

**To live in terror**

**Letter from Ireland describes conflict**

**By Marion E. Lawrence**  
A bomb explodes in Bercorn Restaurant in Belfast, a woman is shot in crossfire between IRA and British soldiers. British soldiers are shot from speeding cars or from ambush, a child is accidentally shot while throwing a bomb for the IRA. These and more headlines have kept the Irish troubles before us for months and even years. Two years ago when we were over to the Auld Sod, the feeling then was that the soldiers would soon have the trouble well in hand and that overseas reporters and newspapers were making altogether too much of the matter. They worried more about what it was doing to their tourist business.

Christmas 1971 saw a great change. The same people said they couldn't seem to feel like Christmas. They couldn't work up any enthusiasm. Christmas didn't seem to have any place in North Ireland. One mother worried about a daughter and son-in-law in Belfast. Another told her daughter and son-in-law, just over the border not to come home for Christmas as the danger was too great with shooting at the border stations.

**Choose religious sides**  
To us here in Canada, such goings-on seem terrible. The Irish seem very backward, with their habit of choosing up sides with religion. To a tourist it can seem like going back 50 to 100 years here in Canada. I can remember my father talking about my great grandfather Miller at Creemore, when he settled in a Catholic community and they tried to put him out by playing tricks on him. Like way-laying him when he went calling on his girl, walking through the fields. He shot off his gun in the air, when he heard them in the underbrush. That caused a great scramble and for some reason he never had any more trouble.

There are stories of Catholics settling in Scotch protestant settlements having the same problem.

In the past the British do have a lot to answer for in Ireland. Because of their policy of suppressing Irish industry and especially Irish exports if they conflicted with England's, they gave the unemployed Catholics of Londonderry and Belfast a cause for dissatisfaction in 1970. This in turn gave the IRA their chance to get in there, under a pretense of helping. They helped alright, to put Northern Ireland into the Republic's waiting arms...or so it would seem by late events.

Here in Canada, it is hard to know what it must feel like to be caught up in such a holocaust. Even at Christmas, in my own mind, I felt that life was going on pretty much the same as in peaceful times in the small villages and towns. A letter received last week changed that attitude. It brought the Irish and their troubles into focus, showing just what it was really like to live your days in the midst of this horror. It answered the questions for me of:

**Madmen with bombs**  
What it is like to have madmen who come in your midst who throw bombs indiscriminately about with the object of killing or maiming as many as possible? It started me thinking about what can a body do when such people force change with violence and killing against your will, and why can't such criminals be brought to justice for brutal animal-like actions against their fellow man? Here is my Irish letter:

"I'm sure you think that I have forgotten about you completely but with so much happening around here these past few months, one just never thought about letter writing. Some days one would be glad to get to and from work safely without a thought of writing a letter and running to a post office with it. Well, I'm sure if you were back in Northern Ireland now you would not be able to recognize a lot of the towns and cities. Everywhere has been bombed

and burned down. It's terrible—the lives taken and the destruction caused has often depressed us so far that I have said on several occasions that I am going to emigrate and if it does get any worse I think I might have plenty of company with me, as one never knows what danger is awaiting us around the corner. "I'm sure you in Canada do not hear very much about it nor could you imagine what it is like until you live here.

**Neighbor wounded**  
"One of the saddest instances which has happened to someone near us is a girl, a neighbor of ours, and one whom I knew very well at school. She is the same age as me and was in having a cup of coffee in the Abercorn Restaurant in Belfast on the 27th day of February, when two people entered the restaurant and placed a bomb unnoticed where it went off a few seconds later, with the result one of her legs was blown off and the other was so badly fractured that it had to be removed too. She lost an eye and now apparently one of her lungs has collapsed. She was one of the victims. I think there were 126 admitted to hospital from that explosion altogether. Four killed and indeed I think in the case of Joan, whom I have told you about, and many others like her, people who have been badly maimed for life, I think they would have been happier killed completely rather than all the suffering.

"This sort of explosion, trying to take as many lives as possible, is happening every day here. You find it hard to understand how such evil people can do such hard-hearted things. I know I couldn't do it to an animal, let alone a human being.

