

The Church 1976

Fr. Andrew Greeley

DUBLIN, IRELAND — This country forces you to think about the past. Dublin is a modern city with traffic jams, rapid urban expansion, and stress and strain on family life characteristic of all big cities. Many of the old Georgian houses survive, of course, as do the four courts, the Customs building, Trinity college and the old Parliament building, remnants of the time when Dublin was one of Europe's most prosperous cities — before British imperialism snuffed out the promise of 18th century Ireland.

But these are tourist attractions, and while the life in Dublin doesn't pulsate quite at the pace as does life in New York, it is still big-city modern, with hurrying crowds of people scurrying about the business of making money in a capitalistic industrial world.

But less than morning's ride away there is Gaeltacht, Irish-speaking areas where the old stories and songs and dances and customs and beliefs and superstitions are still alive. And where one can find perhaps the most direct line to our archaic past that is still available anywhere in the Western world. The government here pours all kinds of money into the Gaeltacht to keep that culture alive, though many critics are arguing once again as the English did over a century ago that the old Irish culture is a museum piece and really ought to be abandoned as Ireland moves into the Common Market modern world. What good, the question is asked, are all those songs and stories and dances and customs? What good, after all, is the past? You can't eat it, you can't live in it, you can't pay school costs with it, you can't use it to clean up industrial pollution.

A milder form of the same question is posed by many Irishmen. Is this country going to lose its charm and friendliness as it becomes more affluent through its integration into the European Economic Community? As one young man remarked to me, "You can't eat charm."

The outsider may be permitted to wonder how the Irish can possibly stop being friendly, and he may be inclined to decide that even if the Irish here write off their heritage, the American Irish — and the Americans of every other ethnic group — might be wise to exercise the opposite option. There is no necessary conflict between urban society and folk heritage. Those who say there is such a conflict unduly restrict the ingenuity of human nature.

While I've been here I've had a chance to see a movie about the National Folk Theater of Ireland, which is presently touring the United States. As far as I can see, there is no reason at all for writing off such music, dancing, and storytelling on the grounds that it's irrelevant to the making of money.

Barraco Named To State Board

Dr. Anthony Barraco, chairman of the Education Department at Nazareth College, has been appointed by the Regents of the State University of New York to a three-year term on the Teacher Education Certification and Practice Board. The term will expire Sept. 30, 1979.

Dr. Barraco was recommended for the post by various organizations including the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

The work of the National Folk Theater — vigorously supported by Bishop Casey of Galway — is not the phony St. Patrick's Day sort of Irish culture that most of us Irish-Americans know but it is the real thing, too beautiful and precious and delightful to be lost. And I can't imagine any good reason for writing it off as irrelevant. Even if it were irrelevant, it would still be beautiful, and preserving beauty is what human civilization is all about.

But perhaps more can be said. From his 10 years of work with housing projects in England Bishop Casey is well qualified to speak about urban life. The Folk Theater, he insists, is not merely beautiful entertainment, it speaks out of the wisdom of the past to the problems of the present. We moderns don't know everything, and it is supremely arrogant of us to think that our predecessors did not have any insights from which we can learn. In some ways we are doubtless more sophisticated than they were, but in other ways they had a deeper and richer understanding of the human condition that we do. They were wise, as Bishop Casey observes, about the ordinary events of daily life. The folk traditions of every ethnic group are priceless treasure troves of such wisdom. It is the Catholic way to say "both and" instead of "either or."

Father Lee Added to Staff

Father John R. Lee, CSB, has been named as assistant professor of anthropology at St. John Fisher College for the 1976-77 academic year.

Father Lee has been a lecturer of anthropology at the University of Windsor since 1973, serving as president of the Aboriginal Research Club, moderator of the Anthropology Club and anthropology advisor on the Middle East refugee problem.

He has been on leave at Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he recently received a Ph.D.

Murrer Elected Chest President

Alfred J. Murrer, president and chief executive officer of Gleason Works, has been elected president of the United Community Chest of Greater Rochester, Inc.

Murrer was a key volunteer in the UCC's campaign division, and served as general campaign chairman in 1975 and 1976. He succeeds Burton S. August.

SCAC Sets Annual Meet

The Senior Citizens Action Council (SCAC) will conduct its annual meeting Monday, Oct. 25 at Brighton Reformed Church, 805 Blossom Road. SCAC represents more than 30,000 senior citizens in Monroe County.

SCAC also has announced the beginning of their new season for "Open Forum" which features

"speakers highly qualified on the subjects discussed."

The meetings are on the first and third Monday of every month, excluding holidays, through April 1977, at the Drop-In Lounge, 40 N. Clinton Ave. Subjects and speakers for future meetings will be announced as the season progresses.

7th and 8th Graders and parents . . .

