

SHILLELAGH SENTINEL

Vol. II, No. 976

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER DIVISION

JIM HAMMILL, PRESIDENT

HELENA, MT

JUNE 2008

June regular meeting Tuesday, June 9, 5:30 KC Hall

At next Tuesdays meeting well have our annual Past Presidents Steak Fry

Social hour 5:30 Dinner at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00

“Keep the Faith” and “Be proud of your Irish heritage”.

TRIP TO IRELAND. Joe Calnan is to be commended for all the fine effort he is putting into organizing the journey to the Old Sod in September. He has been in contact with a number of valuable people to arrange the flight, the travel, and meeting with some important Irish dignitaries. Please give serious consideration to making the trip with your Hibernian Brothers. You’ve only a few days left to make a real commitment. An itinerary and cost sheet is available. Contact Mike O’Connor (442-3396) for a copy by e-mail. Contact Joe (933-5759) within the next few days if you’d like to join us. This could be a trip to remember for a lifetime.

MEMORIAL DAY. ‘Twas a busy day for Hibernians. A great group of 12 members showed at Resurrection Cemetery for the raising of the American flag in honor of all those who have served in the Armed Forces of our country. And the newly refurbished flagpole really stood out. (More on this later) Then the fine Hibernian Brothers departed for Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in East Helena for Holy Mass, concelebrated by our much-loved Fr. Tom O’Donnell and his fine assistant, Fr. Bart Tollefson. Coffee and donuts were enjoyed afterwards. Finally, we departed for the East Helena Veterans parade and commemoration. Our group of 10 proudly gathered directly behind the Shining Thistle Pipe Band to take part in the patriotic event. Hibernian Brothers Jim Heffernan served as Parade Marshall, Tom Huddleston carried the U.S. Marines flag, Joe Calnan the U.S. Coast Guard flag. Thanks fellas, for your participation. It was a proud day for our organization.

A MEMORIAL FOR GENERAL MEAGHER AT FORT BENTON It might be a good time to reinvigorate the plan to get a monument that honors Meagher at Fort Benton. Remember, the only memorial that recognizes the General in Montana is the equine statue at our State Capitol. Brother Bob Morgan several months ago grabbed the challenge for a marker at Fort Benton, and presented us with some very well thought out details on how to go about it. We now need a small but capable and determined committee, including Bob Morgan, Dan Sullivan and several other properly mentioned names.

HELENA HIBERNIANS AT WORK Members of our Thomas Francis Meagher Division were busy in May on projects to enhance the area. With Mike Murphy as chief push, Bob Moes, Mike O’Connor, and Darrell Ehlert have redone our flagpole at Resurrection Cemetery. With a lift bucket supplied by Power Townsend Co. and operated by Tom Kain of the cemetery crew, Mike Murphy scraped and cleaned the pole, put on an undercoat and a new coat of paint donated by Sherwin Williams Paint Co. A new gold cross was placed on top and a new rope replaced the old one, both supplied at a discount

by Montana Flag and Pole Co. The other guys did the ground work. The plaque at the base was replaced with a new one, noting that the Helena Hibernians erected the original flagpole in 1987. Our guys were aided by Scott Fitzpatrick, Foreman at the cemetery, so we also repainted their flagpole. Great job, youse guys. Thanks Helena businesses.

Our Hibernians, guided by Brother P.J. McHugh, completed their annual job of restoring the Grotto of The Blessed Mother on the Carroll Campus after the wear and tear of the winter. The grounds were raked and swept, bushes were trimmed, and flowers planted. This beautiful shrine, modeled after the Grotto at Notre Dame University, was carved from solid rock back in the late 1930's and early 40's. Our Division takes great pride in renewing the grotto each spring since 1995. Those who donated time were Brothers P.J. McHugh, Mike Murphy, Dennis O'Reilly and his two sons, Pat Connors, Allen Cormany, and Hank Burgess. An extended story, with pictures, will be sent out to Division members on e-mail.

VIRGINIA CITY Four valiant members traveled to Virginia City for their parade. And we hear that it rained all the way down and back but held off while there. Mike O'Connor, Joe Calnan, Mike Murphy, and Bob Moes made the journey and were first in the parade with our Hibernian banner. They had to lend the local Sheriff our American flag to lead the parade, but were thanked with a pint of Guinness each in the Bale of Hay Saloon. We're still some of their favorite people.

AN RI RA The 2008 An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival, now its 10th year, will be held in historic Uptown Butte August 8-10. The Festival will include a grand schedule that we'll put in our Shillelagh Sentinel in the next two issues. We are encouraged to consider this top notch Irish event by our good friend, Lorretta Lynde, who does such great work for the affair.

For those who would like to receive the Shillelagh Sentinel by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Mike O'Connor (mikeoconnor@hibernian.org). We'd like to reduce the number of mailed copies. Thanks for your consideration.

HELENA HIBERNIANS
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Quiet the Worry Wheel
Pray a lot