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MARCH 13 1994





Mark Russell GRAND MARSHAL

Matt Hannon GAEL OF THE YEAR

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March 13, 1994

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 1994 Washington, DC Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

"Irish Wit and Wisdom" is the theme of this year's Parade, and it recognizes the genius of a people whose humor, intelligence, and ingenuity has warmed whatever place in the world they made their home.

The Parade Committee honors the political satirist, Mark Russell, as its 1994 Grand Marshal. His charm, wit, and generosity to Irish endeavors, such as Project Children, exemplify the best of Ireland and America. Through his work, Mark Russell is the personification of "Irish Wit and Wisdom". As the 1994 Gael of the Year, the Parade Committee honors Matthew Hannon. Matt served as the Chairman of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee for seventeen years and has also been very active with local Irish-American community activities.

On behalf of the 1994 Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, we wish to thank Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, the National Capital Park Service, the D.C. Committee to Promote Washington, and all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who made the 1994 parade possible. We hope that you enjoy the parade festivities with your family and friends and wish you a grand 1994 Saint Patrick's Day!

May the blessings of Saint Patrick be yours,

Kathleen P. Dunleavy

Kathleen P. Dunleavy
Chairman
Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee

March 1994 Designated "Irish-American Heritage Month"

Public Law 103-217 February 22, 1994

Joint Resolution

Whereas the first Irish emigrants arrived in America as early as 1621;

Whereas 4 of the generals who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution were Irish born;

Whereas Commodore John Barry of County Wexford, Ireland, served brilliantly in the Continental Navy and is widely regarded as the father of the American Navy;

Whereas James Smith, George Taylor, Matthew Thornton, and Charles Thomson, 4 of the individuals who signed the Declaration of Independence, were Irish born and 9 other signers were of Irish ancestry;

Whereas the contributions of the Irish to America's victory in the American Revolution led Lord Mountjoy to exclaim in the British Parliament that "America was lost by the Irish emigrants;"

Whereas beginning at the time of the potato blight and famine in Ireland in 1845, over 700,000 Irish immigrants came to the United States during the 1840s, 900,000 during the 1850s, and over 300,000 in each decade through 1910;

Whereas Irish Americans participated heavily in the industrial and economic development of America during the nineteenth century, building our cities and canals and the railroads that expanded the Nation to the West;

Whereas even today, it is said that under every railroad tie an Irishman is buried;

Whereas the Irish contributed greatly to the development of the labor movement in the United States, including the establishment of the American Miners Association in 1861;

Whereas nearly 150,000 natives of Ireland served in the Union forces during the Civil War;

Whereas more than 500 members of the Irish Brigade were killed while fighting for the Union in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, a date that has been called the bloodiest day in American history;

Whereas the Irish Brigade fought courageously in several other Civil War battles including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Gaines Mill, Allen's Farm, Savage Station, White Oak Bridge, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, and Bristow Station;

Whereas in 1892, Annie Moore from County Cork, Ireland, at age 15 became the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island;

Whereas Irish Americans have made numerous contributions to the arts and to sports, as exemplified by the achievements of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eugene O'Neill, Helen Hayes, Georgia O'Keefe, John L. Sullivan, and Connie Mack;

Whereas the first woman to serve as the organizer of the American Federation of Labor was Mary Kennedy O'Sullivan;

Whereas at the beginning of the twentieth century, many of the school teachers in America's largest cities were Irish American women;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy was the first American President to visit Ireland during his term in office;

Whereas Irish Americans, including Kathryn Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space, and Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, America's first school teacher in space who perished on the Challenger mission, have bravely served as America's pioneers in space;

Whereas more than 200 Irish Americans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas President William Jefferson Clinton is the nineteenth American President of Irish ancestry;

Whereas 37 United States governors and mayors designated March 1993 as "Irish-American Heritage Month;" and

Whereas 40 million Americans are of Irish ancestry; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the month of March 1994 is designated as "Irish-American Heritage Month." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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The Laughter and Song of Politics

Whenever Mark Russell is down in the dumps, he opens the newspaper and immediately cheers up. Practically everything he sees strikes him funny. Some days, he says, the jokes jump off the pages.

TV Guide has called Mark Russell "the funniest man on television," but he disagrees. "No," he says, "the funniest guys are always on C-SPAN."

This is his nineteenth season on PBS. He works live, fresh, and dangerously topical, performing standup comedy even when accompanying himself on the piano. The Mark Russell comedy specials have consistently been among the top-rated shows on that network.

Mark Russell readily admits that when he was a kid he dodged the draft. He did it by joining the Marine Corps.

After serving his full hitch, he found himself in the smoke-filled bars of Washington, DC, singing his funny songs. When he got a job in a Capitol Hill bar where congressmen go to drink, the first thing he thought was, "I've started at the bottom, but I've managed to work my way down."

Around the time that the New Frontier was invading Washington, Mark Russell invaded the Shoreham Hotel for a risky two-week gig. It lasted for twenty years. The Marquee Lounge became the place where every night politicians would come to hear Mark's jokes about the things they had done that day.

Today, his syndicated column is enjoyed all over America, as are his CDs, tapes, and videos. He is on the road most of the year. And his answer to the frequently asked question, "Do you have any writers?" is "Oh, yes. I have 535 writers, 100 in the Senate and 435 in the House of Representatives."

Almost everyone in Washington knows how wonderfully funny Mark Russell is, but many may not realize how generous he is as well. Both he and his wife, Ali, have large hearts, and they are very serious about "giving back." Among the numerous charities that Mark and Ali Russell support is Project Children, an organization that has brought over 9,000 Protestant and Catholic children from Northern Ireland to the United States for a summer holiday and respite from "the troubles." Mark and Ali Russell were early supporters of Project Children.



Mark Russell, the wit of Washington and beyond

According to Carol Wheeler, Washington, DC Project Children director, "Mark Russell's benefit performances for Project Children have helped the program expand to new areas and launch new activities. On behalf of the thousands of children, both Irish and American, who have benefitted from his generosity, we say thanks and congratulations."

And as for his Irish roots, Mark Russell has this to say: "Dan Campion of County Clare begat Mary Campion, my maternal grandmother, who married John Perry who begat Marie Perry, my mother. She married Marcus Ruslander, and they begat me, Marcus Ruslander, Jr., alias Mark Russell. My paternal grandmother was born Julia Hughes and her mother was Bridget Hickey from County Cork. The Ruslanders were Russian Jews. I am proud of this heritage and there is hardly a holiday which I do not feel obligated to celebrate. As Dolph Briscoe, the former Lord Mayor of Dublin put it — Shalom!"

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is honored to have Mark Russell as the 1994 Grand Marshal.

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Gael of the Year
Matthew J. Hannon

by Mary Anne Gibbons



Matthew J. Hannon, a leader in the Irish-American community

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to honor as Gael of the Year a proud and dedicated Irishman, Matthew J. Hannon. Matt Hannon has a long history of involvement with the parade, having served as chairman of the parade committee from the early 1970s until 1992. He marched in the first Washington, DC, St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1972 and assumed leadership of the parade the next year.

Ensuring that the parade made its way down Constitution Avenue each year was only one of the many Irish-related activities in which Hannon has served as leader over the years. He has been chairman of a local unit of the Irish National Caucus, and he has served as chairman of a local unit of the Irish American Unity Conference. Both organizations are dedicated to unifying Ireland. Hannon helped form Division 6, a local division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and is now DC board president of the AOH. In addition, Hannon chaired a committee that worked to establish a monument to the Irish Brigade - a distinguished Civil War unit composed of Irish and Irish Americans - at Antietam Battlefield.

Matt Hannon was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, to natives of County Leitrim and County Sligo. His family later moved to Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. After attending public grammar schools, he went to a private high school on a full scholarship, the Governor Dummer Academy. Hannon then pursued a college degree at North Carolina State University, majoring in vocational guidance. But college was interrupted by a four-year stint in the Navy during World War II. After returning, he finished college and started work at New England Frito Corporation in Boston. He was then recruited to work in the food brokerage business in the DC area. In 1958, Hannon started his own food brokerage business and continues to work in that business today.

Hannon and his wife, Florence, have two sons, Pat and Mike. Although Hannon has always lived in the States, he has more relatives in Ireland than in the US and considers Ireland as his "home." He has visited there several times.

The DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee salutes its former chairman for his years of dedication to and leadership of the committee and for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Irish and so many others in the metropolitan area. To Matthew J. Hannon, we extend a hearty "go raibh mile maith agat" or, thanks a million.

— Mary Anne Gibbons, a member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, is an editor of the magazine. Her parents were born in County Mayo.

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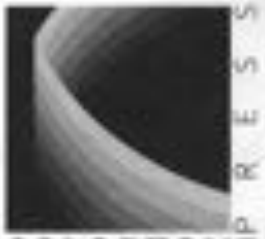

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The Story of Saint Patrick

by Mary Cecilia Dunleavy and
Caitlin Patricia Dunleavy

Although the birthplace of St. Patrick is not known exactly, the most probable location is Kilpatrick, near Dunbarton, Scotland. It is believed his birth was between the years 385 and 389 AD. Little is known of his childhood other than that his parents were Romano-British and that their names were Calpurnius and Conchessa.

At 14, Patrick was taken to Ireland by pirates and was forced into slavery. While there, Patrick turned to God, as he tended sheep for 6 years. His road to freedom began when God appeared to him in a dream. In that dream, God told Patrick to flee from his master and to travel to the coast, a distance of nearly 200 miles. During that journey, Patrick received God's help on at least two occasions. First, he met a group of pirates who reluctantly agreed to take Patrick by boat for a portion of his journey. Later, when Patrick was near starvation, he prayed and found food. His long, hard journey finally ended when he reached his family in a far-away settlement.

But his peaceful freedom was interrupted by another dream. In that dream, he saw the people of Ireland begging him to walk amongst them. Soon after, Patrick decided to prepare for the priesthood. He took his first step towards this goal when he began his studies at Lerins, an island near Cannes, France. Here he was guided by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre.

Patrick's priestly holiness quickly grew. He was ordained a bishop by St. Germanus and was sent to Ireland. High King Loaghaire permitted Patrick to preach Christianity throughout Ireland. During that time, Patrick preached the sacred mystery of the Holy Trinity, using the now-famous analogy of the shamrock.

Patrick's life was constantly threatened by chieftains, druids, and pagan priests; however, through the conversion of many, including the daughters of High King Loaghaire, Patrick's work prospered. Patrick was given the right, by a powerful chieftain named Daire, to chose any site for a new church. Patrick selected a hill in Armagh. Later, he built a church in the district of Costello in County Mayo.

