

## Dublin – 2008

*Reporter: Brian, I had a wonderful experience last year. I got a chance to go to the town I know you come from, to Dublin. It made a big impression on me, really.*

Brian: That's great to hear. I'm glad to hear that you had a nice time. It's a wonderful place to visit at any time of the year.

*Reporter: It was. People were so hospitable. The first day I got in about Sunday night, I thought, "Gee, it's ten o'clock, maybe ten thirty, eleven o'clock. I'd like to get something to eat," and I said, "Is there any place I can go?"*

*And they looked at me blankly and said, "Well, just walk down the street." And there were two pubs within walking distance, and both of them were open. I was amazed. They were absolutely crammed with people. There was a wonderful life ... social life going on.*

Brian: Yes, indeed, people are very sociable, and very interested in people who visit our country. And we always like to stop and talk, and find out where you are from, and what are you going to do, and ... We're always happy to give some advice.

*Reporter: You are right, people asked where I was from, and right away we were included and asked questions, and taken into the conversations. It was a very pleasant experience. And the following day, we bought a ticket on this bus that goes round and round and round the center.*

Brian: Yes, yes.

*Reporter: That was a great idea, 'cause you could buy the ticket, get off wherever you wanted to, and then go back on the bus. You didn't have to pay again; you paid for the day, so that you could visit all kinds of places. But it was a rather small city center, I thought.*

Brian: Yeah well, Dublin is a nice compact city center, you are right there. And this so-called hop-on, hop-off bus tour is an ideal way to get to know the city, because as you know, it travels around, and stops at all the interesting sites and buildings.

And, as you also know, there are a lot of different interesting places to visit, for example, Trinity College or Dublin Castle, or even the Guinness Brewery where you can see where they brew the world famous Guinness.

*Reporter: I've been there; done that, have the t-shirt. Wonderful, it was just wonderful, yeah.*

Brian: Great.

*Reporter: Another thing that was nice about those buses was that they talked the whole time.*

*They told you about where you were going.  
It was a constant stream of information that was being given to you about these  
places that you went to.*

Brian: Yes. Irish people are very talkative by nature. And I think the drivers that they get for those buses are extra talkative ... and ...

*Reporter: Yes, they are!*

Brian: ...and they have a lot of different stories, and interesting stories about these places which are full of history, and so on.

*Reporter: Yeah and one of the things I found interesting was when we got down to the city center, he showed us near the Post Office, where there had been a revolt in Easter, way back in nineteen sixty. That you could see the bullet holes all over the statues.*

Brian: Yeah, that was ... or that is the GPO, the General Post Office, which is a very important building in the Ireland's history, because it's where we had our Easter rising or Easter revolution in nineteen sixteen. On Easter Monday, nineteen sixteen, against British rule in Ireland.

And ... This was the place where the leaders of the revolution took over the building, and read out a proclamation declaring Irish independence, and they held the building for 1 week, and there was a lot of fighting, and ... and ...

*Reporter: Yeah, you could still see the scars.*

Brian: Yes, and the building, as you said, has been kept in more or less the same way, and you can see the bullet holes, and its living history.

*Reporter: It is living history.*

Brian: There's a big Viking history in Dublin too. I think the Viking time was an interesting time because Dublin was named, or we get our name from the Vikings who came, and they were a little bit bold, shall we say. They robbed and took our nice goods, and charlottes and took some of our women too and sailed them back to Norway.