

**John J. Sweeney**
*"Grand Marshal"*





**Manus 'Jack' Fish**
*"Gael of the Year"*




*St. Patrick's Day Parade • March 12, 1989 • Washington, D.C.*




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# Welcome
# To The 1989
# St. Patrick's Day Parade




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JOHN J. SWEENEY, GRAND MARSHALL
St. Patrick's Day Parade
of
Washington, D.C.

*. . . The Irish Echo salutes him*



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Post Office Box 15097, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

March 12, 1989

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We have planned a grand Parade, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed planning it.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee honors Mr. John J. Sweeney, President of the Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO as our Grand Marshal, and Mr. Manus J. Fish, former regional director of the National Capital Park Service as Gael of the Year.

When the momentum of St. Patrick's Day dies down and the many activities honoring him come to a close, we hope you take time to read the articles in the Magazine and to support the advertisers who made this Parade possible.

In the meantime, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Hannon
Chairman

# John J. Sweeney: A Friend to Labor, A Friend to The Irish

*By Mary Anne Gibbons*

All of us who have been blessed with an Irish heritage — and even those who are Irish only on March 17 — can be proud of the many contributions by the Irish to the labor movement in the United States. This year, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is especially proud to honor an Irish American who has been an outstanding leader in the labor movement both nationally and internationally for more than twenty-five years.

John J. Sweeney, the Grand Marshal of the 1989 Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade, has devoted virtually all of his adult life to improving the lot of working men and women. While pursuing his economics degree at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, Sweeney worked as a laborer at New York cemetery and was a member of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 365. Upon graduation, Sweeney's first full time job was with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

In 1960, Sweeney became contract director of SEIU Local 32B in New York City. From that point on, his leadership in the SEIU grew steadily. In 1976, Sweeney was elected president of Local 32B. In 1977, he was instrumental in the merger of Local 32B with Local 32J, thereby creating a 55,000 member local union, one of the largest in the AFL-CIO. During his work at the local level, Sweeney also organized the politically powerful New York State Council of SEIU local unions and the SEIU's Eastern Conference, which brought together local unions from Florida to Maine.

Because of his outstanding work at the local level, Sweeney was elected to the SEIU Executive Board in 1972 and became an international vice president in 1973. In 1979, he became Secretary-Treasurer of the international union and, in 1980, was elected to the highest post in the SEIU, that of President.

Sweeney has served as President of the SEIU since 1980. As President, Sweeney leads the fifth largest, fastest growing and most diversified labor union in the country. With 850,000 members in the United States and Canada, the SEIU represents a wide variety of blue collar, clerical and professional workers in the public sector, health care, building maintenance and light industrial jobs.

In addition to being President of the SEIU, Sweeney is also active in the AFL-CIO, where he serves as a member of the Executive Council and as vice president of the AFL-CIO Public Employee Department. He also chairs the AFL-CIO Organizing and Field Services and Health Care Committees and is a member of the Evolution of Work and Its Implications Committee.

Sweeney's contributions have not been limited to his work with the SEIU and the AFL-CIO. He is also a board



member of the American Arbitration Association, the American Red Cross and the Catholic Youth Organization and a member of the Advisory Council of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He serves as a trustee of the George Meany Labor Studies Center and of Iona College and as a member of the National Leadership Commission on Health care. He has published articles on labor issues, served in numerous other community activities and represented the United States as a member of its delegation to the International Labor Organization in Geneva in 1984 and 1985.

Perhaps the contribution for which the Irish can be most grateful is Sweeney's continuing work to focus the attention of the American Labor movement on the plight of workers in Northern Ireland. Sweeney was one of the initial supporters of the Irish American Labor Coalition in 1981, was a member of the official AFL-CIO delegation to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 1983, and has strongly supported adoption of the MacBride Principles, an equal opportunity code for American firms operating in Northern Ireland.

The honor bestowed on John Sweeney today as Grand Marshal of the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade is in recognition of his faithful service and outstanding contributions to the labor movement in the United States and in Ireland and his prominence as an international union leader. But this is far from the first

*Continued on next page.*

*Continued from previous page.*

honor bestowed on Sweeney by the Irish community. In 1979, he was honored as Grand Marshal of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, American Irish Historical Society and D.C. Friends of Ireland.

Sweeney's late parents, Agnes and James Sweeney, were natives of County Leitrim, Ireland. He and his wife, Maureen, live in Bethesda, Maryland, with their children, John and Patricia. Today, John Sweeney, we salute you with pride and we thank you for sharing your many gifts with generosity and courage.




*Our 1988 Grand Marshal, Carmencita Hederman, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, with members of the Dublin Fire Department who were also in the Parade.*

Wishing you the luck of the Irish and a Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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AND

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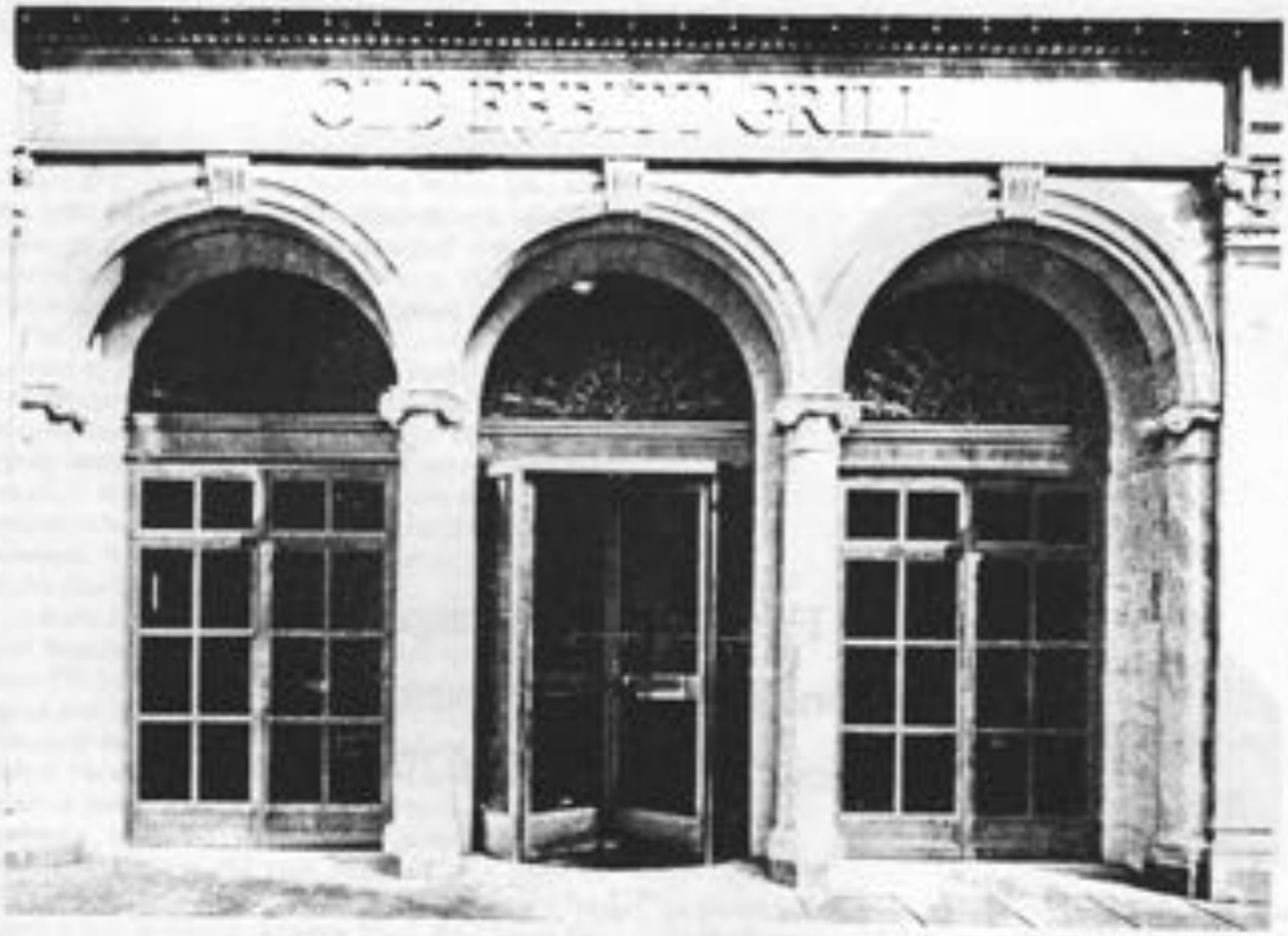

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# Gael of the Year

*By Patricia McBride*

The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. takes pride in honoring Manus John Fish, the 1989 Gael of the Year. This distinction is conferred upon an individual who has provided distinguished service to the Irish American community. Manus "Jack" Fish is particularly deserving of this honor.

The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee is most grateful to Jack Fish's ancestors, the Ford's and Gallagher's of Limerick and the Walsh's of County Cork, for bestowing upon the parade an excellent logistics chief. While serving as Regional Director for the National Park Service's National Capital Region, Fish's office was responsible for several annual parades. He acknowledged, however, "I was particularly protective of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade."

A thirty six year veteran of the National Park Service and Regional Director of the National Capital Region from 1973 until his retirement in 1988, Fish had managerial and operational responsibility for more than three thousand employees, including the United States Park Police. He was accountable for more than fifty thousand acres of federal parklands, monuments, memorials and parkways, located in the Nation's Capital and nearby Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. These areas include the National Mall, Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, the C & O Canal National Historical Park, which extends for 284 miles from Georgetown in the District of Columbia to Cumberland, Maryland, the Frederick Douglass Home in Washington, Antietam National Battlefield, Maryland, and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia.

For the past fifteen years, Fish and his office were responsible for all technical arrangements for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, including platforms, permits, parking and law enforcement. His favorite role in the parade was to participate annually, "first by car and then by horseback, the horse and I both attired in green."

Fish is a 1952 magna cum laude graduate of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, he joined the Park Service as a civil engineer, and has held such posts as Chief Engineer with the Service's Office of Design and Construction, Chief of Development Planning and Regional Coordinator for the Service's former Eastern Service Center.

