

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, March 14, 1985 O&E

Ceili dancers keep Irish culture alive

By Marybeth O'Dillon
staff writer

LONDON-BORN MARY O'Hara can remember driving to Detroit from Windsor of a Friday evening to hear Irish music at the Gaelic League, near Tiger Stadium. Wisfully, she and husband Anthony, a transplanted Irishman, would gaze through the window at the closed-off stage area where Kitty Heinzman's Adult Ceili Dancers swirled, swung and swayed the night away, perfecting jigs, reels and hornpipes.

"I remember looking in and thinking, 'It would be so nice to join them. It looks like so much fun,'" said O'Hara. "One night I was standing in the doorway watching, and one of the dancers invited us in." Anthony was introduced to a one-time neighbor from County Mayo — instructor Kitty Heinzman.

Ever since, the O'Haras have been avid dancers, performing for senior citizens, at ethnic festivals, competitions and benefits with the international "Irish Aerobics" lovers Livonia's Kitty Heinzman organized eight years ago.

Heinzman, nee Catherine Moran, rightfully renamed the Friday night lessons. She works up an athlete's sweat moving among sets of dancers and shouting above Bob Paige's or Brian Bonner's live accordion music for hours at a time.

THE CEILI DANCERS hall from the

tri-county area and Canada.

"It's a good chance to work off the stress of the week with people you don't work with — it's complete escape," said dancer Lynne Reid, a Scottish-Canadian, during a break. "Sometimes it kills you for the weekend — it depends how long you stay."

Agreed dancer Susan Shaw: "Sometimes you wake up (the next morning) with sore feet."

While Heinzman would be the last to differ with her students, she's driven to dance for other reasons as well.

"Irish history — that thing is burning in me," said Heinzman, who left Ireland in 1958 at age 18.

"The old people told us, 'Don't forget where you came from.' You do have good times, but you can make a place richer," she said.

HAND IN HAND with her fiery determination to keep Irish culture alive goes the "message that the Irish and English can get along," added Heinzman, who works with an English music class.

Heinzman's 30-plus Ceili dancers are fluidly moving proof of that premise. Irish, English, Italian, German and American dancers, of all abilities and social strata, get along gracefully — on and off the stage.

"We're an apolitical group," said Reid, whose husband Mick also dances. "You can't ignore the political situation

(in Northern Ireland); you can't ignore reality — but I think this is a thing that (transcends) it. The emphasis here is on enjoying the music and the people — not on politics."

"We're like an extended family," she added.

STILL, IRELAND'S painful past and fervent faith are brought home each time dancers don their handmade costumes to perform. Women wear simply woven skirts and shawls, once the native dress of Ireland's female masses.

With their intricately embroidered shirts, men rekindle memories of eighth-century Irish monks who painstakingly illustrated the New Testament in "The Book of Kells." Patterns from its colorful, hand-lettered pages inspired the interlacing motifs on the men's loose-fitting tops.

Dance steps themselves may remind one of German, Russian or other folk dances. The movements, however, are rich with meaning.

"When England enforced the Penal Laws from 1697-1782, we were denied the freedom to speak Irish, to practice religion and to receive an education. Priests would come out of hiding to teach at 'hedge schools' — and Ceili dancing survived," Heinzman said.

"Ceili enabled the Irish to celebrate some of their religious beliefs, and communicate to other villages the joyful events that were taking place. It



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Bridget Moran of County Mayo and Fr. Thomas Flynn, pastor of Detroit's St. Eugene Catholic Church, demonstrate their skill in Irish dancing. The two are members of the Kitty Heinzman Adult Ceili Dancers, an international group that performs at community events throughout the

year. Often, response is so enthusiastic that dancers teach reels and jigs to the audience. Says Fr. Flynn: "It's good fun — also it enables us to really keep in touch with our heritage. It's a real joy for me."

also was used to educate people about historical facts."

Limerick — recalling years when cities were walled to ward off attacks — begins with dancers advancing toward each other, as in battle.

"The men and women fought side by side," said Heinzman. "You see the

Please turn to Next Page

Oscar shorts to be previewed

A gala preview of the films nominated for this year's Academy Awards in the category of Best Documentary Short Subject will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at the Thompson Home on the Wayne State University campus in Detroit.

Plans include a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception at the Thompson Home, which recently celebrated its centennial birthday. Tickets at \$15 are available by calling

287-5104.

