

### Newsletter - August 2015



*Members of the Fagan family leaving for America from Dublin Port, 1956*

#### Greetings!

Summer, as always, is swooshing by! I had a blast at Square Roots Fest in Lincoln Square a few weeks ago. Thanks to all of you who stopped by the tent. It was encouraging to hear positive feedback on MfM's mission: to capture a life story and tell the stories behind your pictures.

July also brought new partnerships. I've enjoyed working with Gilda's Club here in Chicago to provide memoir writing workshops for their teen camp and adult learning programs. Gilda's Club provides free resources to anyone impacted by cancer. Please check them out [here](#). Participants had amazing stories to tell about bravery, faith, love and forgiveness.

Finally, I've been busy with great projects; from a couple celebrating 10 years of marriage with memories of their honeymoon, to a 97 year-old Irishman with the glorious gift of the gab, to a retiring Marine with 3 tours of duty under his belt.

Read on below for a sample of one of these life stories I was lucky to help capture.

#### Featured Story: Pearse "Pop" Fagan

Patrick Pearse Fagan was born July 30th, 1918 in Summerhill, Co. Meath, Ireland. He is the eldest of seven brothers and sisters, all born at home with the help of a neighbor midwife.

*No hospital. We're all pretty hardy.*

This was common in rural Ireland.

*The midwife would ride around the village on her bike, with her big bag on the back of it. When we were young lads, we didn't know anything about babies being born. We used to think that she was bringing the babies in the bag.*

These midwives had their work cut out for them with the commonly large Irish families.



*If you saw the nurse's bike outside a house, you'd say, 'oh, they must be getting a baby. I see the nurse with the bag outside.'*

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Thanks for reading! See you next month.

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