

NOTES, QUERIES, AND MISCELLANEA

[1] There is not a great deal of truth to the rumor that the Northeastern power outage of October 1966 was a direct result of Luke O'Malley and Fintan Stanley simultaneously plugging their Flashing Astonisher Robo-Boxes into outlets closer than the 347 mile minimum recommended by the American Society of Electrical Engineers.

[2] Joe Derrane - who lives not 50 miles away from me up the wee boreen, across from the lime-white house where the witch, her talking broom, and her three-legged cat live - is NOT a German dwarf, his real name is NOT Moscovitz, and - amazingly - he really WAS dead for twenty years like we all thought!

[3] You can spend a lot of money on a custom-made Italian piano accordion crafted by Luke O'Malley's teacher, but he can arrange to have you badly injured if you ever refer to it as a "Tacco Belle".

[4] If John Durang wanted a specially composed hornpipe, why did he ask a guy named Hoffmeister to write it? Wasn't there an O'Reilly or a Glynn or for heaven's sake even a MacDougal around he could ask? Or did he just feel sorry because Hoffmeister was ... altitudinally challenged? And - more importantly, perhaps - wasn't there a deserter from the Hessian contingent at Valley Forge named Hoffmeister? or was that Hauptmunster? And was he [Hauptmunster] a dwarf [dwarf] too? Is any [any] of this important?

[5]

Q: what do "The Chicken Reel", "Turkeys in the Straw", "Pigeon on the Gate", "Nell Flaherty's Drake", "The Pretty Blue Seagull", "The Eagle's Whistle", and "Gander at the Pratie Hole" all have in common?

A: They are all in the Avian or Ornithian mode, which ethnomusicologists [and you know who you are!] have traced to the Canary Islands. By the way, all these tunes are played in Boston, where Larry BIRD is still much loved, the theater at Coolidge Corner shows vintage movies starring Walter PIDGEON, and CARDINAL O'Malley says the Mass on St. Patrick's Day. Coincidence....?

[6] Multiple choice: which of the following is probably NOT an American

traditional tune?

- [a] Smack my Yak Breakdown
- [b] The Floppy-Eared Wildebeest
- [c] Slobodan in the Low Ground
- [d] Astrakhan Traveller
- [e] Wallabytown Fling
- [f] Cincinnati Hornpipe

[7] Now that Shel Silverstein has gone to his reward, it may be time to replace "The Unicorn" with a similar useless ditty. I am working on one - perhaps a few years too late to take advantage of the "Jurassic Park" craze, alas - called "Terry O'Dactyl, the Irish Dinosaur". [I do NOT want flames from paleontologists - if they don't like it, they can write their own goddam song.] I will keep The List apprised of my progress or [more likely] lack thereof.

Thanks for your patience and now back to your treasured "Baywatch" reruns [which you stare at because you "swear you heard" Kevin Burke on the soundtrack somewhere]

Zouki

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