third Saturday of the month, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM Last Tuesday of the month, 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Questions? Contact Robert Harper at

robertharper48@comcast.net Valleymount Co. Wicklow



So I did Google the church, and it does indeed look somewhat like "territorial style," although one article claimed "The front façade and porch are said to have been designed either by a former priest inspired by churches he saw on a visit to Malta, or by parishioners who had visited New Mexico (present day Texas)"!!! Not sure when

Texas actually subsumed New Mexico, LOL. Anyone interested in checking this out, let me know.

It's the Irish-American Society's and the St. Andrew Scottish Society's Annual Combined Family Picnic!



Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Kiwanis Reservation Area Sunday, August 26, 2018 12:00 noon to 4 PM With malarkey and musicians (hopefully*)!



[*Note: If you play an instrument, please bring it along to the picnic.]

The IAS and the SASS will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, plates, plastic ware, cups, napkins, condiments, and charcoal. BYO coolers with ice and beverages of your choice (sodas will be provided).

PLEASE: NO GLASS CONTAINERS ARE ALLOWED!

Potluck: Please bring a casserole, salad (potato, pasta, fruit, green, etc.) or dessert. Please remember to bring serving implements and remember to PUT YOUR NAME ON ALL IMPLEMENTS AND DISHES!

So we will have an approximate count for meat and bun purchases:

PLEASE RSVP TO Ellen Dowling by August 20

(edowling@standuptrainer.com 505-307-1700)

and tell her what dish you will bring and how many are in your party.

The Kiwanis Reservation Area is nestled in the picturesque Elena Gallegos Picnic Area (located east of Tramway, south of Paseo del Norte and just a little north of Academy). It is an outdoor facility with a sheltered picnic area that can accommodate up to 250 people. It is outfitted with three large coal grills; a recreation area with a volleyball net and a horseshoe pit; running water; electricity; restrooms; and access to the Elena Gallegos trails.

Note: The IAS and SASS have already paid for the facility, So just tell the ranger at the gate that you're with either group.

Culture All Around

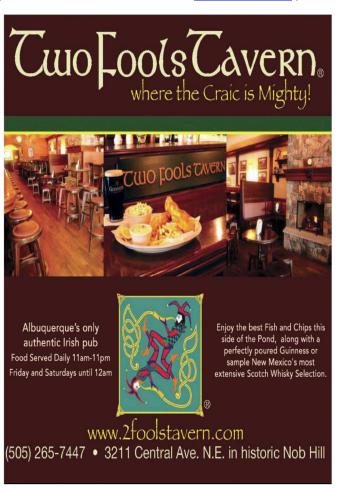
Dance Classes:

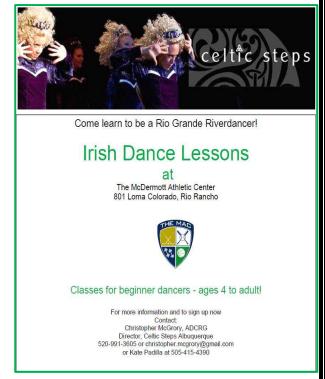
* Coleman Academy of Irish Dance. Saturdays, 8 AM to 1 PM at the Lloyd Shaw Dance Center, 5506 Coal SE. Call 866-5867 for information or visit our web site at www.irishdancenm.org and www.colemanacademy.com.

- ♣ Celtic Steps Arizona/New Mexico (formerly Tir Conaill Academy of Irish Dance), at the McDermott Athletic Center, 801 Loma Colorado, Rio Rancho. Call 505-415-4390 or visit http://celticsteps.org/albuquerque/ for further information.
- ♣ *Ceili dance classes* are held every Wednesday at the GAC at 7:15 PM, \$3.00. No experience necessary! Call Norita Callahan at 298-2708.

Celtic Music on the Radio and the Web:

- ♣ The Thistle and Shamrock program, featuring Fiona Ritchie, airs on KANW 89.1 FM, Mondays at 6:00 PM.
- ◆ Celtic and Beyond, with co-hosts Ellie Blair and Kelly Clement, 7:00 PM each Wednesday on KTAOS 101.9 FM. (Also broadcast on the Web at www.ktao.com.)





Celtic Music at O'Niell's:

Music every Sunday from 4 to 7 PM at the "old" O'Niell's, 4310 Central Ave SE (Corner of Central & Washington in East Nob Hill) and the "new" location (3301 Juan Tabo NE, between Comanche and Candelaria). For more info, visit http://www.oniells.com/



Support Your Local Irish/Scottish/Celtic Musicians/Performers!

Shenanigans

Celtic and American Folk with a twist, variety of instruments and vocals. Contact: Kathy Wimmer (249-7012 kmillewimm@comcast.net)

Iscuma ("It Doesn't Matter")

Traditional Irish and Celtic music with Kathy Wimmer and Marc Roberts. For information, contact Kathy at 249-7012.

Saoirse ("seer shih," Irish for "freedom")

Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Galicia, spiced with jazz and world beat.
Contact: Harlow Pinson at hpinson@indepthl.com or 994-2135.

