



## Dec. 2009

### CONTENTS:

[Miss Fogarty's  
Irish Christmas  
Cake](#)

[South Central  
Shamrock Club  
News](#)

[New Dublin  
Chapter News](#)

[Milwaukee  
President's  
Message](#)

[Irish Honoree  
Nominations  
Needed](#)

[Veronica's  
Corner  
Cupboard](#)

[A Celtic  
Christmas with  
Kim Robertson  
at ICHC Dec. 5](#)

[Celtic Women  
First Friday  
Lectures](#)

[Attention all ye  
Irish Princes and  
Princesses!](#)

[Shamrock Club  
Essay Contest](#)

### INDEX

## Miss Fogarty's Irish Christmas Cake

by Brian Witt

In 1883, a song appeared about a phenomenon that occurred each Christmas season. It was a Christmas cake, also known as a fruitcake. The words were written by a Pennsylvania Dutch songwriter by the name of C. Frank Horn. Entitled "Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake," it talked of the danger of trying to consume the seasonal treat

*Verse 1.*

*As I sat in my window last evening,  
The letterman brought it to me  
A little gilt-edged invitation sayin'  
"Gilhooley come over to tea"  
I knew that the Fogarties sent it.  
So I went just for old friendships sake.  
The first thing they gave me to tackle  
Was a slice of Miss Fogarty's cake.*

Charles Frank Horn was a gifted songwriter from Middleport, Pennsylvania. He had a number of compositions to his credit, including many Irish themed songs. These included "Mr. Mulcahey Esquire," "Cordelia Casey's Dude," "McCarthy's Fancy Ball," and "Chauncey Daley's Girl." He made other forays into food, with "Miss Mulligan's Homemade Pie."

*Chorus:*

*There were plums and prunes and cherries,  
There were citrons and raisins and cinnamon, too  
There was nutmeg, cloves and berries  
And a crust that was nailed on with glue  
There were caraway seeds in abundance  
Such that work up a fine stomach ache  
That could kill a man twice after eating a slice  
Of Miss Fogarty's Christmas cake.*

[SHAMROCK CLUB HOME](#)

[EMERALD REFLECTIONS  
ONLINE NEWSLETTER](#)

[PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)

[MILWAUKEE CALENDAR](#)

[WISCONSIN CALENDAR](#)

[MIDWEST CALENDAR](#)

[JOIN CLUB](#)

[MILWAUKEE MARCH  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY EVENTS](#)

[MILWAUKEE CHAPTER](#)

[STATE CHAPTERS](#)

[COLOR GUARD](#)

[GIFT CENTER](#)

[LINKS OF  
IRISH INTEREST](#)

[VENUES](#)

[Sign My Guestbook](#)



[View My Guestbook](#)



Email:  
[Shamrock Club](#)

[50th  
Anniversary  
Meeting](#)

[Members'  
Doings](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[Milwaukee  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

[Wisconsin  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

Horn was also noted for the many waltzes he wrote, and according to the Library of Congress, he had fifty-seven compositions listed between 1880 and 1885. "Miss Fogarty's" was published in 1883 by W. F. Shaw, a Philadelphia music publisher, and became a favorite at Christmas time. According to Stanley Ransom in the Fall 2007 issue of "Voices – The Journal of New York Folklore", in 1884 there appeared a ten-page instrumental version of "Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake," arranged by J. F. Zimmerman, with separate pages for violin, cornet, viola, flute, second violin, solo cornet in A, clarinet in A, bass, and trombone. Since voice was also noted, this arrangement was intended to be an orchestral accompaniment for a singer."

*Verse 2.*

*Miss Mulligan wanted to try it,  
But really it wasn't no use  
For we worked in it over an hour  
And we couldn't get none of it loose  
Till Murphy came in with a hatchet  
And Kelly came in with a saw  
That cake was enough be the powers above  
For to paralyze any man's jaws*

C. Frank Horn was born on April 19, 1851, in Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. His full name was Charles Frank Horn, but he usually went by C. Frank Horn to distinguish his name from his father's. Why did a German-American write songs of the Irish? Simply stated, it was because there was a market for them. He was a lesser light compared to Harrigan and Hart and Thomas Westendorf, the author of "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen."

