



Brian Boru 1014

In April, 1014, the Battle of Clontarf took place. Brian Boru battled Norse and Irish armies in north County Dublin, and defeated them. Brian then was killed in his tent.

That is the non-confusing portion of the narrative. The rest of the story makes the television series, "Game of Thrones," seemingly a straight-line walk in comparison.

The story of Brian Boru of the Dalcassians was one of blood, conspiracies, alliances, battles, marriages, and family. It was said he drove the Vikings from Ireland, but that was far from the truth.

Brian was one of the 12 sons of Cennétig (Kennedy) mac Lorcáin, king of Dál Cais and king of Tuadmumu (Thomond), modern County Clare, then a sub-kingdom in the north of Munster. Brian's mother was Bé Binn iníon Urchadh, daughter of Urchadh mac Murchadh, king of Maigh Seóla in west Connacht.

Brian was born at Kincora, Killaloe, a town in the region of Thomond. When he was born, Ireland had about 500,000 inhabitants in an area the size of Wisconsin. Brian's posthumous cognomen "Bóruma" is that the nickname represented Old Irish bóruma "of the cattle tribute", referring to his capacity as a powerful overlord.

After their father died, the kingship of Tuadmumu passed to Brian's older brother, Mathgamain, and, when Mathgamain was killed in 976, Brian replaced him. Subsequently he became the King of the entire kingdom of Munster.

Brian belonged to the Dál gCais or Dalcassians, a newly styled kin group of ultimately Déisi origin who occupied a territory north of the Shannon Estuary, which today would incorporate a substantial part of County Clare and then formed the core of the new kingdom of Thomond.

The River Shannon served as an easy

route by which raids could be made against the provinces of Connacht and Meath. Both Brian's father and older brother conducted river-borne raids, in which the young Brian would undoubtedly have participated. This was probably the root of his appreciation for naval forces in his later career. The Hiberno-Norse, or Viking, from the settlement of Limerick influenced Brian, and provided the basis of alliances later in life.

In 964, Brian's older brother, Mathgamain, claimed control over the entire province of Munster by capturing the Rock of Cashel, capital of the ancient Eóganachta, the hereditary overlords or High Kings of Munster. The Eoganachta's internal strife and attacks by the southern Ui Neills and Vikings had left the control of the south of Ireland up for grabs. However, Mathgamain was never fully recognized and was opposed throughout his career by Máel Muad mac Brain, an Eoganachta member from the south. The Norse king Ivar of Limerick tried to take over the kingship, but an alliance between the two Gaelic contenders defeated Ivar, and the Limerick fortress in 972. Mathgamain was captured and killed in 976 by Máel Muad, who would now rule as king of Cashel for two years.

Brian took over the Dalcassians, and first dispatched Ivar in 977, and then Máel Muad at the Battle of Belach Lechta in 978. Further battles allowed Brian to

centralize control, and the Battle of Cathair Cuan, allowed some of the Norse to remain in their settlement, but they were wealthy and now central to trade in the region, with a fleet of great value. Cian, the son of his brother Mathgamain's sworn enemy Máel Muad, later became a loyal ally of Brian and served under him in a number of campaigns.

Brian had his eyes set on the High Kingship at Tara. The Ui Neills, both southern and northern, had controlled this seat of power since the days before St. Patrick arrived in Ireland. Brian turned to extending his authority over the neighboring provinces of Leinster to the east and Connacht to the north. By doing so, he came into conflict with High King Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill whose power base was the Province of Meath. For the next fifteen years, from 982 to 997, Máel Sechnaill repeatedly led armies into Leinster and Munster, while Brian utilized naval forces up the Shannon to attack Connacht and Meath on either side of the river. Brian suffered setbacks, but developed into a very keen military strategist. He coordinated the use of forces on both land and water, including on rivers and along Ireland's coast. Brian's naval forces, which included contingents supplied by the Hiberno-Norse cities that he brought under his control, provided both indirect and direct support for his forces on land.

continued on page 5

APRIL 3, 2014 • 7 P.M.

