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March 16, 2003

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The 32nd Annual Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade The "Nation's" Parade



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St. Patrick's Day Parade
Committee of Washington, D.C.
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
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The corporation will neither make nor allow to make any expression or sign that, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, is deemed to be political or sectarian or that in any way violates the purpose of the Corporation.

Any and all new business that is outside the ordinary or necessary conduct of the staging of the annual parade must be submitted only to the Board of Directors for consideration and vote.

Adopted unanimously: Feb. 4, 1989

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Michael T. Kalder

ADVERTISING

Ginny Kelly
Donna Moore

PHOTOGRAPHY

Barbara Macken
Patricia McBride
John McShane

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A BIG "Thank You" goes out to Mr. Ryan Kelly and Maryland Jockey Club, Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park in providing our props (Irish racing silks and various racing equipment for this year's cover photo!



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John and Joyce Flynn



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The "Nation's" Parade

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March 16, 2003

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 32nd anniversary of the Nation's Saint Patrick's Day Parade. This year Chris McCarron, Hall of Fame Jockey, and the winner of six Triple Crown races, will be honored as our Grand Marshal. Long time area residents, John and Joyce Flynn, of the Bricklayers International Union are being honored as our Gaels of the year. Our Division Marshals, Connie Morella, Jimmy Fagan and Jack Crown are being honored for their service to our country or their service to the Irish community.

Our theme this year is "On Track to the Winners Circle." Our theme not only pays tribute to the accomplishments of Grand Marshal McCarron, and the other honored guests but to all the brave Irish people who departed their home land in poverty and through their perseverance and hard work found success and happiness on the shores of America.

Our committee has been energetic and dynamic this year in addressing our long-term goal of transforming our annual parade into a day of family fun and celebration in the District of Columbia. We are indebted to the Government of the District of Columbia and the National Park Service for their support in this endeavor. In addition, we are indebted to our advertisers, sponsors, patrons and all local Irish Pub and Restaurant owners who provide their selfless and dedicated support. Without them and their support this event would not be a reality. They are all identified in this magazine and we ask that you extend your thanks to them by patronizing their establishments and businesses.

Our new and updated website, at dcpatsparade.com, is an exciting adventure into the parade, its people and all the Irish activities and functions that precede this special event. Please join us at our website and become a regular visitor.

On behalf of the 2003 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, I wish to extend to each and every one of you the blessings of Saint Patrick on the special day of celebration.

Sincerely yours,

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IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From the earliest days of our Republic, America has inspired the hopes and dreams of countless individuals from around the world who have come to share in our gifts of freedom, justice, and opportunity. During Irish-American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of these talented and industrious citizens and recognize their rich legacy of ingenuity, creativity, and achievement.

Throughout our history, America has welcomed millions of Irish immigrants to its shores. These proud people arrived seeking a better life for themselves, their families and future generations. Many courageous individuals came during the terrible years of Ireland's Great Famine in the middle of the 19th century, and their road to prosperity was not easy. Many faced significant obstacles, including discrimination and poverty. Despite these challenges, Irish Americans have risen to success in every sector of our society.

Americans of Irish descent have played a vital role in shaping our history and culture. Nineteen Presidents of the United States have claimed Irish heritage. One-third to one-half of the American troops during the Revolutionary War and 9 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Irish Americans. Irish Americans explored our frontiers, built many of our Nation's bridges, canals, railroads, and their proud record of public service helped to fortify our democracy.

In all areas of American life, Irish Americans have made significant and enduring contributions to our great country. America is a better Nation because of the efforts of Irish Americans like Henry Ford, who spurred innovation; Bing Crosby, who entertained countless people around the world; and activist Mary Kenney O'Sullivan, who worked for critical and compassionate social reform. These individuals are just a few of the many Irish Americans who helped to transform our national identity and whose accomplishments reflect the determinations, joy, and hope of the Irish. The faith, perseverance, and spirit of the Irish have helped to strengthen our families, our communities, our ideals and our national character.

Today, approximately one in four Americans can trace their ancestry in part to Ireland's green shores, and we are proud of and grateful for the many Irish Americans who continue to enrich our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2003 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by learning about and commemorating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

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Céad Míle Fáilte

It gives me great pleasure, as Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, to extend warmest good wishes to all involved in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington D.C..

I would like to congratulate all those who worked so hard during the year to ensure that the residents of the District and indeed people from across the greater Washington metropolitan area, are able to join with the Irish community in Ireland and around the world in celebration at this time.

St. Patrick's Day presents a valuable opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the shared heritage between the United States and Ireland. The St Patrick's Day parade here in the nation's capital is just one manifestation of the strength of the enduring relationship between both countries.

Beannachtaí na Féile Padraig oraibh go léir.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Noel Fahey'.

Noel Fahey

Ambassador of Ireland



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On Track to the Winner's Circle

*Hall of Fame Jockey Chris McCarron
Honored as 2003 Grand Marshal*

by Marie Matthews



The Irish love horses. Their families have bred horses for generations, and Irish mares are found all over the world. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, the vast majority of British cavalry horses were produced in Ireland. For the last hundred years, Ireland has been a source of thoroughbreds, hunters, showjumpers, pleasure horses and children's ponies, not only for the English but for the rest of the world. Today, during racing season, RTE sports reports usually lead with the racing results. There are ads offering the average citizen a chance to buy into a race horse. "Making the dream of horse ownership a reality!" The Horse Show is a cornerstone of the Dublin social season. Tourists flock in from around the world. Even the money reflects this affection — the twenty pence coin is embossed with the image of a noble Irish horse!

And, of course, where there are horses, there are riders. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to honor a superb athlete, jockey Chris McCarron, as our Grand Marshal for 2003.

Chris was born in 1955 in Dorchester, Massachusetts, the seventh of nine children of Herbert and Helen Maguire McCarron. He grew up in a predominately Irish neighborhood and attended parochial school. When Chris was a freshman in high school, his brother Gregg was introduced to the racing world by a co-worker. Gregg got Chris a summer job working with horses for trainer Odie Clelland, and Chris was hooked.

There are no schools for jockeys in the United States. Aspiring jockeys get a job with a trainer and learn by trial-and-error. After graduation, Chris continued to learn about the training and riding of thoroughbred race horses at Suffolk Downs in Boston. He then followed trainer Clelland to Maryland when his mentor moved to Bowie. His first race was in Bowie in January 1974 — and he finished last. Within a month, he rode the winning mount. It was also during this time that he met Judy, a young girl also smitten by horses who worked with Clelland. They were married in 1976.

In 1973, Chris was witness to an historic event when jockey

Sandy Hawley rode to his 486th win — the most wins in one year. Chris went to the winner's circle and jumped up and down, hoping to be included in one of the pictures. He missed that opportunity, but he needn't have worried.

A year later — his first as a jockey — it was he in the pictures, as he broke Hawley's record with 546 wins after competing in 2199 races, which was also a record. The winning record stood for fifteen years. He was honored with the 1974 Eclipse Award for outstanding achievement as the nation's leading apprentice.

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John & Joyce Flynn

by Joseph Barry

Caption: Joyce & John Flynn at this year's Project Children Benefit.



The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee for the Nation's Capitol is proud to honor Joyce and John Flynn as its 2003 Gaels of the Year. The Flynn's have dedicated the majority of their lives to improving the lot of working men and women. John Flynn is the President of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen (BAC) and Joyce has been a principal fundraiser and director of various political and union activities, including the Democratic National Committee and the Labor Heritage Foundation.

In his 2000 election acceptance remarks, President Flynn stated "I am humbled. I started out as a bricklayer just looking for a steady job. I will do the best job I can for all of you and all the members."

Former BAC President Jack Joyce said: "No one in the history of the International Union has been better prepared for the job of president of BAC than John. His combination of local, international and industry experience makes him uniquely qualified. He will be an outstanding leader, and I wish him well."

Business Manager Don Brown of Local 1 in Missouri nominated Flynn for the BAC Presidency. Recalling John's unparalleled loyalty to the Union, Brown reflected, "I take pride in nominating my friend, I know of no one who is more sincere, better qualified or more dedicated than John Flynn to serve as president for the next five years. Being from John's hometown and home local, I can tell you that his friends and the membership of St. Louis Local 1 are extremely proud of the leadership and conviction John has shown throughout his career as a bricklayer and officer."

Seconding the nomination was Minnesota Local 1 President, Gary Goblirsch, who noted since taking over as president, "John has initiated new programs and shifted spending back to those programs and services that directly benefit every member. While John is not afraid to take a stand on any issue, he is also willing to listen and consider another point of view. Our rank and file has no better spokesman or advocate than John Flynn. John became an apprentice bricklayer in 1952 in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as a journeyman, foreman and superintendent before becoming business agent of his Local overseeing day to day operations. John then served as business manager for eight years and has accrued over 50 years membership in Local 1.

John J. Flynn, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen (BAC), became president of his union on June 1, 1999, filling the remainder of the term of John T. Joyce, who retired. The BAC is the oldest continuously operating union in the United States and Canada. Flynn became co-chair of the International Masonry Institute, the Bricklayers and Trowel Trades International Pension Fund, and the International Health Fund with his ascension to president.

John Flynn has been a member of the BAC's Executive Board for over 15 years, first as Executive Vice President and since 1995 as Secretary-Treasurer. Prior to this he was assistant to the International Union's President and the International Union's Director of Trade Jurisdictions. During this period Flynn established the International's sophisticated Organizing Program.

