



1st Annual Parade

*Where it All Began
25 Short Years Ago!*

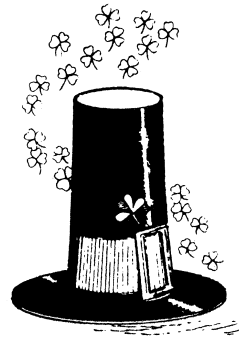


1952 PARADE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM C. LUNNEY



GRAND MARSHAL
TOM ROHAN

The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade was conceived by the late Francis "Red" Walsh. How long he dreamed of organizing a suitable tribute to St. Patrick no one knows, but it is a fact in 1951, he began meeting with a small group of friends in the kitchen of one of their homes, to talk about his dream. In January 1952, this group moved to the larger quarters of the Brian Boru Club, where the first formal meeting was held. A photograph taken at one of these early meetings at the Brian Boru Club show only eleven men. Some admittedly thought Red's ideas were more like dreams, but they decided after much debate that Red had a great idea and that they would turn his dream into reality. They then organized and elected the late William Lunney, President. Money was a problem. Jeremiah J. Lawler contributed two hundred dollars to get the effort off the ground. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade was born. The committee then proceeded to organize a parade, and to solicit materials and financial contributions throughout the city. The first parade stepped off smartly with the late Tom Rohan as Marshal.



FIRST PARADE PLANNERS





2nd Annual Parade

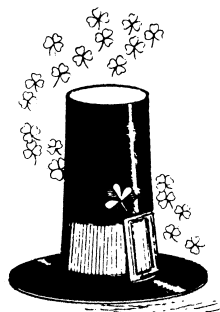


1953 PARADE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM C. LUNNEY

Torrents of rain greeted the 3,000 stout-hearted marchers and twenty participating musical organizations at the 1953 parade. Fifteen thousand hardy souls watched the display proving the pride of their Irish heritage. Many viewers were Irish not by birthright but by adoption for the occasion. The Parade Marshal John S. Begley, and Parade Chairman for the second time, William C. Lunney, didn't allow cruel cloudbursts to dampen their pride in church and country. The Hobert and O'Connell firms had horse drawn buggies reminiscent of the mode of transportation in the land of shamrocks, while the Brian Boru Club's float demonstrated the crucifixion of Christ, enhancing the sincere religious fervor burning in Irish souls. Applause greeted Holy Rosary's Float "Harp That Once Thru Tara's Halls" and the impressive R.O.T.C. unit from the University of Massachusetts, which concluded the parade.



GRAND MARSHAL
JOHN S. BEGLEY



FIRST PARADE COMMITTEE



First Row: John Dunn, Judge Michael Donohue, Emmet Cauley*, Bill Sullivan*, Bill Lunney*, Tom Rohan*, Jim Millane, Jerry Lawler, Bill Burns, Jim Farrell.

Second Row: Jack Linnehan, Jim Curran, Carroll Dunn, Francis P. "Red" Walsh*, Atty. Neil Moriarty*, Maurice Donohue, Atty John Begley, Roy O'Hare*, Joe Sweeney, Atty. Bill Stapleton.

Third Row: Jim Collins, John Shevlin, Gerald Bynan, Hansey Brown*, Jim O'Connell, Vincent Brown, Mr. Sullivan, Joe Cauley*, Tom Mulvihill, John Shea*, Joe "Scotch" Lucey.



3rd Annual Parade

Raincoats and umbrellas still held sway at the St. Patrick's Day Parade 1954, when 5,000 robust marchers and eighteen bands paraded the one and one-half mile route to the cheering of 30,000 spectators. Parade Chairman, William P. Sullivan, clocked the parade time of forty-five minutes. Marshal Daniel J. O'Connell majestically led the largest production yet. Neighboring towns entered vigorously for the first time the celebration honoring Ireland's patron saint. Mayor Daniel B. Brunton of Springfield and Mayor Cahillane of Northampton led delegations from their respective cities. For the first time, seventy-five members of Pittsfield's Ancient Order of Hibernians attended, as well as numerous Boston officials. A tremendous ovation welcomed the visitors and the acclaim increased as Holyoke's own Brian Boru Club briskly filed by in formal attire, green sashes across their chests, accentuating their stately bearing. Shamrocks and golden harps spotted the clothing of the parade watchers as they heartened to the grad spirit enveloping the beautifully executed floats. Holy Rosary parish's "Peg O' My Heart" and Holy Cross' entry of "Our Lady of Knock" are just two. Monsignor Fitzgibbons of Sacred Heart flashed a warm smile and displayed a vigorous greeting for all those joined to honor their faith and national legacy on a rainy March day.



1954 PARADE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P. SULLIVAN



GRAND MARSHAL
DANIEL J. O'CONNELL

Francis "Red" Walsh



FRANCIS P. "RED" WALSH

As this year's parade, the 25th, passes before you with the bands playing, the marchers in their ranks, the beautiful floats, and all the attendant excitement, pause for just a moment and wonder how it all came about.

At least a year before the first parade took place, the late Francis "Red" Walsh had been talking and discussing and at times arguing, with his fellow members of the Brian Boru Club and others, that such a parade should be held.

Finally, in January 1952, the Club agreed to explore the possibilities and to set up a meeting, and Club President Thomas Mulvihill and Francis P. O'Connell, Jr. invited people in the A.O.H. and others throughout the city to attend.

The meeting was held on a wintry, snowy, Friday evening, February 1, 1952, at the old Brian Boru Club quarters on High Street over the smoke shop.

The gavel was handled temporarily by Thomas Mulvihill, assisted by Francis P. O'Connell Jr., and a thorough, probing and lengthy discussion of all known and unknown factors was held, after which it was unanimously voted to move forward and start to work on a parade to honor Saint Patrick to be held March 16, 1952 in the City of Holyoke.

Officers elected at this meeting, who were to lead the group as the first parade Committee, included William Lunney, President; William P. Sullivan, Vice-president; Thomas Mulvihill, Secretary; and Emmett Cauley, Treasurer.

So that's how it all began, twenty-five years ago, and the parade has been well served down through the years, by a loyal, selfless, dedicated group of men called The Saint Patrick's Parade Committee.



4th Annual Parade



1955
PARADE
PRESIDENT
WILLIAM P.
SULLIVAN

The heavens shone a glorious warm sun-filled benediction on St. Patrick's Parade 1955. Most Reverend Bishop Christopher J. Weldon honored the group with his esteemed presence. Over 5,000 marchers were blithely viewed by an estimated 100,000 observers. William P. Sullivan again served as Parade Chairman and Emmett J. Cauley was Parade Marshal. Miss Kathleen O'Sullivan was chosen Colleen – first to bear this title – and enthroned upon a gorgeous float designed and built by Vincent G. Brown. Nineteen bands blared away and Springfield Irish set dancers gaily tapped out the lyric airs. Although Chicopee, Northampton, South Hadley and Springfield participated in great numbers, the kernel of the parade was the tremendous group representation of Holyoke's parished Sacred Heart that had a particularly outstanding float —“St. Patrick Blessing the Land.”



GRAND MARSHAL
EMMETT C.
CAULEY

FIRST COLLEEN AND COURT AND COMMITTEE



First Row: Mary O'Connor, Ann Moriarty, COLLEEN KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN, Maureen McIntyre, Mary Kelly;
Back Row: Jerry Lawler, Mike Moran, Vin Brown, Red Walsh, Tom Padden, and Bill Burns.



5th Annual Parade

For eighty minutes 90,000 persons watched, 5,000 lionhearted marchers in thirty-two degree temperatures during the 1956 jubilation. Dr. Elmer J. Harrington officiated as Parade Marshal, while Jeremiah Lawler was Parade Chairman. Miss Mary Margaret Monaghan made a radiant Colleen aboard her special float and surrounded by the members of her court. Reverend Bishop Christopher J. Weldon again tramped proudly down the green painted streets of Holyoke and displayed the good-natured holiday spirit. Reverend Andrew Sullivan of Holy Rosary parish and Monsignor James J. Fitzgibbons of Sacred Heart flanked His Excellency.

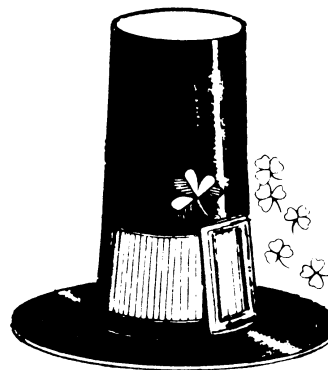


1956 PARADE PRESIDENT
JEREMIAH J. LAWLER

Again the out-of-town participation was gratifying. A lovely float depicting "Three Symbols of Erin" was featured by the Kiwanis Club and much applause was given the entry of Our Lady of Providence Home for Children at Brightside.



GRAND MARSHAL
DR. ELMER J. HARRINGTON



COLLEEN MARY MONAGHAN ON HER FLOAT



6th Annual Parade

The second largest parade ever staged in Holyoke was the 1957 St. Patrick's event. Parade Marshal was William Sullivan and Michael Moran, Parade President.

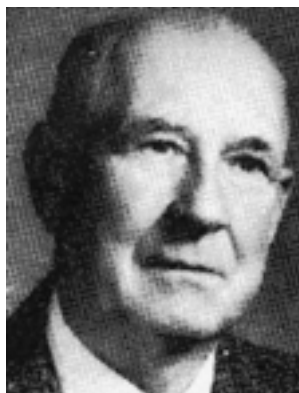
Colleen Maureen Murphy presided over the two-hour remembrance of 100,000 marchers and 100,000 spectators. Such a large undertaking required a combined community effort of all citizens of Holyoke. They were justly praised by the large number of out of state units in the 80 marching sections. The Thomas Rohan Award was initiated in 1957 to be awarded to the citizen displaying outstanding work on behalf of the Parade. Col. Andrew B. Mangum (Ret.) Massachusetts National Guard was chosen for this honor in view of unstinting service on behalf of the parade.



