

# O'MALLEY CLAN NEWSLETTER

Cormac K.H. O'Malley  
Chieftain

Kitty. O'Malley-Harlow  
Tanaiste

Sal O'Malley-McInerney, Guardian Chief



## 42ND O'MALLEY CLAN RALLY



Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, Rathdowney and Clare Island  
Chieftain 1993-1994

Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop was born in 1952 in Rathdowney, Co. Laois, to Donal O'Malley and Grace Comerford. She is the older of two children. Her brother John continues in the family business, which was established by their grandfather John of Clare Island in 1911 on his return from the United States. Ellen was educated in Colaiste Bhríde, in Callan Co. Kilkenny, U.C.D., and she qualified as a Primary Teacher from Mary Immaculate College of Education in Limerick in 1975. She subsequently retired from teaching, and trained as a Psychotherapist and Group Analyst. She now lives and works in Dublin. She is married to Sandy Dunlop, and together they have four sons, John-Paul, Donal, Alexander and Stuart.

## A CHIEFTAIN'S YEAR

BY GERRY O'MALLEY,  
OUTGOING GUARDIAN CHIEF

It'll be remembered as "ELLEN'S RALLY". It will be remembered, also as one of the most successful and memorable rallies in our forty-two year history.

The 42nd O'Malley Rally was held on Clare Island on the last week-end of June 1994. It was the culmination of Ellen's year of office as Chieftain; a year packed with activity on behalf of the Clan which included a visit to the US.

### US Trip

Ellen went to the States wearing two hats; she was not only Chieftain of the Clan but also Chairperson of the Granuaile Trust. At a \$250-a-plate dinner in New York's prestigious Brook Club, hosted by Shaun O'Malley and Cormac K.-H. O'Malley, she was feted as Chieftain, but she did not miss the opportunity, at the same time, to solicit financial support for the Trust's activities which include the promotion of a film based on the life of Granuaile, script by Ann Chambers - biographer of Granuaile - and David Reilly.

At an America-Ireland Fund dinner in Chicago she managed to persuade the organisers that the Granuaile Trust be accepted as a bona fide recipient of monies donated to the Fund and, thus, eligible for tax relief. This must mark a significant step forward in the fortunes of the Trust. But the evening was far from being all fiscal and dull. The company at the O'Malley table made sure of that; Aileen Blackwell was there and Grace O'Malley of Limerick, both daughters of eminent Clansmen. The evening ended with story-telling and song.

Ellen met, among others, Patrick O'Malley, head of the Canteen Corporation, in Chicago. Donations to the Granuaile Trust, as a result of the American trip, amounted to \$10,000. There were donations, big and small, from people in Ireland as well. Ellen is grateful for them all.

### Party at Kelston

In February, our now Guardian Chief, Sal O'Malley-McInerney, threw a marvellous bash at her Foxrock, Co. Dublin, home. Food, drink, entertainment and company were up to her usual, impossibly high standards. Anuna - of whom, more anon - were there to give us a bit of a song. Devoted Clan enthusiasts came from the West (Sheila and Johnny Mulloy, Peter McGee, Brendan O'Malley), from the Golden Vale (Catherine and Ward), from Limerick (Don) and the rest of us, who didn't have so far to travel.

### Waterford Crystal

During the year Ellen was introduced to Brian Patterson, Vice-Chairman and Chief Operations Officer of Waterford Crystal by Bernard Somers. The result of that meeting was that Waterford Crystal agreed to endow a piece, "The Spirit of Granuaile", designed and executed by their top Craftsman and given free-gratis-and-for-nothing to the Clan Association. The result is a magnificent work of semi-impressionistic art.

### The Song

As well as being a scriptwriter of note, David Reilly is also a musician and composer. This comes as no surprise when one learns he is the son of Tommy Reilly, the famous classical harmonica player. During the year, David wrote a song "Farewell to Clare Island", to celebrate Ellen's year as Chieftain. Ellen, herself, has recorded it on cassette.

### Louisburg

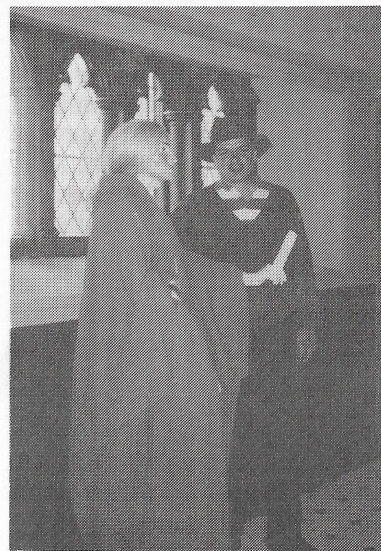
Rally Saturday started with a Golf Classic at Westport Golf Club, organised with much appreciation by former Chieftain Michael of Castlebar. This was won by the late Professor Conor's daughter Ann Kelly. Lord and Lady Altamont graciously received members of the Clan for a guided tour of Westport House. In the afternoon there was a big turnout for an art exhibition at the Art Gallery, Louisburg. This was opened by the Achill poet, John F. Deane, whose grandmother was a Maille woman. Works on view included some beautiful paintings by Wayne Harlow, husband of our new Tanaiste, Kitty O'Malley-Harlow. There were also some splendid oils by Tony O'Malley, son of a Clare Island man, described by Brian Fallon, chief art critic of 'The Irish Times', as the "greatest painter since Jack Yeats".

