

Irish worried about price of pint over politics

By GEOFFREY BAKER

PART I

The "Hundred thousand Welcomes" that traditionally greet the visitor to Ireland are in some danger of coming to outnumber the visitors themselves. This partly reflects the passing of the golden age of cheapness - when one could live comfortably (allowing at least \$10 for the vins du pays of stout and poteen - i.e. moonshine whiskey) in the West for \$20 per week. Mainly, however, it seems to stem from the wildly mistaken idea that newsworthy bits of the United Kingdom in the North are representative of the Republic in the South. An Aden guidebook blandly observed that malaria is virtually unknown in the colony but "may be had in Sheikh Othman". Similarly, "a couple of sticks of gelignite and an old alarm clock" may be had in Belfast, Londonderry or Newry. The bulk of the Northern countryside still remains tranquil enough, and scarcely a ripple disturbs the halcyon calm of the South - except possibly for the thought of the probable increase in the price of "the pint" (beer) necessary to cover Northern unemployment benefit, if a United Ireland should ever emerge.

Quantifying the last point for the benefit of thirsty readers, "the pint" means what it says (i.e. 20 oz) and would currently be between 35 and 50 cents depending on lushness of surroundings. Other drinks similarly priced. By English standards, bar price mark-ups are high (particularly on beer) but they avoid the ludicrous level to which American prohibition seems to have conditioned this continent. Also there are no Governmental sale monopolies and few of the quaint restrictions that further inhibit social drinking here. Two Irish sayings come to mind: "The law has to be enforced with lenience or people would lose all respect for it" and "When the Lord made time, he made plenty of it". This philosophy may frustrate thrusting foreign businessmen but it does, among other manifestations, have interesting applications to pub closing times in the country.

A few weeks ago I was drinking quietly in the back street bar, but the brightly lit principal hotel of the township. One of my companions was complaining bitterly that the new Superintendent of Police was a great stickler for enforcing strict closing times. Nobody but me perceived anything

strange in the timing of the remark, which was at 11:15 p.m. on Sunday night - a day of which official closing time is 10:00 p.m.

Far more extreme than this was the experience elsewhere of two friends of mine who arrived - as is tactful - before closing time and remained until around 3 a.m. They arrived again at 10 a.m. next day but were reduced, with other customers, to a self service basis in the absence of the barman. The latter duly arrived shortly before midday. My friends expressed their sympathy for his single handed work load in return for his apologies, and enquired when the bar had closed the previous night. "I don't know" said your man "They were still at it when I left at 5".

Whatever the reasons for it, the decline in tourists visiting

the country, does make that process even more attractive - making accommodation easier to find without booking, and further sharpening the welcome from what were already among the most charmingly welcoming people on Earth. Where else would I on arrival day accost a perfect stranger, have him abruptly arrest the run into which he had broken in mid accost on learning of my need for street directions, and have him insist on taking 20 minutes to give them.

Directions came with a colossal confidence and a wealth of detail (i.e. a reference to every pub I should pass - these are the only landmarks ever cited, and usually referred to by the name of the last landlord but three, which nowhere appears on the structure.)

Some time and miles later I discovered I was further from my destination than when I left but my heart still warmed to the generous spirit of this man - it did on many similar subsequent experiences.

I was a stranger in need of the comfort of knowing I was proceeding in the right direction, and he was honour bound to give me this, and not the disappointment of learning he did not know, which should be postponed as far as possible.

So much for the general ambience. If the readers' patience, the journal and the writer - all survive so long, a sequel will consider more precise details of Dublin.

Next week: Dublin ?

Varied program for UNBSJ

By CHRIS CALLAGHAN

A number of activities have been organized to keep students on the Saint John campus fairly busy this fall, according to Brian Shanks, editor of UNBSJ's student paper "The Equinox".

For drama buffs, the Drama Society will be staging its first play, "Augustus", by Jean Henri, on November 9. Also a workshop will take place in two weeks with instruction being given by a dramatist from Dalhousie University.

UNBSJ Radio has expanded in format this year, and will be airing several radio plays.

Mystery plays on film will be shown weekly by the "Purple Wednesday Society" - anyone wearing purple will save 25 cents on the admission price. Furthermore, the Film Society has scheduled twelve films, the first of which will be "Ulysses."

Also, trips have been planned for various rock concerts; a number of students availed themselves of this opportunity recently

and attended the Jethro Tull performance in Bangor Me. Further excursions are scheduled to enable interested students to take in a show by Alice Cooper on the 28th, and on featuring Chicago at a later date.

In view of the upcoming elections, political talks are being held all this week.

Those who are perhaps less culturally inclined will be able to pursue other interests at numerous campus pubs, plans for which are now in the offing.

Saint John students can keep abreast of upcoming activities as they are organized through "The Equinox," now being published twice a month.

CHSR chooses new director

By GARY CAMERON

CHSR has a new station manager. At a meeting last Thursday night, Peter Downie was chosen to succeed Bill Akerley, who has resigned to take a position with CBC.

Downie will hold the office until January when there will be another election.

According to Downie there will be no drastic changes in the station's policies. "Bill did a stupendous job and I'll have my


work cut out for just filling his shoes."

Upcoming will be the election of a new program director.

Future plans for CHSR include a broadcast of the UNB-UPEI football game live from the Island tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

Plans are also being made for live broadcasts of Red Devils road games. Another dance-party similar to the Sock Hop held a week ago may be held in the near future.

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10th Anniversary of the Intercollegiate Woodsmen Competition

(Sponsored by the U.N.B. Forestry Association)

Saturday 28th October 1972 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
at U.N.B. College Field (behind Rink)

Competition will be opened by Professor Emeritus Louis R. Scheult,
the honorary President of U.N.B. Forestry Association,

List of Events

1. Log Chopping
2. Log Decking
3. Power Saw Cutting
4. Axe Throwing
5. Felling and Twitching
6. Chain Throwing
7. Log Splitting
8. Cross Cutting
9. Swede Sawing
10. Master Boiling

Teams:-

- U.N.B. A & B Teams
- Maritime Forest Rangers School A & B Teams
- Nova Scotia Agriculture College A & B Teams
- University of Maine A & B Teams
- McDonald College A & B Teams
- Colby College of Maine A Team
- State University College of Forests (Syracuse A Team)

U.N.B. Nursing Society - will set up first aid booth and refreshments stand, and also assist as official time keepers.

All students of the tri-campus and the General Public invited FREE! Free of charge.