

**MUSINGS XXII  
JUNE TO AUGUST 2012**

WENT TO MY GRANDSON'S WEDDING IN A HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO. MUCH TAMER THAN THE WEDDINGS I WENT TO IN THE 50'S AND 60'S. NOBODY THREW ANY WEDDING CAKE ON THE WALLS.

TRIVIA QUESTION: IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE "AMEN" DROPPED FROM THE "OUR FATHER"?

WHAT DID HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GIRLS DO BEFORE THE INVENTION OF THE CELL PHONE?

WATCHING A SOX GAME ON TV, I NOTICED THE SOX HAVE A FORD SIGN UP IN RIGHT FIELD. MUCH BETTER P.R. WORK THAN TOM RICKETTS' TOYOTA SIGN IN WRIGLEY FIELD. RICKETTS WANTS HELP FROM AMERICAN TAXPAYERS AND PUTS UP A JAP CARMAKER'S SIGN. THEY DON'T COME MUCH DUMBER THAN THAT.

RECENTLY I HEARD A T.V. REPORTER ASK A FELLOW ABOUT PRESSURE IN A SPORTS GAME. HIS REPLY, "PRESSURE IS FOR TIRES."

WHEN GOD INVENTED VEGETABLES, HE DIDN'T HAVE ME IN MIND.

ON JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>, THE WHITE SOX WILL BE IN NEW YORK. ON THAT NIGHT, THEY HAVE A CAMPOUT ON THE OUTFIELD GRASS AT US CELLULAR FIELD. MOST OF MY FAMILY ARE GOING. SOUNDS LIKE FUN. WE WILL BE HAVING CONTESTS ALL NIGHT LONG. SUCH AS, WHO CAN SWAT THE MOST MOSQUITOES, CATCH THE MOST FIREFLIES, ETC. ANYBODY LIKE TO JOIN US?

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEO AND NORTHWESTERN ALUMNUS HAROLD BLACKMON ON BEING NAMED THE HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL. "MY KIND OF TOWN CHICAGO IS."

HOW TIME FLIES. 50 YEARS AGO ON AUGUST 6, 1962 I PLAYED IN MY LAST SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME. WE WON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> WARD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TIME. IT WAS ALSO THE DAY MARILYN MONROE DIED.

THE TEMPERATURE TODAY IN CHICAGO IS 102 DEGREES. OUR AIR CONDITIONING IS SO GOOD I HAVE A SWEATER ON. SURE BEATS THE OLD DAYS OF A SMALL OSCILLATING FAN ON A NIGHTSTAND.

MOST BASEBALL AND 16 INCH SOFTBALL 3<sup>RD</sup> BASEMEN PLAY TOO DEEP.

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IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SLOW NEWS DAY WHEN ALL OF THE T.V. CHANNELS IN CHICAGO HAD TOM CRUISE'S DIVORCE AS THE LEAD STORY. I ALSO UNDERSTAND TOM IS GIVING UP HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY. SCREWBALL OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE!!

TOM AND KATIE ONLY SEE EYE TO EYE WHEN TOM IS STANDING ON A CHAIR. (HEARD ON LATE NIGHT T.V.)

I ONLY BELONG TO ONE ORGANIZATION, THE LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. RECENTLY AN INCOMING FRESHMAN TO LEO WAS MURDERED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO. THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS PAYING A PORTION OF THE FUNERAL EXPENSES. I AM VERY PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

IN WHAT YEAR DID THE EXPRESSION "SO MUCH FUN" CHANGE TO "SO FUN"? I IMAGINE ENGLISH TEACHERS ALL OVER THE USA ROLL THEIR EYES WHEN THEY HEAR THAT ONE. I KNOW I DO.

JIM KNAFF AND I WILL BE HEADING TO LONDON IN AUGUST. WE TIED FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ALTERNATE SPOT ON THE USA ROWING TEAM. LOOK FOR US.

IN THIS ERA OF BASEBALL, HOW COME NOBODY BLOCKS THE BASE WHEN MAKING A TAG EXCEPT THE CATCHER?

IN THE TALES OF MANY OF KING ARTHUR'S DINNER PARTIES, MANY OF THE PARTIES ENDED WITH PEOPLE THROWING GRAPES ETC. AT EACH OTHER. WE HAD A JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> COOKOUT (PARTY) IN OUR BACKYARD. NOBODY THREW FOOD AT EACH OTHER. I WAS VERY PROUD OF THEM.

"DRILL BABY DRILL" BUT DON'T SPILL ANY.

MARY AND JOAN KEARNEY TIED FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE IN THE CONEY ISLAND HOT DOG EATING CONTEST. THEY EACH ATE ½ OF A HOT DOG.

I NOW OWN THE C.D. "IRISH WEDDING SONG" BY FRANK PATTERSON. IT IS VERY BEAUTIFUL. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BORROW IT FOR A WEDDING, PLEASE CALL ME. IT MUST BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY.

TODAY IS JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>. I FEEL BETTER TODAY THAN I HAVE IN A YEAR AND A HALF. I MUST BE TAKING "WONDER PILLS."

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN PARTS OF THE LOCAL NEWS ARE AS INTERESTING AS THE CHINESE AND ARAB COOKING SPOTS ON THE NEWS.