"One morning a few weeks before Christmas we received a phone call at our office that a bomb had been planted in the building and to get out immediately. All alarms in the building were sounded and to tell you the truth, we were so scared we nearly killed each other in the doors, so many trying to get out at the same time. Luckily no one fainted as has happened in so many other places. Our boss had told us previously to run to a safe distance away, so off we went. It was raining and of course we hadn't time to go for our coats, so you can guess what a mess we were in. Anyway the police and Army were called and they went in with bomb detectors and searched the complete building but nothing was found. It was with reluctance that we all tramped back in to settle down to work again, as we were afraid that it might still be somewhere around the building, outside or inside, but luckily nothing went off and our lives were spared for another while. This is the kind of thing that is happening every day, bomb hoax or the real thing, and you never know what is going to happen next.

**Search all**  
"Mammy is living in real terror, because of (sister) and I having to go in to work in public buildings (government) and in case of something happening. We have now got what we call security guards at all the doors leading into our office, who search us, our handbags, pockets, parcels etc., each time

we come in at morning and lunch break, in case someone may be carrying a bomb in. They have to be particularly careful as members of the public have access in and out of our office and this is merely a precaution to try and stop a bomb being placed.

"(Sister) and I spent 17th March weekend (St. Patrick's Day holiday) with (another sister and brother-in-law) in Monaghan. We weren't very keen on crossing the border by ourselves so (other sister) came down and brought us up and we travelled in the middle of the day which was a great advantage as crossing the border at night now just doesn't seem to be done. We hadn't been up to see (other sister) from September last (they are really only a few miles apart - M. L. ) and although she and (brother-in-law) had been down here on several occasions (sister) and I had always been at work when they came during the day, so we never saw them but we always phoned each other up for a chat frequently. So it was great to get up for a few days (from Thursday to Monday) for a long chat and fun too.

**Strikes called**  
"29th March—I had to leave my letter writing last night as the electricity went off. You see, these past two days—Monday and Tuesday—were "Strike Days." Since last Thursday, Westminster Parliament has taken over Northern Ireland and our Stormont Parliament is abolished, therefore creating Direct Rule from Westminster, so naturally we protestants don't like this as we are afraid that Westminster will hand us over to the Free State or Eire and we become an all Ireland with the Roman Catholics having the majority and therefore ruling us from Dublin. So the Protestants called a two day strike to show our disapproval. Shops, offices, factories, schools in fact everywhere where any protestants worked, stopped work with the result that even the electricity was cut off all over Northern Ireland, thereby leaving almost everyone out of work as no factories or anywhere could go on without electricity. No bread was able to be baked in the bakeries. No newspapers were able to be printed, etc. So I think it really shook Westminster when they saw what strength we had behind

**MARIO'S PIZZERIA**  
152 Mill Street  
**Take Out & Delivery**  
878-3202

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
MEETS EVERY TUESDAY 9 p.m.  
GRACE ANGLICAN PARISH HALL  
HAVING A PROBLEM? DROP IN.

**West End MEAT MARKET**  
WE SERVE THE EAST END TOO

**MARCEL — JIM & ROSS HOLMES TO SERVE YOU**

**SPECIAL FOR THE WEEK**

**Burns Bologna 39c/Lb.**

Peameal Back **BACON 99c/Lb.**

**Baby Beef Liver 69c/Lb.**

**LET US FILL YOUR FREEZER ONLY RED BRAND BEEF**


**FRONT 63c/lb.**

**SIDE 73c/lb.**

**HIND 83c/lb.**

**WEST END MEAT MARKET**  
140 MAIN ST. 878-6501

**FAY'S ELECTRIC**



COMPLETE ELECTRIC SERVICE

- \* INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE
- \* ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
- \* ELECTRIC HEATING
- \* WATER HEATER RENTALS

878-2048  
FREE ESTIMATES

in Northern Ireland, but as yet we don't know the result. If we have gained anything or not." —end of letter.

I thought it was significant while watching the news, to hear that surprisingly enough, the good Catholics and the most prominent Catholic clergy supported the protestants in their strike, condemning emphatically the IRA for the atrocities and England's taking over the Stormont Government. When it came to the final moment, the Catholics had never figured on losing Stormont in their fight for more work and representation.

**Unity doubtful**  
It was equally evident that the Republic had never intended anything else. Their present attitude is one of expected

confidence and that all that remains is for everything to be smoothed over and forgotten. I wonder if it will be that easy. A united Ireland is a fine thing, but only if the majority in the North had wanted it, and that would be doubtful at this stage. Freedom that is forced on a people against their will isn't really a freedom, and leaves a great deal of bitterness that isn't soon forgotten.