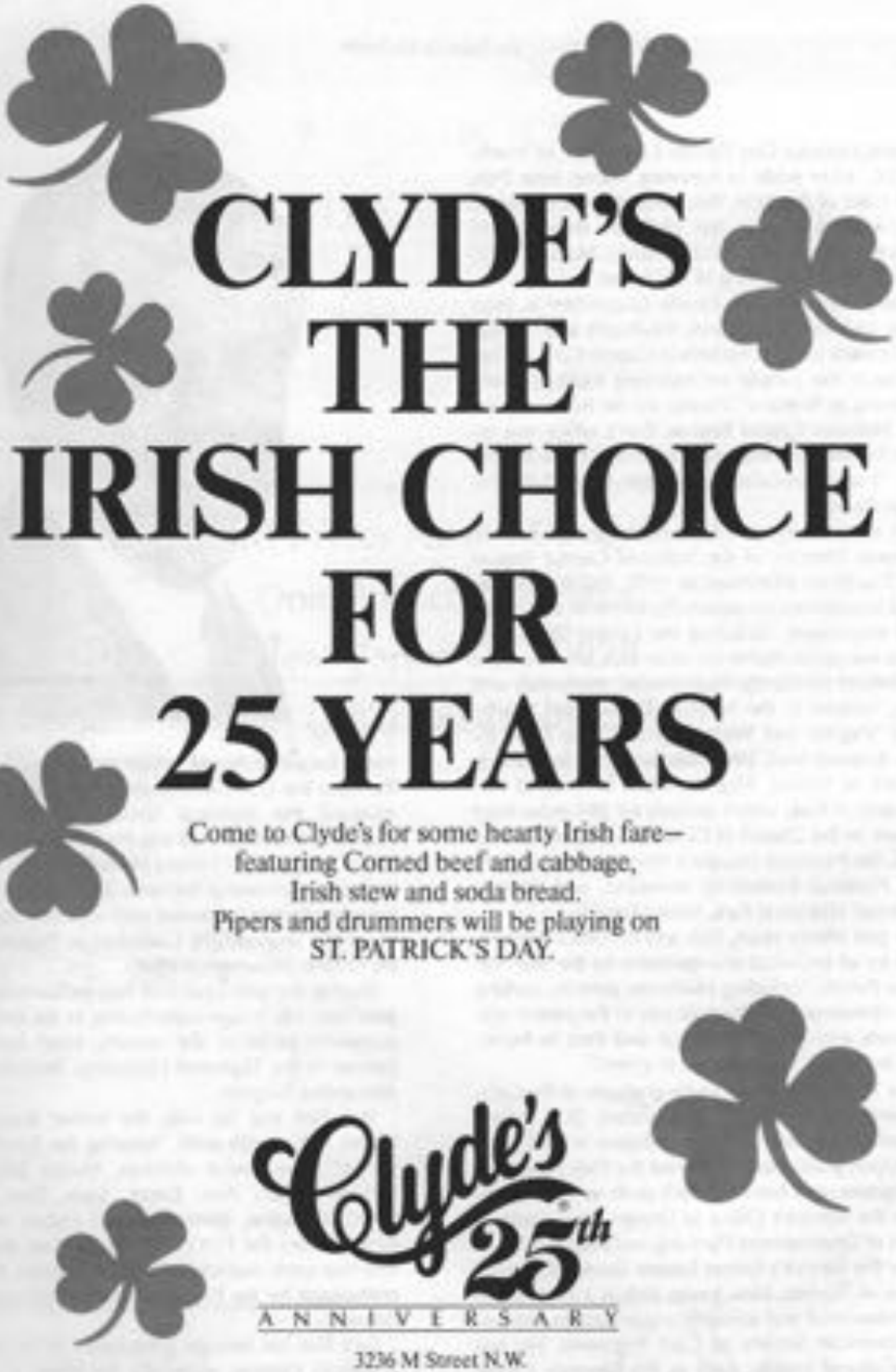
A native of Trenton, New Jersey, Fish is a member of several professional and scientific organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has served on several boards, such as the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees, Ford's Theatre Society, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. Throughout his career, Fish has been honored with numerous awards, including the Congressional Excalibur Award, which recognized him as one of the three top U.S. Government employees in 1985. Fish received the National Society for Park Resources Founders Award in 1985 and the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Medal in 1988. He was cited by the Department of the Army for patriotic civilian service when he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and received the Cornelius A. Pugsley Award for his historic preservation efforts.



During the past year Fish has rechanneled his energetic zest. He is now contributing to the fastest growing economic sector in the country, small business, as a partner in the Diplomat Limousine Service, located in Alexandria, Virginia.

Jack Fish and his wife, the former Rosemary Wolf, whom Fish credits with "keeping the family glued together," have twelve children, Manus John, Theresa, Kathleen, Mary Ann, Eileen, Joan, Peter, Rosemary, Brigid, Christine, Bernadette and Helen, who in turn have blessed the Fish's with twenty-two grandchildren and two more expected shortly. It appears that the Fish enthusiasm for the Irish has a marvelous opportunity to flourish!

Jack Fish has brought great honor to his family, to all American citizens, especially his fellow civil servants, and to his ancestral home, Ireland. It is with great pleasure that the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee pays tribute and extends appreciation to him.



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# Thanks to the U.S National Park Service and U.S. Park Police

*By Barbara C. Macken and Richard J. Barry*

The Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee is proud to honor the U.S. Park Police for nearly two hundred years of dedicated service. Established to guard federal park properties in the Capital, the Force dates from America's first president and the establishment of the nation's permanent federal capital, in 1791.

President George Washington located the new American seat of government, the U.S. Capital, twelve miles north of his Mount Vernon residence. Washington met with Maryland and Virginia landowners in 1791 to arrange for the purchase of a ten mile square area to be used as the place for the federal capital. The Federal Government agreed with the landowners to purchase seventeen parcels of land to form the District of Columbia. The Federal Government later ceded Virginia's portion back to the state. The first major parcel is the current location for the White House, Lafayette Park and the Ellipse. The second tract is the site of the U.S. Capitol and the eastern end of the Mall. The Washington Monument occupies a third major lot. By 1898, 301 park areas had been established from the seventeen original acquisitions.

President Washington created the Park Watchmen in 1791 to serve as guardians of the newly designated federal park properties within the District of Columbia. These Park Watchmen eventually evolved into today's U.S. Park Police.

In 1882 the U.S. Congress expanded powers of the Park Police to include law enforcement authority equivalent to Washington's Metropolitan Police Department. In 1929, policing powers were expanded to include the Federal parks of Maryland and Virginia. While the majority of Park Police officers are stationed in the Washington metropolitan area, there are units located in New York City and San Francisco. The National Park Service assumed management of Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco and Gateway National Recreation Area in New York City in the mid 1970's.

United States Park Police Officers are employed by the U.S. National Park Service, Department of Interior. Chief Lynn H. Herring, a 27 year veteran of the Department, has commanded the 650 officer force for the past eight years. U.S. Park Police officer candidates are especially trained to perform duties unique to this service. Officers' duties include preserving the peace, civil and criminal investigations, escorting dignitaries and aiding citizens in emergency situations.

In addition to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Park Police provide protection, crowd control and traffic supervision for the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the Independence Day Celebration, Presidential inaugurations and numerous other events which attract hundreds of thousands of spectators.

The Park Police's elite Equestrian Unit dates to the organization's founding in 1791. In the early 1930's, horsemounted units, which are very effective in crowd control offering excellent mobility, visibility and presence, began patrolling parks in which terrain proved prohibitive for motorized vehicles or foot patrol. Horsemounted units are ideally suited for the difficult terrain encountered at the coastal beaches and waterfront areas found at the Gateway and Golden Gate Recreation Areas. The officer and mount are carefully selected and rigorously trained to produce an accomplished equestrian team, with expertise in handling large crowds, automobiles and disruptive situations. Officers from numerous police departments across the country have received formal horse mounted training at the Park Police Training Stable located in the Rock Creek Park of Washington, D.C. The equestrian unit, through display of expert horsemanship, was victorious in the 1988 Police Equestrian Championship. The equestrian prowess of U.S. Park Police officers has been widely recognized nationally, including receipt of the 1988 National Police Equestrian Championship grand prize.

The Park Police's well deserved reputation in equestrian arts has fostered a multitude of inquiries from community organizations requesting their participation in parades and civic events. The mounted police have appeared in parades for Rose Bowls, Presidential inaugurations, and Saint Patrick's Day festivities in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Helicopter patrols frequently assist in highway patrol, rescue, and air ambulance activities. The U.S. Park Police's aerial unit was the first law enforcement authority to arrive and attempt rescue at the crash scene on the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. of Air Florida Flight 90 on January 14, 1982. Its helicopter's two-man crew was the first to make significant rescue efforts at the scene of the downed jetliner. The crew lowered ropes and flotation collars to survivors floundering in the icy river. The helicopter crew lifted one woman to the riverbank, ferried three more severly injured people over the ice to safety, and saved a helpless woman who was attempting vainly to swim to safety. The helicopter hovered so closely to the surface of the river that officers were able to lift one fortunate person from the frigid water with their hands. The crew's daring and skill helped rescue passengers who otherwise would have perished.

The Park Police Motorcycle officers, astride their 900-

pound Harley Davidsons, perform escort duties for the president, visiting heads of state and other dignitaries. Most recently, this elite unit provided escort and security for the many dignitaries who participated in the inaugural parade of January, 1989.

The Force's ceremonial Honor Guard, formed two years ago to represent the United States Park Police, was decorated in 1988 for excellence in competition at Waltham, Massachusetts. Visitors to Washington, D.C. regularly express their sense of ownership and pride in the monuments, memorials and institutions with which we govern. The U.S. Park Police endeavors to ensure the safety of the many tourists from throughout the world that visit Washington to view our symbols of freedom and democracy. The majority of tourists enjoy a pleasant and memorable visit, thanks in large measure to the courtesy, assistance and dedication of the Park Police.

We would especially like to express our gratitude to the men and women of the United States Park Police, without whose tireless efforts and expertise this Irish celebration could not be the grand festival we all enjoy.



*National Park Service Rangers are regular participants in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Hon. Manus J. Fish (right) is shown riding in the 1988 parade before he retired from the Park Service.*



*Members of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Metropolitan Police Department meet to coordinate our parade.*

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AND THE SELECTION OF

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Mothers' fathers' fathers
Forgive uneven tempo, sour notes
To hear once more
"The Siege of Ennis" and "Slieve na Mban"
Which the Choirs of Heaven
Have not practiced
As much as I.