Winners of 1984 Oscars will be announced at the annual Academy Awards Presentation on Monday, March 25, in California. Nominees in the Documentary Short Subject

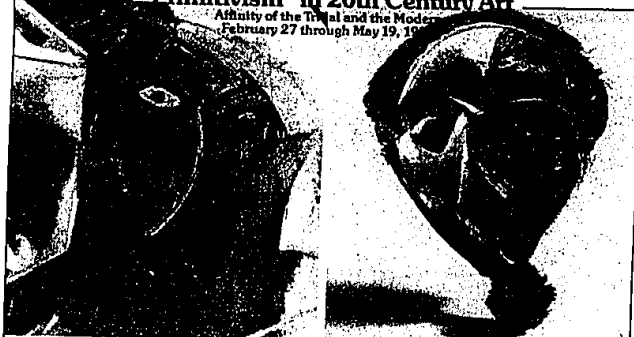
category are "The Children of Soon Ching Ling, UNICEF," "Code Gray: Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing," "The Garden of Eden," "Recollections of Pavlovsk," and "The Stone Carvers."

Two great shows in town:

"Primitivism" in 20th Century Art

Affinity of the Tribal and the Modern

February 27 through May 19, 1985

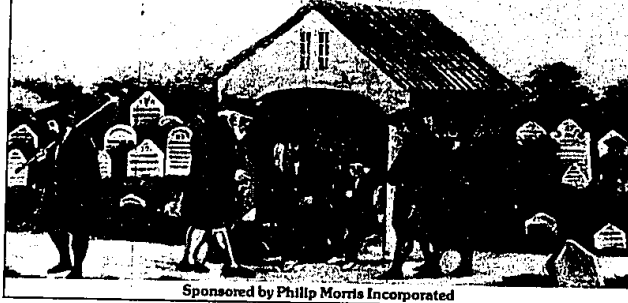


Sponsored by Philip Morris Incorporated and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Precious Legacy:

Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections

March 13 through May 5, 1985



Sponsored by Philip Morris Incorporated

Both at The Detroit Institute of Arts
5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-9959
Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Special evening hours on Wednesday and Thursday until
9 p.m. from Wednesday, March 13 to Thursday, May 2
For information call: (313) 832-2730

Philip Morris Incorporated

It takes art to make a company great.

Makers of Marlboro, Benson & Hedges 100's,
Mentol, Parliament Lights, Virginia Slims
and Players; Miller High Life Beer, Life Beer,
Lowenbrau Special and Dark Special Beers,
Mistral Brandy and Milwaukee's Best 7117.
DET LUP LINE Cola and Sugar Free LIME Cola.



(top left) LES DENOISELLES d'AVIGNON, Pablo Picasso, 1907 (detail) Collection: The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Acquired through the Lila P. Blum Bequest. (top right) MBUYA (SICRENESS) MASK, Pende, Zaire. Collection: Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium. (bottom) AFTER THE BURIAL (Artist Unknown), ca 1780. The Precious Legacy Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections is organized by the Smallwood Foundation, Prague. In cooperation with Project Jadaica, Mark E. Takman, Chairman, and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the National Committee of the Capital of Prague, and the State Jewish Museum in Prague. Photographs by Quiksilver Photographers, Washington, D.C. "The Precious Legacy" is published by Summit Books and is available in book form.



Walk in or Appointment: Whirlpool, Saunas, Showers, Oriental Staff, Massage, Pressure Massage, Private Rooms for Men and Women

TOKYO ORIENTAL HEALTH SPA
2844 Orchard Lk. Rd. in the Mt. Morris Plaza (between I-2 & I-94) Farmington Hills 553-2898

SHOGUN ORIENTAL HEALTH SPA
23100 Telegraph Rd. North of 8 Mile 356-7310
Monday-Saturday 10-2 A.M.

MOUNTAIN KING CHINESE MANDARIN RESTAURANT 山王飯店

Luncheon Specials include
Soup, egg roll or fried wonton, fried rice & tea.



BUILDERS HOME FLOWER FURNITURE SHOW: "THE FORECAST CALLS FOR FUN!"

March 16-24 Cobo Hall — Sonny Elliot

ACRES OF GARDENS
Stroll by gardens, gardens and waterfalls. Show your green thumb hundreds of landscaping ideas and floral arrangements.

SPECIAL SHOW DISCOUNTS
Saving money is always fun. You'll leave on hundreds of specially priced items.

\$5.00 SPECIAL FAMILY TICKET
Admits up to four (4) adults and accompanying children 18 and under. Children must be accompanied by adults. Available only at **FARMER JACK**

TICKETS
Adults \$3.75
Senior Citizens \$1.50
Students (6-12 yrs.) \$1.50
Kids under 6 free

WIN \$20,000
Enter the "House of Nuts" contest. \$20,000 could make a fine addition to your home... your life!

MODERNIZING AND REMODELING IDEAS
Discover new ways to use and save energy. Talk to the experts—they've got the answers for you.

BUILDERS HOME FLOWER FURNITURE SHOW
MARCH 16-24-COBO HALL

SHOWTIME
Saturday & Sunday 10am-11pm
Monday-Friday 1pm-11pm