The Anslovers: Teenagers Emily, John, and Jamie on violin, guitar, and upright bass. Contact: John & Lorraine Anslover at anslovernavy@comcast.net.

Carol Benson

Strolling café fiddler, vocalist, Suzuki teacher, and symphony violinist. Contact: 505-268-0906 (carolbens@gmail.com)

A Jug of Punch, featuring triple distilled Irish-American fun! Flutes, accordion, mandolin, violin, and guitar. Contact: Cleve Sharp, 505-507-9915 (clevelans@comcast.net)

A Message from the GAC:

The Edelweiss Am Rio Grande German-American Club (GAC) is a private club and as such cannot solicit by advertising or otherwise participation in its events and activities to the general public. The IAS is an associate club of the GAC and all IAS members and their bona fide guests are welcome at all GAC events and IAS events held at the GAC.

Michele Buchanan and Shanachie Harpers

765-1288 (tmbuchs@gmail.com)

Rye Creek

Folk, Irish, western and good old mountain music. Contact Terry Ryan Axline, 293-8924 (neomexicana@hotmail.com) or Ron Trellue, 505-362-2551 (trellue@swcp.com) or visit www.myspace.com/ryecreeknm.

Celtic Coyotes

Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and Brittany. Contact: Doug Cowan celticcoyotes@yahoo.com (710-0583).

Friends Forever

Michael and Donna Coy and Chris Nelson play Celtic, Folk, Cowboy and Originals. Contact: 296-2017 or 250-4429; mmcoy3@msn.com. *Eagle's Whistle*: Same group, but also with Andy Moss on whistle and concertina.

The Singing Coyote Sisters

Donna Coy & Michelle Palmer perform Celtic, Folk, Gospel, and Sing-A-Longs. Contact: 296-2017 or 730-1985 mmcoy3@msn.com

Cans for Celts

Help raise funds for the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games in 2018! Please bring your aluminum cans, pie plates, foil, etc. along with copper items, tubing, and small non-working appliances with electric motors to the IAS meetings for recycling. (No cardboard or paper or large appliances.) For pick up between meetings – contact Paul McDonough @ 505-294-8205 and leave a message. Thank you!

Calendar of Events

IAS Events

Day	What
Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
	invited to attend.
Sunday	Annual Family Picnic with the St. Andrew Scottish Society, noon to 5
	PM, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. See flyer on p. 8.
Tuesday	IAS Board of Directors meeting, 7 PM at the GAC. All members are
	invited to attend.
Friday	IAS Monthly Meeting, 7 PM at Notz, (6132 4th St NW, Albuquerque,
	upstairs in Lucky 66 Bowling Alley, where the original Sadie's restaurant
	was). Program will include a musical performance by the Duke City Ceili
	Band and feature four-time All Ireland master fiddler, Dylan Foley.
	[NOTE: Notz is a non-smoking venue. ©]
	Tuesday Sunday Tuesday

Celtic/GAC Events

GAC hours are Mon, Tues, Wed: 4 to 10 PM; Thurs, Fri, Sat: noon to 10 PM; Sunday: noon to 5 PM The GAC phone number is 888-4833.

1	
Thursdays	<i>Irish Music Session</i> , every Thursday night at Notz, (6132 4th St NW,
	Albuquerque), 7 to 10 PM. For more info, contact Harlow Pinson at
	hpinson@indepthl.com.
Saturday	Member Appreciation Dance at the GAC. DJ Madie will supply the
	music from 6:30 to 10:30.
Mondays	Singing Pilgrims' "Ceilidh at the Crossroads" at The Blue
	Grasshopper Brew Pub, 7-9 PM, north of Coors and Montano.
Saturday	Woodstock Dance at the GAC with the band Street Scene playing from
	6:30 to 10:30. Cost: \$12.00.
Saturday	Apple Mountain Celtic Session from 1 to 3 PM at High and Dry
	Brewing, 529 Adams St. NE, ABQ. (Contact Jim Crowley
	jabbas40@yahoo.com.).
Sunday	Rye Creek Band at O'Niell's Pub Nob Hill (Washington and Central),
	4-7 PM.
Sunday	Rio Grande Jazz playing at the GAC from 2:00 to 5:30. Cost: \$10.00
	Mondays Saturday Saturday Sunday

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?" The man says, "I do Father." The priest says, "Then stand over there against the wall."

Then the priest asks the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?" "Certainly, Father," is the man's reply. "Then stand over there against the wall," says the priest.

Then Father Murphy walks up to O'Toole and says, "Do you want to go to heaven?" O'Toole says, "No, I don't Father." The priest says, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?" O'Toole says, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."



The Irish-American Society of New Mexico

P.O. Box 13435 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87192-3435

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Irish-American Society of New Mexico

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Please check one: New Member	ership Applicat	ion	_ Renewal	
If this is a renewal, has your co	ontact informat	ion changed	d? Yes	_ No
Please make checks payable to and mail to: P.O. Box 13435, A				iety
Individual\$20.0	00 Family		_\$25.00	
Student\$10.00				
Name				
Address				
City	State	_Zip		
	E-mail			
How did you hear about us?				