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and

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3. HONORABLE JOHN SWEENEY - GRAND MARSHAL, President, Service Employees Int'l Union. Royal Coachman Horse and Carriage
4. IONA COLLEGE FIFE BAND, New York.
5. MAJOR GENERAL DONALD C. HILBERT, Commander,Military District Wash.
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7. JOINT U.S. FORCES COLOR GUARD, U.S. Honor Guard Units
8. U.S.ARMY 3RD INF."OLD GUARD". FORT. MYER, VIRGINIA.
9. U.S.NAVY, Ceremonial Guard and Drill Team.
10. U.S.MARINE CORPS, Honor Guard and Drill Team
11. U.S.AIR FORCE, Marching Unit and Color Guard.
12. U.S.COAST GUARD, Color Guard and Precision Drill Team.
13. U.S. PARK POLICE-Chief Lynn Herring.
14. HONORABLE MANUS J. FISH, JR. 1989 Gael of the Year.
15. 1989 HONOREES OF OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE: Joseph Judge, Jeremiah O'Leary, Dr. Maureen Murphy, Charles Thompson,(Posthumously)
16. BAYFIELD ALBFRED, Chief Metropolitan Fire Dept.
17. WASHINGTON,DC-ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL Marching Band.
18. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsor, The Dubliner and Powerscourt Rest.
19. CEAD MILE FAILTE. Irish American Club Banner, Family of John Moore.
20. ST. MARY'S STAR OF THE SEA. Fife and Drum Corps.
21. IRISH AMERICAN CLUB OF WASHINGTON Isabelle Gallagher, Pres./Members.
22. WASHINGTON "GAELS".Irish Football Club.
23. BELFAST CHILDREN'S PROGRAM. Ray Walsh, Chairman and Members.
24. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT-Sponsor-Mount St.Mary's Alumni and"The Bottom Line".
25. BRENTWOOD EAGLE-ETTES. Drum and Bugle Corps.
26. IRISH DANCERS. ERIN DANCERS. Traditional Irish Costume Maureen Malcom, Director
27. D.C. NATIONAL GAS COMMUNITY CLOWNS.
28. PATRIOTS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Evans, Directors.

## DIVISION B

1. HON. JOHN COSGROVE. Marshal, Division B.
2. U.S.CAPITOL POLICE. Color Team.
3. MS. KAY McGRATH, Representing The City of Washington, D.C.
4. BISHOP O'CONNELL H.S. BAND
5. ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS. (All Divisions AOH/LAOH in order of precedence). Lead John Fitzgerald Div. Virginia.
6. MASSACHUSETTS-THE COLONIAL PIPERS BAND. Boston, Rev. F.J.Crowley, Director.
7. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT - The O'Neil Development Corp.
8. ANTIQUE CARS - 1930 Lincoln-Ed Lail; -Chevy Conv-WXTR-104 Radio Sta.
9. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.Sponsor-WMZQ-FM RADIO.
10. JOLLY JESTER CLOWN GROUP.
11. NEW YORK - AQUINAS "LIL" IRISH MARCHING BAND.
12. MARYLAND-IRISH AMERICAN FAMILIES OF LAUREL.
13. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsor-Mr. Day's Sports Rock Cafe, Capt. Day's & Cantina D'Italia.
14. IRISH DANCERS. McHugh School of Irish Dance.
15. WHEELMEN. Antique bicycles, Bowie,MD K. Miller, & J Weidneier Captains.
16. NORTH CAROLINA-Southern Nash Senior H.S. Marching Band, Bailey, N.C.
17. BLACKTHORN IRISH COTTAGE, The Blackthorn Stick Members.
18. ROSE OF TRALEE. Mary Teresa McAuliffe.
19. ANTIQUE CARS. Sponsor-Bellevue Hotel. -1948 Packard;-1923 Willys Knight Touring;-1954 Austin English London Taxi
20. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE PIPE BAND. Chief of Police Michael Flaherty.
21. POLICE EMERALD SOCIETY,WASHINGTON METRO AREA. U.S. Uniformed Div of Secret Service. John Day, Founder & Pres.
22. NEW JERSEY-BLUE KNIGHTS OF N.J. Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club-MD,NJ,VA.
23. EMERALD SOCIETY OF D.C. FIRE DEPT. DUBLIN, IRELAND Firefighters (100).
24. FIREFIGHTERS EMERALD SOCIETY PIPE BAND. Annandale, Virginia.
25. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsor-Garrett's Rest.& BR Bar.
25. MARYLAND. DAMASCUS HIGH SCHOOL BAND. Matt Kuhn, Director.

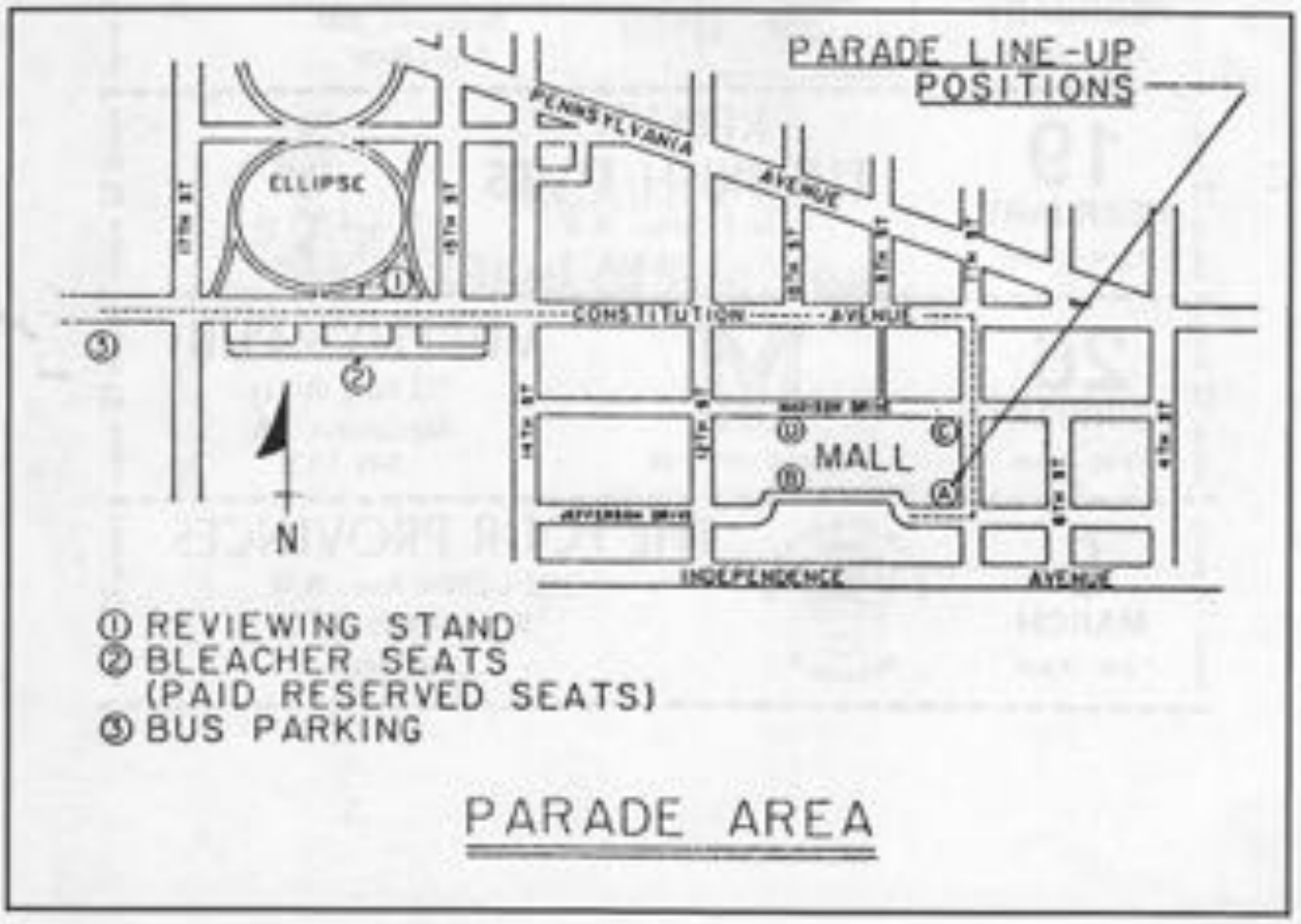
## DIVISION C

1. HONORABLE EUGENE ROWAN Marshal, Division C.
2. WISCONSIN. Marathon Marchers Red Raiders.
3. HIGH POINT HIGH SCHOOL. Air Force Junior ROTC.
4. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT Sponsor, Radio Q 107.
5. POTOMAC VALLEY IRISH WOLFHOUNDS. Falls Church, VA, John A.K. Donovan.
6. LANGLEY SAXONETTES. Drill Team.
7. SHEPPARDETTES. Pom-pom/Twirlers.
8. THE CALVERT CLOWNS.
9. CALIFORNIA. LELAND STANFORD UNIV. Marching Band.
10. DAHLGREN DIVISION. Naval Cadet Corps.
11. JAMES HOBAN MARCHING GROUP.
12. IRISH NORTHERN AID.
13. MASSACHUSETTS. HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE. Marching Band.
14. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. Sponsor-Four Provinces.

15. OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL, Athletic Club.
16. SAYARA UNIT. (8/10 CARS)
-1911 Antique Ford.
17. NEW JERSEY. PERTH AMBOY H.S. BAND.
18. JAUNTING CART. Sponsor. The Three Penny Bit, Georgetown.
19. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. WAVA-FM Radio.
20. IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE.
21. WEST VIRGINIA. CAPON BRIDGE JUNIOR H.S. Marching Band.
22. KAPITOL KLOWNS. Silver Spring, Maryland.
23. ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT. U.S.O. Sponsored by GEICO.
24. KELLY ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION. GMC Jimmy Truck.
25. MOUNT VERNON GUARD. Fife and Drum Corps.
26. BROOKLAND CLUB OF WASHINGTON, INC.
27. MANASSAS PARK HIGH SCHOOL BAND. and The Cougar Spirit Clown Troup.

