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## Bob Kilkenny named Grand Marshal of Great Green St. Pats Day Parade



(L-R): Kelly Kilkenny Hale, Pat Kilkenny, Russell Kilkenny, John Kilkenny, Kevin Kilkenny, and Bob Kilkenny.

Bob Kilkenny, a true, green, Irishman, was chosen as the Grand Marshal for the Great Green Parade during the St. Patrick's Celebration in Heppner. Kilkenny, born in 1929, was raised on what is known in his family as the "home place" just outside of Heppner and moved to his ranch outside of Lexington in 1950.

Kilkenny has been an active member of the community for years. His has been a member of the Elks Lodge for over 50 years, he is a member of the Oregon Wheat Growers League and the Farm Bureau and is a strong supporter of school sports. Kilkenny almost never misses one of his grandchildren's sporting events and enjoys traveling with his family. A while back the family was able to travel to Norte Dame and catch a football game of the Fighting Irish. Kilkenny has also had the great opportunity to travel back to Ireland three times to visit family members still living there.

All five of Kilkenny's children graduated from Heppner High School and all graduated from University of Oregon. He is proud to be the father of five Ducks.

Kilkenny is proud to represent "the old Irish" during the St. Pat's festivities, and can be seen in the back of his Model-T during the parade.

Another exciting aspect of the St. Pat's Celebration for Kilkenny is that all five children will be coming home to celebrate.

Below is an article written by Kilkenny's granddaughter, Hannah Hale. In the article she shares of the history of the Kilkenny family; how they came from Ireland and where they are now.

### The Ancestry and Life of Robert J. Kilkenny: a piece of Irish Heritage

By Hannah Kilkenny Hale

"May the road rise to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face

The rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again

May God hold you in the hollow of His hand"

I remember as a young child making the long journey to my grandfather's farm in Heppner, Oregon.

Upon my arrival, grandpa always greeted me outside the front door and thereafter we made our way into the living room to chat. It was in this room that I first read this old Irish poem and over time learned about my grandfather's ancestry. I am proud to be related to this Irish family and to share grandpa's story with you.

To understand my grandfather's Irish background, one should first know more about his ancestors. His maternal great grandmother was born in 1828 in the county of Tipperary, Ireland and his grandfather was born in 1830 in the county of Kilkenny, Ireland. His grandfather, Michael Summers came to America in 1856 while his grandmother, Mary Ellen McCormick, made the arduous trip to America in 1856. Michael and Mary Ellen later met in Iowa and were married in 1858. The two eventually had five children: Mary Ellen, Kate, Delia, Emmett and Michael. After many years, the couple decided to move west and while en route Michael Summers died at Fort Wingate, New Mexico during the year of 1880. However, not willing to give up, Mary Ellen continued on her way to Oregon where she settled in Matney Flat, Gilliam County. At the time she had three children with her and later the other two settled in Oregon as well. She passed on in 1899 while still living on the farm.

Kate Summers, the child of Michael and Mary Ellen Summers, met her future husband, William Russell while both worked on the Railroad. Interestingly, William Russell was born in 1849 in Belfast, Ireland. After moving to America, he served in the civil war with his father and two brothers, but sadly both brothers were killed in action. William was also the first man to drive a six mule team in the county when he hauled wool to Arlington. They married in 1883 in Boise, Idaho where they settled down. After their marriage, Kate and William had four children: Eddie, Sudie, Margaret, and Lottie. Lottie would later give birth to Robert Kilkenny. William died in 1909 in Condon, Oregon, but Kate and her son Eddie continued to work on the ranch.

Robert's father, John Kilkenny, born in 1870 in the county of Leitrim, Ireland, was one of ten children born of Peter and Mary Ann (Sheridan). After his childhood in Ireland, John made the

journey to America and ultimately landed in Umatilla, Oregon. Upon his arrival he walked three days with his friend Jim Carty to what would later become known as Heppner, Oregon. It was here that John met his first wife Rose Ann Curran and together they had six children Rose, John, Bill, Sara, Maryanne and Mae. Rose Ann died in a tragic accident at a young age, and after this John remarried to Lottie Russell. They had four children: Ilene, Colleen, Russell, and my grandfather, Robert.

