

**MUSINGS XVIII
APRIL TO JULY 2011**

THE MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA IS SUPPOSED TO BE A GREAT AMERICAN TRADITION. WHY THEN DO WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO BRITISH TV ANNOUNCERS?

WHY DO TV ANCHORS USE THE WORD KIDS INSTEAD OF CHILDREN? SISTER ADORA TOLD US THAT KIDS WERE GOATS.

THE MOST USELESS ITEM IN SPORTS TV IS HAVING TV INTERVIEWS IN DUGOUTS DURING THE GAME.

DON HOGAN AND I MIGHT APPLY FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER JOBS. I SLEEP MOSTLY DURING THE DAY ANYWAY.

I HAVE A CRUSH ON KIRSTIE ALLEY. MAYBE SHE CAN HAVE ME AS HER PARTNER IN THE NEXT "DANCING WITH THE STARS."

REMEMBER WHEN THE HIGH SCHOOL PEP RALLYS USED TO HAVE BONFIRES ON SATURDAY NIGHTS? SHEWBRIDGE FIELD FOR ONE.

HEY TIM McCARVER!! THE WORD IS OFFENSE NOT AHFENSE.

I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO OWN A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM CONSIDERING ALL OF THE EMPTY SEATS I SEE ON TV.

CAROL MARIN NEEDS AN UPDATED PHOTO FOR HER SUN-TIMES COLUMN. SHE IS CUTER THAN THE PHOTO.

HOW COME PHOTO ISN'T SPELLED WITH AN F (FOTO)?

DO MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS (BATTERS) HAVE TO REGRIP THEIR BATTING GLOVES AFTER EVERY PITCH?

MY 5TH GREAT-GRANDCHILD ARRIVED ON GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 22ND). A BOY NAMED OWEN MICHAEL O'NEILL. 2ND BOY FOR ERIN MALONEY O'NEILL AND KEVIN.

PEOPLE NORMALLY COMPLAIN ABOUT TAXES. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF PART OF YOUR TAXES SUPPORTED QUEEN ELIZABETH AND HER FAMILY AND PART OF YOUR TAXES PAID FOR THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ROYAL WEDDING?

DID WE REALLY NEED A BLOWN UP PICTURE OF KATE AND WILLIAM ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SUN-TIMES? THE CLERK AT THE 7-11 STORE SAID GEORGE WASHINGTON WOULD ROLL OVER IN HIS GRAVE IF HE SAW THAT PICTURE.

STEROIDS HAVE PUFFED UP MY FACE, NECK AND BELLY QUITE A BIT. HOWEVER, THE PAIN IS GONE.

REMEMBER WHEN SOL AT THE HABERDASHERY USED TO TELL YOUR MOTHER, "HE WILL GROW INTO IT."

RUMORS ARE PROBABLY THE MOST COMMON THINGS IN OUR DAILY LIVES. MOST OF THEM NEVER COME TO FRUITION AND MOST OF THEM BECOME DISTORTED. MOST OF THEM SHOULD GO AWAY. PHIL KADNER OF THE SOUTHTOWN STAR SHOULD GO AWAY BECAUSE OF THE FALSE RUMOR STATEMENT HE WROTE THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY ABOUT LEO HIGH SCHOOL. HE SAID THEY WERE FINANCIALLY FAILING. THAT IS THE FURTHEST FROM THE TRUTH. AS OF TODAY HE REFUSES TO APOLOGIZE. I OFFERED TO DRIVE HIM TO LEO TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE PLANS LEO HAS TO EXPAND. I THINK HE IS A WIMP.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FURTHER AND FARTHER?

KAY KEARNEY, A LIFE LONG FRIEND OF MINE SINCE 1938, DIED IN MAY. FORTUNATELY, I TOOK KAY AND HER SISTERS TO LUNCH ABOUT 2 WEEKS BEFORE SHE DIED. WHILE IN IRELAND, I WILL LIGHT A CANDLE FOR HER AT THE OUR LADY OF KNOCK SHRINE IN COUNTY MAYO.

CIVIL UNIONS ARE WRONG, IGNORANT, AND A BIG FARCE.

I'VE DECIDED NOT TO START A TWITTER OR FACEBOOK PAGE.

OUR TRIP TO IRELAND WAS EXCEPTIONAL. WE MET OUR ENTIRE ITINERARY.

1. BROTHER RICE'S 1ST SCHOOL IN WATERFORD. BROTHER GLEESON AND BROTHER HALE. BROTHER HALE HAS TAUGHT AT LEO AND BROTHER RICE.
2. THE BLARNEY STONE
3. THE RING OF KERRY
4. THE CLIFFS OF MOHER
5. BOTH FAMILIES OF EARNERS IN GALWAY. GRANDDAUGHTERS ALL HAD A DOUBLE SHOT OF JAMESON. THAT SHOULD MAKE MY DAUGHTER MARY AND I CHAPERONES OF THE YEAR.
6. OUR FRIENDS MICHAEL AND ANNA DOHERTY OF THE TARA HOUSE IN LOWER SALTHILL.
7. TOWN OF DOOLIN FOR SOME TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC.

8. OUR LADY OF KNOCK SHRINE. BROUGHT HOME 10 BOTTLES OF KNOCK WATER.
9. THE ARAN ISLES
10. SAW THE MERRY PLOUGHBOYS IN SOUTH DUBLIN.
11. WE EVEN TOOK A CAR FERRY RIDE ACROSS THE RIVER SHANNON.

