



Mar. 2005

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An Irish Primer

by *Brian Witt*

Regular readers of Emerald Reflections will know a lot about Ireland. However, as the March issue is viewed by a larger audience than most issues, here is a chance for those who don't normally get a chance to read the Shamrock Club's publication to get caught up on Ireland, things Irish and things to see in Ireland. Enjoy this short primer.

MEGALITHIC TOMBS. Passage graves, dolmens, and gallery graves are all among the tombs that were constructed in Ireland and Scotland, and in some parts of Brittany and the Iberian peninsula between 3000 and 1750 BCE. The most famous of the passage graves are at Dowth and Knowth in Westmeath, as well as Newgrange. Newgrange is also a construction marvel, in that the sun only shines into the interior during five days surrounding the winter solstice. Dolmens consist of a chamber formed by several vertical-bearing stones that support a large capstone. The capstone slopes towards the entrance of the portal. The best-known are at Poul nabrone, as well as the Browne's Hill in Carlow, Proleek in Louth, and Knockeen in Waterford. Gallery graves are a variation of passage graves, but with an elongated burial mound.

ROUND TOWERS. There are 71 round towers and about 200 sites containing ruins or foundations of destroyed towers. Most towers are constructed of gray granite, have conical tops, and are plain in design. Round towers are associated with a church or set on monastic grounds. The majority of the towers were built from the 7th to the 10th centuries, and were used as bell towers, lookout points, and refuge from invading marauders. The towers have a single raised entry door, usually facing the church. Monks entered the door with a ladder, pulling the ladder in after them. There were always four windows at the top, in order to allow a view of the

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surrounding landscape.

HIGH CROSSES. High crosses were used in a variety of manner. Usually portraying Bible stories or the lives of saints, they were a way to educate a population that lacked universal access to the written word. The ancestors of the high crosses were the prehistoric “menhirs”, boundary markers and tombstones that were often decorated. Many of the crosses were made out of sandstone or granite. As the crosses evolved in design, they went from the slightly crude in rendition of the human form, as seen in the cross of Cardonagh, Co. Donegal, to the more elaborate and detailed Monasterboice, Co. Louth cross of the 10th Century, to the more stylized designs of the cross at Dysert O’Dea in Clare from the 12th century. The creation of high crosses ceased for the most part in the 12th century.

ST. PATRICK. “The Apostle of Ireland” was born about the end of the 4th century, probably somewhere along the west coast of Britain. His initial arrival came at the behest of the raiders of Niall of the Nine Hostages, who kidnapped him and sold him into slavery in the north of Ireland. He recounted: “I was then about sixteen years of age. I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity to Ireland with many thousands of people – and deservedly so, as I did not believe the living God, nor did I so from my childhood, but lived in death and unbelief.” Patrick was sold as a slave to tend sheep in the hills of Antrim, in the North of Ireland.

Patrick spent six years with literal flocks, and then one day he heard God tell him to walk to the south to go home. He left Ireland at Wexford, and returned eventually to Britain, where he entered the religious orders. At about the age of 47 or so he returned to minister to the Christians of Ireland. He was not the first priest on the island, following Palladius, who had retired back to Scotland. However, this was not the land of saints and scholars. As he remembered: “daily I expect murder, fraud, or captivity, or whatever it may be ...for the sake of... the Gospel and its promises so that a great multitude and throng might be caught for God.”

Patrick lived amongst the Irish for the remainder of his life. He was accepted as one of them, and was greatly loved. He also had his own brewer. He died in his late eighties, with much of the island converted to the new religion as a result of his work. And he never drove the snakes out of Ireland. There never were snakes in Ireland.

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS. Anyone who has seen the design on the dresses of Irish dancers, or on the sides of bodhrans, will have noticed peculiar looking birds, men, and other creatures. These are from the illuminated manuscripts of the Irish monks. The Gospels were copied by Irish monks who designed the minuscule script, known as the Insular half-unical, and originally from Latin script. These gospels were penned on thick sheets of parchment in

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a durable ink. Interlaced initials open each of the gospels, and some take up entire pages. The best known of these illuminated manuscripts are the Book of Kells, the Lindisfarne Gospels, and the Book of Durrow. The Irish monks who copied and designed these beautiful creations did so in the island monasteries off Ireland and England. The ancestors of the Irish books were the Coptic Christian designs, and the later Syrian and Byzantine books. The Book of Kells survived the Viking raids, and is now on display at Trinity College, Dublin.

HILL OF TARA. Though best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age, when a passage-tomb was constructed there. Tara was at the height of its power as a political and religious center in the early centuries after Christ. Tara was known as Temair in Gaelic. 142 kings are said to have reigned at this site in Meath in prehistoric and historic times. In ancient Irish religion and mythology Tara was the sacred place of dwelling for the gods, and was the entrance to the otherworld.

ALL-IRELAND MUSIC COMPETITIONS. Music competitions for traditional music take place each year in Ireland. The first Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann was held in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, in June 1951, with a few hundred people participating. The Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, or CCE, was to emerge from this event. Within five years this annual gathering had grown to a national festival attended by thousands of traditional musicians, singers and dancers from all parts of Ireland and from overseas. During the 1960s and onwards, the Fleadh grew so large that the number of would-be competitors had to attend at qualifying stages at county and provincial level, and later, regional levels in other countries. Branches of Comhaltas were soon to be found throughout the globe. In recent years the Fleadh Cheoil has been attended by up to 100,000 visitors for the three day event.

