



May 2007

CONTENTS:

[A Story to Tell](#)

[State Advisory Board Meeting](#)

[Shamrock Club of Rock County](#)

[Dane County President's Message](#)

[Shamrock Club of Lafayette County](#)

[South Central Shamrock Club](#)

[Milwaukee President's Message](#)

[Milwaukee Slate of Candidates 2007-08](#)

[Alphabetical Listing of Candidates' Statements](#)

[Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Honoree](#)

INDEX

A Story to Tell

by Brian Witt

At a recent meeting, Tom McAleese, who portrays St Patrick in our annual parade, asked me if I had read Frank Delaney's novel, "Ireland." I hadn't, but I was familiar with his other work, both on BBC and in print. It is the story of the last itinerant seanachie in Ireland. As it turns out, "Ireland" is as much a narrative history of the island as it is a novel. And for those who don't think they like to learn history, this is a great way to familiarize themselves to Erin's past.

Storytelling has always been a part of the Celtic races spirit and life. The ancient Celts used story poems to keep alive the sagas and deeds of their people. And rhyming was supposedly invented by the Celts, just for the purpose of making such deeds all the easier to learn. Seanachies, or seanachais, had a special place in royal Irish court life. They didn't rank as high as the druids, harpers or the poets, but they certainly had a role to play. A seanachie used a variety of storytelling conventions and speech that had become a part of the Irish folk tradition. For most of these storytellers, they would pass their large store of tales orally, from one practitioner to another without having been written down.

The end of the Gaelic order almost doomed the itinerant fabler. However, the Celtic Revival in the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought about new interest in the old stories, and the people who told them. Padraic Colum was one person who helped to document the art, and also helped to preserve it. Another was Padraic O'Conaire, a Galway based writer and storyteller, and who was immortalized in statue that city's Eyre Square. O'Conaire wrote his stories, using the oral tradition as the basis for his work. (O'Conaire is also the recipient of many a pint from the revelers coming off Shop Street. One can only imagine what he could tell if his likeness might pass on tales.)

One of the best tales I ever heard was that of Neily O'Boyle, the Donegal based fiddler who composed "The Moving Cloud". O'Boyle was born in Pennsylvania, but about the age of four moved to Ireland, where his parents had emigrated from a number of years earlier. When he was about the age of twelve, he disappeared from the house one night. He reappeared in the morning, and when asked by his mother where he had been, he said that he

[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](#)

[Dinner](#)

[Raffle Winners](#)

[Parade Unit Awards](#)

[Color Guard News and Notes](#)

[Pizza Night](#)

[Acting Irish International Theatre Festival](#)

[Milwaukee Hurling Club](#)

[Celtic Women Lecture](#)

[Spring Hallamor Concert #4](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[RTE News of Ireland](#)

[Members' Doings](#)

[Join the Shamrock Club](#)

[St. Patrick's Help Fund](#)

[Milwaukee Calendar of Events](#)

[Wisconsin Calendar of Events](#)

was kidnapped by the faeries, and forced to play at a wedding. He went to his grave telling that story, and his wife swore that it was true. Then again, the somewhat magical elements of Donegal come into play time and again, with others chasing the spirits of their dead wives across bogs, or having the sidhe entrance them into not coming home at night.

The art of storytelling almost died out as entertainment in the 20th Century became more homogenized by radio and television. However, the recalcitrant nature of the Irish wouldn't let it expire. Ireland is a nation and island of storytellers, be they professional or amateur, bard or barman. The 1970s saw a revival of sorts. Eddie Lenihan is a full time storyteller based in County Clare. He had a daily television show on RTE a number of year's back, talking about folklore and rural life each afternoon. With his wiry hair and beard, he looks to be one with the leprechauns he fondly speaks of.

The late John Campbell, from Mullaghbawn, Co Armagh, was a building site manager until he went redundant in 1980, whereupon he switched to shepherding. It allowed him to develop his skills as a storyteller, and spent the majority of his time on earth telling tales and traveling about Ireland and the world. He learned many of the older tales from his grandfather, and also from the traveling men who stopped at the family house. Of course, he started as a barman at the age of 14, a job he held until his late 30's, so one can only imagine the tales he heard there. He was an occasional visitor to Milwaukee, and his stories have made their way into a number of the articles I have written, if only to give me the kernel of an idea on which to write. His skills as a shepherd were also good, as he took the Royal Dublin Show's best in show prize in the mid-1990s.

Milwaukee is blessed with two of the Midwest's best storytellers, in John Gleeson and Eamonn O'Neill. John, from Dublin, and Eamonn, from Cork, have developed a following for their ability with a word, or a number of them. They have performed for many Shamrock Club events in the past, as well as in local and occasional regional theater productions. "Fado, fado" started many of John's recollections, "long, long ago".

