



The Dooley Dispatch

December 2020

Celebrating 41 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday December 8, 2020 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church/ZOOM

President's Message:



Brothers,

We had our first snow flurries yesterday and temperatures have started to drop below freezing at night. This is of course the signal that Advent has arrived and the birth of Our Lord on Christmas is imminent. Staying focused on something normal and predictable as the changing of seasons and coming of Christ has helped me and all of us get through the most unusual and unpredictable year in 2020 that any of us have ever experienced. Despite the challenges of this year, as Hibernians we have stayed true to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Most notable recently, the Dooley Division fulfilled our commitment to Christian Charity by again contributing \$3,500 to our parishes in support of Catholics Education and Faith Formation programs and \$1,000 in support of our parish priests.

Although our social calendar was disrupted this year we continued our Friendship and Unity by adding new Brothers, taking as many opportunities to gather safely when we could and virtually when we could not, more recently doing both at the same time. We will carry on that way this evening when the Dooley Division will hold our Installation ceremony for the 2021 slate of Officers led by incoming President Larry Keefe at 7 pm. While holding the installation in-person, since we are doing so at a Parish facility, we will be following Diocesan guidelines for group gatherings. For those Dooley Division Brothers who cannot or for reasons of health-rated concerns should not attend in person we will be streaming the installation ceremony via Zoom so that as many of our Brothers as possible can join remotely. The link for the Dooley installation ceremony is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8194077416>

The In-person gathering for the Dooley Division 2021 Officers installation will be held in the Lake House at St. Michael's on Springfield Road.

Afterwards those Brothers who are interested will be gathering at Rare Olde Times for a Pint of Christmas Cheer.

Other ways in which we will be concluding our year with activities will include:

Sunday December 13th after 9 am Mass

St. Mary's Church

Raffle check presentation

Photo with Pastor Fr. Michael Renninger

Sunday December 13th 4 pm

Traditional Christmas music session

Performed by Mike Ferry

Via Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/mikeferrymusic/live/>

More details to follow shortly

December 12th at 9 am

Help a Brother out Leaf collection/clean up at the home of Brian Hegarty who recently had surgery

Brian's House

11214 Warren View Rd, Henrico, VA 23233

contact Big Dan for more details

Daniel Caffrey

M 804-512-6288 kkcaffrey@hotmail.com

It has been a humbling experience leading the Dooley Division at times during this year. We have demonstrated persistence, resilience, good cheer in the face of challenges as our Irish forebears have always done and move into 2021 as strong as a Division as ever. Under the leadership of Larry Keefe we will continue to adjust and adapt as necessary in order to live our motto. Merry Christmas to all Brothers and their families. Best wishes for a Happy New Year and Healthy 2021.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Mike Canning

President

Major James H. Dooley Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Richmond, VA

Upcoming Events:

All in-person events are cancelled due to COVID

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For December 8, 2020 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Lori Forbes**, wife of *Tom Forbes*, stomach bypass procedure
- **Noreen McCarthy** mother of *Jay McCarthy* (VA State President) passed peacefully
- **Peter George**, father of *PJ George*, knee replacement surgery
- **Michael Bacher**, uncle of *Fred Gerloff* died at the age of 90

From Prior Meetings:

- **Barbara Casey** – Sister of *Bill Casey* – Recovering from knee replacement surgery
- **Brian Hegarty** – Bicycle accident. Having surgery for broken shoulder bones.
- **Mark** (mid-50s) – *Jack Griffin*'s wife's nephew – Had brain surgery
- **Darrel Taylor** – Brother-in-law of *Vince Eikmeier* – Passed away
- **Ellen Donahue** – Sister-in-law of *Jack Griffin* – Passed away
- **Mary Kelly** (96) – Mother of *Frank Kelly* – Mary is diagnosed with Covid-19
- **Jim Woods** (83) – Father of *Jim Woods* – Having a heart operation

- **Mike Shannon** – Brother-in-law to *Tom Forbes* – Had major heart attack, in the hospital
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **Betty McAuliffe** – Wife of *Gary McAuliffe* – Recovering from eye surgery to repair a macular hole
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Dealing with tremors in his hand
- **Tom Edwards** – Brother-in-law of *Jim Donahue* – Battling esophageal cancer for two years with some success. Started a new regimen of chemo.
- **Jim Calpin** – **Recovering from stroke**
- **Edward Maynes** – is having an upcoming heart procedure (date is not yet known)
- **Brian Kiernan** – Had surgery on June 8 for his hip replacement. Has his mobility back. Next checkup before Thanksgiving
- **Tom Forbes** – In remission. Hair is growing back!
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings*' mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Phyllis Collins** – Mother of *Mark Collins* – Had seizure. Has brain tumor. Age 87.
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Tom Edwards** – Brother-in-law of *Jim Donahue* – Esophageal cancer. New chemo regimen started.
- **Barbara Laroza** – Aunt of *Tom Nolan*
- **Siobhan Mooney** – Sister-in-law of *Jack Griffin* – Diagnosed with lung cancer. Had lung removed.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery
- **Mark Atchinson** – Brother **Daniel Atchinson** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- **Fr. George Zahn** - Keep our Chaplain in your prayers. Weak. Is now at Our Lady of Hope.