GAELIC IN IRELAND. Ireland has two official languages: English and Irish, also known as Irish Gaelic. Irish is a Goidelic language. Irish was the dominant language of Ireland until two major factors hastened its decline: the introduction of a primary education system where Irish was prohibited, and the Great Famine, where a high number of Irish speakers emigrated or died. Gaelic is also one of the father languages of Europe. There are a number of distinct dialects of Irish. The three major dialect areas coincide with the provinces of Munster, Connacht, and Ulster.

PROVINCES IN IRELAND. In ancient times, Ireland was divided into provinces, each ruled by a King. These provinces were dynamic and their borders changed all the time. Today, when Irish talk about the provinces of Ireland, they mean Leinster, Ulster, Munster and Connaught. However, historically there were more than four provinces: others included Breifne, between Ulster and Connaught, Oriel, around county Armagh, and Meath, the northern

half of Leinster.

That's about all the knowledge that can be shared in the limited space allowed for this Irish primer. Possibly, this introduction will allow you to impress friends, family and coworkers with a variety of information about things Irish as we celebrate the Green Season.

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Milwaukee President's Message

Well, here we are ready to welcome the month of March. The month making Irish eyes smile and gladden the hearts of all waiting for Irish social events throughout the city. As the Shamrock Club awaits the celebrations of our 45th anniversary, we can rejoice knowing Milwaukee will be alive with the sound of Irish music, song, and dance wherever we may be. This will be the first March without my family's matriarch, the first celebration of her heritage and birthday in March without her presence. She will expect us to carry on every tradition in a fun and loving, and proud manner, giving honor to our ancestors and even, perhaps, creating some new traditions along the way.

The naming of our new honorees for this year and being able to recognize all these fine people is indeed a pleasure. They are nominated by members of the club, and voted on by the board. So my congratulations to Noreen Barclay our Irish Rose, Ed Mikush our Irishman, and our Parade Marshal Richard Stover. All of them truly represent the finest in our organization as have those going before them. They will have a busy year ahead of them with the many appearances they will make. At the March meeting they will receive their sash and flowers and will be introduced by last year's honorees. We have been well served by Irishman Brian Witt, Irish Rose Gail Neville and Bob and Judy Town the Parade Marshals. I join the entire club in thanking them for their service this past season.

We hope you will be at the meeting on March 3rd for the beginning of a month promising to help alleviate your spring fever. We promise to have an exciting raffle for you at the meeting, and ask you to bring in any raffle tickets you have sold. Tickets will be available if you want to sell or buy more. The tickets you receive in the mail raise the monies for our scholarship fund, and I ask you to sell them for this most important fund.

On March 12 I want to see you at St. Patrick's Mass with Father Rick Abert. This event chaired by Bonnie and Chuck McLaughlin is a magnificent way to start the day followed by a continental breakfast at the ICHC. After starting the day in church, you will head downtown looking for a good spot to view the parade our Club does in cooperation with the Westown Association. We will have over 130 units passing the reviewing stand and it will be a

beautiful day to don all your special green clothes. As if that's not enough, you will hurry back to the ICHC for the post parade party chaired by Kris and Daryl Pluskota. This Post Parade Party is the best entertainment bargain of any event in the city. We have something for everyone, including four dance schools that welcome your applause. We have music, retail items, and some great food and beverages. Mark this on your calendar as the place to be, and bring lots of people with you to enjoy the day and shake the winter doldrums.

You are invited to our Easter Rising Mass on March 27 at 9:30 a.m. The mass was begun by our own Kit and Josie Nash, and continues to be a favorite of all who have attended. The Club offers you a continental breakfast after mass, with plenty of opportunity to chat with members you may not see often.

March is also the month where we ask you to nominate members for the Board. The person nominated must be in attendance to accept, and we ask you to start thinking about running for office or nominating someone.

This is a busy time, and it will be great to see all kinds of people enjoying our celebrations. It makes no difference if they are Irish or not, remember, our parade is really a gift to the whole area. Be proud you are part of it.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith

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Shamrock Club Of Rock County

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MARCH 15** – St. Patrick's Day Party at the Janesville Senior Center, 5:30 p.m. (no regular monthly meeting)
- **APRIL 19** – Potluck Dinner 6 p.m., Regular Membership Meeting 7 p.m.
- **MAY 17** – Regular Membership Meeting 7 p.m.

The Shamrock Club and the Senior Center are co-sponsoring the St. Patrick's Day Party again this year, so get out your green and come to the party on March 15. There will be a fine American-Irish menu at 5:30 and at 6:30 we will be entertained by "Casey's Fancy." All of this for only \$5.50 per person. You may make your reservations by calling the Senior Center at 755-3040 or Tom Kennedy at 752-3667.

At the April meeting, we will have a potluck dinner at 6 o'clock

followed by a short meeting at 7 o'clock. Ruby Walton will speak to us about writing our memoirs. Ruby has been teaching reminiscence writing for many years. She recently compiled a book of memories written by students in her classes. I am sure you all know some of her students. This will be a very interesting program.