After a childhood in Heppner, Oregon, Robert Kilkenny married Vesta Cutsforth with whom he had four children: Russell, Patrick, John, and Kelly. Subsequently, Robert remarried to Mary Emert and together they had one child, Kevin. Robert also helped raise Mary's children Earl and Kelly. All of his children graduated from college at the University of Oregon. Today the oldest child, Russell, lives in Portland, Oregon with his children Taylor, Shelby and Whitney where he practices law. He is currently engaged to Jeanine Erskine. Patrick lives in San Diego where he runs his insurance company called Arrowhead General. Kevin works for Patrick and also lives in San Diego. John lives on the home place in Heppner with wife Diane and their three children: Conor, Rory, and Katie. Kelly works in the investment business and lives in Portland with her husband Bob Hale and daughter Hannah. Grandpa is now married to Eva Wilkins and they live on a ranch north of Lexington where he has lived for over fifty years.

People in Heppner know grandpa as warm, caring, and witty. I am proud to call him my grandpa. I have enjoyed learning about my Irish ancestors from him over the years. Although I will be unable to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebration this year, I will be there in heart and spirit. No one deserves the honor of Grand Marshal more than grandpa. And I know he will serve the community with honor. Have a great day grandpa, you deserve it.

22nd Annual  
A Wee Bit O' Ireland  
March 11-14  
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See complete  
schedule of  
events in next  
week's paper

# HEPPNER

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VOL. 123 NO. 9 10 Pages Wednesday, March 3, 2004 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## Sager family to speak on Rwanda journey



The Sager Family gets ready to travel to mission in Africa

Kelly and Laura Sager will speak at Christian Life Center, 535 W. Morgan St., Heppner on Sunday March 7, at 10:30 a.m. They will speak about their upcoming trip into the missionary field in Rwanda, Africa.

Kelly was raised in Heppner and Hermiston. He graduated from Eastern Oregon University. He is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and is the current

director of Morrow/Wheeler County Behavioral Health. Laura was raised in Fossil. She is currently a Medical Transcriptionist for the Morrow County Health District. They are the parents of five children, Darby, Brick, Tegan, Nyssa and Koopers. The family currently attends Grace Baptist Church in Hermiston.

The Sagers have been appointed missionaries to East

Africa and will soon be leaving Lexington for the bush country in Rwanda, Africa. They will serve as volunteer coordinators in Eastern Africa. The Sagers will be leaving Lexington on March 15 for orientation and training in Virginia. They will be arriving in Africa in May for 40 days of training in Kenya, living in the African Bush.

All are invited to attend.

## Little Leprechaun Karnival and Kids Kuisine

Wee ones and their parents will find many attractions to entertain and delight them on Saturday,

March 13 at the Little Leprechaun Karnival and Kids Kuisine.

## Spring clean-up available for Heppner residents

Spring is around the corner along with spring cleaning. The City of Heppner's Beautification Commission is pleased to remind the residents of Heppner about the annual "Sprucin' Up Your Green" taking place March 1-12.

Located at the city's yard on Riverside by the recycling bin, will be two dumpsters; one for yard debris and one for metals. Refrigerators may be placed in the metal recycling dumpster only with the compressor removed. No household garbage is allowed in either.

Les Schwab Tire Center is helping with cleanup by accepting old tires on Saturday, March 6 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The disposal is limited to Heppner residents with four passenger or pick-up tires per family.

"Your participation in our 'Sprucin' Up Your Green' cleanup will make Heppner just that much more a pleasant community to live in or visit, just in time for our St. Patrick's Celebration," says a commission spokesperson.

For more information, contact City Hall at 676-9618.

Located on the lot south of the post office, volunteers with the Adopt-a-Teacher Foundation will be overseeing the fun and serving up some favorite foods to the little people. Games will include "duck pond," miniature golf, face painting, a "junk food walk," and a "wheel of fun." Tickets that cost 25 cents each or \$1 for five can be used for the activities and the snack shack. Hot dogs, brownies, and drinks are the main menu items.

This entertainment center for little people will open at 11:30 a.m. It will close for the parade and then run again until 3 p.m. Proceeds from the attraction will support the efforts of the foundation to retain a much needed staff position in the Heppner schools.

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