John's previous board and committee posts include the General President's

Committee on Contract Maintenance, National Joint Heavy and Highway Committee, Associated General Contractors Basic Trades Committee, Board of Directors of Pride-The St. Louis Construction Industry Labor Management Committee, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and the United Way. John has headed the St. Louis Building and Construction Trade Council, the St. Louis County Democratic Party, and the Associated General Contractors Basic Trades Committee. He is a graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program.

Masonry workers in North America have protected their job benefits by organizing. Journeyman stonemasons in New York City called an early union strike in 1823 to support a ten-hour workday. Craft Union in Canada began major organizing campaigns in the 1850's, because employers were trying to dismantle the wage system and undermine the worker's standard of living.

Cont'd. on page 48



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The Early History of Horse Racing

by Donna Moore

It is said that the first horse race occurred the day the first horseman met the second horseman. There are accounts of horse-driven chariot races of speed and endurance centuries before the Christian era. For instance, Homer gives a graphic description of such a race in *The Iliad*. Racing on mounted horses dates only from the first millennium BC. Previously no breed of horse hardy enough to carry human riders for significant distances had been developed. The first known formal, mounted horse races took place in ancient Greece. In Roman times horse races occasionally were held, although chariot races were much more frequent. After the fall of Rome in the 5th century AD, horse breeding and racing declined in the West.

When the Arabs conquered Spain in the 8th century, they rode strong, swift horses of a breed previously unknown in Europe. These horses were also used to draw vehicles. The fame of the Arabian horses spread throughout Europe in subsequent centuries. In 1110, Henry I imported into Britain, an Arabian stallion from Spain. In 1174, the first public racecourse built since Roman times was constructed in London. Mounted racing subsequently became a featured sport at most English fairs and it continues to be a favorite pastime of English royalty. However, the sport of horseracing similar as that today did not become popular until the reign of James I. Queen Anne was also a patron of horse racing and was the first to give royal cups to the winners.

All modern Thoroughbreds have as common ancestors one or more of three stallions, the Byerly Turk, the Darley Arabian, and the Godolphin Barb, which were imported into Great Britain from the Middle East and North Africa between 1689 and 1724. Mated with strong English mares, they produced offspring with both speed and endurance. Today, Thoroughbreds that compete in organized racing are registered in the official national studbooks of their country of birth. The British studbook was begun in 1791; stud records in the United States go back to 1873.

In 1730, Samuel Patton and Samuel Gist imported the first British racehorse into Virginia. The horse, named Bulle Rock, was foaled in 1718, and

was a descendent of the Darley Arabian. For the next 50 years racers were imported, bred to American stock and racing flourished in Virginia and Carolina. The first race meetings in America were held in 1753 in Virginia and the first regular racing organization was formed in Charleston, South Carolina in February of that year. In Virginia, race meetings were held at Newmarket, Tree Hill, Broad Rock and Fairview. All of them were the center of social life and General Washington acted as judge at one of the Newmarket meetings. In Maryland, Annapolis and Baltimore followed shortly with their own racetracks. Records of races during that period are fragmentary, although there are many accounts of races for rich stakes.

By the time of the American Revolution, many stud farms were established from Long Island to the Carolinas. During that war, little occurred with racing but after the surrender of Cornwallis, racing again began to flourish in Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas but it was not until 1815 that races in America had regularly kept and authentic records. Among the owners and patrons of racing in the 18th century were Col. William Alston, Gen. George Washington, John Randolph of Virginia and Gen. Wade Hampton.

In 1894 the Jockey Club, an American organization modeled on the British Jockey Club was incorporated in New York City to encourage the breeding of Thoroughbred horses and the maintenance of high ethical standards in horse racing. It drew up a code that became the basis of American racing procedure and conduct and took over the American Stud Book in 1896, which maintained the bureau of registry for all American Thoroughbreds.

During the 20th century, the popularity of horse racing increased in most parts of the world. In the United States, a wave of reformist sentiment caused bookmaking to be outlawed in many states. However, most of the same states later legalized pari-mutuel betting, partly because large revenues were easily obtainable through state taxes on the system. Most states with legal pari-mutuel systems also assumed control of local racing by creating racing commissions, which eventually diminished the influence of the Jockey Club.

During the 1930's winter racing, especially in California and Florida, transformed horse racing into a year-round sport. As the industry continued to expand, it created a need for a centralized national authority.

In March 1942 the Thoroughbred Racing Association of the United States was founded in Chicago. It is now headquartered in New York and still embodies a code of standards aimed at encouraging a high level of ethics in racing. ■



The Real Saint Patrick: Who was he?



Authored by Paul Mullan, 2000

A stained glass image of a man in bishop's garb and crozier adorns one window of the beautiful Church of Ireland chapel at Saul near Downpatrick, County Down. This is, of course, St Patrick, who it is believed, built his first Church on that very site. Whether he did or not, we do not know; tradition claims so much for him but the facts remain elusive. This is the problem with Patrick.

One thing that we can be sure of is that over the last 1500 years he has captured the imagination of many people in Ireland in a variety of ways. For many he is the man who brought the first light of Christianity to Ireland; for others he is little more than an excuse for a party, a parade and coloured beer.

In His Own Words

So who was the real St Patrick? We can confidently say that he was a real person. He tells us so himself, having left us a record, his *Confessio*, a justification of his life, written in Latin when he was an old man. This authentic record is a fascinating insight into Patrick, the man; written in his own words, we hear all about his fears and concerns, but little concrete about the places he went to, churches he established and people he met.

What facts, then, does he give us? He tells us, he was from Bannavem Taberniae, part of Roman Britain. Scholars have placed this settlement in a number of places: Carlisle, Devon and Wales are amongst the claimants. He was kidnapped from his Christian family by an Irish raiding party and taken to Ireland at the age of 16. As a captive in Ireland he herded animals, either sheep or pigs - his Latin is ambiguous on this point - in the wood of Foclut. Foclut was either in Mayo, or a corruption of the tribal name Voluntii, an Ulster Tribe. Unfortunately, he makes no mention of Slemish in County Antrim, which may only be a later tradition. Then, six years after his arrival, he escaped from his captors and made his way back home.

Faith Returns

Why, then, did Patrick return to Ireland? He tells us that having lost his faith as a child he found it again while in Ireland. After his escape he became a priest, possibly studying at a monastery in France. Then, many years later, he returned, having heard the 'voice of the Irish' in a dream, calling him back to spread the word of God. The Irish Annalists, working from records 200 years after Patrick's time, give us a date of 432 AD for his return. This very precise date arises from the fact that, in 431, Pope Celestine sent the Bishop Palladius to Ireland. As little more is heard of Palladius it was assumed that he either died on his way to Ireland or on arrival, and that

Patrick followed soon after. Some scholars speculate that the Annalists deliberately shoehorned Patrick into a 432 entrance, because, by the time they were writing, Patrick was viewed as the pre-eminent apostle to Ireland. Others, like Palladius, may have been conveniently airbrushed out of the story. The lack of clear information on Palladius has left much room for speculation.

Two Patricks? A Contemporary Controversy

One of the greatest controversies is the idea that there may have been two Patricks. This arises from entries in *The Annals of Ulster* indicating the death of Patrick in 461, and again in 491 (the other Annals say 493)! Could 461 then be a record of the death of Palladius? Perhaps Palladius took the name Patrick on arrival in Ireland? 491 may actually record the death of the St Patrick of the *Confessio*. This is one of the arguments for the two Patricks claim.

Ireland's First Christian : Truth or Myth

So did Patrick or Palladius bring Christianity to Ireland? No, there already were Christians in Ireland before Patrick. The first Christians may have been people, like Patrick, brought to Ireland as slaves, or others who had traded with, or even lived for a time within, the Roman Empire. The evidence is compelling: for the Bishop Palladius to have been sent from Rome a Christian community must have been already been established in Ireland, probably arriving as early as the 4th Century.

The Celtic Church

An interesting issue about this early period is whether there was any distinction between the 'Celtic Church' and the more traditional Roman Church. Some see Patrick as the embodiment of the Celtic Church, with Palladius representing the latter. This is seen by many as an attempt to view the past through the political and religious distinctions of today. However, what may actually be being picked up here are tensions between the established Christian orthodoxy and the newer Irish Christianity built over older pagan ways. That tension came to its conclusion at the synod of Whitby in 664 when a debate over the use of the Celtic or Roman tonsure and method of dating of Easter was finally resolved with the Celtic Church adopting the Roman way.