1957 PARADE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL H. MORAN



GRAND MARSHAL
WILLIAM P. SULLIVAN



FIRST TOM ROHAN AWARD RECIPIENT
COL. ANDREW B. MANGUM



1957 GRAND COLLEEN MAUREEN MURPHY
WAVING TO THE CROWD



7th Annual Parade

The Roger Smith Hotel was alive with excitement, as the “first” annual National Award Winner made his way through the lobby. Senator John F. Kennedy and his wife “Jackie” had made their presence felt in Holyoke. The award was formally presented in front of City Hall with Mayor Samuel Resnic and other city officials bringing greetings of the city.

Another major “first” of 1958 was the institution of television. Channel WWLP-22 began its association with the Parade Committee. An association that has grown over the years.

Marshal William R. Peck, had a warm cloudy day to lead his parade. Colleen Miss Geraldine Lawler reigned as the parade Colleen. A man who always had a good deal to do with creative floats particularly for the Rosary parish was honored as the Rohan Award Recipient, Mr. Vincent Brown.

Parade innovations of 1958 are now an integral part of every parade, surely “58” was the finest parade the city had ever had.



1958 PARADE PRESIDENT
JAMES F. MILLANE



GRAND MARSHAL
WILLIAM R. PECK



OUTSTANDING AMERICAN OF
IRISH DESCENT
Hon. JOHN F. KENNEDY



1958 GRAND COLLEEN
GERALDINE LAWLER



ROHAN AWARD
VINCENT G. BROWN



8th Annual Parade

It poured rain on 60,000 spectators and 7,000 marchers who unflinchingly refused to be foiled by the weatherman. Parade Marshal William Nolen and President Michael J. Donohue congratulated pretty Ann Burke on being chosen Colleen at the Ball. The 1959 National Award went to his Excellency, Bishop Jeremiah J. Minnehan, Auxiliary Bishop of the archdiocese of Boston.

As a tribute to his unflagging energy in behalf of the parade, the 1959 Thomas Rohan Award was bestowed on Michael H. Moran. The prize-winner of the Harrington Trophy was a float entered and executed by the Daniel O'Connell Construction Company, depicting a "Leprechaun's Garden," while the entry of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of the Town of West Springfield took second place.



1959 PARADE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL J. DONOHUE



GRAND MARSHAL
Hon. WILLIAM E. NOLEN



OUTSTANDING AMERICAN OF
IRISH DESCENT
His Excellency
JEREMIAH J. MINNEHAN, D.D.



1959 GRAND COLLEEN
ANN BURKE



ROHAN AWARD
MICHAEL H. MORAN



9th Annual Parade

The year 1960 saw the best weather since the parades started in 1952.

Tom Padden, the president of the committee, labored long and hard-devoting more time to parade activities than he did to the business at the Kaffir Cigar Co., where he was employed.

The year 1960 saw the birth of many new affairs which have become important features of our annual celebrations. It was the first time we saw colleen contestants at the "Premier of the Green" at the War Memorial.

The Marshal that was, John J. Driscoll, M.D. who crowned Sheila McCormick as the Colleen-at the first Coronation Ball, which was held on March 17th at the Roger Smith Hotel. It was during that evening that the committee honored Tom Falvey, a great Hibernian, who was celebrating his 90th birthday. Sheila McCormick was the first Colleen to receive a trip to Ireland. There have been many Coronation Balls since 1960, but none hold the fond memories of the first one.

In 1960, the committee chose Dan Reynolds for the Rohan Award. Dan has been a tireless worker ever since he became a member. He continues to be the best aid to the Parade Marshals.

1960 saw the publication of the first Souvenir Program and the 1976 production will make a landmark in our pictorial history.

On March 20, 1960 in a ceremony in front of City Hall, we presented our National Award to Boston Mayor John F. Collins. Mayor Collins was an inspiration to all. He had been stricken with polio during his adult life, but he overcame this handicap and continues to serve the people of Boston in public life.

The President, the Marshal and the award winners of 1960 extend to the President of the 1976 parade committee every wish for the greatest year of all.



1960 PARADE PRESIDENT
THOMAS W. PADDEN



GRAND MARSHAL
DR. JOHN J. DRISCOLL



OUTSTANDING AMERICAN OF IRISH DESCENT
Hon. JOHN F. COLLINS



1960 GRAND COLLEEN
SHEILA MCCORMICK



ROHAN AWARD
DANIEL REYNOLDS





10th Annual Parade

It was 5:30 a.m. when the phone rang at my house. The voice at the other end, I quickly recognized as Lieutenant "Butter" McCarthy of the Holyoke Police Department. He said, "Bill, it's snowing and it doesn't look like it's going to let up. Are you going to call the parade off?"

Well as you all know, the 10th annual parade went on as scheduled. It again showed the importance of the community's support of the committee's efforts. The streets were cleared, and the viewers turned out, as the sun poked its head through during the early afternoon hours.

The John F. Kennedy recipient was awarded to a man, who has been an integral part of the Committees endeavors since its inception, His Excellency Christopher J. Weldon, Bishop of the Springfield Diocese.

Mr. John Kennedy from the Holyoke National Bank, and a long committee member, received the Rohan Award. And a little man, with a big heart, in addition to being a tireless worker for the parade committee, was chosen as marshal, Mr. Michael H. Moran. He got the marchers through.

It was only appropriate, that the Colleen for 1961 would also represent an Irish family tradition, as well. Miss Susan Hobert had many admirers along the route!

It was the best parade the city had enjoyed.



1961 PARADE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM S. ROGERS



GRAND MARSHAL
MICHAEL H. MORAN



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
His Excellency
CHRISTOPHER J. WELDON, D.D.



1961 GRAND COLLEEN
SUSAN HOBERT



ROHAN AWARD
JOHN F. KENNEDY



11th Annual Parade

Holyoke's outstanding Irishman, and number one statesman, Mr. Maurice A. Donahue, served as Parade Marshal. Thousands of marchers fell into line as they stepped off to a clear, cold day.

The late Robert B. Considine, a noted journalist, was honored as the John F. Kennedy Award recipient. The Bishop's Reception was held at Gleason's Townhouse to a full house.

Miss Francine Dillon was crowned Colleen by Marshal Donahue, at the Shaker Farms Country Club, to a television audience.

Mr. James Millane was recognized by the committee for his excellent efforts in working for the St. Patrick's Parade Day Committee.

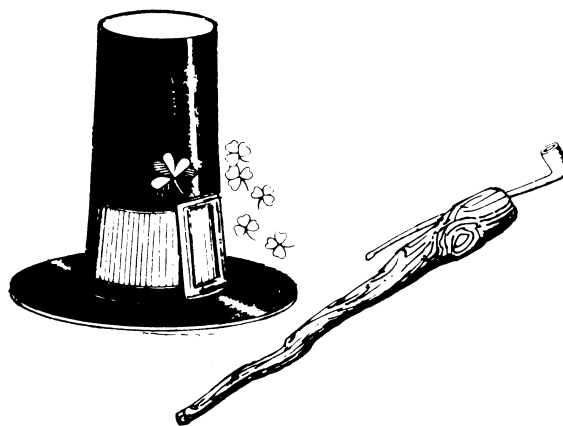
It was, most certainly, the finest parade the city has ever seen.



1962 PARADE PRESIDENT
DANIEL F. MORIARTY



GRAND MARSHAL
MAURICE A. DONAHUE



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
ROBERT B. CONSIDINE



1962 GRAND COLLEEN
FRANCINE DILLON



ROHAN AWARD
JAMES F. MILLANE



12 th Annual Parade

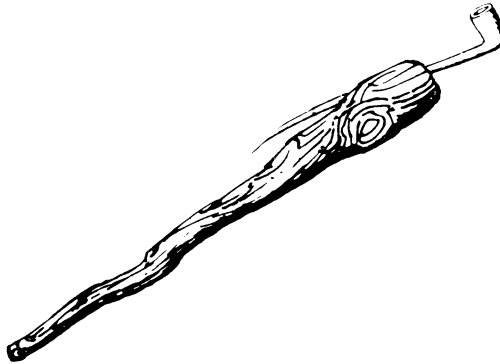
My year as President was 1963. That year, there were many good points to the parade. One of which was the beautiful marching weather we had, but I also believe it was a turning point in our success story for two reasons: One, locally it was one of the first year's we had eliminated the ballots in the T-T for the Colleen. Thus ending a period of competition and bad feeling in that contest. Two, our John F. Kennedy Award Winner, Actor William Gargan was one of the better winners we have had and through his influence and friendship, we have been able to receive some big names as our award winners; such as Pat O'Brien and Tommy Loughran. All in all, 1963 was a big parade year for the Tierney family and for the many thousands who witnessed that parade.



1963 PARADE PRESIDENT
DANIEL E. TIERNEY



GRAND MARSHAL
EUGENE P. O'NEILL



FIRST GEORGE O'CONNELL AWARD
JAMES LANDERS



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
WILLIAM D. GARGAN



ROHAN AWARD
THOMAS W. PADDEN



1963 GRAND COLLEEN
JOAN RILEY



13th Annual Parade

Attorney James B. Donovan, the man who negotiated the release of the Bay of Pigs prisoners, honored the Parade Committee in accepting the annual John F. Kennedy Award. President Kennedy had been assassinated in November of 1963.

Atty. Donovan, who had come to Holyoke alone, was so impressed at the church ceremony, he immediately called his wife and family to join him at the earliest possible time.

