

“FIDDLER’S GREEN”

(FIDDLER’S GREEN IS KNOWN AS HEAVEN TO IRISH FISHERMEN)

AS I WALKED BY THE DOCKSIDE ONE EVENING SO FAIR,  
TO VIEW THE SALTWATER – AND TAKE THE NIGHT AIR  
I SPIED A YOUNG FISHERMAN SINGING THIS SONG  
WON’T YOU TAKE ME AWAY BOYS ME TIME IS NOT LONG.

WRAP ME UP IN ME OIL SKINS AND BLANKETS  
NO MORE ON THE DOCKS I’LL BE SEEN  
JUST TELL ME OLD SHIPMATES  
I’M TAKING A TRIP MATES  
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE FIDDLER’S GREEN

NOW FIDDLER’S GREEN IS A PLACE WE KNOW WELL  
A PLACE WHERE FISHERMEN GO, WHEN THEY DON’T GO TO HELL  
WHERE THE WEATHER IS FAIR AND THE DOLPHINS DO PLAY  
AND THE COLD COAST OF GREENLAND SEEMS FAR, FAR AWAY.

SO WRAP ME UP IN ME OIL SKINS AND BLANKETS,  
NO MORE ON THE DOCKS I’LL BE SEEN  
JUST TELL ME OLD SHIPMATES  
I’M TAKING A TRIP MATES  
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL BE FIDDLER’S GREEN

MUSINGS X  
MARCH 2009

CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS BOUGHT 85 TOYOTAS FOR CITY USE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER. A VERY SAD DAY, JUST 6 DAYS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY DATE (DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>).

BRILLIANT SCHEDULING FOR THE BEARS HOME GAME ON DECEMBER 11, 2008 AT 7:15P.M, THE FORECAST WAS UPPER TEENS, SNOW, AND WINDY ON THE SHORES OF LAKE MICHIGAN. OF COURSE, NO ROOF. DUMB. LAST SUNDAY'S GAME HAD 9,000 NO SHOWS AND SEATS HALF FILLED FOR THE SECOND HALF. BRRR!!! THE WEATHER WAS WORSE ON DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>. DUMBER!

TWO OF MY SONS TAKE THE METRA (ROCK ISLAND) TRAIN TO GO TO WORK DOWNTOWN. THE CITY OF CHICAGO PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE TRAIN STATION IS \$40 PER MONTH. RICHIE DALEY SELLS PARKING METERS. FEE GOES TO \$240 PER MONTH. I AM GOING TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE PARKING LOT AFTER JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>. ONE COULD POSSIBLY TURN THE PARKING LOT INTO TENNIS COURTS.

IF YOUR BIRTH NAME IS PAT FITZGERALD THEN DECEMBER 9, 2008 WAS A BIG DAY IN YOUR LIFE. NORTHWESTERN COACH PAT WAS INDUCTED INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME. U.S. ATTORNEY PAT HAD A VERY LONG DAY INCLUDING A SURPRISE PRE-BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET FOR THE GOVERNOR.

HAPPY TO SAY I VOTED FOR JUDY BARR TOPINKA.

HOPE TO GO TO THE NORTHWESTERN SPRING GAME.

I MISSED THE LINENS-N-THING LIQUIDATION SALE.

FOUR GREAT SEATS FOR UPCOMING ANDRE RIEU SHOW ON MAY 21, 2009.

A SIGN IN PALOS HEIGHTS: I MISS JIM EDGAR.

PRICE OF OIL WENT UP \$100 PER BARREL WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION. THE PRICE OF OIL WENT DOWN \$100 PER BARREL WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION. EVEN RASHEED AT MY LOCAL GAS STATION DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

AS I DRIVE PAST LONGWOOD (ACADEMY OF OUR LADY) HIGH SCHOOL AT 95<sup>TH</sup> & THROOP ST. ON A WEEKDAY MORNING I NOTICE THEY HAVE TWO CITY CROSSING GUARDS. WHEN LUKE O'TOOLE WAS 13 YEARS OLD HE USED TO TAKE CARE OF THE INTERSECTION BY HIMSELF. PERHAPS LUKE SHOULD GO THERE SOME MORNING AND SHOW THEM HOW TO DO IT WITH

ONE PERSON AND A PATROL BELT. IT WOULD SAVE RICHIE DALEY SOME CASH. RICHIE SHOULD HIRE LUKE AS A TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMISSIONER.

TUBES OF TOOTHPASTE DON'T ROLL UP LIKE THEY USED TO.

SLOW NEWS DAY ON T.V. – OPRAH BUYS A NEW COCKER SPANIEL.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THESE NEW CARS DON'T HAVE THAT SMALL FAN ON THE DASHBOARD TO CLEAR THE WINDSHIELD?