### Eoin O'Malley, Piper

After the exhibition, the Clan piper, Eoin O'Malley of Rabaun, Swinford, in full ceremonial kilt, led the procession to the Granuaile heritage centre, where members of the Clan Association were guests of the centre at a reception.

### Clare Island

Clare Island - part of the bride-price which Margaret O'Malley brought with her when she married Eoin, Dubhdara O'Malley, and one of the favourite places of their daughter Granuaile - is in many ways the obvious venue for the O'Malley Rally. There is, however, one big snag - getting there! On a calm sunny day, that last four miles from Roonagh Pier is a delightful twenty minute boat ride; with cross-currents and rain, it can be a different story.



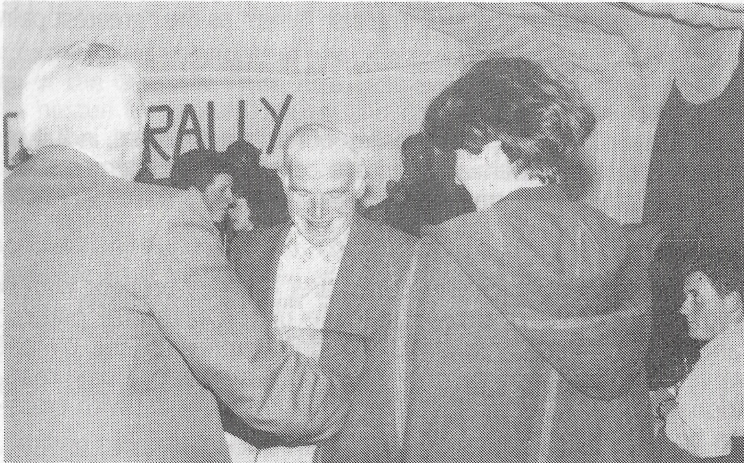
Sandy Dunlop checking out Grace O'Malley at the Granuaile Centre, Louisburgh



Eoin O'Malley  
Clan Piper

### **The Marquee**

I had heard from Ellen that Chris O'Grady was organising a marquee to cope with the crowd on the Rally week-end. I expected a large tent on grass, or possibly, with board flooring, of the kind I remember from carnival dances in my youth. Nothing could have prepared me for the magnificent opulence of the structure erected beside the Hotel; solid concrete floor; permanent bar, stage and washrooms, ornate soft white drapes and awnings.



*Dancing the Clare Island Set with Chris O'Leary and Pat McEvoy*

### **The Party**

It was a perfect setting for the Chieftain's Party on Saturday night. That was a night to remember. There was a superb buffet, beautifully presented, the equal of anything that would be encountered in the best grade A mainland hotel. There was singing and dancing by people who could sing and dance and by some who couldn't do either but who enjoyed themselves anyway. But the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the performance put on by the islanders themselves - a full hour of storytelling and musicianship, a delight to eye, ear and funny-bone. Among the performers were Pat MacEvoy, Chris O'Leary, Austy Byrne, Mary Moran and Michael MacEvoy. Fr Peter Gannon organised the dramatic interludes and the island children who took part were coached and directed by Mary McCabe and Aine Bob O'Malley.

### **Chris and Kay O'Grady**

Over the entire week-end the Hotel organisation ran as smooth as clockwork. The ferrying of people back and forth was carried out with minimum fuss. When presented with the Granuaile model by Waterford Crystal, to be held at the Hotel, Chris O'Grady made a graceful acceptance speech. It was hard to believe that this man and his family had, only a few months before, suffered a tragedy on a grand scale with the loss of their beautiful ferry, Rossend. Of course, it must be said straightaway that a sea tragedy which does not include loss of life is only relatively

serious but the fact remains that it will take a quarter of a million pounds to replace the loss and that is serious, no matter who your relatives are. The loss is not only to Chris and Kay O'Grady but to each and every islander for whom a large dependable ferry is a lifeline. Government aid would be forthcoming if the island were Irish-speaking. All praise to Kay and Chris for their calm and dignified response to a totally ludicrous situation.

### **Anuna**

Most of the population on the planet know, by this time, who Anuna are. The non-event of the year - the Eurovision Song Contest - was for once made memorable by something that happened in the interval - Bill Whelan's Riverdance. In about a billion living rooms people were jolted out of a semi-comatose condition by what they saw and heard; what they saw was Michael Flatley and Jean Butler dancing; what they heard was the singing of the group Anuna.



*Anuna singing the O'Malley Mass*

I have been an Anuna groupie ever since our Guardian Chief Sal commissioned their founder, Michael McGlynn, to write *The O'Malley Mass*. On that Sunday morning last June, the crossing from Roonagh was no smooth boat ride. In fact, the members of Anuna arrived at the Hotel looking like drowned rats, wet through and shaking from the experience. But the resilience of youth is something to wonder at .... a half hour later they emerged, composed and beautiful to sing the *O'Malley Mass* in the marquee (because of the weather the venue for the Mass had been changed).