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)



Barbeque Sandwiches served at 6:30

Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

APRIL

- 3 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting;** ICHC; 7 pm
- 4 Conference of Celtic Women; First Friday Lecture; Music of Ceol Cairde; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 5:30 pm
- 4 ICHC Ceili; Music by Frogwater; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm
- 7 Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin Meeting; Irish Cultural & Heritage Center; Reach Out Ireland; 7 pm
- 8 Celtic Women International Book Club; *Buried in a Bog?* by Sheila Connolly; Hostess: Rosemary Baumann; ICHC; 1 pm
- 11 Iarla O'Lionard; Present Music Now; Turner Hall; 7 pm
- 22 Celtic Fiddle Festival; Shank Hall, 1434 North Farwell; 8 pm
- 26 Monthly set dance; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; Kilfenora Plain Set; 7:30 pm

MAY

- 1 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting and Annual Elections;** ICHC; 6:30 pm
- 2 ICHC Ceili; Music by athas; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm
- 3 Wisconsin Spring Feis; Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave.; 8:30 am
- 4 Celtic Spirit Feis; Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave.; 8:30 am
- 4 Stu Larsen; Shank Hall, 1434 North Farwell; 8 pm
- 24 Monthly set dance; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; Roscahill Set; 7:30 pm

JUNE

- 5 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting;** ICHC; 7 pm
- 6 ICHC Ceili; Music by Cream City Ceili; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm
- 20 Paddygrass; Starry Nights; Sharon Lynne Wilson Center; Gerlach Outdoor Theater, 19805 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield
- 28 Monthly set dance; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; music TBA; Moy Cullen Set; 7:30 pm

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 PM at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 PM, last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 12-6 PM ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 PM ☘ Irish Fest Sing-a-long: O'Donoghue's Pub, Second and fourth Sundays, 7-9 PM ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 PM; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 PM; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 PM ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 PM ☘ Fridays: áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 PM ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

44th Annual Easter Rising Mass April 20, 2014

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Cáisc Shona Daoibh - Happy Easter to All

The 44th Annual Easter Rising Mass will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, on Sunday, April 20, 2014.

The Mass will start at 9:30 a.m. The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums will again be a part of the Mass. Father Terry Brennan, S.J., will be the celebrant. We will have readings in Irish and English.

The Mass honors the 1916 Easter Monday Rising in Dublin that led to the Irish Revolution. In 1970, Kit Nash brought the idea of commemorating the Easter Week Rising of 1916 forward to the Shamrock Club Board. His father had been a member of the Irish Republican Army that rose up against the British forces stationed in Dublin. Kit suggested that an Easter Sunday Mass be celebrated to honor those who rose and were killed or captured, in order to bring forward an independent Irish State.

Attendance at the Mass has grown since 1970, from about 30 people to a top of 250. The average attendance is about 220 a year.

The Mass is not intended as being the primary Easter Mass for people. The Shamrock Club offers the Mass as an honoring of those brave Irishmen and Irishwomen who came forward Easter Week of 1916. It is a Mass of Commemoration and Reconciliation. The Mass will also fulfill a person's Easter duty.

-Brian Witt



Milwaukee President's Message

Hello Everyone,

For those who joined us on March 15th, Parade Day, I hope you had a fabulous time. We started off with the solemn mass to honor St. Patrick. Thanks to Chuck McLaughlin who organized the mass along with the help of Maggie Blaha, Gail Neville and Pete and Fran Dundon. It was a beautiful way to start our day of festivities. Then back to the ICHC for a hearty Irish breakfast.

At noon the first units stepped off from 3rd and Wisconsin for our 48th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The temperature was cool but the sun was shining upon a very large group of eager parade spectators.

Our new St. Patrick, Pete Fleming did an outstanding job leading off our parade, followed by our one and only Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. Our Honorees - Parade Marshals Mike and Mary Moze, Irish Rose Julie Smith and Irishman of the Year Tom McAleese represented our club with honor. We had a super parade under the new directors, Josh Walton, Terry Lawler and the great help of Ruth Fishnik assisting Stacie Callies and Sarah Tomczyk. Thank You all, great job!

And finishing up this fine day was the Post Parade Party. Barry Stapleton put together an superb day of family entertainment which he does year after year. Overseeing the day was Glenn and Kim Nowak and Sue Dushek. It was great to see such a group of hard working young individuals coming and helping us, Erin Canon, Jacob Nowak, Eric and Ryan Dushek and Clay Culver. Thank You each and every one of you.

I would like to personally thank our Irish Rose Julie Smith, Mary Henkel and Dawn Fleming for helping me in a successful Raffle and Silent auction. We raised some good money for our Scholarship Fund. And thanks to Brian Witt for emceeing the afternoon. The list could go on and on, Thanks to all for a successful event.

