



June 2010

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Dusty Springfield

by Brian Witt

In early March, 1999, Dion O'Brien sprinkled the ashes of his sister, Mary O'Brien, over the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare. She had died a few days earlier in London. It was about the same day that she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

For years, Dusty Springfield, as O'Brien was better known, hosted a television show on the BBC. She had an amazing range that allowed her to sing everything from pop and ballads to soul and Irish folk songs. She had an amazing grace onstage, and never caused those who guest starred to take a second position on songs. Springfield recorded and sang with an interesting cast of characters, from Jimi Hendrix and Elton John to Englebert Humperdinck and the *Pet Shop Boys*.

Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien was born in West Hampstead, England, in 1939 to an Irish Roman Catholic family that loved music. They moved to London soon after. When she was 11, she went to a music store and recorded her first piece, an Irving Berlin song, "When the Midnight Choo Choo Leaves for Alabam". She was a fan of American singers Jo Stafford and Peggy Lee, and early on imitated their styles.

She acquired the nickname "Dusty" as a result of her tomboy ways. After she left high school, an advertisement for an "established sister act" caught her eye. It was the *Lana Sisters*, Riss Chantelle and Lynne Abrams. Her work with them allowed Dusty to develop stage presence and harmonizing. The trio appeared twice at the Royal Albert Hall and toured with Cliff Richard and Adam Faith. Their version of "You've Got What it Takes" became a Top 10 hit in Ireland in 1960.

By 1960, Dusty had left the band and formed a pop-folk trio with her brother, Dion O'Brien and Tim Feild. They changed their

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names to Dusty, Tom and Tim Springfield and chose the name “The Springfields” to try to capture the feeling of the American folk movement. To complete the American folk experience, they travelled to Nashville to make an “authentic American album”, *Folk Songs from the Hills*. In an ironic twist of fate, the American music she heard caused her to switch to pop music and rhythm and blues. The band disbanded in October, 1963, after their last song, “Say I Won’t Be There” went to the British Top five hit list.

Her first hit was “I Only Want to Be With You.” Her next was the Burt Bacharach song, “Wishin’ and Hopin’,” which went to the top ten in the American charts. In 1965, she had a breakout song in “You Don’t Have To Say You Love Me,” which was based on an Italian song she heard while touring. In 1968, her most popular song was released, the soul and R? influenced “Son of a Preacher Man,” which was originally written for Aretha Franklin. *Rolling Stone Magazine* would call it the 77th most influential song of all time.

To say that Springfield had become infatuated with Motown and soul would be an understatement. She became a one-woman champion of the music, and was able to host various artists on the popular BBC show, “Ready, Steady, Go.” She was also hostess of her own show, the “Dusty Springfield Show,” in which she sang all the song styles that influenced her, and shared duets with her guests. She was a confident performer, even if she was a bit shy.

She was also proud of being Irish. When she sang folk songs, she looked back to those of her ancestors in Clare. Tom Jones appeared on her show a number of times. In one appearance, she remarked he spoke Welsh. He answered, yes, and since you are Irish, you must speak some. She was temporarily flustered, but came back with, “No, but I do know some Japanese.” Jones laughingly rejoined that at least it was an island west of Britain.

She was also not afraid to take a stand on issues. When Springfield toured South Africa, she appeared at an integrated theater, an act that caused her to be deported. It was done without regret on her part, as she felt apartheid needed to be abolished.

In some ways, Springfield’s adaptability was also the cause of her downfall from the pop charts. She was hard to pigeonhole, and as a result, she was left behind in the changeover to psychedelic and “underground” radio formats. Springfield had only sporadic success from the waning days of the 1960s until the mid 1980s. Her early success, achieved so easily, was pulled away from her in almost a cruel fashion, due to a change in musical tastes.

Her time away from the limelight was brutal in many ways. Always circumspect about her sexuality, and the fact that she was never reported to be in a relationship recognized by the public meant that the issue of her being “bisexual” continued to be raised throughout her life. In a 1970s interview, she said that she always heard references about her being, “Gay, gay, gay,” but she also wanted a

relationship with a man.

Springfield was also diagnosed as being manic-depressive, which resulted in a number of destructive acts on her part. She self medicated with alcohol and drugs, and was also into cutting herself, once so badly she was admitted to a Los Angeles area hospital psychiatric ward.