Cont'd. on page 32



2002 Parade Trophys & Awards



Best Band—Irish American Club Award

Sponsor: Irish American Club

Winner: Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band

Best Local Band – The Dunn Family Award

Sponsor: Tom Dunn

Winner: F.W. Ballou Marching Knights H.S. Band

Best Visiting Band—Police Emerald Society of the Washington, DC Area

Sponsor: Police Emerald Society of the Washington, DC Area

Winner: Valley Forge Military Academy & College Marching Band

Best Pipe Band – Joseph A. Donnelly Memorial Award

Sponsor: Megan Donnelly

Winner: Colonial Pipers Bag Pipe Band

Best Fife & Drum Corp. – The Macken Family Award

Sponsor: Barbara Macken

Winner: American Originals Fife & Drum Corps

Best Antique Car – Pat & Flo Cady Memorial Award

Sponsor: DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

Winner: National Capital Area Chapter of Pontiac/Oakland International

Best Antique Fire Apparatus – W. Howard "Howie" McClennan Award

Sponsor: Jim Snyder

Winner: L.C. Smith, Inc. VA. Knights of Columbus of Arlington

Best Novelty – Emerald Society Firefighters of Washington, DC

Sponsor: Emerald Society Firefighters of Washington, DC

Winner: Aolbheas an Rince Irish Dancers

Best Marching Unit – Patrick E. Lee Memorial Award

Sponsor: Matt Lee

Winner: Eire Heads, Washington, DC

Best Adult Marching Unit – Vincent Finn Memorial Award

Sponsor: Bob Mulcrone

Winner: Ancient Order Of Hibernians

Best Youth Marching Unit – Jack Gallagher Memorial Award

Sponsor: Isabelle Gallagher

Winner: Boy & Cub Scout Drum & Bugle Corps Troop and Pack 461

Best Musical Award – John O'Brien Memorial Award

Sponsor: American Foundation for Irish Heritage

Winner: Prince Georges County Police Pipe Band

Best Dance School-The Fahey & Mann Families Award

Sponsor: Tom Mann

Winner: Maple School of Irish Dance

Marshal's Award – Frances J. Tiernan Outstanding Enthusiasm

Sponsor: DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshals

Winner: Mary of Nazareth Varsity and Jr. Varsity Cheerleading Squads

Best Overall – O'Neill James School of Dance Award

Sponsor: O'Neill James School of Dance

Winner: O'Neill James School of Dance

Most Humorous – The Rafferty Family Award

Sponsor: Shannon Savage

Winner: Oak View Circus Club

Best Pet Unit – The Savage-Lowery Family Award

Sponsor: John & Shannon Savage

Winner: Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club

People's Choice Award – P.G. County Firefighters Emerald Society

Sponsor: P.G. County Firefighters Emerald Society

Winner: Metropolitan AllStarr High Steppers

Best Theme – Jim Monahan Memorial Award

Sponsor: Kathy Monahan Murphy

Winner: MD/DC Chapter Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge WWII

Best ROTC Unit – Colonel John J. Murphy Memorial Award

Sponsor: Kathy Monahan Murphy

Winner: Northwestern High School Naval JROTC

Best Performing Group-John Donnelly Memorial Award

Sponsor: American Foundation for Irish Heritage

Winner: Donnelly School of Irish Dance

A Sincere "Thank You" goes out to the
St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee
volunteer photographers.

*John McShane
Barbara Macken
Patricia McBride*

Without you, there's no visual...
only words. GREAT JOB! - MTK



IRISH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Irish book discussion group has been meeting for several years. The group consists of a membership which has a good range of ages, from late 20's to 70's, and a wide range of educational backgrounds. The participants decide which books to read and discuss. Currently the group has decided to read fiction (novels, plays, short stories, poetry) one month and non-fiction (history, politics, essays) the next month. This continues on an alternative

basis throughout the year. The participants propose selected, interesting volumes for each category and after a vote on those works suggested, the top three voted are published to the general membership with the months wherein they will be read. The membership currently votes on fiction and nonfiction suggestions at separate elections since so many quality works are proposed for

each category. The members vote for three works for each category so that participants will know approximately six months ahead which volumes are to be read which months. This procedure makes it easier for members to read ahead if they so desire and it also makes it easier for members to make the best arrangements as to where, when and how to obtain the selected books. Sometimes this may merely involve borrowing some books from a library and sometimes it involves purchasing some books.

The monthly discussions are led by the participants on a voluntary, rotating basis. Some individuals enjoy leading the monthly discussions while other members of the group prefer the nonleading, participant role. Each participant at each monthly session is free to become as involved in the discussion as he or she wishes. It is very common for a participant to be very involved in a particular discussion one month and the next month to be more passive and listen to others' views. The members are free to participate to the

extent of their comfort level. Respect for each individual's views is paramount. While discussions can, and often do, become quite involved, it is interesting to note that the members develop during their participation a great appreciation for others' views and many good friendships have developed through the group.

Monthly meetings are held at the Four Provinces restaurant in Falls Church City and on alternative months at a participant's

house. Meetings at members' residences consist of a potluck dinner where the individual contributions are coordinated by the volunteer householder. Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month. In the event that the first Monday of the month is a federal holiday, the scheduled meeting is then moved to the first Thursday of the month.

The group has had additional activities such as a presentation of a taped interview which was conducted by Professor Colleen Owens of George Mason University. Professor Owens attended a potluck dinner of the group, played the tape and participated in a lively discussion afterwards which included a question and answer session with Professor Owens. This was particularly enjoyable for all in attendance since the group had read two of Edna O'Brien's works by the time of the presentation.

The group is currently considering and planning trips to Ellis Island, New York City for its Saint Patrick's day parade, and other venues. Plans are also underway to begin a second book discussion group which would concentrate solely on the works of James Joyce and to begin an Irish book discussion group which would meet in the Montgomery County-Howard County area. ■

For further information, please contact:

Edward Patrick Moran (703)820-2854, Fax(703)263-9699

PO Box 8650

Falls Church VA 22041-8650

The Saint Patrick Centre Downpatrick, County Down

St Patrick is celebrated by millions of people Worldwide every year but have you ever stopped to wonder where he was buried? The answer lies in the heart of County Down, Northern Ireland, nestled between the Mountains of Mourne and Strangford Lough Nature Reserve some two hours north of Dublin in a small town fittingly called Downpatrick.

Here over 1500 years ago Patrick came as a Bishop to bring Christianity to the Irish who had taken him as a slave, and it was here he established the first church in Ireland in a barn (Saul in Irish), which still stands a mile outside the town. Nearby in a small valley at a place called Struell Patrick created the first holy

Cont'd. on page 30

Happy St. Patrick's Day



to my

Daughters, Sons and Friends

Father Frank



The Doonbeg Valley Irish Wolfhound Club



www.pvifwc.org

Wishes you a Happy St. Patrick's Day

Visit us at our 2003 Specialty Month and meet the wolfhounds at

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March 30 - 31, 2003

Ann Flanagan, President

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Prince George's County



Firefighter's Emerald Society

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President

Larry Armstrong
1st Vice President

Ford Gallagher
2nd Vice President

John Shaffer
Chairman

Denise Dickens
Secretary

Ernie Alsop
Treasurer

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Chris Sefton
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as the "Gaels of the Year" award
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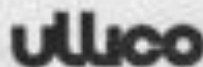
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In Memoriam



Charles B. Vaughn

A native of Ohio, Charles B. "Charlie" Vaughn was a 1952 graduate of the College of Steubenville. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II and later served in Korea. In 1989 Charlie retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency after 35 years of service. He was a member of The Ancient Order of Hibernians and served on the District of Columbia State Board. He was instrumental in organizing the first Virginia AOH Division and reorganized the AOH Division in Cumberland, Maryland. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Washing Council 224. Charlie was a member of the Washington, D.C. Irish American Club and a long time member of the D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He was the first official Parade Committee photographer. As the size of the parade increased, Charlie recruited assistants from among family and friends. When the soon to be famous Pat Cady came to town, he and Charlie worked together for many years and became good friends. Charlie also recruited units to march in the parade, set up the first band judging competition and recruited most of the judges. Charlie was co-founder and President of the American Irish Bicentennial Committee and was instrumental in moving the parade to its current location on Constitution Avenue prior to the Bicentennial celebration. In 1974 Charlie was appointed, by the Governor, to the Maryland State Ethnic Commission, where he served for 10 years representing Irish interests. Charlie was married for 47 years to Anna Madden Vaughn. They had seven children who have also been active in the Irish community. Charlie passed away on July 17, 2002. We will miss you Charlie and for all you did for us we thank you. ■



death in an automobile accident. She was deeply missed when she departed this area for Dallas, but word of her passing brought a sadness that touched everyone deeply. May she rest in peace. In her honor The Police Emerald Society Established the Donna Bramlett Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donation to this fund may be sent c/o the Police Emerald Society 6006 Greenbelt Road # 320, Greenbelt, MD 20770. ■

Mary V. Donovan

The Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Mourns the loss of our Esteemed Charter Member Mary V. Donovan. Mary was 84 years young and passed away peacefully April 30, 2002. We will miss her smile and her many kind ways. Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club was co-founded, 1973, by her husband, the late Senator John A.K. Donovan. Mary was active in club meeting and events until death. She was in charge of weather for our many events and was rarely off the mark for a sunny day. Mary hosted the PVIWC's Fun Match at her home in Falls Church, VA for over twenty five years. Mary marched in every Washington, DC St. Patrick's Day Parade except last year, when she was there in spirit, and represented by her Granddaughter, Mora and her Great-Grandson, Ambrose. As was befitting as her place in our hearts, she was presented with a grand send off with Irish Wolfhounds attending her wake and funeral. An Honor Guard of 8 Great Wolfhounds saluted her entrance to the church and again saluted her to her final resting place with John in the cemetery. She will always be in our hearts and never far from our minds. May she rest in Peace. ■



Donna Gail Bramlett

(1962 - 2002)

Donna Gail Bramlett was born in Pasadena, Texas on November 22, 1962. She spent several youthful years in Argentina until her family settled in Halstead, Kansas, where Donna received her High School education. Donna graduated from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas in 1984 with a degree in nursing. She moved to Laurel Maryland where she subsequently earned a Masters of Science in Health Policy from the University of Maryland. Donna became an active member of the D. C. Police Emerald Society and the D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. She faithfully served these organizations in several capacities, including a position as member of the Police Emerald Society Board of Directors. She was honored as the Emerald Society's Woman of the year for her dedicated efforts. A Health and Human Services Medicare/Medicaid Specialist, Donna served in Manhattan, Baltimore, Dallas and at the time of her death was under transfer to the Kansas City Field Office. She was engaged to Tim W. Cornelius of Salina, Kansas. On January 19, 2002 The Washington Irish community was shocked to learn on Donna's untimely



God Love Ya!
We Always Will



Our own Irish Gael
Patrick William Cady
1923 - 1998

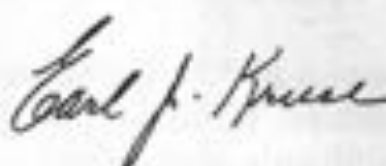
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*and Congratulations to D.C.'s 32nd Anniversary of
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**Earl J. Kruse
Int'l President**



**Kinsey M. Robinson
Int'l Secretary-Treasurer**



2003 Auctions



Silent Auction Donors

A sincere "Thank You" goes out to all those individuals, restaurant and pub owners whose contributions to this year's silent auction.