- **Chad Costello's** brother-in-law (**Doug Dakins**, Alisha's brother). 48 years old, colonoscopy found cancerous mass in his colon.
- **Paulie McFadden** skin condition and his wife, **Mary Ellen**, back pains
- **Hugh Naughton's** wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- **Tim McDonnell's** friend, **Rob Northern** – recurrence of cancer

- **Billy Spicer's** brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of *Larry Keefe*, suffering from Lymphoedema
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had 2 back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

The Pittsburgh Kid

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

The double-decked steel and concrete stands of the Polo Grounds reverberated in anticipation: 54,487 fans filled the permanent seats in the grandstand and the temporary wooden chairs, laid out in an ordinary grid on the New York Giant's playing field. Nothing in sports quite equals the excitement present at a heavyweight championship fight. And this fight, which matched the great Joe Lewis against challenger Billy Conn, generated interest not seen since the champion battled Max Schmeling three years earlier, in 1938.



Billy, sporting a white robe, bounced up the steps leading into the ring, slipped through the ropes, blessed himself, and bowed to the section that came all the way from Pittsburgh to cheer him on. He was a picture of confidence. Thirty seconds later, Lewis wearing a blue robe with red trim and a customary towel draped over his head, entered the ring opposite Conn.

So much was on the line...

Billy came in at 174 pounds, and that was with promotor Mike Jacob's finger on the scale. The actual disparity of weight of thirty pounds was significant, and certainly enough to scare any potential patrons who had no desire to see the scrawny Pittsburgher sacrificed at the Polo Grounds purely for their entertainment.

Most followers of the sport recognized Lewis as a gracious and great champion. Lewis held the heavyweight crown for four years which, in the eyes of some, was four years too long. To others, Billy's

ethnic background appealed most. He was Irish through and through, and proudly wore his heritage on his sleeve. Earlier in the day, a great number of Billy's followers could be seen roaming the avenues of New York decked out in green, with emerald bowlers worn neatly upon their heads.

In the days leading up to the fight, Conn was swimming in a sea of emotions. Vigilant newsmen couldn't resist the forbidden love affair between the challenger and his young fiancée. The story was irresistible. Photos of the young couple were snapped running through sand at the Jersey shore, "The Boxer and the Blonde", the All-American couple.

Louis went on the offensive with Billy backpedaling for the first two rounds. It looked as if Conn was on his way to joining the other "bums" on Joe's lengthy list. In the 3rd and 4th rounds, Billy got off his bicycle and the fight began in earnest. With each succeeding round, the Pittsburgh press expressed profound amazement to sheer delirium.

The eighth started slowly with Billy circling to his left throwing jabs; Louis came in with a right and left and several combinations to Conn's body; Billy was cautious as Louis continued to be on the offensive. Then as quick as that, the fight turned on the dime. Billy lashed out with a right and left to Joe's head and followed that with another one two punch. A hard right to the jaw, then another, brought the crowd to its feet. Conn tied Louis up and, as they broke, caught Joe cleanly with a left hook to the jaw. Another right, and Louis pulled Billy to him in a clinch. Conn fought his way out of Joe's hug and delivered a trio of hard blows as the bell brought the round to a close.

Billy walked back to his corner and told his manager and trainer Johnny Ray, "I got him."

Dancing through his mind were visions of Mary Louise on his arm, the two of them walking along the Jersey shore. The champ and his girl. Passersby would gaze admiringly at the handsome couple. *There he goes. There goes the man who knocked out Joe Louis.*

By the tenth, Joe knew he was in a fight as the champ began to show the effects of Billy's hooks and jabs. In the twelfth, Conn hurt Lewis as he landed everything he threw and at the close of the round, Joe was in trouble. In the champ's

corner, Joe's trainer urged his fighter, "Chappie you're losing...you gotta knock him out." Across the ring, a beaming Conn told his manager that the fight was in the bag. "This is easy, Moonie" Billy told Ray. "I can take this sonofabitch out this round." Ray couldn't believe what he was hearing. Their plan had worked to perfection thus far. "No, no! Billy stick and run. You got this fight won. Stay away. Just stick and run, stick and run...." The bell, Billy's cue, interrupted Johnny's counsel.

