

## How did it all begin?



**Jim Farley**

In 1982 James J. "Jim" Farley invited Ted Smith of Pendleton KUMA Coffee Hour to come to the Farley Motor Company Showroom to share jokes, stories and music with family and friends. Irish families gathered in the showroom for Farley's first St. Patrick's Day Irish Social Hour, and thus began 20 years of Irish festivities in the town of Heppner, Oregon.

Contributing to the flavor of the day with song and guitar were John Doherty and Scott Sager. They got their start practicing in the lambing shed on the Doherty Ranch on Big Buttercreek. As the years went by their group grew with guitar, banjo, bass violin, piccolo, flute, organ and they expanded their repertoire with trips to Ireland. John Doherty and The Irish Singers became a traditional part of the KUMA Coffee Hour. They will be honored this year for their many years of providing music for the annual celebration. They will perform at both the Coffee Hour and the afternoon Ceili. Mike

Duffy, of Irish Singer fame, continues to do an outstanding job as master of ceremonies during the Ceili.

Eventually the KUMA Coffee Hour moved to the Elks to hold the 200-plus in attendance, but Farley continued to host an afternoon social hour, a Heppner reunion of sorts. James J. Farley is gone now, but not forgotten, as the Irish and Irish for a day remember him each and every St. Patrick's Day. His daughters, Trish Farley Huddleston and Shanny Farley Miller, continue to carry on the Farley Social tradition.

Dave Sykes, who chaired the Coffee Hour for many years, is stepping down this year. "Every year after the festivities were over Jim (Farley) would say, 'Well, Dave, do you think the folks had a good time this year?' He really cared whether it was fun for people." Cara Osmin is the new Coffee Hour chair this year.

### Farley family continues tradition

In the spring of 1982 as the brown hills of Eastern Oregon started to turn green, Jim Farley contacted KUMA radio about bringing their Irish program to Heppner. His wish to bring family and friends together was the idea for the first Farley social hour.

Please join his daughters Trisha and Shannon for the 20th year of Irish hospitality at the Farley Social Hour on Saturday, March 16, from 4-5 p.m. at the senior bus garage on May Street. And watch for Farley's blue Scout in the Great Green Parade.

## Irish dancers to perform at Ceili



**The Baile Glas Irish Dancers**

The Baile Glas Irish Dancers began in Tri-Cities in 1999 as a performing group dedicated to the step dancing traditions of Ireland. The group dances a variety of reels, jigs and hornpipes, along with group dances, including traditional selections and creative choreographies. The performances celebrate the lively rhythms of traditional Irish music.

The dancers, ages five to adult, wear traditional dance attire, including soft shoes for reels and jigs and hard shoes for hornpipes and treble jigs.

Baile Glas appears at community celebrations and festivals. Baile Glas Irish Dancers currently perform a few dances with the local Celtic band, "Skweez the Weezle" at the Towne Crier in Richland, Washington. Upcoming performances include: the St. Patrick's Irish Games Pub in Pasco, Yakima Valley Community College in Yakima and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce on March 15; and the St. Patrick's Irish Games and Heppner St. Patrick's Celebration on March 16.

The dancers in Baile Glas are students of Maggie Corrigan, TCRG, (certified, and registered with An Coimisin Le Rinci Gaelacha, Dublin).



## Irish toast to the St. Patrick's Committee

Heppner's Irish celebration has grown through the years to the point that most of Heppner is working in one volunteer capacity or another throughout the entire weekend. To be commended for their dedication in attending planning meetings and the continuation of the 2002 event are: Kay Fowler - Auction, Craig Strobel - Parade, Dick and Lynnea Sargent - Cruz-In, Judie Laughlin - Buttons and Hospitality, Joyce and Jerry Hollomon - Flags, Mary Hamilton - Sheepdog Trials, Doris Brosnan and Diana Ball at-large, and overall co-chairpersons - Claudia Hughes and Cara Osmin, who also oversee Entertainment.

It now takes around seven months of planning and from the first day of sunshine in February through March 17 things get pretty hectic! Hughes and Osmin would like to see a party thrown for local volunteers who cause the weekend to happen, all the way from chairpersons to cook and bottle washer "because most of them don't have time to experience the entertainment, see the parade, or catch their breath." They depict a strong community pride as they show off Heppner while providing an enjoyable experience for the marry visitors who become Irish for a weekend. That's what it's all about!

### All-night breakfast starts Saturday night

St. Pat's Midnight Breakfast will be held Saturday, March 16, from 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Cost is \$5 per plate, all-you-can-eat.

## St. Patrick's Day

### March 14th ~ Thursday

**PER & Old Timers Night** - BBQ Chicken Dinner starting at 6 p.m. Lodge starts at 8 p.m.

### March 15th ~ Friday

Buffet Dinner starting at 6 p.m.; **St. Patrick's Auction** upstairs at 7 p.m.

### March 16th ~ Saturday

Brunch - Egg Casserole, Ham, Hashbrowns & more from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Music downstairs and upstairs starting at 9 p.m.



**HEPPNER ELKS 358**

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