– **Tom Kennedy**

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Dane County Shamrock Club

Dane County celebrates St. Patrick's Day in style. Offerings include:

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2005:

- 10 a.m. Catholic Mass at Saint Patrick's church in downtown Madison.
- 10 a.m. Shamrock Shuffle. 5K race starting at the Monona Terrace Convention Center.
- 12 Noon Irish Flag Raising Ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda and recognition of the Irish Person(s) of the Year.
- 1:30 p.m. Saint Patrick's Parade in downtown Madison.
- Conclusion of the parade – Irish/Celtic entertainment at The Orpheum Theatre in downtown Madison.
- 2 p.m. Irish/Celtic entertainment at the Park Ponderosa in McFarland.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005:

- Saint Patrick's dinner at the Coliseum Bar in Madison beginning at 5:30 p.m. featuring social hour, dinner, raffle and entertainment.

All are welcome at all events. For more information contact me at ccimgmt@supranet.com or (608) 833-0009.

At our meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, Brian Covey from the UW History Department will give a presentation on "The Status and Role of the Catholic Church" in modern day Ireland. All are welcome.

– **Bob Kerans**

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Shamrock Club of New Dublin March Events

Plans are well underway for Irish Fest 2005 to be held on March 19, 2005 in New Dublin. The theme for this year's festivities is "Forty Shades of New Dublin Green". We are honored to announce our Irishman for 2005 is Michael "Pup" Loughrin and our Irish Rose is Mrs. Helen Fitzgerald. Our Grand Marshal for the 2005 parade is two time Olympian and Bronze medalist Mr. Garrett Lowney, a Manawa native.

NEW DUBLIN EVENTS INCLUDE:

March 14 – Leprechauns change the name of the town to New Dublin. (This event made the AOL Wacky St Patrick's Day celebration in 2004. And at number one, no less!!)

March 15 – Hooligan Day. Corned Beef and Cabbage served at Pup's Irish Pub, Hwy 54 in North Dublin and Sommer's Midtown, Downtown New Dublin.

March 16 – Irish Caroling at St. Joseph's Residence and Franklin Park apartments. Meet in the lobby of St. Joseph's at 5 p.m.

March 17 – HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Irish Entertainment at New London Sr. High School auditorium 7 p.m. Talented artists of New Dublin present an evening of Irish entertainment featuring songs, dances and humor of Ireland. Introduction of the 2005 Irish Man of the Year "Pup" Loughrin, Irish Rose Helen Fitzgerald, Grand Marshal Garrett Lowney, and the Irish Lad & Lassie. Great family entertainment. Public invited. Free admission, donations appreciated.

March 18 – 8 p.m. Finnegans wake service begins at Pup's Irish Pub two miles west of New Dublin on Hwy 54 and proceeds to other local establishments. 7 p.m. Irish Ceili at Crystal Falls – a traditional gathering of friends and family in celebration of music and dance. Public welcome. Free admission.

Saturday March 19 – The Grand Parade & Irishfest. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Irishfest under the Big Top in Festival Foods Parking lot, Downtown New Dublin. HUGE heated tent featuring Irish food, beverages, entertainment and market booths. All-day family event. Premier band Seven Nations will be taking the stage following the parade at 3 p.m. Admission \$5 for all day. 1 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown New Dublin. Wisconsin's largest St. Patrick's Day parade with marching and bagpipe bands, clan and business floats. Over 100 units. Prizes awarded.

All events sponsored by the Shamrock Club of New Dublin with the help of many fine businesses and individuals from New Dublin and the surrounding area. Information about any of the events listed may be obtained by e-mail to barring4@athenet.net or by calling (920) 982-3891 for General Information and maybe a little bit of Blarney.

Milwaukee is Proud to Announce its Selection of 2005 Honorees:

**Irishman of the Year Ed Mikush,
Irish Rose Noreen Barclay and
Parade Marshal Richard Stover**



Pictured left to right are Ed Mikush, Noreen Barclay and Richard Stover, Milwaukee's Honorees for 2005.

ED MIKUSH — IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR

The 2005 Irishman of the Year is Ed Mikush. Ed has embodied the qualities that the Shamrock Club looks for when choosing someone for this honor: service to the Shamrock Club, and the Irish of Milwaukee, a spirit of volunteerism, and a love of things Irish, as well as a grand knowledge of Ireland, Irish history, arts and literature.

Ed had been chosen many times over the years for this honor, but always turned it down. People more deserving of, people who have been waiting longer, people more Irish—these are among the reasons Ed gave for not taking this honor. But this year, this son of Slovakia acceded. “You folks must have run out of deserving Irishmen,” he said when he accepted.

Ed's intimate introduction to the Irish of Milwaukee came through his wife, Betty. After meeting at West Division High School, where the Irish of St. Rose's went to school, Ed served in the Navy in the

Pacific. After returning home, he became one of the more sought after players in Milwaukee sports. Then, in 1949, he married Betty Reidy at St. Rose's, and his life would be forever immersed in Irishness.

Ed and Betty joined the Shamrock Club in 1979. Her brother, Ed Reidy, was soon to be president. After joining, both became involved in all aspects of the Club. Ed served two terms as parliamentarian and three years as trustee. He has served on finance committees and audit committees. Ed was property chairperson for nine years for the Color Guard; wherein he loaded and unloaded trailers and cars constantly. He got equipment safely to Boston, Dublin, and to the many parades around the state. Ed, and Betty, worked four years in the early days of Bradley Center involvement. But that is not all.