Conn shot up from his stool, ready to claim his glory. The only thing between him and the championship was three rounds and ninety seconds....

There he goes. There goes the man who knocked out Joe Louis.

William "Billy" David Conn was born 1917 in an Irish Catholics family. He grew up in East Liberty, Pittsburgh, Pa., and learned the fine art of street fighting from his father. Conn dropped out of Sacred Heart school in eighth grade and his father knew that no good could come from a fourteen-year-old boy wandering aimlessly on the streets. So, his father paid Johnny Ray \$1 a week to teach Billy how to box in the gym he managed. Johnny started Billy with sweeping the gym and making runs to the bootlegger down the street for a pint of moonshine while Ray trained boxing prospects. This went on for several days. On the fifth day, Billy set aside his broom and started shadowboxing off in a corner. "So, help me" Johnny Ray later recounted "as soon as he put up those little fists and made his first move, I fell in love with him." Billy spent the next three years learning to box under Ray. Ray, who fought as a lightweight, trained with hall of famer Harry Greb. Conn made his pro debut at age 16 when he lost his decision to 21-year-old Dick Woodward. Conn began his career as a welterweight and fought up to a heavyweight. By the age of 21, Conn had defeated nine present or former world champions. Almost one third of his fights were against title holders.

Conn gained national attention with his up-set victory over middleweight champion Fred Apostoli. At the time Apostoli was regarded as the best pound for pound fighter in the world. Conn beat him in his New York debut at Madison Square Garden with a 10 round decision and won again in 15 rounds just five weeks later. Conn won the light heavyweight title from Melio Bettina in July 13, 1939. He later gave up the title to campaign as a heavyweight.

Conn will forever be remembered for his near upset of Joe Louis on June 18, 1941. Louis had beaten every top heavyweight and was in the prime of his career. Conn out boxed and outslugged Louis the majority of 12 rounds and almost sent Louis to the floor at the end of the 12th. Overconfident and ahead on points going into the 13th round, Conn told his manager Ray that he would knock Lewis out. Ray pleaded, "coast in, stick and run. Keep movin'." Conn came out slugging and was winning in the first half of the round, but carelessly left himself open after he threw a punch. Louis responded with a right to the head which bewildered and stunned Billy. Louis finished the fight with a barrage of punches that sent Billy to the canvas. No, Billy's name wouldn't be added to the Bum of the Month Club. His spirit, will, and Irish courage separated him from the long list of palookas that become fodder for Louis. Louis said this fight was the toughest of his career and that Conn was the best lightweight he ever saw. This fight is often referred to as the greatest fight of all time.

"What happened Billy?" a reporter asked, "you had him in your pocket." "I'll bet it's the first time a fella ever lost a fight because he had too much guts." Conn answered. "After the twelfth, I thought I had him and I simply couldn't do anything else but go after him. Then it happened...What's the sense in being Irish if you can't be dumb."

Conn beat Hall of Famer Tony Zale in 1941 and had a rematch scheduled with Joe Louis the same year. The rematch was cancelled when Billy broke his hand in a much-publicized fight with his father in law major league ball player Jimmy "Greenfield" Smith. Billy was sent on a morale tour with Bob Hope and other celebrities during WWII. When the war ended there was a rematch in 1946, but this time it was an older, slower Conn who hadn't a professional fight in four years. Louis knocked out Conn in the eighth round. Billy Conn possessed great hand and foot speed, had an excellent defense, boxed beautifully, and had an iron chin. He was a slow starter who never tired and fought when hurt. He was generally regarded as the world's most handsome fighter in his day and starred in a movie for Republic pictures called "The Pittsburgh Kid" in 1941. He turned down a career in Hollywood, including a role in "On the Waterfront" to live in Pittsburgh with his wife Mary Louise. But that didn't prevent the screenwriter from invoking his name in the movie dialogue. In the picture, Charles Malloy, played by Rod Steiger, mournfully reminisced to his brother, Terry Malloy, played by Marlon Brando: "When you weighed one hundred and sixty-eight pounds you were beautiful. You could have been another Billy Conn...."

At the age of 72, Billy Conn once again made national headlines by interrupting a convenience store robber in Pittsburgh. Billy decked the gunman who was later arrested. Billy Conn died in 1993 at the age of 75.

As the story line goes....nobody could have been another Billy Conn!