If one wonders what shape storytelling in Ireland is in today, go to the furthest south you can in Ireland, to the island of Cape Clear, County Cork. They have a storytelling festival each year, one that features Irish, British, American, European, and Canadian storytellers, sharing the bond of the oral tradition. The former director is an old friend, Christine Sawyer, who feels that it is a form that is vibrant. "It is alive and well, and being nurtured to stay that way. All cultures share it. And it is a very modern medium." And as for the nature of the form, she says, "It is great to have storytelling available. Instead of watching a box, or playing video games, children are a part of a process that makes them think. A good storyteller engages the mind and the imagination. And the numbers of people working at it are rising, and not just in Ireland."

Frank Delaney's seanachie character tells a young boy that everyone has a story to tell, they just have to know they have one. In the process of growing older, the boy discovers all sorts of narratives, from the fabulous to the mythic to the historic. And as the protagonist in "Ireland" finds out, stories are meant to be shared, passed along, and given to others, not stored away and hidden.

Then there is the statue of Padraic O'Conaire in the Milwaukee Public Museum, in the European Village. Again, as with all tales, this one has a twist.

What was a handkerchief in Eyre Square is a puppy in Milwaukee, as the person who had the piece built mistook the billowing in the corner of the jacket for the head of a dog.

And that, ultimately, is a tail unto itself.

INDEX

State Advisory Board Meeting

Our next State Shamrock Club Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007. It will start at noon at Hanrahan's Pub & Grill, located at 2580 S. Ashland Avenue (inside the Howard Johnson Hotel) Green Bay, Wisconsin. This is right next to Hwy 172. You might like to Mapquest it to get directions.

Please send e-mail to Mike Trulley at [mtrulley@hotmail.com] to let him know you will be attending so he can make reservations accordingly.

Our thanks to Mike for making the arrangements for the meeting. (St. Brendan's is now charging a meeting room fee and asking for money in advance for lunch. Mike was able to find another location for us to use at no charge.)

While in Green Bay, you may wish to visit:

- Trulley's Irish Gifts, 124 N. Broadway (2nd floor), DePere (920-330-0103) which is about five miles from the Restaurant.
- Or stay and see Anthony Kerans, as he performs for the Brown County Civic Music Assn. Tickets are available for: \$25 adults; \$10 students; 25% discount on groups of 10 or more. For more information, visit: [<http://www.foxcitiesbusiness.com/bccivicmusic/shows.htm>].

Tickets can be ordered in advance by sending a check with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Brown County Civic Music Association, 511 St. Mary's Blvd., Green Bay, WI 54301. The performance is held at Ralph Holter Auditorium, Green Bay West High School and begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, 2007.

Anthony Kearns, Dublin's most beloved tenor, caps Civic Music's 80th anniversary season in spectacular fashion. As one third of the superstar trio "The Irish Tenors," a fixture on PBS and the Billboard charts, Anthony Kearns has toured worldwide, sold out Madison Square Garden and performed at the U.S. Capitol for the funeral of President Reagan. From traditional Irish melodies to soaring, operatic classics, Kearns stands alone with the power, agility and color of his satin-smooth voice.

Hope to see you in Green Bay in May!

– Pat McCarthy, Secretary

INDEX

Rock County

Our annual St. Patrick's Party was held on Thursday, March 15, in conjunction with the Janesville Senior Center. As in past years, it was held at the Senior Center. Again we had a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared by the Senior Center kitchen staff, followed by a dessert consisting of cookies and mint ice cream.

After that fine dinner, the great Irish group, Casey's Fancy, entertained us with Irish music and some sing-a-longs. This group of musicians is from Rockford, Illinois and is very entertaining. They have been coming up to our St. Patrick's Day parties for many years.

Members of the Shamrock Club had a display of Irish products, clothing, Waterford Crystal, Belleek and Irish coins. There were the new Euro and there were old coins, halfpenny, three pence, shilling, farthings, six pence and many other old Irish coins.

A capacity crowd enjoyed an evening of fine food and wonderful entertainment.

– **Tom Kennedy, Scribe**

INDEX

Dane County President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed St. Patrick's Day, the parade, the flag ceremony and any other Irish events you were able to attend. There were 40 people at the club's St. Patrick's Dinner at the Coliseum Bar on March 13th. We all had a good time listening to the Celtic band Greenfyre, enjoying good food and conversing with fellow members. A special thanks to Jim Bennett and all those who contributed prizes for the raffle which raised \$225. Also thanks to the McCarthy's and all those who contributed books for the book sale which raised \$101.

The weather for the parade could have been a little warmer but what can we expect in mid-March. This was the 10th annual parade and was well organized by club member and Parade Co-chair, Cheryl Sullivan, along with Co-chair Ed Jaeger. Our Irish Person of the Year, James Bennett, rode near the front of the parade in the Keran's convertible. Jim was deserving of this honor for his contribution of time and energy to the club.