In the mid-1980s, Neil Tennant of the *Pet Shop Boys*, a long time fan, contacted her about recording with them. The relationship was a fruitful one for her, and would project her back onto the British charts.

Just as her life was coming together, it would then be rent asunder one more time. Dusty Springfield was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 1994. She then crammed what would be, for many artists, a lifetime of work into the next four years. The last two years of her life were debilitating, and her last live performance was Christmas, 1995.

She was to be awarded the Member, Order of the British Empire, an honorary knighthood. However, Queen Elizabeth authorized her medal to be brought to her hospital bed two weeks prior to the award day. The day of the ceremony was also the day of her death, March 2, 1999.

Her funeral brought out many of the people who were influenced by her, such as Elvis Costello. The ceremony was held at the Catholic Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in Henley-on-Thames, the town where Springfield had lived during her last years. Some of her ashes were buried at the church, and a marker dedicated to her was placed in the graveyard.

Dusty Springfield was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Sir Elton John two weeks after her death. That night, he called her the greatest white female singer of all time.

When her brother spread her ashes next to the ancient O'Brien Tower, they may have gone to the four corners of the earth. They were just following her music.

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Milwaukee President's Message

I'm amazed at how quickly this year is passing in celebrating the club's 50th anniversary. We're reaching the half way point, and have found it to be lots of fun and full of great memories. That also reminds me that this is my last message to you as your president. My term ends on June 30th and then your new president will be

installed.

We are asking all of you to continue as volunteers for the club, when we have our July 17th picnic/luau. We are asking for set up, takedown, cleanup assistance beginning at 9 a.m. that day. We ask you to bring a dish to pass that reflects a luau, e.g., fruit, chicken salad, tuna salad, etc. If you can bring desserts or a salad, that would be great. The club furnishes the beverages and the meat, but needs you to add to the menu. This day promises to be fun with three bands, and lots of surprises. Wear your Hawaiian shirt, lei, mumu, or grass skirt to add to the festivities. Place this day on your calendar.

Due to her very unfortunate accident, Linda Tuescher has asked to be relieved of the retail chair. We are looking for persons to assist with this immediately so we may be ready for upcoming events in July and August. We would like to have several of you step forth to assist with hauling, set up, storage, and all other facets. Linda has kindly offered to mentor this operation, and her expertise is respected in the retail world of Irish merchandise. This operation provides the club with extra revenue that needs to be kept in place in order for us to operate. Please consider this in some way, or suggest a student that could learn the retail business as an intern. Our thanks to Linda and Tom Tuescher both for all the time they gave to help the Shamrock Club.

It has been a privilege to serve as the president of this great organization and especially this particular year. There is a nostalgic feel in relinquishing the reins, but we have ensured the club's continuance with the selection of the current board members and their dedication. It was my hope to pay tribute to all my Irish ancestors that entered America with great hope and determination in making a new life. In reading some of the writings of Stephen Hawkins, a great-great-uncle, you are humbled at the hardships encountered, and how they endured and survived. My grandmother Florence Walsh was left a widow with six young children, and yet her children were fed, clothed, and housed because of her hard work as a dressmaker. That talent bypassed me, but my time spent with her, helped shaped my life. My parents are both deceased, but their pride in our heritage was never in question. My wonderful children are living proof of Irish American heritage. Bridget, as an Irish dance teacher, and Tom Jr. as a San Francisco police officer. Sheila is home with me, and enjoys the exploits of all family members. Now I have four Irish dancing granddaughters, and three handsome grandsons that are all great athletes.

Thanks to all of you for your support you gave me as your president, it couldn't have happened without the kind of good people in the Shamrock Club. This club is the cornerstone on which all other groups were built, this has never been in doubt. Remember, the Shamrock Club always needs your help, and we look forward to its future.

– Julie Smith, President

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Shamrock Club Of New Dublin

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin enjoyed another successful Parade and Irish Festival on March 20. With weather in the mid-40s we enjoyed near record crowds and a parade line up of over 130 entries. *Switchback* and *Rising Gael* entertained our Irish Fest goers from 11 a.m.– 6 p.m. It was a “Great Day for the Irish” in New Dublin.