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The Bottom Line
Ms. Virginia Kelly
The Front Page Restaurant & Grille
Mr. Shaun Fitzpatrick
Mr & Mrs Robert Monagan
Mrs. Peg O'Beirne-the American Foundation
for Irish Heritage
Cafe' Soleil
Ms. Portia Hargrove

Mrs. Donna Moore
Laurel Racetrack
Madhatter
Ms. Kathleen Gibbons
Drs. Brown and Rogers—Megan
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RDH, (Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan and
Silver), Mr and Mrs Chris Piper
Mr. Thomas Mann
Mrs Bernadette Troy and the Irish Walk
WBIG-FM

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A sincere "Thank You" goes out to all those individuals, restaurant/pub owners and distributors whose contributions to this year's fundraisers (held over the last four months) made this year's fundriasers such a success!

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The Irish Channel
Nanny O'Brien's
Murphy's of Virginia

Flanagan's Irish Pub
Mrs. O'Leary's Restaurant & Irish Pub
Ireland's Four Courts
Ireland's Four Provinces

(See page 54 for more information on restaurants and pubs that participated this year.)

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The 32nd Annual Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade
"THE NATION'S PARADE"

"On Track to the Winner's Circle"

Sunday, March 16, 2003



Parade Order of March



As of 03/07/03

- United States National Anthem: Pat Garvey
- Irish National Anthem: Daniel Sugrue
- Invocation: Rev. Msgr. Salvatore Criscuolo, Chaplain of the Washington D.C. Fire and Police Departments, as well as: Emerald Society, Firefighters of Washington and the Police Emerald Society of Washington, DC area.
- Master of Ceremonies: Michael Judge
- Ireland's Ambassador: Noel Fahey

DIVISION A

1. METROPOLITAN POLICE MOTORCYCLES IN "V" FORMATION WITH COLOR GUARD
2. LARRY MCCOY, Commander, 4th District, Metropolitan Police Department
3. METROPOLITAN POLICE MOUNTED UNIT, Horses
4. HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY BANNER, IRISH AMERICAN CLUB, McAuliffe Family
5. **GRAND MARSHAL: CHRIS MCCARRON.** National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame member, he won his first race in Maryland in 1974. He has won over 6,800 races including Kentucky Derbys with Alysheba and Go for Gin, three Breeder Cup Classics and two Preakness Stakes
6. **COMMANDER OF TROOPS**
7. **JOINT MILITARY STAFF**
8. **U.S. AIR FORCE BAND**
9. **U.S. ARMY MARCHING PLATOON**
10. **U.S. MARINE MARCHING PLATOON**
11. **U.S. NAVY MARCHING PLATOON**
12. **U.S. ARMED FORCES COLOR GUARD**
13. **U.S. AIR FORCE MARCHING PLATOON**
14. **U.S. COAST GUARD MARCHING PLATOON**
15. **JAMES B MARTIN, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF/OPERATIONS, D.C. FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT.** Firefighting equipment from our Nation's Capital - celebrating 132 (Sept. 1871) years of fire / rescue service. Engine Company, Rescue Squad 1, Truck Company
16. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION.** Deputy Regional Director Joseph Lawler





DIVISION A (Cont'd.)

17. **U.S. PARK POLICE. CHIEF THERESA C CHAMBERS.** Color Guard, horses, motorcycles and flag unit
18. **GAELS OF THE YEAR. JOYCE & JOHN J FLYNN.** President of The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
19. **WTOP "MAN ABOUT TOWN", Washington, D.C.** Bob Madigan
20. **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERALD SOCIETY PIPES & DRUMS.** LDRS Henry Welsh & Bob Purdy. Instructors Mark O'Donnell and Tom Hayden
21. **EMERALD SOCIETY - FIREFIGHTERS OF WASHINGTON.** "Our 24th Year marching" President Chris Setton. Banner, colors, precision marching unit. Antique fire apparatus
22. **FIREFIGHTERS OF WISCONSIN.** President Rick Gale
23. **CEAD MILE FAILTE. IRISH AMERICAN CLUB BANNER.** Family of John Moore
24. **IRISH AMERICAN CLUB OF WASHINGTON.** President P J Fitzgerald
25. **THE GREEN MACHINE, Maryland.** 1972 Ford Grand Torino. Owner Peaches Fitzgerald
26. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by Z104 Radio, Virginia. Marchers with decorated vehicle with music
27. **ROSCOMMON SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.** President Peter J Koenig
28. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by THE O'NEILL-JAMES SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING. Directors Laureen O'Neill-James, ADCRG and Fred James. Decorated vehicle with dancers and live music
29. **KAPITOL KLOWNS, Maryland.** President Cathy "Zippi" Burke
30. **WILLIAM C MCGINNIS MIDDLE SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, New Jersey.** Director Carl A Brodbeck
31. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by PROJECT CHILDREN. Director Carol Wheeler

DIVISION B

1. **MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE.** LDR Sergeant Chris Tippery. Mounted Color Guard with horse mounted units
2. **HONORABLE CONSTANCE MORELLA.** Former Member House of Representatives. District 8, Montgomery County, MD. Marshal, Division B
3. **METRO TRANSIT POLICE**
4. **NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERALD SOCIETIES.** Founder Patrick O'Brien
5. **POLICE EMERALD SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC AREA.** President Brian Marion
6. **GREENBELT CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT and COLOR GUARD, Maryland.** Cruiser and citizen rescue vehicle
7. **PENTAGON POLICE PROTECTION AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, Virginia.** Colors Team and vehicles
8. **KENA 500 MINI CORVETTES, Virginia.** Shriners, 8 mini-Corvettes, Corvette and one recovered vehicle
9. **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.** (All Divisions AOH/LAOH in order of precedence)
10. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Commodore John Barry Division #1. A decorated vehicle with marchers

DIVISION B (Cont'd.)

11. **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS-FR CORBY/ALICE HAMILL DIVISION 3, Virginia.** Robert Hickey
12. **LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS FR CORBY/ALICE HAMILL DIVISION 3, Virginia.** Pat White
13. **LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, DIVISION 9 DAUGHTERS of ERIN.** Secretary Ann Durkin Fisher
14. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. FADO IRISH PUB AND THE IRISH CHANNEL RESTAURANT.** Sponsored by National Distributing Company
15. **FORT MYER FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, Virginia.** CRASH FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE FOAM 161. Stationed at the Pentagon Heliport. 2002 E-One Titan 4x4
16. **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S EMERALD SOCIETY, Maryland.** President Brian Collins. 1968 Hahn Ladder truck and 1969 Ward LaFrance Pumper
17. **THE LOYAL & PATRIOTIC ORDER OF IRISH-AMERICAN REAGANITES, Virginia.** Chieftain Brian Lopina
18. **HIGH POINT HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC, Maryland.** Cadet Colonel Leonard Kioko
19. **JIM MOYER'S OAK VIEW CIRCUS CLUB, Virginia.** Unicycling, juggling, gym wheels and stilts. Director Michael Lamarra
20. **THE DONNELLY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING, Virginia.** Michele Donnelly Kennedy, TCRG
21. **SPRINGBROOK HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC AND COLOR GUARD, Maryland.** CDR JB Eggleston
22. **SuQTV "WASHINGTONIA", Washington, D.C.** German Folk Dance Club. President Charles Volkman
23. **FAMILY & FRIENDS of ANTHONY C ROGERS, Maryland.** LDR Patrick Rogers
24. **BOY AND CUB SCOUT DRUM & BUGLE CORPS, TROOP and PACK 461, Maryland.** Music Director Earl A Smith
25. **GIRL SCOUT BROWNIE TROOP 1778, Virginia.** LDR Terry Maxwell
26. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by AOIBHNEAS AN RINCE IRISH DANCERS. A decorated vehicle with dancers and live music. Denise Foster Fumagalli, TCRG
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28. **GREENBELT DOG TRAINING, Maryland.** LDRS Allie and Adele Lee
29. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by CAPITOL ROWING CLUB
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DIVISION C

1. **UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE CEREMONIAL COLOR GUARD.** Chief Terrence W Gainer and motorcycle unit
2. **JIM FAGAN.** Marshal, Division C
3. **U. S. MINT POLICE, Washington, DC.** Honor Guard, car and bike
4. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by THE BROOKLAND CLUB OF WASHINGTON, DC. LDR Bernie New. A decorated vehicle with marchers
5. **ST. EUGENE'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR, Derry, Ireland.** Director Sister Perpetua McNulty
6. **CALVIN COOLIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL JROTC.** LDRS MAJ Allen V Banks and MSG Allie L Holliste