## DIVISION D

1. HON. EDDIE GALLAGHER
Marshal, Division D.
2. GEORGIA. MOOREHOUSE COLLEGE.
Marching Tigers Band.
3. GWYNN PARK HIGH SCHOOL AF ROTC.
Color Guard and Drill Team.
4. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. Bishop Flaherty Council, Manassas, VA.
5. IRISH DANCERS-O'NEILL-JAMES SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING.
Laureen O'Neill-James, Director.
6. MARKLAND MEDIEVAL MERCENARY MILITIA. Washington/Baltimore.
7. ALL CITY MARCHING BAND. Washington, DC
Consolidated All Schools Bands
8. HORSE AND CARRIAGE. Sponsor-Murphy's of Washington and Alexandria.
9. SCHUPLATTER AND GEBLIRGSTRACHTEN VEREIN. Washington, D.C.
10. LION HART BAG PIPE BAND.
Director - Art Fournier.
11. ROTC. DU VAL HIGH SCHOOL.
Marching Unit.
12. ST PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT.
Sponsor-Touchdown Club of Washington, DC
13. MARYLAND. SENECA VALLEY H.S.
Marching Band.
14. ANTIQUE TRUCK. Warfield & Sanford Elevator, Co., Washington, D.C.
15. IRISH TERRIER PET BRIGADE.
16. HISTORIC MOTOR COACH.
-1937 Greyhound Super Coach.
17. NOTRE DAME ALUMNI BAND.
18. ROTC GAITHERSBURG.
Color Guard, Drill Team
19. CONTINENTAL FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK.
Continental Carriage drawn by two draft horses.
20. WMAL. PRECISION MARCHING RADIO BAND
21. MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK POLICE.
Horse Contingent, Montgomery County.
22. WEST YORK AREA H.S. "BULL DOG"
Color Guard and Drum Line.
23. ALL IRELAND HERITAGE, INC.
Two Cars.
24. BELMONT ABBEY ALUMNI ASSOC.
D.C. Chapter. Kitchen Band.



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

## 1989 SUNDAY BENEFIT LINE-UP

PARADE 12 MARCH

**15 JANUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.



**FLANAGAN'S**
7706 Woodmont Avenue
Bethesda, MD. 20814
986-1007

PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**29 JANUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**MURPHY'S PUB of DC.**
2605 24th St., N.W.
Washington, DC.
462-7171

A GRAND IRISH PUB

PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**5 FEBRUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.




3003 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC.
333-8282

PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**12 FEBRUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.




**MALARKEY'S** *CAFÉ-SALOON*
7201 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD.
951-9000

PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**19 FEBRUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**KELLY'S**
**THE IRISH TIMES**
14 F Street N.W.
543-5433



PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**26 FEBRUARY**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

A GRAND IRISH PUB

**MURPHY'S PUB**
713 King Street
Alexandria, VA.
548-1717

PARADE 12 MARCH

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PARADE 12 MARCH

**5 MARCH**
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**THE FOUR PROVINCES**
3412 CONN. Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC.
244-0860

PARADE 12 MARCH

The Society of
The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
Washington, D. C.

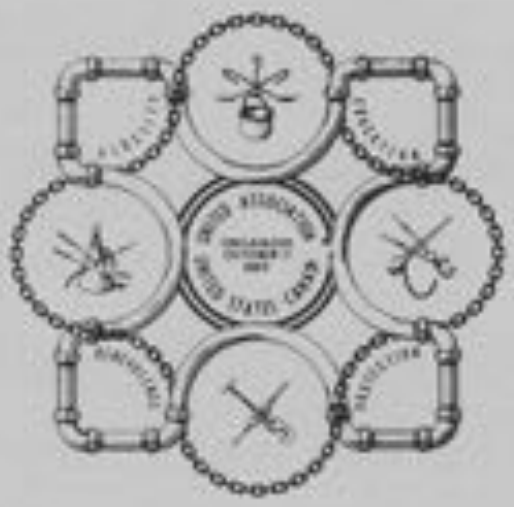
# WELCOME

## Grand Marshal
## John Sweeney

## and

## Manus Fish
## Gael of the Year

# "There is no substitute for a UA craftsman."



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Fraternal Greetings and Happy St. Patrick's Day

To John J. Sweeney,

Manus Fish,

And all Sons, Daughters and Friends of Ireland.

APWU

The American Postal Workers Union, AFL–CIO

**Moe Biller**
*President*

**William Burrus**
*Executive Vice President*

**Douglas C. Holbrook**
*Secretary-Treasurer*

CONGRATULATIONS

to

GRAND MARSHAL JOHN J. SWEENEY

PRESIDENT

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, CLC,

from the 65,000 members of

LOCAL 32B-32J, SEIU, AFL-CIO,

NEW YORK CITY

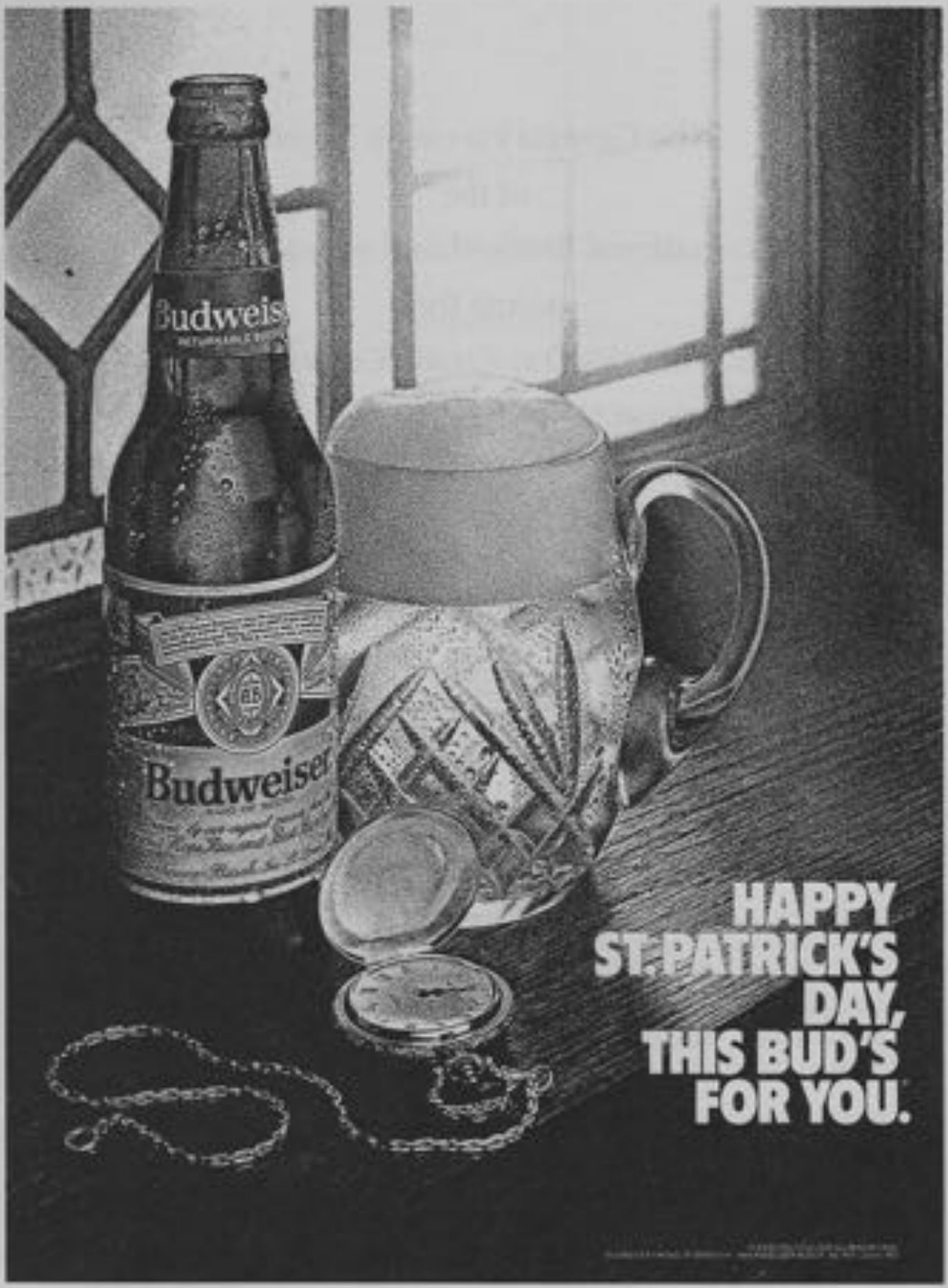
John J. Sweeney is a member and former president of Local 32B-32J, New York City. We are as proud of him today as we were ten years ago when he was the 1979 St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshal, New York City.

Gus Bevona, President
Local 32B-32J

**The General Executive Board**
**of the**
**International Brotherhood of Teamsters**
**salute the**
**St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee**
**of Washington, D.C.**

"As one of Irish heritage, I join with my fellow Americans in celebrating this festive holiday. May the luck of the Irish always be yours, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to all."

—William J. McCarthy
General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters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A GREAT LABOR LEADER

A GREAT FRIEND

OUR OWN

*John Sweeney*

GRAND MARSHAL

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to

John Sweeney

and All the D.C. Friends of Ireland

from

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J.J. Barry
International President

Jack F. Moore
International Secretary

International Brotherhood
Of Electrical Workers

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

# CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN SWEENEY

AND

# JACK FISH

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

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*The Human Spirit*

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Columbia First

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# Peaceful Waters

Peaceful waters
Peaceful ocean waters
Seagull takes flight by the coast
All is peaceful in the sunrise
All rests quietly in the dawn
I see a ship on the horizon
Taking its course
No harm in mind
Sailing on the peaceful waters
I see the fleet on the horizon
Obeying commands
Shoot the ship down
Killing on the peaceful waters
I cannot hear the crash of the waves
The sound of the cannons drown them out
I cannot see the sunset
As the day lies to rest
The battle fights on
Retaliation to the rescue for the victim-ship
The instigating fleet cries for war

All are asleep by nightfall
Fatal wounds as their sedatives
Sinking ships as their beds
Destruction was their dream
Now they rest in dreamless slumber
They sleep on the peaceful waters
Tell me, who has won?
My child, who has won?
Man shall never learn
He loves the peace
The peaceful expression on the faces
Of the soldiers who followed Christ
Or thought they had
The fearful expression
On the faces of the soldiers
Who belonged to the beast
And proved they had
Their bodies are all at rest
Their souls, no man shall ever know
The seagull watches the ships, their caskets
Carry them to the ocean floor, their grave
She cries for pity of men's foolishness
And flies before the new dawn

If only they would learn
Their cause has died unheard
The ocean is what it was yesterday
Peaceful waters
Peaceful ocean waters
Seagull takes flight by the coast
All is peaceful in the sunrise
All rests quietly in the dawn
I see a ship on the horizon
Taking its course
No harm in mind
Sailing on the peaceful waters.

When will men ever learn?

*Erin Zeiler*
(1988)


**HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**

**"PROUD TO BE IRISH"**

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

**Col. JOHN FITZGERALD**
**DIVISION 1**
**ARLINGTON, VA**

President Thomas J. Gaughan
**CO-FOUNDERS OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C.**
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**



**HONORING ONE OF OUR OWN!**
**PRESIDENT JOHN J. SWEENEY, SEIU**
**GRAND MARSHAL**

DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
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The **Graphic Communications International Union,** with its heritage of representing thousands of Irish among its printing and publishing workers since the 1880s, proudly joins with brother and sister trade unionists in saluting 1989 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal John Sweeney and "Gael of the Year" Manus J. (Jack) Fish. The GCIU also salutes ***all*** people—regardless of their descent—for their dedicated efforts, skills, and hard work in the building of America.

