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FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH OLD BRIDGE, NJ



SHENANIGANS

Gentlemen,

Let me begin by extending my condolences to two of our FSOS families. We lost Joe Peel on March 9, 2014 and Thomas O'Reilly on April 2, 2014. Our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time. Please remember them in your prayers.

Next, I would like to apologize to the members who did not receive a phone call announcing the passing of our members. We are looking into the problem and hope to correct it soon.

Well, another March Madness is now behind us and there are many people that need a much deserved rest. The preparation that goes into our festivities in March takes a lot of planning as well as time and dedication. Thank you to Jim Hartwyk, Tom McCarthy and their team of leprechauns that worked their magic. To the kitchen crew who so graciously gave of their time leading up to St. Patrick's Day. From cooking and slicing the corned beef to serving it up and cleaning the kitchen, I thank you. The crew consists of Jane, Dot, Maureen, Miriam, Cathy, Roseann, Bill, Butch and the girls, Maria, Christy and Fiona. You guys are the best.

John Sheridan and the Dinner Dance Committee once again did a fantastic job on the dinner dance. What a grand night it was. If you haven't had a chance to attend this event, you should plan on it next March. It is such a fun filled evening and the venue, the Molly Pitcher Inn, is so beautiful. The music by the Jazz Lobsters gets everyone up dancing. The dance floor was so packed that I didn't have any room for my disco moves. The food and drink was once again top notch. It was great to see so many members, our wives and friends having such a terrific time. Thank you, John, for once again coordinating the evening.

I would like to extend my congratulations to this year's Irishman of the year, Charlie Donnelly. In my opinion, this is a man that goes over and above for our club. There are so many little things that Charlie handles for our club in addition to spearheading many of our club functions. He is always willing to lend a hand whenever he can. This is a long overdue honor for Charlie and an outstanding choice for Irishman of the Year by the committee. Thank you, Charlie Donnelly for all you do for our great club.

In closing I would like to personally thank Kenny Brown and Kevin Wyer for installing the new door in the back room. This is another instance of members that go above and beyond for the club. Now all we need is for Walter to come up north to paint it. Come on Walter, I dare you!

Thank you all for your support.

All the best,
Scott



KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

Saturday, May 3rd

3PM...until sometime after the race

Appetizers, light snacky things, yes MINT Juleps too. There will be a Ladies Hat Contest, for Ladies, a bottle of bubbly to the winner. Race pools of all sorts, preliminary races, and Racing movies galore.

Let's make the "Run For The Roses" a run for the pints lads!
See Jimmy Hartwyck

Easter Facts

1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ three days after his death. It is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the church year.
2. Christians consider Easter eggs to symbolize joy and celebration, new life and resurrection.
3. Households spend \$131 on Easter each year, \$14.7 billion in total.
4. After Halloween, Easter is the biggest candy consuming holiday. 120 million pounds of candy are bought each year, enough to fill four dump trucks.
5. 90 million chocolate bunnies, 91.4 billion eggs and 700 million peeps are produced each year in the United States.
6. 76% of people eat the ears on chocolate bunnies first.
7. Americans consume over 16 million jellybeans on Easter, enough to circle the globe three times over.
8. Half of the states in the United States have banned the practice of dyeing chicks for Easter. However, Florida recently overturned the 45-year-old law of preventing the dyeing of animals, which will come into effect July 1st.
9. When coloring Easter eggs, it is recommended to use food grade dyes, commercial egg dyes, fruit-drink powders or liquid food coloring.
10. To help Americans in need, egg farmers across the country are donating more than 11 million eggs to food banks across the nation.

"People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."

– Rogers Hornsby



Widows Luncheon

Sunday April 27th at 1pm

THIS IS THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUNCHEON. HOPE TO SEE ALL ATTEND. INVITATIONS WERE SENT OUT. PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. and enter your menu selections. **If you are not able to drive, please feel free to invite a guest who will supply transportation.**

We would love to see all the widows get together and truly enjoy themselves. FORMER PRESIDENTS PLEASE KEEP THE DATE OPENED, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

BOB QUINN

EASTER EGG HUNT

Please join us once again, to hunt for "real" Easter Eggs, Bring the kids down, or the "yolk" is on you!
11:30 sign up, 12 noon start, Hot Dogs, Soda,
Candy, loads of tons of fun! SATURDAY, April 12th

See Marty Cameron for questions.