OPEN HOUSE

At McQUAID JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

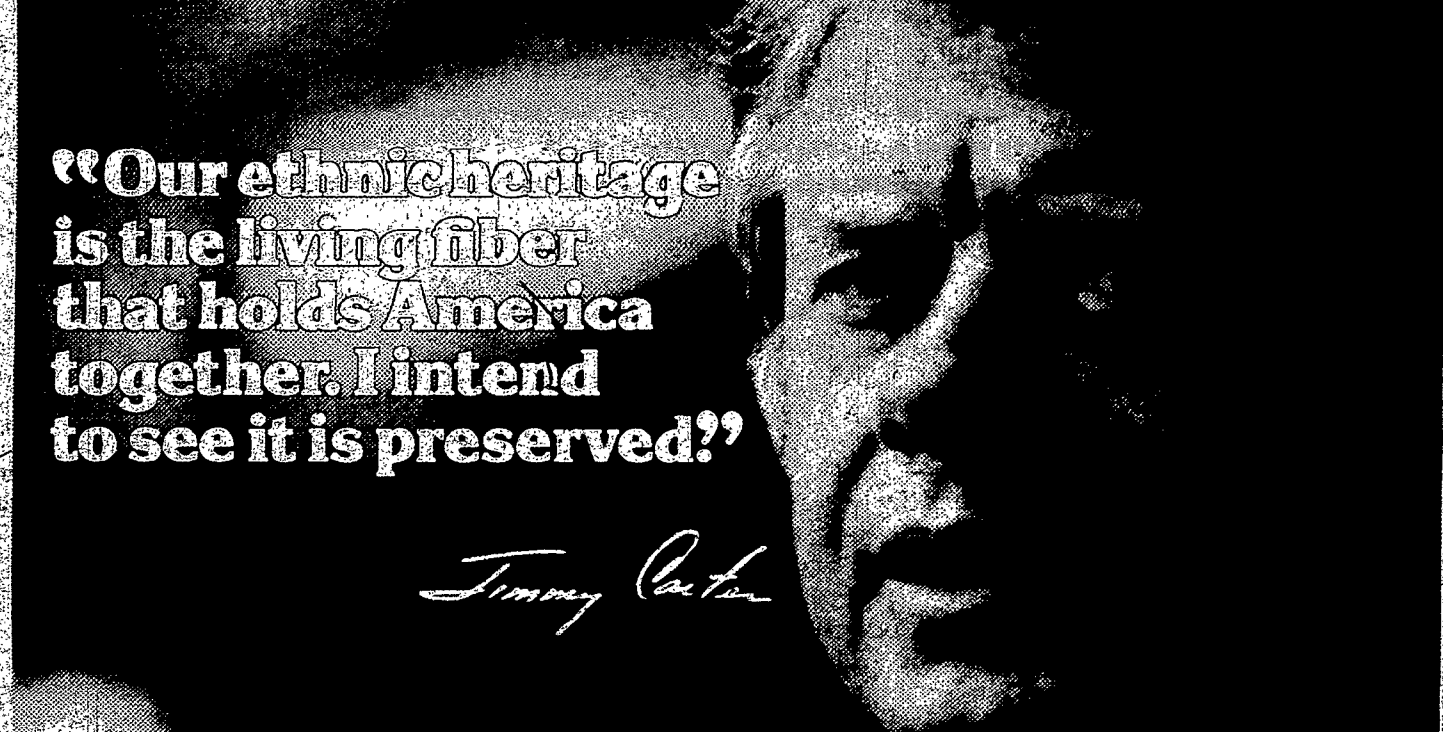
THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:00-9:00 p.m.

1800 S. CLINTON AT ELMWOOD

Entrance Exam on Sat. Dec. 4

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



In the past two years, Jimmy Carter has spoken to more diverse groups than perhaps any Presidential candidate in history. He has a deep respect for the ardent patriotism and devotion to our country shared by people of differing religions and cultures.

He also understands that the most vital elements in American life are its families and its neighborhoods.

And he has seen the slow destruction of both by the uncaring and unresponsive Republican Administrations.

He has seen tax policies that discriminate against families — especially low-income families.

He has seen an economic policy that eliminates any chance that many families could afford their own home.

He has seen urban renewal that destroys, rather than rebuilds, our neighborhoods.

Jimmy Carter knows what has happened.

More important, he intends to do something about it.

The American Family: "Everywhere I go I find people deeply concerned about the loss of stability in our families. Forty percent of all marriages in America now end in divorce. There can be no more urgent priority than to see that every decision our government makes is designed to support and strengthen the American family. I intend to bring this about."

The American Neighborhood: "It is time for us to recognize that neighborhoods are more than sections of the city. They are the living fiber that holds our society together. Until we place

them at the very top of our national policy, our hopes for the nation, and our goals for our private lives, will not be attained."

Housing: "No government that cared about our neighborhoods would stack the tax deck against them. A landlord can let a building run down and make a good living on tax breaks. But when a home owner spends a little hard-earned money fixing up his home, the assessor raises his taxes. It's a disgrace. And the present state of the FHA is so sloppy and corrupt that last year, it lost 600 million dollars. It no longer cares about families getting started in their own home. I intend to restore the FHA to the time when, for a down payment, a family could get a mortgage which the government would insure."

Urban Renewal: "We have urban renewal programs that shatter homes and families and entire neighborhoods. We have sent in bulldozers and called it urban policy. I have never seen a freeway going through a golf course, but I've seen too many freeways cut through the heart of a living neighborhood, where people have lived for generations. The government must give neighborhoods what they really need — a chance to make it on their own."

Private and Parochial Schools: "I am firmly committed to conducting a systematic and continuing search for constitutionally acceptable methods for providing aid to parents whose children attend nonsegregated private schools — that means they should

benefit fully from federal education programs. At stake is the right of millions of low and middle income Americans to choose a religious education for their children. While I was Governor of Georgia, voters authorized annual grants for students attending private colleges in Georgia. We must develop similar programs on a federal level for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools."

Inflation and Unemployment: "The rate of inflation today (6%) is higher than it was at any time between the Korean War and the inauguration of Richard Nixon. The level of unemployment is 50% greater today than it was when Mr. Ford took office. The level of unemployment (7.5 million people) is higher today than under any President since the Great Depression."

On November 2, Vote for a change. Vote for JIMMY CARTER. Democrat for President.



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