



Apr. 2007

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The Day I Almost Met JFK

by *Dennis R. McBride*

On March 31, 1960, I almost met Jack Kennedy.

That spring, Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts was running for the Democratic Party nomination for President. The Wisconsin primary would be a key battle. On March 31, 1960, he came to Wauwatosa for a "Kids for Kennedy" rally at the Civic Center auditorium.

The rally was the idea of my mother, Marian "Toni" McBride, who was an organizer for Kennedy's Wisconsin campaign. Among those who attended were five of her seven children – Joseph (age 12), Genevieve (10), Michael (9), my twin brother, Patrick (whom we call "Paddy"), and me (both age 6). I stayed until just before Kennedy arrived.

Wauwatosa, then solidly Republican, seemed an unlikely place for Kennedy's visit. It was becoming the center of the Milwaukee area's upwardly-mobile Irish community, and the Kennedy campaign understood ethnic politics as well as the growing importance of the suburban vote. Kennedy was the only Presidential candidate to visit Wauwatosa during the primary campaign.

Kennedy was due at noon. As the noon hour stretched on without his arrival, I became increasingly nervous. I did not want to be late for kindergarten, which started at 1 p.m. At 12:50 p.m., I left the rally and ran the six blocks down Wauwatosa Avenue to Lincoln Elementary School. I arrived just before the school bell rang. "Where is Pat?" asked our teacher, Helen Lee. I warily answered that my twin brother was at the Kennedy rally. Miss Lee showed no concern. Class began.

At the rally, I was later told, Kennedy dazzled the crowd with his soon-to-be famous charm. My brother Joe correctly answered a question Kennedy asked the audience about American history, drawn from Kennedy's book, Profiles in Courage, which Joe had just read. "I hope I don't have to run against you in 1964," Kennedy quipped. Each of my siblings waited in line to meet him. Several times, Paddy shook Kennedy's hand, went around him, crawled under his legs, and came back for another handshake.

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Nearby, in a burst of enthusiasm, Mike was pinning scores of “JFK” buttons to his shirt. The Wauwatosa News-Times reported that 400 persons attended the rally, more than the auditorium’s posted seating capacity of 300 people.

A block away, my mother’s friends were preparing a tea for Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, at the Watson Avenue home of Audrey Hummert Drummond. The women cleaned the house from top to bottom, and a Republican friend volunteered her silver tea service. Unfortunately, they would not meet the future President, either. The women watched in dismay as the Kennedy caravan left City Hall and sped away down Wauwatosa Avenue.

Because the rally had started late, the Kennedys had no time for tea. The Wisconsin campaign director, future Wisconsin governor Patrick Lucey, told them that they needed to hurry to rallies at the Badger Home for the Blind in Milwaukee and at the Rawson Ballroom in South Milwaukee.

Paddy arrived late to kindergarten. As I saw him run excitedly past the windows to our classroom, I was sure Miss Lee would scold him. Instead, smiling as always, she said, “Pat, why don’t you sit down and tell everyone what you saw at the rally for Senator Kennedy today?” I was surprised that my brother, who had been tardy, was now the center of attention.

Five days later, on April 5, 1960, Kennedy won 56 percent of the vote in the Wisconsin primary. This victory, combined with his 61 percent win in the West Virginia primary on May 10, 1960, catapulted him to the Democratic Party nomination in July 1960.

That fall, Paddy and I entered first grade at St. Bernard’s Catholic School in Wauwatosa. On November 8, 1960, America elected its first Catholic president. With grace, a well-organized campaign, and his father’s wealth, Kennedy had overcome the prejudice that had denied Al Smith, the first Irish Catholic to run for President on a major party ticket, his chance for the Presidency in 1928. On election day, my father, Milwaukee Journal reporter Raymond E. McBride, borrowed my brother Joe’s “Al Smith for President” 1928 campaign button and wore it to work as a quiet reminder of how far Irish Catholics had come in American life.

