

THE IRISH SOCIETY NEWS

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The Irish Society
www.TheIrishSociety.org
P.O. Box 820010
Houston, Texas 77282

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ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER



Here is Tom Horan pointing to his UST graduating class photo. Tom graduated in the class of 1966.



Here is Larry pointing to his respective UST graduating class photo. Larry was in the class of 1952.

Our March 15, 2013 annual Dinner will celebrate three AOH Icons, but also the Ancient Order of Hibernians which will always be in our memory here in Houston. These 3 lifetime Irish Society members are Larry Miggins, Tom Horan, & Burke O'Rourke. Larry and Tom insist that you make your reservations now!

And they request that you make your annual dues renewal payments ASAP.

Please look at our insert to learn about the presence of the Irish in early Houston & their contributions to the Downtown area. The many buildings which they helped to build are worth investigating.

PLEASE REMEMBER DEAR SR. MURIEL

Here she is with Tom Horan at this year's UST Irish Gala at the Houstonian. She made an unannounced appearance & surprised all. She made it to this glorious event thanks to June & Eamonn Finnerty. We know that she would be thrilled to hear from any and all of our members:

Sr. Muriel Clarke, Holy Spirit Convent
300 Yucca St., San Antonio, Texas 78203



Here is Sr. Muriel with Tom Horan at the 2012 Irish Gala.

HOUSTON FENIANS GATHERING



Mark your calendar: Saturday, January 26, 2013 for a Houston Fenians Gaelic Sporting Event Rally. The game will be held at Moody Park, 3725 Fulton St., Houston, Texas 77009. Throw-In will be at 10:00AM.

Then you can meet the team at The Bull & Bear Eatery and Tavern located at 11980 Westheimer (near Kirkwood) from 2 to 4 PM. Our Social Director, Pete Little, and the proprietor, Tom O'Reilly, suggest that this will be a fun social gathering. Finger foods provided; cash bar. Come out and have a grand time and meet these young lads who The Irish Society is proudly sponsoring.

Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org for regular updates.

IRISH SITES IN HOUSTON



There's much Irish history in Houston, especially downtown. We Irish were here early with Peggy McCormick's farm, where the Battle of San Jacinto took place. John Kennedy, a merchant, miller, and a major landowner, owned & operated a bakery at 813 Congress St. which still stands near Market Square. It's a cocktail lounge now, called La Carafe. Nearby he also had a trading post for local Native Americans known as Kennedy Center at 220 Travis; it's gone. He also donated land for St. Vincent's Cemetery, where early Irish Houstonians are buried. Dick Dowling built one of Houston's 1st saloons, the Bank of Bacchus, which first stood at Fannin & Congress near Courthouse Square, then at Congress & Main St. The Irish were quite prominent in downtown Houston in the mid and late 1800s.

Thomas "Tim" H. Scanlan was mayor from 1870 to 1874. In 1873 he had a new City Hall built in Market Square, shown left. That City Hall burned down in 1876 for unknown reasons. His administration began the city's sidewalks and water mains. As mayor & as a businessman he was instrumental in building Houston's modern infrastructure. During the years 1892 - 1896, Mayor John T. Browne, insisted the Houston Fire Department become a paid force.

Nicholas J. Clayton, 1840-1916, Texas' first professional architect, designed the Annunciation Church in downtown Houston. It was completed in 1874. Later, he added the buttresses and the 196 foot tall steeple. He is noted for designing many of Galveston's buildings, as well as buildings throughout Texas. The W. L. Foley Building at 214-216 Travis. It was built in 1889. Foley was a dry goods businessman. His sons built the famous, large downtown Foley's department store, which is now Macy's. The Foleys were a very successful & prominent family. Their home is located quite close to Minute Maid Park at Texas Ave. & Avenida de Las Americas. It is an imposing structure even today. It is to be part of a new cultural complex.

