



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS

MC 001 23

For more information contact Jim Mohan 353-7421

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Michael Fitzgerald  
Harold Tobin

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### ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS ORGANIZE SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

ST. LOUIS - - The County Boards of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of St. Louis have announced the formation of a Saint Patrick's Day Parade committee.

The parade, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of St. Louis, will be held Saturday, March 17, 1984, on Forsyth Boulevard in Clayton.

The parade features a number of Irish oriented themes. The primary theme honors Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland. Other featured themes are: Irish Catholic faith; Irish culture and heritage; and the contributions of the Irish to America.

Mike Fitzgerald and Harold Tobin have been named Committee Co-Chairmen.

For more information, or if anyone would like to participate in the 1984 Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade, contact Mike Fitzgerald at 382-3170 or write to Float Committee Chairman, Jim Sheerin at 1017 Commodore, St. Louis, Missouri, 63117.

# Irish Will March To Different Drummers

By Sally Bixby Defty  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A St. Patrick's Day parade without the Ancient Order of Hibernians, America's oldest and largest Irish fraternal organization? As unthinkable as corned beef without cabbage.

But this year on March 17, there will be only a sprinkling of Hibernians in the downtown parade that the Ancient Order here has co-sponsored since the parade's inception 13 years ago.

Four of the five local chapters have broken away to mount their own St. Patrick's Day parade in Clayton.

And the rebellious Hibernians — privately — make dark charges that the downtown parade committee refuses to give financial accountings, that it has squeezed Hibernians out and that most of its profits go to the Notre Dame Club here, made up of alumni of that university.

The downtown parade officials counter that the real reason for the schism is the unacceptable allegiance of the Hibernians to gunrunners for the Irish Republican Army.

But some Hibernians say the downtown parade has — with marching Shriners, Masons and bands from public schools — become something other than what it was intended to be. The members of the Roman Catholic secret society, which was brought to the United States in 1832, want the emphasis traditional — Irish, Catholic and family.

James Shea, director of the St. Louis Street Department, is one of many local men and women of Irish descent caught in the middle. He is a Hibernian, but March 17 will find him in the downtown parade.

"What has happened is sad," Shea said with a sigh. "But it is typically



Wayne Crosslin/Post-Dispatch

**Michael Fitzgerald is co-chairman of the Ancient Order of Hibernians on March 17. He is seeking Irish families to participate.**

Irish."

In all this, one thing is clear: The Hibernians are not flinching from going head to head with the downtown parade. They are starting their parade at noon, and, says Joseph B. McGlynn Jr. a bit wearily, "That's when we've started our parade since the beginning."

McGlynn is credited with founding the downtown parade and has served as its chairman for several years. His Irish credentials are formidable — at one time or another he has been national legal counsel for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, national and local president of the Notre Dame

Alumni Club, and the only honorary Irish consul in the nation.

Some of the rebel Hibernians consider McGlynn highhanded. McGlynn denies this, and calls the financial charges "a lie, L-I-E."

"Every dollar the Hibernians

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# Parades

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have ever donated has been given in their name to the Notre Dame Hibernian Fund for a chair at the university for the study of American Catholicism. And the only money given to the Notre Dame Club has been to the scholarship fund, so that St. Louis kids can go there," McGlynn said.

Cardinal Glennon Memorial Hospital for Children, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, the Herbert Hoover Boys Club, the St. Louis University Irish Law Center and more have been recipients of funds raised in connection with the parade and the race that precedes it, McGlynn said.

The co-chairman of the rump Hibernian parade, Michael Fitzgerald, gives as the reason for the break only population statistics showing the growth over the last decade in St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin counties. That, he said, makes Clayton a more logical site for

the parade. "We're trying to bring it closer to the people," he said. "We have no quarrel with the downtown parade. The Hibernians aren't trying to run it."

But McGlynn says the true cause of the schism was an attempt by the Hibernians to get representatives of the Northern Irish Aid Committee into last year's parade. "I have never condemned the committee," McGlynn said, "but they have been determined by federal courts, in two trials, to be foreign agents for the IRA. And we don't want politics in our parade."

The Northern Irish Aid Committee will indeed be represented in the parade in Clayton, Fitzgerald said.

There is no doubt which parade will be the biggest, brassiest and most spectacular. This year downtown's boasts 33 bands, clowns, mounted troops, the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, the Horseless Car Club of Missouri and Miss Teen of America.