A clear cold day awaited the parade marchers as Marshal Jeremiah J. Lawler lowered his Irish walking stick to signal the start of the 1964 parade.

Miss Kathleen Kennedy was crowned Colleen at the televised Ball from Shaker Farms Country Club. It was the largest Ball to date.

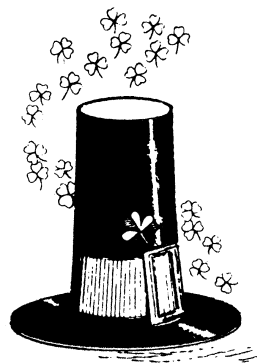
More than 50,000 viewers lined the streets to greet the marchers as they followed the shamrocks over High Street.



1964 PARADE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM F. O'BRIEN



GRAND MARSHAL
JEREMIAH J. LAWLER



O'CONNELL AWARD
WILLIAM G. ROGERS



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
JAMES B. DONOVAN



ROHAN AWARD
WILLIAM F. O'BRIEN



1964 GRAND COLLEEN
KATHLEEN KENNEDY



14th Annual Parade

A cold brisk wind greeted the marchers as they turned up High Street from Lyman. The Marshal Dr. "John" Lynch, had just led the parade through his old stomping grounds, "the Ward." Dr. Lynch, with literally thousands of friends and well-wishers was one of the parades most popular Marshals.

Mr. James J. Shea, President of Milton Bradley was the John F. Kennedy Award Winner. Mr. Shea was unique in that he not only was a business and community leader of national prominence, but also a man from Western Massachusetts who supported the Parade's Committee Actions from day one.

President Dillon, presided in fine fashion at the Coronation Ball held at the Schine Inn. Marshall Lynch, crowned Miss Mary Ellen McGinty, Colleen of 1965. Over five hundred attended.

The Irish cultural committee was instituted, and the man who represented Ireland at all of the Holyoke festivities was the Lord Mayor of Westford, Mr. Kevin Morris. The Mayor of Wexford, won the hearts of the Holyoke Committee, and is still a topic of conversation at many of the events.

"Mr. Dependable," Mr. Arthur Barrett, and "Mr. Everything," Mr. William "Bunk" Padden were honored as the Rohan, and O'Connell Award Winners. Both men played a valuable part in making the Holyoke Parade the success that it is today.

Surely, this parade was the finest parade the city had ever seen.



1965 PARADE PRESIDENT
JOHN J. DILLON



GRAND MARSHAL
DR. JOSEPH F. LYNCH



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
JAMES J. SHEA



ROHAN AWARD
ARTHUR F. BARRETT



O'CONNELL AWARD
WILLIAM F. PADDEN



1965 GRAND COLLEEN
MARY ELLEN MCGINTY



15th Annual Parade

The "first" annual Citizenship award dinner was held. The first non-irish citizen recognized for his outstanding support of the parade went to Mr. Leo J. Simard, Sr. Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy received the National Award named in his brother's honor.

With the temperatures in the low 50's and the Mummers strumming away, close to 150,000 viewers turned out to greet Attorney Joseph J. Kelly as he marshaled his parade over High Street.

Mr. Timothy J. Sullivan, Rohan Award Winner, and Attorney Maurice J. Ferriter, O'Connell Award Winner were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the parade committee.

Miss Margaret Shevlin, was crowned colleen at the Schine Inn in Chicopee, and reigned over the finest parade the city had ever seen.



1966 PARADE PRESIDENT
JAMES E. O'LEARY



GRAND MARSHAL
ATTY. JOSEPH J. KELLY



ROHAN AWARD
TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN



O'CONNELL AWARD
ATTY. MAURICE J. FERRITER



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
HON. EDWARD M. KENNEDY



1966 GRAND COLLEEN
MARGARET SHEVLIN



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
LEO J. SIMARD



16th Annual Parade

It was with a feeling of pride and humility that I accepted the position of the 16th President of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. As with every president before and after, a year of total devotion was necessary from every member to make the 1967 parade a success.

The Parade Committee selected two outstanding members to receive the coveted George O'Connell and Tom Rohan awards. Gerald Bynan and Francis X. Tierney were the 1967 recipients.

As the second recipient of the Citizenship Award, the committee selected the late Michael X. Andrews. Mike, a leader in the civic community for years, was a strong supporter of our parade for many years.

Tom Padden, a parade member since its inception, was selected as our Marshal. Never has a man walked the green stripe with more pride than Tom Padden. The John F. Kennedy Award Winner was Tommy Loughran former Light Heavyweight Champion of the World. Tom, a daily communicant whose motto in life is "Help Those Who Need Help," brought to our city a quiet dignity that he, a great humanitarian, carried proudly on his broad shoulders.

To grace the 1967 parade with her beauty and charm was Janet Kelly our lovely colleen.

The weatherman played his usual March symphony on the 125,000 parade watchers and 130,000 marchers with rain, snow, wind and yes a little sunshine, but even this combination could not dampen the spirit of the Irish.

Surely it was the finest parade the city had ever seen.



1967 PARADE PRESIDENT
DR. FRANCIS M. BAKER



GRAND MARSHAL
THOMAS W. PADDEN



ROHAN AWARD
FRANCIS X. TIERNEY



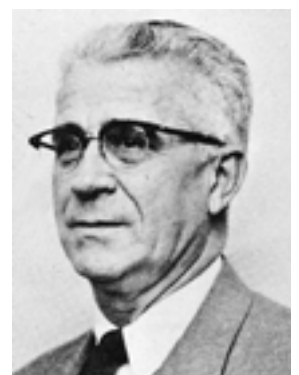
O'CONNELL AWARD
GERALD T. BYNAN



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
TOMMY LOUGHRAN



1967 GRAND COLLEEN
JANET KELLY DEROSIERS



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
MICHEAL X. ANDREWS



17th Annual Parade

In Holyoke, around parade day, everyone talks of only one thing-the weather! To a Parade President, and all who participate as viewers, workers or marchers, prognosticating weather comes a full time job. To a Parade President, good weather is any that has the sunshine, or the wind blowing, or clouds, or even snow. A "bad day" is a rainy day! Parade day 1968 was a "bad day!" It rained like "hell."

But the rain did not dampen the spirits of the marchers, or the viewers. Holyokers and friends again showed their loyalty as they lined the streets. They seem to say: "Since you people have worked so long and hard, and are willing to march, then the least we can do is watch."

Miss Una Petcen our Colleen and her court, were somewhat protected from the elements, as the colleen float was covered with polyethylene.

Grand Marshal and Postmaster Larry O'Brien, were cheerfully received along the route as they proudly led the parade through the puddles on High Street. Mr. Edward "Pop" Coughlin, the Rohan Award recipient, who has organized all of the recent parades, Mr. John K. Bowler and the O'Connell Award recipient, Dan McMahon reflected the true Irish spirit of getting the job done under severe circumstances.

Attorney Samuel Resnic, ex-mayor of the City of Holyoke, couldn't have been prouder as the Citizenship Award recipient of 1968.

Sure it was the proudest day of my life!



1968 PARADE PRESIDENT
TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN



GRAND MARSHAL
WILLIAM J. DEAN



ROHAN AWARD
EDWARD "POP" COUGHLIN



O'CONNELL AWARD
DANIEL J. McMAHON



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
LAWRENCE O'BRIEN



1968 GRAND COLLEEN
UNA PETCEN



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
ATTY. SAMUEL RESNIC



18th Annual Parade

A hundred and twenty-five thousand people crowded the streets of Holyoke, on a warm sunny day, to catch a glimpse of the National Award Recipient. His Eminence, Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, surely was one of the most popular recipients the parade has ever had.

As a matter of fact, all award recipients are well known and respected members of the community and also the parade committee. Rohan Award, "Mike" McIntyre, O'Connell Award, Bernie Lavelle, and our Marshal, Mr. James Millane, were well received by the crowd!

Marshal, Robert E. Barrett, Jr. led fifty-two musical units, and twenty-two floats by the first colored telecast by Channel 22. The innovation that obviously has remained with the Parade.

Miss Deborah Kennedy, reigned as Parade Colleen, and later represented the committee in the Rose of Tralee contest.

All parade activities were dedicated to the memory of Dr. Elmer J. Harrington. They were the finest events and parade the city has ever seen.



1969 PARADE PRESIDENT
DANIEL J. REYNOLDS



GRAND MARSHAL
JAMES F. MILLANE



ROHAN AWARD
MICHAEL MCINTYRE



O'CONNELL AWARD
BERNARD M. LAVELLE



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING



1969 GRAND COLLEEN
DEBORAH KENNEDY



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
ROBERT E. BARRETT



19th Annual Parade

1970 was a banner year! All events were very successful. One innovation that has remained from 1970 is the Coronation Friday night ball. Prior to 1970, the ball was held on Wednesday. The change brought good luck to our Colleen, Miss Kathleen Welch, as she was later chosen the "Rose of Tralee" in her visit to Ireland.

Governor John N. Dempsey, completing his final year as the leading democrat of the state of Connecticut, was named the National Award Recipient.

Our Citizenship Award was also a name well known to not only Holyoke residents, but all of Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, Mr. Robert Steiger. Mr. James Hobert and Dr. Francis Baker were honored respectfully as the Rohan and O'Connell Award recipients of 1970.

The committee was strengthened with the institution of a nominating committee to insure a strong slate of officers annually.

Surely it was the finest parade the city had seen.



1970 PARADE PRESIDENT
ROGER P. DONOGUE



GRAND MARSHAL
FRANK R. KING



ROHAN AWARD
JAMES P. HOBERT



O'CONNELL AWARD
DR. FRANCIS M. BAKER



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
HON. JOHN N. DEMPSEY



1970 GRAND COLLEEN
KATHLEEN WELCH



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
ROBERT K. STEIGER

We Celebrated 20 Years of the Grand Parade!