**James J. Norton**
President



**Guy DeVito**
Secretary-Treasurer

and Officers, Representatives, Organizers, and staff of the Graphic Communications International Union.

UFCW

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"When the hard-working people in Mississippi's growing catfish processing industry wanted a union to improve their living and working conditions, they looked to the United Food & Commercial Workers.

These workers, most of them black women, wanted a democratic union with the clout to negotiate a contract in the Delta where unions are few and far between. With pay at the minimum wage, little opportunity for promotion, and no pension, the catfish workers wanted a better future for themselves and their families.

Most of all, they sought dignity. They wanted to be treated like human beings, not like part of their plants' machinery. They wanted courtesies most Americans take for granted—such as time to go to the bathroom and doors on bathroom stalls.

Catfish workers are like many others in today's economy who are looking to the UFCW to help them out of the trap of poverty which is compounded by a lack of benefits most Americans receive from their employers. Hispanic poultry workers in the Sacramento Valley and their black counterparts on Maryland's Eastern Shore and nursing home workers in Birmingham, Alabama and around the country are just some of the low-paid workers who've become members of the UFCW in search of a better future.

Often, the hard labor of these workers is further demeaned by oppressive employer policies, reinforced by reactionary community attitudes and complicated by language and cultural barriers.

The UFCW is proud of its organizing record throughout North America, but we take special pride in bringing the benefits of union membership to the lowest paid and most oppressed workers in our society.

The UFCW's efforts are paying off for these workers in union contracts that will make a real difference in the quality of their lives for themselves and their families—now and in the future."

**William H. Wynn**
*International President*

**The UFCW, 1.3 million members strong, making a difference for workers, community and country.**

United Food & Commercial Workers
1775 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

# BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY
# A Salute to Our Parade Marshals

*By Peg O'Beirne*

It's Sunday morning, March 12, in the Nation's Capital. Even before most folks have viewed the headlines in the Washington Post, activities are well under way on the Mall between 7th and Constitution Avenue. Tiernan, Hannon, Carew, Reilly, Moore, Armstrong, O'Donnell, Cummings, McCann, Ford, Daly, McKenize, Hosie, Dazzo and Sobaczak — the names read like the brass section of McNamara's famed band. They are the men and women, our Parade marshals, busy at work to herald the official arrival of Spring in our Nation's Fair City. The Parade marshals have begun their behind the scenes work. As the title marshal invokes, these volunteers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade have the duty to arrange the line-up and to organize over one hundred marching units, bands, floats, and novelty units to salute St. Patrick and the heritage of all Irish-Americans, both young and old.

For those of us viewing this Parade, the marshals are the unsung heroes. Without their diligence, fortitude, and commitment, this Parade would be just a mass of people passing along Constitution Avenue without direction or purpose. This enormous task is undertaken by these marshals in order to make Washington, D.C. proud of the Irish and those who identify with Irish culture in America.

Since that first parade on Massachusetts Avenue nineteen years ago, the Parade marshals' day begins long before the honored dignitaries enter the reviewing stand, vendors set-up to display their wares, and thousands of spectators arrive for this family event.

To be a St. Patrick's Day Parade marshal one must possess several distinct traits: Love of the Irish and their long colorful tradition in America; pride in their city; love of family; a terrific sense of humor; and an instinct for fellowship. Without these qualities a marshal would be just someone giving directions. Instead, these men and women, twenty in that first parade and today one hundred fifty, comprised of police, fire, military and civilian personnel, turn pandemonium into grand pageantry every March.

The vast amount of planning and numerous long hours spent in preparation for this three-hour performance of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is in the hands of our Parade marshals. They meet twice a year and have two special meetings to discuss each Parade and any unusual unit that may be a part of the Parade, such as the year tanks were included in the line of march.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade has never been cancelled due to weather, although in 1975 the first rain date almost occurred with heavy downpours all morning up until noon when the sun came out and the temperature rose to a very sunny seventy degrees. Rain began again in earnest immediately after the conclusion of the parade.

The Parade marshals are responsible for the safety of the general public viewing the Parade and those participating in the Parade. Very definite rules are established by the marshals making sure that crowd control and safety is foremost in their duty. Participants in the Parade are not permitted to leave the line of march or throw things from floats to those lined along the avenue, during the Parade. Our Parade marshals have been complimented on several occasions over these many years by the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Park Police, and the National Capital Park Service for their precision and dedication in keeping the Parade moving safely and with few gaps between marching units.

The duties of a marshal vary greatly throughout Parade day. Some marshals may be asked to stand alone at various intersections helping with the movement of the different groups as they pass in review. Other marshals may zoom up and down Constitution Avenue in a motorcycle sidecar, while others may walk the entire Parade route assisting a marching unit in keeping time. Several marshals are assigned to the formation area, frantically trying to arrange units into the line of march while assisting late arrivals locate their floats or bands. These may include a stray trombone player in search of his or her high school unit. Other marshals have unique tasks, such as holding the reins of several horses or Irish wolfhounds. Another may be assigned to simply assure the honored Grand Marshal of the Parade that all is set to begin on time.

And so it does. Precisely at one o'clock P.M. for these past nineteen memorable years, the marshals of our Parade have started with a prayer to Saint Patrick for fair skies for the "Wearing of the Green" making it a great day for the Irish and another great parade.



*Frank Tiernan, Chairman of Marshals (left) and Marty Hannon, Formation Chairman (right) at work on Parade Day.*

**Our best wishes and congratulations to**

**Grand Marshal John Sweeney**

**and**

**"Gael of the Year"**

**Jack Fish**

May the day be sunny and bright for honoring the men and women of the labor movement and the Irish contribution to building America.

**METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO**
**Paul J. Burnsky, President**



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and

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# JOHN SWEENEY

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF:

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**To All**

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**J. Terry Radigan, President**

You are welcome to our activities today, following the parade.

Ask a Hibernian for details

# FLANAGAN'S IRISH PUB



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**John J. Sweeney**

**Grand Marshal 1989**

# ANGELS — 1989

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**Kathleen Dunleavy**
**Connie Gates**
**Kathi Hanagan**
**Barbara Macken**
**Pat McBride**
**Jane Murray**
**Peg O'Beirne, MMLA**
**Mary Anne Sheridan**
**Judy Tivnan**
**Kathleen Waters**

All the Angels aren't in Heaven.
We couldn't do it without you.

# MATT'S



Matt Lee,
Chairman, *Fund Raisers*

ıck O' The Irish"

To

CONGRATULATIONS TO A GREA

JOHN SV hn J. Sweeney

FROM THE MANAGING DIREC

Selected

*Grand Marshall* of the

St. Patrick's Day

Parade

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## Dr. Maureen Murphy

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## Mr. Jeremiah O'Leary

Washington Times

# IN MEMORIAM

John Grimes Posthumous Award

In Honor Of

## Charles Thomson

Secretary—Continental Congress

# The Irish Role in Labor Leadership in the United States

*By Joseph P. O'Donnell*

As we pay homage to Saint Patrick this year, I am delighted that your honoree is my good friend, John Sweeney, who is General President of my union, The Service Employees International Union. I first became acquainted with John Sweeney through the late Dave Sullivan when he was General President. It has been a pleasure to watch John Sweeney move up the line bringing the Service Employees to the position of prominence they occupy in the national AFL-CIO.

As I prepared this article, I observed a number of automobiles in the Boston area which carried bumper stickers proclaiming the driver's heritage. One bumper sticker announced "Irish and Proud Of It," another revealed that "God Made the Irish #1."

My initial thought was that our country had been good to the Irish who came here. Certainly my mother, who emigrated from Castlebar, County Mayo and my father, who had left Buncrana, County Donegal, were welcomed to Boston. Young Kate Kelly became a cook for a Boston merchant. Pat O'Donnell, after serving in the U.S. Navy, became a Street Car Operator for the Boston Elevated Railway Company. As an Operator he became a 40-year member and Barn Captain for the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric and Motor Coach Operators of the United States and Canada, Division #589. The nine children of the marital union were very proud of their dad's involvement with the Union.

In the early days there was a less ready acceptance of our Irish ancestors. Until the 1800's, the Guild system militated against accepting the Irish into the Master-Journeymen system by closing the door to Irish apprenticeship. In many areas resistance to the Irish was bitter. As an example, in certain areas jobs were listed in the press, but with the clear admonition that "No Irish Need Apply."

The employment situation in the United States began to improve after the successful Revolution by the Colonists against the British. Part of the success came as the result of Samuel Slater's ability to reproduce from memory a model of the Arkwright Spinning Machine. Reproduction of textile machinery at this time was a crime punishable by death. The problem for the British was that Mr. Slater was in Rhode Island and therefore beyond the jurisdiction of the Crown. In this fashion the textile industry arrived, followed in short order by the shoe industry. Shoes and textiles provided employment for young women. Fathers and brothers found employment in mines, construction, on railroads and the docks.

With the advent of new industries, the problems of industrialization made their impact on the new nation. Perhaps the best way to understand the impact of this industrialization upon working people is to look at some of the earlier growth periods and to observe the impact on trade union progress.

### I. 1828–1836—The Awakening—300,000 members

The surge in this period came as a result of the defeat of Andrew Jackson in the election of 1824. This defeat took place when John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay "struck a deal" which put Adams in the White House and moved Clay to the Secretary of State post.

In response to this "corrupt bargain" workers and liberal organizations put Andrew Jackson in the White House in 1828. His presidential platform proclaimed him to be the defender of the "rights of the common man."

The Mechanics Union of the Trade Associations was formed in Philadelphia in 1827 to promote a Carpenter's strike for the 10-hour day. This organization was successful and became the model for similar associations. These, in turn, became the forerunners of City Central bodies in other cities. In 1828 the Mechanics Union of Trade Associations challenged the employers and won the 10-hour day. This strike was followed by the workers first venture into labor politics through a group called The Political Association of Workmen of Philadelphia. This organization took control of the government of the city of Philadelphia. This association spread to New York and New England and comes down to us in history as the pattern for workingmen's parties in the larger industrial communities. These workingmen's parties, in association with Horace Mann, were responsible for the Free Public School system in the United States. This happened at a time when children between the ages of five and thirteen comprised one third of the total labor force.