Throughout Patrick's preaching, he suffered a great deal; however, Patrick remained confident and persistent in his faith. Patrick and his companions were captured and imprisoned 12 times. On one occasion, he was sentenced to death. But in each instance, Patrick prevailed by the grace of God.

Because of his indomitable faith in God, Patrick's mission of spreading the message of Christianity in Ireland was fulfilled. Patrick was truly blest with the virtues of humility and piety. He wore rough hair shirts, slept on a rock, and refused any gifts. His only wish was to devote his entire life to spreading God's word.

Adoration of Almighty God was Patrick's way of remaining strong. Croagh Patrick (St. Patrick's Mountain) was the place where Patrick traveled for a special retreat. Here, for 40 days, he prayed, fasted, and a had vision of God. Patrick always aspired to his highest potential. He believed that poverty, suffering, and prayer could bring the hearts and souls of others to God.



Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.

During his missionary work, Patrick gained many followers, including Benignus, St. Auxilius, St. Iserninus, and St. Fiacc. Preaching aside, many miracles are attributed to Patrick, including raising the dead, healing the sick, and curing the lame. Also, it was believed Patrick had the ability to cause a bountiful flow of water from dry wells.

By the time Patrick was 70, the majority of Ireland was Catholic; the church was stable because of his work over a 40-year period. Patrick died on March 17, 471 in Saul, the site of his first church. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland and of the Irish. His feast day is celebrated on March 17th.

As we gather to enjoy the festivities of St. Patrick's Day, it is important to remember the determined man who has given us cause for celebration. May that remembrance deepen our devotion to God and mankind.

- The authors are the nieces of parade chairman Kathleen Dunleavy.

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In Memoriam
Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Dies

by Susan Clifford

Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr, speaker of the US House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987, died January 5 of cardiac arrest at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He was 81 years old.

O'Neill came to embody grass-roots politics and old-style politicians as the representative of the 8th Massachusetts Congressional District from 1953 until his retirement in 1987.

"Tip O'Neill was the nation's most prominent, powerful, and loyal champion of working people," President Clinton said in a statement. "He loved politics and government because he saw politics and government could make a difference in people's lives. And he loved people most of all."

O'Neill was the grandson of a bricklayer who emigrated from County Cork in Ireland and the son of Cambridge, Massachusetts, city councilor and city sewer commissioner.

O'Neill first ran for office when he was a senior at Boston College. He did not carry his own neighborhood, and his bid for a seat on the Cambridge City Council failed by 150 votes. It was the only election he ever lost, and from his father he learned his most pivotal and long-lasting lessen, "All politics is local."

In 1986, the Washington DC Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee honored O'Neill by naming him that year's Grand Marshal.

O'Neill is survived by his wife, Mildred (Miller), their five children, eight grandchildren, and his sister, Mary Mulcahy.



Tip O'Neill listens to the Boston College Band at the 1986 parade

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1991 Armed Services
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1990 John Riggins
"The Diesel," running back of the Washington Redskins

1989 John J. Sweeney
President, Service Employees International

1988 Carmencita Hederman
Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland

1987 Helen Hayes*
First Lady of the American Theater

1986 Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill*
Speaker of the US House of Representatives

1985 Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Founder, Special Olympics Program

1984 Cyril Count McCormack
Son of Irish tenor John McCormack

1983 Frances Shea
Rear Admiral USN
Director, Navy Nurse Corps

1982 Rev. Gilbert V. Hartke OF*
Founder, Speech and Drama Dept.
Catholic University of America

1981 Samuel W. Bogley
Lt. Governor of State of Maryland

1980 James P. Gleason
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD

1979 Walter F. McArdle
President, McArdle Printing Co.

1978 Maurice Cullinane
Former Chief, Metropolitan Police Dept.

1977 George Meaney*
President, AFL-CIO

1976 Patrick J. Hayes
Director, Washington Performing Arts Soc.

1975 William T. Hannan, Esq.*
Irish community activities

1974 William T. Hannan, Esq.*
Chairman, Bishop's Relief Fund

Gaels

1993 Carol Wheeler
Chair, Washington, DC Project Children

1992 Bruce Morrison
Former US Congressman
Author of "Morrison VISA"

1991 William (Howie) McClennan
Former President, International Association of Fire Fighters

1990 Susan Kelly Long*
Benefactor of Irish-American community
Revitalizer of Irish-American Club

1989 Manus "Jack" Fish
Retired Regional Director, National Capital
Revitalizer of Irish-American Club

1988 Mickey Brennan
President, DC Friends of Ireland
Labor leader

1987 Brendan Sheridan
Artist and musician

1986 Msgr. R. Joseph Dooley
Chaplain, Metropolitan Police and Fire Departments

1985 Jane Callahan Gude
Chairperson, Ireland's Children

1984 Dr. Coilin Owens
Founder, Gaelic League, Washington Chapter
Professor, George Mason University

1983 Commander James K. Ruland
Irish-American activities
Founder, Brendan Cup Committee

1982 Cornelius (Connie) J. Coakley
Irish-American activities
Founder, Selon Centers

1981 Charles Lucy
Editor, author of two books on Ireland

1980 Harry and Margaret Schreengost
Founders, Blackthorn Stick Irish dance group

1979 Margaret Coakley*
Founder, Irish-American Club

1978 Peggy Hannon O'Neill*
Founder, first Irish dance school in Washington

1977 Sean Coakley
Past President, Irish-American Club

1976 No Gael selected

1975 Charles Carey & John A.K. Donovan

* Deceased

In the Beginning

by Marie Matthews

Everyone knows that the Irish are full of wit, with a special gift for humor. But how did it begin?

Henry D. Spalding tells the tale in The Joys of Irish Humor. It seems that many, many years ago, before St. Patrick, before Brian Boru, before the great Cuchlain, there lived two groups, each of whom spent much of their time playing practical jokes on the other and the rest of the time fighting them.

The mischief-making pookas, who lived in the north and were led by Paeder Og, loved to tease the leprechauns who lived in the south. King Rory and his leprechauns, for their part, were just as great a nuisance to the pookas.

One fine day, Paeder Og became weary of so much fighting, year in and year out, and proposed to Rory that one of them should become king of both the pookas and the leprechauns. This honor would be conferred upon whoever of them could best the other in hand-to-hand combat. The only condition Paeder Og requested - and a small one it was, of course - was that Rory refrain from leprechaun tricks, such as disappearing in a wink and emerging behind the pooka's back in the midst of combat. King Rory, confident that he could beat his northern rival without that advantage, graciously accepted the challenge.

The pookas and the leprechauns gathered on the battleground to cheer on their champions. Paeder Og appeared with a stout kippeen, and the sight of the huge club gave Rory pause, but he trusted that the iron-tipped shillelagh he carried would defeat the enemy in the end.

The two warriors lunged at each other. The weapons clashed, the wee people on both sides shouted, and the combatants hurled insults at each other. The fight was grand, and the din could be heard throughout the land. About noon, they stopped for a few drops of mountain dew; then the banging and the clanging and the shouting resumed. At tea time, they stopped again, but it wasn't tea they were drinking. Presently, Paeder Og and the king of the leprechauns picked up their weapons and went at each other again.

It so happened that at this time the Creator, weary also from His grand work, was trying to take a little nap. But every time He started to rest, the shouting and the clash of the terrible weapons would rise to the heavens and interrupt His rest. "I'll put a stop to that," He said and proceeded to sprinkle all of them - pookas and leprechauns alike - with the stardust of forgetfulness. The stardust let the bad habits be forgotten (well, some of them, anyway). And with the magic dust, the Creator also gave the Irish the gift of imagination to compensate them for what they are not, and a sense of humor to console them for what they are.

And so it has come to pass, that even when they can't or won't forget, imagination and humor have allowed the Irish to get through the worst of times.

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Brendan Michael Rodwill
Caitlin Patricia Dunleavy
Mary Cecilia Dunleavy

In Memoriam

Helen Hayes - *America's First Lady of the Theater*

Speaking to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, DC as she was honored as the 1987 parade Grand Marshal, Miss Hayes remarked, "In interviews I am often asked what is the greatest role I ever played. I can now honestly answer that question - to lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington, DC - my hometown."

Helen Hayes, the legendary First Lady of American theater, died on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1993, at the age of 92.

Her acting career spanned eight decades, as she played more than 70 major roles on the stage, with dozens more on television and in motion pictures. She began acting at the age of 5 at the National Theatre in Washington, the city of her birth. She played children and then wistful ingenues. Later, she was a leading lady, and finally, she played character roles.



Helen Hayes with Congressman Steny Hoyer at the 1987 parade

She won two Academy Awards for her motion picture performances, one for best actress in 1931, when she played a young woman who takes to the streets to support an illegitimate child in The Sin of Madelon Claudet, and one for best supporting actress in 1970 for her role as the grandmotherly airplane stowaway, Ada Quonsett, in Airport.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts named its Helen Hayes Awards in her honor. A theater on Broadway is also named for her.

Hayes was only 5 feet 1 inch tall. She liked to describe herself as "just an ordinary person," who lacked the glamour and sexiness of many of the Hollywood stars of her era. Hayes had a remarkable ability to connect with her audience and could stop a show with a phrase or gesture.

In fact, she played the part of 6-foot-tall Mary Stuart in Maxwell Anderson's Mary of Scotland in the early '30s. It became one her greatest hits. To her audiences, she looked 6 feet tall. Asked about that, Hayes said, "I think myself tall."

Helen Hayes Brown was born to Francis Van Arnum Brown, a wholesale meat and poultry salesman, and Catharine Hayes Brown, a former actress who was determined that her only daughter would pursue a career on stage. Hayes' mother would become manager and mentor to the young actress for much of her career.

"I never chose to be an actress," Hayes recalled more than 80 years later in My Life in Three Acts, an autobiography. "That choice was made for me in childhood. Before I knew what it was all about, I was pushed on stage."

In her debut at the National Theatre, she appeared as Prince Charles in The Royal Family. Sixty-six years later, she returned to Washington and made her final stage appearance as Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night at Catholic University's Hartke Theater.

"I liked the idea of a circle being complete," Helen Hayes wrote in her autobiography. "My career had begun in Washington, and it would end there."

Hayes attended John Eaton Elementary School, Holy Cross Academy, Sacred Heart Academy, and Central High School. During summer, she played children's roles with a troupe called the Columbia Players. By the time she was 8, Hayes made her New York debut.

In 1912, Hayes and her mother returned to Washington, and she resumed her schooling. During the summer, she appeared in summer stock productions.

For the next several years, she alternated between Broadway roles, road tours, and high school in Washington. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy in 1917, and from that point on devoted herself to her career.