Ed has worked at doing setup at every Folk Fair since 1979, especially the Cultural displays. For a number of years he and assistants would lug the hearth from the basement of Irish Fest and put it together, then get it back to the basement by midnight on Sunday. He is still involved in setup, as his daughter, Marianne Fischer, is now the Cultural Coordinator. For this and other work, Ed was named Parade Marshal of the Shamrock Club in 1995.

But that is not all. After Betty's retirement from the State of Wisconsin, she became more involved with Milwaukee Irish Fest. As a result, Ed found more outlets for his life. He was the early Sam's Club shopper for the festival, stocking up the shelves at the old Glenview headquarters. He was also the early postman, doing the outgoing maildrops for years. On the grounds, Ed has been a tireless worker. Currently, he is the paint director for the Cultural area setup crew. In the past, he was at the festival grounds from early in the day until way after sunset. Nowadays, he has cut back to leaving when the sun is still just above the horizon. For his selfless dedication, Ed was selected Volunteer of the Year for Irish Fest in 1999.

In addition, he has built sets for Milwaukee Irish Arts, has worked at painting and cleaning up the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin, and has done work for Celtic Women. He has been an integral part of the Irish community in Milwaukee, and at every level has been honored for it. He and Betty were named Volunteers of the Year at the ICHC in 2003, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 2004.

The whole family has all been involved in the Shamrock Club, and various other organizations in Milwaukee. Son Bob, an accountant, is a member of the Shamrock Club. He is also currently membership chairperson of the Wisconsin AOH. He is the coordinator of ticket runners for Irish Fest. He is also a board member for the festival. Bob is a member of 128th air wing WI Air National guard, holding the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Daughter Marianne served two terms as treasurer of the Shamrock Club. She is the current Folk Fair Cultural person ... And then there are her other duties. She is the current Folk Fair Cultural coordinator, she has served as treasurer of Milwaukee Irish Arts, and held the same job for the Paddy Clancy Scholarship Fund. She has been a long time volunteer at Irish Fest. She has been employed for 24 years as financial specialist for Milwaukee County Council Boy Scouts, where Emerald Reflections is labeled prior to mailing.

And then there is Betty. The woman who got him so involved has also been there for the Irish of Milwaukee. She was Folk Fair Shamrock Club chairperson for six years. She worked for four years at the Bradley Center. She also marched around the world as a member of the Shamrock Club Color Guard for nine years. She was selected Irish Rose in 1986. Betty was also named volunteer of the year for Irish Fest in 1994. She also toured Ireland a number of times over the years, usually with John Gleeson's guided tours, but always with Ed.

Ed retired from Harnischfeger Corporation, where he was also a star softball player for the company. He has toured North America playing in tournaments, many since his retirement. Sadly, Ed has had to temporarily stop playing, until his hips are healed. He was playing outfield in senior leagues until just a few years ago. He was also a union steward, and member of the contract negotiating team when he was P&H.

The statue of St. Patrick at the ICHC is originally from St Rose of Lima's. Restoration of the statue was done with help from Ed and Betty. It is appropriate that Ed is posed next to another non-native Irishman who developed a love for and a mission to the Irish.

The land of Ed's ancestors was home to the Celtic tribe of the Boii, who gave their name to Bohemia. Was there residual Celtic blood left in those lands, blood that might have been coursing through Ed's body? That is uncertain, but for a love and knowledge of things Irish, there are few who can match Ed Mikush in this area. And for that reason he is the Shamrock Club's Irishman of the Year for 2005.

NOREEN BARCLAY — IRISH ROSE

Noreen Barclay was born and raised in Milwaukee. She is the great-granddaughter of Jeremiah Quin, a prominent citizen of Milwaukee and an early leader of the Irish Community. While she was very young, her mother, Grace Quin Goetzl, a staunch member of the Shamrock Club, instilled in her the love of the Irish and her proud Irish heritage.

Noreen has always embraced the ideals of service to others. When she was a student at Marquette University College of Business Administration she received the Senior Service Award from her sorority, Theta Phi Alpha. Upon receiving her degree she married

and raised her family in Milwaukee until her husband, Frank was transferred to New Jersey. There she pursued her own career in the field of Human Resources where her endeavors followed her ideals of service to people. She is a past chapter president of Soroptimist International, a service organization for women akin to the Rotary.

When she and her husband both retired, they moved back to Milwaukee where they immediately became active members of the Shamrock Club. For the past six years Noreen has chaired the Shamrock Club Sales Booth and has devoted considerable time and effort to making Irish Fest and Holiday Folk Fair valuable fund raising events. She has served on the Audit Committee, helps out at the annual St. Patrick's Day presentation at the Milwaukee museum and has assisted in the Scholarship Raffle.

Noreen volunteers at the ICHC answering phones one day a week, entering data and mailing out the "An Gael Talk". She is currently serving her third term as Shamrock Club Trustee and continues to volunteer wherever and whenever needed.

RICHARD STOVER — PARADE MARSHAL

Richard Stover is probably best-known to people for his deep commitment to the values, history, heritage and traditions of the Irish through his many years of contributions and participation as a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums.

