Old Irish Song and Prayerbook May Help Aged Woman to Wealth, By Sharing In $4,000,000 Estate

New York, July 3.—Mrs. Mary Holden, 80 years old, keeper at the little postoffice at Malahide, a hamlet nine miles from Dublin, Ireland, may become a sharer in the $4,000,000 estate of John Whalen, lawyer, banker and at one time Corporation Counsel of New York City—and all because of an old Irish song and some faded writing in an old family prayerbook.

Mr. Whalen died in 1926. He left half his property to Cardinal Hayes, and the other half to relatives. His will was admitted to probate, Feb. 28, 1927. Nineteen cousins—two of them first cousins, and 17 once removed—laid claim to the $2,000,000. The understanding at the time was that the two first cousins, Miss Anna McDonald of 16 East Ninety-eighth Street and Mrs. Margaret McDonald Cunningham of 195 Claremont Avenue, would receive substantial legacies and the seventeen accredited seconds cousins would get $25,000 each.

New Claimants Appear

In January, 1928, however, a new group of claimants appeared. Twenty-two alleged relatives attacked the probate on the ground that Mr. Whalen, at the time the will was drawn, was incapable of testamentary action and that undue influence and fraud were used by persons unknown to the new claimants. Many of the contestants live in Ireland, and ever since the contest was filed American lawyers have been touring Ireland seeking documentary evidence to authenticate the claims of the contesting claimants.

Daniel J. McGrath, lawyer and partner of James H. Hickey, went to Ireland on business connected with the estate. He visited Mrs. Holton and her daughter, Minnie, whom he had known of old.

Old Song Is First Clue

One morning he heard Minnie Holden singing the old ballad of "Ballyporeen," which he had often heard sung by the Whalens in America, John Whalen's admitted cousins, singing the same lilting ballad.

He asked Minnie and her mother whether they were related to the John Whalen who had died in New York more than a year before. They were not sure. But Mr. McGrath made inquiries and found that two Whalen brothers, Denis and Patrick, had been born in Ballyporeen and that both had migrated to America. His investigations seemed to indicate that Denis Whalen was the father of John Whalen and that Patrick was the father of Mary Holton and grandfather to Minnie Holton.

The Old Prayerbook

Mr. McGrath asked Mrs. Holton and Minnie for old papers or documents to substantiate what seemed to him a legitimate claim. Mother and daughter hunted. They found an old Catholic prayerbook, which had been printed in Baltimore in 1851. It had been Patrick Whalen's. He had brought it back to Ireland with him in 1861. Three fly-leaves the old had in the scrawl of old Patrick his address in America and bits of family chronology.

On the fourth page was the inscription: "Denis my brother died in America 1864."

Denis Whalen, who was John's father, did die in this country in 1864.

"It is one of the most interesting and romantic will cases that has ever come to my attention," said Mr. Hickey, Mr. McGrath's partner, yesterday. "There is no question in our minds that Mary Holton and the late John Whalen were first cousins. I think it will not be difficult to establish her true status."

Offers $3,000 Prize For Book on The Soul of America

New York, July 3.—The National Arts Club has just announced that $3,000 will be given for the best literary work on "The Soul of America." John G. Agar of this city, a prominent Catholic layman, is President of the National Arts Club. The award will be made by a committee consisting of William Allen White, chairman, Mary Austin, Hamlin Garland, Ida Tarbell and Henry Goddard Leach.

Manuscripts may be in any literary form—novel, history, poetry or critical essay—but only those presenting a constructive view of America will be considered.

It is the feeling of those who are sponsoring "The Soul of America" contest that the post-war literature of the past decade has been given largely to magnifying national faults and to a cynical criticism of passing phases of our national life. In the deluge of such books, Mr. Agar said, the underlying character of America, its achievements and its ideals, have been submerged. He expects that the $3,000 prize will serve to bring out another and older view of our civilization.

Manuscripts must be from 40,000 to 100,000 words in length. Only those works written between March 31, 1930 and April 1, 1931, will be eligible for the competition.

All manuscripts must be forwarded to "The Soul of America" Committee, National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park, New York City, not later than April 1, 1931. The author, whose name must appear on the manuscripts, is requested to write a letter to the Executive Secretary of the National Arts Club, marking on the envelope containing it the words "Personal and Confidential." In this letter the author will give his or her name and address, and state the title of the manuscript submitted. The Executive Secretary of the Club will be the only one to see these letters until after the Committee has announced its award.

The choice of the committee will be announced publicly on June 1, 1931, and the awards itself will be presented to the winning author at the opening of the annual Book Exhibition at the National Arts Club on Wednesday evening, November 4, 1931. The prize book will be published during the Fall of that year.

