

President's
Pint of View



Hope everyone is enjoying their winter vacations if you're so lucky to have one. I'm recharging myself in Daytona during the Rolex 24hr endurance race. This should be good practice for 2 days of celebration in March. Just because the parade is on the 18th doesn't mean we aren't doing anything on the 17th, come down to Sully's for our traditional flag raising at 8am and help us sing the National anthem. Just remember this year will be an endurance test so don't celebrate too hard on the 17th we will need all the volunteers we can get. Speaking of volunteering we have the Skywalk Open up next on Saturday February 27th. This is a promotional event and a chance to sell raffle tickets. So come out and check out our T, it's one of the best at the Open. Well it looks like it's time for some more recharging. See you at the meeting.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

The priest was waiting on Saturday afternoon for his usual parade of people coming to confession. In comes a man so drunk, he is stumbling down the aisle, bouncing from pew to pew. Finally he finds the confessional, goes in, and shuts the door.

The priest goes in his side and waits. Nothing happens. He clears his throat so the fellow might know he is there and ready. No reaction. Finally, he starts losing his patience and bangs sharply on the wall three times.

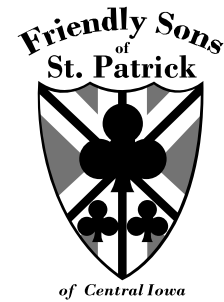
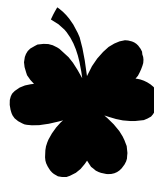
The drunk fellow in the confessional says, "It's no use knockin'...There's no paper in here either!"



Murphy walked with his dog every day all through the villiage, so everyone knew both Murphy and his dog.

One day Murphy is on his walk without the dog. Cronin sees Murphy and asks, "Where is your dog?". Murphy answers, "I had to have him put down." "Was he mad", asks Cronin. "He wasn't too pleased," says Murphy.

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickie Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50314



The Blarney

Upcoming:

Orlando's Sausage and Meatball Sandwiches - lovingly prepared by *Bill McCarthy* Salad

Annual First Tee Skywalk Golf Classic - Feb 27

NEXT MEETING
March 14th at the Marriott.

PARADE MEETING.
Dates for Parade meetings
Tuesday Feb 16th @ 7pm
Sunday Feb 28th @ 2pm
Wednesday March 9th @ 7pm
Sunday March 13th @ 2pm

Location: Marriott Downtown
(Windows on 7th room)



Board Contact Info:

President - Mike O'Connell
moconn317@gmail.com ~ 271-0018
Vice President - Tim Schuck
tschuck@smithmetzger.com ~ 778-8390
Treasurer - Mike Murphy
mikemurphy@ishsi.com ~ 537-7699
Secretary - Ed Kelly
ylleke@mchsi.com ~ 577-3843
Mike Dennis
mdennis1958@gmail.com ~ 779-7026
Bill McCarthy
mccar7660@aol.com ~ 975-5254
Jim O'Donnell
jmodonnell@dsmairport.com~971-0781
Tony Schmid
fsopstony@outlook.com ~ 554-1107
Bree Young
breetattoo@yahoo.com ~ 720-2580

FEBRUARY [FEABHRA] 2016

THE IRISH HARP

The Irish harp, though not as popularly well-known around the world as the shamrock for being an Irish symbol, is the official emblem of Ireland. This status dates back several centuries and the instrument's history tells much about the history of the island.

Today, a representation of the traditional harp is to be found on the Presidential Seal and on many official documents, on passports, on the flag of Leinster (but not the national flag), on Irish euro coins and as a logo for a number of prominent state-supported organisations such as the National University of Ireland. As one of the national symbols of Ireland the harp is also used extensively by businesses and other corporations wishing to convey 'Irish-ness'. Guinness bottle labels are perhaps its most famous gig while a heavily stylised harp puts in an appearance on the tail fins of budget carrier Ryan Air.

There are a number of names for the Irish harp. It is also known as the Celtic harp, the Gaelic harp, the clàrsach (in Scotland) or the clàirseach (in the modern Irish language). Purists might argue some minor points of difference, but to the layman, these terms are synonymous. While its earliest origins are lost, the Irish harp has a certain history dating back at least 1000 years. Brian Boru, the last High King of Ireland (d 1014), is said to have been an accomplished player, but while he is attributed with all manner of skills for which there is no evidence, surviving 12-century annals refer to the Celtic harp being the only music played during the Crusades.

At this time, the Gaelic harp was revered in Celtic culture (and all over



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Parade and Website News



The time is upon us for the 2016 St. Patrick's Day celebration. It's our largest event of the year so it requires the largest group of volunteers.

We will be painting the staging numbers on MLK the weekend prior to the Parade and dozens of volunteers will be required on parade day for staging, crowd control, and de-staging.

If you can help with the event, please come see me at the February meeting or contact me.

(Mike Dennis / 515-779-7026 / irish.chaiman@gmail.com)

Web Updates (friendlysonsiowa.com)

Sponsorship levels have been updated on the website with a download link if you wish to print it to share with potential sponsors.

Pictures are needed from all of the Friendly Sons events. Please contact me about acquiring any pictures you have.

SAVE A TREE if you are receiving your "Blarney" via the U.S. mail you could consider getting it emailed to you along with a friendly reminder of our upcoming monthly meeting. Just let me know.

**GO TO THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM FOR ANY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR
FORMS. ALL PARADE FORMS ARE ON THE SITE.**

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Europe). It was de rigeur for Scottish and Irish kings and chieftains to have their own resident harper who, in turn, enjoyed high status and special privileges. The musician's main duties were to accompany poetry recitations or the singing of psalms. While they may have composed their own music, they did not write them down.

The English monarch Henry VIII declared himself King of Ireland in 1531. Such was the fame and prestige of the county's harp, it was chosen as the official national symbol of Ireland and stamped onto the coinage of Henry's new realm.

The Celtic social order was on the wane by this time and as the decades pass, harpers lost much of their status, and their numbers declined. Some become travelling musicians, playing their harps and singing, because rich patrons no longer retained them. In many ways, the harp's success became a problem. Still very much recognised as a symbol of Ireland and Irish pride, the Gaelic harp became an emblem of resistance to the Crown and England. As such, it was banned at the end of the medieval period and the old Celtic harp tradition began to die out. By the 18th century, the Scottish clarsach had disappeared. A century later, the Irish harp, too, was extinct.

Fortunately, a group of harpers had been lured to Belfast in 1792 for a traditional harp festival where the musician and folk music collector, Edward Bunting wrote down the music they played and the terminology of the harpers.. This was the first time traditional Gaelic harp music had been recorded on paper and it is thanks to Bunting that these genuine Celtic tunes were not lost forever. ♣

Board News

Dylan DeClerck, representing Opportunity on Deck, provided a presentation to the Board about his nonprofit organization. Opportunity on Deck is volunteer based and provides athletic opportunities (baseball, basketball and soccer) for those disadvantaged youth that would not get an opportunity to play sports.

More information is included as an attachment about the sponsorship levels. A decision will be made at a later time. Overall, the Board was impressed with the fine work done by this group in our communities.

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The Queen selection rooms have been reserved by Mike O'. This will occur at the Mickle Center on March 10th at 6 PM. The board room and the dining room will be utilized.

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Scheduled for Saturday, February 27th. The hole will be set up and taken down by the O'Donnell Clan. Some volunteers have already signed up. Mike M. has sent in the \$300 registration fee. The times of the event are yet to be determined. Bill will provide the gifts for the hole in one prizes.

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Don't Forget: Dues are Due. \$40.00 for a year of fun and frivolity. We'll make it go far and help a lot of folks!