

in claiming that the theory that the Indo-European conquerors borrowed customs from their pre-Celtic precursors has no basis in his view.

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## MARGO HEARNE

### Children of Ireland

While watching children's soccer in America  
one day  
I noticed all the care and food and stuff pushed  
their way  
At half-time, half an orange, at quarter time, a  
drink  
then more food and fruit juice  
it made me think  
of days I used to hurtle through the fields of  
summer  
chasing hurling balls and footballs  
how I dashed a handball  
against the side of some old barn,  
at noontime, with Jim, had a great swing to my  
arm

I don't remember, ever, sucking on an orange  
and as for drinking fruit juice?  
Well, we'd cut across the fields for milk  
swinging an old can  
had it filled each day, drinking as we ran  
Were often chased by cattle  
Irish ones are wild  
unlike tame beef bovines  
sleepy-eyed and mild.

Sometimes, of course, we'd race inside and  
turning on the tap  
would hop from foot to foot while we waiting  
for the cup  
to fill, which, with a gulp was dry  
then we'd flash outside  
drops falling through the air  
to catch the flying, windswept air about us  
and race away  
and never look behind us as we ran.

Margo Hearne emigrated to Toronto from Ireland in 1971, moved west via Banff, Elkford, Kasba Lake, N.W.T., and has lived in Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii since 1974. She has been published in Peter Gzowski's Morningside Papers (1989), the Guardian Weekly, and various local papers.