### **German TV Deutsche Welle**

The entire proceedings over the week-end were filmed by Deutsche Welle (German) TV and carried on CNN and also on RTE Newsround.

### **Not a Day without Post**

In her year in office, Ellen has put as much into the job as anybody I know in the history of the Association. And a lot more than most ..... a lot more than I did, myself, for instance. Not one single day went by in that year without Clan post either coming or going to her house. And all that was done in parallel with a very busy professional and domestic life. In her valedictory address, Ellen thanked her husband, Sandy Dunlop, for his support and forbearance. We thank him as well.

A lot has been written recently about genetic traces observable from the remote past. Looking at Ellen that Sunday on Clare Island, in her elegant cloak and holding the Chieftain's staff, it didn't take too much imagination to see that here might be some truth in the notion.

We thank her for a job superbly well done for the Clan.

## IN THE NEWS

### THE MISS-LOU

#### City honors Employee's Dog-Gone good job

(Extract from "The Natchez Democrat", Missisipi USA)

by Murray Coleman, The Natchez Democrat

Lee Ford admits that Duke O'Malley isn't a normal city employee.

At the Natchez board of Alderman's meeting Tuesday, O'Malley could be seen jumping around the board room and noisily sounding-off to anyone present.

But nobody was alarmed.

O'Malley - or Duke as he's known to his friends - is the Metro Narcotics Unit's first and only drug dog. Purchased more than seven months ago. Duke has been assigned to agent Ford to help with drug busts. "Using dogs in the field is the future of law enforcement" he said, "He not only makes me feel safer out there but he also makes it a lot easier to find dope".

Duke, who looks a little like a German Shepherd is actually of the Malinios breed. "The German Shepherds are actually a strain of the Malinios", Ford Said. "They have shorter hair and weigh less, but they are bred for endurance". The 3-year old pooch has won several international and national competitions for drug dogs. "He's proven that if he isn't the best in the country, then he's one of the top 10 in this country".

But awards aren't what motivates Duke, according to Ford. "The other day he found some crack cocaine in a plastic bottle of lotion at the bus station", he said. "And a few weeks ago he assisted us, or led us, depending on how you look at it, in the largest drug bust we've ever had". For his efforts during the seizure of 45 pounds of marijuana, Duke was chosen as the city's Employee of the Month. Alderman David Massey explained that several other employees had been considered for the award but Duke "won by a nose".

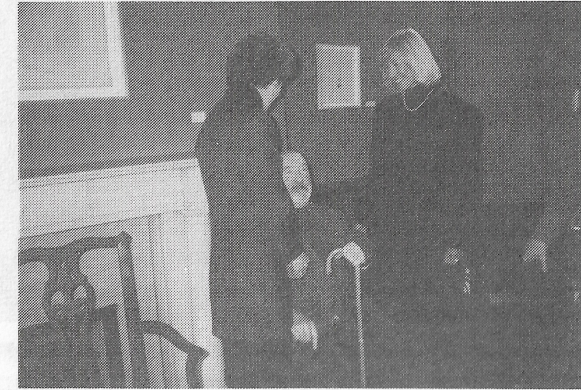
After presenting the award, Mayor Larry "Butch" Brown handed Duke a giant soup bone. The police hound, who had been sitting patiently through the ceremony, instantly jumped to his feet and began lunging at the bone. Wagging his tail and barking as brown playfully held it just out of reach, Duke was escorted out of the conference room an obviously happy employee.

Alderman Paul O'Malley helped raise the funds to purchase Duke and was honored by having his last name bestowed on the unit's drug dog, said that the award was proof of how valuable animals can be in assisting law enforcement officers.

"I'm flattered to have a dog named after me", he said with a smile. "In 1972 they named a garbage can after me, So I guess I'm making progress".

**The Clan Party** will be held on Saturday February 4th at "Kelston" in Dublin. The invitations are being posted this week. As usual the party is being hosted by Sal O'Malley-McInerney, (and this year, in her new role as Guardian Chief) and the current Chieftain Cormac K.H. O'Malley.

**Tony O'Malley** was elected SAOI of AOSDNA and presented with the golden collar or torc, by Her Excellency, the President, Mary Robinson, and in July was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Arts degree by Trinity College, Dublin. Congratulations Tony.



Her Excellency President Mary Robinson with Tony O'Malley and his wife Jane O'Malley

**Patrick L. O'Malley**, was the recipient of the 1994 *Humanitarian of the Year Award* from the Rotary Club of Chicago. Congratulations Pat.

**The Ireland Fund** have again been most generous in their support of the Granuaile Trust. Many thanks to the O'Malleys in the States who through their generous contribution to the Trust via the Ireland Fund, facilitate the ongoing work of the Trust.

**The Granuaile Trust:** all donations will be gratefully received for the three projects on hand: 1. *The Feature Film*. 2. *The Wall Paintings on Clare Island*, 3. *The restoration of the Castle on Clare Island*.

Donations made payable to *The Granuaile Trust of the O'Malley Clan* and forwarded to The Chairperson of the Granuaile Trust, 33 Springfield Road, Dublin 6W, Ireland.

### Clan Association Elections.

**Kitty O'Malley-Harlow** was elected Tanaiste by the Clan, and we congratulate her and wish her every success during her term of office.