The Easter Raising mass will again be celebrated at the ICHC on Easter Sunday April 20th at 9:30 A.M. by Fr. Terry

Brennan. Brian Witt is coordinating the Mass and Veronica Ceszynski will be hosting the breakfast. See information in this months Reflections.

At the April general membership meeting we will continue to take nominations from the floor for the elections to be held in May. Please take this opportunity to nominate a member or possible consider to run for a position on the board. Its is always good to have new blood on the board.

Thank you all again for a great Month of March, and looking forward to a great April. See you at the General Meeting.

**God Bless,
- Kathy Donovan, President**



Easter Rising Brunch April 20, 2014

**Easter Risin' Brunch Help Needed -
call Veronica 414 507-5935**

Saturday, April 19, is set up day for the Brunch that follows our 9:30 Mass on Easter Sunday. Hours are: 10:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m. Duties: get all the decorations in place (we have lots & lots) and arrange the tables ready to be laden with food. We have many decorations to make the area look festive and a bountiful amount of breakfast items to put out.

Sunday at 8:30, a few good souls needed to plug in the coffee pots (they can't be plugged at the same time or we blow the circuit breakers) and set out the refrigerated items.

Bakers needed - Irish Soda Bread always welcome, coffee cakes, donuts, hard rolls or bagels, fruit or any other item you'd like to see on a breakfast buffet. If you aren't a Baker, store bought is good, too. Bring on Saturday (between 10 & 1, if you can; or after Mass if you must). Call Veronica 414 507-5935.

Please have all items table ready. People swarm in after Mass, hungry and looking for their coffee.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you, your help and your goodies.
**- Veronica Ceszynski
414 507-5935**

Sunshine Report

Good news is that John and Mary Fisher's son was married on March 8, 2013 in Ireland.

Two granddaughters of Julie Smith participated in the All Scotland International Dance Competition in February. Maeve Smith took 9th place and Deirdre Smith took 7th place. Congratulations to all involved who made this possible.

Mary Culver reports that her son Sean Cavanaugh has graduated from Korean language at the Defensive Language Institute in Monterey and is waiting for his next assignment. Dave Culver is back from Deployment in Dubai and Forward Deployment to Diago Garcia, where he supported the possible refueling for Mandela's funeral group. He is back at Travis AF Base in California.

We have had several deaths in the past few weeks - members of the Club were Bob Burke and Karen Donohoe. Bob's passing away came on March 1, 2014. Karen, wife of former Membership Chair and Parade Director Denis Donohoe died on February 25, 2014. Our very deepest condolences go out to their families.

- Maggie Blaha, Sunshine Chair

Pete Fleming

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Shamrock Club Member

Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: April 15th to appear in the May issue.) Copy received after that date will not appear due to deadlines. While we try to include every submission possible, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included immediately. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

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To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. MILWAUKEE ONLY: Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.



Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

The April 8th meeting will be hosted by Rosemary Baumann. The topic will be *Buried in a Bog*, by Sheila Connolly.

At our meetings in May and June we will be discussing *The Outlander*, by Diana Gabaldon. On May 13th we will discuss parts I, II, and III. The hostess will be Cate Harris. The hostesses for June 10th will be Sharon Walsh, and we will discuss parts IV to the end.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

April 11th Hallamor Concert Cancelled

The April 11 Moya Brennan concert has been cancelled at the performer's request due to a family emergency. Those who have already purchased tickets and want a refund, may call (414) 345-8800 or e-mail director@ichc.net. There will not be a third concert this spring but watch for information on the fall concert series.

John Gleeson to Speak at Meeting

John Gleeson, from the UW-Milwaukee Celtic Studies Program, will be speaking at the April 3 meeting. He will be discussing Brian Boru, who united Ireland as High King, and won the Battle of Clontarf in April, 2014. John will be speaking at 6.45 pm.



Celtic Women Lecture April 4, 2014

The April Celtic Women First Friday Lecture will be "The Music of Friends"; please join us at the ICHC to hear this wonderful group of local musicians as they entertain us.