20th Annual Parade

The Citizenship Award Dinner was held for Mr. Fernando "Pat" Paradis, in appreciation for his commitment to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. A man known to most movie-goers, Mr. "Pat" O'Brien, was honored as the John F. Kennedy National Award Recipient. Over eight hundred people were enthralled at the Mountain Park Ballroom by Mr. O'Brien's story telling.

Marshal William Rogers led a contingent of forty-five bands and twenty-four floats on a crisp day over the long green stripe on High Street. Miss Ann Marie O'Brien was crowned at the Mountain Park Ballroom. Mr. John K. Bowler, O'Connell Award and Mr. James A. Curran, Rohan Award, were also honored at the Ball.

It also occurred that the wooden jaw of the horse decorating the Ballroom lobby was stolen.

It surely was the best parade the city had ever seen.



1971 PARADE PRESIDENT
BERNARD M. LAVELLE



GRAND MARSHAL
WILLIAM G. ROGERS



ROHAN AWARD
JAMES A. CURRAN



O'CONNELL AWARD
JOHN K. BOWLER



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
PAT O'BRIEN



1971 GRAND COLLEEN
ANN MARIE O'BRIEN



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
FERNANDO "PAT" PARADIS



21st Annual Parade

During a time when United States military involvement was being challenged and questioned around the world, Major General Timothy J. Dacey, Jr. was honored as the Parade Committees National Award Recipient for the year 1972.

Two prominent Holyoke citizens also played major roles in this year's events, Marshal David M. Bartley, as he led the parade over High Street and the Citizenship Award Recipient, was Mr. William Dwight, a man who managed the local paper, and whose co-operation the St. Patrick's Committee recognized as invaluable.

Mr. James Murphy, the O'Connell Award Recipient, and Mr. Francis Kane, the Rohan Award Recipient marched proudly over the parade route on that crisp day in March.

1972 saw the innovation of the Oldest Hibernian and the Irish Cultural Committee, two events which have grown in their short history.

Miss Nancy Rainville reigned as Parade Colleen, for the finest parade the city has ever seen.



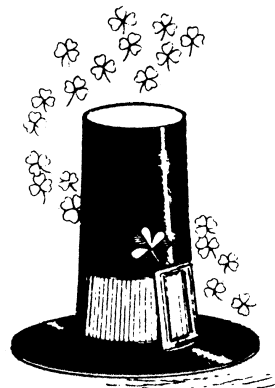
1972 PARADE PRESIDENT
PATRICK B. BRESNAHAN III



GRAND MARSHAL
HON. DAVID M. BARTLEY



ROHAN AWARD
FRANCIS M. KANE



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
WILLIAM DWIGHT



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
Major General
TIMOTHY J. DACEY, Jr.



O'CONNELL AWARD
JAMES R. MURPHY



1972 GRAND COLLEEN
NANCY RAINVILLE



FIRST ANNUAL
DANIEL J. GALLIVAN AWARD
PATRICK H. DOWD



22nd Annual Parade



1973 PARADE PRESIDENT
RUSSELL J. MCNIFF



GRAND MARSHALL
TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
HON. JOHN W. MCCORMACK



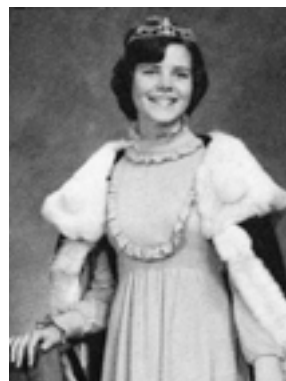
ROHAN AWARD
LEO F. HICKSON



O'CONNELL AWARD
DR. JOHN J. DRISCOLL



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
EUGENE TAMBURI



1973 GRAND COLLEEN
SHERRY LEE MCFADDEN



GALLIVAN AWARD
THOMAS J. SHEA

"100 Years of Holyoke's Irish" was the theme for our 22nd Annual Parade which was held during the City's Centennial year. Our Committee voted to become members of the Centennial Parade Committee and assist in organizing and coordinating the September 1973 Parade. This meant that the Saint Patrick's parade Committee would be producing three spectacular parades in a twelve-month period.

Prior to January when weekly meetings began, the Committee had already been very active participating in the Annual Memorial Day Parade, determining dates and selecting locations for all of its functions. Elected John Mansfield, secretary to James McGee, who stepped down after two years of service, held the Annual Memorial Mass for President Kennedy, solicited ad renewals for the Souvenir Program and met monthly for committee reports.

January saw the pace increase with weekly meetings and turn-away crowds for Gene Tamburi's Testimonial Dinner.

Plans were finalized for a film presentation of the history of Irish Drama, an Irish Play at Elms College and the formal opening of our archives at the library at Elms College.

In the weeks remaining before the Parade, our Colleen Contest was held with five finalists being chosen from 40 contestants; Sherry Lee McFadden was crowned Colleen at our televised Coronation Ball; Dr. John J. Driscoll, Leo F. Hickson and Thomas J. Shea were presented with awards for outstanding service.

As Parade Day got closer, an Irish songfest was held. Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, John W. McCormack, was presented the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award during a televised mass concelebrated by the Bishop of the Springfield diocese; and Timothy J. Sullivan, a charter member and Past President was named Grand Marshal. He led the Parade on a cold, blustery Sunday afternoon with sunshine and snowflakes taking turns throughout the Parade.

44 Musical Units including the Melha Temple Shriners in their first St. Patrick's Parade appearance along with the famed Cardinal Dougherty High School Band from Philadelphia and the popular Ferko string Band (Mummers) provided music for the marchers and 25 beautiful floats.

A special guest of the Committee was a recently released prisoner of war, Capt. Joseph Milligan, U.S.A.F. He attended many of our functions and was warmly received along the entire line of march by the enthusiastic crowd of over 100,000 people. Capt. Milligan was shot down over Vietnam and imprisoned in Hanoi; having him with us for our 22nd Parade was indeed an honor we shall long remember.



23rd Annual Parade

The twenty-third annual parade could not have had a finer group of award recipients. Over a hundred and fifty thousand parade viewers applauded enthusiastically as Grand Marshal George E. Frost led the contingent of marchers over High Street. Dr. Frost was recognized for his many years of dedicated public service to the community as President of Holyoke Community College.

Miss Mary Ann Croke, with her stunning beauty and warm smile, captured the hearts of young and old.

Mr. Wayne Alderman, Citizenship Award recipient, was recognized by the parade viewers for the contributions he has made to the greater Holyoke communities as President of the Community Savings Bank.

The Rohan Award recipient, Mr. John Tierney, and the O'Connell Award recipient, Mr. Patrick B. Bresnahan III, were honored for their contributions of time and effort to the Parade Committee.

Last, but far from least, the J.F.K. Award recipient, Mr. James Bishop, noted columnist, deeply impressed the large crowd of people who attended mass at St. Jerome's, and the Bishop's Reception at Wyckoff Park.

Surely, the award recipients helped to make the 1974 parade the finest event ever.



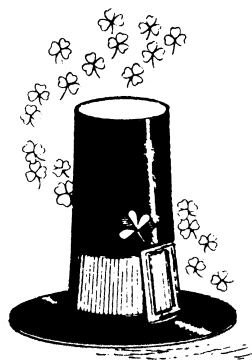
1974 PARADE PRESIDENT
ARTHUR F. BARRETT



GRAND MARSHAL
DR. GEORGE E. FROST



ROHAN AWARD
JOHN T. TIERNEY



O'CONNELL AWARD
PATRICK B. BRESHAHAN, III



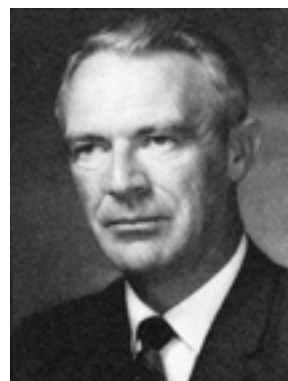
JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
JIM BISHOP



GALLIVAN AWARD
WILLIAM J. CONWAY



1974 GRAND COLLEEN
MARY ANN CROKE



CITIZENSHIP AWARD
WAYNE ALDERMAN



24th Annual Parade

The 24th St. Patrick's Parade will probably be best remembered by the fact that all the marchers received "sunburns." Yes, the weather was up in the sixties as the marchers struck out on a "new" route, beginning at Grants Plaza, and terminating at Veterans Park on Hampden Street. A route which was quite popular with our Grand Marshal, Fire Chief William W. Mahoney, who for the first time in twenty-three years wasn't in "uniform blue" for parade day.

Governor Thomas P. Salmon of Vermont was quite honored and impressed as the John F. Kennedy recipient as he was warmly greeted by over a quarter of a million parade watchers. Our first woman recipient of a major award of the committee, Mrs. Edna Williams, Citizenship Award Recipient, marched the complete 2.1 miles to the enthusiastic reception of the viewers, who recognized her outstanding contributions to the greater Holyoke Community. Dr. John McHugh, Rohan Award, and Russ McNiff, O'Connell Award recipients were also recognized for their tireless effort on behalf of the Parade Committee.

Last, but far from least, Miss Martha Donohue, reigned as the Colleen. The colleen float was over sixty feet in length and was beautifully decorated with striking fresh azaleas.

The 24th Annual Parade epitomized the slogan found on the front cover of the 1975 program "IT IS GREAT TO BE IN HOLYOKE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY."