**Sal O'Malley-McInerney** was elected by the former Chieftains to the honoured position of Guardian Chief. Congratulations Sal.

This year marked the end of the Guardian Chieftain term of **Gerry O'Malley**, and a most wonderful Guardian Chief he has been during the three years he held office. In the next edition of this Newsletter we will be concentrating on the Guardian Chiefs of the Clan, Conor Martin, Pierce, John J., Gerry and now Sal and we look forward to reading all about their terms of office and the different ways each Guardian Chief has executed his/her role.

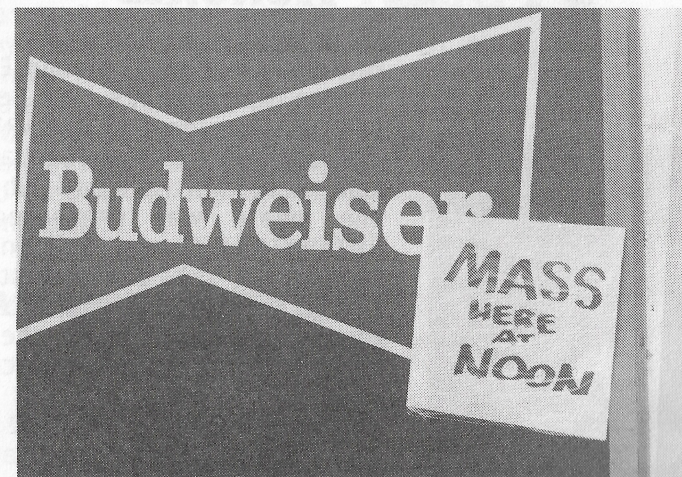


Former Guardian Chieftain Gerry talking to Maura O'Malley-Sweeney

**Grace O'Malley Feature Film** The Screenplay on Grace O'Malley (working title *Queen of Men*) received positive encouragement during the year from the Irish Film Board. Due to the nature and size of the project involved, in correspondence and at meetings with the Film Board, the authors Anne Chambers and David Reilly were advised to pursue production possibilities in the US. The Film Board also indicated their interest in supporting the project when production interest was achieved. To this effect, the script has recently been forwarded to a larger production company in Los Angeles and both Anne and David are also investigating other production avenues in Ireland and in Britain, in tandem with their latest development.

**Condolences** We would like to offer our sincerest sympathies to Don O'Malley of Limerick and his family on the death of their mother R.I.P. Our deepest sympathies to Sal O'Malley-McInerney on the death of her dear husband Frank RIP.

**An extract** from an article written by **Una O'Higgins-O'Malley** from the November issue of *The Furrow*



Photograph by Dr. Patrick F. O'Malley, South Bend, Indiana

"The luggage is for the journey - not the journey for the luggage", said Fr. Gerard Hughes, SJ, at Corrymeela, and perhaps this should be applied also to religious happenings. Eucharistic celebrations are for the *people* who gather together - not the *people* for the celebrations! It is the people who matter to the Lord who instituted the Blessed Eucharist for them - rather than the event itself. This was brought home to me at a gathering of the O'Malley Clan on Clare Island last June and at a larger gathering at Summerfest in Corrymeela in July.

On Clare Island it had been planned to have Mass in the old abbey where ancient frescoes are being restored, but the weather was too bad and so Mass was celebrated in the large marquee instead. At Corrymeela we also gathered in a marquee. Whether because of the simplicity of the surroundings, the long distances people had travelled to get there, or the great span of ages from infants to ninety-year-olds, there was a real sense of God *feeding the people*, God-with-us. On Clare Island perhaps particularly because we were seated at tables, which were already set for lunch, and later when we ate so did all the islanders with us. (True Com-Panionship?) What seemed different from normal Sunday liturgies, I thought, was that people were more themselves.

## O'MALLEY HONORED



Patrick L. O'Malley

Patrick L. O'Malley, Chairman Emeritus of Canteen company since 1981, Senior Active and past President of ROTARY was the recipient of the 1994 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Chicago. The award was presented at the ROTARY/One Charity Ball on Saturday February 26, 1994 at the Westin Hotel in Chicago in recognition of Pat's contributions to the city of Chicago, the business community, education and community service.

O'Malley joined Canteen in 1962 and served as President and Chairman and CEO for twenty years. His previous business association of thirty years was with the Coca Cola Company where he served as Vice-President and General Sales and Marketing Manager.

Recognised as a leader in his industry and in the business world, Pat O'Malley is Past President of the National Restaurant Association and Past Chairman of the National Automatic Merchandising Association. He is Chairman of the Board of the Michigan Avenue National Bank, Director Emeritus of Tans World Corporation, Director of First Colonial Bankshares, Inc.

Active in civic affairs, he was Chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission from 1969 to 1973. From 1970 to 1980 he served as President of the Chicago Park District, was Finance Chairman of the Board of Chicago's Regional Transportation authority from 1975 to 1983 and chaired the Chicago Home Rule Committee. He is Trustee of Roosevelt University, and a member of the Advisory Council for the College of Business Administration at the University of Notre Dame. He served as Chairman of St. Joseph Hospital Advisory Board and he served as a board member of the Congressional Award Program.