In August 1928, she married Charles MacArthur, a playwright and former newsman who, with Ben Hecht, was author of the hit play, The Front Page. They had a daughter, Mary, who was born in 1930, and they adopted a son, James, in 1938.

Hayes suffered a devastating blow in her personal life in 1949 when her daughter died of infantile paralysis just before they were to appear together on Broadway in a comedy called Good Housekeeping. Her husband died in 1956.

Their son, James MacArthur, went on to become an actor and was best known to the public for his role in the television series "Hawaii Five-O." He survives her, as do three grandchildren.

A Very Special Thanks to

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St. Johns Independent Accordion Band and Ceili Group From Drumcree, County Armagh

St. Johns Independent Accordion Band, from Drumcree, County Armagh, was formed on the 10th of February 1988, when a group of people who loved music decided that the area was in need of a first-class band. It was formed with the intention that it would be a band whose main function was to promote Irish music by taking part in competitions. The band's first parade was March 17, 1989, where to the amazement of the population of Portadown, they proved that in one year they had taught all 60 members of the band how to play accordions and drums. They had also, by their own efforts, managed to pay for all their instruments and complete uniforms.

In May 1989, only a few short months after their first appearance, they went on to take part in the Armagh Fleadgh Ceoil, where they were awarded first place to become Armagh Champions, a feat they have achieved each year since. In their first year as a competitive band, the organizers of the Northern Province Band Federation decided that St. Johns was so well trained that it was unfair to all bands in the novice section of the competitions. The band was graded from novice up to grade one after only two competitions.

The band took part in 14 competitions that year. They achieved one first place, two second places, and one third place against the best bands in Ireland. The band has continued to be successful over the last four years.

Every year, the band has improved, becoming much sought-after throughout Ireland. Indeed, St. Johns has crossed the religious divide in Northern Ireland, receiving invitations from both communities to play at functions. This, they feel, promotes good will and a better understanding of Irish culture. In addition, they have received invitations from Italy, Spain, and France.

The Ceili dancers who travel with the band do traditional Irish dances. Our American square dancing was derived from these traditional Irish dances.

The achievements of this group of young Irish musicians and dancers are all the more amazing given that they come from an area of Ireland that has experienced higher than average levels of unemployment.

St. Johns ambition was to travel to America for St. Patrick's Day 1991, and after a long struggle, they achieved this. They so enjoyed their visit to Washington and New York and their warm, friendly reception by people that they decided to try again in 1994. After many dances, cake sales, raffle tickets, discos, and a lot of hard work by the band members - and with the help of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and our friends in Washington, DC - they have achieved their goal.



Award-winning musicians and dancers from Ireland

Calendar of Events

March-April Washington Stage Guild Spring Shaw Festival. Includes readings and productions of various Shaw plays, including Back to Methuselah, John Bull's Other Island, and Caesar and Cleopatra. Carroll Hall, 924 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. (202) 529-2084.

March-April (Thurs) Seminars at the Center for Irish Studies. Catholic University. 7-9 pm. Call (202) 319-5488 for confirmation.

March 4-6 (Fri-Sun) Donal Donnelly's one-man show on George Bernard Shaw, My Astonishing Self. Sponsored by the Folger Library. (202) 544-7077.

March 5 (Sat) Baltimore Ceili, Emerald Isle Club. St. Pius X Hall, 6428 York Rd. Towson, MD. 9 pm. $6/members, $8/others. Call (410) 747-6868.

March 5 (Sat) and March 26 (Sat) "Victory Garden" will visit an Irish garden, Channel 26, 11:30 am.

March 6 (Sun) St. Patrick's Day Parade (DC) fundraiser. Ireland's Four Provinces, 3412 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. 3-7 pm. (202) 244-0860.

March 9 (Wed) Sheridan Circle Luncheon with author Morgan Llewellyn. Sheraton City Centre, 1434 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington, DC. Noon. $15. Reservations: call (202) 829-5733, Marie Cassidy (202) 994-3552, Mary McDonnell (202) 659-1000.

March 9 (Wed) Ceoltoiri. Mount St. Mary's College, Emmittsburg, MD. Information: (301) 588-2800.

March 9 (Wed) Project Children St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Hosted by Mark Shields. Commerce Dept. Mellon Auditorium, Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC. Cocktails 6:30 pm/dinner 7:30 pm, $100. Valet parking available. (202) 298-7784.

March 9 (Wed) The Sharon Shannon Band. Opening act: Kevin James. Flanagan's Irish Pub, 1111 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD. 7 pm and 10 pm. $15. Information: (301) 986-1007.

March 11 (Fri) Pen/Faulkner Reading by J. P. Donleavy. Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC. $12. (202) 544-7077.

March 12 (Sat) St. Patrick's Day Parade. King Street, Alexandria, VA. Noon. (703) 549-4535 or 838-5005.

March 12 (Sat) Northern Virginia Ceili. John Wood Municipal Center, 3730 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA. 8 pm - 12 am. Free soda bread, coffee, and tea; sodas available for sale. $7/adults, $3/ages 6-15; free/under 6. Information: (703) 987-8265.

March 13 (Sun) St. Patrick's Day Parade, Constitution Avenue between 7th and 17th streets, NW, Washington, DC, 1 pm. Information: (703) 379-1125.

March 13 (Sun) Irish Poetry, Prose, and Traditional Music. Hosted by William Butler Yeats Society of Catholic University. Tunes by Doc and Angela Botzer, Drew Hillman, and Nigel Stevens. Irish Times Pub, 14 F Street, NW, Washington, DC. 4-7 pm. Donations $5. Call Professor Joe Sendry (202) 319-5488 or Tim James (301) 570-9261.

March 13 (Sun) Iona, Winter Concerts at the Old Brogue. The Old Brogue, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA. 2 shows: 5-6:30 pm and 7-8:30 pm. $7. Call (703) 759-3309.

March 14 (Mon) The Chieftains. Kennedy Center Concert Hall. 8 pm. (Cooperation Ireland offers tickets and a "Meet the Chieftains" reception for $50. Call Hugh Carroll at (301) 961-3300.

March 15 (Tue) The Chieftains. Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD. 7:30 pm. (410) 783-8000.

March 16 (Wed) American Ireland Fund 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Eve National Gala. Honoring Senator Moynihan and Paul Newman. Capital Hilton. Black tie. Reception 6:30 pm/dinner 7:45. $500. (301) 229-1314.

March 16 (Wed) Mick Maloney, Eugene O'Donnell, Seamus Egan, and Regan Wick. Smithsonian Resident Associates Program. Information: (202) 357-3030.

March 17 (Thurs) Altan. Two St. Patrick's Day shows: 5:30 pm (tickets $13) and 7:30 pm (tickets $15). National Geographic Society.

March 17 (Thurs) "St. Patrick's Celtic Roots: Ireland, Cape Breton, and America" Mick Maloney, Liz Carroll, Seamus Egan, Eileen Ivers, Jimmy Keane, and Regan Wick, with Natalie MacMaster, Tracey Dares, and Dave MacIsaac. Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA. (703) 218-6500.

March 17 (Thurs) Annual Shamrock Planting. Lee-Custis Mansion (Arlington House), Arlington Cemetery.

March 19 (Sat) Blackthorn Stick Ceili. Holy Redeemer School, 9714 Summit Avenue, Kensington, MD. 8 pm - midnight. $7.50 in advance/$10 at door. Reservations: (301) 474-4641 between 5-7 pm.

March 20 (Sun) St. Patrick's Day Parade. Charles and Centre Streets, Baltimore. 2 pm.

March 20 (Sun) Chris Griffin and Robert McNamara do excerpts and readings from Irish drama and poetry. Borders Bookstore, 18th and L Streets, NW, Washington, DC. 3 pm.

March 25 (Fri) Ceoltoiri. Borders Bookstore. White Flint Shopping Mall, Rockville, MD. 7:30 pm. Free.

March 25 (Fri) Seamus Connolly and Ean McLeod. Olde Town Hall, Fairfax, VA. 8 pm. (301) 652-3765.

March 27 (Sun) GWCC Ceili. Cherry Hill Park, 9800 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, MD. 2-6 pm. $7/mem-

Calendar of Events—Continued

bers, $10/non-members, free/children under 15. Call (703) 823-3147.

March 27 (Sun) Washington Scottish Pipe Band fundraiser. Ireland's Own Pub, Alexandria, VA. 3-8 pm. Information: Greg O'Brien, (703) 356-4035.

March 27 (Sun) "Contemporary Irish Drama", a lecture by Professor Christopher Griffin. Sponsored by Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington. Gray Hall, Bentley Lounge, American University, Nebraska Avenue and Rockwood Parkway, Washington, DC. 3 pm. $4/members, $6/others, free/AU students and staff. (703) 971-4265.

April 2 (Sat) Baltimore Ceili. See March 5 listing for details.

April 9 (Sat) Northern Virginia Ceili. See March 12 listing for details.

April 10 (Sun) Irish Poetry, Prose, and Traditional Music by Cara Nua. For other details see March 13 listing.

April 16 (Sat) Blackthorn Stick Ceili. See March 19 listing for details.

April 17 (Sun) "Listening to the Ancestors: Irish Music on 78 RPM Recordings," an illustrated talk by ethnomusicologist Phillipe Varlet. Sponsored by Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington. See March 27 listing for details.

April 24 (Sun) GWCC Ceili. See March 27 listing for details.

April 30 (Sat) Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland.

— Listings courtesy of the Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington.

ANGELS—1994

Courtney Campbell
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Jane Murray
Peg O'Beirne, HHLA
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MATT'S



Matt Lee

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In Memoriam
Patrick Edward Lee

by Steve Lynch

On January 16 of this year, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee family lost one of its most beloved members when Patrick Edward (Pat) Lee died at his home in Rockville, Maryland. He was 37 years young. Pat, the son of long-time parade committee fundraiser chairman Matt Lee, was well-known to fundraiser attendees and parade goers over the last decade. His warm smile and strong, friendly handshake were known to hundreds of our area's Irish Americans.

Pat Lee was born in Washington and grew up in Rockville. He graduated from Wheaton High School and later attended Montgomery College. In 1980, he joined the staff of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), working himself up to the position of visual information specialist. At the FDA, he was also a member of their equal employment opportunity advisory committee.

It was truly amazing that Pat was able to attend so many parade functions. In addition to his FDA duties, he helped numerous groups. For several years, he was a volunteer with the President's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped. He also, from time to time in the winter months, would assist off-duty police officers who handed out various necessities - such as blankets and sleeping bags - to the county's homeless population. Despite this incredible amount of time spent on the move, he also found time somehow each year to take several trips to see America.