A SIGHT I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER SEE. CAROL MARIN DID A HALF-HOUR CHICAGO SPORTS INFORMATION SHOW ON W.T.T.W. WITH SOME PANELISTS. NO END TO HER TALENTS.

50 YEARS AGO A NOT TOO SHARP CO-WORKER OF MINE TOLD ME HOW TO CURE A COLD. TAKE A ½ PINT OF WHISKEY AND GO TO BED. MY REPLY WAS WHERE ELSE COULD YOU GO?

IN BASKETBALL, HOME TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR ALL WHITE UNIFORMS. WHY NOT HAVE THE VISITING TEAM WEAR WHITE AND HOME TEAMS SHOW OFF THE SCHOOL COLORS, LIKE THEY DO IN FOOTBALL GAMES?

WEEKDAYS IN THE WINTER ARE SO EXCITING THAT I NOW TAKE 2 NAPS A DAY.

I DON'T FORSEE ANYMORE POLITICAL HUG-A-THONS LIKE THE FARCE AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN 2008.

RECENTLY I SAW A MAN, WHO APPARENTLY HAD ONE GLASS OF EGGNOG TOO MANY HAVE A VERY VIOLENT ARGUMENT WITH A VACANT BUS STOP BENCH AT 103<sup>RD</sup> & PULASKI. NO CONTEST. HE WON HANDS DOWN.

THREE CHEERS FOR KELLY RIPA. SHE STATED THAT HER AMERICAN MADE YUKON AUTOMOBILE, BY FAR, OUT PERFORMED ALL THE FOREIGN CARS IN HER LONG ISLAND NEIGHBORHOOD DURING A RECENT SNOWSTORM. U.S.A!! U.S.A!!

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE IN THE POTHOLE CONTEST, CICERO AVENUE IN OAK LAWN.

IN ALL OF OUR YEARS OF 16" SOFTBALL THE ONLY PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT WE TOOK WAS BUDWEISER AFTER THE GAME.

I SAW MANY HIGH SCHOOL GAMES THIS YEAR. I DIDN'T SEE ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THE AREA. I MUST COMMEND ST. LAURENCE HIGH AND LEO HIGH CHEERING SECTIONS AS THE BEST BEHAVED I HAVE SEEN IN A WHILE.

STATE PLAYOFFS SHOULD PROVIDE MANY EXCITING GAMES. SURE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO PEORIA FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. FINDING SOMEONE TO GO WITH IS A PROBLEM FOR WEEKDAY GAMES.

OUR MASSIVE KITCHEN REMODELING IS GOING TO TAKE 6 WEEKS. MY ADVICE TO YOU IF YOU ARE GOING TO EMBARK ON THIS PROJECT IS TO GO TO FLORIDA FOR 6 WEEKS.

VERY DISTURBING TO SEE PHIL PONCE DO A FREE COMMERCIAL FOR STARBUCKS ON MY FAVORITE SHOW CHICAGO TONIGHT ON W.T.T.W. (PUBLIC TELEVISION).

DID YOU EVER REFLECT ON HOW MUCH WE MISS OVERRATED DAN RATHER AND TOM BROKAW? MAYOR FIORELLO LAGUARDIA USED TO READ THE SUNDAY FUNNIES TO THE CHILDREN JUST AS WELL.

WHILE SITTING IN MY CAR READING THE NEWSPAPERS IN A PALOS FOREST PRESERVE I SAW TWO COYOTES TROTting ABOUT 20 YARDS FROM MY CAR, NOT A VERY PLEASANT FEELING.

KUDOS TO CONGRESSMAN DAN LIPINSKI FOR TRYING TO MOUNT A "BUY AMERICAN" CAMPAIGN. BOO TO THE PEOPLE LIKE JACK NICKLAUS AND ARNOLD PALMER FOR PUTTING THEIR NAMES ON SHIRTS MADE IN FOREIGN LANDS. WHERE DID THEY MAKE THEIR MILLIONS?

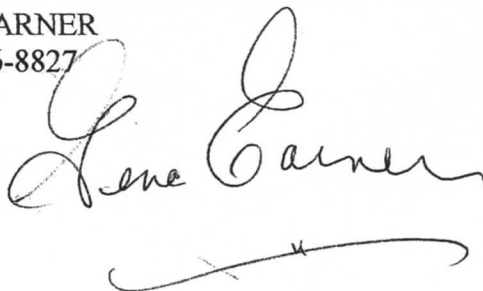
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF IT WEREN'T NECESSARY TO HAVE A MULTITUDE OF POLICEMEN AT THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ON WESTERN AVE?

PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PROVIDING THESE MUSINGS ARRIVE IN TIME.

HOPE THESE IRISH SONGS ARE WELL RECEIVED FOR IRISH HISTORY MONTH.

GOD BLESS,

GENE EARNER  
(708) 636-8827

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Earner". Below the signature is a decorative horizontal flourish consisting of a wavy line with a small crossbar in the center.