Soon after Kennedy entered the White House, my mother was elected vice chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party. On May 12, 1962, President Kennedy returned to Milwaukee to give a speech at the Democrats’ annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. My father covered the dinner for The Journal, and my mother was among those who greeted the President’s plane at General Mitchell Field. When she introduced herself, Kennedy said, “Oh, yes – Kids for Kennedy in Wauwatosa.” This feat of memory was later explained by Kennedy’s practice of writing names and notes on index cards and reviewing them before stepping off Air Force One. Although this was politically artful, it was an act of courtesy, too. Such acts, like the thank-you letters that he and his family regularly sent to their supporters, helped the Kennedys to establish a lasting connection with the American people.

During his Presidency, JFK led the nation through historic tragedies and triumphs, from the failed Bay of Pigs invasion to the Cuban missile crisis, the space program, and enforcement of civil rights. In June 1963, he became

the first U.S. President to visit Ireland, which further endeared him to us.

On November 22, 1963, we McBride kids bounded out of bed with enthusiasm. This day would be special: it was Friday, and after supper some of us would go to the Tosa Theater to see PT-109, the new movie about President Kennedy's World War II exploits. But watching the movie that night was a surreal experience. Events that day had turned our enthusiasm into shock.

When Paddy and I returned to St. Bernard's after lunch, we and our fourth-grade classmates were told to sit down and listen to an announcement by the principal on the public address system. We listened quietly as Sister Winifred told the school's teachers and students that President Kennedy had just been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas. We all joined in prayers. The nation mourned.

I would never have another chance to meet President Kennedy.

The author is grateful to his brother, Joseph McBride, for his photographs, research, and recollections, and to Zabelle Malkasian for her reminiscences about the Watson Avenue tea.

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South Central Honors Irishman and Irish Rose of the Year Daniel Joseph Horkan and Gloria Judge



DANIEL JOSEPH HORKAN

Daniel J. Horkan has been named the 2007 "Irishman of the Year" and was honored by the South Central Shamrock Club at their annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Banquet on March 10th.

O'Horcain is a very old Gaelic name with its origin tracing back prior to the

13th century. During many years of strife, many O'Horcain's are believed to have provided clergy for Innishowen, Co. Donegal, Cluain Catha parishes in Ireland according to Vatican Archives in 1419. The name O'Horcain has translations differing with the phonetics sound in the particular district where the Government official concerned worked. Ninety-six Horkan families were listed in the United States, most notable in 1985 when the State of Wisconsin had 39 listings with 23 of those listings living in Reedsburg, WI. They hold a Horkan Clan gathering with Horkans coming from all over the US and Ireland.

The Horkans in Reedsburg are descendants of Peter and Bridget Rewan Horkan who married in Sligo, Ireland in 1840, moved first to Toronto, Canada and, for a time, settled in Sycamore, Illinois. After moving to Wisconsin in 1848, Peter and Bridget purchased 160 acres of land from Cadwell G Washborn for \$200. Mrs. Peter Horkan was one of the Irish women to live in the township of Dellona.

Daniel J. Horkan was born on July 28, 1935, the son of Glen and Ellen (Madden) Horkan. Daniel attended Sunnyside School, Dellona Township and the Reedsburg High School. He served three years in Alaska with the military as an Army-Construction Machine Operator. He received the Good Conduct Medal and an honorable discharge on July 31, 1962 with the rank of Sergeant.

Daniel married Donna F. Piskey on Nov. 27, 1959 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Reedsburg. They have two children: Dana J. Horkan-Gant (husband, Willard) and Derek J. Horkan (wife, Lynn Marie Clark). He was employed by Skinner Transfer Corporation for 11 years and by the City of Reedsburg for 30 years, retiring as the foreman of the Public Works Department.

Daniel is a life long member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He has served with the Reedsburg Butterfest Committee, Reedsburg Rec. Center, Reedsburg Athletic Club (formerly called Quarterback Club), Youth Hockey and Reedsburg Medical Center Volunteer. He is currently a member of the South Central Shamrock Club, AARP, Sauk Co. Health Care Center Patient Representative, Cans for Kids, Social Programs Sponsor and in charge of bird feeders.



GLORIA JUDGE

The South Central Shamrock Club is proud to recognize Gloria Judge of Reedsburg as "Irish Rose" of 2007. Gloria is a woman who is known to be dedicated to the service of community and church, always thinking of

others. Gloria was honored at the Shamrock Club's St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 10.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Gloria is the daughter of Robert G. and Agnes S. Jones. Gloria graduated from Hirsch High School, Chicago. While attending Drake University, she was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority. She received her Bachelors Degree from Governor's State University in Illinois.