The first national labor federation, The National Trades Union, was formed in New York City. The President of this new Union, Ely Moore, an Irish printer, was the first trade unionist elected to the United States Congress. He was regarded by his colleagues as labor's spokesman. Although short-lived, the National Trades Union gave labor leaders a sense of common purpose and an understanding of common interests and aspirations. The National Trade Union strove mightily for equal pay for equal work for women.

The National Trades Union came to an end in the panic of 1837 and workers sought answers in general return movements. The reforms most often included the cooperative programs of Robert Owen. Other reformers hoped to persuade the Federal Government to make land available for settlement by those wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits. One early labor spokesman, Horace Greeley, another printer, now Editor of the New York Tribune, urged young unemployed workers to "Go West, Young Man." Little did Mr. Greeley realize how quickly his suggestion would be followed, because in 1848 gold was discovered in California and people came not only from New England but also from as far away as Australia. Observers of this period maintain that approximately 50,000 skilled workers left the east to try their luck in the goldfields of the west.

### II. 1860–1866—Formation of National Labor Unions<br>President Lincoln and Civil War—300,000 members

The dominant union of the period was the National Labor Union, which was an interesting mix of wage earners, farmer societies, suffragists, prohibitionists and Green backers. The guiding influence of the Union was William H. Sylvis who built the organization based on the idea of one big union. The union had a strong political orientation and was successful in persuading Congress to enact an eight-hour day for government employees. The union failed in its attempts to secure the eight hour day in the private sector. Sylvis, as leader of the Molders, engaged in a 10,000 mile campaign in which he organized 46 Locals for his union at a cost of $9,000, thereby establishing that union as one of the most highly organized unions in the nation. An economic panic hit the country in 1873 and lasted for six years. Union membership dropped from 300,000 to 50,000 members.

The Civil War had split the nation. It devastated the South. The hope for reconciliation of North and South disappeared with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The slaves had been freed by Lincoln, but the reconstruction process was a disaster and the nation came dragging to a halt.

This situation was chaotic because the nation was rapidly changing. Railroads were expanding into a national network and were taken over by the robber barons. The internal combustion gasoline engine was perfected. The use of electricity was growing. Competition was keen and industrial magnates had discovered the trust process.

John D. Rockefeller first cornered the petroleum market, then moved into railroads, iron ore, and shipping. Andrew Carnegie formed the huge Carnegie Steel Corporation. J. Pierpont Morgan, after absorbing the Carnegie Corporation, formed the U.S. Steel Corporation, which became the nation's first billion dollar corporation. Slowly, but perceptibly, trusts captured oil, sugar, and meat industries. Then a scramble started for the railroads.

In the 1870's, and especially during the panic, strikes were broken in a heavy handed fashion. The use of troops was a common practice. The use of strike breakers and spies was prevalent. Labor reacted and sometimes with violence. In the anthracite coal fields of Eastern Pennsylvania a classic contest occurred. The miners were mainly Irish. The superintendents and firemen were primarily English, Scottish, and Welsh. The dominant employer, Franklin B. Gowen, was an Ulsterman who was President of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal Company which also controlled the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company.

The treatment of miners by management was brutal. The miners responded by forming a fraternal organization, The Molly Maguires, named after an Irish heroine, who, in Ireland, fought the eviction of tenants by absentee landlords. The Molly Maguires were a secret organization, affiliated with the Ancient Order of Hibernians. At the outset, their unfair treatment brought forth the use of dynamite and destruction of mine property. The Company hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency who, in turn, engaged an Irish informer, James McParland, who joined the Mollies. McParland became actively involved in violence and when the Company was ready to prosecute, McParland became the Company informer. Three years of court trials resulted in the conviction of 20 men, ten of whom were hanged. The result of the trial saw the extinction of the Mollies and the glorification of the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

A different type of organization appeared on the scene in Philadelphia on December 9, 1869, when nine tailors met to form the Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor. The Order was to be a broad based organization of all wage earners without regard to sex, nationality, creed, or color. Its long range goal was to alter the wages system through the formation of cooperatives, which in time would establish a Cooperative Commonwealth and so change the capitalist system. The organization was founded by a Baptist minister, Uriah Stevens, as a secret organization which would function without strikes and violence but through education and nonviolent agitation, would gain its Cooperative Commonwealth.

Only four of 20 National Unions of the time joined the Knights of Labor. The leaders of the Reform Movement and some wild-eyed politicians took over meetings. Reverend Stevens left the organization he had founded. An Irish-American machinist and former Mayor of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Terrence V. Powderly, became Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labor.

### III. 1880–1886—The Great Upheaval—750,000 Members Knights of Labor and Beginning of American Federation of Labor

The Knights of Labor which began in 1869 now became a national organization and later a truly international organization with members in the United States, Ireland, Canada, England, Belgium, Australia, and New Zealand.

Terrence Powderly was on friendly terms with James Cardinal Gibbons of Philadelphia, who learned on a visit to Rome that Cardinal Taschereau of Canada was urging excommunication of any Catholic who joined the Knights of Labor. To make a long story short, Cardinal Gibbons after a meeting with the Pope, returned to the United States with a statement of Papal goodwill for the Knights. The Pope, who took this action was Leo XIII, author of the first and great Labor Encyclical, *Re rum Novarum*, written in 1891.

Powderly was a talented and interesting individual. He was a competent but longwinded speaker. He was an ardent Prohibitionist who declined to address union members if alcohol was served. As a result, he was usually invited to speak before lunch or in the early afternoon. He preferred not to use the strike weapon and often sought arbitration in its stead.

On the other hand, he showed vision and compassion. He appointed a black organizer, Frank Ferrell, to the Knights of Labor and threatened to withdraw the entire convention delegation from a hotel, if Ferrell were denied a room accommodation. In recognition of the growing number of women in the Knights, he also appointed Mary Sterling as an organizer.

The Knights of Labor were involved in the summer of 1877 in a strike they had not called, but from which they gained in membership. Although unplanned the strike caused terror in the nation and may have caused wiser heads in Government, Labor, and Industry to think about opening up some means of communication between the parties. The strike in question involved Railroad Workers protesting wage cuts. It was felt by many to be a minor revolution. A description of that strike by noted writer, Stuart Chase, follows:

> "New York (PM)—On a midsummer night in 1877 the citizens of Baltimore were awakened by a wild ringing of bells. Not since the Civil War had the unearthly peal of the militia call to arms sounded through the city.
>
> Strikers had taken possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station, and the fifth and sixth Regiments of the Maryland National Guard were marching against them. But so resolutely were they entrenched, and so hostile were the city workers who supported them, that the general alarm was rung for reinforcements. The city trembled with terror and excitement.
>
> The Sixth regiment, finding its advance on the station blocked by hostile workers, closed ranks, and suddenly, horribly fired a volley into the massed crowd. Instead of plunging to cover, the crowd charged the troops and tried to wrench the guns from their hands, only to be met by volley after volley. Slowly the regiment fought its way to the station, leaving dead and wounded guardsmen to mark its advance. The station was captured, only for the militia to find themselves surrounded by ever-increasing numbers of strikers and their sympathizers.
>
> A frantic telegram for help was sent to Washington. General Barry, with a detachment of regulars supported by artillery, finally relieved the militiamen, and also captured and imprisoned fifty strikers.
>
> By this time, Washington was almost as frightened as Baltimore. The Cabinet convened and decided 'that no further depletion of the military and naval forces at the capital ought to be made.' Two companies of marines marching to entrain for the strike area had been hissed and jeered by street crowds in Washington.
>
> The warship Swatara and Powhatan were directed to bring additional troops from Norfolk to the capital; the ironclads Washington and Philadelphia were ordered to prepare for instant service; plans were laid for the defense of the Treasury.
>
> By this time Pennsylvania was aflame. The Baltimore and Ohio strike was caused by a 10 percent wage cut—the third cut in three years. The Pennsylvania Railroad had cut wages in June, and was about to promulgate an order doubling the number of freight cars to be handled by the same crew of men. This meant wholesale reductions in the working force. The men struck—a day or two after the Baltimore battle.
>
> State troops gathering in Pittsburgh set out to arrest the strike leaders. Their way was blocked by the crowd. The sheriff read the riot act. The troops fired into the mob, whereupon the strikers attacked the troops. Some of the local militia joined the strikers. The battle was general and bloody. During the day strikers broke into stores and carried off $100,000 worth of guns, pistols, swords and knives.
>
> The State troops were finally beleaguered in a railroad roundhouse. The strikers bombarded them with two pieces of captured artillery. Making a breach in the walls, they attacked in force, only to be cut down by the concentrated fire of the troops. Next the besiegers sent cars of oil-soaked coke down the tracks toward the roundhouse, and finally they set it on fire. The troops retreated with heavy losses across the Allegheny River to Claremont, twelve miles away. Two roundhouses, 1,600 cars, and 125 locomotives were destroyed.
>
> In Reading the whole Sixteenth Regiment—largely composed of Irish workers—went over to the strikers, following a violent battle in the streets. In St. Louis a committee of strikers took possession of the city government for a week. They were finally dislodged by a combined force of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. In Chicago there was a pitched battle between Federal troops and strikers at the Halstead Street viaduct.
>
> So went the summer of 1877, the bloodiest year in the history of American labor conflicts. The revolt was that of American

workers. There were no "immigrants," "foreigners," "orders of Moscow." The basic causes lay in the terrible conditions which followed the financial panic of 1873 and in the tradition of organized fighting left from the Civil War. The unemployed were estimated at 3,000,000 in 1877, and the death of workers from starvation was familiar in the day's news."

Another Railroad strike in 1885 captured public attention. This was a battle with Jay Gould on the Wabash Railroad. Gould had captured public attention earlier by boasting that he could hire half the workforce in the United States to kill the other half. The Union won the strike. Knights of Labor membership jumped to 729,677 members. In three years membership had declined to 100,000. The Knights of Labor had shown that unskilled workers, women and blacks could be organized. As the years went by, the Knights of Labor became more of a glorified debating society with the result that the organization was controlled by the Agrarian Movement.

While the Knights of Labor were leaving their mark on the working population, a new organization appeared on the scene. That organization, led by an immigrant Jewish Cigar Maker, Samuel Gompers, an Irish Carpenter, Peter McGuire, and a Norwegian Socialist, Ferdinand Laurelle, started in 1880 as the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions. In 1886 it would change its name to The American Federation of Labor and come down to us in history as one of the most successful labor organization in the history of the world.

