

President's Pint of View



This month my pint of view is Bell's Oberon, or some days, Hamms.

July just leads me to the next pint which leads me to the next view whether that is the inside of my refrigerator or the inside of the cooler.

It could be my garage fridge which means I'm probably doing yardwork, honeydews or lounging on the patio. It's quite possibly the most important tool in my garage.

Now if I'm looking in a cooler, it's all about play. If it's a soft-side cooler, I'm probably on a bike trail somewhere or on a disc golf course around town enjoying a relaxing afternoon.

If I'm looking at a hard-side cooler, I'm probably at a party or a reunion or maybe I am at the July FSOSP meeting.

So see you at the meeting and maybe we can share a few views with our pints.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

An engineer dies and goes to Hell. Dissatisfied with the level of comfort, he starts designing and building improvements. After a while, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators.

One day God calls and asks Satan, "So, how's it going down there?"

Satan says, "Hey things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God is horrified. "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake, he should never have gone down there! You know all engineers go to Heaven. Send him up here!"

Satan says, "No way. He's popular here and I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue."

"Yeah, right," Satan laughs, "and where are you going to get a lawyer?"



John, woke up after the annual office party with a pounding headache, cotton-mouthed and utterly unable to recall the events of the preceding evening. His wife put some coffee in front of him.

"Louise," he moaned, "tell me what happened last night.

Was it as bad as I think?"

"Even worse," she said, her voice oozing scorn. "You made a complete ass of yourself, antagonized the entire board and you insulted the president of the company right to his face."

"He's a jerk," John said. "Piss on him."

"You did," came the reply. "And he fired you."

"Well, screw him!" said John.

"I did. You're back at work on Monday."

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



The Blarney

Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

July 11, 6:30 p.m.

Menu:

BBQ Pulled Pork/
Smoked Brisket/
Baked Beans / Potato Salad

Annual Iowa Irish Fest

Aug. 5-7

Next Meeting

August 8

"Friends of the Friends"



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JULY [IÚIL] 2016

Irish contribution to the Revolution

"May the Kingdom of Ireland merit a stripe in the American Standard"

– Marquis de Lafayette, 1779 on the contributions of the Irish to the American Revolution

The recent July 4th holiday was a time to celebrate our country's beginnings, and we should take note of the historic presence of the Irish during that momentous time.

In the midst of the American Revolution, General George Washington issued an official proclamation in recognition of St. Patrick's Day. In honor of the high percentage of Irish-born and Irish-American troops under his command, the proclamation declared March 17, 1780 a holiday for the Continental Army stationed in Morristown, New Jersey. It was the first holiday granted to the troops in two years. General Washington awarded this holiday "as an act of solidarity with the Irish in their fight for independence."

People from Ireland were the largest single group to arrive in the 13 colonies in the 75 years leading up to the American Revolution. Having fled an oppressive system at home, these immigrants needed little persuasion to enlist in the cause of American liberty. Sources claim anywhere from 35% -66% of the colonial forces were Irish. Many of Irish ancestry, therefore, are to be found among the officers and leaders of the rebellion:

- The first Secretary of the Continental Congress and the designer of the Great Seal of the United States, Charles Thomson.
- 3 signers of the Declaration of Independence: Matthew Thorton, James Smith and George Taylor. Six more were of Irish background: Charles Carroll, Thomas Lynch, Thomas McKean, Edward Rutledge and George Read.
- 4 signers of the Constitution: Pierce Butler, Thomas Fitzsimmons, James McHenry and William Patterson.
- Printer of the Declaration of Independence, John Dunlop.
 - The father of the American Navy, John Barry.
 - 5 Aides decamp of General Washington.
 - Sharpshooter Tim Murphy of Morgan's Rifles.
- Sixteen generals were from Ireland, including Generals Moylan, Montgomery, Knox.
 - The Pennsylvania Line was also known as the Line of Ireland.
- First units to be sent by France were the Irish Brigades under Walsh, Dillon and Roche.
- State governors Thomas Burke of North Carolina and John McKinly of South Carolina and first governor of Pennsylvania, George Bryan.
 - Fedanus Burke, one of the most notable figures in revolutionary South Carolina.
 - Washington's intelligence men: Hercules Mulligan and John Honeyman.
 - Architect of the White House, James Hoban.

