



Irish Festival



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We have everything you need for "the wearing of the green" for

St. Patrick's Day

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5th Street Public Market in Eugene

Discover deFrisco's During The 1986 Irish Festival

deFrisco's features an evening of poetry, drama and pub music this SATURDAY NIGHT as part of Irish Festival activities. Fiddler Tom McCreesh, dramatist Jane Van-Boskirk and others provide free entertainment from 8-10:30 p.m. this Saturday in a celebration of traditional Irish culture and fun.

Musicians - bring your instruments - for an Irish music session to follow the scheduled performances.

Special Irish snacks and foods as well as the widest selection of imported beers on tap at deFrisco's as well.

Discover deFrisco's as part of the 1986 Irish Festival!



Hours: Open 8 am - 2 am weekdays
11 am - 1 am Saturday
11 am - 12 am Sunday
Kitchen closes 11 pm

Tenth & Olive Downtown Eugene

Don't Forget To Stop By After The Irish Festival Parade
This Sunday - Beginning At 2:00 P.M.!

KNECHT'S AUTO PARTS & EUGENE AUTORAMA '86

KNECHT'S AUTO-RAMA '86

are proud to be sponsors of the 1986 Eugene-Springfield Irish Festival and the special Kick-off Event planned for Friday, March 14 in front of the Eugene Conference Center, Downtown Eugene, at 9:30 am.

Join in the festivities of the Fourth Annual Eugene-Springfield Irish Festival AND come out to Eugene Autorama '86 in the Lane County Convention Center at the Fairgrounds—all weekend long! See some of the special cars and trucks that are in the show during the Irish Festival Kick-off Event. Call 689-3918 for additional information about Eugene Autorama '86 — a proud sponsor of the 1986 Eugene-Springfield Irish Festival.

KNECHT'S AUTO PARTS & EUGENE AUTORAMA '86

St. Patrick's Day and Irish Independence

by Ralph McDonald

Consider Eugene's celebration of Irish Independence Day, St. Patrick's Day. Like other calendar holidays, March 17 has evolved in America to be both a time of general celebration and a time of specific historical themes.

On the East coast, St. Patrick's Day has more impact than in the Pacific Northwest—perhaps because more of America's 20,000,000 Irish live in the East, or perhaps, being more recent immigrants, the Eastern Irish community is more in touch with Irish history and culture.

Irish citizens in America were once under cultural and economic attack in ways similar to the more recent experiences of Black citizens in this country. "No Irish need apply" was a common insert in help wanted listings.

In this context the broadest symbols of St. Patrick's Day—shamrocks and harps (and leprechauns, depending on how they are portrayed)—can provide a positive image of Irish ethnicity. Green is beautiful is the message of St. Patrick's Day parades across the country.

Irish culture—including Celtic music and traditional Irish dance—was banned in Ireland periodically by British laws over the last 600 years. For generations, even the shamrock was banned. Despite Royal harassment (such as smashing fiddles), Irish artforms survived,

sometimes flourished, and a healthy sampling of these artforms will be showcased in Eugene's 1986 Irish Festival.

But what of the struggle for Irish independence? Is the legacy of Wolf Tone and James Connolly still relevant to Americans and other nationalities in 1986?

During his lifetime James Connolly worked to educate against national barriers and to improve the lives of working people in every country.

Consistent with both his international outlook and his deep patriotism, Connolly helped organize and then became a martyr to the Easter Rebellion of 1916.

Those who proclaimed the Irish Republic on Monday, April 24, 1916 knew in advance that their uprising was premature—militarily doomed. They strategized that their sacrifice would ignite a spark that would in time lead to victory.

Wounded twice on April 27, a bullet in Connolly's ankle caused him great pain as he continued to lead troops inside the General Post Office in Dublin until the end. On April 30 Connolly and Pearse communicated surrender to the British, "in order to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin Citizens and in the hope of saving the lives of our followers now surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered."

Ninety persons, including all of the uprising's leaders, were sen-



James Connolly

tenced to death by British court martial. Thousands more were shipped to prison camps in England. Connolly told the court martial:

We went out to break the connection between this country and the British Empire and to establish an Irish Republic. We succeeded in proving that Irishmen are ready to die endeavoring to win for Ireland those national rights which the British Government has been asking them to die to win for Belgium. As long as that remains the case, the cause of Irish freedom is safe.

Believing that the British Government has no right in Ireland, never had any right in Ireland, and never can have any right in Ireland, the presence, in any one generation of Irishmen, of even a respectable minority, ready to die to affirm that truth, makes that Government forever an usurper and a crime against human progress.

On May 12 Connolly was carried on a stretcher to the yard of Kilmainham Jail, Dublin. Sean MacDiarmada, crippled with arthritis, was shot first. Then Connolly was taken from the stretcher, sat in a chair, to which he was strapped to keep him upright, and shot. Yeats's famous *Easter 1916* provides a fitting eulogy:

*MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.*

The Eugene Irish Culture Festival wishes to thank the many area organizations and individuals who have donated time and funding to make our 1986 cultural events possible. We particularly wish to thank:

- Balladeer Music • Coca Cola Bottling Co.
- Community Center for the Performing Arts
- deFrisco's • Eugene Folklore Society
- Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program, U of O Department of English
- Graphics Unlimited • Hult Center • KLCC FM
- Mist Covered Mountain, KLCC
- Sacred Heart General Hospital
- Spectra Physics Corporation • St. Alice's Church
- Tarym's Toys • What's Happening

Special thanks to the Eugene/Springfield Irish Festival committee for their cooperation and encouragement.

Balladeer MUSIC

Eugene's finest selection of Irish records, tapes & books.

St. Patrick's Day Special

All instruments on sale March 14-17



Buy your "Legends of Irish Music" concert tickets at Balladeer 343-8043

Located upstairs in the 5th St. Public Market

Eugene Irish Culture Festival Statement of Purpose

Whereas the Irish in America have contributed greatly to the cultural heritage of the United States and to the enrichment, both cultural and economic, of the Eugene/Springfield area, and whereas traditional Celtic artforms continue as vital expressions of the genius and aspirations of both the people of Ireland and the American people but without broad awareness of this culture for most Americans, the Eugene Irish Culture Festival hereby resolves to:

1. Promote traditional Irish and/or Celtic culture and Irish/American culture in its varied manifestations including music, dance, drama and visual arts.
2. Educate our community about the Irish people, about Irish immigration, and about current Irish political and economic affairs.
3. Dispel anti-Irish racial stereotype and caricature in our promotion of Festival events.