A personal encounter I had with Pat a couple of years ago captures his innate goodness. We were talking at a fundraiser one Sunday. He told me he was going on a trip to San Antonio the following week. I responded that San Antonio was a city I wanted to visit as well. I explained that a friend of mine had purchased a brick on a ceremonial sidewalk and put my name on it when the downtown area of San Antonio was refurbished several years ago. All I knew was that it was near some well-known hotel, but I had never seen a picture of it. That concluded our conversation, and I didn't think any more of it.

Several weeks later, I met his father, Matt, for dinner. Matt said he had an envelope from Pat for me. I opened it, and there were two pictures of my brick on the sidewalk! Matt then told me the entire story. Apparently, Pat spent over half an hour searching for the brick before he found it. When he did, he was upset because the sidewalk was dirty, making it hard to read the bricks. So off went Pat to a nearby restaurant where he got some water to clean off the bricks. Then he took the photos. That was Pat Lee.

All the members of our parade family want Pat's brother Michael, his father Matt, and his grandmother Mary Brady Lee to know that we miss Pat greatly and that we look forward to being with him again one day at the final St. Patrick's Day Parade up above.



Matt and Pat Lee, father and son, sharing friendship at a previous parade

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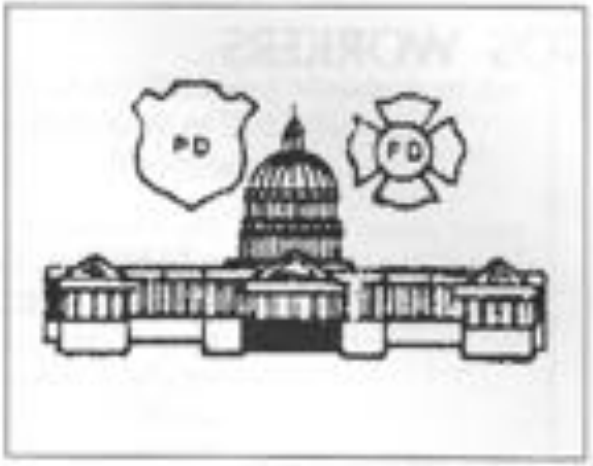

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John B. Keane: Publican, Poet, Playwright, and Pundit

by Susan and Eric Koetting

Irish writer John B. Keane has some peculiar notions about marital disharmony - he's all for it. Conceding that there have been successful marriages without major eruptions (although, in his view, these are few and far between and not very exciting to begin with), his primary contention is that "a marriage without a row is like an apple pie without cloves." Nor does he limit his support to marital spates between husbands and wives:

> *In-law baiting, while unnerving and distressing for the subject, is of immense therapeutic value to those who might otherwise display unprovoked hostility to neighbours' children, neighbours' cats, neighbours' noises, neighbours' tantrums, neighbours' hedges and in rural areas to neighbours' fowl, asses, ponies, cows, calves and other livestock. The Bible clearly states that we must love our neighbours but there is nothing in the Bible about loving our in-laws.*

Ultimately, he concludes that life needs its fair share of turbulence and turmoil to make it wholesome and, without these, "is no more than a dog's life."

On what authority does Keane issue these brazen pontifications? To be sure, it is not that of the ivory tower academic, bestowed with learned degrees in social psychology or psychiatry. His pedigree, rather, is that of small town publican, astutely observing the human race over the counter of a bar. His view of the world is grounded not on weighty discourses that are the fare of scientific journals, but on the received wisdom of those unique people who inhabit what John Philpott Curran referred to over two centuries ago as "the Kingdom of Kerry." The landscape and characters of that environ, rich in both wit and wisdom, have provided Keane with a wealth of material to which to apply his prodigious writing skills.

And write he has, publishing dozens of plays, essays, novels, short stories, and poems over the last 35 years. Most have been either explicitly or implicitly inspired by life in and around his north Kerry home town of Listowel. Born there in 1928 as the fourth son of a national school teacher, Keane perhaps was influenced by the surprising abundance of local writers, including Bryan MacMahon and Maurice Walsh, on whose story was based the classic John Wayne film, The Quiet Man.

After brief stints as an assistant pharmacist and as a manual laborer in England, Keane borrowed funds to acquire a public house. There he has toiled, in one capacity or another, upstairs or down, ever since. In truth, over the years, his wife Mary assumed the more active role in running the business. Keane simply became too busy writing. His first major success was the play Sive, a hard-hitting story of an arranged marriage between a young girl and a considerably older farmer. Although containing its lighter moments, the story, not surprisingly, is ultimately one of tragedy.

Other successful plays followed, including Sharon's Grave, The Man from Clare, and The Year of the Hiker. In the mid-1960s, Keane wrote The Field, the play that led to his greatest notoriety among American audiences when adapted as a motion picture in 1991. Richard Harris earned an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of the memorable main character, Bull McCabe. But the film deviated substantially from Keane's play, and many of his long-time supporters were not entirely satisfied with the result. Other of Keane's plays have focused on women and their role in Irish society, most notably Big Maggie and Moll. More recently, Keane has expanded his repertoire to novels, publishing The Bodhran Makers in 1986 and Durango in 1992.

While Keane's plays and novels may be his most enduring literary contributions, his public recognition has also been greatly enhanced by his humorous prose. Utilizing a format as old as the New Testament, Keane, in the 1960s and '70s, wrote a series of "letter" books. The first of these, Letters of a Successful T.D., transcribed the correspondence between a member of the Irish parliament and his wayward student son. Others in the series include letters of a parish priest, a publican, a love-hungry farmer, a matchmaker, a civic guard (policeman), a country postman, and a minister of state.

Keane has also reached a wide audience with his weekly newspaper columns. Published by several papers in Ireland, and by the Irish Echo here in America, his "Tales of the Irish Countryside," are short essays on people and events, past and present. Keane pulls no punches, singing the praises of his favorites and expressing contempt for those he disdains. Consider the following:

> *By comparison with those unconvicted criminals who never close or only partly close doors, the majority of those unfortunates who are presently incarcerated could well be said to be innocent. Which is worse I ask you: allowing a door to remain ajar in cold weather or the misappropriation of a few pounds to keep body and soul together? I would go so far as to say that if you were to scour the dungeons of the universe you would not find the equal of the ruffians who subject their fellow humans to dangerous draughts and sudden falls in temperature.*

Conversely, the choice of characters whose virtues he extols can be equally unconventional. Some of his favorites are the lads who frequent the corners of his home town, the so-called "corner boys." Keane summarizes the qualities of a "first-rate" or "Grade A" corner boy as follows:

> *He never intimidates dawdlers and trespassers or obstructs passers-by. He never answers people who seek directions. He disappears at the first sign of trouble. He looks into space all day long and, generally speaking, does all that is required of a typical corner boy... Corner boys spend more*

time looking into space than they do looking into anything else. This is because there is nothing to be seen in space. No effort whatsoever is required to look into it. In space there are no distractions so that a corner boy may continue with the vocation of cornering in complete peace.

Keane's fascination with the subtle nuances of corner boys reflects a heartfelt belief that sufficient attention to detail will reveal in every person, no matter how humble or mundane in appearance, a story that deserves to be told.

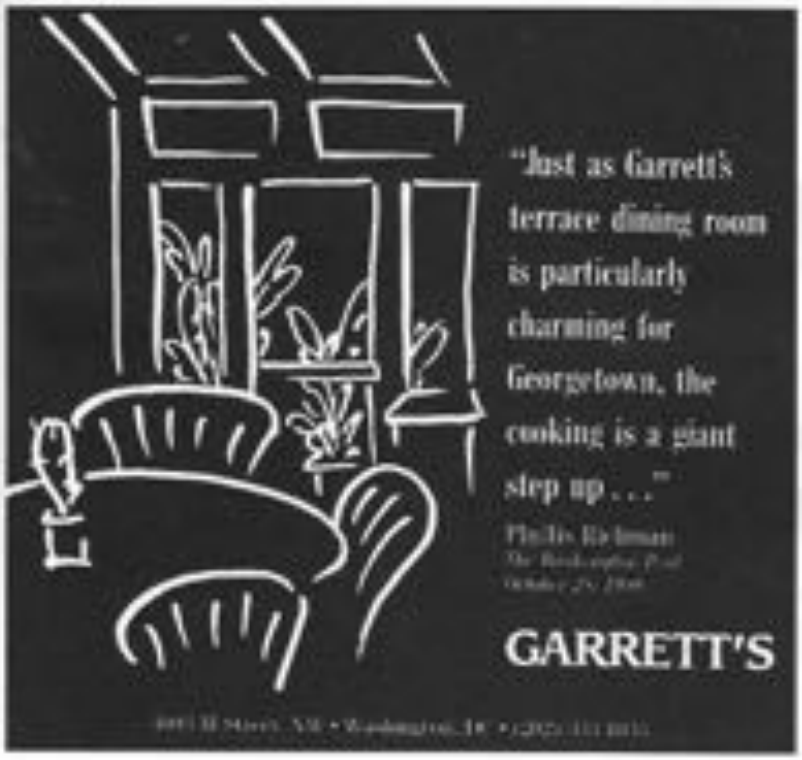
In real life, Keane has also advocated causes that, given the nature of his writing, might be unexpected. For one who has chronicled with great lament the passing of a lifestyle that was pushed aside by the likes of automobiles and television, Keane can be surprisingly progressive. For example, the Irish language was for many years a compulsory subject in the national school curriculum, but Keane and others felt that students would appreciate the subject better if given the freedom to choose to study it or not. For his trouble, Keane was branded as unpatriotic and was actually assaulted by a mob at a large rally in Dublin. The irony of the situation was, that when Keane responded to his challengers in Irish, a language in which he is fluent, some of the young Dublin toughs sent to disrupt the meeting could not comprehend the very language they purported to defend.

Freedom of choice has always been a priority with Keane. And his strong moral philosophy has also caused him to question censorship, the prohibition on divorce, and other contested doctrines of the Catholic Church, although, once again ironically, he attends church regularly. In The Bodhran Makers, Keane unflinchingly takes the Church to task for its role in unfairly seeking to suppress folk traditions that, in h view, had enriched rural life in Ireland for generation Keane may be a witty and touching writer, but he is al a scrapper and does not back away from what h believes to be right, regardless of its popularity.

The beauty of John B. Keane's written works may appreciated on two levels. On the surface, they prov a brilliant portrayal of much that was unique to rur and small town Ireland in the early and middle years this century, a relatively isolated society moved towar a place in the mainstream of our modern world. Kea captures the manners and mores of this earlier era - ho people worked and played, how they ate and drank how they lived, loved, and died. Nowhere is his atte tion to detail more tangible than with regard to the la guage of his characters, who prove time and again ho richly deserved is the Irish reputation for eloquence.