Having risen through the ranks, Richard over the past several years has been honored with carrying the American flag, leading the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums in all its parade and event performances. As a leader of the Unit, Richard has been:

- Responsible for creating the Unit's motto: "Pride and Honor"
- Instrumental in establishing the group's tradition of helping the less fortunate through the Food for Thanksgiving and Clothing for Christmas programs.
- The originator and author of the monthly article "Color Guard News and Notes", as seen in Emerald Reflections for the past five years.
- Member and, for the past several years, organizer of the Honor Guard which has proudly appeared at the St. Patrick's Day, Easter Rising, Irish Fest, A.O.H. masses, as well as club member's family wakes and funerals.
- Fund Raiser in 1995, 2000, and 2005 obtaining acknowledgements, support and donations from federal, state, county city and religious representatives as well as professional organizations and businesses throughout the city and state.
- The architect/designer and leader of all the formations and movements of the Color Guard, which for the first time in the 24

year history of the Unit, were unveiled during the 2004 performance season and specifically at the Unit's Special Performance at the 2004 Irish Fest celebration.

- A principle leader of the Unit's 20th Anniversary celebration in 2000 and currently, a leader in the 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on April 23, 2005.

Richard's commitment and contributions are not limited to the Color Guard Pipes and Drums alone. As a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin he has volunteered, or whenever and wherever asked, he has stepped forward to proudly work or represent the Club and the needs of its members.

- Served as Trustee and is currently the Secretary of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Board of Directors.
- During the 2002 debate over the uniform of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin—plaid or green kilts—Richard's efforts in standing up for the tradition, history and honor of the Club was upheld as now seen in the By-laws. The kilts will continue to be green, in honor of the green of Ireland, and the tri-colors of the Irish Flag's green-white and orange.
- As Golf Chairman in 1998, the largest turnout ever for this annual event occurred seeing 125 golf and dinner attendees. Each person received a raffle prize and the event generated over a \$600 profit for the Club's general fund.
- For the St. Patrick's Day Raffle organized by Dick and Rosemary Quinlan, he sold impressive quantities of tickets: showing yearly totals of over 350, 300 and 250+ to benefit the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin.
- For Dick Tierney and the ICHC, he distributed over 125 posters throughout the city and has been there whenever needed.
- For the St. Patrick's Day Parade held on Bluemound Rd. he distributed over 250 posters throughout Wauwatosa and Milwaukee.
- He has volunteered and participated in many Club events: Annual Picnic; Volunteer, Honoree, and Christmas Parties; St. Patrick's Day Post Parade Party; presented colors at General Membership Meetings; provided the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and the Color Guard with the "Tri-Colors of Ireland" banners which the Unit uses to lead our parade performances and which the Club has displayed at special events, etc.

Richard is honored to be selected Parade Marshal 2005 in a truly special year that celebrates both the 45th Anniversary of the Club and the 25th Anniversary of the Color Guard.

St. Pat's Mass Flower Donations, Memorials, and Honors

Memorials and donations to honor living individuals will be taken at the Milwaukee February and March general meetings to help defray the cost of flowers for the St. Patrick's Mass, March 12, 2005. Names will be printed in the Mass Booklet. Mail orders can be taken up to March 3, 2005. Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club. Contact Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin; 12007 W. Walker St., West Allis, WI 53214; (414) 771-0458. Thank you.

– **Chuck McLaughlin**

20th Annual Special Mass To Honor St. Patrick

Will be held prior to the St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, MARCH 12, 2005

8:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church

723 South 7th at Washington Street, Milwaukee

Sign reader for hearing impaired

Shuttle Bus: from ICHC rear parking lot (2133 W. Wisconsin Ave.) to St. Patrick's Church and after Mass return to Parade Route or parking lot for just \$3 per person. Bus to leave sharply at 7:45 a.m. for the Church

Tickets for bus can be purchased by mail or at the Shamrock Club February and March General Meetings

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast after Mass: \$6 Adults / \$3 Children under 12

For Bus reservations or information contact:

Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin

12007 W. Walker Street, West Allis, WI 53214; Phone: (414) 771-0458

Send self-addressed, stamped envelope. Make checks payable to Shamrock Club

Mail reservations for BUS ONLY by submitting:

Name : _____

Address : _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone : _____

Number of Reservations : _____

Amount \$: _____

Bus Reservations will not be taken after March 3

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Parade Day Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

The Milwaukee River will be dyed green on parade day, March 12, at 10:30 a.m. The boat will start out at Pere Marquette Park on the Milwaukee River at Kilbourn.

The Parade will begin at noon and last approximately 90 minutes. Step-off is in front of the Grand Avenue Mall. The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Inc. has produced the parade continuously since 1967. 2005 is the 162nd anniversary of Milwaukee's 1st St. Patrick's Parade.

1ST ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S PARADE 5K RUN

A 5K run will take place prior to the parade at 11 a.m. in downtown Milwaukee. Race proceeds will benefit the MACC Fund. Start point will be in front of Mo's Irish Pub and finish to be Pere Marquette Park. Post-run party at Pere Marquette Park to follow.

Registration is \$17 online, by mail or in person. Register through March 5. There will NOT be any race day registration. This event is limited to 4,000 runners.

For information contact race directors: Bill Jahnke (414) 282-5702; Shamrock Bill@wi.rr.com or Jack Noonan (414) 769-9675.

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Trolley Ride

We remind all the members we have a trolley available for you to ride in at the parade. We invite any former honorees or members to show the downtown your smiling Irish eyes. This invitation is

extended to all members within the state who would like to join us.
Let us know in advance, if you are interested.