*Verse 3.*

*Miss Fogarty proud as a peacock,  
Kept smiling and blinking away  
Till she flipped over Flanagans brogans  
And she spilt the homebrew in her tay  
Aye Gilhooley she says you're not eatin,  
Try a little bit more for me sake  
And no Miss Fogarty says I,  
For I've had quite enough of your cake*

Horn stopped his prolific production after 1889. One reason may be due to the amputation of his leg.

*Verse 4.*

*Maloney was took with the colic,  
O'Donald's a pain in his head  
Mc'Naughton lay down on the sofa,  
And he swore that he wished he was dead  
Miss Bailey went into hysterics  
And there she did wriggle and shake  
And everyone swore they were poisoned  
Just from eating Miss Fogarty's cake*

Charles Frank Horn's last song was published in 1909, in collaboration with Thomas Bibler. Horn died in 1928, and was buried in his home town. "Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake" remained his most popular and lasting song.

After all this talking and singing of fruit cakes, here are a couple of recipes for the Christmas season. And neither one is a Christmas cake.

### **IRISH TRIFLE**

Add a little bit of Irish Trifle for after your Christmas dinner. The dessert has fruit, creamy custard and almonds.

- raspberry jam
- circular sponge cake (about 1 inch high)
- can of pears (sugar free is needed for diabetics)
- gelatin
- prepared custard
- whipped cream
- sliced almonds for decoration

#### **Cooking Instructions**

1. Spread jam on one side of the sponge cake and place it at the bottom of a trifle dish – usually a round glass dish about the same size as the cake.
2. Place the half pears on top of the cake (juice is not needed).
3. Prepare a fruit gelatin and pour it on top, then chill until it is solid.
4. Make about a liter of custard (in Ireland people use custard powder, but you can do it from scratch with eggs also).
5. Pour the warm custard on top of the gelatin and let it thicken and cool.
6. Put whipped cream on top - either cover the top or decorate with the whipped cream and the almonds.
7. Chill and serve.

### **IRISH SHORTBREAD BISCUIT**

Well, maybe you want something with your Irish coffee after dinner. Looking for a simple Christmas cookie? These lovely homemade Irish shortbread biscuits have a sweet, buttery taste and a firm, crumbly texture.

- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1 stick butter
- 3/4 cup sugar

#### **Cooking Instructions**

1. Leave butter out to soften.
2. Cut pieces into the flour and rub the butter into the flour with

your fingertips. The result should be like fine breadcrumbs.

3. Mix in sugar.

4. Grease the bottom and sides of an 8x8-inch round or square baking pan with butter and sprinkle with flour.

5. Press the mixture very hard into the bottom of the baking pan, the more pressure the better. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

6. Cut with a sharp knife into desired shapes while it is still warm and sprinkle the top with additional sugar.

7. Cool in the pan. If it is removed too soon, it will crumble.

Christmas cakes notwithstanding, this is a blessed and magical season for people in Ireland and the United States. May you have a Happy Christmas, *agus Nollaig Shona Dhuit*.

## INDEX

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## **South Central Shamrock Club News**

December Birthday Wishes to: Patricia McConaghy 12/1; Lynn Horkan 12/1; Derek Horkan 12/5; Jamie Murphy 12/8; Jan Delmore 12/9; Alice Hickey 12/16; Kay Scanlon 12/24.

December Anniversary Blessings to: Allen and Arris Sullivan 12/8; Mike and Alice Hickey 12/31.

South Central Shamrock Club Christmas Party is Dec. 6 at noon, Baraboo Country Club. A 10 a.m. Mass will be held prior to the party at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Baraboo, WI.

Diane Michaels will provide the seasonal entertainment with Christmas as well as Celtic music. Diane plays the guitar, mountain dulcimer, folk harp, banjo and Irish whistle.

Cash bar at 11:30, entertainment from 12:30-1:15. The buffet is at 1:15 featuring Atlantic Salmon, Chicken Marsala and Guinness Shepherd Pie. Irish soda bread, potatoes, vegetable, green salad and a fruit salad will be included. Dessert will feature Door County cherry bread pudding with an Irish whiskey sauce.