To order green jackets and sashes, click on the picture:



Irish Christmas Traditions

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<https://atlaslanguageschool.com/blog/irish-christmas-traditions/>

As you turn on your favorite Christmas songs playlist and choose the perfect ugly Christmas sweater to wear on the day, have a look at this post about seasonal Irish Traditions. You will see that the Irish surely know how to prepare for Christmas...



From the festive lights, to the enormous trees and the wonderfully decorated shop windows on busy shopping streets, like Grafton Street and Henry Street, you can't help but feel the Christmas spirit all around Dublin, as well as many other cities on the lovely Emerald Isle.

This is thanks to the local Christmas traditions, which are honored all around the country and contribute to create the familiar, joyful atmosphere we wait the whole year for!

However, there might be some traditions which you would only be able to notice if you have the chance to meet an authentic Irish family and spend some time with them, or maybe if you plan on organizing your next holiday here in Dublin, where you can meet new friends.....and possibly, have the chance to improve your English with us here at Atlas 😊

Here you can find a list of our favorite Irish Christmas traditions. Have a read, and feel free to leave a comment to let us know if you know of some other ones! Happy Holiday season and Happy reading!



The famous ones...

1. Decorating the house

This is a classic one. No family will be found unprepared during the Christmas holidays. The decorations are usually hung inside and outside Irish houses, a few weeks before Christmas Eve, and the trees are sometimes bought directly from the growers – in some cases you even get to go out in the woods to choose one – but more often from temporary shops set up by the side of the street.

2. Decorating public places

As you take a stroll along places such as Grafton Street, one of the busiest shopping streets in Europe, you will certainly be struck by the creativity of some shop decorations. The windows are beautifully adorned by trees and colorful packages, as well as more lights than you can imagine! A good example of this yearly practice is the luxury shop Brown Thomas (used to be Switzers'), that has kept alive this tradition for decades!

3. Christmas carols

You might have seen this happen only in Christmas themed movies, but it is an actual practice which has been cheering up many-a-winter nights for families and friends, as well as charity groups and religious communities. They all meet up and sing famous Christmas songs for passants and bystanders to enjoy, sometimes receiving small offers as payment – depending on their singing skills!



The old ones...

1. The Laden table

The centre-piece of the Christmas holiday in Ireland is the Christmas Dinner. In the old times, after the often lavish meal, the kitchen table was again set and on it was placed some bread and milk and the table adorned with a welcoming candle. If Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveller, happened by then they could avail of the hospitality.

2.A candle in the window

A tradition that was very widespread in the 1970's but which seems to be dying out nowadays, especially in urban areas, is the 'candle in the window'. Symbolically, the candle represented a welcome to Joseph and Mary as they wandered in search of lodgings. The candle indicated to strangers and especially to the poor that there may be an offering of food in the house within.

3.Little Christmas or Women's Christmas

Also known as 'Women's Christmas' or *Nollaig na mBan*: this falls on the 6th of January (the Feast of the Epiphany), and marks the official end of the Christmas season. Traditionally, the men of the house take over for the day, preparing meals and allowing the women to have a rest. This is also the day on which all the Christmas decorations are removed.



And the funny ones...

1.The Wren boy procession

This procession has its origins from both the pagan and Catholics roots of Ireland. The wren was initially considered the king of the birds from the pagans, but was later referred to as "the devil's bird" from the Catholics. It is said to have betrayed the first martyr, St Stephen, and for this reason during ancient times, on St Stephen's Day, a wren was hunted and killed. Nowadays, the tradition is quite less brutal: inhabitants of rural parts of Ireland are often

seen parading, dressed in a way that resembles the bird (often just straw suits), celebrating its death to honour the saint on his name's day: December 27th.

2. Guinness and mince pies for Santy

We have all heard of leaving milk and cookies for Santa Claus to enjoy during his one night of worldwide travels, but here in Ireland things are done quite differently and Santy likes to indulge in some more hefty treats: a pint of Guinness and some traditional little tarts filled with candied fruit and spices, known as mince pies. And the old man is ready to jump back on the sleigh! (Just hold back on the pints, Santy!)

3. The Christmas swim

Ahh, the Irish. Sometimes they can be quite crazy. One of these instances takes place every Christmas Day in Sandycove, a suburb of South Dublin, where some intrepid people meet up to have a swim in the freezing Irish sea all together. Chilling!

4. 12 pubs of Christmas

There is an old Christmas carol that refers to the 12 days that lead up to Christmas Day and to the gifts that a couple of lovers would exchange on each of these days. Well, what better gift to give a loved one than a pint from each and every one of the 12 best pubs of your area? This tradition is often picked up by many Irish as well as tourists, but only a few of them can actually make it to the end!



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MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION

