



Area readies for St. Patrick's Day celebration

By Patricia A. McCabe
As the nation gears up for March 17, so does Rochester. Tavern owners start thinking about green beer and greenbacks; card racks sport greetings — "Top o' the mornin'!"; "May you find yourself in heaven a half hour before the devil knows you're there..." All the world is preparing for the one day when everyone can lay claim to a touch of Irish ancestry.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, however, has been busy since last year. Since the closing notes of the bagpipes died away, committee members have been busily planning for the next march down Main St.

Before the marching begins, the parade committee sponsors a number of events. Some are primarily intended to raise funds to enable the committee to continue its work, but all are in the spirit of promoting Irish culture — a culture which is sometimes misunderstood or misrepresented.

This is where the parade committee excels in its efforts. From the selection of the Colleen of the Shamrocks to the parade itself, the eight-member committee strives to bring more than plastic shamrocks and green beer to the citizens of Rochester.

To recognize persons the parade committee feels are exemplary in their service to the community, and who have made significant contributions to the civic, charitable, cultural and economic well-being of the Rochester area, the committee has chosen to name an "honorary leprechaun" this year. The parade theme, in fact, is "The Lore of the Leprechaun," in honor of the late Timothy Nolan, who was noted for his costumed "leprechaun visits" to area hospitals, where he would hand out green carnations to patients. The name of this year's leprechaun has not yet been released.

Obviously no strangers to St. Patrick's Day cheer, the Nolan family carries on the parade tradition with father John as this year's grand marshal. A member of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Rochester, Nolan is president of United Irish Societies, an organization that coordinates affiliated groups and gives aid to "every effort that has as its objective the moral, social and intellectual advancement of the Irish people and their descendants."

Nolan is also a member of the men's club at Good Counsel, where he serves as a lector, and is involved in charity work at such places as the School of the Holy Childhood, Ss. Peter & Paul's Kitchen, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and the Kidney Foundation of Upstate New York.

United Irish Societies each year awards the "Irishman of the Year" title to a local Irishman who has contributed to the preservation and growth of the Irish culture and tradition in America. This year's recipient is Edward "Ted" McGraw, host of "Irish Party House," a radio program broadcast Saturdays on WGMC (90.1 FM) from noon to 1 p.m.

McGraw is also responsible for helping to start the Irish Musicians Club. Since 1973, the club has met every second Friday of the month at Dirty's Tavern on Lake Avenue and conducts an open-door jam session, sometimes featuring as many as 20 fiddlers, a button accordion, tin whistle, flutes, guitars, banjos, bodhran (an Irish drum), pipes, harp, bass and even a hammer dulcimer.

McGraw is also a founding member of the Blackthorn Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) Band, Mason's Apron, the Golden Link Orchestra, the Genesee River Band and the Harps Band. Born in Rochester in 1937, he and his wife, Bridget (a native of County Kerry, Ireland), are members of St. Theodore's Parish in Rochester. He will perform during flag-raising ceremonies at City Hall on St. Patrick's Day and will be accompanied by the Blackthorn Ceilidh Band and soloist Loretta Doyle.

Doyle, a member of St. Helen's Parish in Rochester, is a soloist and choir member at St. Mary's Hospital chapel, St. Joseph's Infirmary, St. Cecilia's, St. Margaret Mary's, and United Church of Christ. She

has recently recorded a cassette of her favorite popular and religious tunes, and feels that using her God-given talent is her way of helping with the family finances.

Doyle and her husband, Andy, have four children, and Loretta and still manages to find time for studies at Hochstein Music School as well as performances with the Rochester Oratorio Society, the Bach Choir, and the Chautauqua Choir (by invitation). She will also be performing at a special memorial mass for Sean Hanly, to be held at St. Augustine's on Sunday, March 16, at 11 a.m. During that Mass, Andy Doyle will recite a Gaelic rendition of the Lord's Prayer.

This year's St. Patrick's Day events (held Saturday, March 15) start with the St.

Patrick's Mass at St. Mary's Church, downtown, at 9:30 a.m., and continue with the annual Run for the Shamrocks, a five-mile foot race starting at noon. The parade commences at 1 p.m.

Sponsored by United Irish Societies, the parade route runs along East Avenue to Main Street and ends at Plymouth Avenue. More than 50 bands (including the St. Charles Borromeo Band), marching units and floats are already committed to participating. The final event will be the United Irish Societies Dinner Dance at the Mapledale Party House, starting with cocktails at 6 p.m. For dinner tickets and information, contact any member of the United Irish Societies or the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The story of St. Patrick

Patrick, or Patricius, was born in western England to Calpornius in Bannavem Tiberniae. Kidnapped at the age of 16 during the raids of Niall and the Nine Hostages, Patrick was sold into slavery and put to the task of tending sheep at Antrim, Ireland.

It is theorized that he vowed to return in order to bring the teachings of the Church, which still flourished in Britain. Six years later he escaped his captors and traveled to Gaul to study the faith. Some stories indicate that while in Auxerre, he had a vivid dream, in which he heard the 'voices of the Irish' calling on him to return to them.

Under the guidance of St. Germain at Auxerre, Patrick received his priestly orders. After the sudden death of Palladius, who was originally sent to convert the Irish, Pope Celestine I entrusted Patrick with the task and consecrated him bishop in 432.

It is estimated that he landed at Wicklow Head during the summer of 433, whereby he was promptly attacked by Druids. He managed to erect a church at Sabhall in a barn given to him by a convert. Among his first converts were King Leoghaire's brothers, Conall and Dubhtach, although the mighty chieftain remained a pagan until his death.

Theory indicates that the conversions were the first indication of the designation of the shamrock as a symbol, which Patrick used to illustrate the Trinity.

A myth persists that St. Patrick was responsible for driving the snakes from Ireland. This myth probably originated with an analogy for the dawning of Christianity in

Ireland.

St. Patrick spent seven years in Connaught, setting up parishes and organizing the Catholic Church by teaching the chieftains. In 440, he set out to convert all of Ulster and founded a church at Armagh in 444.

He then proceeded to Meath and then to Leinster and Gowran, where he erected a church near the present city of Kilkenny. He went next to Munster, where he baptised Aengus, son of the king of Munster.

According to Irish record, St. Patrick consecrated no less than 350 bishops, and until his death watched over the churches he founded. He originally intended to found a branch of the Roman Church administered through large dioceses, and in which parish clergy and monks would coexist. The tribal makeup of the country, however, would not accept this type of organization and, instead of the episcopal church he had planned, a monastic church with a strong national spirit was born.

St. Patrick died in 461 of old age, and was buried at Down at the site of a chieftain's Dun, or fort. A cathedral was later built on the burial site.

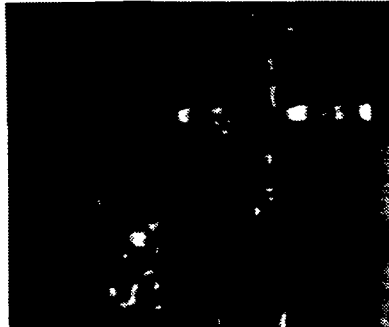
His feast day, March 17, is akin to our Thanksgiving Day. Public displays are common in Ireland, though it is the American-Irish who elevated the St. Patrick's Day Parade to a fine art.

St. Patrick is patron of Ireland and of numerous cathedrals in Ireland, the United States and Australia. Among the emblems of St. Patrick are the baptismal font, the Celtic cross, the harp, demons and the shamrock.

LADIES' AND MEN'S ROSARIES



LADIES'
6mm Fire Polished
Crystal-like Beads.
Length 22"



MEN'S
Genuine Natural
Brown Coco Beads.
Length 20"

Covenant Bookstore takes immense pride in offering you their most beautiful, his and hers rosaries. We guarantee you will be more than delighted with their brilliance and high quality. With each Rosary ordered, you will also receive a free scapular.

Covenant Bookstore, Inc. (716) 266-4058
563 Titus Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Please send me at once, (check one) _____ (ladies') _____ (men's) _____ (both) rosary(s) at only \$8.99 each plus .63 tax and \$1.00 for postage and handling, or only \$17.00 for both rosaries, plus \$1.19 tax and \$1.00 for postage and handling.

I am enclosing check or money order for \$10.62 payment in full for one rosary, as indicated above. I am enclosing check or money order for \$19.19 payment in full for two rosaries, as indicated above.

Mail my Gift-boxed Rosary(s) to: (please print)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(allow 2-3 weeks for delivery)

Divorce Mediation

An alternative path to a divorce settlement.

For further information call:

Tom Hanson
546-7220

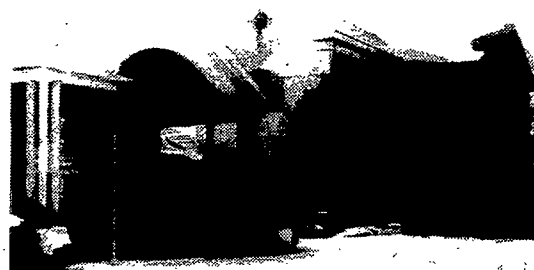
Catholic Family Center
50 Chestnut Plaza
Rochester, New York 14604.

Traditional Celebration

Our Lady of the Genesee Council Knights of Columbus will present its annual St. Patrick's Day dance on Saturday, March 15 from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. in the Guardian Angels Hall, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd. The Willie Adam Band will provide musical entertainment for this year's gala along with the world's biggest leprechaun. The cost is \$13.99 per couple. Call (716)334-8997 for more information.

Metropolitan Funeral Chapels, Inc.

109 West Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14611
(716) 436-7730



- Quality
- Tradition
- Courtesy
- Elegance
- Economy

Funeral Home Associates
Michael Carter
W. Lynn Dobbs

"We Make It Easier"