The club commits to volunteer hours at Fitchburg Days. The festival takes

place on May 18–20. Saturday, May 19, is Irish Day and there will be Irish entertainment, crafts, and cultural events. If you could spare a couple of hours, contact Sue Morrison at 241-1986 as I will be visiting China and Thailand. Fitchburg was largely settled by the Irish in the 1840s. My great grandfather, John Riley, was one of the early Irish settlers in Fitchburg.

Club Picnic Date: 6/12/2007. Mark this date on your calendar. Details of the evening picnic will be announced.

– **Margaret Rupert**

INDEX

Shamrock Club of LaFayette County

The 25 years celebration is over, but that doesn't mean the end of a good time! With the possibilities of new members, and the club getting more involved with the surrounding communities we are growing with each activity. After attending one of the State Advisory meetings Jason Donahoe (President) and Tiffany Donahoe (Vice President) were given an idea of selling beads for St. Patrick's Day to raise more money. So after a gathering of those wanting to celebrate St. Pat's eve with us we were off. Once again we had a great response and not only did we have a great fund raiser, but a great way to meet new people and invite new members to join us.

We had overwhelming success with our raffle tickets this year! Thank you to everyone who supported us and those who got out there and sold those tickets! This money will help support all of our other fundraisers this year and will allow us to continue to give back to the communities. It has been decided to have a coffee stand at Canoe Fest and the Cinco De Mayo Festival details are in the works.

Our next meeting will be held at Annies in Darlington, May 20 at 1 p.m.

INDEX

South Central Shamrock News

This is a bit late, though I am happy to report that our St. Patrick's Day Party on March 10 was "The Luck Of The Irish Success"! From start to finish I was very pleased with our attendance and to members: "thank you" for making it another memorable evening. I personally know that Irishman Dan Horkan and Irish Rose Gloria Judge were deeply touched and honored to be toasted at such a warm hearted gathering.

May 20 is our next meeting at the Farm Kitchen, Baraboo beginning at 4 p.m. Remember, your input and attendance at the monthly meetings are important and fun!

The club will participate in the ButterFest Parade on June 16 in Reedsburg with our 2007 Irish Rose Gloria and Irishman Dan with our Tom Scanlon as the driver who always has that beaming Irish smile and twinkle of mischief in his eyes. I hope to have bagpipers lead the car.

Our vice president, Tom Scanlon and his wife, Kay Scanlon spent St. Patrick's Day in Dublin, Ireland attending a family wedding. Good "craic" was had and I for one am green with envy.

Get Well Wishes to our members; Dick Quinlan, Larry Drea, Patricia Visgar.

Joanne Murray spent a week in March researching her mother's family in upstate New York with great success, hope to have Joanne tell us about her trip at our May or June meeting.

TO ALL OUR IRISH MOTHERS

*Mother's Day Blessing
Tis the month of Mary,
Blessed Queen of the May,
Mother of God we pray to you,
Bless and protect all mothers
on this their special day.*

*May Mary's month explode with life
Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,
Grass, trees and flowers together;
And make our world a paradise
Wrapped in a kaleidoscope of color
And may God in heaven bless this
Season of hope,
Mary's Month,
The earth's rebirth.*

Edited and adapted from a blessing by Andrew M. Greeley

Slainte,

– Dana Horkan-Gant, Membership Chairperson

INDEX

Milwaukee President's Message

Failte an samradh. Welcome to Bealtine, the start of summer in Ireland. It is also one of the season days when rents were paid in the country, the others being Lughnasa, Samhain and Imbolg. Bhéadh Tinte Chnámh Bealtaine á lasadh in Éirinn na céadta bhliain ó shoin. Bonfires were lit in May for millenia,

and the name of the month means Baal's, (or Balor, of the baleful eye's) fire. May is also the month we hold our elections. Biographies have been posted, so please make your choice of our very qualified candidates.

Negotiations on a new contract for the 2008 parade will start soon. We are faced with a few problems concerning the date, as we have a chance to hold it on March 8 or March 15. One thing that may play into the date is that Easter is March 23 next year. We will keep members posted. This could be a divisive issue, but an agreement acceptable to all may be reached without a lot of rancor.

The Easter Rising Mass was a success. It was our largest attended Mass to date, with 240 people coming together to share the morning. Father Terry Brennan did a wonderful job. A special thank you to Betty Mikush for coordinating the day, and to Ed Mikush, Veronica Ceszynski, Kris Pluskota and Patti and Dick Tierney for set up help. And to Dale Brenon, who is leaving for Kansas for a bit, your booming voice will be missed.

We will be announcing our 2007 scholarship winners this month. Our raffle has done well this year, and although we do not have final numbers as of yet, it looks to be one of the better years to date. In an appropriate turn of events, our first winner, Nancy Madden Walczyk will be our guest speaker, talking about the works of W. B. Yeats.