1975 PARADE PRESIDENT
GEORGE COUNTER



GRAND MARSHAL
FIRE CHIEF
WILLIAM W. MAHONEY



ROHAN AWARD
DR. JOHN E. MCHUGH



O'CONNELL AWARD
RUSSELL J. MCNIFF



JOHN F. KENNEDY AWARD
HON. THOMAS PAUL SALMON



CITIZENSHIP
EDNA WILLIAMS



GALLIVAN AWARD
THOMAS M. KENNEDY JR.



1975 GRAND COLLEEN
MARTHA MARIE DONOHUE



25th Annual Parade



1976 Parade President
ATTY. MAURICE J. FERRITER



Grand Marshal
RICHARD J. MURPHY

“Violent Weather Disrupts Parade” was the headline of the Holyoke Transcript describing the 25th Anniversary Parade. Heavy rain, high winds, and the National Weather Service’s issuance of a tornado watch for the Connecticut Valley caused Parade coordinator “Pop” Coughlin and the police department to cut short the parade. Even though the parade was officially halted for the first time midway through the gala event, the majority of the bands, floats, and marching contingents kept coming until they had completed the parade route.

World renowned Attorney Edward Bennett Williams was honored as the John F. Kennedy Award Recipient for the Silver Anniversary Parade.



John F. Kennedy Award
ATTY. EDWARD BENNETT
WILLIAMS



1976 Grand Colleen
ANN MARIE ABEL

Grand Marshal Richard J. Murphy led the other Distinguished Award recipients, Louis J. Ryback, Citizenship Award; Matthew Doherty, Rohan Award; Edward J. Sears, O’Connell Award; and Phillip L. Sullivan, Gallivan Award; down the route.

Colleen Ann Marie Abel and her Court looked beautiful as they rode along the parade route on their rose garden float.

Premier Road Runner, Bill Rogers, won the Inaugural St. Patrick’s Road Race.



Rohan Award
MATTHEW DOHERTY



O’Connell Award
EDWARD J. SEARS



Citizenship Award
LOUIS J. RYBACK



Gallivan Award
PHILLIP L. SULLIVAN



26th Annual Parade



1977 Parade President
DR. JOHN E. MCHUGH



Grand Marshal
CHIEF FRANCIS J. BAKER

With the threat of snow in the air, 150,000 people turned out to watch the 26th Annual Salute to St. Patrick.

Retired Police Chief Francis J. Baker was proud as he marched the parade route as the 1977 Grand Marshal, but probably not as proud as his son, Past Parade President Dr. Francis M. Baker, as he marched the route as his dad's aide.

Also beaming, was this year's Rohan Award Recipient Dr. William Dean, Jr. as he watched his daughter, Patricia, be crowned as this year's Colleen.



John F. Kennedy Award
JIMMY BRESLIN



Citizenship Award
LAWRENCE A. GRAHAM

Everyone attending the Bishop's Reception enjoyed the wit of this year's National Award Recipient, noted Newspaper Columnist and Writer, Jimmy Breslin.

The Parade Committee also honored Lawrence A. Graham as the Citizenship Award Recipient for his support in helping bring the Shrine Melha Temple Unit to the parade in recent years and two of its own for their tireless service, Roger P. Donoghue with the O'Connell Award and Francis J. Rice with the Gullivan Award.



Rohan Award
DR. WILLIAM J. DEAN JR.



O'Connell Award
ROGER P. DONOGHUE



1977 Grand Colleen
PATRICIA MARIE DEAN



Gullivan Award
FRANCIS J. RICE



27th Annual Parade



1978 Parade President
ROGER F. BREEN

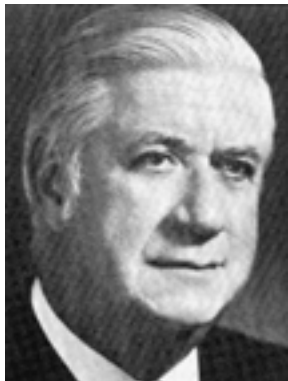


Grand Marshal
EDWARD F. SHEEHY

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, The Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, was honored with the John F. Kennedy Award at the Bishop's Reception by an overflow crowd of over 500 people at Wycoff Country Club, the night before the parade.

Grand Marshal Edward F. Sheehy seemed to know everyone along the 2.5 mile parade route, as he walked the route accompanied by two of his grandchildren.

Also accepting plaudits of the crowd along the route were Citizenship Award Winner Frank H. Cataldo, Rohan Award Winner William H. Burns, O'Connell Award Winner James F. Millane, and Gallivan Award Winner Henry Carey.



John F. Kennedy Award
HON. THOMAS P. "TIP"
O'NEILL, JR.



Citizenship Award
FRANK H. CATALDO

Miss Katherine Quirk was selected as our Colleen at the Coronation Ball held at Chez Josef in Agawam and televised throughout Western Massachusetts by WWLP-Channel 22.

The Ferko String Band and the Polish American String Band, the two Mummers Units from Philadelphia, were the highlight of the almost 50 musical units that participated in the parade.



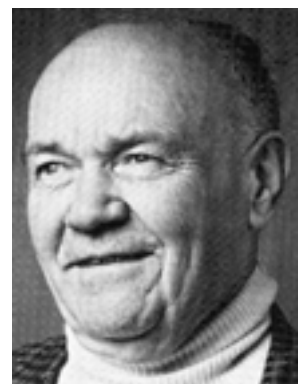
O'Connell Award
JAMES F. MILLANE



Rohan Award
WILLIAM H. BURNS



1978 Grand Colleen
KATHERINE M. QUIRK



Gallivan Award
HENRY CAREY



28th Annual Parade



1979 Parade President
JAMES R. MURPHY



Grand Marshal
HON. JOHN F. MORIARTY

Clear skies and temperatures in the low 40's greeted the units as they assembled in the late morning, but a blustery March wind made it seem colder along the route. Colleen Corrine Baker, of South Hadley, and her Court were windblown and shivering by the time their float reached the reviewing stand on High Street.

The Chicopee Colleen Float received the Elmer Harrington Award as the top float in the parade, but it broke down just as it reached High Street and had to be towed past the reviewing stand by a tow truck.



John F. Kennedy Award
DAN DEVINE



Rohan Award
JAMES E. O'LEARY

Many bands played the "Notre Dame Fight Song" as they passed the Parade Committee Reviewing Stand to salute this year's National Award Winner Dan Devine, Head Football Coach at Notre Dame University.

Receiving their salute along the way from the crowd were this year's Grand Marshal Judge John F. Moriarty and the Distinguished Parade Awardees: Citizenship Award Winner Robert Grenier, Rohan Award Winner James E. O'Leary, Gallivan Award Winner Delfo Barabani, and O'Connell Award Winner Daniel Tierney.



Citizenship Award
ROBERT GRENIER



O'Connell Award
DANIEL E. TIERNEY



1979 Grand Colleen
CORRINE BAKER



Gallivan Award
DELFO BARABANI



29th Annual Parade



1980 Parade President
JOSEPH PAUL



Grand Marshal
JAMES J. SHEA



Rohan Award
GEORGE W. COUNTER



Citizenship Award
ROBERT H. BOURASSA

The sun shone brightly and the temperature rose into the 60's as the Holyoke Caledonian Kiltie Band led off the parade. The weather undoubtedly played a large part in the day's unquestionable success, as an estimated 200,000 spectators turned out to watch the event.

City Clerk and this year's Grand Marshal, James J. Shea, beamed as bright as the sun as he marched along the route waving to the huge crowd.

Another who greatly enjoyed the day's events was John F. Kennedy Award Winner Arthur J. Rooney, Sr., who was greeted by spectators waving the well-known "Terrible Towel"—the yellow towel which has become a symbol of support for Rooney's Pittsburgh Steelers.

Mr. Robert H. Bourassa, Citizenship Award Winner, was recognized especially by the committee members on and in front of the reviewing stand for his outstanding support of the parade as General Manager of Williams Distributing Co.

Paul L. Lunney, son of William Lunney, the Parade Committee's First President, was selected as this year's O'Connell Award Winner, along with Assistant School Superintendent George W. Counter as the Rohan Award Winner and Alan F. Cathro as the Gallivan Award Winner for their hard work on the committee.

And finally, Colleen Patricia Long looked lovely, as she rode along the route on the front of her float on such a beautiful day.



John F. Kennedy Award
ARTHUR J. ROONEY



O'Connell Award
PAUL L. LUNNEY



1980 Grand Colleen
PATRICIA ANN LONG



Gallivan Award
ALAN F. CATHRO



30th Annual Parade

The 30th Annual Salute to St. Patrick stepped off on a high flying note as the U.S. Navy's "Chuting Stars" Parachutists Team put on an aerial exhibition landing in Crosier Field just as the first units went by.

Also flying high was Parade Grand Marshal Edward "Sarge" Nugent as he abandoned the car he was riding in at Hampden and High Streets and walked to the reviewing stand at City Hall.

The Parade Committee came home for its 30th Annual parade by selecting as its National Award Winner Dr. William A. Nolen, famous medical author and former South Hadley native.

The float carrying Colleen Ann Dean and her Court made an unscheduled stop on Beech St. in front of the home of Court Member Ellen McGiverin where family members released green helium balloons in their honor.

Both Jack and Charlie Kramer enjoyed themselves immensely as they acknowledged the applause of the crowd, as they rode along the parade route together as co-winners of the Citizenship Award.

George Griffin, Michael F. Tierney and Peter Lappin were selected by the Parade Committee as the O'Connell, Rohan and Gallivan Award Winners respectively, for their hard work.

And in true tradition, the Matadors Drum and Bugle Corps ended the parade with a fantastic show in front of the Parade Committee Reviewing Stand.