All rights in the manuscript and book shall remain in the author, and all manuscripts shall be returned.

New Steamship Line Between U. S. and Ireland

San Francisco, July 3.—A new steamship line between Pacific Coast ports of the United States and Belfast and Dublin, Ireland, is to be inaugurated from San Francisco with the sailing of the Cape of Good Hope on July 15.

The Cape of Good Hope is operated by the Canadian-American Shipping Company, of which Melville Dollar is the head. The line will operate a monthly sailing schedule.

The ships will load at all Pacific Coast ports with the exception of [illegible] Harbor. If cargo offerings are sufficient, they will call at [illegible] ports, but for the [illegible] Dublin are [illegible].

Columbus Joins the K. of C. In Kitchener, Canada

Kitchener, Ont., July 3.—Believe it or not, Christopher Columbus was one of a class of 95 candidates recently admitted to Funcken Council, No. 1591, of the Knights of Columbus. Christopher is a son of John L. Columbus who is a member of the Order and the third of three brothers to join.

Mexican Knights Hold Convention First In Years

Mexico City, July 3.—A state convention of the Knights of Columbus of Mexico was held here recently, and it was largely attended. It was the first K. of C. convention in Mexico since the outbreak of the trouble between the Church and State several years ago. The Knights of Columbus were under a severe ban by government officials, and the feeling towards the Order was accentuated sharply when the Supreme body of the K. of C. appropriated a million dollars for relief of Mexican exiles and spread of the truth about the Mexican situation in this country.

The cessation of hostilities between the Church and the State, and the ending of persecution of the Church by the State brought relief also to the Knights of Columbus, and the Order is showing a sharp revival here as a result. At the recent convention many matters affecting the future of the Order in Mexico were discussed. Among the resolutions voted was one of gratitude to the Supreme Council for the financial support given to members during the recent troubled years. The State Convention also voted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the extension of the Order to Mexico on September 18.

Sale of Tickets For Passion Play Breaks Records

New York, July 3.—The sale of tickets for the Passion Play, now in progress here, is breaking all records, according to word received here. But in spite of that fact, all tourists are assured they will be able to see the play, because extra performances are being given. E. Schmitz, of the German Tourist Bureau here, has received a cablegram from Oberammergau which says:

"The regular Passion Play performances of Oberammergau for which bookings were made by all American tourist bureaus are practically sold out, especially during the months of July and August. The influx of American tourists to Germany is extraordinarily heavy this year and nearly all German cities and health resorts report a decided increase of American visitors over last year. Most of those visitors who intended to see the famous Passion Play at Oberammergau have already made reservations way in advance, but only bookings for the regular performances, which are given twice a week, were made in foreign countries.

"A number of special performances, for which no tickets were booked in advance in foreign countries, will be given at Oberammergau on every Friday during the months of July and August. These performances are principally intended for the local population. American tourists to Germany who have not been able to secure tickets for the regular performances can be accommodated for the Friday special performances."

Pope Names Bishops

Vatican City, July 3.—The Pope formally announced on Monday the appointment of several Bishops, whose advancement to that office already had been reported. They included Mgr. Louis B. Kuzera, former pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Protivin, Howard County, Iowa, to be Bishop of Lincoln, Neb.

Noted Detective Dies in Boston

Boston, Mass., July 3.—Michael J. Morrissey, dean of Boston Police Inspectors, with a national reputation for apprehension of safe crackers and pickpockets, died suddenly at his Summer home in Quincy. He had been a member of the Boston Police Department for 44 years.

Inspector Morrissey became the terror of pickpockets and had the reputation of being one of ten men in five cities who could pick out the likeness of a thousand criminals photographed within 15 years.

Priest, Given Three Months To Live 3 Years Ago, Is Cured, After Praying To St. Teresa

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Boston, Mass., June 29.—More than three years ago, physicians in Denmark gave the Rev. William Lem three months to live. Tuberculosis, they said, had been slowly killing him for three years previous, and had doomed him. The matter of his death within a very short time was inevitable.

Recently the same Father Lem, who for three years has been ministering to the spiritual needs of the remnants of the Penobscot tirbe, on Indian Island, Me., sailed back for Denmark, on his first vacation in three years. He is healthy and completely cured of the tubercular condition once called his death warrant—and the cure, he asserts, is due to the intercessions of St. Teresa, the Little Flower.

In his three years of service in America Father Lem has done much to show the Indians under his care the true faith. In what has been one of the strangest apostolates in America of recent years, he has worked toward establishing a parish church on the island that will function as parish churches do elsewhere—and he has succeeded.

His return to Denmark is in response to a cablegram announcing the serious illness of his father. He will be gone two months, when he will return to Indian Island, to resume work among his "own people," as he calls his Indian flock.