On May 8, 1954 Gloria married Martin Thomas Judge at St. Felicita's Catholic Church in Chicago. Martin was the son of Martin Joseph Judge and Katherine Ann Touhy Judge of County Mayo and County Sligo, Ireland. Immigrating to the United States in 1916. Martin and Katherine married and settled in Chicago where they raised three sons and one daughter. All three sons were police officers, retiring from the Chicago Police Department.

Gloria and Martin lived in the Chicago area and were blessed with seven children:

Alison Mary Jansen, Michiana Shores, IN, Nanette Judge Schulz, Reedsburg, Robert Judge, Arlington, VA, Martin Judge, Hudson, WI, Colleen Judge, Chicago, Richard Judge of Prairie du Sac, and Suzanne Dischler of Reedsburg. In 1976, Gloria and Martin moved to Reedsburg where Gloria worked as a teacher for the Reedsburg School District and later for Central Wisconsin Community Action Council for twenty years.

Being an involved member of her community, Gloria has participated in the Catholic Daughters of America, the Justice and Peace Committee of Sacred Heart Parish, Sacred Heart School of Endowment Fund, Life Member of the Reedsburg Area Medical Center Auxiliary, charter board member and current President of the Reedsburg Area Food Pantry and co-founder of the Sacred Heart Parish Mobile Food Pantry. Gloria has held offices and chairmanships in all of these organizations. Her interest in politics and government has been expressed by her twenty-five years of activism in the Sauk County Democratic Party and service as a poll worker in the City of Reedsburg.

As a loyal member of many service-oriented organizations over the past several decades, Gloria is always thinking how she can make a difference in her community and the world.

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Milwaukee President's Message

Failte. Aibreán. Cad as a bhfuil tú ag staonadh le haghaidh an charghais? Beannachtaí Ná Cásca oraibh. Agus beidh an altóir maisithe le lilí le le h-aghaidh na Cásca. Or Lent is over, may you have a blessed Easter, and the altar will have lillies on it.

After a jam-packed month of activities, April is almost a time of relaxing from sensory overload. Ah, but we are in for more. The Easter Rising Mass is April 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the ICHC. It has been a well-attended part of the Shamrock Club's year. Our raffle drawing is April 5 at the Shamrock Club general meeting. Buy your tickets now. Thanks to Eileen Duffey and Kevin Quinlan and the rest of Clan Quinlan for all their hard work. Nominations for the election in May will take place at this meeting, as well. Please, step forward to run for an office.

There are so many thanks to give for our March activities that I might need to go to a 12-page issue to complete them. A special thanks to Don and Carol Clark, who each year make certain that we get the honoree plaques. Mike O'Leary, our parade director, has done a job that should take a crew of twenty, but he did most of it by himself. He was the one who managed the details to get the NYPD contingent to town, and to all the events, such as Miller Brewery and Miller Park, and set up the get together on Thursday night. He also juggled a thousand different details about the parade, fielded phone calls, and still managed to run his business, Napoleon's Tailor, without going insane. It was our largest parade ever, with 153 entries, six more than last year. Kris Pluskota took on the role of Shamrock Club media coordinator, while still running the ICHC. She also worked with Mike on parade details, as well as assisting on the Post Parade Party. Malkin Wallace headed up the PPP, her first on the job, and it was a great first time outing. Barry Stapleton was our entertainment coordinator, and the Quinlans managed the bars. Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin ran our Mass, and again, it was the high point of the weekend. Bob Harrold's direction of the choir was masterful, as always. And the Archbishop made the morning a complete Irish celebration.

Rich Pfeiffer has made the Color Guard Pipes and Drums into one of the best pipe bands in the region, while still maintaining the unique quality of the Color Guard. They then took those qualities to Chicago the next day, and to lead off the Savannah parade on March 17, an honor that is hard to convey, as it is one of the largest parades in the nation. Gail Coss redid our parade website, and a wonderful job she did. She took Bob Harrold's great prior work and made it easier for me to work on. And it was nice to have so many Shamrock Club members playing or dancing for us at the party. And thank you to all of our volunteers for the day, from the Mass to the Parade and on to the party. We would never attempt these undertakings without your hard work.