1981 Parade President
DANIEL J. MCMAHON



Grand Marshal
EDWARD "SARGE" NUGENT



O'Connell Award
GEORGE E. GRIFFIN



Citizenship Award
BROTHERS JACK AND CHARLES KRAMER



Gallivan Award
PETER H. LAPPIN



John F. Kennedy Award
DR. WILLIAM A. NOLEN



Rohan Award
MICHAEL F. TIERNEY



1981 Grand Colleen
ANN DEAN



31st Annual Parade



1982 Parade President
JAMES M. GRADY



Grand Marshal
REV. MAURICE B.
"HOBBY" MARTIN



John F. Kennedy Award
MRS. MAUREEN
O'HARA BLAIR



Citizenship Award
DONALD N. LAFRENNIE



Rohan Award
RICHARD J. WALKER



O'Connell Award
PHILIP F. FLANAGAN

On Parade Day, the high spirits of the previous day's events were still in evidence. On Saturday, large crowds attended the John F. Kennedy Memorial Service and the televised Mass from St. Jerome's Church to catch their first glimpse of Actress Maureen O'Hara Blair, the J.F.K. Award Recipient. The 750 people who attended the Bishop's Reception showed Maureen O'Hara the spirit and warmth of the people of Holyoke. Maureen responded by not leaving until all those who wanted her autograph had received it, the last person being the chef who had prepared the excellent meal.

Although the weatherman was not cooperative and the forecast was rain, it did not dampen the spirits of the parade committee or the people of this community.

Our Grand Marshal, the first member of the clergy to receive this award, Rev. Father Maurice "Hobby" Martin proudly led us through the streets of Holyoke.

Actress Maureen O'Hara Blair rode through the streets of Holyoke accompanied by her two escorts, Maurice A. Donahue and Atty. Maurice Ferriter, taking time to speak to all, sign autographs, pose for pictures and, in general, reached the hearts of every person along the way. The enthusiasm was contagious.

Rohan Award Recipient Richard J. Walker; O'Connell Award Recipient, Philip F. Flanagan; Citizenship Award Recipient, Donald N. Lafrennie; and Gallivan Award Recipient, Mark F. O'Brien all marched proudly and were cheered by all.

Our lovely Colleen, Patricia O'Connor, who had earlier in the month performed an Irish Step Dance for all who attended the Coronation Ball, gracefully rode upon her throne waving to all as her float passed along the route.

Jim Montgomery, President of Pan American Airlines, who accompanied Maureen O'Hara to Holyoke became caught up in the excitement of the day that he also marched along the parade route escorted by Peggy Ferriter.

Only half the parade had passed the reviewing stand in front of City Hall when the rain began to fall. But the spectators still remained.

The rains may have fallen, but the City of Holyoke was filled with sunshine and warmth on that day.



1982 Grand Colleen
PATRICIA O'CONNOR



Gallivan Award
MARK F. O'BRIEN



32nd Annual Parade



1983 Parade President
JOHN T. O'NEILL



Grand Marshal
JOHN T. HICKEY

More than 150,000 people turned out to greet the marchers as sun-drenched skies helped make the day. But the real star of the day was this year's National Award Recipient, Bishop Joseph F. Maguire of Springfield. His Excellency demonstrated the warmth for which he is known as he hugged children all along the route and made some poignant stops to embrace handicapped children and greet recently deinstitutionalized patients at a Halfway House near the route.

Grand Marshal John T. Hickey, Manager of the Holyoke Water Power Company, led 48 bands, 23 floats and 10,000 marchers over the 2.9 mile route including his 90 year old uncle, Past Parade President Timothy Sullivan, who marched all the way.



John F. Kennedy Award
MOST REV. BISHOP
JOSEPH F. MAGUIRE



Rohan Award
EDWARD J. WELSH

Miss Karen Barrett was crowned Colleen earlier in the month at the Coronation Ball held at the Northampton Hilton. Mr. Marc Joyce, O'Connell Award; Mr. Edward J. Welch, Rohan Award; and Mr. James M. Curran, Gallivan Award were also honored at the Ball.

After the parade, the committee adjourned to the Yankee Pedlar for its Annual Post Parade Party and toasted owner, Frank Banks, as this year's Winner of the Citizenship Award.



O'Connell Award
MARC E. JOYCE



Gallivan Award
JAMES M. CURRAN



1983 Grand Colleen
KAREN BARRETT



Citizenship Award
FRANK A. BANKS



33rd Annual Parade



1984 Parade President
ATTY. PETER F. BRADY



Grand Marshal
JAMES "BARRY"
FARRELL



John F. Kennedy Award
HON. EDWARD P. BOLAND



Rohan Award
JOHN MANSFIELD



Citizenship Award
BENJAMIN H. MARCUS



O'Connell Award
THOMAS J. SHEA



1984 Grand Colleen
ALYSSA FITZPATRICK



Gallivan Award
JOHN F. JOHNSON

The temperature was in the 30's and the sky was overcast as the 33rd Annual parade got underway. The cold weather and the remains of a 9 inch snowstorm earlier in the week kept the crowd to only 100,000.

To keep warm, Colleen Alyssa Fitzpatrick, who seemed glamorous ostensibly, sported light blue "Long Johns" under her gown.

The weather did not get any better as the day went on. By mid-afternoon, it started to drizzle just as the Polish American String Band finished, thus saving their expensive uniforms from damage. By the time the Matadors performed in front of the reviewing stand to end the parade, it was pouring.

Congressman Edward P. Boland was all smiles, no matter what the weather, as he walked the route with his family as the National Award Recipient, but it was his young son, Michael, who stole the show at the Bishop's Reception, the night before.

Grand Marshal James "Barry" Farrell received tremendous applause along the route, but nowhere was it greater than when he passed by his funeral home on Northampton Street.

The Parade Committee selected parade Coordinator John Mansfield as the Rohan Award Winner for his great job in putting the parade together over the past several years. Thomas J. Shea was selected as the O'Connell Award Recipient and John F. Johnson was named the Gallivan Award Winner for their hard work. The Committee also named Benjamin H. Marcus as the Citizenship Award Recipient for his outstanding work in printing the Annual Parade Program.



34th Annual Parade

Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade – 1985

And Irish eyes, — They did smile.

With help from the weather, and maybe from St. Patrick himself, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade went off Sunday with hardly a hitch. An estimated crowd of 200,000 lined Holyoke streets for the annual festivities which featured more than 15,000 marchers, 40 floats, and 40 odd bands. The annual event honored five previous National Award Winners by having them installed in the St. Patrick's Parade Hall of Fame. They were:

- (1) MAUREEN O'HARA (Actress)
- (2) FORMER GOVERNOR JOHN DEMPSEY (Connecticut)
- (3) FORMER GOVERNOR THOMAS SALMON (Vermont)
- (4) DAN DEVINE (Former Coach of Notre Dame)
- (5) LARRY O'BRIEN (Former J.F.K. Aid and Commissioner of Basketball)

Parade Committee President Charles "Fred" Glidden should be proud of his accomplishments and those of his all-volunteer colleagues. A great day was had by all.



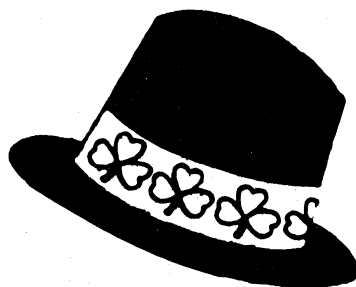
1985 Parade President
CHARLES F. GLIDDEN



Grand Marshal
JAMES E. O'LEARY



Rohan Award
DAVID B. DONOGHUE



Citizenship Award
NICK COSMOS



John F. Kennedy Award
FRANK MCGUIRE



O'Connell Award
DANIEL REYNOLDS



1985 Grand Colleen
MAUREEN SIMONDS



Gallivan Award
WILLIAM EGAN



35th Annual Parade

The Sun Shines Over Holyoke – 1986

A near-record crowd gathered under sunny skies Sunday to celebrate the city's 35th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Parade officials said that more than 300,000 people lined the streets to watch the three mile, four hour parade; the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the country.

Forty floats – including a model of the space shuttle “Challenger,” the Statue of Liberty and a giant Ronald McDonald – and 15,000 marchers from throughout the Northeast provided effective drawing cards for the crowd.

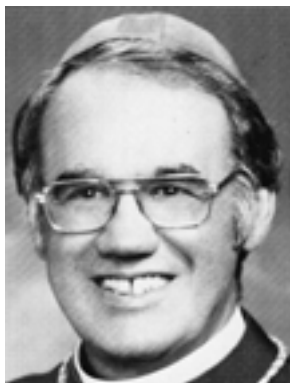
Dignitaries, including Governor Michael S. Dukakis, (MA), Governor William O'Neill, (CT), and Bishop Joseph F. Maguire, smiled and waved to the crowd as they marched slowly by.

The thirty-fifth annual parade could not have had a finer group of award recipients. Everyone applauded enthusiastically as Grand Marshal, The Most Reverend Leo E. O'Neil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield led the large contingent of marchers.

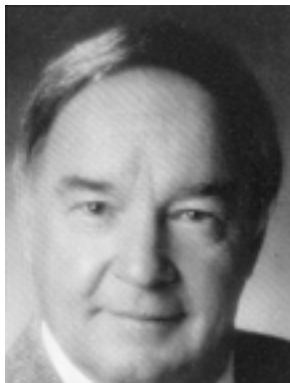
All of the above pictured individuals were recognized by president, Joseph Gosselin and the parade Committee for their contributions of time and effort to the Greater Holyoke Communities and the St. Patrick's Parade Festivities.