Yet the ultimate genius of Keane is not his ability capture that which is uniquely Irish, but his ability celebrate that which is universally human. Keane characters manifest the same emotions, the same idi syncrasies, the same failings, and the same virtues th underlie human behavior worldwide. In reading Kean we realize that if the Irish are a pretty funny bunch, t rest of the human race cannot be too far behind.

— Susan and Eric Koetting are attorneys wi the Law Department of the United States Postal Servic Their collective Irish roots are in County Mayo, Coun Louth, County Donegal, and (if you hadn't guessed County Kerry. The quotations in this article are from collection of essays, Owl Sandwiches, Brandon Book 1985. Some titles by John B. Keane are available at ar libraries, others are available at local Irish special shops.



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A Top Irish American

Peggy Donnelly O'Beirne was recently named among the top 100 Irish-Americans by Irish American magazine. O'Beirne was recognized for her work to promote the accomplishments and contributions of Irish-Americans.

O'Beirne took over as chairman of the American Foundation for Irish Heritage in 1990 after the death of its founder, her late husband John O'Beirne.

"John was an avid reader of Irish history," says O'Beirne, "and was always intrigued by the number of Irish-born involved in the founding of America. I just continued that interest."

O'Beirne is a second generation Irish American. "I'm so glad my grandfather, Thomas Donnelly, sailed. As an American, my country offers me numerous opportunities and a place where I can proudly display my Irish ancestry."

O'Beirne is a volunteer with Project Children and a member of the board of directors of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, both in Washington, DC. She is employed with the Office of the Architect of the US Capitol as an assistant superintendent in the House Office Buildings.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee congratulates Peggy Donnelly O'Beirne for her well-deserved recognition.



Peggy Donnelly O'Beirne, nationally honored as an important Irish American

Magazine Dedication

The editors of the St. Patrick's Day Parade magazine dedicate this issue to the memory of **Patrick Edward Lee.**

A Very Special

Thanks

To the Following Corporations and Individuals For their Grants, Contributions, or Services

- AGFA Film Corporation
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6. **US Army 3rd Infantry Division "The Old Guard,"** Fort Myer, Virginia
7. **US Navy Ceremonial Guard and Drill Team**
8. **US Marine Corps Honor Guard and Drill Team**

8A. **US Marine Corps Band**, Quantico, Virginia

9. **US Air Force Marching Unit and Color Guard**
10. **US Coast Guard Color Guard and Precision Drill Team**
11. **Robert E. Langston**
    Chief, US Park Police

11A. **Regional Director National Capital Parks**
Robert Stanton

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    City Councilman, Ward 2
16. **Otiss J. Latin**
    Chief, DC Fire Department
17. **Gael of the Year Matthew J Hannon**
    Former President of the DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee
18. **East Hardy High School**, West Virginia
    Director Robert Thompson
19. **Cead Mile Failte**
    Irish American Club Banner, Family of John Moore
20. **Irish American Club of Washington**
    President Vicki Curtin
21. **St. Patrick's Day Float**
    sponsored by Project Children

22. **Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band**, Virginia
    Drum Major David Zimmerman

22A. **Emerald Society, Firefighters of Washington, DC**, President Bill Whetzel, Colors and Marching Unit, antique fire pumps and aerial ladders

23. **St. Johns Independent Accordion Band and Ceili Club**, Dumcree, County Armagh, Ireland
24. **Tradewinds Antique Cars**, Maryland
    Owner Jim Welday
25. **Prince George's Police Pipe Band**, Maryland
    Director Dottie Whitehead
26. **Washington Gaels Float**, Gaelic athletic association

26A. **Roscommon Society**, Washington, DC
President Pat Sheeran

27. **Patriots of Northern Virginia Drum Corps**
    Directors Mr. and Mrs. Sam Evans
28. **St. Patrick's Day Float**
    sponsored by Touchdown Club
29. **Strasser Garde Pipe Band**, Germany
30. **Gwynn Park High School, MD 803 AFJROTC Unit**, Director Lt. Colonel Charles Guthrie
31. **North Marion High School Marching Band**, West Virginia, Director John McCriado
32. **METRO Transit Police Motorcycles**
33. **Donnelly School of Irish Dancing**, Virginia
    Teacher Michelle Donnelly
34. **Wilmington High School Marching Band**, Delaware, Director James Thorpe

Division B

1. **Danny Coleman**
   Marshal, Division B

1A. **St. Patrick's Day Float**
sponsored by Dubliner/Powerscourt Restaurant

2. **US Capitol Police Ceremonial Unit Color Team**
   Director T. L. Weaver
3. **Lewis County High School Band**, West Virginia
   Director Charles Mohnacky
4. **Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club**
   led by Mrs. Mary Donovan
5. **Leonard Hall Jr Naval Academy**, Maryland
   Director Chief Day
6. **Ancient Order of Hibernians**
   All Divisions AOH/LAOH in order of precedence
7. **'Tis Himself Ed Wholey**, the Leprechaun
8. **Abington Heights High School Marching Band**, Pennsylvania, Director Bill Williams
9. **Irish American Families of Laurel, Maryland**
10. **Oxon Hill High School AFJROTC**, Maryland
11. **Brookland Club**, marching unit and antique car, Washington, DC

March 2, 1994

12. **Winthrop High School "Viking" Marching Band**, Massachusetts, Director Geoffrey Raywood
13. **Kapitol Klowns**, Maryland
14. **John Hanson Patriots Fife and Drum Corps.** Maryland, Leader Mabel Painter
15. **Kelly Electrical Service and Construction**, Maryland, Kelly School of Irish Dance
16. **Wilmington High School Band**, Massachusetts Barbara Mette
17. **Rose of Tralee Miss Victoria French Anderson**
18. **Arsenal Technical High School Marching Band**, Indiana, Director Steven Coomer
19. **St. Patrick's Day Float** sponsored by WASH/WTOP Radio

19A. **Baltimore Orioles' Mascot**, the "Bird"

20. **Park Jr High Band**, West Virginia Director Candee Mincher
21. **Irish Terrier Pet Brigade**, Chair Chris Ward
22. **Woburn High School Band**, Massachusetts Director Kevin Smith
23. **James Hoban Irish-American Historical Society** Cathy Hoban and Morgan McDonald, Co-chairs
24. **Gaithersburg TNT Majorette and Drum Corps**, Maryland
25. **Sheppardettes**, Marchers, Pom Poms, and Baton Twirlers, Virginia, led by Michele Maguire

25A. **James Hoban Marching Group**, Washington, DC Director James N. Grano Jr

26. **Randolph-Macon Academy AFJROTC Parade Unit and Band Unit**, Virginia, Director G. Edwin Richards
27. **1951 American LaFrance Fire Engine** Owner Jim Mock
28. **Sayara Unit of the Ali Ghan Shrine**, Maryland 1911 Miniature Cars
29. **St. Patrick's Day Float** sponsored by WGAY/WRC Radio
30. **Rockville High School Pipe Band**, Maryland Director Robert Clarke

Division C

1. **Shannon Savage** Marshal, Division C
2. **US Secret Service Uniformed Division Ceremonial Color Guard**
3. **Clan MacNeil Pipe Band**, Virginia Pipe Major Bill Stewart, Drum Major Malcolm Wallace
4. **Dahlgren Division/Adm J.S. McCain Ship** US Naval Sea/League Cadet Corps
5. **Regan Wick School of Irish Dancing**
6. **Eastern Greenbrier Jr High School Marching Knights**, West Virginia, Directors Charles Fauber and Linda Epperly
7. **Markland Medieval Mercenary Militia**
8. **St. Patrick's Day Float** sponsored by Garrett's Restaurant
9. **Hauser High School Band and Hauserettes**, Indiana Director Edith Drury
10. **Blackthorn Stick**, Irish Cottage and Dancers
11. **Cape Henlopen High School Band**, Delaware Director Barry Eli
12. **Knights of Columbus**, Manassas, Virginia Peter Roskopf, Navigator
13. **Toni Stein's Arboretum Marching Band** Director Toni Stein
14. **Washington Gas Community Clowns**

14A. **Iona College Bag Pipe Band**, New York Pipe Major Brendan O'Rourke

15. **Irish Northern Aid**, Washington, DC
16. **The Golden Eagles**, Virginia Director Charles Butler III
17. **The Jolly Jesters**, Maryland Vice President Fred Forrest
18. **St. John's Regiment and St. John's College High School Regimental Band**, Washington, DC. Director Col. B Richard Laaken

18A. **The Washington Capitals Hockey Team's Mascot**, "Winger," The Eagle.