Once again, we’ll be pouring beer in the Guinness tent at the 2nd Annual Oshkosh Irish Festival the weekend of June 11-13, at Riverside Park in downtown Oshkosh. Visit their website at [www.oshkoshirishfest.com] for their full schedule of entertainment. Also, our club will host a “Meet Your Business Neighbor” event in conjunction with the New London Area Chamber of Commerce in downtown New Dublin at Midtown Pub and Grill on June 21. This is an opportunity for our club to meet with other business and chamber members to generate new members.

And of course, plans are already underway for next year’s event. Next year’s Parade and Irish Festival in New Dublin will be on March 19, 2011. Visit our website at [www.newdublin.com] for more information.

– Carrie Katerzynske

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Green Bay News

The Green Bay chapter will be on hiatus for the summer. However, our chapter picnic will be July 19, at Bay Beach Park in Green Bay. Also, the Limerick band *Seneca* will be appearing June 5 at Classics in Shawano.

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance

September 25, 2010

Humphrey Scottish Rite
790 North Van Buren Street, Milwaukee

Schedule:

- 5:30–6:30 p.m. registration and cocktails
- 6:30–7 p.m. Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums performs
- 7 p.m. Dinner; DJ and dancing after dinner

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Veronica's Cupboard

Summertime and the living is easy? this month we'll feature cold cuts and rolls, come early and make a nice sandwich. All the fixin's provided? mayo, mustard, relishes, pickles and olives. In addition we'll have chips and pretzels. Salads and vegetables, desserts of any sort will be welcomed.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m., so come early. Social time begins at 6:30. Fill your plate and enjoy Shamrock Club friendship before the meeting.

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Installation Dinner July 8, Milwaukee

There will be an installation dinner at the ICHC on Thursday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be potluck; please bring a dish to pass. Judge Daniel Konkol will be doing the installation.

Milwaukee's new board will be installed that night. They are: President Josh Walton; Vice President Kathy Donovan; Secretary Malkin Wallace; Treasurer John Fisher; Sergeant at Arms Veronica Ceszynski; Trustee Sandy Quinlan; Trustee Ken Tehan; Membership Chair Denis Donohoe; Parliamentarian Tom Mcaleese.

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Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2010 Shamrock Club Irish Studies Scholarship winners: Drew Blanchard, (IASIL Conference, NUI Maynooth); John Kellogg, (Oideas Gael, Donegal); Corey Klinzing, (Oideas Gael, Donegal); and the AOH/Shamrock Club winner, Emily Fitzgibbons, (Queens University, Belfast - Investni.com program - Economics...). They are all winners of a \$500 scholarship, and a membership in the Shamrock Club for the year.

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Milwaukee Highland Games June 7

The Milwaukee Highland Games will take place at Hart Park, 72 and State Street, Wauwatosa, on Saturday, June 7. The Games open at 9 a.m. The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums will be there. Entertainment by *Wild Colonial Boys* and *Mother Grove*. There will be Highland games, and Scottish dance competitions, and a lot of family entertainment.

For more information, please contact Tom Cobb at: Scottish Festivals, Inc., W167 S6827 Oakhill Dr., Muskego, WI 53150, (414) 422-9235 You can also check out our website at [<http://www.milwaukeeescottishfest.com>].

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Celtic Women First Friday Lectures



Mart Hintz

Date: June 4, 2010; 5:30–7 p.m.

Topic: “A Session with Mart Hintz”

Speaker: Mart Hintz

Mart Hintz, publisher of the *Irish American Post*, will offer a wide-ranging discussion of stories he has covered and books written over his 30-odd years career as a journalist. “A Session with Mart Hintz” is sub-titled “Interviewing French Mimes by Phone and Related Journalistic endeavors”.

This promises to be a very entertaining lecture from our local journalist friend who has put out a remarkable paper since 1991 relating to all things, events and persons Irish.

This will be the final lecture before the summer break. Be sure to pick up a copy of next year’s lecture schedule when you attend. It will be at Greene Hall as usual. \$7 admission for all. The address is 3347 N. Downer Ave.

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Celtic Soccer Club Dominates Spring Opener

Followed by Another Week 2 Win

The Celtic Soccer Club kicked off their 2010 Spring Campaign with a pair of victories. The first win came on Sunday April 25th in an 8-1 routing of Polonia. Cold winds and wet conditions could not slow down the men in green as they pulled away in the second half.