Our honorees dinner is May 20 at Serb Hall. Join us in feting Kevin Quinlan, Patti Hogan and Pete and Dawn Fleming in a special night. Please contact Tom Smith at (414) 384-4119 to make your reservations. There is also a form in Reflections this month showing choices of dinners, and the cost for the evening.

Our picnic is July 28 at Sacred Heart Church. We will have music by Atlantic Wave and Tinker Boys, dancers from the Glencastle Irish Dancers, and the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums and the Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipe Band. There is a hall that can be used in case of rain, as well.

We have had some delays in getting our online store set up. We are working on those problems, and hope to be able to start selling very soon.

Pat Fitzgibbons is looking for door prizes for the Shamrock Club's Golf Outing on August 26. Let him know if you can give anything. Also, sign up early for the easiest day of golf one can have in the year.

Hurling is starting. Come out and cheer on the Shamrock Club Griffins as they run the pitch with ash and sliothar.

The State Advisory Board is meeting in Green Bay on May 5. If you would like to travel along, contact Cate Harris at (414) 321-5153.

The Shamrock Club is a proud sponsor of the Acting Irish theatre festival this month, as well. It is nine Irish plays in five Irish Days, and there are going to be some very big surprises. Check Reflections for the details.

Until June, enjoy the start of Irish summer.

– Brian Witt,

Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com

INDEX

2007–08 Slate of Candidates

- President: Kris Pluskota
- President: Brian Witt
- Vice President: Peter Fleming
- Secretary: Dawn Fleming
- Treasurer: Marianne Fisher
- Treasurer: Martin Rosewicz
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Malkin Wallace
- Parliamentarian: Josh Walton
- Membership Chair: Tom Smith
- Trustee: Kathy Donovan
- Trustee: Linda Tuescher

INDEX

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) Alphabetical Listing of Candidates' Statements

KATHY DONOVAN

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for about five years. I have worked Holiday Folk Fair, helped in planning the Christmas party and decorated tables for our wonderful honorees at their dinner. Along with the Flemings, I have helped make the annual picnic a fun event for club members and their families. Serving a year at Sergeant at Arms has given me great pleasure in being part of the decision making process, and I am looking forward for the opportunity to continue as an active member and officer of the Shamrock Club.

MARIANNE FISHER

Hi, I'm currently your treasurer, having taken the job over in October of 2005. I enjoy finding opportunities to volunteer for the Shamrock Club in ways that not everyone enjoys, but jobs that still need to be done. I have considerable experience in nonprofit accounting, having been the accountant

for the Milwaukee County Council, Boy Scouts of America since 1990, and have been your treasurer in the past. I hope I can continue to help the Shamrock Club with accurate record keeping. I've developed stronger friendships in the Club this past year and hope to see that grow. Thank you for the opportunity to help the Club in the past year and for your faith in me.

DAWN FLEMING

God has given me many blessings. I want to leave something as a result of my journey through life. God has given me certain talents which I try to use to their full potential. I thank you for the privilege of being your Secretary this past year. This will be the fourth year my husband, Pete, and I have run the summer picnic for the Shamrock Club. Each year we try to add new ideas and will continue to do so. This year I worked at the Holiday Folk Fair at the sales booth. Last year and this year, I helped at the Post Parade celebration in the kitchen and had a great time. Christmas is special to me because I can use my talents in helping with the table decorations, setting up the Christmas celebration, and being a Christmas tree and Santa's helper to add a special touch to a great Christmas Party.

I feel it a privilege to be nominated for Secretary of the Shamrock Club. I take the position very seriously and will always continue to support the Shamrock Club and help it grow by using my talents. I promise you my "well will never run dry of new ideas." Again, thank you for a great year as your Shamrock Club Secretary and I hope you will put your faith in me to continue to keep the Shamrock Club strong and moving forward in a positive direction.

PETER FLEMING

I have been honored by being nominated for the post of Vice President of the Shamrock Club for 2006-07. My wife and I joined the Shamrock Club five years ago. I volunteered to run the Summer Picnic four years ago. I dearly remember the huge Irish picnics and gatherings I attended as a young man. There was food, drink, and fun for all. I particularly recalled the grand raffle that was always held. From what I have been told, the Shamrock Club picnic has become quite popular and well attended. This has been a good recruiting tool for new members, and a date all members can look forward to each summer. I also helped spice up the Christmas party by convincing Santa Claus to make an appearance. I have met some nice people in the Club, and ask for your vote. I am also a member of the Emerald Society, and will be the new Vice President in the coming year.

MARTIN ROSEWICZ

My wife, Barbara and I are life long Wisconsin residents, having raised two wonderful children, and are now enjoying the benefits of two grandsons, who are the apples of our eyes.