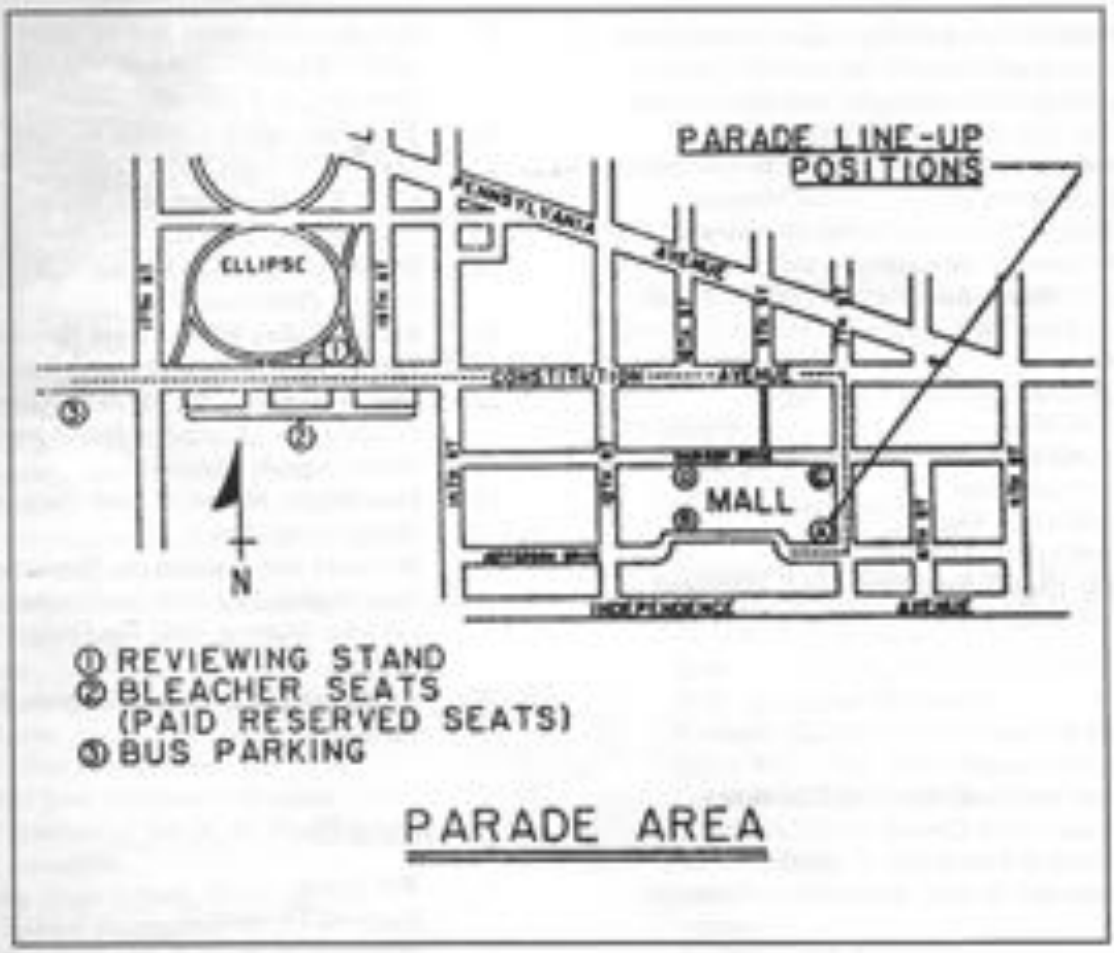
19. **S.u.G.T.V. Washingtonia**, Bavarian Folk Dancers, Washington, DC, President Werner Grabner
20. **Seneca Valley High School NJROTC**, Maryland Captain Hornback
21. **Seneca Valley High School Marching Band**, Maryland, Director Raymond Rossiter
22. **The Threepenny Bit of Georgetown**, Washington, DC, Horse-drawn jaunting cart, Owner Joseph Conway
23. **Prendergast School of Irish Dancing**, Maryland Margaret Moebus
24. **Warfield and Sanford Inc Elevator Company**, Washington, DC, 1929 Ford Stake Body truck, driver John Warring, 1941 Ford Super Deluxe convertible
25. **Strath James Pipe Band**, Virginia, Pipe Major Jay Close

Division D

1. **Bill Lewis** Marshal, Division D
2. **Washington Scottish Bag Pipe Band**
3. **Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club**, Maryland, Vice President Tony Emanuel
4. **Irish-American Club of Springbrook High School**, Maryland
5. **Ambridge Area High School Marching Band**, Perewylvania, Director Salvatore Aloe

Parade Line Up—Continued

6. **Oak View Elementary School Exhibitional Activities Club**, Virginia, Unicycles, tumblers, stilt walkers, and jugglers, Teacher Jim Moyer
7. **Archbishop Carroll High School Marching Band**, Washington, DC
7A. **The World Cup's Mascot**
8. **Founder of Federal Lodge No. 1**, Washington, DC, Kilkenny-born James Hoban, architect of the White House and superintendent of construction of the US Capitol
9. **Spirit of '76 Jr. Fife and Drum Corp** President Mary Chandler
10. **St. Patrick's Day Float** sponsored by O'Neill-James School of Irish Dancing, Teacher Lauren O'Neill-James
11. **Regiment of the Golden Horseshoe**, Virginia Director Tracey Stakem
12. **The Wheelman**, Captain Kurt Miller
13. **Williams Valley Viking "Pride" Marching Band**, Pennsylvania, Director John Potlunas
14. **O'Neill Development Corporation**
15. **Maryland Fife and Drum Corps**, Al Horton
16. **Sons and Daughters in Touch**
17. **Tyler House Community Panthers Marching Band**, Washington, DC
18. **Grevey's Pub**, Banner and marchers
19. **Camden Fife and Drum Corps**, New York Director Jeff Waterman
20. **Public School All-City Marching Band**, Washington, DC, Director Charles Hunkerson
21. **City of Washington Pipe Band**
22. **Towpath Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps**, New York, Linda DePuy



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On St. Patrick's Day

Congratulations to Gael of the Year Matt Hannon. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO salutes Irish-Americans for their many contributions to our nation and our culture. Happy St. Patrick's Day to parade participants and everyone enjoying the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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Richard P. O'Connell
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St. Patrick's, the Federal City's Oldest Catholic Church, Celebrates Bicentennial

By Joe Barry

The Irish Ambassador to the United States will be among the honored guests as St. Patrick's Catholic Church celebrates its bicentennial and feast day with a St. Patrick's Day Mass on Thursday, March 17, 1994, at 10:30 am. James Cardinal Hickey will be the principal celebrant, with Archbishop of Baltimore William Keeler offering the homily. The general public is invited to attend.

Earlier that morning, NBC weatherman Willard Scott is scheduled to host the "Today" show weather "breakins" live from St. Patrick's. In addition, the City Council of Washington, DC, is expected to declare the day "St. Patrick's Church Day" in honor of the parish's bicentennial.

Just in time for its celebration, St. Patrick's, the oldest Catholic church in the city, as well as the oldest - and an excellent example of - gothic revival architecture in Washington, will complete a massive renovation and will reopen its doors to parishioners on March 1, 1994.

"Although the basic structure of the current church was completed in 1884, the parish itself was founded in 1794," said Monsignor Donald Essex, St. Patrick's pastor. "The changes to the inside of the church were necessary to preserve the historic integrity of the structure and to bring it into conformity with current liturgical usage."

Beginnings

In 1791, Bishop John Carroll assigned Reverend Anthony Caffry, an Irish-born Dominican, the task of organizing a parish in Washington, named in honor of St. Patrick. Caffry purchased lots on F Street, NW, between 9th and 10th Streets, on April 19, 1794.

The parish served large numbers of Irish, Italian, and German immigrants to the city, many of whom had come to build the US Capitol and the White House. One of St. Patrick's first and most active parishioners was James Hoban, the Irish-born engineer and architect of the White House. Among the church's other faithful were Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court, who would kneel to pray beside blacks in the integrated church, and Robert Brent, Washington, DC's first mayor. Years later, the parish was a major financial supporter of St. Augustine's, the first black Catholic Church in the region.

St. Patrick's history is rich with traditions of educational and charitable activities. Reverend William Matthews, the "patriarch of Washington" and St. Patrick's second pastor, cared for the charitable and educational needs of a generation of Washingtonians. During his tenure from 1804 through 1854, Father Matthews, the first American-born priest ordained in the United States, simultaneously held the offices of pastor of St. Patrick's, president of Georgetown University, and administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia. He was a pioneer in establishing the DC public school system, serving 31 years on the board of trustees. He was co-founder of the DC public library. Matthews organized St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, a private institution under the direction of the Sisters of Charity, that was recognized by President Andrew Jackson for its outstanding work.



President Theodore Roosevelt at the dedication of St. Patrick's academy and rectory

Growing With Washington

A second St. Patrick's church, designed by James Hoban and built by the congregation near the site of the first church on F Street, was dedicated by Archbishop Carroll in July 1809. The building remained empty of furnishings for over a year until a wealthy parishioner donated pews.

In 1820, the Jesuits opened the Washington Catholic Seminary, a private school for boys, on land donated by Father Matthews adjacent to St.

Patrick's Church. Matthews remained a principal supporter of this institution, which was attended by sons of Washington's prominent families who were members of St. Patrick's congregation. The school was renamed Gonzaga College in 1858 and remained on F Street until after the Civil War.

At the request of the archbishop in 1864, St. Patrick's again financed and built a parish at 8th and O Streets, named in honor of the Immaculate Conception, the new parish was intended to serve Catholics living north of L Street. Archbishop Gibbons dedicated the third church in December 1884, an imposing edifice that quickly became the ceremonial center of Catholic life in the capital.

A Catholic Influence

St. Patrick's has served a number of famous parishioners throughout its history. For example, Mary Surratt, who was executed in 1865 for conspiring to assassinate President Lincoln, was a member of the congregation. Pastor Father Walter accompanied her to the gallows and was her ardent defender until silenced by Archbishop Spalding. And Charles Dickens, celebrated English novelist, read his works at St. Patrick's in a series of four performances before packed audiences in Carroll Hall in February 1868.

And the early decades of the twentieth century were a particularly prolific time for ties between presidents and St. Patrick's. President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated the church's new academy and rectory. From 1909 until 1912, President Taft lead worshippers to St. Patrick's for the annual Pan American Mass, a public gathering of thanksgiving attended by representatives from the American Republics and the US government, which was organized by St. Patrick's pastor, Monsignor William Russell.

Father Francis Hurney organized the St. Patrick's Players in 1920 for talented actors and theatrical technicians, including Helen Hayes, Margaret Gorman, and others who would achieve fame in the American theater. The group presented musicals, comedy reviews, and religious dramas before tremendous audiences in Washington and on tour throughout the eastern states. The performances raised significant sums for Catholic charities. In 1929, the Vatican, acting on complaints that the "Charleston" and other popular dances were being performed under St. Patrick's sponsorship, ordered this group disbanded.

Father Thomas Dade organized the Catholic Police and Fireman's Society of Washington. He also founded the Catholic USO in Washington, with considerable support from Father Theodore Hesburgh of the Holy Cross order, who would later become president of the University of Notre Dame. St. Patrick's was the hub of local Catholic war activities, serving as spiritual center to the thousands of war workers and hosting meetings of Catholic chaplains in the area.

Archbishop O'Boyle was the first resident archbishop of Washington and began his nine-year tenure at St. Patrick's rectory in 1948. Former Speakers of the House of Representatives, John McCormick and Tip O'Neill, actively participated in the parish, as did Robert Kennedy when serving as US Attorney General.

The organizations that got their start in Washington at St. Patrick's include: The Christian Brothers, Daughters of Charity, Gonzaga College High School, Holy Cross Fathers, Jesuits, Little Sisters of the Poor, Sisters of the Holy Cross, and the Visitation Sisters.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee of Washington, D.C. extends our warmest wishes to the parishioners of St. Patrick's as you celebrate your community's 200th anniversary!

— Joe Barry's paternal grandparents, Thomas Joseph Barry and Nell Fleming, were married at Immaculate Conception (mentioned in the article) in 1906.