Honor and awards accorded Pat O'Malley include the honorary doctorate (LL.D) conferred by Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, by Mundelin College in Chicago, and by St Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, and an honorary degree (Doctor of Science in Business Administration) from Bryant College in Providence, Rhode Island. For his contribution to marketing, he has been twice named, "Sales-Marketing Executive of the Year" by the Sales-Marketing Club of Chicago.

In 1972 he was recipient of the National Horatio Alger Award from the American Schools and Colleges Association, in 1973 he received the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement, and in 1978 was named "Restaurateur of the Year" by the National Restaurant Association. In April of 1988, he received the Award of Lincoln presented by the Governor of Illinois, James Thompson and was elected to the Illinois Businessman's Hall of Fame at the Museum of Science and Industry in October of 1988. In January 1993, he received the Outstanding Business Leaders Award by Northwood University in West Palm Beach, Florida. In May of 1993 he received the Manfred Steinfeld Hospitality Management Lifetime Award by Roosevelt University.

## WATERFORD CRYSTAL CELEBRATES WITH THE O'MALLEY CLAN



Chieftain Ellen, Chris O'Grady and Tom Hayes, Waterford Crystal

When Brian Patterson was approached with a request that Waterford Crystal produce a piece of crystal which would symbolise the long history of the O'Malley Clan in Ireland, he willingly acceded to the request confident in the ingenuity of our craftsmen and the diverse uses of crystal as a medium for art and design. Tom Hayes was charged with the task of designing and producing the piece and in June this year he travelled to the 42nd O'Malley Clan Gathering at Clare Island, Co. Mayo, to present a superb piece of engraved crystal to Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, the present Clan Chieftain.

The O'Malley clan Gathering takes place every year and is a major tourist attraction in the area. Clare Island has for centuries been the traditional stronghold of the O'Malleys. It is the largest of the numerous islands in Clew Bay and the O'Malleys ruled over this part of Mayo from the earliest times. Today clan members are scattered throughout most of the English speaking countries. However, they are well organised into an organisation known as the Granuaile Trust.

Set up in 1986, it undertakes numerous projects, all aimed at preserving and expanding their clan heritage. One of their current projects is the provision of a museum on Clare Island, which will be a centre for clan folklore. Tom's magnificent crystal structure will eventually be displayed there.

In common with the three hundred O'Malleys who came to the gathering this year from all over the world, Tom made the trip to the island by fishing boat. On the outward journey, the beautiful weather showed the rugged island at its best. Next morning, a full-blown Atlantic storm lashed the area, but the O'Malley Mass went ahead as planned. To Tom's surprise and delight, the choir turned out to be the group Anuna, of "River-Dance" fame. They were excellent. Later, Tom's sculpture was presented to Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop, who accepted it enthusiastically on behalf of the Clan.

The most famous member of the O'Malley Clan has earned a firm place in Irish folklore. She is the legendary Grainne Ni Mhaille, or Grainne Mhaol as she became known, who lived and ruled the Clan, during the reign of Elizabeth I. This formidable lady owned her own fleet of ships and was a considerable pirate.

So widely feared was 'Granuaile' that she was received with full honours at the Tudor Court of Elizabeth. She maintained her dominance into old age, died in her seventies in 1603, and was buried in the tiny 12th century Cistercian Abbey on Clare Island.

Not surprisingly, Grainne Mhaol was the inspiration which Tom drew on to create his masterpiece. The clear block of crystal is shaped like a wave and engraved with the figure of Grainne. She is standing on rocks, symbolising the O'Malley association with land and sea. Indeed, Tom has created a visual picture of the O'Malley motto, which translated means, "Powerful on Land and Sea". On the reverse side of the sculpture, Tom has engraved a fleet of ships, Grainne's castle and the O'Malley coat of arms.

The photo above gives some idea of the lovely original. Congratulations to Tom on such wonderful work. No doubt, in future years, it will become a treasured part of the O'Malley heritage.

*Reprinted with kind permission of 'Crystal Clear', the magazine of Waterford Glass plc.*

## Chief Cormac

### By Gerry O'Malley Outgoing Guardian Chief

In Sweden, once, I met a woman whose German grandmother had entertained in her house both Wagner and Liszt. Those luminaries from outer space were suddenly a little less remote. Meeting Cormac O'Malley was, for me a somewhat similar experience, like encountering history made flesh. The one O'Malley name that was in all the reference books was Ernie O'Malley, that most charismatic of figures from the first quarter of this century. I knew about the man who was Commandant General at 27, the two years in prison, the forty-one days of hunger strike, the books, the lecture tours, the editorship of 'The Bell'. Meeting his son brought history into focus.

It happened this way, in 1972 I held my Chief's rally in Limerick. The idea was a blatant effort to bring the Limerick Mailles into the Rally-attending fold. It was a good Rally and everybody enjoyed themselves although its proselytising mission was largely a failure. However, what concerns us here is that, on that bright June morning, one of the passengers stepping off the New York jet at Shannon was a young fair-haired barrister called Cormac O'Malley. The stewardess asked him if his visit was connected with the O'Malley Rally. Twenty-two years later Cormac dons the Cloak and carries the Staff as Chieftain of the Clan.