April 4, 2014
Topic: "The Music of Friends"
Speaker: Ceol Cairde
www.ceolcairde.com



This group of Milwaukee area musicians has been performing traditional Irish music since the spring of 1989. Ceol Cairde has its roots in the 1988 Irish Fest Summer School, where they met. Since then they have become a mainstay of Celtic music at concerts, Irish Fest, weddings and ceilis all around the Midwest. They will present a lecture, concert, question & answer format for you.

All lectures are held from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Parking lot available from the 23rd Street alley.

2013-14 is our 17th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

-Jean Bills
new e-mail address: JeankBills@aol.com

First Friday Lectures
Celtic Women Worldwide
<http://CelticWomenWorldWide.ning.com>

Kim's Corner Cupboard

For April, the Club will be providing Barbeque Sandwiches. Members are asked to bring side dishes, salads, and/or desserts to pass.



continued from page 1

Indirect support involved a fleet making a diversionary attack on an enemy in a location far away from where Brian planned to strike with his army. Direct support involved naval forces acting as one arm in a strategic pincer, the army forming the other arm.

In 996, Brian reached a deal with Máel Sechnaill to control Leinster, which was in de facto control of the Munster king. Precisely because he had submitted to Brian's authority, the King of Leinster was overthrown in 998 and replaced by Máel Morda mac Murchada, of Naas, who launched an open rebellion against Brian's authority. In response, Brian assembled the forces of the Province of Munster with the intention of laying siege to the Hiberno-Norse city of Dublin, which was ruled by Máel Morda's ally and cousin, Sigtrygg Silkbeard. (The inter-marriage of the Irish and the Hiberno-Norse had long been taking place.) The cousins met Brian's army at the Battle of Glen Mama. Brian sacked Dublin, but then opted for reconciliation; he requested Sigtrygg to return and resume his position as ruler of Dublin, giving Sigtrygg the hand of one of his daughters in marriage. It may have been on this occasion that Brian married Sigtrygg's mother and Máel Morda's sister Gormflaith, the former wife of Máel Sechnaill. (Ireland was a Catholic nation.) She was Brian's third of four wives.

The next year Brian attacked Máel Sechnaill and Meath with a combined army from Munster, Leinster and Dublin. By 1002, Máel Sechnaill surrendered his title as Ard Ri, or High King, to Brian. Brian intended to be High King in more than name only. To accomplish this he needed to impose his will upon the regional rulers of the only province that did not already recognize his authority, Ulster. Ulster's geography presented a formidable challenge; there were three main routes by which an invading army could enter the province, and all three favored the defenders. Eventually, Brian defeated all three of the Ulster rulers, and brought them under his control.

Brian was attempting to unify the island in a kingship more in line with those of other European nations, such as England or France. He worked with the Church in Ireland to develop such a unified kingship. In the year 1005, Brian donated twenty-two ounces of gold to the monastery and declared that Armagh was the religious

capital of Ireland, to which all other monasteries should send the funds they collected. This was a clever move, for the supremacy of the monastery of Armagh would last only so long as Brian remained the High King. Therefore, it was in the interest of Armagh to support Brian with all their wealth and power.

In 1012, Brian's brother-in-law rose again. In 1013, Brian's son burnt much of southern Leinster. Máel Morda then sent his cousin Sigtrygg to recruit from the Viking settlements on Man and the Orkneys, as the Irish rulers would not provide him with troops. During Easter Week, 1014, the armies of Brian and Mael Morda met in battle in Clontarf, north of Dublin. On Good Friday, Brian's army of Irish and Hiberno-Norse defeated Mael Morda's army of Irish, Hiberno-Norse and Vikings. Later that day, Brian was killed as he sat alone in his tent.

Brian's families are well known to this day. They are the O'Briens and Kennedys. Brian's rule over Ireland was temporary, and his predecessor was his successor, Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill. However, it did change the way high kings looked at the unity of the island. He was the first ruler of a unified Ireland, but that was a difficult task to maintain. He is buried in Armagh, which maintained its religious prominence after his death.

- Brian Witt



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Color Guard Pipes and Drums

It was a great day to be in the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes, and Drums for the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Winding through downtown Milwaukee and across the river, we were greeted by the cheerful faces of a festive crowd. Despite a slight chill in the air, our spirits remained warm, and it paid off - we were named the best musical unit in the parade. A special welcome to our new piper Christine, who is now officially initiated into the group with her first parade under her belt! We're also proud to represent our club in New Dublin (also known as New London in the less festive time of the year) in their parade. It's always a great time riding the bus and sharing stories. Thanks to all who came out and supported us, be it at the mass, the parades, or our performance at the post parade party. If our music has moved your spirit, there's still time to join for the summer season. We love new members!

