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Quote of the Month:

“And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

- Edward Winslow

? Ask Dr. Brush



Contributed by:
Max Carthew
C.E.O.

“It’s only a mile and a half from Kilarney”

When they said, “it’s only a mile and a half from Kilarney” I should have known better. We had heard this before in Dublin, Athey and Wicklow where it seemed that quite short distances on the map took many hours of riding to reach the place. Then my partner, Annick reminded me that it’s not the destination or the time between points that matter it’s really all about the journey. Like so many that have visited the “Emerald Isle” we threw away our itinerary on the second day, when we learnt that all roads lead to beauty, peace and grand hospitality.

Our adventure began in Sheffield – England where we rented our bikes. This was the closest rental place to our destination and is located in a charming part of England known as “The Peak District”. Shaun and Lori from Rainbow Motorcycles welcomed us on Monday and we loaded the two R1100RT’s ready for the trip to Ireland. Annick amazed me by getting all her stuff on board and I still had room in one empty side bag for my toothbrush! Our friends Todd and Sharon from Imlay City were anxious to try their hand at driving on the wrong side of the road, so off we went. It’s amazing how quickly you pick up driving on the left when there are others to follow, but watch out in the early morning when you are on your own!

The drive across Wales to Holyhead was uneventful, except we found that our craft was not sailing that day due to “problems”. So we stopped overnight on the island of Anglesey, which is often overlooked by tourists (us included). We spent a delightful day exploring the coast road and the castle at Beaumaris. Wherever we stopped we became celebrities. People came from nowhere to find out all about the bikes and our trip. One older traveler was so engrossed that he forgot about his wife in the car who was waiting to go to lunch. Only when he saw her leaving the parking lot did he drag himself away.

Ireland is an amazing place! It has freshness and an honesty that you feel at once. The people we met were so much fun that we could not fail to fall in love with the place. We took to rating the pubs on a scale of one to five. After a while we noticed that so many were fours or fives that it really didn’t matter where you went. Except for that one place where we found out about “a hot Jamey” which is what they call a heated Jamiesons with water. An enormous bearded lady who could serve you single-handed as she always had an ice cream or a drink in her best hand served us. That day we had ridden the hilly coast roads of Dingle bay in the rain and we were desperate for some Irish whiskey. It only rained one day while we were there so our gamble of touring in September had paid off and we missed a lot of traffic and tourists as the schools were back.

The bikes were great although a bit heavy two up with all our gear and this Englishman is only 5’-6” and 160lb. Correction 170lb since this trip, that should tell you something about the food. Of course Todd and I were on a competition to see who could discover the sweetest dessert. Todd beat me hands down as he has a trained eye for these matters. I think the “Spotted dick with treacle” took the prize.

Our lady passengers were a joy! They always had an encouraging word over the “chatterbox” when we kept finding our way back to the same point. Forget all about North and South, it does not exist in Ireland, and there is no such thing as a straight road. If you ask for directions make sure you mention the nearest Pub to your destination or they will tell you they never heard of such a place in Ireland. There are a lot of Pubs and that’s the place to be any evening. That’s where you will discover which nag won the 3:30 or where is the loveliest place to visit in those parts. If you have any difficulty with the accent, be sure to have another double Jamey and it will all come clear.

We traveled about 1400 miles before heading back to Dublin and I can honestly say we enjoyed every one of them. We only saw the South so we have a good reason to return. We hear the North has its own special charm and I suspect it will not be too long before we find out for ourselves.



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New Portable Hand Held Anemometer



COMING EARLY 2004

Here is an update on the portable Handheld Windsonic 2-axis acoustic anemometer that OMEGA is developing using Gill's fixed mount Windsonic sensor. Design of the casing for the instrument is nearly completed with one prototype already made and is pictured below. The next and final prototype should be completed by year-end with further field testing and improvements to follow shortly after. The software is being developed specifically for this instrument through the IPAQ Pocket PC and will include several ways to log data. Data logging will be implemented via Pocket Excel and will be transferable to a Desktop PC. Once the data has been logged users will be able to easily manipulate the data through Microsoft Excel. Expect to see both prototypes on-site for field-testing as soon as early December 2003 and available for purchase in the first quarter of 2004. Some of the benefits of the proposed handheld are:

- Airflow readings can be easily stored in Microsoft Excel while they are measured.
- Airflow can be instantly graphed or mapped and displayed.
- Data can be transferred from the removable IPAQ Pocket PC to a Desktop PC with the included charging cradle and a USB port.
- The IPAQ Pocket PC is removable and can be used for other purposes.
- The IPAQ Pocket PC can be configured to take measurements at any interval.
- Data collection is limited only by the amount of free memory on the IPAQ.