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8. **VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, WW II.** President John Worthington III
9. **VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF MILITARY VEHICLES.** LDR Larry Tucker
10. **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, Maryland.** Commander Robert J Lambird
11. **POTOMAC VALLEY IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB, Metro Area.** The "National Dog of Ireland", LDR Tom Hartney
12. **IRISH NORTHERN AID, Washington, D.C.** Chair Randy Cecil
13. **CULKIN SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCE, Maryland.** Director W Sean Culklin, TCRG
14. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by THE McCARTHY CLAN. A decorated vehicle with marchers
15. **BELFAST CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM, Maryland.** Directors Bruce and Debbie Webster
16. **FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY PIPE BAND, Virginia.** LDR Steven Cochran
17. **FAIRFAX FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY, Virginia.** Tim Sparrow President. Banner and marchers
18. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. THE DUBLINER RESTAURANT.** Sponsored by Washington Wholesalers, Inc
19. **PRENDERGAST SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING, Maryland.** Director Margaret Moebius, TCRG
20. **WASHINGTON D.C. GAELS.** Chairman Andrew Healy. Banner and marchers
21. **OLD DOMINION HISTORICAL FIRE SOCIETY, Virginia.** A SPAAMFAA Chapter. Antique fire apparatus. LDRS Don Crites and Bill Jones
22. **METROPOLITAN ALLSTARR HIGH STEPPERS, Washington, D.C.** Director Kenneth Johnson
23. **EIRE HEADS, Washington, D.C.** LDR Phil Murphy. Family organization of the extended Murphy-Brady family
24. **ROCK CREEK RIDERS and SADDLEGALS, Washington, D.C.** LDR Bill Pietrucha
25. **MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AND COLOR GUARD, Virginia.** LTC Tim Gilbert and SGM Bill Wilderman
26. **IRISH TERRIER PET BRIGADE, Metro DC.** Led by Christine Ward
27. **WARFIELD AND SANFORD INC ELEVATOR COMPANY, Washington, D.C.** 1929 Ford Model A Stake Body truck, driver John Warring, President. 1941 Ford Convertible, driver Harry Neal, Manager
28. **RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY BAND AND PARADE UNIT, Virginia.** Bandmaster G Edwin Richards
29. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by MAPLE SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE. Teachers Bill Maple and Marnie O'Callaghan-Maple
30. **WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM (WRAP), Metro Area.** Director Kurt Erickson Vehicles with banner
31. **ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.** Sponsored by WMZQ 98.7 FM RADIO. Marchers with huge Cow on Wheels and music

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Parade...
The "Nation's"
Parade!

DIVISION D

1. MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE MOTOR SQUAD, Maryland. 3rd District, LDR Andy Loudemilk
2. JACK CROWN, Marshal, Division D
3. PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SHERIFF HONOR GUARD, Maryland. Sheriff Michael Jackson
4. SENECA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC, Maryland. Cadet Lt. Commander Darrick Householder
5. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsored by THE BLACKTHORN CEILI BAND. Decorated vehicle with music and dancers
6. IRISH WATER SPANIEL "LIFFY". Master Sean Patrick McMahon
7. "LEPRECHAUN", Virginia. Donald Patrick Ryan
8. ANACOSTIA H.S. MARCHING BAND, Washington, D.C. Band LDR Howard Johnson
9. L.C. SMITH, Inc., Virginia. Knights of Columbus of Arlington. 1962 American LaFrance fire engine, formerly Engine Co. 1, Alexandria, Va. LDR John Heralein
10. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WASHINGTON COUNCIL 224. Grand Knight Joe Guilfrida
11. TEELIN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING, Maryland. Maureen Berry. TCRG
12. SEAHAWK BATTALION AJROTC, SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL. SGM Ret. Weldon T. Thompson
13. WASHINGTON DC ROSE OF TRALEE. Gretchen Learman
14. HUNDLEY CARRIAGES, Virginia. 1908 Horse Drawn Carriage with 3 people in period costume
15. THE CAPITAL CLUB OF WASHINGTON. LDR Tripp Donnelly
16. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsored by WBIG-100 FM RADIO. A mini Cooper with decals
17. SLAPSHOT, MASCOT OF THE WASHINGTON CAPITALS HOCKEY TEAM
18. IDEA ACADEMY JROTC, Washington, DC. Dir Major Roosevelt Chardes
19. WASHINGTON-ALEXANDRIA ARCHITECTURE CENTER. Virginia Tech. LDR George Makrinos



2003 DIVISION MARSHALS

CONNIE MORELLA

Connie Morella, a native of Somerville, Massachusetts, has spent the majority of her adult life in Maryland. A graduate of Boston University, Connie received her graduate degree from American University and has since been the recipient of nine honorary degrees. From 1970 to 1985 Connie served as a professor of English at Montgomery College in Rockville. She and her husband Tony, a law professor, have resided in Bethesda for 44 years. Connie and Tony have raised nine children including Connie's late sister's six children. Prior to her election to Congress in 1986, Connie served eight years as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. In Congress Connie established a reputation as a champion for the causes of women, children and the disadvantaged. During her sixteen years in Congress Connie has become widely known and respected for her tenacity and independence. Her Congressional accomplishments are many and far too numerous to record here. During her tenure Connie has served in several capacities including the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. She will always be fondly remembered by the Irish community as a proud member of the bipartisan Congressional Irish-American Caucus and an annual participant in our St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Connie is being honored for her sincere and dedicated service to the people of America.

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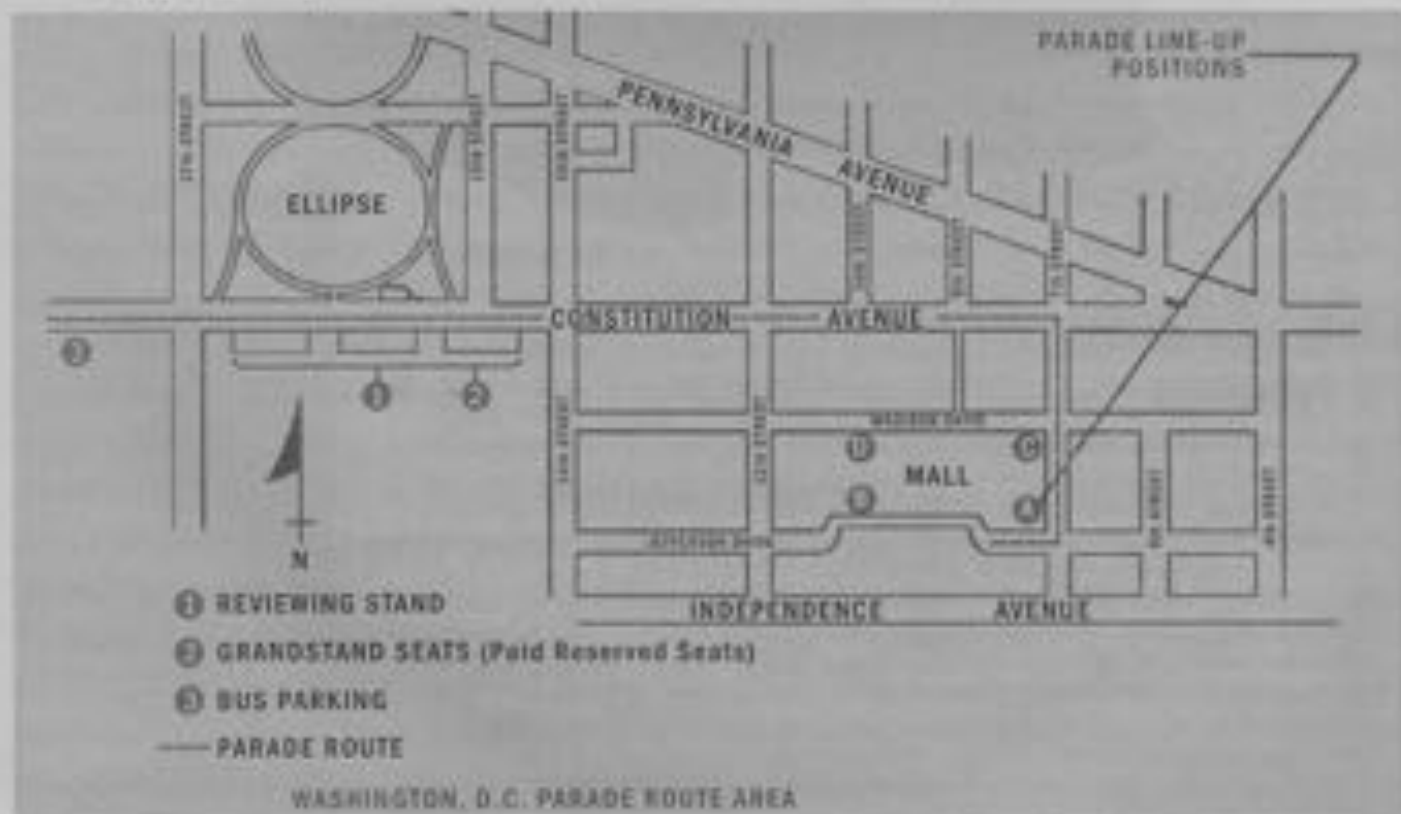
2003 DIVISION MARSHALS (Cont'd.)

JIMMY FAGAN - Division C

A native born son of Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland, Jimmy came to the United States in 1985, and as many before him, found employment at the *Dubliners*, where he remained until 1992. In June, 1990, Jimmy married Carry Johnson a native of Georgia, who as many of us was a transplant to the D.C. area. For the next few years Jimmy was employed in corporate restaurants in the DC area where he fine-tuned his keen sense of business. In addition "Actor" Jimmy Fagan has appeared in several plays in the area including performances at the Keegan Theatre and GAA sponsored plays at Gonzaga High School. In March, 1996 Jimmy opened Ireland's Four Courts Restaurant and Pub in Arlington, VA. As could be expected the combination of Jimmy's personality and good business sense rocketed Ireland's Four Courts into an overnight success. In 2002, Jimmy expanded his enterprises to Baltimore with the grand opening of James Joyce a restaurant and pub in that city. In spite of his busy schedule Jimmy still finds time to devote to his family and his many interests, which include golf, Gaelic football and reading. Jimmy is an active fund-raiser for Irish charities and personally hosts annual fundraising events for both the D.C. and Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parades. Jimmy is being honored for his selfless dedication to the Irish community and his consistent service to those in need.