IRISH SITES IN HOUSTON

Also located near Minute Maid Park on the Avenida de Las Americas is the Browne-Cohn home. An earlier central part of it was owned by Mayor John T. Browne's mother and was remodeled by the Cohns. It's also to be part of a cultural center.

The Scanlan Estate owns the 11 story Scanlan Building on Main Street, shown at left. It was built in 1910. Mayor Tim Scanlan was an astute businessman before the Civil War. His estate is a charitable foundation which still contributes to local educational institutions.

J.J. Sweeney & Co., had jewelry shop on Main St. You may have seen his famous, tall, standing public clock at Rusk & Capitol at Bagby. It's a beauty.

The Shamrock Hilton Hotel was built in 1949 by Glen McCarthy. It was a great source of pride. Many AOH St. Patrick's Dinner Dances were held here. Tom Horan was its Director of Public Relations from 1980 to 1986. It was torn down in 1987. For years Tom laid a wreath near its location and toasted the many good times we had there. There is a nice fountain to commemorate the hotel nearby.

We can be proud of the Irish Houstonian contributions to downtown Houston. There are enough sites for a tour, with a stop at Molly's Downtown Pub, or Shay McElroy's. They are both on Main St. and face each other.

Nicholas Clayton designed the Incarnate Word Academy, at right. It was built in 1905. It is adjacent to Annunciation Church. The many parochial schools and Saint Joseph Hospital, which were built during that early period, show the strong Irish Houstonian commitment to health & education.

Shown above left is St. Joseph Hospital, built in 1887. It was Houston's first hospital. For a long time, many Houstonians were born in this hospital. It is a large downtown complex. According to Sr. Muriel Clarke, many Irish sisters and nurses staffed it.

REMEMBER

WHEN...



Please visit our Website www.TheIrishSociety.org for regular updates.

MIGGINS MEMORIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL & IRISH STEW COOK OFF

The Miggins Memorial Music Festival & Irish Stew Cook Off will be held Saturday, February 9 at Lucky's, 801 St. Emanuel Street, 713-522-2010. The festival begins at noon.

For stew cook off entry and general information please contact Mary Kearns at irishmkk@aol.com.

We hope to see everyone out there having a great time. Good music, great food and lots of fun!

RECALLING THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Circa 1895 the AOH made its first appearance here in Houston. John T. Browne, Mayor from 1892 to 1896, was an AOH member. The Parade went from Old St. Patrick's to Market Square. In 1905 the AOH erected the Dick Dowling Memorial Statue in front of the old City Hall in Market Square. The AOH dissolved here around 1997. It helped to keep the Irish community together for over 100 years. The Irish Society of Houston began in 1999 as the successor to the local AOH.



The AOH marching contingent getting ready to step off in the 1992 Houston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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2013 ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION DINNER

Here are our three Dinner Honorees along with Pete Little; all 4 have been Parade Grand Marshals. They are also former members of the AOH Dick Dowling Division.

This annual event is held at the Petroleum Club. The evening begins at 6:30PM.

For reservations call: "Lyn" Brogan at 281-531-0656 or Pat Sharkey at 713-752-4266. You can also mail your check to: The Irish Society, P.O. Box 820010, Houston, Texas 77282. The price for this event is \$150.00 per person. The Club just announced that our lifetime member Noel Hennebery has become its General Manager.



Shown left to right are Burke O'Rourke, Larry Miggins, Irish Society Board Member, Pete Little and Tom Horan.

ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL

It's that time of year again. Please send in your annual dues promptly. We would gladly hope that you all can renew your membership prior to March 1st. Individual membership is \$35. It is only \$50 for a family membership. It is \$500 for lifetime membership under age 62 and \$250 for those over 62. Your dues are instrumental in our providing social events during the year: St. Patrick's Day Downtown Parade on March 16; Our annual Bloomsday Event in June; 2013 Houston Fenians Gaelic Football Team. And, don't forget the Irish Aires Family Picnic.

"Thank you for mailing your check to our P.O. Box now."



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