Cost is \$22 per person. Checks should be made payable to South Central Shamrock Club. Deadline was Nov. 30 but if you call Pat Hanes at 355-0033 right away after receiving this newsletter that would be deeply appreciated.

Sadden to hear the passing of George Havey, a long-time member and Irishman of the Year in 2006.

Wishing all a Very Blessed Christmas!

– Dana Horkan-Gant

## INDEX

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### **New Dublin Chapter**

The New Dublin chapter is busy working on plans for the 26th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and week of festivities which is scheduled for March 15 – 20, 2010. The Irish Rose and Irishman and Parade Marshal for 2010 have been selected, and their names will be revealed in January. During the week, the name of the city will be changed from New London to New Dublin, there will be Irish Caroling, Hooligan Day, Irish Entertainment and an Irish Ceili during the week. The parade and Irish Fest is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. The band *Rising Gael* will be the headliner at the Irish Fest. Our Irish Fest costs \$5 to enter. We meet the first Monday of each month at the VFW post across the street from St. Joseph Residence Home at 7 p.m. Our next meetings are December 7 and January 4.

For further information visit:  
[<http://www.newdublin.com/shamrockclub.htm>].

## INDEX

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### **Milwaukee President's Message**

*Nollaig Shona Dhuit*, and once again Merry Christmas to you and yours. Are you reading this with a smug look on your face? Are you one of the people with their shopping done, gifts wrapped, baking done, menus planned, and every moment planned until after New Years? Or are you still wondering how it will all be accomplished with the time left? We all enjoy this rather frantic time of the year, with our real goal in celebrating the birth of Christ, and all the rest is just a bonus. Whatever the holidays mean to you, may it all be a great season for you and your family.

If you are able to attend our annual Christmas party at the ICHC, don't forget to be there with a plate in your hand to share with all of us. The Shamrock Club will provide meat, and beverages, but all the side dishes are provided by the cooks and bakers within the

club. In the past, we have sampled some amazing recipes, and will find the same treats this year. If your name begins with the letter A-M, you bring desserts of any kind, and if your name begins with N-Z, please bring appetizers, salads, hot dishes, etc. You will see this is the opposite order of last year just to keep it all in a fair sequence. There will be great entertainment with live music, and lively fun, there is no regular business meeting in December. Please notify me if you have business items for the December agenda, since it will be held on December 17 due to the holidays.

Our Honoree Dinner at Serb Hall was a memorable night. So wonderful to have so many of you there to show our support and pay homage to Chuck Ward, our Irishman of the Year, Kathy Donovan, our Irish Rose, and Bill Sherry, our Parade Marshal. Although we were late in having this party, it was well done. Thanks to Dawn Fleming and Kathy Donovan for the table decor, and our SCCGPD for adding greatly to every event they attend. John Fisher, thanks to you for all your help in collecting reservations and with registration.

The Holiday Folk Fair in November was a success in many ways this year. Muriel Crowley did her usual efficient job seeing to it our ticket allotment was sold out, and then some. Mary Culver and the dynamic food booth menu with the amazing new items, was a success, and the volunteers were seen smiling and busy. The retail area was a beautiful layout of items of Irish pride, and Linda Tuescher along with her sidekick Noreen Barclay have outdone themselves again. The cultural area was changed this year at the request of the International Institute. Irish Fest loaned us the backdrop of the Giant's Causeway, as seen in the Cultural Tent at the festival. Joe Hughes kindly offered to assist in building the framework, and making it all come together. Pam Canon assisted in coordinating this area, and gets a pat on the back for stepping in to do so. The woman behind all this was our chairperson Malkin Wallace, and a mighty effort was needed to make it all look effortless. Kudos to all the volunteers for giving us your time and talent. It really is a fun way to get to know each other, and meet people of every ethnic group, and certainly is an inexpensive way to go around the world.

Thank you goes out to Denis Donohoe in accepting the very important role as our Membership Chairperson. Denis begins immediately, and you are asked to welcome him into the fold, and bring your dues owed to him. Any other changes will be announced as they occur.