Father Lem's record on the island gives no evidence of being that of an invalid. In his three years of service among the last of the Penobscots he has taken a rundown church property and beautified it until it is hardly recognizable, and he has marshaled his red skinned charges to serve in any number of ways the faith they have adopted.

For three years before the priest came to America he was thought to be dying slowly from the white plague. Doctors had called his case hopeless, and every effort to cure him had failed. Indeed, it was said that both lungs were badly wasted away. When human agencies could do no more, Father Lem turned to the Little Flower. He prayer fervently for recovery to St. Teresa.

The doctors, at that time, had given him three months to live. Instead, at the end of the three months the priest was almost wholly recovered and was able to come to the United States.

He was sent to Indian Island. When he arrived there he found a church in a ramshackle condition, with grounds that were something of an eye-sore. Instead of being daunted by what he saw, however, he plunged into the work, and enlisted the aid of his Indians, who were inspired by his zeal.

Today the church stands in the middle of a small park-like plot, which has paths, trees and flower beds. Inside, the whole place has been redecorated and the furnishings realigned.

The physical improvement, however, is not so important as what has been done for the Indians in a spiritual way. An Indian choir has been trained in the most intricate of mass rituals, and now sing at all services in the little church. Pageants have been produced, with all Indian casts, and presented not only on the island, but in other places.

Father Lem's story of how he was cured through prayer to the Little Flower, which he often tells his little flock, has done much to make them venerate the Saint. A shrine to St. Teresa has been established in the church and is one of the most frequently used centers of worship.

Arabs Kill Jew And Start Trouble Anew in Palestine

Jerusalem, July 3.—(Jewish Telegraphic Agency).—Arab marauders shot and killed Itzhak Finkel, watchman for the Tel Yosef settlement of the Emek, late Saturday night. Several shots were exchanged between Finkel and his assailants.

Police from Ainharod arrived after midnight with pathfinders to search for traces of the assassins. Thirty mounted Transjordanian members of the frontier force are scouring the countryside in co-operation with the civil authorities.

It is feared that yesterday's fatal bullet is part of a terrorist campaign planned by the Bedouins.

A Godfather in the Lotschen Valley

(By MARIE WIDMER)

In a wondrously beautiful mountain realm, off the beaten path, and yet since 1913 easily accessible from Goppenstein, a station on the ingeniously constructed Lotschberg railway, lies the Lotschen Valley, an alpine vale of endearing charm. Owing to its natural seclusion, which in the early days was synonymous for a fair degree of safety, the inhabitants—toilers of the fields in the truest sense of the world—have ever been dependent upon their own resources.

Practically everything consumed is home-grown and mostly all the garments worn are homespun and homemade. Even the headgear is a strictly domestic product, and the entire population observes the same styles—styles which as records indicate have never changed for at least two centuries! The little girls and boys are dressed exactly like their elders and when five-year-old tots wear long black skirts with checked band aprons over them and a sombre, severely plain waist over the latter—or in the case of the boys heavy coats and trousers reaching to the feet, they look like quaint baby faced dwarfs.

There is a splendid community spirit among the people. Each village has, for instance, its own flour mill. One of the citizens undertakes to operate it and receives as compensation 1-20th of the grain, of which he has to turn over half to the municipality. Each village, moreover, maintains a saw-mill and a baking-oven, the housewives patronizing the latter about once a month! The dough is shaped in wooden forms and carried to the public oven on wooden boards.

Religion forms the chief interest in the Lotschen people's uneventful lives, and christenings, weddings and burials number thus among the most important happenings.

To be asked to act as godfather or godmother at the christening of a child is considered a particular honor and an old custom prescribes that the godfather must present the parents of his future godchild with a huge bread cake weighing from 7 to 8 pounds and ornamented with curious designs. Inasmuch as bread is the chief sustenance of these mountain folk the custom is meant to signify that the godfather together with the godmother who has to provide three pieces of underwear and a dress, is assuming joint responsibilities with the parents for looking after the welfare of the child, if such assistance should become necessary.

Summer Masses At Lake Resorts

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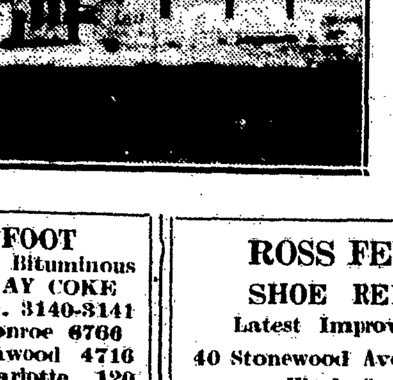

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