I have had extensive experience in retail sales and management. I served my country proudly, both in the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard. The past three years have been an experience for Barb and I, as I left the outside workforce, and have worked to bring our business, The Kilted Woodshaver, to it's present level. I have been blessed in this endeavor, as well as my time with the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums.

With this, the beginning of my fourth year with the group, and my second year

as Co-Captain of the Color Guard, I have been very privileged to work with the finest group of people I have ever met. In such a short time, they have become, not only to me, but to each other, a family, a very strong and loyal family. I look forward to seeing the SCCGPD and the Shamrock Club itself, grow to new heights in the future, and I look forward to being a part of that growth.

But for any group or business to grow, it needs to look beyond how things have always been done, and move on to more efficient means of getting the job done. I had the opportunity to be a part of the Audit Committee this past year. If elected Treasurer, I would implement a system for the receiving and disbursement of funds, that would provide a clearer and more organized overview of the financial status of the Shamrock Club. These steps would also allow for more detailed reporting of the financial status to the Shamrock Club as a whole, as well as to individual members or groups within the Shamrock Club. I would also bring to the position, the dedication, that I have displayed, not only in my business and daily life, but also in the SCCGPD. Our Color Guard believes in its new motto, Semper Honestus, Always with Honor, and I would carry this with me into the position of Treasurer. It would be an honor and a privilege to work for the Shamrock Club and its members as Treasurer. May the Lord bless and guide all of you in your decision on May 10th.

TOM SMITH

I have been Membership Chair seven years now. My job includes collecting dues, keeping track of memberships —new and renewals— and mailing Emerald Reflections each month.

LINDA TUESCHER

Linda Tuescher has been a member of the Shamrock Club for many years. She volunteers for the Holiday Folk Fair, Irish Fest, Post Parade Party, as well as any event where Noreen Barclay sets up the Shamrock Club sales booth. She is the past owner of the Irish Trader in Cedarburg.

MALKIN WALLACE

After living in Ft Lauderdale for 28 years, I recently returned to Milwaukee to get in touch with my roots. Being of Irish and Scot decent, what better way to do that than to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and get involved?

I started out as “Water Boy” during parades with the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums last year, but soon became a “Banner Girl” to carry the banner, out of necessity. Once it was discovered that the group had a kilt that fit me, I became a proud flag carrying member of the Color Guard. I’ve been there ever since.

I recently offered to help run the Post Parade Party, even though I’d never attended the event nor knew exactly what to expect. But my previous experience in owning an event planning company was very helpful, and therefore, the day proved to be both a fun and rewarding experience. So much so, that I’ve offered to help out again next year.

I believe in giving back to the community, and I feel that as Sergeant at Arms, I can do that for the members of this club. I spent 30 years providing

excellent customer service for the Bell System, another five years running Party It Up! in South Florida, and am happy to help out in general, wherever I'm needed. Outside of the Shamrock Club, I'm a full time realtor with Shorewest Realtors and a contributing member of the Rotary Club of West Allis.

JOSH WALTON

It is indeed an honor to have been nominated for the office of Parliamentarian. I first joined the Shamrock Club in 1973 (with a little break in between). Since that time I have been a volunteer for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Folk Fair, Bradley Center and the picnic.

In addition I have also been an Irish Fest volunteer since its inception. I am also a Past Grand Knight of the Bishop Brust Council of the Knights of Columbus as well as a past president of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society.

I enjoy being a member of the Shamrock Club and look forward to your support.

BRIAN WITT

I am a past President of the Shamrock Club, served as vice president and trustee. I have edited Emerald Reflections since 1999, and set up the Shamrock Club website with Gail Coss. I also edit a weekly e-mail newsletter under the Shamrock Club's name. I hope to be able to continue the leadership gains made in the past years.

INDEX

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

INDEX

Raffle Winners

The Shamrock Club's annual scholarship raffle was held on April 5, 2007. The raffle supports the efforts of the Shamrock Club to help college level students further their studies in areas of Irish language, literature, history and music. Since it was reestablished, almost \$7000 has been given to deserving students.

There was a change in how the raffle was done this year. We decided to go with donated prizes, and that has allowed a greater amount of funds to be invested in scholarships. Thank you to our donors, County Clare Inn of Milwaukee, The Irish Cottage of Galena, IL, Milwaukee County Parks, Waterford Wedgewood Outlet Stores of Pleasant Prairie, WI, and the various restaurants, for their generosity. Thank you also to all who purchased tickets.