Happy St. Patrick's Day
to my
Daughters, Sons and Friends
Father Frank

Compliments
of
A Friend
of
Alice Johnson

St. Patrick's Church
200th Anniversary
Special Celebration Events

Shakespeare Lecture Series
by Dr. Deborah Curren-Aquino
Shakespearean scholar
Guest lecturer at Catholic University
Thursdays
11 am - 1:30 pm

March 10 — *"Twelfth Night"*
March 24 — *"King Lear"*
April 14 — *"Macbeth"*
April 28 — *"Rembrance in Shakespeare - Shakespeare Remembered"*

Festival of St. Patrick
March 15 - 20, Tuesday - Sunday
Includes County films, Irish book sale, art exhibit, crafts, and Irish food products.
11 am - 5 pm

Book Signing
"A City and a Parish: The History of Washington, DC and St. Patrick's Parish 1794 - 1994"
by Morris MacGregor
March 17, Thursday
12 - 5 pm

Genealogy Lectures
by Eileen McConnell
Noted Irish genealogist
March 19, Saturday

11 am — *"Introduction to the World of Irish Genealogy"*
1 pm — *"Seriously into Irish Genealogy"*

Reservations Requested
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The History of Western Church Architecture
A Lecture Series
by Frank Morgan
Adjunct professor and guest lecturer at Georgetown University
Wednesdays
11 am - 1:30 pm

April 6 — *"Renaissance and Reformation: Churches in the 15th and 16th Centuries"*
April 13 — *"Baroque Absolutism and the Triumph of Reason: Churches in the 17th and 18th Centuries"*
April 20 — *"Revolution and Reaction: Churches in the 19th Century"*
April 27 — *"Tyranny, Anarchy, and the Machine: Churches in the 20th Century"*

"Macbeth" by Verdi
an Opera Lecture
by Cyrilla Barr
Professor of musicology at Catholic University
April 21, Thursday
11 am - 1:30 pm

All the programs are free, open to the public, and subject to change. They will be held at the Paul VI Institute for the Arts, Carroll Hall, St. Patrick's Church, 619 10th Street and 924 G Street, NW, Washington, DC. For more information, call (202) 347-1450.

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Beginners Welcome! Pot Luck Dinner

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- Ceili at Cherry Hill Park, April 24
- Ceili at Glen Echo Park, May 28, with Temple House Ceili Band 8:00-12:00 p.m.
- 18th Annual Washington, D.C., Irish Folk Festival, May 29, Wolf Trap Farm Park
- Set dance workshop and ceili with Mick Mulkernin, July 23
-7th Annual Autumn Ceili Weekend, Oct. 1994 Cape May, NJ

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Washington's Rose of Tralee

Victoria French Anderson, a staff assistant in the US Senate, was selected as the 1993 Washington, DC Rose of Tralee. She represented the District at the Rose of Tralee competition in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, last summer. Anderson, who graduated from Radford University last year with a double major in English and political science, answers constituent mail for Senator Connie Mack of Florida. Anderson's interests include reading, playing her fiddle, and playing racquetball, lacrosse, and volleyball. She has a dog named Guinness.



Washington's Rose of Tralee



Entertainers at Fundraisers

Atlantic Bridge

Bifolkal

Brendan's Voyage

Pat Carroll

Don Cobert

Michelle Donnelly Dance School

Pat Garvey

Gross National Product with John Lyon

Jim Hartley

Irish Breakdown

Kevin James and Tim Trant

Laureen O'Neill James Dance School

Maureen Johnson

Derrek Keane

Michael Kelly

John Longbottom

Liam Maguire

Sanford Markley

Paul Martin

Morris Minor

North and South

Pete Papageorge

Vincent Quinlan

Shannon Tide

Ed Wholey

Wit's End

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On Why I Can't Possibly Write Anything on Wit and Wisdom

by Imelda Rowe

A member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee came bounding in with a huge grin on her face and a glint in her eyes. "Imelda, would you like to write an article for the St. Patrick's Day Parade magazine?" A few thoughts crossed by mind: "Pigs might fly." Or "It will be a cold day in Hell." And then from nowhere, an interloper: "No one will ever read it, so why not do it?" In a moment of foolishness I agreed and that is why this day has found me pacing the length of the room with nare a scratch made on the pristine white stack of paper glowering at me from my desk.

I am here with carrot and stick, waiting for inspiration. The carrot is a bar of rich, dark Irish chocolate. The stick is time itself - the seconds, minutes, and hours of my day drip from the future, through the present, and into the past. Inspiration has eluded me.

Irish wit and wisdom is something I know little about. Miscommunications and misunderstandings, however, are something I have experienced aplenty. For instance, the American "his phone line is busy" finds its direct translation into Irish: "he is engaged." The first time I made this slip was just recently. I was trying to call my landlord's agent. Matters were further confused when I believed my housemates were deliberately misunderstanding my words. Accordingly, I answered all questions with the first thing that came into my head. It was only after I constructed a most absurd match, and a housemate exclaimed her amazement that such a pairing was possible, that realization dawned.

We are two countries divided by a common language.

To say a meal was gorgeous, scrumptious, supreme, and amazing are all acceptable and sought after compliments and are music to an Irish cook's ear.

"Imelda, I have never heard food called gorgeous before."

In Ireland, we take our food seriously.

When someone in Ireland says that your party was a bomb, they are complimenting you. It does not mean that the party was a failure. And, if a party is that hot, and you stay long enough, you will eventually get the urge to excuse yourself. In Ireland, ladies use the ladies', gents use the gents', the restroom is a waiting room. You may embarrass yourself (and others) if you get them mixed up.

And we Irish have a few phrases that mean what we say they mean: "Ah, it's a soft day, thank God." This covers everything from the mildest precipitation to a hurricane. In the wildest gale, with lightning flashing and thunder crashing, it hasn't been unknown for an Irish person to cling to another and forcefully shout these words above the background noise of falling trees and roaring water. An opening gambit in the gentle art of conversation. "It is. We even saw the sun for a few seconds this morning."

And if you are Irish, February 1 is dear to your heart. It is St. Bridget's Day. We celebrate this day by weaving crosses of freshly cut rushes and by retelling tales of how this clever, crafty, wise, and witty standard-bearer of Irish femininity out-maneuvered and humbled kings, local lords, and all nare-no-gooders. We also celebrate the first day of spring on this same day. For as a people, we Irish see ourselves as models of clear-eyed common sense. We would, therefore, never pick reeds by the side of a mountain stream in the middle of winter. To do so one runs the risk of a wetting, a severe chill, and - most dreaded of dreads - a head cold.

Now, St. Blaze's Day is February 2nd. On this day, people take out a "spiritual and physical insurance policy" by getting their throats blessed, protecting themselves from all throat infections - head colds included - and illness in general.

So on a recent Sunday, Father Dennis announced that the blessing of St. Blaze would be given after Mass. In younger years, I was too busy trying to reweave the cross made the day before to seek the intercession of this particular saint. On this Sunday, however, there was not a reed to be seen, and I couldn't think of a good reason not to follow my friend Yvette up to the altar. Another friend landed on her knees beside me.

Yvette's opening bid was to comment that Fr. Dennis was wearing sandals and no socks. A brief glance to the left brought confirmation. My other friend countered with the observation that the priest was sporting a new vestment. We bantered on these items for a moment or two. The conclusions were somewhat less than earth-shattering: the new colors suited and Fr. Dennis' feet must be cold.

When the blessed white wax candles were on either side of my neck, the priest looked me straight in the eye and asked "Do you believe that the power of St. Blaze is greater than that of St. Patrick?" This was not what I had expected. I exploded in laughter, but I got the blessing of St. Blaze anyway.

But by that Wednesday evening, both Yvette and I had full-blown colds, accompanied by sniffles, sneezes, coughs, and wheezes. What does it all mean? Is this a coincidence or part of a larger conspiracy? Could it be, oh heresy of heresies, that spring does indeed bring on March 20th?

— Imelda Rowe is a recent immigrant from Dublin, Ireland.

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Our best wishes and congratulations to
Grand Marshal Mark Russell
and
"Gael of the Year"
Matthew Hannon

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
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In Memoriam

Jeremiah O'Leary, Jr

Washington journalist Jeremiah Aloysius Patrick O'Leary, Jr died on December 19, 1993. O'Leary, a Washington Times columnist and native of Washington DC, was honored by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in 1988 for his distinctive journalism career.

President of the White House Correspondents Association in 1988 and 1989, O'Leary began his newspaper career in 1937 at the Washington Star as a copy boy. Later, he was the Star's State Department correspondent; in 1979 he became its chief White House correspondent. O'Leary joined the Washington Times as its White House correspondent in 1982.

O'Leary wrote in 1989 of his illustrious career, "Over the years, I have known presidents and paupers, bartenders and cops, murderers, dictators, assassins, Hollywood stars, and hundreds of newspaper people who have always fascinated me."

A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, O'Leary saw combat in the Pacific. He was recalled to active duty in the Korean War and continued to serve as a reservist until retiring with the rank of colonel in 1976.

O'Leary's journalism awards include the 1989 Merriman Smith Award for Distinguished White House reporting, Columbia University's Maria Moors Cabot Gold Medal for distinguished Latin American reporting, and the Washington Newspaper Guild's 1963 national reporting first place prize. He was named to the Hall of Fame of Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalism society, in 1987.

O'Leary had been an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous since 1963.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Maria; three daughters, Caitlin Gage, Deirdre Stamper, and Moira O'Leary, of Alexandria, Virginia; two sons, Timothy of Dallas and Brendan of Alexandria; two brothers, Joseph of Leonardstown, Maryland, and William of Highland, Maryland; a sister, Mary Nutimer of Silver Spring, and five grandchildren.



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Irish Eye - Pat Cady

Green Light at the End of the Tunnel: Irish Laughter in America

by William Ivory

G.K. Chesterton, the orthodox philosopher extraordinaire, once proclaimed the Irish a race that God seemed to have created mad. The wars in Eire were so merry while their songs were so sad.

A rather glum observation and arguably inaccurate to anyone with a memory of the Easter Rebellion or who might be familiar with the perky melodies churned out by George M. Cohan. The Irish, by and large, are a whimsical lot imbued with an alternatingly bawdy and subtle sense of mirth. Should humor be defined simply as the attitude one selects as a way of approaching life, then the Irish just might be Nature's jesters of choice.

Every ethnic group arrived on these shores with its own unique legacy of misery, poverty, and repression. With 800 years of occupation, coupled with 400 years of intense colonization, the Irish were no exception to the American immigrant norm. The pall of misery became heavier upon arrival at the sight of signs warning that Irish need not apply. Through it all, the Irish survived with their own unique identity intact. Not surprisingly, however, their wit was often savage, mocking. Fighting Irish became a gross redundancy.

The true strength, the ultimate tool of resistance, for these people, were words. The shared Irish fantasy is to be installed as the high priests in a word-dominated culture. Words, words, words, hail holy words. And all the better should the words make you laugh.