“It was cold, it was wet, and it was ugly,” said Abdallah Elsayed, Team Captain. “It took us a while to get our feet under us and begin working the ball the way we know we can. The second half was better.”

But the first half was pretty decent by itself. Joel Carstedt got the

scoring started, taking a well-served ball and guiding it off the post and into the goal. Mike Kroeger then followed, easily beating the keeper off a breakaway for his first of the game. Lastly, Ryan Schuetteltz finished the 3-0 first half with a brilliantly placed ball from the top of the 18-yard box.

In the second half, it was the Mike Kroeger Show. Kroeger continued to show his agility and pace with the ball at his feet, netting two more goals and completing his early spring hat trick.

Adding to second half tally were Trevor Hess and Mike Mallet. Carstedt also netted an easy tap-in for his second score on the day.

Kroeger continued his knack for scoring by notching two more goals in Celtics May 2nd 4-1 victory over USA Palermo Due. Trevor Hess recorded his first on the year, easily sliding a well-placed cross into the side-netting. Also scoring was Scott Baldwin, a newcomer to the Celtics.

With the 2010 Season underway, Elsayed summarized it up perfectly, "It was a good start to the season. This team is going to keep scoring a lot of goals and other teams need to be ready for it."

Remaining Spring Matches (at Palonia Soccer Fields)

- June 6 vs Polonia; 2:30 p.m.
- June 13 vs USA Palermo Due; 4:30 p.m.

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Shamrock Club Picnic "Come to a Luau"

Saturday, July 17, 2010

Sacred Heart Church, 49th and Wells

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Music by the *Scrubbers*, *Atlantic Wave* and a Hawaiiin Band

Performance by the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums

Please Bring a Dish to Pass

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Color Guard News & Notes

Hello! Welcome to the sixth, count 'em, sixth month of the year! Unbelievable, eh?

The band has been hard at work getting geared up for the 2010 parade season. Memorial Day Parades in Menomonee Falls and Downtown Milwaukee started out our year, and we look towards a short schedule in June. For the latest updates, check out our newly redesigned website (courtesy of Rich Watt and Katie Swank) for current schedules and other gigs. Join us for a fairly new gig, Oshkosh Irish Fest on June 13 and another parade/performance on June 26 to be determined.

Also early June will be the always fantastic Midwest School of Pipes and Drums June 7-11 on the St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield. I was lucky enough to attend on scholarship last year along with others from the band. At press time, we'll have Matt Waters attend the school under a bass drum scholarship from the Shamrock Club. Matt is doing an awesome job as our new bass drummer (without any prior instruction to boot!!)

The Pipe School will also feature a massed parade and pub night to be held on June 6 and the concert held on June 10. I plan on being there for both!

Take a look at their website for more information...
[www.msopd.com].

We have also started our practices at the lakefront as of mid-May. Follow the entrance to McKinley Marina and look for us near the kite stand. We're always looking for new members! Musical instruction will resume after Irish Fest for new instrumentalists but please feel free to stop by anytime and take a look.

Speaking of Irish Fest, I have begun to write the show for it. Ever wonder why I write the show? I'm not sure the story was ever told. I used to teach color guard for Oak Creek High School and Burlington High School along with being an instructor at the national Bands of America Summer Camp held at UW Whitewater. In addition to teaching color guard, I am assisting in writing the drill for those groups. Basically, it's writing a show that forms patterns and forms on the field and is pleasing to the eye and goes along with the music. I also taught the groups how to march in step, march in line, and how to go around corners properly. Fun Stuff. Pipe bands of course don't move all that often while in competition, but since we do this for enjoyment, we have a little wiggle room in what we do on the "field". We have a few new tunes and I hope to have a surprise up my sleeve for the show that weekend. Stay tuned.

Asides, Piper Neil McCafferty and his lovely wife Michelle are expecting their second baby in August, just in time for Irish Fest! I

know the name, but will save it for her birthday! Also congratulations to piper Rich Watt who proposed to his lovely girlfriend Katie and not to be outdone, piper Hans Thompsen proposed to his awesome girlfriend Lauren as well.

Next month, you'll have a guest writer for this column. I know Sean will do a great job for July.

Until then ladies and gents...enjoy your summer.

