Irish American Vernacular English

THE JAZZ (TEAS, *pron.* JASS, HEAT, EXCITEMENT, PASSION) OF SAN FRANCISCO BASEBALL IN 1913
by Daniel Cassidy St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2005

These are just a few of the Irish words -- spelled phonetically -- in San Francisco Bulletin sports reporter Edward “Scoop” Gleeson’s jazzy 1913 baseball columns.

“JIMMY LEWIS LEADING SLUGGER OF COAST LEAGUE”

Slugger: a batter or hitter in baseball. Also a boxer.
Slacaire: A batter, a banger, a bruiser, a mauler.
“Slac” is a bat.


Rooter: A baseball fan who rants, boasts, harangues, and gives out endless loud rants of idle nonsensical coarse language.
Root: to shout and harangue for your team and against the opposition.

“One game, the first one, was all that the San Francisco delegation could lay its hands upon, and now some are even unkind enough to say it was a fluke.” *S.F. Bulletin*, p. 14, April 8, 1912

Chucker: a pitcher or tosser.
Teilgeoir (*pron.* chulker or julker): a pitcher, a tosser, someone who pitches or tosses.
Fluke: A rare reward or occurrence.
Fo-luach (*pron.* Fu-look): a rare reward or occurrence.
“It may have been the Easter Season...but tis a fact, “Chic” Hartley actually broke through his shell yesterday and glommed a couple of hits.” “Scoop” Gleeson, SF Bulletin, p. 18, April 15, 1912.

Glommer, a grabber.
Glámaire, a grabber.
Glom: to grab.
Glám: to grab or clutch.

Full Page Cartoon, S.F. Bulletin sports page, April 9, 1912, p. 18.
“It is said the long-necked dude had bet some coconuts on the game.”

Seals’ stadium bleachers crammed with a menagerie of zoo animals rooting madly for the San Francisco Seals Pacific Coast team. One of the animals in the cartoon rooting for the Seals is a long-necked giraffe, who is labeled a “Dude” in the cartoon.

Dúd, dúid: A dolt, a stupid person, a shy self-conscious person, a long-necked person, a foolish-looking fellow. A long-necked, mopish, shy, stupid looking person.

The slugger, chucker, glommer, and dude all rooted for the San Francisco Seals in Irish. It was no English fluke (fo-luach, a rare occurrence.) It was Irish linguistic jazz (teas, jass, heat.)


“H.E.A.T. Is a staple product of Los Angeles and Manager Dillon must have had some of it expressed to Oakland for use in the third game. However the Seals invoked the aid of “jazz” which keeps equally in hot or cold weather and were able to win out on a 3 to 2 score.”

Jazz


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