This is my last message of the year 2009, and that's how quickly the year flew by. Set aside the monthly meeting dates for 2010, each meeting will pay tribute to our 50th anniversary. You will be there in January at least to turn in your nomination for the new honorees. Happy New Year!

**– Julie Smith, President**

[INDEX](#)

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## **Irish Honoree Nominations Needed**

We need nominations for Irishman of the Year, Irish Rose and Parade Marshal for 2010. Please submit them in writing by the January 2010 Milwaukee board meeting. Nominees must be members in good standing, with dues paid up. Nominators must also be members in good standing.

[INDEX](#)

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## **Veronica's Cupboard**

December? The smells of Christmas are beginning to waft through our houses. Cookies are being baked, new recipes are being tested. Shamrock Club members are gearing up for one of our best Christmas parties. Your food committee will provide ham and beef ready to go with all of the wonderful salads, casseroles, desserts and other goodies we know you are planning to bring. Remember: A-L bring desserts, M-Z bring side dishes (veggies, salads, casseroles, etc.). Yes, Santa will be here!

January? Chili Competition. Register before December 15 with Veronica, call at (414) 228-862 to book your spot.

[INDEX](#)

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## **A Celtic Christmas With Kim Robertson At ICHC Dec. 5**

Harpist Kim Robertson will bring the warmth and joy of a traditional Celtic Christmas to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Joining Robertson in this celebration of traditional music and dance will be guitarist Randy Gosa and flute and tin whistle player Brett Lipshutz along with champion dancers from the McMenamin Irish Dance Academy, the Caledonian Scottish

Dancers and guest vocalist Stephanie Halfmann.

The Hallamor or “great hall” of the historic ICHC building will be decorated for the holidays.

The Wisconsin-born Robertson is internationally recognized as one of the top players of the ancient instrument, which is regarded as a symbol of Ireland and is imprinted on the country’s euro. Classically trained on piano and orchestral harp, Robertson discovered the Celtic harp in the 1970s and has become one of the instrument’s leading proponents and innovators. She has more than 20 album projects, 11 volumes of published harp arrangements, and instructional videos and international workshops to her credit.

According to folk and world music magazine *Dirty Linen*, “Her style of playing gives her instrument at once a deeper, and yet also more delicate sound... each string seems to have an individual voice underneath her fingers.”

Gosa and Lipshutz have been involved in Milwaukee’s Irish music community for several years. They currently perform as a duo. Gosa is also a member of the band *Ce* while Lipshutz has a number of other musical projects. Both men also teach at the Irish Fest School of Music and the Irish Fest Summer School.

The McMenamain dancers have performed all over the world and in front of numerous dignitaries as have the Caledonian dancers. The Caledonians have performed as far away as Japan as well as numerous times in Scotland. Stephanie Halfmann is a respected local vocalist.

Tickets for the show are \$15 in advance and \$17 the day of concert with discounts for students and groups. To order online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

## INDEX

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## **Celtic Women First Friday Lectures**

DATE: Dec. 4, 2009

TOPIC: “Knitting – Becoming a Lost Art in Ireland”

SPEAKER: Shirley Grade, owner of The Yarn House  
[theyarnhouse@tds.net]

Our December First Friday lecture will bring disturbing news regarding the Irish knitting industry. Please join us as Shirley Grade brings us up to date on this trend. Ms. Grade teaches knitting and

crocheting at her shop, The Yarn House, in Elm Grove. We serve tea, cookies, and assorted other goodies to enhance our time together. 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer on the UWM campus. Parking is plentiful and close. \$7 admission keeps us going.

## INDEX

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### **Attention all ye Irish Princes and Princesses!**

Are you looking for a fun way to celebrate a child's birthday or a Christmas gift for a family member between the ages 5-16? Then, check this out!

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Milwaukee chapter, is pleased to announce the opportunity for families with children ages 5-16 years, to march in the Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

You must be a current member of the Shamrock Club to participate in this event. Interested participants can go to the website, [[www.shamrockclubwis.com](http://www.shamrockclubwis.com)] and download an Irish prince or princess application to join us.

You can snail mail the completed Irish prince/princess application to me at: Vickie Byrne, 15417 West National Ave., #216, New Berlin, WI. 53151. Please do not send it via email.