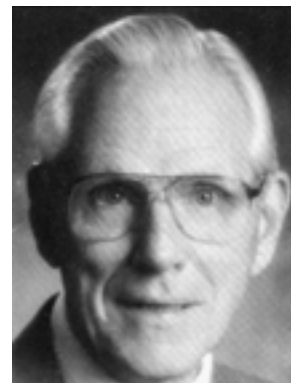
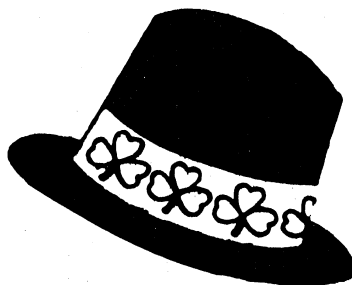
1986 Parade President
Joseph V. Gosselin



1986 Grand Marshal
Auxiliary Bishop Leo E. O'Neil



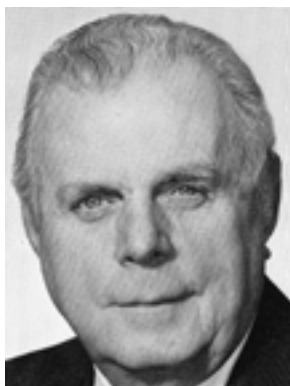
1986 Rohan Award
Thomas P. McGarry



1986 Citizenship Award
Leo W. Simard



1986 John F. Kennedy Award
Governor William A. O'Neill
of Connecticut



1986 O'Connell Award
Robert J. Rohan



1986 Grand Colleen
Kerry Ann Moriarty



1986 Gullivan Award
Gerald D. Healy



36th Annual Parade

HOLYOKE SHARES ITS BEST

CLOUDS COULDN'T DARKEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE – 1987

Weatherwise, Sunday was not the best of days for a parade! Still, crowds estimated at 300,000 about seven times Holyoke's population, lined the route for the show.

Out there among the 16,000 marchers, 38 bands, and 20 spectacular floats, enjoying the cheers of the throng, were a presidential candidate, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, both of Massachusetts' U.S. senators, and a veteran U.S. representative—with such Irish names as Kennedy, Kerry, and Boland—and a host of other public and private dignitaries, including the lord mayor of Wexford, Ireland, Dominic Kiernan.

But the man who most kept the focus of the festival where it belongs—on Ireland and its patron saint, and by extension, on all Irish Americans, was this year's winner of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Award, Dennis Day.

We can't say enough about the members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, who under the capable leadership of President Alan Cathro, efficiently performed the endless tasks involved in arranging such a big event, nor of the host city, Holyoke, for putting on this parade each year.

Perhaps no other single annual event in this region so successfully ties it together.



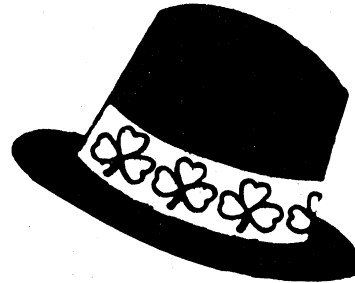
1987 Parade President
Alan F. Cathro



1987 Grand Marshal
Anne Hearn McHugh



1987 Rohan Award
Donald J. Moynihan



1987 Citizenship Award
John V. Czelusniak



1987 John F. Kennedy Award
Dennis Day



1987 O'Connell Award
Raymond C. Burke



1987 Grand Colleen
Theresa Clark



1987 Gallivan Award
Brian Q. Corridan



37th Annual Parade

Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade – 1988

"PROUD TO BE IRISH"

Although 15,000 marchers were buffeted by a brief snow squall, and the Huge Heath Cliff Balloon could hardly stand up in a cold stiff wind, the warmth and pride of the Western Massachusetts Irish came through during the 37th annual spectacle of fantastic floats, stirring pipe bands and strutting political figures.

But the spirit of the event, with 22 floats and 42 bands parading by for 3½ hours was undiminished by the weather that beset the wearers of the green.

"A little bit of Mardi Gras," was how developer Thomas Flatley, recipient of this year's John F. Kennedy Award described the Holyoke Parade. "I think what I've seen in Holyoke is the best of all worlds." "It isn't just the Irish, it's the Irish sharing their pride with the rest of the city."

The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade can be relied on to draw positive publicity and goodwill to Holyoke and this year's parade which was under the capable leadership of President David Donoghue, plus a hard working committee was no exception.



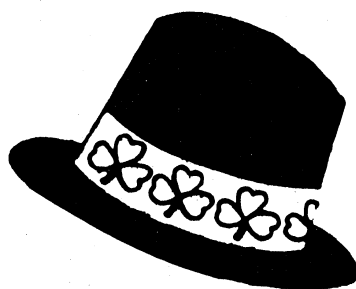
1988 Parade President
DAVID B. DONOGHUE



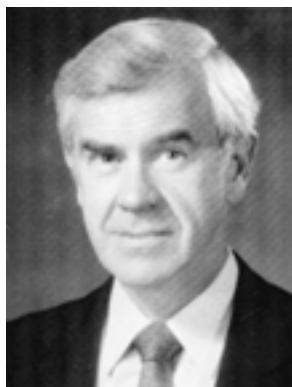
Grand Marshal
BERNARD M. LAVELLE



Rohan Award
RAYMOND H. FEYRE



Citizenship Award
WILLIAM DWIGHT, JR.



John F. Kennedy Award
THOMAS J. FLATLEY



O'Connell Award
DAVID W. GRIFFIN



1988 Grand Colleen
RUTH ELLEN ALLYN



Gullivan Award
PAUL G. CARON



38th Annual Parade

HOLYOKE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE – 1989

"A MARCH OF PRIDE"

The sun shone upon marchers making their way through Holyoke Sunday, as young and old took in the color and celebration of the 38th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

An estimated 200,000 spectators came out for the city's big day. From the seemingly endless entourage of Shriners to the Mummers Bands, the four hour parade was full of bright colors, high spirits and teamwork. Giant balloons in the shape of a shamrock and a green brontosaurus were marvelous additions to the event that all the citizens of Western Massachusetts and beyond could be proud of.

For author Neil Sheehan, the National Award Winner, it was a weekend to talk about John F. Kennedy, as well as his boyhood in Holyoke. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his writing a book entitled, "A Bright Shining Lie: Paul Vann and America in Vietnam." It is touted by some as the best history of the Vietnam War.

Although the weather was incredible and the turnout fantastic, parade President Raymond H. Feyre and the members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee deserve the accolades of all for their hard work.



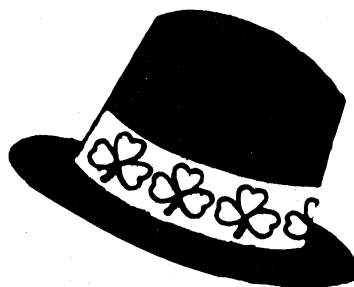
1989 Parade President
RAYMOND H. FEYRE



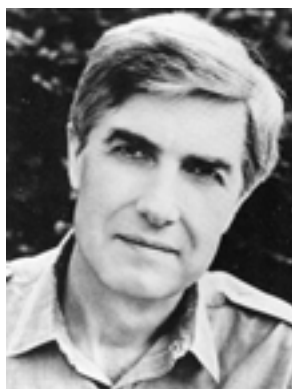
Grand Marshal
THOMAS J. DONAHUE



Rohan Award
JOSEPH V. GOSSELIN



Citizenship Award
WARREN A. RHOADES



John F. Kennedy Award
NEIL SHEEHAN



O'Connell Award
JOSEPH F. GRIFFIN III



1989 Grand Colleen
ANNE MARIE O'CONNELL



Gallivan Award
WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN



39th Annual Parade

BEST OF BEING IRISH SHOWN OFF AT PARADE

The spirit of the Irish put on its marching shoes and stamped a lively path through the city in the 39th Annual St. Patrick's Parade.

A colorful stream of marchers and music flowed smoothly along the 2.9 mile parade route under alternating patches of slate gray clouds and a powder blue sky. A 20 minute windwhipped rain shower early in the afternoon failed to chill the enthusiasm of the 12,000 plus marchers, or the more than 100,000 spectators.

Parade President Frederick L. Sullivan clocked the parade's duration at a little less than two and one half hours from his spot in a review stand in front of City Hall. About 178 units, including 32 bands and about 15 floats, assembled in the K Mart parking lot on Northampton Street and made their way along Northampton Street, Beech Street, Hampden Street and High Street, ending at High and Appleton Streets.

Sullivan, a Springfield attorney, and a Holyoke resident, spoke in superlatives of the preparation work done by the 150 member parade committee.

The crowd seemed to take more notice of the dignitaries for a day: National Award winner Most Rev. Bishop Leo E. O'Neil; Grand Colleen Mary Deleva; Citizenship Award winner U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield; Rohan Award winner Alan F. Cathro; O'Connell Award winner Ernest J. Ross, Jr.; and Daniel J. Gallivan Award winner Donald R. Delano. Although the parade committee had been saddened by the untimely death of parade Marshal James K. Kelly, his place in the line of march was magnificently filled by his wife Jacqueline. A contingent from the committee that runs the Washington D.C., St. Patrick's Day parade was very impressed by Holyoke's rendition and presented a plaque to the Holyoke parade members in honor of the occasion.

Representing the government of the Republic of Ireland, Minister of the Marine John Wilson said he was "singularly impressed" by the warm reception given to marchers by spectators. Marching next to Wilson, Liam Canniffie, Consul General of Ireland spoke more specifically about the appeal of the Holyoke parade.

In summary, it was a grand day for all.