The original foundation blocks on which the AFL was founded included:

1. Exclusive jurisdiction of the National Union
2. Complete autonomy of the National Union
3. Non-partisan political action
4. High dues to support strikes as a form of economic warfare
5. Written collective bargaining agreements

The new Federation got off to a slow start. 1886 was the beginning of another depression and the year was not made any easier when, in Chicago, the Haymarket Riot resulted in an anarchist bomb which killed seven police. Powderly denounced the anarchists. The AFL, under Gompers' leadership, supported the Haymarket Martyrs, but four men were hanged. Three others, given long jail terms, were later pardoned by Governor John P. Altgeld.

1893 was a terrible year, bringing in another economic panic. Andrew Carnegie aided by his partner, Henry Clay Frick and the Pinkerton Detectives, defeated the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers at Homestead, Pa. 1,300 additional strikes marked 1892–1893 as years of unrest. A record 230 people were lynched in 1892—161 of the number were black and this was the 30th anniversary of Negro Emancipation.

This might be an appropriate point at which to see how Irish brothers and sisters were making out as they left the Old Country for the States. U.S. census figures reveal that between 1820 and 1970, Irish immigrants totaled 8 percent of the labor force. Only 15 percent of the new arrivals worked in agriculture as opposed to 47 percent of other Americans. (This could be a reaction to the misery and suffering of the potato famine in Ireland). U.S. census figures in 1870 reveal that 17 percent of all contractors were identified as born in Ireland. Fortunately, these Irish contractors favored Irish American employees. In short order, most Building Trades workers were affiliated with unions.

Irish and Irish Americans were also made to feel welcome in Metal Trades and Dock Workers Unions. Generally, things seemed to be taking a turn for the better as far as employment prospects were concerned as the nation headed toward the 20th century.

**IV. 1898–1903—A.F. of L. Dominant Union—2,000,000 members**
**Spanish American War**
**The Progressive Era**

The Progressive Era, the time from Theodore Roosevelt's accession to the Presidency in 1901, to the nation's entry into the First World War sixteen years later, saw an upsurge of the liberal spirit in the United States. Political discontent with big business domination started a quest for more social justice and the abolition of special privilege.

Efforts began to control the trusts, to regulate the railroads, to mitigate the evils of the slums and to safeguard the health of women and children. Real wages in terms of purchasing power decreased in spite of great gains in productivity. Sweatshops, callous exploitation of women and children, inadequate factory codes began to capture the attention of people with a sense of social justice.

To most United States opinion makers, war against Spain was part of our manifest destiny. Described as the "honeymoon period of capital and labor," no one wanted a repeat of the railroad strike of 1877 or the Pullman strike of 1894. Strong voices demanded a better way of dealing with strikes without violence and with adequate protection of the public interest.

This new approach to labor peace was first jointly introduced by Samuel Gompers of the A.F.L. and Senator Marcus Alonzo Hanna of Ohio. Prominent figures who supported this new National Civic Federation included President Grover Cleveland, Harvard President Eliot and Archbishop Ireland who represented the public. Industry representatives included John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Charles Schwab and August Belmont. From the labor movement President Gompers was joined by John Mitchell of the Miners, James O'Connell of the Machinists and James Duncan of the Granite Cutters. As a result of this tripartite approach to the peaceful settlement of disputes, unions grew at a rapid pace and by the turn of the century were heading for the two million member mark.

The Labor Movement found new friends in the fields of literature and the press. Herbert Croly in *The Promise of American Life*, declared that, "Labor Unions deserve to be favored because they are the most effective machinery which has yet been forged for the amelioration of the laboring classes." Other prominent writers of the period who supported unions, included Finley Peter Dunne who wrote as "Mr. Dooley," one of America's greatest humorists, Upton Sinclair, in his book, *The Jungle*, Jack London, *The Iron Heel*, Lincoln Steffens and Ida Tarbell among others.

The critical strike of the period was the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902. This strike pitted two formidable leaders in a major struggle. Anthracite coal was represented by George T. Baer. The United Mine Workers spokesman was an Irish lad named John Mitchell who, at the age of 28, became General President of the Miners' Union. The new President of the United States was a relatively young man, a take charge type, who as the coal supply dwindled, thought it best to call the parties into a mediation session. Mitchell agreed quickly. Baer responded to President Theodore Roosevelt with a classic retort to the effect that, "The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for—not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given the control of the property interests of this country." This amazing comment was referred to as the "Divine right of Management." The strike was settled in the Union's favor when Theodore Roosevelt set up an arbitration commission which following the National Civic Federation pattern, spelled out a settlement. For the first time in history the U.S. President publicly supported the labor movement in its quest for a fair settlement. This opened the door for a new, strong, presidential government and pretty much determined the character of American policies for the next few decades.

On January 2, 1905, thirty people met in Chicago to found the Industrial Workers of the World. A young miner from the Western Federation of Miners, Secretary William D. Haywood, was elected permanent chairman of the Conference. Among those in attendance at the first meeting described by Haywood as the "Constitutional Convention of the Working Class" were Eugene Debs, Railroad unionist and later perennial candidate for United States President on the Socialist ticket; Father Thomas Hagerty, a mystical Catholic priest; Mother Mary Jones, tiny little daughter of Ireland, described by John Mitchell as the Miners' greatest organizing asset; and Daniel De Leon, brilliant orator and often ridiculed as "the Socialist Pope."

In their limited period on the national stage, the I.W.W. or "Wobblies" as they preferred to be called, fought the good fight against unjust laws, limitations on free speech, and on exploitation of those least favored by the economics of the market place. When they were later to come out in opposition to World War I, the full force of government caused the I.W.W. to decline. Haywood was arrested because of his opposition to the war. He found his way to Europe on a ship and spent the remainder of his life in the Soviet Union. His ashes rest in the Kremlin Wall in a place of honor.

The I.W.W. took charge and gave strike assistance to textile workers in Lawrence, Mass. and to silk workers in Paterson, New Jersey. They fought against limitations on free speech on the West Coast. They were effective as trade unions in lumber camps and in western mines.

### V. 1917–1920—World War I—A.F.L. Dominant, 5,000,000 members
### Wilson Administration in White House
### Loss of Influence by Leftist Groups

Some students of labor history identify the World War I period as time when the A.F.L. joined the establishment. In truth, labor support was important in the election of Woodrow Wilson at a time when the Republicans were split by a choice of Theodore Roosevelt versus William Howard Taft. Wilson was the first President to address an A.F.L. Convention. The Clayton Anti-Trust Act became law, thereby removing the injunction from the labor-management arena.

In Wilson's first administration, the President was adamantly opposed to U.S. entry into World War I which he described as a war "of commercial powers over the spoils of empire." He was elected to a second term on the slogan that "He kept us out of war." However, sentiment changed when, in May 1915, a German submarine sank the *Lusitania* with a loss of 124 American lives. War was inevitable when, on February 25, 1916, British Intelligence released a message signed by German Foreign Minister, Alfred Zimmerman, offering Mexico the land lost by that country in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona in return for making war against the United States.

Union support for the war was insured by a promise of labor representation on Government Boards and particularly on the National War Labor Board, a tripartite Board to mediate disputes affecting war production. In the period of its operation, the Board heard 1,250 cases and made awards affecting 700,000 workers.

Union growth figures were impressive:

| | 1917 | 1920 |
|---|---|---|
| Seamen | 21,700 | 103,300 |
| Teamsters | 59,000 | 110,800 |
| Machinists | 71,900 | 330,800 |
| Boilermakers | 31,200 | 103,000 |
| Railway Clerks | 6,800 | 186,000 |
| Street Carmen | 39,000 | 182,000 |
| IBEW | 41,600 | 134,000 |
| Meat Cutters | 9,700 | 50,500 |

Because of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in November 1917, the post-war strikes in the United States in 1919 caused more than the usual concern. The shipyard strike in Seattle, Washington, accompanied by sympathetic action of the Central Body, was described in the press as a General Strike (albeit limited to one city). The Boston Police Strike saw the discharge of every police officer who went out on strike. In 1919, 350,000 Steelworkers struck. The spirit of the War Labor Board was forgotten, the National Civic Federation had no influence with the steel barons and the strike was lost after 20 strikers were killed.

In the period from 1920 to 1933, Union membership dropped from 5,047,800 to approximately 2,900,000 in 1933.

Many reasons were given for the loss:

- Failure by A.F.L. to organize mass production industries (e.g. steel, auto, rubber, oil, glass, cement, etc).
- Company dominated unions established by employers at a time when the big became bigger and when productivity was soaring.
- Experiments in scientific management and new gimmicks in personnel administration.

On December 13, 1924, Samuel Gompers died at age 74. He was succeeded by Secretary Bill Green who had begun his career in the Miners Union. As the son of a Welsh miner and a pious Baptist, he tended to be conciliatory. He hoped to organize the unskilled and the down trodden. Unfortunately, the economics of the 1920's and 1930's were not propitious times for a cooperative approach.

It is interesting that in the first 100 years of the A.F.L. and A.F.L.-C.I.O., the organization was served by three leaders.

1. 1886–1924 (except for 1894 term)—Samuel Gompers—Dutch, Jewish ancestry—childhood in London; remainder of life in U.S. as first president of A.F.L.
2. 1924–1952—William Green—born in Coshocton, Ohio of Welsh parentage—father a miner.
3. 1952–1971—George Meany—born in Bronx, New York, of Irish parents—Father a plumber; left school in 10th grade to begin plumber apprenticeship.

I mention the three occupants of the Presidency over a period of almost 100 years only to pay tribute to the dedication and longevity of that trio. I recall an Executive Board meeting in Boston nearly 40 years ago. James Caesar Petrillo of the Musicians was then a member of the Executive Council. He commented that Ponce De Leon searched through Florida for the Fountain of Youth. "He was wasting his time. He should have discovered this Executive Council. They go on forever." Needless to say, these comments brought a flush to the countenance of President Green.

Another observation concerns the overwhelming influence of Catholics at A.F.L. Conventions. Irish Catholics were the largest nationality group in the A.F.L. Another sizeable nationality group in the A.F.L. were the German-Americans, a large segment of which was also Catholic. In 1928, Professor Selig Perlman wrote that it is "the Catholics who are perhaps in the majority of the A.F.L." Perhaps it is a tribute to their lack of prejudice that the first President was of the Jewish persuasion; the second was a Protestant Sunday School teacher and the third was a good living, cigar smoking Irish-Catholic. The current President, Lane Kirkland, professes to be a pious South Carolinian.

### VI 1933–1937—F.D.R.—New Deal—7,000,000 members
### Formation of Committee on Industrial Organizations

To people of my generation, the Great Depression of the 1930's brings forth the hope that such an economic disaster never happen again. The entire world slid into an economic depression that terrified us. Hunger, want, fear, unemployment surrounded us. Lucky was that family where the principal breadwinner had a job. The economy was in chaos and the Republican Party, in power since the 1920's had no answer. Even the A.F.L. which had reached a membership of approximately 5,000,000 had lost nearly half that number by the start of the depression.

