

Aptos

6—Cabrillo Times & Green Sheet, Thursday, March 18,

# Irish nationalism abounded in area

By VINCENT LEONARD,  
President, Mid-County  
Historical Association

German armies had overrun Belgium and northern France, German submarines and surface craft were decimating the merchant shipping of the world.

There was a growing tension in this country and a growing sympathy for the Allied cause.

It seemed to most Americans a poor time for the Irish "troubles" to come to a bloody climax in Easter Week, 1916. Sinn Fein, they felt, has stabbed England, hard-pressed champion of Democracy, in the back. Sir Roger Casement richly deserved the traitor's death that England meted out for his hanky-panky with the Germans.

But the large Irish element in the Watsonville-to-Aptos area didn't see it that way, a Myra Harris, petite Missourian lately come to Watsonville High School as a teacher of history, was quick to discover. When she seemed to sanction the majority opinion, she had an Irish rebellion on her hands. Begorra! The Kellys, the Prindivilles, the Kanes, the Flynns, the Dennys, the Donahues, the Leonards, and the Murphys got their Irish up.

No matter what the theme for the day, one of the Fenians (or someone who hadn't prepared his lesson) would inject something about the shelling of the Dublin Post Office, the imprisonment of De Valera and his cohorts, or the atrocities committed by the Black-and-Tans and the brannigan was on.

Miss Harris handled things with tact and fairness, often turning an intended class disruption into a learning situation by challenging key arguments and driving arguers into unintended research.

Had she been a native to the area, she might have been spared much of this headache, for she could not have missed signs of Irish nationalism that abounded in the county. For over fifty years, St. Patrick's Day had been second only to the Fourth of July as an occasion for celebration and fiery oratory. Both Santa Cruz and Watsonville paraded floats and bands in honor of the Saint and elected a "Maid of Erin" to preside at the festivities.

Watsonville and Boulder Creek had churches dedicated to St. Patrick, and Father Peter Yorke's "Leader," a wildly militant Irish nationalist newspaper, was hawked on the steps of every Catholic Church in the county.

There were several reasons for the growth and persistence of this deep sympathy with the Irish cause. Few immigrants had left the Old Sod willingly. They had been driven out by hunger or by

O'Reilly of Capitola, and fiery Father Connealy of Santa Cruz had wide influence with them.

And anyone who used Poteen for bootleg whiskey and Shilelagh for cane should be a trustworthy friend. Just how long-lasting this linguistic tie has been is evidenced by the number of girls who today bear the Gaelic names Moira (Mary), Kathleen (little Katherine), and Maureen (little Mary).

It was children with these emotional ties to the Old Sod, children who had joined family prayers for the liberation of Ireland, children who had memorized the last words of Robert Emmet, who now mourned Casement and the martyrs of Easter Week that poor Miss Harris had to meet in a time of great stress for everyone. She did well.

Some of her Irish rebels fought the Kaiser and sent their sons to fight Hitler. Some have saluted the statue of Daniel O'Connell in Dublin, stood in thoughtful contemplation of the Treaty of Stone at Limerick, knelt reverently at an altar stone in the oaks near Torc Falls—then crossed the Irish Sea to stand in silent homage before the tomb of Winston Churchill.

## Welcome

By CAROLYN SWIFT

"Color Charisma," according to interior decorator and lecturer Mrs. Gordon Nordstrom, is the relationship between a person's moods and color consciousness.

Mrs. Nordstrom demonstrated these relationships for Welcome Wagon members and guests last Wednesday during a luncheon at the Pasatiempo Inn in Santa Cruz. With colored tissue paper, she illustrated the effect and use of pastel shades in a person's environment.

"Colors that are flowery and feminine," she said, "have a definite psychological impact. Blue, for example, is a receding color that is relaxing and exquisite. People who enjoy shades of blue usually have good powers of concentration. Traditionally, blue has represented rest, truth, calmness and constancy."

She said the feminine shades of the rainbow have been harder to detect in recent years because of popular and bright psychedelic colors.

"Warm colors, such as red and orange, are attractive to energetic people," Mrs. Nordstrom said, "But unless a softer color is added, the mood

paper, was hawked on the steps of every Catholic Church in the county.

There were several reasons for the growth and persistence of this deep sympathy with the Irish cause. Few immigrants had left the Old Sod willingly. They had been driven out by hunger or by the necessity to flee the vengeance of a conqueror they had defied. Usually, they had left loved ones behind and either contributed to their support or tried to get together enough money to bring them to America. Ties with homeland remained intimate. It was natural that their songs and stories should speak of their love of the Emerald Isle and its people, the long centuries of repression and persecution they had known, and their dream for a resurgent and again glorious Ireland-tear to the world, as she was in the days of Charlemagne.

The more intensely nationalistic among them even tried to train their descendants to go back to Erin, as De Valera had gone from New York, to lead the fight for freedom.

In the close-knit Irish families with their affectionate regard for parents and grandparents children drank in these sentiments without question.

Language, too, had a role in perpetuating loyalty to things Irish. The brogue, after all, is a dialect of English, and Irish immigrants did not have to learn the new tongue. As they spoke, their children spoke, even to the third generation.

Few of the elders spoke Gaelic, but Gaelic words abounded in their speech, especially the mild cuss words like Musha (pshaw), whist (come now), and Spalpeen (good-for-nothing), and terms of endearment, like Mavourneen (darling), Machree (my heart), and Alana (treasure). Colleen (girl) and Gossoon (boy) were often on their tongues. With everyone who spoke with a brogue their children would identify, so that Irish priests like gentle Father Hasset in Watsonville, scholarly Father

detect in recent years because of popular and bright psychedelic colors.

"Warm colors, such as red and orange, are attractive to energetic people," Mrs. Nordstrom said, "But unless a softer color is added, the mood becomes too active and jumpy." She described the brighter shades as intense and said they are most often worn by persons who wish to project themselves through colors rather than their own personalities. "Shy and inward people often wear bright colors as a compensation," she said.

In the past, red has represented passion, sex, anger, warmth and revolution, Mrs. Nordstrom explained. Cooler colors such as green and blue are restful, while yellow is a sign of cheerfulness and jealousy. Purple and gold shades have been used as symbols of royalty, justice and suffering. Pale blue and pink represent gentleness. "Who would ever dress a tiny baby in bright orange?" asked Mrs. Nordstrom.

The interior decoration instructor listed the colors designated by a British astrologer to be "lucky colors" for astrological signs. Among them were blue, the lucky color for Taurus and Aquarius, green for Cancer, red for Scorpio, silver for Virgo and scarlet for Capricorn. "It has been recommended," Mrs. Nordstrom said, "that persons under each

## Miss Webb Turner to n

Mr. and Mrs. Earl George Webb, 408 Hill St., Capitola, announced the May wedding plans of their daughter Earlene Anne to David Turner, son of Mrs. Betty Jo Weatherbie, 666 17th Ave., and Floyd Turner of Las Vegas.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Soquel High School and is employed at the Santa Cruz