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin 39th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, MARCH 12, 2005

Noon – Downtown Milwaukee

Step-off is in front of the Grand Avenue Mall on 3rd and Wisconsin,

Proceeding east to Plankinton,
North on Plankinton to Kilbourn,
West on Kilbourn to Old World 3rd Street,
North on Old World 3rd Street to Juneau,
East on Juneau to Water Street,
South on Water Street

The Parade will feature 130+ units and will include clowns, local politicians and celebrities, floats, bagpipe and marching bands, Irish and Celtic organizations

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Volunteers Needed for Post Parade Party

We need help in all areas of the Post Parade Party. This includes door sales, our sales booth of Irish items, kitchen sales and bartenders. If you would like to help, please contact Noreen Barclay at nabarclay@earthlink.net for sales, or Kevin Quinlan at kquinlan@tmore.org for bartending. The Post Parade Party runs from 1 until 6 p.m., but we need help from about 10 a.m. onwards to 7 p.m. For general volunteer work, call Kristine and Daryl Pluskota (414) 768-8876 or send email to dkplus@tds.net

All volunteers receive an entrance pass, meal ticket and beverage ticket for each two hour shift worked. Also, an invitation to the Volunteer Thank You Party held each year in February is extended to those giving of their time. Volunteering provides a wonderful chance to socialize and meet new friends while making money for the club. Please, lend a hand!

Shamrock Club Post Parade Party

Saturday, MARCH 12, 2005

1–6 p.m. (Doors Open at 12:20 p.m.)

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

Four stages of continuous entertainment:

Hallamor

2:00 -- Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums

2:30 -- Kinsella Dancers

3:15 -- Trinity

4:00 -- The Glencastle Irish Dancers

4:45 -- Cashel Dennehy Dancers

Parlor B

1:00 -- Tom O'Sullivan

2:00 -- Jeff Ward

3:00 -- Barry Dodd

4:00 -- Ce

5:00 -- TBA

Upstairs

1:30 -- Blarney

3:15 -- Caledonian Scottish Dancers

3:45 -- Blarney

Basement: Childrens Area

3:00 -- Silent Singers

3:45 -- McTaggarts Thrill Show

4:30 -- Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories

Bands, Irish Dance Schools, Scottish Dancers, Bagpipe Bands,
Children's Area

Food and Beverages available!!!

Adults \$6 / Children (6-12) \$3

Volunteer needed: call Kristine and Daryl Pluskota (414) 768-8876

Join the Shamrock Club at the Milwaukee Museum for a St. Patrick's Day Celebration Sunday, March 6, 2005 from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The Shamrock Club will be at the Milwaukee Public Museum again for our annual St Patrick's Day celebration. We will be in the European Village, near the Irish Cottage. There will be a number of demonstrations, as well as ceili dance instruction and a performance by the Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers.

Demonstrations include: bobbin lace by Naomi Holthaus and Diana Sauter; Irish copper relief by Leslie Fox; Irish soda bread by Marleen Wagner; straw weaving by Mary Roffers; and, tatting demonstrations by Kammi Krueger. Joan Le Clair will demonstrate the use of the 150 year old Dual Bobbin Spinning wheel. It is also known as the gossip wheel, mainly for the stories that were elicited when it was being used.

The Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers will perform in the auditorium at 1:30 p.m. Julie Clark will be giving ceili dance instructions at noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m. In addition, there will be lessons on making a sheep, soda bread handouts, and peat cutting displays.

Our own St. Patrick, Tom McAleese, will be present. He will have information about St. Patrick. The Irish Cottage, which was furnished by the Shamrock Club, will be open for people to walk through. This is the 25th anniversary of the European Village, so it is a special time for us to be here, considering our history.

For more information about the Sham---rock Club at the Milwaukee Public Museum, call Muriel Crowley at (262) 782-4323.

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Scholarship Raffle

The Shamrock Club Scholarship Raffle is taking place again. Tickets have been mailed out to members, and will also be on sale at the March meeting and the Post Parade Party. The raffle will be held on Thursday, April 7, at the Shamrock Club General Meeting, at 7:30 p.m. All money and ticket stubs must be returned by that time. Raffle stubs and money can be mailed to Kathleen Quinlan Boeing, 8700 W. Spokane, Milwaukee, WI 53224.

Requests for information, or requests for more tickets, can be sent to kquinlan@tmore.org, or by calling Kathleen Quinlan Boeing at (414) 358-2960. Top prize is \$1000, second prize is \$200, third prize is \$100, fourth is \$50, and three prizes of \$25 each. Tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5, and six for \$10, or twelve for \$20.

Color Guard News and Notes

The 2005 Parade/Event season will mark a very special moment in the history of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums—we will celebrate the Unit's 25th Silver Anniversary.

The Unit has been hard at work practicing and rehearsing new musical selections while at the same time putting in a lot of effort to insure the 2005 Schedule will recognize and Honor the Unit's 25 years of Pride and Honor representing the members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and the values, heritage, history and traditions of the Irish.

As is the tradition of your Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, the new season begins with the St. Patrick's Day celebration and festivities. On Saturday, March 12, the Unit will participate in the St. Patrick's Day Mass, 8:30 a.m. St. Patrick's Church, the Downtown Parade at 12 noon, and finish-up at the Post Parade Party, 1–6 p.m., at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. On Sunday, March 13 the Unit will make its 13th consecutive appearance at the Chicago Southside Irish Parade; Saturday, March 19 the group will appear in the New Dublin St. Patrick's Day Parade and the month comes to an end with the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums participating in the Sunday, March 27 Easter Rising Mass at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center.