I do have a complaint. Some members said they were going to go to the other parade, and not ours, because it was a family parade. I am sorry, but without attempting to offend the bar owners who are our members, our events for the day were all geared for families. We had our Mass; managed to set the largest parade of any type this year in the State into motion; and our Post Parade Party was set up for the entire family to enjoy, with a kid's area, and the most Irish entertainment in one place in one day that a family could enjoy. Our parade is a family affair, as the many attendees will attest to. And entry into our party didn't require being 21.

Do not forget to check into going to Green Bay on April 21. Julie Smith still has some room on the bus. Upcoming events include Dan Vircks leading a

sing-along at the April 5 meeting. Bring your voices and we will go forward from there. And May will feature the first winner of the Shamrock Club scholarship, Nancy Walczyk, speaking about W B Yeats. June will have the music of athas. We are trying to make things more fun, more interesting, and remain Irish, for our members. If you have any ideas, let us know. Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com or just leave me a note at the ICHC.

Again, have a good April, and Happy Easter.

– Brian Witt

Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com

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Irish Honoree Selection Process

Each January, the Shamrock Club Board of Directors selects its Irish honorees. It is a simple process. Club members are nominated by other club members. All nominations must be received prior to the start of business of the January board meeting, and must be in writing. E-mail nominations are accepted. Both the nominees and nominators must be members in good standing, and must have their dues paid.

The first honoree or honorees to be considered are the parade marshals. All nominations are read, and names are listed. Board members are given ballots and the nominees are rated 1, 2 or 3, with one the highest, and three the lowest. After the first vote, the top three vote getters are then subject to another vote, with a 1 or 2 the choices. After the second vote, the two remaining candidates are voted upon. The top vote getter is then selected. The process is repeated for Irish Rose and Irishman.

If a board member is nominated, and accepts the nomination, they are required to leave the room during balloting, and are not allowed to vote for themselves. They are not allowed back into the room until an honoree is selected.

A person can be nominated for a position and can serve more than once, even though this has only occurred one time.

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Color Guard News and Notes

Hello Everyone. Hope you all have recovered from the Green Season. It sure was a busy month for us. Thank you to all who came out to enjoy the weather in Milwaukee and Chicago over the St. Patrick's Day parade

weekends. It was an thrill to see the New York City Police as a marching unit in our parade; I've had the honor of meeting quite a few of them in my travels and it never gets old. On top of the great accents, the stories they have and the pride they carry with them are enviable to say the least.

Savannah! What can we say? A blast! Warm weather, green beer, a beautiful city, the lipstick ladies, Kevin Barry's, and all the people we met along the way proved a trip that will be unforgettable yet again. We had the honor of leading the parade that consisted of over 300 units including two pipe bands from Ireland, a few from New York and beyond. The Tunnel Rats were out in force on River Street. What's a tunnel rat you say? Ask your friendly SCCGPD member or watch for the t-shirts. Perhaps you'll figure out the mystery. Maybe we'll have video this year. More in May's edition on the trip.

New York's Tartan Week, as I've mentioned in an earlier edition, happens April 6-15th. I've had the pleasure of marching amongst 1000 fellow pipers down 6th Avenue. It's a real opportunity to meet contacts from abroad as well as here in the U.S. Last year, while waiting outside for CBS' Early Show broadcast, I ran into the well-known Mr. John Murphy, the owner of Edinburgh's Scotsman Lounge on Cockburn St. A man I've met a few times in my travels to that lovely Scottish city, and here he was right next to me in New York! Aye, a fine laddie indeed. The week includes festivities such as "Dressed to Kilt" (a show of "who's who" dressed in kilted fashion), a 10K run, an expo at Grand Central Station, and of course the parade of a thousand pipers, Clan groups and Scottie Dogs. For more info see: [www.tartanweeknyc.com] and [www.tartanweek.com].