- Christine Krzyzewski



Saint Patrick marches in the
St. Patrick's Day Parade



Irish Roses Luncheon

The Shamrock Club Irish Roses recently met for lunch. Here is a photo of all who attended, including this year's Irish Rose Julie Smith and myself, the very first Irish Rose in 1973. I am seated next to Julie in the front row.

- Jeanne McCue



Donn Godwin's Poetry Corner

April is National Poetry Month. Here is a poem by Antoine O'Raifteiri or Anthony Raftery, one of Ireland's greatest poets. He was born in Killeden, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, and was blinded by smallpox as an infant. A travelling bard, he was known as the 'Kiltimagh Fiddler' and passed most of his time in the Gort-Loughrea district of Co. Galway, writing on contemporary events such as Daniel O'Connell's Clare election victory and the hanging of Whiteboy Anthony O'Daly. here is one of his best-known, "Mise Raifteiri an File," "I am Raftery the poet."

**Is Mise Raifteirí an file,
Lán dúchais is grádh,
Le súile gan solas,
Le ciúnas gan crá.**

**Ag dul síar ar m'aistear
Le solas mo chroí
Fann agus tuirseach
Go deireadh mo shlí**

**Féach anois mé
Is mo chúil le bhfalla
Ag seinm ceoil
Do phócaí folamh**

Is Mise Raifteirí An File



**I'm Raftery the poet,
Full of hope and love,
With eyes without sight,
My mind without torment.**

**Going west on my journey
By the light of my heart.
Weary and tired
To the end of my road**

**Behold me now
With my back to the wall
Playing music
To empty pockets.**

Antoine Ó Raifteiri - Anthony Raftery

(1779-1835)

South Central Shamrock Club Honorees

Jolene M. Crowley of Baraboo, has been selected "Irish Rose" of 2014, by The South-Central Wisconsin Shamrock Club. Jolene, daughter of Eugene and Josephine (Lindsay) Traxler, was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and has lived here all her life. She and her brothers Phil and Jerry all graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School and Baraboo High School.

Jolene worked for Wisconsin Telephone Company in her early years, and later worked as a teacher's aide in the Baraboo School System. This was followed by a career in the banking field, and as a Deputy to Sauk County Treasurer Jan Filip. After Jan retired, Jolene ran for, and was elected Sauk County Treasurer. She retired from that office in January 2005.

Jolene is the mother of five children. She and her husband Bill, the 2008 Irishman Of The Year, reside at rural Baraboo.

Her Irish ancestry comes from her mother's side, with names such as Smith and Lindsay, as well as Lenihan, Collins and Blair.

The South Central Wis. Shamrock Club is proud to announce our 2014 Irishman of the Year, Father Thomas J. Monaghan. Fr. Tom was born on February 23, 1944 in Waukegan, IL. He has one sister, Kathleen Romans. Fr. Tom's parents were Bernard and Rose (Sullivan) Monaghan. Bernard's parents were Michael and Agnes (Minehan) Monaghan. Rose's parents were John & Theresa Sullivan.

Fr. Tom's education started in St. Mary's School in Janesville. He attended St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee and his college time was spent at De Sales Prep and St. Francis Major Seminary in Milwaukee. Fr. Tom studied theology at Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Thomas Monaghan was ordained a Catholic Priest on May 23, 1970 by Bishop Cletus O'Donnell at St. Raphael's Cathedral in Madison, Wisconsin.

Fr. Tom spent 5 years as associate at Our Lady Queen of Peace and 10 years as a teacher and Chaplain at Edgewood High School both in Madison. He was a pastor for 3 years at St. Andrew-Thomas in Potosi and Tennyson, Our Lady of the Assumption in Beloit for 8 years and at St. Ignatius in Mt. Horeb and Holy Redeemer parish in Perry for 4 years.

Our 48th Annual St Patrick's Day Parade Day



Photos by Mary Culver





SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.

Shamrock Club Mission Statement -

To promote, preserve and participate in Irish Culture of the arts, education and athletics in our community and all that is Irish.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Barry Dodd and Taffy Anderson entertain at the Post Parade Party

Photo by Mary Culver