Jack Crown - Division D

Born in New York City in 1931, John "Jack" Crown's Irish roots extend from county Cork to County Leitrim. Jack moved to Washington when he was four and was educated locally. Following his graduation from the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University in 1953, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry. Following his separation from the military Jack was assigned to Berlin Command Headquarters for three months as an Escort Officer for visiting Congressmen and White House Aides touring East and West Berlin. For the next ten and a half years Jack served on the national staff of the Associated General Contractors of America. Jack subsequently became an international trade specialist with the U.S. Department of Commerce from which he retired in 1995. Jack's wife of 40 Years Betty (Hanson) Crown claims Irish roots from Counties Kerry and Limerick. Jack and Betty reside in Bethesda and had five children, Patrick (Deceased 1992), Brigid, Mary, Joan, and Tommy and will soon have their eighth grandchild. Jack is a member of St. Jane De Chantal parish, Bethesda, Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, and the Heritage Foundation. Jack has been a member of the Irish American Club of Washington since 1952, and served as a member of the D.C. St. Patrick's Parade Committee for many years. Jack is being honored for his sincere dedication and service to the Irish community.





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In Memoriam



William "Howie" McClennan Forever Rest In Peace

By Stephen P. Lynch

This past fall, William "Howie" McClennan passed away quietly at a rest home in Bowie, Maryland. He was 96 years old. Howie had been the Parade Committee's Gael of the Year for the 1991 parade, appropriately held on St. Patrick's Day itself. More than that though, he was a friend of all Washington Irish-Americans and Irish organizations in the area. And, he was a true legend in America's fire fighting community.

Howie was born, raised and schooled in Boston, Massachusetts. His first job was at the largest supermarket in the nation – the Manhattan Market. Managing the market for six years, employees under his tutelage included a very young Thomas P. O'Neill. Most Americans later grew to know him as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives "Tip" O'Neill.

After his stint in the business world, Mr. McClennan gravitated toward his life-long passion – firefighting. Joining Fire Department Engine House number 17 on November 17 in Boston, he was called to his first fire on November 28, 1942. Shortly after 10 o'clock at night an employee was replacing a light bulb at the world renowned nightclub – the Coconut Grove. He struck a match to see in the darkness and ignited a paper palm tree. The burning tree then ignited the satin covered ceiling. Burning embers rained down on the nightclub. Noxious vapors expanded rendering many patrons immediately unconscious. Hundreds of others stormed the only two unlocked exits in the club. The revolving doors became stacked with bodies trying to gain exit.

Howie McClennan and fellow Boston firefighters arrived within two minutes of the initial alarm. The conflagration became a five alarmer within five minutes of their arrival. It was a pure disaster, which became the nation's worst nightclub fire ever claiming 491 lives. Howie and several cohorts then launched a union initiative to enact comprehensive safety and fire laws based on what they had seen and experienced. For example, band members had locked themselves in the walk-in freezers in the kitchen to escape the flames, but then perished when they could not get themselves out. This led to the now ever-present push out locks on all such freezers.

Howie spent 26 years fighting Boston fires, while moving up the firefighting hierarchy. He served on the Massachusetts Fire Commission. He became the vice-president for the International Association of Firefighters Union for over a decade, then President of the IAFF for the AFL-CIO. He was a member of the AFL-CIO executive board for 12 years. Finally, he then represented firefighters working with the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for almost 20 years.

In retirement in Washington, with his wife of 53 years Mariel by his side, Howie remained extremely active. He gave much of his time to local labor and community causes. He was especially active with the Friends of Ireland. Also a sports enthusiast, hardly a home Washington Capitals hockey game went by without Howie holding forth at a pre-game dinner in the famed Capital Club. Oh, the stories he told. His wife Mariel passed away in 1986, on St. Patrick's Day believe it or not.

William "Howie" McClennan, an amazing Irish-American we had the great honor to know and love. Is buane chu na saol. ■

Note: the Gaelic translation of the last sentence is "Fame is more enduring than life."



Patrick Garvan Lyons

September 13, 2002, was a sorrowful day for the Washington, D.C. Irish community. We were saddened by the passing of Patrick Garvan Lyons, beloved son of our dear friends Willie and Geri Lyons formerly of Dungarvan County Waterford. Patrick was forty-one years old. As a young lad Patrick spent many holidays with his grandparents in Dungarvan, where he spent happy hours fishing and enjoying outdoor activities. Patrick is described by his friends as a kind and decent person, who was very bright but quiet and possessed a good, but dry, sense of humor. Patrick, for the fun of it, once challenged a member of the National Irish Basketball Team to a one-on-one match. Patrick lost and was forced to tolerate intense teasing from his friends as the basketball player was a member of the Irish Women's team. His sense of humor, however, never faltered. Patrick was a die-hard Washington Redskins football fan, as was his father. Even when Patrick moved to New England he did not forsake his Washington team. Patrick could quote football statistics and trivia that even the professionals could not remember and often amazed people with his brilliant recollection. Patrick is gone, but his memory will endure. He was a Lyons and that made him extra special. May he Rest in Peace. ■



Father Eugene Riordan, SMA

We Have All Met St. Patrick

On March 17th each year all those of Irish heritage, spread throughout the world as we are, pay tribute to our patron Saint, Saint Patrick. We remember the stories we were told as children how Patrick came to our island as a slave and in later years returned to give us our greatest gift, Christianity. St. Patrick epitomizes all that is Irish. He is and will forever be our patron and our hero.

Wouldn't it have been wonderful to know St. Patrick, to have been able to talk with him and to share his stories and his godliness? For those of us in the Washington, DC Irish community we have been so blessed. Many years ago, Father Eugene Riordan, SMA was sent to us to be our spiritual guide. Father Riordan was born in County Cork, Ireland. His distinctive Cork brogue and loving Irish smile quickly endeared him to all who were fortunate enough to make his acquaintance. Through the years that followed, Father Riordan was always there for our community. He prayed with us in times of death, wept with us in times of sorrow, consoled us in times of sickness, and laughed with us in times of joy. Father Riordan was always there. He said our Masses, led the prayers before our meetings, before our banquets and every Irish event that took place in our community, including, for many years, the opening prayer at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. There was never an Irish event that did not include the presence of Father Riordan. When he entered the room there was a brightness that followed that added a luster to every occasion. Father Riordan was truly loved by all.

Unfortunately, Father Riordan retired this past year. It was not voluntary. Through a brief decline in his health God whispered to him that it was time to relax and enjoy the fruits of his success. He left for a much warmer and more comfortable place, and although we are happy for his good fortune, we miss him very much. Father Riordan exemplified all that is Irish. His mild and caring personality, his sense of humor and his love of God and his fellow man has distinguished him from ordinary men. He has truly lead his flock and administered to us in the same caring manner as did St. Patrick to our forefathers over sixteen hundred years ago. The Irish community in Washington, DC will never be the same without Father Riordan and we will miss him each and every day. We can take solace however, in the knowledge that for a brief time in our lives St. Patrick came to us and we were blessed to have known him. ■

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Saint Patrick, *Cont'd from page 19*

Christianity in Ireland succeeded because of its ability to adapt older pagan customs to the new ways. A good example is the pagan festivals that became Christianised, Samhain becoming All Souls, and Imbolg becoming St Brigid's Day. Indeed, many of the holy wells associated with St Patrick, found all over the country, are believed to have pagan origins.

The Places of Patrick

The two places with the strongest association with Patrick in Ulster are Downpatrick and Armagh. This connection comes from tradition rather than Patrick's writings. Armagh will be looked at in the next section, but as for Downpatrick, Richard Warner argues that the old Kings of Ulster, the Ulaids, had been pushed to the Downpatrick area from their original base at Navan Fort. Downpatrick would therefore be exactly the type of place that a successful mission would commence - convert the kings and you convert their subjects!

Conversion Rates

Did Patrick convert the whole of Ireland? Probably not! He tells us that his mission took him away from where Christianity was already established. It is probable that his mission was confined to Ulster. However, over the millennia and a half since his death he has come to symbolize the

Christianisation of Ireland. Patrick certainly deserves this position of reverence, however, there were other forces benefiting greatly from this focus on him.

How the myth of Saint Patrick developed: The Controversy

Flann O'Brien, writing many years ago under his pseudonym Myles na Gopaleen, joked that scholars from the Institute of Celtic Studies in Dublin had spent great sums of money proving that three Patricks existed and no God. Controversy is never far from the heart of Patrician scholarship where myth and reality collide and can be difficult to separate. However, after blowing away the mist of medieval myth we find a real person who probably would not recognize the image presented of him today. The question is why did the mythical St Patrick emerge? But first let us consider the un-mythical St Patrick.

Patrick : The Simple Man

Today, we can look into the mind of Patrick through his own words. He left two documents, the Confession and Letter to Coroticus. These present him as a simple man, who comes across as a brave missionary, struggling with his faith, and often fearing for his life. In direct contrast is the Patrick of later biographers; a fearless man who could compete with the magic of the druids and win by greater miracles.