Ireland is a lovely land, with wonderful warm-hearted people. It is doubtful if any other land has had a more unhappy past. It is to be hoped that when old bitterness pass away, there can still be a happy and prosperous future for her in the space age. (I'll have to admit tho' that I hope she keeps some of that old world charm that is typically Ireland.)

**Hornby woman field rep. travel counsellor program**

Sheridan College will offer two new one-year certificate programs - one to train garden centre merchandising personnel and another to train travel counsellors. Both start September, 1972.

Trisha Sweetman of Hornby is the new field representative for the travel counsellor program which will be offered at the Oakville campus. The program is designed to provide qualified personnel to be travel counsellors in travel agencies, bus and airline terminals, and any branch of the growing industry whose function is to serve the travelling public. Specialized subjects such as geography, merchandising and promotion, tariffs and ticketing, will be dealt with by experts from the field.

Successful graduates of the program may find work in over 400 travel agencies in Ontario or

any branch of the travel industry. Miss Sweetman is currently working as secretary and travel advisor at Mississauga Travel and was previously employed at Schlegel Company of Canada Limited, as secretary to the office manager. She attended the University of Western Ontario and has travelled extensively, having just returned from a

skiing trip to Czechoslovakia.

**J. R. Currie O.D.**  
**OPTOMETRIST**  
BURLINGTON MALL  
TELEPHONE 632-7788

**TILE**  
**CERAMIC - MOSAIC**  
**BATHROOMS & KITCHENS**  
**WALL TILE**  
ALSO HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS  
**BRUCE MCGINNIS**  
878-9700

**We're HOLDING the BAG!**



**MASTER FEEDS**  
ANNUAL  
**SPRING SALE**  
FARM AND URBAN  
**BARGAINS GALORE**

**SALE STARTS APRIL 21 THRU APRIL 29th**

**Free to Every Customer**  
**MONARCH CHICKEN CRISP COATING**  
**MONARCH RECIPE BOOKS**  
**RULERS**

**STORE HOURS - SALE WEEK**  
Monday - Thursday 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
Fridays 8 A.M. - 9 P.M.  
Saturday 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**DOG AIDS 25% OFF**  
**MASTER PET FOOD 15% OFF**

**FOR THE HORSE LOVERS**  
**FREE HORSE HEALTH GUIDES**  
**WESTERN SADDLES & BRIDLES 25% OFF**  
**WESTERN BOOTS, BELTS & HATS 25% OFF**  
**HORSE GROOMING AIDS & MEDICINES 25% OFF**  
MANY MORE ITEMS NOT MENTIONED TO CHOOSE FROM

**EVERYTHING IN OUR STORE ON SALE**  
**Discounts 5% - 25% Off Regular Prices**  
**FOR THE FARM FOLK**

Tools & Hardware	20% Off
Water Bowls	20% Off
Shovels & Forks	25% Off
Waterpipe Heat Cables	25% Off
Safety Hats	25% Off
<b>LIVESTOCK - DRUGS - SPRAYS</b>	<b>15% Off</b>
Dust - Dairy Supplies	15% Off
Overalls	20% Off
Rubber Boots	20% Off
Truck Tarps	25% Off
Wheelbarrows	10% Off
Electric Fencers & Acc.	20% Off
Fencer Batteries	20% Off

**FOR THE URBANITE**

PEAT MOSS	6 cu. ft.	\$4.29
ATLANTIC	4 cu. ft.	\$2.99
	1 cu. ft.	\$1.49
<b>LAWN &amp; GARDEN FERTILIZER</b>	777 50 lb. Bag	\$2.49
	10-6 4 50 lb. Bag	\$2.89
Flower & Vegetable Seed Pkg.		5% Off
Flower & Vegetable Dust		25% Off
Hand & Tank Sprayers		25% Off
Garden Tools		25% Off
Garden Hose		20% Off
Lawn Mowers		5% Off
8 H.P. Garden Tractors		5% Off
Lawn Sprayers		20% Off
Aluminum Ladders		20% Off
Electrical Appliances		25% Off

**YOUR ONE STOP FARM AND GARDEN SERVICE CENTRE**

**MASTER FEEDS**  
STEWARTTOWN (R.R. 2 GEORGETOWN) 877-3512 877-7375