Please continue to send your dues and club membership applications to the Membership Chairperson, Denis Donohoe, as listed in the *Emerald Reflections* newsletter.

If you have further questions or want more information, you can contact Vickie Byrne at: [[shamrockirishprincess@gmail.com](mailto:shamrockirishprincess@gmail.com)].

Vickie must receive all applications by Saturday, December 31, 2009. This will allow us time to schedule an orientation for the children and their parents in early 2010.

Please help to spread the word to family and friends so we can rock this town on Saturday, March 13, 2010!

## INDEX

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### **Shamrock Club**

## Essay Contest

Why We Want to Ride on the 50th Anniversary Float

Our 50th Anniversary is in 2010. If you would like to be able to ride on the 50th Anniversary Float, please enter. Our requirements are Shamrock Club membership, and a 200 word essay.

Entries must have the written requirements (max. 200 words, typed, double spaced, no real family names are used.)

The deadline is January 2, 2010.

There is no limit to the number of entries.

For more information, please contact Mary Moze at [mozem@att.net] or mail to Shamrock Club, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53233.

### INDEX

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## 50th Anniversary Meeting

We have ordered a 50th Anniversary Flag.

Julie Smith will order 50th anniversary letterhead.

The float will be funded by a donation, in the \$1000 range, from Glencastle Irish Dance School, in memory of Tom Smith.

We will highlight different events and people in 2010 at general meetings. The calendar of events for this is as follows:

- January: Parade Marshals and Float Winners. There will be an introduction of past presidents. We are looking for highlights of tenure as president.
- February: Irish Roses

Ireland Flight – Aer Lingus has no deals for small groups. We could combine with Irish Fest, who is celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2010. Barb Tyler from Irish Fest will be contacted by Josh Walton.

50th DVD – Josh is still collecting and scanning pictures.

Dinner Dance – John Fisher has the contract for Humphrey Hall. Malkin Wallace to work on the dance, taking over for Heather Majusiak, who has resigned. The cost will be \$50 per person, and will be September 25, 2010.

Letters to be written to invite the participating groups to the appropriate meetings. Josh Walton will write letters.

Our next meeting is on Monday, December 14, 2009 at Josh Walton's home, 2432 N. Lefebber Ave., Wauwatosa, at 7 p.m. If you wish to join, please stop by, or call Josh at (414) 443-0446.

## INDEX

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### Members' Doings

Liam O'Neill and his mom Cynthia Nazario recently visited family in Ireland. Mary Fisher went to visit son Tom in Galway, and attended his Masters graduation at NUI Galway. Phil and Mary June Hanrahan visited France for two weeks, including time in Paris looking for an Irish pub. Kathy and Russ Schultz also spent time in France this summer. Barb Tyler tried her hand at world travel, spending time traversing Poland.

Kathy and Denny McLaughlin enjoyed time in sunny Florida recently. Kristina Paris went to Hawaii to visit her son over Thanksgiving. Kate Habel, Bridget Jaskuski, Jane Walrath and Maura and Timm Heck were among many from Milwaukee who went to the Oireachtas in Columbus, OH.

John Gleeson was recently noted in the *Irish Voice* as one of the 100 Top Irish Educators, for his work at the UWM Celtic Studies Program. His membership in the Shamrock Club was prominently mentioned. Nancy Madden Walczyk was cited by the *Chicago Tribune* as an authority on *Samhain* and its celebration.



*Ed Mikush recently flew to Washington, D. C. as a part of the Honor Flights for World War II veterans to view the monument dedicated to their service. Included in the picture are Shamrock Club members Ed and Betty Mikush, Bob and Debbie Mikush, and Marianne and John Fisher.*



*The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums marched in Sister Bay, Door County, recently. (Picture by Karen Nielson.)*

## INDEX

---

### **Sunshine Club**

Dr. William Maher died recently. He was a past Irishman of the Year. He was the husband of Jane Maher, and the father of John, Father Michael and Cathy. Our condolences to the family.

Ed Heck recently was hospitalized. Sue Suit had eye surgery in November, as well.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

## INDEX