Cormac is a very youthful-looking 52 years old. He lives in New York and is married to Moira. They have two children, Bergin, aged 17 and Conor, aged 15 years.

Born in Dublin, his early education was at Willow Park and Ampleforth College (York). After his father's death in 1957 he moved to the United States to live with his mother, brother and sister. He took his primary degree at Harvard and his law degree at Columbia University.

#### **International Law**

Cormac worked for an international law firm on Wall Street and in Mexico City. He was active in Irish affairs including family matters and wished to move to Europe. His chance came when he became legal counsel for a pharmaceutical multi-national with whom he spent eleven years in Brussels and London. He has recently returned with them to live in New York.

#### **Artistic Activities**

For thirty years Cormac has been organising exhibitions of work by Irish artists in Ireland and the US. He helped set up exhibitions of Jack B. Yeats' paintings in Sligo (1963), Massachusetts (1965) and Birmingham, Alabama (1980). In 1975 he supervised the return to Sligo County Library of the Irish Art collection of the late James A. Healy. Last year, in conjunction with his sister, Etain, he organised the creation of the Helen O'Malley-Roelofs Sculpture Trust at the University of Limerick and the Helen O'Malley Photography Trust at the National Library of Ireland.

### **Etain O'Malley**

Cormac's actress sister, Etain, has an impressive list of leading and supporting parts in Broadway and off-Broadway productions. She now concentrates on education in drama, including running drama workshops. Last year, with her brother, she undertook the daunting task of editing their mother's poetry - their mother wrote a poem every day of her life for thirty years - and setting up an exhibition of her bronzes in Limerick. Extracts from the poems were combined with photographs of the sculpture in a handsome book published by the Limerick University Press.

### **Helen O'Malley Roelofs**

The subjects for the Helen O'Malley Roelofs bronze heads reads like a Who's Who of Irish life, artistic and political, since the foundation of the State; deValera, Maud Gonne, her husband Ernie, Ristead Mulcahy, Sam Beckett, Frank O'Connor, Sean O'Casey, Peadar O'Donnell, Mary Lavin, Denis Johnson, Austin Clarke, Siobhan McKenna, Jack McGowran, etc., etc. - they number 250 in all.

Helen O'Malley Roelofs was thrilled last year when the first shipment of her Irish heads was dispatched to Limerick. Unfortunately, she died before the exhibition was complete. But her name will live on in the annual O'Malley Art Award and the O'Malley Art Collection which she established with the collaborative sponsorship of the Irish American Cultural Institute. As well as her pre-eminence in sculpture, photography and poetry, she had a life-long interest in stage and costume design. She was one of the founders of the Players Theatre.

It is hardly surprising, therefore that not only Etain but Cormac also should take a live interest in things Thespian. He produced a Mary Manning play at Harvard and produced and acted in a production of *The Midnight Court* with sister Etain and Niall Tobin.

### **American Ireland Fund**

Our new Chieftain was a founding member and secretary of the Board of Directors of the Ireland Fund which in 1987 merged with the American Irish Foundation to become the American Ireland Fund.



*Chieftain Cormac with former Chieftain Ellen*

He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Irish Georgian Society Inc. of New York. Last year he was made a member of the International Council of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. For the past seven years he has been on the Board of the Granuaile Trust.

He established the Ernie O'Malley Trust at University College Dublin to which he contributed his father's military documents, notebooks and MSS. Last year, Poolbeg Press published *Prisoners, The Civil War Letters of Ernie O'Malley*, edited by Cormac and Dr Richard English.

### **Fundraiser**

Cormac has been an active and effective fundraiser for Irish causes in the States. In 1968 he started out in New York to assist the American Irish Development Committee to raise funds for a Save-the West campaign. In 1980 he chaired a two-day seminar in New York for the World Trade Institute on Investment in Ireland.

His skills as an organiser and fundraiser will be put to good use in his year of office and beyond. His enthusiasm for Clan activities have been much in evidence since that day in Limerick twenty-two years ago. His voluminous Fax messages are now legendary. Today's post brings a note from our Secretary, Mary Jane O'Malley, to say that Cormac is coming over for the next Committee meeting in Newport. To fly from New York for a meeting of the Committee - that's the kind of dedication the Association needs!

We wish him well.

## **THE CHIEFTAIN'S REGALIA**

Our Chieftain's Staff is an impressive piece of regalia. As this was an essential element of an Irish Chieftain's inauguration up to the seventeenth century, it was decided in 1987, to continue the tradition and have a similar item for the installation of our chiefs. The task of making the staff was entrusted to **Wayne Harlow**, multi-talented husband of our **Tanaiste Kitty O'Malley-Harlow**. He chose a five foot length of holly wood, two inches in diameter, and carved it most artistically with designs. On top we have two O'Malley boars confronting each other, and below them O'Maille is executed in raised lettering along the length of the staff. On top there is a Celtic ornament with a horse on one side and a lymphiad (Galley) on the other - elements taken from the O'Malley coat of arms.

To the **Chieftain's regalia** this year, was added a wonderful **hand-woven cloak**, which was commissioned and presented to the Clan, by **Mary O'Sullivan**, Portlaoise, daughter of Mary O'Malley Rathdowney. The cloak was woven by **Beth Moran** of Clare Island and the natural dyes were created from the plants and flowers of the Island. Thank you Molly (Mary).