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT EXCEPT FOR THE DAY WE VISITED THE ARAN ISLES. THE SEA WAS VERY ROUGH AND RAINY FOR THE 50 MINUTE BOAT TRIP TO THE ISLE OF INISHMORE. INISHMORE IS THE ONLY ISLAND WITH MOTORIZED VEHICLES. THE VANS ARE USED AS SIGHTSEEING FOR TOURISTS. THEY STILL HAVE HORSE AND CARRIAGES FOR TOURISTS AS WELL.

ON RETURNING HOME WE HAVE TO REMIND OURSELVES TO DRIVE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD. I MUST CONGRATULATE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ON THEIR NEW SUPER-HIGHWAYS. AMAZING TO ME ON WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.

THERE IS AN IRISH SONG ABOUT THE LAD WHO HAD A NEW SUPER HIGHWAY BUILT 6 FEET FROM HIS BACK DOOR. THE SONG SPOKE OF HOW LUCKY HE WAS. HE COULD SIT ON HIS BACK PORCH AND WATCH ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS GO BY.

NORTHWESTERN FOOTBALL TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 8TH. HOPE TO SEE EASTERN ILLINOIS GAME AND THE MICHIGAN GAME WHICH IS A NIGHT GAME. AFTER THAT, THE WEATHER CAN BE A BIT CHILLY.

CUB-SOX GAME ON JUNE 20TH WAS 8000 SHORT OF CAPACITY. DO YOU THINK THE RIDICULOUS PRICE OF TICKETS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT? NORTHWESTERN TICKETS ARE MORE REASONABLE THAN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL. ALSO NO DRUNKS AT HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GAMES. NO ALCOHOL SERVED. JUST HOT DOGS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ED McELROY GET MATT LAMB AS HIS GUEST ON HIS TV SHOW. THE SHOW WOULD PROBABLY EXPLODE ON THE RATINGS CHART.

IF A WOMAN IS ELECTED GOVERNOR, IS SHE KNOWN AS GOVERNOR OR GOVERNESS?

OUTSIDE OF THE ED McELROY SHOW, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING AS INTERESTING AS THE DR. PHIL SHOW?

RECENTLY IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT I ALWAYS PUT MY LEFT LEG INTO MY PANTS FIRST. I WONDER IF LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE PUT THEIR RIGHT LEG IN FIRST?

GOVERNOR PAT QUINN SIGNED A BILL THAT MAKES IT MANDATORY THAT PEOPLE IN THE BACK SEAT OF AN AUTOMOBILE HAVE TO "BUCKLE UP." A QUOTE FROM A YOUNG BOY ABOUT "SHOELESS" JOE JACKSON. "SAY IT AINT SO" PAT.

LOOK A LIKES:

1. KERRY SAYERS (FOX NEWS CHICAGO) AND DEIRDRE REILLY.
2. JACK McKEON (MANAGER OF THE MARLINS) AND ROB KENNEDY (EVERGREEN PARK)

MARIA SHRIVER HASN'T CALLED ME YET.

I WONDER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PHRASE "MORE OR LESS"?

DOES ZILLION FOLLOW TRILLION?

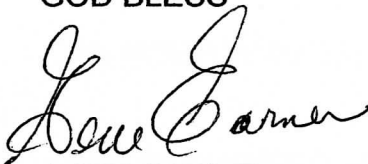
WATCHING BASEBALL GAMES ON TV THIS SUMMER I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF EJECTIONS. I THINK IT WOULD SPICE THINGS UP QUITE A BIT IF UMPIRES WERE EJECTED ON BAD CALLS.

I SAW MY CLASSMATE MATT LAMB ON "CHICAGO TONIGHT" ON WTTW. WHAT A FARCE. THE 1ST GRADERS THAT SEND THEIR ART WORK TO TRACY BUTLER ARE BETTER ARTISTS THAN HIM. ALSO, I HAVE SEEN HOMELESS PEOPLE LOOK BETTER THAN HIM. I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT HAS BEEN SINCE HE HAD A SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT.

THE LEO ALUMNI GOLF OUTING WAS A BIG SUCCESS. 240 GOLFERS. GREAT WEATHER AND GREAT CAMARADERIE. I SANG THE LEO FIGHT SONG AGAIN. ODDLY WE DO THAT INSTEAD OF GRACE BEFORE THE MEAL. 3 PEOPLE ASKED ME WHEN THE NEXT MUSINGS WERE TO BE MAILED. WELL, HERE IT IS. I HOPE THESE MUSINGS, AS ALL OF THE REST, FINDS EVERYONE IN A GREAT FRAME OF MIND, ATTITUDE AND FEELING.

GOD BLESS

GO PURPLE AND GO ORANGE AND BLACK



GENE EARNER

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JUG OF PUNCH

Tw'as early, early in the month of June
I was sitting with my glass and spoon.
A small bird sat on an ivy bunch
And the song he sang was a jug of punch

Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
A small bird sat on an ivy bunch
And the song he sang was a jug of punch

If I were sick, and very bad
And were not able to go or stand.
I would not think it all amiss
To pledge my shoes for a jug of punch

Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
I would not think it all amiss
To pledge my shoes for a jug of punch

What more diversion can a man desire
Than to sit him down by a snug turf fire.
Upon his knee a pretty wench
And upon his table a jug of punch.

Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
Upon his knee a pretty wench
And upon his table a jug of punch.

And when I'm dead and in my grave
No costly tombstone will I have
I'll dig a grave both wide and deep
With a jug of punch at my head and feet.

Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
Toor-a-loora-la, toor-a-loora-lay
I'll dig a grave both wide and deep
With a jug of punch at my head and feet.