Thus, the Irish were an integral part in the fight against the British during the American War of Independence, yet are rarely recognized for their contributions. 🍀

Gender differences: Feen vs. Beour

Men, ever notice that you and your friends are seldom depressed, just generally happier than the women in your lives? Consider why that is:

- | | |
|---|---|
| The garage is all yours.
⌘ | Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.
⌘ |
| Wedding plans take care of themselves and your last name stays put.
⌘ | You know stuff about tanks.
⌘ |
| Chocolate is just another snack.
⌘ | A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.
⌘ |
| You can be President. (Hold on...)
⌘ | You can open all your own jars.
⌘ |
| You can never be pregnant.
⌘ | You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
⌘ |
| You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.
⌘ | If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.
⌘ |
| You can wear NO shirt to a water park.
⌘ | Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack.
⌘ |
| Car mechanics tell you the truth.
⌘ | Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
⌘ |
| The world is your urinal.
⌘ | You almost never have strap problems in public.
⌘ |
| You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.
⌘ | You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.
⌘ |
| You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
⌘ | Everything on your face stays its original color.
⌘ |
| Same work, more pay.
⌘ | The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.
⌘ |
| Wrinkles add character.
⌘ | You only have to shave your face and neck.
⌘ |
| Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental \$100.
⌘ | You can play with toys all your life.
⌘ |
| People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them on the street.
⌘ | You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.
⌘ |
| New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.
⌘ | You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife.
⌘ |
| One mood all the time.
⌘ | You have freedom of choice about growing a mustache.
⌘ |
| | You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.
⌘ |

And, consider these differences about...

MONEY

- ⌘ A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.
- ⌘ A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but is on sale.

BATHROOMS

- ⌘ A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.
- ⌘ The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337.
- ⌘ A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items. 🍀

Board News

The June treasurer's report was sunny. The coffers are full and recent events were profitable.

Both our Irish Open disc golf outing on May 14 and the June 11 Leprechaun Open had a full entrant roster and each cleared over \$500.

□□□

At the June board meeting, a \$50 memorial contribution to St. Anthony's School was approved. It is to be sent in the name of Dee O'Donnell.

□□□

At that same meeting, member Bob Myers spoke on behalf of the "Hope for the Warriors" program.

It was "founded by military families aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC in 2006 as they witnessed, firsthand, the effects war imparts on service members and their families. Hope For The Warriors has remained grounded in family values as the organization expands both the span of programs offered and the number of wounded, family members, and families of the fallen assisted."

Myers emphasized that the program seeks to provide a safety net for the many thousands of mentally and physically wounded vets of recent wars, as well as the surviving families of those killed.

Unlike some other bogus national efforts, 94% of the money raised goes to the vets.

A donation of \$1,000 was unanimously approved.

□□□

Anyone want to volunteer as a chair for the **Sept. 17 Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride**? Speak up at the meeting next week and get involved in our group's activities.

Planning is underway and raffle tickets will be ready to distribute at the July meeting.

As always, we are looking for sponsors to help shoulder some of the expense. Relay some names to us.

Requiescat in pace

Sadly, we noted the passing of Dee O'Donnell, matriarch of that large clan, on June 12.

Her late husband, Dan Sr., was an honored, dear friend of the Friends, as is a son, Jim, our current Irishman of the Year.

We send our condolences to the family, who have indicated that memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

BLARNEYBITS

Soon, invites to our annual "Friends of the Friends" August meeting will be in snail mail.

We'll serve up a picnic-style menu and show a little love for all the organizations that help us throughout the year, as well as hosting some representatives of the groups we donate to.

As always, bring a bag of canned goods for the Food Bank and you'll get your meal for free that month. 🍀

Just in case you found yourself getting some smarmy comments from friends (and others) in recent months about how "you Irish dudes must be swimming in it after the city made it rain with the 10G's this year," consider a few talking points to straighten them out.

Parade expenses are HIGH each year, running just under \$23,000. Lay that on them and then say that even though we had almost \$32,000 income from the event, which was typical, after the city's donation, we STILL lost a grand.

Your math-savvy friends should see that in a typical year we stand to lose about \$10,000.

Clearly, our mission is not to pay that kind of money for a city party each March and we'd like to see that made up by sponsors. The search for some financial aid goes on. 🍀

Upcoming events

JULY 20

STU RYAN O'BRIEN IRISH SING-ALONG / 7-9 P.M.
SULLY'S PUB

JULY 26

FAT TIRE FUN RIDE #3
Bike ride heads from Des Moines Social Club at 6:30 p.m.
Riders have a chance to win a 2016 New Belgium Cruiser.

AUG. 5-7

IOWA IRISH FEST / DOWNTOWN WATERLOO, IA
HOSTED BY CEDAR VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL ASSN.

AUG. 26-27

IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL / DUBUQUE, IA

SEPT. 2-4

ANNUAL KANSAS CITY IRISH FEST
CROWN CENTER SQUARE & WASHINGTON PARK
FRI., 5-11 P.M. / SAT. & SUN., 10-11 P.M.