– Noel Tylla, 8th year piper

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50th Anniversary Committee Notes

April 12th, 2010

The 50th Anniversary Float won the Best Unit Trophy Winner, combined with the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums Unit.

At the April General Meeting, the Soccer and Hurling Teams gave brief presentations to the Membership. They invited all to come and watch them play. The Color Guard will play at the MHC opening season game, May 16 @ Brown Deer Park. At the May General Meeting, we honored the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums, past and present members. The group played a couple of tunes.

Dinner Dance News: Memorabilia Table / Dinner Dance – Dawn and Pete Fleming joined the meeting to share a great idea to have a memorabilia table at the dinner dance. The General Membership will be asked to share items from the history of the Shamrock Club they may have. All items will be collected by Mary C, and cataloged for display and ownership. Dawn F. and Kathy Donovan to set up display table at dance. Kathy Donovan also volunteered to do floral displays for dinner dance. Mary to seek a calligrapher for the displays. Mark Concannon agreed to Michelle McCormack co-hosting event. Formal invitations are to be sent to Irish groups and Dignitaries.

The DVD will be finished in June. Josh was given VHS tapes of St. Patrick's Day Masses and a mystery tape.

Irish Fest – Josh will contact Chuck Ward about meet and greet for Thursday night. The SC birthday cake from float to be used to decorate tent.

We have ordered and received 50th Anniversary Flag from Flag

Center of Milwaukee. The Price negotiated for was \$230, down from \$270. It was shown at the April General meeting. It was given to Rand Harteau, director of SCCGPD, to incorporate in to parade flags.

– **Josh Walton**

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2010 Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade Winners

- Best Marching Unit
Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy.
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
- Ward Archives Best Musical Unit
Great Lakes Naval Band.
Great Lakes, IL
- Best Parade Unit
Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Float and Pipes and drums.
- Thomas J. Smith Best Irish Unit
Glencastle Irish Dancers. Milwaukee
- Best Float
Shamrock Club of New Dublin. New London, WI
- Danny O'Donoghue Directors Choice Award
United States Marine Corps Fox Company 2nd Battalion 24th
Marines.

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Milwaukee Chapter Membership News

June 2010 – I would like to welcome the following new Members joining in April of this year: Aaron Abert, Scott Baldwin, Andrew Blau, Joel Carstedt, Sean Cavanaugh, Brandon Chapman, Tim Devlin, Abdallah Elsayed, Mohamed Elsayed, Trevor Hess, Kevin Hooley, Dan Koth, Steve Krall, Mike Kroeger, Carlos Lopez, Michael Mallett, Adam Mattson, Tony Mente, Brendan Murphy,

Andy Rawlskey, Erin/Andrew Rinderle, Justin Schnorenberg, Ryan Schuettpelz, and Cem Vurusaner.

We now have our new durable static cling Label/Stickers that will last longer and can be easily placed on windows in cars and homes without worry of fading. If you did not get one at the May meeting, please let me know via e-mail or find me at the June meeting and I will give you one.

Currently the Milwaukee Chapter as of April 30 has 421 Members with 192 Family and 210 Single memberships. Eight Members who have allowed their membership to go past 60 days, have been dropped. Statewide our membership totals 614 members. Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before July 1 for those who's expire on or before 6/30/2010.

– **Denis Donohoe,**
Denis J Donohoe Business Syst. Mngr
N22 W23977 RidgeView Pkwy., Ste 100 Waukesha, WI
53188.
Ph: (262) 523-4670 X 3005;
Fx: (262) 523-4675

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Members' Doings

Pete and Mary Cobb became parents for the ninth time in April, when Mary Therese arrived.

Julie Pruske was a part of the Milwaukee Children Choir when they sang for the Milwaukee Ballet's production of Peter Pan in May. Barry Stapleton was recently in State College, PA, for the Ward Music Archives.

John and Mary Fisher recently spent time with their son, Dan, and his children, in San Diego. Dan is stationed in Okinawa, and it was the first time in three years he has been stateside.

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Sunshine Club

Olive Witt was recently hospitalized. Chuck Ward underwent chemotherapy again. Muriel Crowley underwent a rehabilitation stint recently. Please keep them in your thoughts.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call us at (414) 344-0688 or email us at [slainte41-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– **Maggie and Tom Blaha**

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