Fred Allen, baptized James Henry Sullivan, contributed much to what has become the art of the comic monologue. Johnny, Dave, and Jay are forever in his debt. For 17 years Fred used his radio show to inundate Americans from Bangor to Barstow with the mores of the Boston Irish. And in a time when being Irish and a Democrat were nearly synonymous, Fred cracked about Harry Truman's upset victory in the 1948 election: the polls went to the dogs instead of vice versa. Even the most rock-ribbed bankers in Missouri had to laugh at that one.

Another Allen smirk with the language went like this:

> Fred: My sister, she married an Irishman.
> Ed: Oh, really?
> Fred: No, O'Riely.

Down in the precincts of American urban politics, where literal honesty was a dangerous burden, ward healers manipulated words, often with humorous results. A Chicago pol by the name of Hinky Dink Kenna - or was it Bath House John Coughlin? - once allowed as how, yes, in vino veritas, but when your job is to direct many of the same bodies in and out of different voting booths on election day, than any truth unleashed by wine could be dangerous, particularly if voters were to start giving their real names.

Walt Kelly may have exposed the dirty little secret shared by all mankind when he had Pogo expound that we have met the enemy and it is us. Uncovering the buffonery engaged in by almost everybody is a favorite Irish pastime. Yet, the lance sinks funniest when the lancee is oneself. Columnist and crusader William F. Buckley once offered himself to the people of New York as their mayor. When a reporter asked what the first thing he would do if he were elected, the aghast Great Pontificator said, without hesitation, "Demand a recount."

William Butler Yeats mentioned in a poem that when his time came, he had every hope to go laughing towards the tomb. Should your bravado be a little less developed, another Celtic outlook just might see you through. John Kennedy once presented a good friend a silver cup thus inscribed:

> Three things in life are real:
> God, human folly, and laughter.
> The first two are beyond comprehension;
> We must do what we can with the latter.

You don't have to be Irish in order to understand this sentiment. But it helps.

— The author's paternal family arrived in Norwich, New York, from a wide spot in the road near Fermoy, his maternal family traveled to Michigan from Enniscorthy. His fascination with genealogy will take him back to both places in the near future.



30th Anniversary of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

H. E. Dermot Gallagher, ambassador of Ireland, was the guest speaker at the memorial service on the 30th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The service was held in the old amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery and was sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, John F. Kennedy Division 5, Prince George's County, Maryland.

Joseph F. O'Connor

Joseph F. O'Connor was the chairman of the DC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in 1992 and 1993. He has been a valued member of the parade committee since its inception. Prior to being chairman, O'Connor served for many years as committee cochairman and as chief of protocol. Through his dedication, and that of others, the parade has grown from a small march to Robert Emmett's statue to a grand parade down the streets of Washington. His efforts to promote Irish and Irish-American activities have been recognized by Irish American Who's Who. The parade committee and the Irish-American community commend you for your dedicated service. Thanks for a job well done.





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Lewis County, WV

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Bishop O'Connell High School

Best Dancing Group - Peggy O'Beirne
O'Neill-James Dancers

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Out of the Mouths of Babes

The wit of the Irish is expressed at young ages. The following anecdotes were collected by Harry D. Spalding and published in Joys of Irish Humor.

Third-grader Francis was supposed to be listening to teacher talking about Saint Patrick, but instead was absorbed in a task of his own. The teacher approached his desk to see what could possibly be more important than learning about the holy saint, and found the boy drawing a picture with crayons.

"May I ask," she said with exasperation, "what it is that you are drawing?"

"I'm drawing a picture of God," Francis explained proudly.

"That's not possible," the teacher responded. "No one knows what God looks like."

Francis held up the masterpiece for all the class to see. "They do now."

* * *

Grandma Doherty and young Mickey had spent a happy morning together at Disneyland. At noon, Grandma decided to sit down and rest. She gave the boy some money to buy lunch for both of them. "But first," she said, "tell me what you'll be buying."

Mickey looked at the money and remembered all the good things to eat he had been seeing all morning. "Well," he said, "I'll get some cotton candy, jelly beans, peanuts, popcorn, hot dogs. . ." Being an observant boy, he noticed Grandma's reaction to his menu and added, without a beat, ". . .and a green vegetable."

* * *

Five-year-old Kathleen and her widowed mother had just moved from Dublin to New York, and it was necessary to enroll the child in school. The proud parent insisted that Kathleen be enrolled in first grade rather than kindergarten. The principal insisted, just as strongly, that the age requirement for first grade was six years and that Kathleen had missed the preparatory programs in kindergarten that prepared students for the next grade.

"But she's easily the equal of six-year-olds," protested the mother. "She was at the head of her first grade class in Dublin."

The principal was tired of arguing with the mother and turned to the child. "All right, let's see," he said. "Say some words."

"Which kind of words, sir?" asked Kathleen innocently. "Germane to the subject of immediate concern or purely irrelevant?"

* * *

Ambassador to the United Nations Daniel Patrick Moynihan had made a short visit to Ireland on a diplomatic mission. At Shannon Airport, he bought a newspaper from a young newsboy for the equivalent of five cents.

"That's cheap!" said the ambassador. "Why, in the United States, I'd have to pay twice that much for a paper."

The boy wanted to help. "Faith, sir," he offered. "You can pay me double if it'll make you feel better."

* * *

For her seventh birthday, Grandpa had given Rosemary a beautiful doll. The child ran to show her gift to her mother. "Look at what Grandpa gave me," she exclaimed. "He's the best grandpa in all of Ireland. When I'm grown, I'm going to marry him."

Mother laughed. "I'm afraid you can't do that, honey," she explained. "You'd be marrying my father."

"Why can't I?" Rosemary insisted. "You married mine."

* * *

Two small boys, one a Catholic and the other Protestant, were playing together one morning when the new minister of the Church of England passed by. Mistaking the clerical garb for that of a priest, the Catholic boy said "Good morning, Father."

The other boy jeered. "You called him 'Father'," he laughed. "But he's no Father - he's got five kids!"

* * *

Victor Herbert, the composer, met two little girls, alike as a pair of ears, on one of his visits to Galway. He asked the children their names.

"I'm Patricia, and she's Rosemary," said the first one.

"You're twins, aren't you?" the composer asked.

"No, sir," said the other.

"But aren't you sisters?"

"Yes, sir."

"And how old are you?"

"We're both six."

"Well then," he observed, "you must be twins."

"No, sir. We're triplets. Maggie's in the house."

* * *

Little Kathleen had the bad habit of biting her nails. Despite repeated scoldings, her mother caught her doing it again.

"Now, Kathleen," said her mother, trying once more to discourage the child. "Don't you know what happens to little girls who bite their nails? They swell up like a balloon!"

This warning impressed Kathleen more than the other scoldings had. She determined to break herself of the habit once and for all.

A week later, her aunt, who lived in the next county, came for a visit. She waddled into the room, clearly pregnant.

"Oh, Auntie," exclaimed Kathleen. "I know what you've been doing!"

— Henry D. Spalding, The Joys of Irish Humor. Jonathan David Publishers, Inc. 1989.

The Irish Language and Its Roots

by Morgan Hoover, Jr

An important part of Irish tradition and Irish music, song, and dance is the Irish Gaelic language. It existed in Ireland in various forms: Early Irish, Middle Irish, and Modern Irish. The earliest forms probably existed in Ireland before the birth of Christ. Irish (or Irish Gaelic) is considered by Irish scholars to be one of the three classical languages of Europe. The others are Greek and Latin. All three languages occur in literature and ancient written forms.

The ancient Celtic lettering is used on standing stones inscribed with the ogham markings chiseled into the stones, spelling out inscriptions in Celtic or Latin that exist in several areas of the Celtic world. Some form of Irish or Celtic may possibly have been in use in the early Bronze or Iron Age in Ireland. Many ancient stone forts, dwellings, graves, and marked stones can be seen today.

The Celts were known for making metal and gold articles, jewelry, and many other things. In Ireland and elsewhere, there has been a revival of interest in Celtic culture, language, dance, art, and music. The residents on the islands off the coast of Ireland about the turn of the century sang songs, created poetry, and had both vocal and instrumental music.

Ceilis were a feature of the households in which music - both vocal and instrumental - and dancing were common, as were eating and drinking, children playing games, and people forming friendships. The islanders also had their own native style of dress made by the local community.

Houses had thick walls of stone with thatched roofs. People were self-sufficient: fishing, sharing farm animals, and growing what they could. They gathered seaweed to enrich the meager soil and used some type of sea vegetation for cooking. Mushrooms and wild birds were foraged and cooked.

Stories written by Padraic Pearse and books such as Peig, Twenty Years a Growing, and Fairy Tales from South-West Donegal reflect the wit, humor, way of life, and culture of a people who lived the Celtic way for centuries as last as the 1930s. A visitor to Ireland can still enjoy hearing - and practicing - the Irish language in some parts of Ireland, where it is still spoken every day.

— Morgan Hoover, Jr has studied the Irish language for the past 15 years. He teaches Irish in local schools; he also teaches an Irish literature class.

St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Washington, DC

Statement of Purpose

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is a non-profit organization registered in the District of Columbia founded for the sole and express purpose of organizing and producing the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Washington, DC.

The corporation will neither make nor allow to be made any expression or sign that, in the judgement 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: February 4, 1989
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1. Is fearr sláinte ná táinte.
2. Má bhíonn cearc leat a' breith, caithfidh tú cur suas lena glagarnaigh.
3. Mura contúirteach ní éadálach.
4. Is maith comhairle ach is fearr cabhair.
5. 'S é an té a threabhas san earrach an té a bhainfeas sa bhFómhar.
6. Ná mol an t-arán go mbrúitear é.
7. Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir.
8. Is fada an bóthar nach mbíonn casadh ann.
9. Is maith an scáthán súil charad.
10. Is namhaid í an cheird gan í a fhoghlaim.
11. Ní thuigeann an sách an seang.
12. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.
13. Is buaire clú na saol.

_____ A. 'Tis a long road that has no turning.

_____ B. A trade not properly learned is an enemy.

_____ C. He who plows in spring will reap in harvest.

_____ D. If you have a hen that lays, you have to put up with her clucking.

_____ E. Advice is good, but help is better.

_____ F. Time is a great storyteller.

_____ G. Don't praise the bread until it is baked.

_____ H. A friend's eye is a good mirror.

_____ I. Praise the young and they will blossom.

_____ J. If it's not dangerous, it's not profitable.

_____ K. Health is better than wealth.

_____ L. Fame is more lasting than life.

_____ M. The well-fed does not understand the lean.

Answers: 1K, 2D, 3J, 4E, 5C, 6G, 7F, 8A, 9H, 10B, 11M, 12I, 13L



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