## THE INAUGURATION OF AN IRISH CHIEFTAIN

The great historian John O'Donovan in his *Genealogies, Tribes and Customs of the Fly-Fiachrach* (1844), after a thorough examination of the best available sources, writes:- We may infer that the following conditions were generally requisite to constitute a legitimate installment of an Irish Chieftain:

1. That he should be of the blood of the original conqueror or acquirer of the territory, and free from all personal blemishes, deformities, and defects, and be of fit age to lead the clan to the field.
2. That the greater part of his sub-chiefs and freeholders should declare in his favour.
3. That the inauguration should be celebrated at a remarkable place in the territory appointed of old for the purpose, where there was a stone with the impression of two feet, believed to be the size of the feet of the first captain, chieftain, or acquirer of the territory.
4. That the hereditary historian or chronicler of the territory should be present to read to the Chief about to be installed the heads of the law relating to the conduct of the chieftain, and that the latter should swear to observe those laws and to maintain the customs of the territory inviolable.
5. That after taking this oath, the chief laid aside his sword and other weapons, upon which the historian of the district, or some other person whose proper office it was, handed him a straight white wand as a sceptre and an emblem of purity and rectitude, to indicate that his people were to be so obedient to him that he required no other weapon to command them.
6. That after receiving this straight white wand, one of his sub-chiefs put on his shoe or sandal in token of obedience, or threw a slipper over his head in token of good luck and prosperity.
7. That after the foregoing ceremonies were performed, one of his sub-chiefs pronounced his surname without the christian-name in a loud voice after whom it was pronounced in succession by the clergy according to their dignity, and by his sub-chiefs and freeholders according to their respective ranks. After this the chieftain turned round thrice forwards and thrice backwards, in honour of the most holy Trinity, as the Irish still do all good things, and to view his people and his territory in every direction; which being done he was the legitimate chief of his name.

from *The O'Malley Clan Record 1988*



Micheal O'Malley's Grannuaile Golf Classic

## ERNIE O'MALLEY'S OBSERVATIONS ON HIS AMERICAN LIFE

Edited by his son Cormac

From a letter dated January 10, 1935 written in New York to Harriet Manfred, Editor of Poetry Magazine, Chicago

It was a welcome New Year surprise to see my poems in "Poetry", and I take it as a good omen for the year.

In the Southwest I first met Alice Croben Henderson after a lecture of mine on the continuity of Gaelic thought in Irish poetry. She was, I found, the "ACH" whom Thomas McDonagh, executed after the Dublin Rising of 1916, had referred to in his book on Irish literature. She knew the works of the Anglo-Irish School and we spent many pleasant evenings together. Later she read poems I had written in the Southwest and suggested that I send them on to you, but I was too uncertain of my work then; since then I have lost the greater part of them.

In Mexico I met Hart Crane. We became friends and remained friends to the end despite clashes from my sense of personal discipline and his lack of it. Inspired by our memories of poetry and stimulated by rum toddies, we wrote long letters to many people, amongst them Wallace Stephens, E.E. Cummings and yourself. Unfortunately, we afterwards burnt the letters. Hart had books from you to review. We each wrote reviews but I don't know what happened to them. I liked him a great deal. He was generous, enthusiastic and spoke the most amazing rhetoric, good rhetoric. He believed in America, in its creative ability and had a dislike for the nostalgia of induced foreign culture as a standard. He was kind to his friends, irritable and pugnacious, but Mexico with its criss-cross racial clashes and its general effect on unrest of mind was no place for a stranger to solve personal or creative problems.

Two weeks ago I met Vassos and Tanagra Kanellos. They are working in Hartford House on murals in the great hall. I had worked there last summer as a "house painter". Last evening we talked of Greece, and they both sent their affectionate regards. We are to get together soon to exchange Greek and gaelic poems. I have lectured on Gaelic poetry from the eighth to the nineteenth century and so have a deal of material for them. I have been working on the earlier Gaelic stories and epics to assess their sidelights on the old Gaelic mind and character and am interested in her heroic temper and the aspects of life uniting them with the Greek heroic age. I have made translations from old poetry but will have to wait until I really understand the language.

I have a book for Viking Press. It is call "On Another Man's Wound" from a Gaelic proverb: "It is easy to sleep on another man's wound". It deals particularly with the period 1916-1921, as seen through my eyes. I was in a small way connected with the fighting in 1916 from which the new Ireland emerged. I was then attached to the Irish Volunteers whilst I studied medicine at the National University. I had to leave the University, became a captain in headquarter's staff; later the Volunteers became the Irish Republic Army in 1919 under our own government, Dail Eireann. Before the end of the Tan War, as we call it, I was in charge of a division of five brigades in the counties of Kilkenny, Tipperary and Ulmerick in the Martial Law area. I was captured by the British, was to have been hanged but escaped.

Later, after the Treaty of 1921 I remained with the IRA, became Director of Organisation and when the civil war began was made Assistant Chief of Staff. Badly wounded and captured I read of my own death in a Dublin paper and an account of my career. I was to have been executed by the Free State Government, but they hesitated to shoot me on a stretcher. I was elected a Member of Parliament for North City Dublin whilst a prisoner. I was in goals and in internment camps for close on two years; when released I was considered a hopeless invalid.