The Clayton parade will feature the

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Shrewsbury VFW color guard and floats by four local Hibernian chapters and the St. Louis County firefighters ladies' auxiliary — hardly the stuff to bring the curbside crowd to its feet cheering.

But Fitzgerald said, "We hope we will have a lot of families marching, a lot of clans. The Murphys can carry a sign, the O'Briens maybe a crest."

Persons who want contribute a float for the parade or simply march in it should contact Fitzgerald at 382-3170 for an entry form.

The Hibernians' press releases list six St. Louis County mayors and County Executive Gene McNary among the supporters. McNary's aide, Ned S. Taddeucci was asked whether McNary would march in the Hibernians parade: "He's on their letterhead? I don't know whether he recognizes the risk," Taddeucci said.

So, less than a month from March 17, which parade will St. Louis area Irishmen and women opt for?

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The Rev. Seamus Shortall, who last year said the St. Patrick's Day Mass in Gaelic in his church in Granite City, is torn. "I am a loyal Hibernian," he said. "But on the other hand I don't want to miss downtown. Somehow, I will try to hit both."

Sister Margaret Treacy, principal of Good Shepherd Elementary School, has a lilting brogue that would ornament any Irish festivity. One year, 160 of her students marched in the formation of an Irish flag and made a big splash in the downtown parade. But they are not marching this year. "I don't like the idea of two parades," she said, "although they both sound nice."

Mary Boland, a mother of six, has similarly mixed feelings. A transplanted New Yorker now living in Ballwin, she said, "When I first came to St. Louis I was amazed by the parade. It seemed to have nothing to do with St. Patrick. It's more like a VP parade or a circus, with that run they

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put on and the drinking on the sidelines. I don't think all that pertains to a holy day.

"Families should be in a St. Patrick's Day parade. Your family is your background, that's why you are marching, and it seems to me half the people here are Irish or part-Irish," Mrs. Boland said.

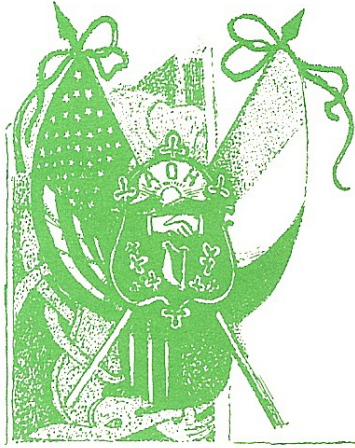
But her husband is an avid

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participant in the five-mile race that precedes the downtown parade. This year about 4,500 runners are expected to pay \$4 each to be at the starting line at 10 a.m.

Mrs. Boland thought about the St. Louis Irish Question for a moment. "We'll watch the race," she finally said. "And then we'll go to Clayton to the other parade."

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### A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH

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Richard Delaney  
John Giblin  
John Heneghan  
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Patrick Kenny  
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James Sheerin  
Timothy Wiese  
Rev. James Winzerling

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City of University City  
Edward O'Reilly  
City of Ellisville  
Douglas W. Palmer  
City of Hazelwood  
Charles Sargent  
City of Richmond Heights  
Richard Stith  
City of Clayton

St. Louis - - It will be a great day for the Irish and everyone in the St. Louis area at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 17 in Clayton, Missouri.

The parade gets underway at 12 noon at Forsyth and Big Bend Blvds. It travels west on Forsyth to Brentwood Blvd., concluding at the Clayton Community Center in Shaw Park. The parade route covers 1.5 miles.

This is the first year for the Hibernian parade. Parade officials are planning on making it an annual event to be held each year on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17.

The primary theme of the parade honors Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland.

There will be over thirty marching units and colorful floats depicting Irish culture and heritage, and Irish Catholic faith.

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PARADE - Add 1-1-1

A special attraction of the parade will be a number of Irish-American families marching as family clans under their family crests or banners.

Honorary Grand Marshals for the 1984 parade are five life members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Hibernian Auxiliary. This year's Grand Marshals are: Matthew Sullivan; Michael and Margaret Houlihan; and Michael and Margaret Minogue.

There will also be a number of local government officials and Irish dignitaries participating in the parade, including the Missouri State president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Anthony Conroy.

For more information contact Mike Fitzgerald at 382-3170 or Jim Mohan at 353-7421.