The winners of the raffle are:

- Grand prize of \$500: Mrs William Kolanko, Shorewood
- 2nd Prize, Brown Deer Golf Package: Mary Riehle, Milwaukee
- 3rd Prize, Stay at County Clare: Kris Pluskota, Oak Creek
- 4th Prize, Waterford Verona Crystal Vase: Jim Heiudenreich, Milwaukee
- 5th Prize, Belleek Vase: Larry Henkel, Pewaukee
- 6th Prize, Stay at the Irish Cottage, Galena, IL: Ginny Haas Pauley, Milwaukee
- 7th Prize, Olive Garden Dinner: Patti Peterson, Milwaukee
- 8th Prize, Dinner at Bennigans, Ponderosa Group: Kim Funk, Burlington, TN
- 9th Prize: Rosemary Krause, West Allis

INDEX

Parade Unit Awards

The following units were awarded trophies at the Shamrock Club's 41st Annual Parade on March 10, 2007. The winners are as follows:

- Best Marching Unit: National Guard Challenge Group
- Best Musical Unit: Kilties Drum and Bugle Corps
- Best Float: Mo's Irish Pub
- Best Irish Unit: Glencastle Irish Dancers
- Best Parade Unit: Celtic Nations Pipes Band
- Parade Directors Special Award: Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums

INDEX

Color Guard News and Notes



Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums, Savannah Georgia 2007.

Hello Again! Great to see that you're not tired of reading my rantings every month and keep coming back! The fine month of May is upon us and that means the official start of the band's parade season. We have a few coming up, be sure to check the schedule at [www.sccgpd.org] for updates. Speaking of updates, a big Thank You to Heather Majusiak who is revamping our website. Take a look at what she's started as there will be big changes in the coming weeks!

In last month's article I promised to mention our trip to Savannah. Here goes:

The band departed Milwaukee March 15 on hometown favorite, Midwest Airlines, to Atlanta. Once there, we endured a four-hour-long charter bus ride before reaching lovely Savannah. Our hotel, the Extended Stay Midtown, was quite an improvement over last year (except for not being able to have one hangout spot and not having a pool!), mainly for the reason it was close to the Historic district and reachable by city bus for \$1. Many went for a quiet dinner or drinks, while I found myself on a rowdy Pub-crawl ghost tour and later surrounded by friends and band family at Molly MacPherson's Scottish Pub where many a fine libation was put down.

Friday consisted of a grueling early morning practice for us non-morning people, then later, a Masonic Temple tour organized by Bill Sherry for some, and then the performance on River Street. All I have to say is the band rocked, fueled by the cheers of our color guard and one exuberant Mr. Sherry who's enthusiasm could not be missed. We love you Bill. This performance was of the casual sort, and the drummers sure rose to the occasion by wearing their own custom SCCGPD Drumline t-shirts with each drummer's nickname on the back and some quite inventive hair styling.

Saturday was the big day and had the band ready extremely early, and in their leadoff spots two hours before the 10:15 a.m. step off for the parade. Forty degrees was a chilly start to the day, but it did warm up and made for fine parade weather. They were lined up 10 deep on the streets along the long parade, and many, especially Young Cobb, were kissed quite a bit by the Lipstick Ladies. The parade, this year, seemed not as long but it was just because we had done it once before. Look on CNN, YouTube and the Savannah parade websites for pictures of us; they are all over the place. The one above was of the group at the end of the parade. (We are missing some of our members, as it was, after all, a long parade and some had to run to the loo!) We played another performance that night on River Street to a very large crowd of fun folk, and were invited to play on a coast guard ship that was docked on the River. A treat to say the least.

The band did resurrect the Tunnel Rat tradition in fine form surround by thousands of our closest, and cheering friends. Most of us will never forget that moment and probably still hear the cheering ringing in our ears.

I, for one, cannot express how many pipe band directors and members came up to many of us to compliment, congratulate, and rave about our group. They made it a point to stop us in the street and ask, "Are you that band from Milwaukee??" Congrats to all of you in showing the world who we are and that it's ok to have fun and still be professional as a unit. People so enjoyed the band and sought us out to tell us! How cool is that???

Sunday, March 18, was free time for the band. Some went to Tybee Island, others toured around Savannah, ate at Lady and Sons for brunch, or simply nursed hangovers in their beds. I found myself at Lady and Sons early in the day for fried chicken and grits, then walking around Savannah in search of souvenirs, and finally on a barstool at Kevin Barry's Irish Pub surrounded by good friends, old and new. A kind hello to the boys from Waterford Ireland's Fire department. See you at Irish Fest!!!!

Then it was Monday, and time to go home. We arrived back in Milwaukee at

a pleasant 7 p.m. and could spend time relaxing with our families after a long weekend away. Thank you to all of parents, chaperones and friends who helped raise money, sewed flashes, carried banners, hauled water, took pictures, drove vans and cheered from the sidelines on the trip or along the way. It was a monumental and very memorable trip for all and it goes without saying that we couldn't do it without your help. A special mention to the head honcho, Rich Pfeiffer, who pulled another great trip out of the hat. Hip Hip Hooray!

Watch for us on Memorial Day where we'll be in Menomonee Falls' morning parade, and then Milwaukee's parade in the afternoon. Until then, let's hope for some actual spring weather for May. Happy Spring.