*Contributed by: James Epifano
Kettering Co-op Student*

Ford Edison Plant Closing at the end of February 2004 will put an end to Omega's 10 year service contract. In 1992 Omega partnered with Kenetech Energy Management, to reduce energy at the FORD Edison Assembly Plant, Paint Department. Omega reduced airflow in the Paint spray booths and updated controls to allow the system to be easily balanced and idled during non-production. Since then Omega has been on site monthly to make sure the system was achieving and improving the desired savings. Things have changed a lot in 10 years at Edison, but it has always been a pleasure working with everyone in the Paint Department.

*Contributed by: Bill Ringrose
Manufacturing/R&D Manager*

CURRENT PROJECTS

- ❖ OMEGA has been awarded contracts by several local firms for spraybooth and oven services.
- ❖ The second phase of the GM energy initiative has been awarded to their Tier 1 supplier – ROI Energy/Benham Constructors. OMEGA and Duckworth have been awarded engineering projects for this second phase at Flint, Shreveport and Arlington plants.
- ❖ Currently, as the only authorized supplier in the United States, OMEGA continues to provide sales and repairs to Gill Anemometer Instruments. Please contact Bill Ringrose for any questions regarding Gill products.

BRAGGING CORNER

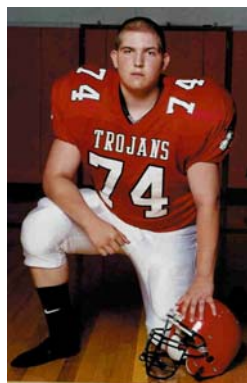


Max, Annick, and friends, touring Ireland on motorcycle. See Dr. Brush article for complete story.



Mary Margaret and John Curt sporting their new hats from Papa Max and Nana. Mary Margaret decided again, for the third year in a row, to make a last minute costume change to a kitty cat for Halloween. She is enrolled in tap and ballet classes (tap is a little too loud). John is sitting up on his own now and will soon be attempting to crawl. He especially loves having Mary Margaret around!

Billy Ringrose was moved up to Varsity Football at Clarenceville High School, for the last game of the season and the playoffs. They won their first game but lost the second. Now he's on the Varsity Bowling team he is carrying a 185 average, not too bad for 15 year old.



Bill's grandson, Nathan at 6 months old dressed up as Eeyore for his very first Halloween.

Mich - Again



Snowboarding, a Michigan sport

FREERIDE



www.ridesnowboards.com/boards

The Rockies, the Alps. One immediately dreams of high peaks and plunging ski slopes to make your heart skip several beats, but what do you think about Michigan and winter sports? Did you know that we are the home of Snowboarding? What began as a few kids fooling around on crude boards on our beautiful but less than plunging slopes turned into a proper sport—a Michigan-created sport—one that, within a few years of its creation became an official part of the winter Olympics and has taken the world by storm?

From a small investment most kids could afford, now we're talking big business. As the sport evolved, so did the boards, the technique and the accompanying gear such as clothing, (yep, you must look "cool"). There are about 50-100 different snowboard companies out there. The most important snowboarding challenge is finding a pair of comfortable boots that also perform well. And, of course, you must stay in shape to maintain your snowboarding edge—don't think about getting away from your computer for an hour or two and have fun on a local hill. No, you must stretch and pump iron and work on your abs so you can flip and turn and jump in the air.

Aficionados, especially young people, love this thrilling sport, but if you're over fifty and are thinking of quitting your present employment for a resort job, go for it . . . and try to work behind a reception desk!

Contributed by: Annick Hivert-Carthew



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Thanksgiving Facts



- ✎ *1621 – The first Thanksgiving.*
- ✎ *Congress and/or Presidents often declared Thanksgiving Days, but never on a set date from the years 1777-1940.*
- ✎ *President Roosevelt established the fourth Thursday of November to be the national Thanksgiving holiday in 1941.*
- ✎ *Turkey is the most popular meat because that was the most readily available meat during the year 1621.*
- ✎ *The Turkey feast as most Americans understand it is not necessarily what was on the menu the first Thanksgiving. Our food traditions are only about 200 years old.*
- ✎ *The plentiful harvest was cause for hospitality with “neighbors” as thanks was given for the abundance of the crops.*