Diner Dance- Wonderful Time, overheard;

"California has survived many Earthquakes, but John's rendition of "Hotel California" may finally knock it off the continent"



50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Building of One Oak Street, Madison Twp, N.J. THE ORIGINAL BUILDING

The first general meeting of the "Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh" was held at the Turf Club on Route 9. It seems Mr. Loftus was an official of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Newark and would be very receptive to an organization that originated principally to march in the Newark parade. We began meeting in the big room but gradually as the business began to grow we were moved to the bar area where we had trouble because the area was a public bar and too small for our growing organization.

One night we decided to transfer our meeting to O'Hara's bar on Route 9 just over the Sayerville border. We went there because we were planning to hold a Christmas party at O'Hara's. At the Christmas party in the midst of the merry proceedings one of our illustrious group decided he was Gene Krupa and wrecked the drums. Needless to say this put a damper on any future meeting at O'Hara's. No matter, we had made arrangements to hold our meeting at the American Legion Home in Old Bridge. We met there for a while, but then moved to the Knights of Columbus on Pine Street. All the time, we were moving from place to place,

we were looking for a piece of property we could acquire in order to someday build our own club. Tom English who was at that time the Tax Collector of Madison Township supplied us with a list of Township-owned property which was available for sale. Jack William's was in charge of our building committee and at our regular meeting on March 10, 1966 in the American Legion, Jack informed the membership that, "we have made a bid for piece of property and he expected action soon". He was right, for on the 30th of September 1966, we purchased 5 and 4/10 acres of land on Oak Street. The Shillelagh's were now men of property and they were itching to do something about building a Club. But there was one thing holding them back, the money!

Our capable leader Jack Dunphy got together with a local banker, Al Reilly, of Amboy Madison National Bank. Mr. Reilly was invited to the Knights of Columbus in Old Bridge to speak to the members about the monies needed to build the club.

Loans to each member of the club in the amount of \$150.00 were made and the project was off the ground and flying.

Edward Reilly The Architect-Engineer from Perth Amboy, was commissioned to



draw up the plans, and on December 19, 1966 a resolution was introduced by then Mayor Harry Messenger, seconded by the Councilman Spiros Columbus, authorizing the Friendly Sons to go ahead with construction.

Harvey Nielson, a local contractor, was named "Clerk of the Works", and the main man in charge for the Friendly Sons was Ed Starace, and so the "Work Committee" came into existence.

The first order of business was to clear the land, and Joe Cuff and Ed Starace made a few fast maneuvers and purchased a small bulldozer. The humor and the conversation generated about the bulldozer made the whole thing worth it's weight in laughter.

On the serious side, a miracle is defined as "an event or happening contrary to the laws of nature, caused by divine intervention". Well I am not certain how much divine intervention we had but suddenly the "Miracle on Oak Street" began to take place. The footings were poured, the cinder block walls started to rise, steel began to arrive, and heavy equipment was obtained. It soon became evident that the Friendly Sons possessed a wealth of talent in its members. The work committees sometimes were small consisting of only a couple of men, and sometimes there were so many on the job you could not keep track of them all.

When steel was needed, we had Harry Knox as our expert. For anything relating to roofing, we had the O'Malley's; for iron workers, we had Bob Trachman; for procurement we had Jack Dunphy; for carpentry we had Jim Moller and Joe Striffler; for electrical we had Don Fenlon and Mike Long.

And as each day passed, the construction continued until finally the "Miracle On Oak Street" was completed.

It is a tribute to a noble group of Irishmen who believed enough in themselves and in their fellow Irishmen to undertake and accomplish this dream.

50th Anniversary Meeting information...

Now that we are getting closer to our celebration, we will be meeting the night before our general meeting each month.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00pm in our club lounge.

If everyone on the committee could confirm that this date works that would be appreciated.

Our next meeting is very important so we can map out a schedule for what needs to be achieved ahead of time for the future meetings and start moving forward towards our goal here, as a "Team".

Membership News

EFFECTIVE AS OF THE **MARCH** MEETING

1st Reading:

Robert Flanagan, Sponsor - William Nolan
Michael Mischler, Sponsor - Dave Cummins
Michael Sullivan, Sponsor - Keith Gardner
Chris Styles, Sponsor - Ken Shanley

2nd Reading: None

New Members:

Tom Kelly, and Jim McKeehan, WELCOME



April Anniversaries

10 YEARS

JAMES FEASTER
JEFF SCHULD

AD Book: Joe Peel #213, R.I.P. F.I.L.F.F.C: Mike Bell, Keegan was slow off the snap



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