April 23, 2005—circle this date on your calendar! This Saturday evening will be the night of the 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance. There will be a wonderful dinner, dancing, acknowledgments and a raffle. This event is for everyone! It is an opportunity to recognize and honor the support of all the members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin without whose faith and backing would not have allowed the Unit to come this far and to say "Thank you!" to past members of your Color Guard, Pipes and Drums for 25 years of representing the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and all that is Irish—with Pride & Honor!

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE:

Color Guard, Pipes and Drums mem-bers who wish to be part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown and Mass at St. Patrick's Church are required to attend the Unit's monthly meetings during January, February and March. Meetings are held the first Thursday after General Membership Meetings.

If you would like to have the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums appear in a parade, special event or family occasion – or you would like to join the Unit as a banner carrier, color guard,

piper or drummer, please contact:

Richard Pfeiffer, Director
Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums
Telephone: (414) 769-1250
E-mail: milwpiper@cs.com

– Richard Stover

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**Shamrock Club of Wisconsin
Color Guard Pipes and Drums**

25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance

“Pride and Honor”

Saturday, April 23, 2005

Derry Hegarty's: 54th and Bluemound (additional parking ½ block west, Holy Cross Church lot)

- Fellowship: 5–6 p.m. Dinner: 6–7 p.m. Cash Bar
- Dancing, Acknowledgements, Raffle: 7–10 p.m.
- Buffet Dinner inclusive with reservation: choice of Roast Beef or Stuffed Chicken Breast, parsley potatoes, baby carrots, green string beans, salad, jello mold, fruit, baked rolls, milk/coffee and dessert
- \$20 per person / \$10 children 6–12 / Children 5 and under Free
- (\$25 and \$15 “at the door” cost if available)

25th Anniversary Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

Circle one: [Single] / [Couple] / [Table for 6] / [Table for 8]

Number of Adults @ \$20 each = \$ _____

Number of Children 6-12: @ \$10 each = \$ _____

Total number to attend: _____ Total dollar amount enclosed:
\$ _____

Send completed reservation form and check made payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin to:

Richard Pfeiffer
153 W. Martin Lane; Milwaukee, WI 53207

Reservations end April 13, 2005

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Memorials

A memorial to Bernice Reilly from Don and Carol Clark has been received by the Shamrock Club.

Memorials received by the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin in memory of Mary E. Stephens:

Anthony & Dianne Stephens; Bob & Marcey Jaskulski; Bob & Peg Hamill; Bob & Sis Merkel; Curt & Trish Johnson; Darlene & Terry Smith; Dennis & Barb Luke; Ed & Marilyn Ahrenhoerster; Elaine Miller & Andrew Schwartz; Fritz & Sue Merkel; Gary & Debra Range; Irish Festivals, Inc.; Janes & John Walrath; James & Elizabeth Sinclair; Jim & Julie Merkel; Joanne Woodford; Jody & Paula Merkel; John G. Maher; Kay & Don Merkel; Kristine & Daryl Pluskota; Lee & Jeannie Merkel; Marge Roth; Mary Pat Siewert; Mike & Stephen Roth; Noreen Barclay; Phil & Mary Meuler; Ralph & Joyce Clason; Rich & Sue Merkel; Robert A Merkel; Robert Meuler; Shelley & John Craine; Stephen Meuler; Tom & Barb Barrett; Vic & Rom Merkel; Wayne & Susan Romeis; Carol & Don Clark; Dr. & Mrs. Michael Meuler; Douglas, Karen & Kay Luling; Lynette & Joe Kiehl; Carrier Insurance Agency; Laurie & Dennis Mitchell; International Truck & Engine Corp.

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Brendan Heart Fund Benefit

On March 6, 2005, between the hours of 1 and 6 p.m., the Emerald Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring the 15th annual benefit for the Brendan Heart Fund of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

The Emerald Society of Wisconsin, an organization of members of the criminal justice system, held the first Brendan Benefit in 1990. The Benefits have always been held prior to St. Patrick's Day at Derry Hegarty's Irish Pub, 5328 W. Bluemound Ave. This Benefit is designed to be a family event and we continue to be a family oriented event. The cost of the attendance has the family in mind, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, and children under 15 are free.

The afternoon's entertainment will feature Blarney and the Glencastle Irish Dancers. Blarney is a well known Irish group that

has delighted its audiences for 20 plus years. Blarney will entertain you as they sing songs from their extensive library of Irish Music.

Information can be obtained at the below addresses.

Mailing Address: Emerald Society of Wisconsin; P.O. Box 24;
Milwaukee, WI 532001-0024

Web: <http://www.emeraldsociety.us>

– **Thomas W. McKale, Chairman**

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Irish Immersion Weekend

Deireadh Seachtaine April 1-3, 2005

Sponsored by Craobh Curtin, Conradh na Gaeilge, Curtin Branch, The Gaelic League

Have you always wanted to say a few words in Irish or be able to understand the lyrics of those beautiful songs sung by Altan and other Irish musicians?

If so, Craobh Curtin, the Curtin Branch of the Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge) has the event for you, April 1-3. It's our 11th annual Irish Language Weekend and it has a new location this year. We'll be gathering on the beautiful grounds of the DeKoven Center located along Lake Michigan in Racine.

