

Shillelagh Sentinel

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Thomas Francis Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians
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This monthly newsletter is the official publication of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians. Its purpose is to inform members of all activities of the Division.

HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT 2007 !



HIBERNIAN BANNER

It won't be long now until we have a grand banner in Bert and Ernie's in downtown Helena. Brother Joe Calnan has been working on this project for some time now and it soon will be a reality. The fine piece of work will be a green field with gold lettering, 72"x 32", with the Hibernian crest on the left and

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ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER DIVISION
HELENA, MONTANA

(cumann MEANS club, group, association)

Now this banner will be up for Saint Patrick's Day and there for a long time. We have Brother Toby De Wolf, owner of Bert and Ernie's to thank, as well as Brother Joe Calnan. This fine downtown Pub will be our official meeting place in Helena for any public social gathering. Now we have kind of a home.

JANUARY INITIATION

We've already reported that we had a fine time at last month's meeting with the induction of three new members, but we forgot to thank and praise Doug Remick for the wonderful pasty dinner. Doug is one of those guys that does a great job with little effort. But we must thank him for that tasty repast.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY 2007

Things are shaping up for another wonderful celebration for the Feast Day of our Patron Saint. Jim Hammill tells us that the Flag

Raising will be on Friday, the 16th, to begin at 8:00 AM, with the State elected officials present. Then all will proceed into the Rotunda for a fine program. Next event is the parade, on Wed. the 17th to begin at 12 noon in the Cathedral parking lot. Shortly after the parade, those Brothers who have volunteered to visit the rest homes will begin their journey. Holy Mass will begin at 5:15 in St. Helena Cathedral with all the elements of a true Saint Patrick's Day Mass, which is at 5:15 to accommodate the Cathedral Parish. From there we'll go downstairs to begin the dinner, followed by some great entertainment. Cost--\$10 for adults, \$5 for 12 and under. In the March Shill, Sen, we'll fill out the details.

NEED SOME CELTIC ITEMS?

Who needs a colorful Hibernian tri color Sash? Phyllis Gilreath (442 7743) will provide. Also, if you haven't seen the exquisite art work of Marty Lord in his family coats of arms, look in hibernian.org. To have yours done call Marty at 449 7221.

OUR ANNUAL RETREAT

Well, we did it again! And what a treat it was. We opened with singing of the Soldier's Song, a reading of Saint Patrick's Breast Plate and prayers from The Glenstal Book Of Prayer, all done in a circle of life just as the Celts would do, because they didn't see life as a straight line but a never ending round. Led by our masterly leader, Gabe Brennan, we discussed the life of Saint Patrick to learn more why he is referred to as "The Glorious Apostle of Ireland". Patrick fasted and prayed to enhance his spirituality and encourages us to do the same. We viewed Croagh Patrick, that wondrous mountain in Co. Mayo, where Patrick spent 40 days & nights to purify himself before beginning the conversion of Ireland. We were then treated to a video on Henri Nouwen, that saintly preacher who inspires immediately. We closed with the blessing of the whole person and dedication to

God's work. Thanks Jack, for your beautiful chateau, and thanks again to Gabe for his spiritual guidance.

DVD ON MICHAEL COLLINS

We now have several copies of "Hang Up Your Brightest Colors", the dvd on the life (and death) of Michael Collins, thanks to Joe Calnan and Jim Hammill. This is the show that many of you had the privilege of seeing a while back in East Helena. Our copies are for "educational purposes only", which means for our edification. It's 1hr, 21 minutes long and boy! Is it well done. Ask Jim or Hank about it. Incidentally, there is available for some real enjoyment a novel about the Irish titled, "Ireland" by Frank Delaney. This dandy work is now available in paperback for \$7.95 from a book dealer in Minnesota. This is a magnificent work that every good Irishman would want to read. Let Hank know and we'll order a few copies.

HELENA HIBERNIANS

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PROUD TO BE HIBERNIANS

Every once in a while we have to be reminded that we belong to an organization with a great history and raison d'être—the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Remember why it was founded way back in the 1500's? To protect the lives of priests who risked death to keep the Catholic faith alive in Ireland. When the brotherhood came to the U.S in 1836 the AOH was to harbor and give succor to Irish immigrants, which it did in an incredible way. And don't forget the pain the Irish suffered over the centuries at the hands of the British. The Irish kept their Catholic faith, their language, their music, literature, and their great spirit and passed them all down to you American Irish, often through organizations like the Hibernians. Let's be proud to be who we are and celebrate that pride every chance we get.

THE LEPRECHAUN

There are still a few copies of Bob Morgan's gift to our Division—prints of a really fine painting of a leprechaun. Now all Irish have some degree of belief in these little fellas, so it's nice to have a representation of him hanging on the wall of one's home. The cost of these artful items is just \$125, and there are four versions, either a gold or oak frame, with dark or light green mats. Get yours before Saint Patrick's Day. Call Hank at 442-3903.

ELECTRONIC SHILLELAGH SENTINEL

We now have 25 e-mail addresses for the

Monthly newsletter. We have 9 that didn't pan out. Anybody else interested? E-mail Hank at: hawkhenry07@bresnan.net

DATE TO REMEMBER

Feb. 13th Regular meeting 7pm KC Hall Discussion on plans for Saint Patrick's Day.

Please come. Your input is needed.