Our drumline has never looked better. We are now fielding four crazy snares, three lovely lady tenors, and a handsome bass drummer – the largest line in any Milwaukee band right now. I know we don't give them the credit they deserve for keeping us marching down the street. Here's to you guys, a big sloppy kiss to all. We appreciate you more than you know.

A teary goodbye to long time member, Patsy Tierney. She was there in the beginning and has gracefully retired and decided to hang up her kilt. We'll miss you, Patsy, and the care you gave the group. We are a product of the very dream that came about years ago and it's always hard to see another member retire.

Watch for a new schedule out soon. On the calendar for April is the Shamrock Club Easter Rising Mass at the ICHC on April 8. See the Shamrock Club website for more details.

Lastly, an apology to Sean Cavanaugh, as it is he, not Matt Waters, who is learning the art of playing the pipes and will be joining the ranks, hopefully this summer. We look forward to having you join us.

Until May my friends,

– Noel Tylla, 4th year piper

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Easter Rising Mass

The Easter Rising Mass will take place on Sunday, April 8, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., at the ICHC. Father Terry Brennan, SJ, will be the celebrant. A continental breakfast will follow, with a free will offering for donations to cover the costs.

The Easter Rising Mass commemorates the 1916 Easter Monday Rising by the Irish against the British government. The Mass was started in the 1970s by Kit Nash, who wanted to honor the sacrifice of the Irish patriots, including his father, who was interned as a result of his participation in the conflict. Early Masses were held at St Rose of Lima's chapel. Later, it moved to the Marquette University Student Union Chapel. Father Michael Maher has been the primary celebrant for the past decade and a half. The Mass has also featured the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums.

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Trip to Green Bay

The Milwaukee chapter is planning a trip to Green Bay on April 21. Plans are to visit the Packer Hall of Fame, or Oneida Casino. Members can decide which venue they want to attend when they arrive. There will also be a dinner at St Brendan's in Green Bay to cap the day. Contact Julie Smith for more details at (414) 384-4119, or [jesmith26@sbcglobal.net]. The cost will be about \$45 per person, which includes the coach and dinner at St Brendan's. Admission to the Packer Hall of Fame is separate. We will return to the Milwaukee area about 9 p.m. Saturday night. Money must be in the first week of April, so please, don't be late.

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Hallamor Concert #3

THE TARTAN TERRORS

Sat., April 28, 2007

We welcome back the Tartan Terrors, from Burlington, Ontario, Canada, who are widely known as North America's premiere Celtic Comedy Event. The troupe's witty repartee, Scottish flavored high jinx and audience interaction will entertain all who see them.

Six time "Performers of the Year," these musicians, dancers, and comedians

are acknowledged as top in their disciplines. Audiences enjoy the joie de vivre of “men in kilts, dancers kicking up their heels, and sheep on the run in a rollicking good time.”

It will truly be an evening of lively entertainment.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center
2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue; Milwaukee, WI
414-345-8800

Tickets: Advance/reserved \$19, \$21 Day of Concert
Concert: 8 p.m. / Opening act: 7 p.m.

– Gwen Sisk

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Honoree Dinner

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Please join us in honoring the Irishman of the Year Kevin Quinlan, Irish Rose Patti Hogan, and Parade Marshals Pete and Dawn Fleming

Serb Hall, 5101 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$25 per person / \$50 per couple includes tax and tip Cocktails 5 pm (Cash Bar) • Dinner 6 pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Sit down dinner choices:

- _____ Stuffed Pork Chops
- _____ Lemon Chicken
- _____ Top Sirloin

Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and mail to:

Tom and Julie Smith
1107 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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Members doings

Tom and Julie Smith were honored by the Emerald Society honored as Irish Couple by the Emerald Society. Pete Fleming is president-elect of the Emerald Society.

Liam O'Neill attended the New York City Parade, wearing his Shamrock Club hat. He is 9 years old. Caitlin Ward, daughter of Cathy and Ed Ward, is working at Disney World this semester as part of the college intern program. Erin Canon competed in Scotland in the Irish Dance Worlds competition.

John Maher received the William F. O'Donnell Civic Achievement Award from the AOH recently.

Do you have any news about yourself or family you want to share? info@shamrockclubwis.com, or send it to 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

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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.

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Sunshine Club

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

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