I went to Catalonia (in 1924) to help the Catalan movement for independence. I studied their folklore and cultural institutions. I learned to walk again in the Pyrenees. I became a good mountain climber, covered the frontier from San Sebastian to Perpignan and lived in the Basque country. I walked through a part of Spain, Southern and Southeast France and most of Italy, I did some medieval history at Grenoble. I walked through Italy slowly, worked at archaeology in Sicily and lived in Rome and Florence for a time. I walked through Germany to Holland and through Belgium and then to Northern Africa. After some years I returned to the National University to again take up medicine, but I did not get the exams. The years abroad taught me to use my eyes in a new way.

In America I have lived in New York, Boston Chicago, Pasadena, San Francisco, Taos, Chimayo and Santa Fe. I have been in most states except those of the South. I have lived in Carmel, Woodstock and Privincetown, have written at the Yaddo foundation at Saratoga Springs. In the Southwest I lectured on Gaelic and Anglo-Irish literature from our first poet to James Joyce. I learned something about the Indian way of life and that neglected people, the Mexican of New Mexico. In old Mexico I spent a year. I worked in the training schools for rural teachers in two states. I stayed some months with the local poets, lived as they lived and found out something about their life and feeling. In Mexico City I studied archeology in the Academy of Fine Arts. I have a rough idea of the physical nature of this country now.

From the above you will see that this sketch of the physical nature of life has been mainly action. Here in America I have been cut away from my own country where I found I was developing into a symbol. This country has helped me to live my life apart from all the associative memories that intrude too much at home; its impersonality and detachment have helped me to find something of myself.

Yours sincerely

**Ernie O'Malley**

## 43RD O'MALLEY CLAN RALLY ANNOUNCEMENT

Chieftain Cormac O'Malley

156 East 79th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Fax: +1 212 605 9668

### Schedule

#### Friday 23 June

8.00 pm Informal get-together and registration in the Grand Central Hotel, Octagon, Westport.

#### Saturday 24 June

11.00 am O'Malley Clan Golf Championship, Westport Golf Club, organised by Michael O'Malley (Green Fees IR£15)

11.00 am Clew Bay Fishing expedition, Newport, organised by Peter O'Malley McGee (booking required, IR£20)

11.00 am Westport House tour (ask upon registration)

2.00 pm Visit to Granuaile Interpretive centre, Louisburgh (refreshments available)

8.00 pm Annual General Meeting, Westport House Wheel and Chain Pub, followed by Chieftain's Reception and traditional Irish music. Late registration or Sunday luncheon if any seats available.

#### Sunday 25 June

11.00 am Mass at Burrishoole Abbey  
Alternative site: The Oratory, Newport

12.00 pm Visit to Burrishoole Abbey led by former Chieftain and Clan Historian Sheila O'Malley Mulloy.

1.00 pm Reception followed by luncheon, Hotel Westport, Westport. (reservations required prior to June 20)

### Contacts:

Golf Michael O'Malley Tel: +353 94 2205 (fax: 2206)

Fishing Peter O'Malley McGee Tel: +353 98 41247 (fax: 41785)

Reservations USA

Chieftain Cormac K.H. O'Malley Tel: +1 212 717 1846 (fax: 605 9668)

Peter O'Malley McGee Tel: +1 353 98 41247 (fax 41785)

**The O'Malley Clan Annual**

This journal, now discontinued, was published annually from 1984 to 1990. It is an excellent souvenir of the rallies of those years, and contains articles on O'Malley history, as well as on places associated with the clan. Back-numbers of some can be obtained for £4.00 or 8 dollars each.

**The O'Malley Clan Car Sticker**

This sticker in three colours is exclusive to the O'Malley Clan Association and is similar to the crest on your rally invitation. The cost is £4.00 or 8 dollars.

**Clan Association Badge**

A really beautiful embroidered jacket badge. Price £25 or 35 dollars.

**Clan Association Tie**

Blue only, price Price £8.00 or 13 dollars. Quality Striped Tie, £12.00 or 18 dollars.

**Granuaile Symphony**

A cassette of the widely-acclaimed Granuaile Symphony by Shaun Davey at the very special price of £8.00 or 12 dollars. Sung by Rita Connolly, with Liam O'Flynn, uilleann pipes and chamber orchestra.

**O'Malley Mass**

Composed by Michael McGlynn, first heard in Trinity College Chapel at 1990 Rally. Price of cassette £8.00 or 12 dollars.

**Granuaile Biography By Anne Chambers**

This indispensable history of Granuaile, the O'Malley heroine, is available at £8.00 or 12 dollars.

**O'Malley People and Places by Sheila Mulloy**

The second enlarged edition is now available. This book is an account of people, places and events prominent in clan history. Price: Softcover, £8.00 or 12 dollars; Hardcover, £15 or 20 dollars.

All prices include postage and packaging, and are based on current exchange rates

Post your order to:

**Mr. P. McGee, Sandymount, Newport, Co. Mayo, Ireland.**

Cheques to be made payable to O'Malley Clan Association.

Name (block capitals please) .....

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I/We enclose..... for the following items:

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