Cont'd. on page 50

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| 2001 | Tom Dolan
<i>Olympic Gold Medalist</i> | 1987 | Helen Hayes
<i>First Lady of American Theater</i> |
| 2000 | Roma Downey
<i>Film & television actress (Touched by an Angel)</i> | 1986 | Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill, Jr.
<i>Speaker of the U.S. House of Rep.</i> |
| 1999 | Denis Mulcahy
<i>Founder, Project Children</i> | 1985 | Eunice Kennedy Shriver
<i>Founder, Special Olympics Program</i> |
| 1998 | Hal Roach
<i>Ireland's International Humorist</i> | 1984 | Cyril Count McCormack
<i>Son of Irish Tenor, John McCormack</i> |
| 1997 | Thomas R. Donohue
<i>Labor Relations Organizer</i> | 1983 | Frances T. Shea
<i>Rear Admiral USN</i> |
| 1996 | Capt. Scott O'Grady, USAF
<i>U.S. Air Force (pilot shot down, June 1995)</i> | 1982 | Rev. Gilbert V. Hartke OP
<i>Founder, Speech and Drama Dept. Catholic Univ.</i> |
| 1995 | John Hume
<i>Leader, Social Democratic and Labour Party</i> | 1981 | Samuel W. Bogley
<i>Lt. Governor of State of Maryland</i> |
| 1994 | Mark Russell
<i>Political Satirist</i> | 1980 | James P. Gleason
<i>County Executive, Montgomery County, MD</i> |
| 1993 | Mary Higgins Clark
<i>America's premier suspense writer</i> | 1979 | Walter F. McArdle
<i>President, McArdle Printing Co.</i> |
| 1992 | John J. Barry
<i>President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers</i> | 1978 | Maurice Cullinane
<i>Former Chief, Metropolitan Police Dept.</i> |
| 1991 | U.S. Armed Forces
<i>One member from each service</i> | 1977 | George Meany
<i>President, AFL-CIO</i> |
| 1990 | John "The Diesel" Riggins
<i>Running Back, NFL Washington Redskins</i> | 1976 | Patrick J. Hayes
<i>Director, Washington Performing Arts Society</i> |
| 1989 | John J. Sweeney
<i>President, Service Employees International</i> | 1975 | William T. Hannon
<i>Irish community activities</i> |
| | | 1974 | William T. Hannon
<i>Chairman, Bishop's Relief Fund</i> |

Past Parade Gaels

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2002 | No Gael Selected | 1988 | Mickey Brennan |
| 2001 | Alice Murphy Johnson | 1987 | Brendan Sheridan |
| 2000 | Frank J. Herbert | 1986 | Monsignor R. Joseph Dooley |
| 1999 | John Cosgrove | 1985 | Jane Callahan Gade |
| 1998 | Patrick William Cady | 1984 | Dr. Coilin Owens |
| 1997 | Paul L. Berry | 1983 | CDR James Ruland |
| 1996 | Father Eugene E. Riordan | 1982 | Cornelius J. Coakley |
| 1995 | Father John Adams | 1981 | Charles T. Lucey |
| 1994 | Matt Hannon | 1980 | Harry & Margaret Schreengost |
| 1993 | Carol Wheeler | 1979 | Margaret Coakley |
| 1992 | Bruce Morrison | 1978 | Peggy Hannon O'Neill |
| 1991 | Howard McClerman | 1977 | Sean Coakley |
| 1990 | Susan Kelly Long | 1976 | No Gael Selected |
| 1989 | Marius "Jack" Fish | 1975 | Charles Carey & John A.K. Donovan |



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Today's BAC was formed October 17, 1865 in Baltimore. It has consistently fought for better jobs, wages, and safer working conditions. In the 1870's a severe recession wiped out all but nine BAC unions in North America.

The organization survived the economic downturn and formed the International Union in 1881 with admission of locals from Hamilton and Toronto in Ontario, Canada. In 1882 the International admitted Locals representing the southern United States. The Southern Unions were required to accept of all masonry workers regardless of race. The delegates agreed that membership in the Union should be open to all members of masonry crafts without condition of servitude or race. The BAC was in the forefront in the fight for an eight-hour workday and in 1901 achieved their legislative goal. The BAC lobbied for the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 to provide low cost housing for workers across the land. The Union spearheaded the drive to make Fair Labor Standards part of defense policy and negotiated that 95% of defense construction be performed by union members. The union leadership participated in the development of the Naval Construction Battalion, the Seabees. The BAC has evolved throughout its history to meet changing conditions in the marketplace including advanced schooling in the skilled trades, pension funds, a more favorable climate for women or scholarship programs to help educate members children.

JOYCE FLYNN HELPS SAVE LABOR HERITAGE

Although she's an outspoken woman who strongly believes in workers' issues and rights, Joyce Flynn is modest when it comes to the praise heaped on her for saving the organization from financial starvation and probably an untimely demise. "You can listen to a thousand speeches, but if one song touches your heart you'll remember the message," Joyce told the Labor Tribune. "What the foundation does is preserve and encourage grass roots workers at their finest. They are an important part of the labor movement."

She added that in addition to preserving and collecting labor's musical, art, and cultural history, in the mid-90's it expanded its role and became an activist group that promotes and educates organizing by encouraging "out of the box" thinking at festivals and training programs conducted by the foundation.

"We have an important role to play in helping organizers to use parodies and skits in their organizing campaigns. That's the kind of thing unorganized workers can relate to, can remember."

Joyce Flynn, labor activist and chief fund raiser for Labor Heritage Foundation, was praised for her efforts at saving the Foundation by launching an annual fundraising dinner which has helped to preserve labor's cultural works. Joyce's

fundraising abilities have allowed us to grow and expand our important services to the labor movement. She's incredible, she's always challenging us to think outside the box. In terms of new ways to help the movement grow and serve workers, Jones, the Foundation's Executive Director stated.

This important work includes the publication in 1992 of the first catalogue of labor music, art and books and videos, the first time labor's rich cultural heritage was assembled in a single place. The Conference on Creative Organizing trains union staff and organizers in creative organizing techniques. It has developed a directory of labor artists, musicians, puppeteers, poets and writers, cartoonists, songwriters, storyteller. It maintains a calendar of labor cultural events. It creates and distributes cassettes, posters and books that chronicle both the historical and cultural impacts of music and art on the growth of the labor movement.

Joyce was an administrative assistant to Missouri Governor Joe Teasdale, an alderman in Ellisville, a fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee and an organizer for Meatcutters Local 88.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney speaking at a Labor Heritage Fundraising dinner commented, "The truth is that because of the Labor Heritage Foundation, we in the union movement get to hear some of the best music and see some of the finest art and watch some of the most creative theatre in America. That's exactly what the Labor Heritage Foundation mission is for working people. You thrill us, move us, charm us, make us angry, make us laugh, and sometimes you even get us to sing along, even if we are a little out of tune and we don't remember all the lyrics have always thought that the very best description of the Labor Heritage Foundation is a line in that great old song 'Bread and Roses' which says: 'A thousand mill lofts, gray are touched, with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses for the people here are singing: Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses.' 'That is who you are, that is what you do, you are our movements' radiance. You are the roses that help working people experience the world and each other a little differently. You are our hope and our weapon and our poetry. I thank you and God Bless all the good work you do," Sweeney concluded.

John and Joyce ardently support many groups in the Washington area including Project Children, The Ireland fund, The DC Friends, The Hibernian, labor philanthropic groups, and many other religious, civic and political causes. The Flynn's have worked with Former President Jimmy Carter on Habitat for Humanity. The President once gave John a ride home on Air Force One to reward him for his humanitarian efforts.

John and Joyce reside in Vienna, Virginia. They have two children John, Jr. and Mary Margaret. A son, Matt, predeceased them. The Flynn's have three grandchildren, Veronica Marie, Joey and Amanda, and one great granddaughter, Ayanna. ■

**CONGRATULATIONS to
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Saint Patrick, *Cont'd from page 32*

These two views are at odds with each other and force the question, why would later writers have made such grandiose claims for him?

Biographical Accuracy

What we have to remember is that Patrick's biographers were writing for a specific purpose, and that was not accurate biography. By the Seventh Century most of Ireland was Christian, however, the old pagan world had not been totally forgotten. The great mythical tales such as the Tain bo Cuailnge, were still being told. These were spectacular stories of magic and supernatural deeds of the ancient pagan rulers of Ireland. The Christian story, and therefore story of Patrick, had to compete against these wonder tales, and we can see embellishments and motifs inspired to capture the pagan imagination: our God and Holy men are better than yours!

From Obscure Missionary to Patron Saint

So how did Patrick grow from an obscure missionary in the North of Ireland to become the Patron Saint and most popular early Christian figure? As with so much in Ireland this story has everything to do with politics, and the politics of the Early Christian period was every bit as worldly as today. By the Seventh Century, two centuries after Patrick probably died, Armagh saw opportunity to become the most dominant ecclesiastical centre in Ireland, and over the next 200 years worked to establish its claim to the primacy of Ireland. A key tool in the making of that claim was St Patrick.

The Association with Armagh

The case for St Patrick's association with Armagh comes from two books that were inserted into the Ninth Century masterpiece, the book of Armagh, which resides at Trinity College Dublin. The books were biographies written by Muirchu and Tirechan to link Patrick's reputation with that of Armagh. A good example of this is Muirchu's description of St Patrick symbolically confronting the High King of Ireland, Loigaire of the Ui Neill. Scholars speculate that this was actually a creative device to curry favour with the descendants of the Ui Neill who still held power at Tara. The objective was to strengthen Armagh's claim. Throughout his 'Life of Patrick' Muirchu is at pains to press the claims for Armagh, and by so doing play down the role of Downpatrick.