– Noel Tylla, 4th year piper

INDEX

Pizza Night

It is Pizza Night for the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums on Sunday, June 17 and July 1 at Batolotta's Pizzeria Piccola, 7606 W State Street. Eat in or take out between 4–9:30 p.m. and a portion of all food sold will benefit the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. It is part of the Ristorante Bartolottas Society Sundays fundraisers.

INDEX

Acting Irish International Theatre Festival

Milwaukee Irish Arts will be hosting "Acting Irish International Theatre Festival". Milwaukee celebrates the best in Irish theater from May 15–20, 2007, when nine theater groups from Ireland, Canada and the US compete in the 14th Annual Acting Irish International Theater Festival at the UWM Peck School of the Arts Mainstage Theater. Local group, Milwaukee Irish Arts last hosted this prestigious festival in 1997 and is thrilled to once again welcome actors, directors and technical crews, as well as Irish culture and theater aficionados, to our thriving Irish-American community.

Performances by groups from Ireland, Toronto, Winnipeg, Rochester, Boca Raton, Chicago and Milwaukee will take place in a frenzy of activity from Tuesday through Saturday night, involving matinee and evening show times.

True to the Irish tradition of theater festivals, the productions will be adjudicated. Immediately following each performance, noted Dublin director

Ray Yeates will address the cast and audience with his evaluation of the production. Much sought-after awards are given out at the festival's closing ceremony for best overall production and for acting and technical accomplishments.

Milwaukee Irish Arts hopes to raise the bar again this year after capturing awards for Best Production and Best Male Actor (Keith Tamsett) for "An Irish Play" by Dan O'Brien, which was performed both in Milwaukee and at the 2006 Acting Irish International Theater Festival in Toronto. This year the group will open the festival on Tuesday, May 15 with a production of "From These Green Heights" by Dermot Bolger. The play follows the story of Dessie from the 1960s, when as a child he first glimpsed the Ballymun Towers amid the fields of North Dublin, to the night in 2004 when he helps his young daughter pack to leave the flat that has been his family home. "From These Green Heights" will be performed at the ICHC May 5-7 in preparation for the Festival performance. This is a preview to the performance in the festival and as such, everyone who buys a ticket to the show at the ICHC will be given a free ticket to Milwaukee Irish Arts' Tuesday performance at UWM. Complete information can be obtained at the Festival web site [www.actingingirish.org] or by calling (414) 287-4232.

There will be a couple of other events during the Acting Irish festival that are of note. There will be an unveiling of a plaque honoring Pat O'Brien and Spencer Tracy at the ICHC, with times to be announced. Included will be an exhibition put together by Barry Stapleton, from the Irish Music Archives. On Saturday, May 19, the Milwaukee Rep's Artistic Director, Joe Hanreddy, will receive an award on the Saturday night in recognition of all the great Irish theatre he has brought to Milwaukee and Madison, over the years. There will also be the world debut on Saturday night of playwright, novelist and poet Dermot Bolger's new play commissioned by Dublin City to commemorate poet Francis Ledwidge's death in World War One. Ledwidge was killed in Ypres, Flanders, in 1917, and a voice of young Ireland was extinguished. After Milwaukee it will be performed in Dublin and in Flanders in July. It is directed by Ray Yeates and includes Don Wycherly, who played Father Aiden in Ballykissangel, in the cast.

The Shamrock Club is a proud sponsor of "Acting Irish".

INDEX

Milwaukee Hurling Club

The Milwaukee Hurling Club will start its 2007 season on Sunday, May 20th. MHC Opening Day will be at Brown Deer Park at 11 a.m. Stop by and see the fastest game on grass, and cheer on the Shamrock Club's Griffins. Matches start at 11 a.m. each Sunday throughout late spring and into the summer.

The MHC Youth League recently toured Ireland. Members of the MHC Youth League traveled to Ireland in April of 2007 to visit various hurling

related sites (the GAA Museum and Croke Park) and visited hurling clubs throughout the country, including Milwaukee's sister city, Galway. During their time, these young hurlers had the opportunity to participate in GAA-sponsored training and hone their hurling skills. Their visit was the first time a youth hurling club from America visited the Emerald Isle. Youth league games are at 10 a.m. each Sunday at Brown Deer.