Thank God for a President with vision. His legs may have been crippled but he had courage and vision. He told us we had nothing to fear but fear itself. In the first 100 days he set a record for progressive leadership unmatched from that day to this. The unemployed wage earner, the farmer, and the heads of families were given his primary attention. He asked us to support his New Deal. This President was, of course, Franklin D. Roosevelt. His laws formed for us a pattern of hope, because, as young citizens, my generation knew that his New Deal was based on respect for our dignity.

His theory of Government was best expressed when, in 1931, as Governor of New York, F.D.R. said:

> "The duty of the State toward the citizen is the duty of the servant to its master. One of the duties of the State is that of caring for its citizens who find themselves the victims of adverse circumstances . . . To those unfortunate citizens, aid must be extended by Government not as a matter of charity but as a matter of social duty."

Later in 1932, F.D.R. said:

> "Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. There is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can only be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would the emergency of a war."

F.D.R. gave wage earners a legacy that would protect him and his family in most important contingencies.

1. The Social Security Act for protection against unemployment and injury as well as for our retirement;
2. Fair Labor Standards Act—minimum wages and maximum hours coverage; and
3. National Labor Relations Act—to legitimize Unions and provide for collective bargaining.

## EMERGENCE OF THE CIO

At the 1935 A.F.L. Convention in Atlantic City, the fight between craft and industrial unionism came to a head. The craft unionists held a 5–8 majority on the resolutions as committee. As a result, President Howard of the Typographical Union issued a minority report on behalf of industrial unionism which said:

> "In those industries where the work performed by a majority of the workers is of such a nature that it might fall within the jurisdiction claim of more than one craft union, or no established craft union, it is declared that industrial organization is the only form that will be acceptable to the workers or adequately meet their needs."

John L. Lewis, President of the Mine Workers, spoke in favor of the minority report:

> "A year ago I was younger and naturally had more faith in the executive council;" . . . " I was beguiled into believing that the executive council would honestly interpret and administer this policy — the policy of issuing charters for industrial unions in the mass-production industries . . . I know better now. At San Francisco they seduced me with fair words. Now, of course, having learned that I was seduced, I am enraged and I am ready to rend my seducers limb from limb . . . "What of the future of our country! . . . "How much more security would we have for the future of our form of government if we had a virile labor movement that represented, not a mere cross section of skilled workers, but the men who work in our great industries, regardless of their trade and calling! Why not make a contribution to the well being of those who are not fortunate enough to be members of your organizations! The labor movement is organized upon the principle that the strong shall help the weak. Is it right, after all, that because some of us are capable of forging great and powerful organizations of skilled craftsmen in this country that we should lock ourselves up in our own domain and say, 'I am merely working for those who pay me!' Isn't it right that we should contribute something of our own strength, our own knowledge, our own influence toward those less fortunately situated, in the knowledge that if we help them and they grow strong, in turn we will be the beneficiaries of their changed status and strength!"

The Committee on Industrial Organization was underway in 1935 after the Atlantic City Convention. By 1937 these new unions had grown rapidly in the mass production industries. These new organizations which established their jurisdiction in 1937 included:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mine Workers | 600,000 |
| Auto Workers | 400,000 |
| Steel Workers | 375,000 |
| Ladies Garment Workers | 250,000 |
| Clothing Workers | 175,000 |
| Packinghouse Workers | 100,000 |
| Rubber Workers | 80,000 |
| Total | 1,980,000 |

New leaders appeared on the scene: John L. Lewis (Welsh), Phil Murray (Scotch-Irish), Jim Carey (Irish), Walter Reuther (German), Sidney Hillman and Dave Dubinsky (Jewish), Dan Tobin, Pat Gorman and Dave Sullivan (Irish).

The strikes of this period were awesome: big steel, under the wise leadership of Myron Taylor of U.S. Steel negotiated an agreement with the major steel corporations but little steel companies gave the strikers the Memorial Day Massacre. The Auto Workers succeeded against the motor vehicle employers (except Henry Ford and Harry Bennett in the Ford Motor Company).

## VII 1940–1947—World War II—15,000,000 members
### A.F.L. and C.I.O.
### Accommodations Toward Merger

A favorable government attitude plus labor's commitment to victory led to this amazing growth period. Part of the national commitment was due to the reaction against the sneak attack by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor.

Organized labor welcomed the War Labor Board and accepted representation on other Boards and Commissions while committing their organization to bringing the war to a successful conclusion.

Thanks to A. Philip Randolph, General President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, for his efforts to persuade President Roosevelt to give support to the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Under this Executive Order there would be equal treatment for minorities, both in Military Service and in Industry. In my association with Phil Randolph, I felt he was another Saint—the only difference being that he had a darker skin.

Labor had an opportunity to strengthen our nation. In 1944 there was some question as to whether Henry Wallace should stand in the #2 slot. Many factions took a negative attitude. President Roosevelt may have dropped a hot potato to the good brothers when he said, "Clear everything with Sidney." Sidney, of course, was Sidney Hillman of the Clothing Workers of America who chose Harry S. Truman, then Senator from Missouri. Harry S. Truman became one of the greatest leaders of the Nation.

In 1946 the Congressional elections gave victory to the Republicans and as a result the Taft-Hartley Act became effective on June 23, 1947. To show that Guardian Angels have a function, the record will reveal that Harry S. Truman was re-elected in 1948 even though he vetoed the Taft-Hartley Act. However, his veto was overturned by Congress.

To prove that right and decency will prevail, please note that in 1954 the A.F.L. and C.I.O. in the majority of jurisdictions agreed to a no-raiding pact and on December 7, 1955 agreed to an "organic merger" of A.F.L.-C.I.O.

In 1952, C.I.O. President, Phil Murray, and A.F.L. President, Bill Green died. Walter Reuther of the Auto Workers was elected President of the C.I.O., and to the surprise of no one, George Meany was chosen to succeed President Green. Meany announced that his long-range objective was to bring about a merger of A.F.L. and C.I.O. His efforts were rewarded on December 5, 1955 in New York City with the merger of the two groups in an organization of 16 million members, aptly named the AFL-CIO.

George Meany set the tone for the new AFL-CIO. Political action and Community Services were given immediate attention. The Committee on Political Education focused its attention on three goals:

1. To make workers aware of the records and promises of the candidates for public office;
2. To encourage workers to register and to vote; and
3. To endorse candidates at local, state and national levels.

The major phenomenon in the post-merger period resulted in the rapid growth of Unions of Government Employees—Federal, State and Local. This growth began in the early 60's and continues to the present time. Part of the impetus should be credited to President John F. Kennedy who, in 1962, issued an Executive Order #10988, underscoring the right of Federal Employees to join unions and negotiate on many issues. Many states and municipalities followed suit which resulted in a wave of new members.

Women also joined the new AFL-CIO to secure the benefits of unionism. Some of the women sought to find employment in "non-traditional" occupations. This became a hot subject in Union discussions, especially after 1963 when Congress approved Equal Pay for Equal Work for Women, thereby prohibiting economic discrimination on the basis of sex. Currently women are in the forefront in promoting the concept of "comparable worth".

The highlight of the decade came in 1964 with the passage of the Civil Rights Act. President Johnson pushed hard for this bill proclaiming that this was part of the Kennedy legacy. L.B.J. also publicly stated that the bill could not have passed without the affirmative and relentless support of the AFL-CIO.

Safety on the job had long been a goal of our Unions, going back to the days of the sweatshops and the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. 1970 was the year in which the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed. This Act authorized the Secretary of Labor to establish Health and Safety Standards, to enforce them, and to listen to employees' legitimate complaints concerning conditions in the workplace.

We are fortunate to live in a Nation where for 160 years, labor organizations with a variety of ideas, plans and philosophies have offered programs for the ideal society. Some were ahead of their times. Others had little likelihood of success. However, eventually, organizations emerge, which will lead in the drive for freedom, social justice, education and political liberty. Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Canada look to us for direction in the hope that we have their best interests at heart.

Professor Dave Montgomery of Yale undertook some recent research of a different kind when in a study published in 1974, he produced a *Biographical Dictionary of American Labor Leaders*. He summarized the careers of more than 500 men and women labor leaders in a period from 1830 to 1970. Twenty were born in Ireland, 93 are described as being of Irish-Catholic descent. More than a dozen others were identified as likely of Irish-Catholic persuasion. In summary, between one-fifth and one-fourth of identifiable leaders in the list were Irish-Americans. The Montgomery Study leaves no doubt that no other ethnic group equaled the impact left on American Unions by the children, grand children and great grand children of the immigrants from Ireland.

In conclusion, since I have undertaken the task of bragging about the impact of the Irish on U.S. labor, I will ask you to share with me the wit and wisdom of Finley Peter Dunne. He assumed the pen name of Mr. Dooley, a Chicago Saloon Keeper, and wrote the following six Commandments, four less than Moses brought to the Israelites. They are:

1. The Supreme Court follows the election returns.
2. Politics ain't bean bag.
3. There's only wan thing that wud make me to allow mesilf to be a hero to the American people, and that is it don't last long.
4. A man can be right and be Prisidint, but he can't be both at the same time.
5. A fanatic is a man that does what he think the Lord wud do if he knew the facts of the case.
6. Thrust everybody—but cut the cards.

*Joseph P. O'Donnell is the former director of the Harvard Trade Union School. He became a member of an organization for the Service Employees Local #254 in Boston in 1948.*










*Some of last years winners.* **Top left,** *Hilton High School "Crimson Cadets," Hilton, N.Y.;* **Top right,** *St. John's College High School, Washington, DC;* **Lower left,** *Kingsport County Cloggers, Kingsport, TN;* **Lower right,** *Nogales High School, Nogales, AZ.*

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John Hanlon, known to Parade Committee Members as "Jack," served as a parade marshal for twelve years. A proud American, who served in the U.S. Marine Corp during the Korean Conflict, Jack moved to Washington, D.C. from Lynn, Massachusetts in 1955 to become a member of the Metropolitan Police Department. He retired from the police department in 1979 to take a position with the security force of the Library of Congress.

Jack was a member of St. Bernard's Parish in Riverdale, Maryland. He was active in youth activities for the parish serving as a coach of basketball, softball and baseball. He also represented St. Bernard's Parish as a player on the Knights of Columbus Softball Team.

Jack was very proud of his Irish heritage, his grandparents who had emigrated from Ireland, his wife Kitty, and his son, John, and daughter, Connie.

We will miss him.

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