By the time the seventh century Muirchu was writing his life of Patrick, he has to explain away the inconvenience of why St Patrick was buried in Downpatrick and not Armagh! A story was invented where stubborn oxen brought Patrick to Downpatrick, despite his stated wish, according to Muirchu, to be buried in Armagh.

Claims on Patrick

Others too saw the value of associations with Patrick. When the Normans arrived in the late 12th Century they too recognised his appeal. Like a conjurer pulling a rabbit from a hat, John De Courcy, after arriving in Downpatrick, found the body of St Patrick, and reburied him on Cathedral Hill. This was clearly an astute political move to help him establish his own position. I wonder, however, did he then go too far by claiming to also find the bodies of St Colmcille and St Bridget, whom he also reburies close to Patrick?

Then, De Courcy's wife transported Cistercian monks from Furness in Northumbria to Inch, where an Abbey was built. One of those monks, Jocelyn, wrote another life of Patrick, again further linking the new Norman rulers to the power of Patrick and by so doing encouraging the local populace to accept them as their overlords.

The Ridding of the Snakes

It was Jocelyn who first ascribes to St Patrick the honour of having rid Ireland of snakes. Each story of this type makes Patrick, and indeed the storyteller's message, seem more powerful. As ever, the facts can get in the way of a good story: two Centuries before Patrick's arrival in Ireland the Roman writer Solinus commented that there are no snakes in Ireland.

Patrick : The Mitred Bishop

Perhaps the most persistent image of Patrick is that of a mitred Bishop in clerical garb holding crosier and shamrock. He tells us that he was a bishop, however his clothes would have been nothing like the image of a Seventeenth or Eighteenth Century bishop. He would more likely have worn a plain tunic made of wool. The shamrock, the defining symbol of Patrick, is also, sadly, an invention of a much later age.

In conclusion, the mythical Patrick was created by the imaginations of medieval ecclesiastic and Norman dynasts. By creating associations with him they drew on his power and reinforced Patrick's place for each new age. They made him into the person they thought he should be - a heroic figure who could banish demons and perform great miracles. However, this version obscures the real St Patrick, the humble man who wrote the Confession. Perhaps this is the Patrick who has the greatest relevance for us today? ■

Story of St. Patrick compliments of Dr. Tim Campbell, Director, The Saint Patrick Centre, Downpatrick, County Down, Northern Ireland

For more information on St. Patrick visit
www.saintpatrickcentre.com

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JOHN AND JOYCE FLYNN



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Grand Marshal, *cont'd. from page 11*

The following year, in 1975, he again led the nation by riding 465 winners, and became the first jockey ever to win more than 1000 races in a two year period. He went on to win many more awards in a career that lasted twenty-eight years. Among them were the 1980 Eclipse Award for outstanding achievement as a journeyman; the 1980 George Woolf Memorial award for service and conduct; and five awards from Seagrams Seven Crowns of Sports for leading the nation in statistical categories. In 1989, Chris was inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Chris has won virtually every major race in North America, including six Triple Crown races (two Kentucky Derbies, on "Alysheba" and "Go for Gin"; two Preaknesses, on "Alysheba" and "Pine Bluff"; and two Belmonts, on "Danzig Connection" and "Touch Gold"). He rode nine Breeders' Cup winners including five classics, on "Alysheba," "Sunday Silence," "Alphabet Soup," and twice on "Tiznow."

Chris was also the first jockey in history to reach earnings of 200 million dollars. He led the nation in money won in 1980, 1981 and 1984. By time he retired in June 2002 at the top of his game, he was the all-time leader in earnings, winning purses worth more than 260 million dollars. He was seventh in the win category, having ridden 7141 winners.

But one of his proudest achievements was his role in establishing the Don MacBeth Memorial Jockey Fund to aid disabled jockeys and their families.

Riding a thoroughbred has been recognized as one of the most dangerous of all sports; disability and even death are a possibility at every track. There are thirty-five accidents a week nationally, ranging from a horse stepping on the athlete's foot, to falling off a horse and being trampled. Insurance companies recognize the risk and premiums are extremely expensive, beyond the reach of many riders. Only six states - Maryland is one of them - provide workers' compensation for jockeys.

In 1986 actor, devoted fan, and occasional racehorse owner Tim Conway wanted to donate the fee he had earned for a performance at a racetrack to a fund for jockeys who needed a safety net. He couldn't find such a fund, so he talked to Chris and Judy about starting one. At the time, Chris was suffering from a leg broken in four places during an accident, and he knew how fragile a racing career could be. They were encouraged by Don MacBeth, an exceptional jockey who had spent much of his life trying to help those less fortunate than he. After Don died of cancer, the new fund was named in his honor.

The Fund provides financial and emotional support to jockeys down on their luck - mortgage and car payments, medicine, medical equipment, home renovations to accommodate wheelchairs, sometimes basic living expenses, and once, a pair of dentures that had been lost during a race. To date, it

has spent about \$20,000 a month, assisting more than 1000 families.

The Fund holds several events to raise money throughout the year. If you're at the track during Jockey Across America Day in early July, you may have the sweet opportunity to soak a losing jockey in a dunk tank for a small donation!

Chris retired in June 2002 but he has been keeping busy. He served as a race designer for the soon-to-be-released movie *Seabiscuit* and played the jockey Charlie Kurtsinger. Judy and daughter Kristin were also involved in the production of the movie. Their daughter Stephanie trains show horses and Erin studies marine biology.

Chris McCarron has been recognized for almost three decades as a man of integrity and compassion, dedicated to his sport, determined to perfect his talents. We're pleased that he is with us today. ■

Sources:

ATLANTIC PROVINCES TROWEL TRADES CONFERENCE

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Grand Marshal

from the



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2. **The Irish Channel** (Sun., Jan. 19, 2003)
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(202) 216-0046
3. **Nanny O'Brien's** (Sun., Feb. 2, 2003)
3319 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008
(202) 686-9189
4. **Murphy's of Virginia** (Sun., Feb. 9, 2003)
713 King Street, Old Town Alexandria, VA 22314
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5. **Flanagan's Irish Pub** (Sat. Mar. 8, 2003)
7637 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 986-1007
6. **Mrs. O'Leary's Restaurant & Irish Pub** (Sun., Feb. 23, 2003)
555 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 947-1993
7. **Four Courts** (Sun., Mar. 32, 2003)
2051 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 525-3600
8. **Ireland's Four Provinces** (Sun., Mar. 9, 2003)
3312 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008
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Saint Patrick Centre, Cont'd. from page 21

wells in Ireland. A number of ancient bathing houses, unique for their scale and complex water systems still exist as testament to the success of the healing powers, although these have also been largely forgotten. When Patrick finally died the Book of Armagh tells us that men carried his body back to that part of Ireland which he loved best and his body was interred on the Hill in Downpatrick. A monastery was established at this site and the medieval town grew up around the saint's grave. Indeed, following an ancient prophecy which foretold that three saints would share this most hallowed ground, the bones of Saint Columba and Saint Bridget also came to be buried here, making it the most important pilgrimage site in Ireland for over a thousand years.

That was a long time ago. Now local people, who know the Downpatrick area as St Patrick's Country, and the likes of Mary McNeill, a local 80 year old whose family have traditionally tended Patrick's Grave for hundreds of years, tend to think of this area as a bit of a secret, hidden well off the tourist trail. Indeed this indefatigable lady recalls the 'trouble' her relations had with Irish folk emigrating to America and Australia in the 1800s, when people would travel for miles to take a handful of the sod from the Saint's grave for good luck. 'Sure they would have dug him up if we hadn't placed the ancient seal on his grave' she recalls with a wistful air and adds 'You know it used to be that they said you haven't seen Ireland if you had not paid your respects to the Patron Saint, although I suppose those times might be coming back again with this new Centre' waving her hand to a large building beside the graveyard.


The structure she refers to is the St Patrick Centre, an award-winning \$10M international cultural project providing a focus and home for the study and celebration of the Patron Saint's worldwide legacy. The Director of the Centre,

Dr Tim Campbell, recently returned from a lecture tour of the United States points out that his aim is to make visitors to Ireland more aware of St Patrick's Country and the importance of this area as the cradle of Irish Christianity. 'Currently the St Patrick Centre caters for over 120,000 visitors each year and some 200,000 virtual visitors from around the World, many of whom zoom into the exclusive e-shop to pick up unique gifts for March or just browse for information on Saint Patrick'. Dr Campbell also points out that the Centre has a far-reaching cross community education program which brings 5,000 children of all ages from the two main traditions together each year to recognise their common Christian heritage as represented by Saint Patrick. 'The program is widely recognised as an invaluable tool in the process of healing and reconciliation in Northern Ireland because both communities have an allegiance to the patron saint of Ireland. Our work provides a major element in the Education for Mutual Understanding scheme in Ulster'.

In recognition of the important cross-community role played by the St Patrick Centre has been awarded a small bursary from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland which will run out in 2004. Part of my mission is to raise the funds needed to keep that program alive through a new initiative called the St Patrick International Foundation.

If you are interested in visiting Ireland this Summer the St Patrick Centre is running a promotion in 2003 called the Patrick's Go Free Campaign. Anyone called Patrick who shows up with a valid ID and a copy of this article will be allowed to visit the exhibition free of charge. ■

CONTACT: DR TIM CAMPBELL,
director@stpatrickcentre.com



Be thy duty high as angels flight,
Fulfill it, and a higher will arise
Even from its ashes. Duty is infinite,
Receding as the skies.
Were it not wisdom, then, to close our eyes
On duties crowding only to appall?
Do: Duty is our ladder to the skies;
And, climbing not, we fall.

Robert Leighton

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the crew of
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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