JUST RECEIVED NEWS THAT OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> GREAT-GRANDCHILD IS ON THE WAY.

ONE OF ST. MARGARET'S FINEST LADS PASSED AWAY ON JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>. BUD GAVIN WAS PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR AND RESPECTED PERSON OF MY ERA. PROBABLY THE BEST ALL AROUND ATHLETE OF MY ERA. WELL DONE BUD.

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.

IF FATHER TOM McCARTHY (ST. RITA) GETS ANY MORE PROMOTIONS, HE WILL PROBABLY BE LISTED AS "OWNER" OF ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL. HE IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING PERSONS, EDUCATORS, AND ADMINISTRATORS IN CHICAGOLAND.

BARGAIN DEPT: ONLY \$49 TO PARK YOUR CAR AT SOLDIER FIELD FOR THE BEAR GAMES.

ASHAMED OF YOURSELF DEPARTMENT: THE PERSON THAT OK'D THE PURCHASE OF OLYMPIAN UNIFORMS TO BE MADE IN CHINA. SHOULD DO TIME BY WORKING IN A CHINESE CLOTHING FACTORY FOR 6 MONTHS AT CHINESE WAGES.

TOM EARNER FROM EYRECOURT CITY IN COUNTY GALWAY SENT ME A PAGE OF "WORDS OF WISDOM." I'LL PUT ONE IN EACH OF THE NEXT "MUSINGS." "A SMILE COSTS LESS ELECTRICITY AND GIVES MORE LIGHT."

AS A SMALL HOBBY, MY WARDROBE MAINLY CONSISTS OF T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, ETC OF SCHOOL LOGOS. LEO, NOTRE DAME, NORTHWESTERN, ILLINOIS, ST. XAVIER AND MONTANA STATE. WHY MONTANA STATE? I HAVE A NIECE WHOM WE VISITED IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA, THE HOME OF THE MONTANA STATE BOBCATS. PLENTY OF QUESTIONS. AT THE PRESENT TIME, I AM WORKING ON GETTING A KELLY GREEN HOODIE WITH "EARNER'S PUB" IN EYRECOURT, COUNTY GALWAY.

YOU KNOW MY LIFE HAS CHANGED WHEN I LOOK FORWARD TO EATING WATERMELON.

IF SOMEONE WOULD INVENT A MACHINE THAT PICKED WATERMELON SEEDS OUT OF A WATERMELON, I'D BE FIRST IN LINE TO BUY ONE.

WHY DOES "FOX NEWS CHICAGO" GET RID OF ALL THE PRETTY FACES LIKE AMY FREEZE AND KERRY SAYERS?

THREE CHEERS FOR THE TEAMSTERS UNION. NOT ONLY DID I HAVE A VERY GOOD INCOME BECAUSE OF THE TEAMSTERS, BUT I HAVE ENJOYED 24 YEARS OF A MONTHLY PENSION.

WHILE SITTING IN TOM AND MAIZIE EARNER'S HOUSE AT 20 SHANDON ROAD IN DUBLIN IN 1982, I HEARD "GREEN FIELDS OF FRANCE" FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEIR DAUGHTER MARGARET ANN EARNER SANG IT FOR US. I HAVE BEEN HOOKED ON IT EVER SINCE. IT IS A STORY OF YOUNG WILLIE McBRIDE WHO WAS KILLED DURING WORLD WAR I. WILLIE WAS 19 YEARS OLD AND BURIED IN FRANCE. VERY MOVING STORY AND SONG.

GO ORANGE AND BLACK!! GO PURPLE!!

GOD BLESS,

1-708-636-8827

GENE EARNER

## **GREEN FIELDS OF FRANCE**

Well how do you do young Willie McBride?  
Do you mind if I sit down here by your graveside  
And rest for a while 'neath the warm summer sun  
I've been walkin' all day and I'm nearly done  
I see by your gravestone you were only nineteen  
When you joined the great fallen of 1916.  
Well I hope you died quick and I hope you died clean.  
Willie McBride was it slow and obscene

### **CHORUS**

Did they beat the drum slowly, did they play the fife lowly,  
Did they sound the death march as they lowered you down  
Did the band play the last post and chorus,  
Did the pipes play the "Flowers of the Forest"

Did you leave a wife or a sweetheart for life  
In some faithful heart are you forever enshrined  
And although you died back in 1916  
In that faithful heart are you forever nineteen?  
Or are you a stranger without even a name  
Enshrined forever behind a glass pane  
In an ould photograph torn tattered and stained,  
Fading to yellow in a brown leather frame? CHORUS

Now the sun shines down on the green fields of France  
A warm summer wind makes the red poppys dance  
The trenches have vanished under the plows,  
There's no gas no barbed wire, there's no guns firing now  
But here in this graveyard it's still No Man's land,  
The countless white crosses stand mute in the sand  
For man's blind indifference to his fellow man,  
To a whole generation that was butchered and damned CHORUS

Now Willie McBride I can't help wonder why  
Do those who lie here do they know why they died  
Did they really believe when they answered the call  
Did they really believe that this war would end wars  
Forever this song of suffering and shame  
The killing the dying was all done in vain  
For young Willie McBride it's all happened again,  
And again, and again, and again and again CHORUS