05/20/07

11:00 McBob's vs. Tracks
12:30 County Clare vs. Ale House
2:00 Club Garibaldi vs. Wolski's
3:30 Shamrock Club vs. Packy's

06/03/07

11:00 County Clare vs. Packy's
12:30 Club Garibaldi vs. Tracks
2:00 Shamrock Club vs. Ale House
3:30 McBob's vs. Wolski's

06/10/07

11:00 Shamrock Club vs. County Clare
12:30 Club Garibaldi vs. McBob's
2:00 Ale House vs. Packy's
3:30 Tracks vs Wolski's

06/17/07

11:00 Tracks vs. Ale House
12:30 Wolski's vs Packy's
2:00 Club Garibaldi vs Shamrock Club
3:30 McBob's vs County Clare

06/24/07

11:00 Wolski's vs. County Clare
2:30 McBob's vs. Ale House
2:00 Tracks vs. Shamrock Club
3:30 Club Garibaldi vs. Packy's

[INDEX](#)

Celtic Women Lecture

Date: May 4, 2007

Topic: "Acting Irish International Theater Festival: A History"

Speakers: Panel of speakers from Milwaukee Irish Arts

This prestigious annual theater festival will be hosted by Milwaukee Irish Arts on the 15th to the 19th this month. The Milwaukee group was instrumental in establishing the festival 14 years ago, and it has gone on to wide acclaim in the United States and Canada. Several key actors of M.I.A. will recall its

history and memorable characters (real and fictional). For amateur theater buffs, this is a unique opportunity to see behind the scenes and perhaps prepare to volunteer when it comes to town later this month.

Everyone is welcome at the lectures. Come and join us. 5:30–7 p.m. at the ICHC, \$5 Admission. Tea and cookies served as well.

– Jean Bills

INDEX

Hallamor Concert #4

Old Blind Dogs
Friday, May 18, 2007

The Old Blind Dogs are newly revised. Moreover “the band keeps its modern grooves authentic by following Robert Burns’ 200-year-old model of applying original arrangements to traditional forms.” Their repertoire is set very firmly in their native Scotland. “This veteran Scottish trad quartet whips up energy while making it look like no big deal.”

Old Blind Dogs respect tradition without being confined by it. Because of each band member’s diverse background, subtle traces of this background, surface on occasion, bringing freshness and color to acoustic music steeped in centuries of Scottish folklore and history. Acoustic Guitar states “Old Blind Dogs have mastered the tricky art of innovating within the musical tradition while faithfully revealing its essence.”

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

INDEX

Sunshine Club

Joe Feeney died recently at the age of 97. Joe and his late wife Mae were long time owners and proprietors of Feeney’s on Bluemound, 5326 W. Bluemound Rd. (now known as Derry Hegarty’s). Joe was lovingly remembered as “Old Mr. Bluemound”. He was a longtime member of the

Shamrock Club. Condolences go out to his family.

Del Canon recently had rotator cuff surgery.

Ed Mikush had an angioplasty recently. Get well quickly.

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

INDEX

RTE News of Ireland

ABBNEY ANNOUNCES AUDITORIUM REDESIGN

The Abbey Theatre has announced details of a €730,000 redesign of its auditorium space.

The project, which is due to take 10 days, involves the complete removal of the present seating and the installation of a new raked floor. The new auditorium will hold 492 seats and also provide two designated wheelchair places. According to the theatre, sightlines and acoustics will be significantly improved.

The process to find a new home for the theatre is ongoing. Details for a design competition for the new building, which will be located in the Docklands, will be announced shortly, and it's expected that the theatre will be relocated by 2010.

U.S. FIRM TO BUILD €60M DUBLIN PLANT

US biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences is to invest €60m in a new plant at Grange Castle Business Park in Clondalkin in Dublin. The company's main area of activity is developing treatments for infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis. The new development will involve moving Gilead's existing facilities and 80 staff from its current location at Sandyford Industrial Estate. The company says it expects to also create 80 new jobs. Gilead will submit a planning application for the new site by the end of April and hopes to complete construction by the end of 2008. Among its main Irish activities is the supply of anti-HIV medication to developing countries.

INDEX

Members' Doings

Veronica Ceszynski and Cate Harris both visited Florida recently, in different parts of the state. Tom and Colleen Kennedy were in Las Vegas recently. Kristina Paris made her first trip to Ireland in late March and early April, on behalf of Milwaukee Irish Fest. Bob and Paula Harrold had a St Patrick's Caribbean Cruise. Pat and Karen Prendergast had an Easter in Ireland.

INDEX

Join the Shamrock Club

Why should you join? Because we really would like you to help us in our celebration of Irish life. You will be a part of one of the most historied and distinguished Irish organizations in this country. But we don't want to rest on our laurels. After a half century, we are just getting started. And we really want you to help us make the next half even better. Join. You know you have been putting it off, so now is the time to take the step. For the first time, or again.

Join today. For the first time, or for the fifth time. We are always happy to have you as a part of us.

Yes, I want to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin!!

Family \$25 Single \$20

New Rejoin

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Chapter: _____

Note: This membership form for the Shamrock Club is for Milwaukee, Rock County and New Dublin chapters at the \$20/\$25 rate. Other chapters have higher dues structures and must be contacted separately.

Mail to: Milwaukee Membership Chair

Tom Smith
1107 S. 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

INDEX

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.

INDEX