You can learn Irish in a relaxed atmosphere with native Irish instructors and scholars. There will be classes for brand new beginners as well as fluent speakers, and everyone in between. All activities will take place in historic Taylor Hall.

Meet new people who share your interest in the Irish language, and participate together in song and cultural workshops during the day. Wander through the library or enjoy a conversation in one of the sitting rooms furnished with antique furniture.

All meals will be served in the dining hall, and we've heard the cuisine is superb. There will be time for strolls through the woods or along the shore between classes, and a bookshop will be open offering a wide selection of Irish language books and materials.

The evenings will feature "craic, cainte agus ceol" (fun, talk and music) in the great room. We're hoping to have a Gaelic Mass as we have in the past.

Costs include tuition, lodging, and meals. Rooms are double occupancy. A few single rooms will be available on a first come basis. Double occupancy cost is \$225 per person, single occupancy is \$235 per person. We have a special rate of \$100 for

the weekend which includes the program and meals, but excludes lodging.

For further information see our website: www.irishmilwaukee.com or contact Sinéad Pitterle at sinead@aol.com or Sandy Hofmann at sandyhofmann@ireland.com

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Hallamor Spring Series Concert #2

Rosheen — Friday, March 4, 2005

Founded in 1997 by singer-songwriter Lynn Vallières, the folk group Rosheen now boasts seven members, all blessed with a passion for Celtic music. What is most remarkable about Rosheen, a Quebec based group, is that they perform the traditional music of Ireland with such authenticity. Among many traditional pieces, all done Rosheen-style, the group also performs original works by different band members, giving their self-titled CD a particularly original flavour. Jigs, reels and hellish polkas are intertwined with haunting ballads, affording Rosheen a great diversity both as a recording act, and in particular, when performing live in concert.

Rosheen's March 4, 2005 performance will be their first ever in the US. They have performed only in Canada, but have been heard world wide on Internet Radio. They are about to hit the US and UK, Europe and Japan very hard and fast. It was very recently said they are going to come out of obscurity and rock the Celtic world!

Concert begins 8 p.m.

Opening act: CELTIC KEEP at 7 p.m.

ICHC • (414) 345-8800

Tickets: \$15 Adv/reserved, \$17 Door

– Gwen Sisk, Publicist

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News of Young Members

Erin Canon received a first place for playing her harp in the music competition at the Milwaukee Winterfeis on Feb. 15th.

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Easter Rising Mass

Sunday, March 27, 2005 — 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate the Mass In Honor of the 1916 Easter Rising

Continental Breakfast

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Nomination of Officers

Nominations for officers of the Shamrock Club's Milwaukee chapter will take place at the March and April meetings. Persons nominated must be members in good standing, with dues paid in full, and must be present at the time of their nomination. Elections will take place at the May 5, 2005 meeting. Elections will start at 6 p.m. that evening.

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First Friday Lecture

March 4, 2005

Topic: "St. Patrick's Purgatory"

Speaker: Seosaimhín Nic Rabhartaigh, BA (Hons), Bsc (Hons), PGCE, MEd

A native of County Donegal, Seosai has taught school for 11 years in Scotland, England, Belgium, and now at UWM. This versatile woman is a keen singer, composer, poet, performer, writer, dancer and mom! She will celebrate Saint Patrick's life by recalling his pilgrimage to Saint Patrick's Purgatory in Loch Derg, Co. Donegal. Seosai has done this pilgrimage, twice, thus will be speaking from experience of a grueling time.

All lectures are held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at the ICHC in Parlor A; 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is \$5 for all. Everyone is welcome including men and non-members as well as Celtic Women members. Tea and biscuits are served. Please join us for a delightful few hours of Celtic education and entertainment. You may call the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 for more information.

RTE News Item

SCHERING-PLOUGH TO CUT 160 CORK JOBS

More than 160 jobs are to go at a pharmaceutical plant in Cork.

Staff at Schering-Plough, which is based at Brinny near Innishannon in West Cork, were told by management that the workforce at the plant is to be reduced from around 700 to 545 over the next three months.

This is the second round of job cuts at Schering-Plough's Cork plant in just over a year. Last January the company cut 170 jobs after a drop in demand for its anti-cancer and anti-viral medicine.

This time Schering-Plough is blaming a build-up of stock produced in Cork for the lay-offs, after projected sales growth failed to materialise. Globally the company is also in some trouble, having recorded losses of almost €0.75 billion in 2004. The Cork job losses will be among both manufacturing and administrative staff. The company operates two other plants in Co Wicklow, but they will not be affected by the announcement.

St. Patrick's Help Fund

St. Patrick's Help Fund is in desperate need of non-perishable foods. Please place in container at each meeting. However, donations can be brought to the ICHC any time during the week. Questions? Call Katy Voss (414) 352-6479.

Correction

In the President's Message in February, I said the Quinlans were the first couple to act as our Parade Marshals. Two years earlier we saw Maggie and Tom Blaha in that capacity. Please excuse me.

– **Julie Smith**

New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Cliff and Joan McGinnis.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT MILWAUKEE CHAPTER:

- Dec.: 19 memberships up for renewal, 16 paid, 3 dropped for nonpayment.
- Jan.: 22 memberships up for renewal, 19 paid, 3 due.
- Feb.: 38 memberships up for renewal.

– **Tom Smith**

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