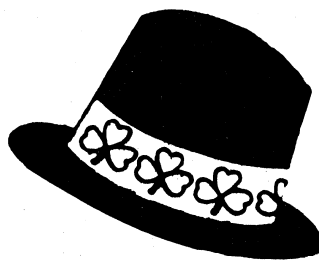
1990 Parade President
Atty. Frederick L. Sullivan



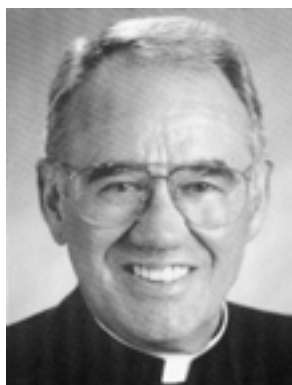
1990 Grand Marshal
James K. Kelly



1990 Rohan Award
Alan F. Cathro



1990 Citizenship Award
Silvio O. Conte



1990 John F. Kennedy Award
Most Rev. Bishop Leo E. O'Neil



1990 O'Connell Award
Ernest J. Ross



1990 Grand Colleen
Mary Deleva



1990 Gallivan Award
Donald R. Delano



40th Annual Parade

PATRIOTISM PARADED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY RED, WHITE AND BLUE COMPLIMENTS IRISH GREEN

From the 7 story Yankee Doodle Dandy Balloon to the flyover by a C-5A Galaxy to the seemingly endless stream of yellow ribbons, the 40th annual St. Patrick's Day parade played patriotic, as a large number of military forces participated.

A crowd estimated at nearly 300,000 gloried in 56 degree weather. The best parade day since 1952 when Holyoke started an event to honor the patron saint of Ireland. The 2.9 mile parade route and the 6.2 mile road race were lined with a total of 789 shamrocks, plus thousands of yellow ribbons that honored the returning American Military Forces from the war in the Persian Gulf.

If a community's—even a nation's—goodwill and happiness could be felt through one event, it was Sunday's St. Patrick's Day Parade. In all, there were 15,000 marchers, 34 bands and 14 floats that were complimented by almost perfect weather and people's eagerness to celebrate, making the 40th annual event one of the best—if not the best—according to parade President James P. Meenaghan.

One can't say enough about the city's annual big event or the thousands of volunteers, award winners and parade committee members who make it work.



1991 Parade President
James P. Meenaghan



1991 Grand Marshal
Patrick B. Bresnahan



1991 Rohan Award
Dr. Robert J. O'Brien



1991 Citizenship Award
William L. Putnam



1991 John F. Kennedy Award
Carmel Quinn



1991 O'Connell Award
John T. O'Neill



1991 Grand Colleen
Christine Brill



1991 Gullivan Award
Jack O'Neill

41st Annual Parade

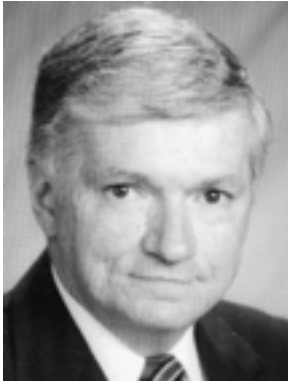


"A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY" **EVENT DRAWS 275,000 TO HOLYOKE**

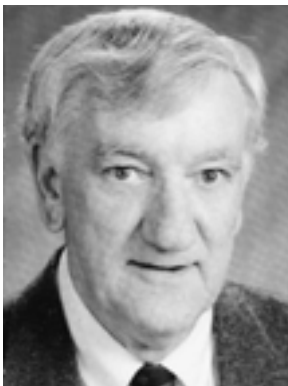
The cheery spirit was a "reawakening from winter." The marching bands and colorful floats in the 41st St. Patrick's Parade provided nearly 275,000 spectators with something mother nature couldn't, a breath of spring, as winds gusted and temperatures hovered in the mid-30s. The crowds cheered an estimated 10,000 marchers who traveled the 2.9 mile parade route with no problems, thanks to the excellent organizational efforts of president Russell J. McNiff who guided the large parade committee and 40 subcommittees through a year of difficult preparations.

For an afternoon, everyone was Irish as the city became green for the St. Patrick's Parade. Sequined mummers, multicolored floats and the tiny Shriner cars were all part of this annual tradition which was enjoyed by thousands of spectators who filled the sidewalks, lawns and even roof tops along the route. Holyoke celebrated with celebrities like internationally known Author Tom Clancy and Eoin McKiernan, founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Irish American Cultural Institute, who received the first Ambassador's Medal and the Melha Shriners, recipients of the Citizenship Award. Also honored were our own Marshal Edward "POP" Coughlin, Father Francis Sullivan, "Gallivan Award," Peter F. Brady, "Rohan Award," Terence Bresnahan, "O'Connell Award," and Candice McKenzie, "Grand Colleen."

As the 41st annual parade becomes history, an appreciative "thank you" must be given to all the dignitaries, bands and floats that area communities provided to make this event the marvelous spectacle that it is.



1992 Parade President
Russell J. McNiff



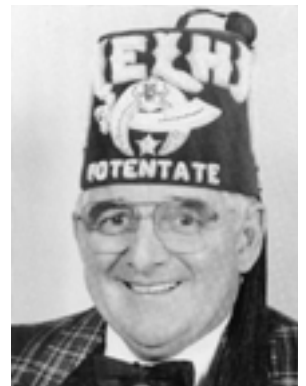
1992 Grand Marshal
Edward B. "Pop" Coughlin



1992 Rohan Award
Atty. Peter F. Brady



1992 First Ambassador's Award
Eoin McKiernan



1992 Citizenship Award
Richard C. Bewsee, Potentate
Melha Shriner



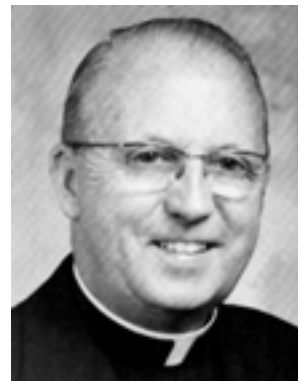
1992 John F. Kennedy Award
Tom Clancy



1992 O'Connell Award
Terence M. Bresnahan



1992 Grand Colleen
Candice McKenzie



1992 Gallivan Award
Fr. Francis X. Sullivan

42nd Annual Parade



PARADE GOERS, ORGANIZERS SMILE AT "GRAY IRISH DAY"

It was a fine gray day, as they would say in the Old Country. The 42nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade, was held midst a backdrop of morning snow flakes, leaden skies and a sprinkling of late afternoon sunshine. But it was held against a sea of smiling faces, waving arms and buoyant parade spirits that showed on the face of President Joseph Griffin who worked tirelessly throughout the year with many committees to make the event successful.



1993 Parade President
Joseph F. Griffin

Our Parade Grand Marshal Maurice J. Ferriter said, "It's always perfect weather when Irish eyes are smiling." The 2.9 mile route was filled with hats, sweaters, and balloons in various shades of green that gave background to our many award recipients that are pictured here. Bands from Pennsylvania and New York including the crowd favorite, The Mummers from Philadelphia, delighted the spectators. The parade lasted about 2 hours and 15 minutes and included 36 bands and 20 floats. It is truly amazing that thousands of people come from afar to take part in this wonderful day, either as participants or spectators.

GOD SAVE IRELAND



1993 Grand Marshal
Atty. Maurice J. Ferriter



1993 Rohan Award
Lawrence M. Griffin



1993 Second Ambassador's Award
William M. Bulger



1993 Citizenship Award
Oscar and Christopher Bail



1993 John F. Kennedy Award
Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C.



1993 O'Connell Award
Michael O. Larkin



1993 Grand Colleen
Heather Bresnahan



1993 Gullivan Award
Michael Patrick Flynn

43rd Annual Parade

GREEN PROVES GOLDEN AS SUNSHINE WARMS THE COLORFUL EVENT



St. Patrick himself seemed to smile upon President Dave Griffin and his huge committee as the 43rd annual parade in honor of the patron saint moved out yesterday, with a sunny sky and a wind at everyone's back. Thick crowds along the main thoroughfares in Holyoke enjoyed the bright sun, fun and festivities.

The Parade, the only one of its size in the State this year, drew more than 200,000 spectators. The road rose to meet 16,000 marchers, 38 bands and thirteen floats including three units from the Philadelphia Mummers.

Winning the award for best musical unit in the line of march was the Dublin All Stars, from Dublin, Ireland. The group was made up of more than 100 teenage musicians that were chosen from all over Ireland to wear the red, gold and white uniforms of the unit. A sprinkling of floats throughout the parade gave a hint of Springtime and were well received.

The Holyoke Parade Committee is very proud to honor all of the individuals that are pictured here and to show gratitude for keeping our Irish heritage alive.

GOD SAVE IRELAND



1994 Parade President
David W. Griffin



1994 Grand Marshal
Robert J. Rohan



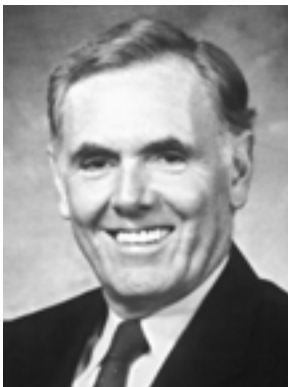
1994 Rohan Award
Robert C. Dawson



1994 Third Ambassador's Award
Claire O'Gara Grimes



1994 Citizenship Award
Michael A. Zwirko



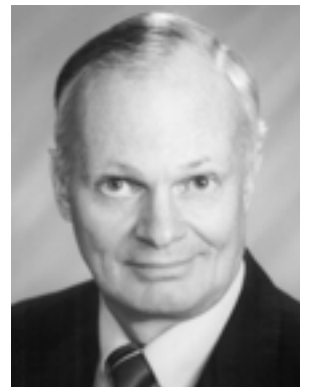
1994 John F. Kennedy Award
Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn



1994 O'Connell Award
John Joseph Ferriter



1994 Grand Colleen
Kara Elizabeth Shanahan



1994 Gullivan Award
William F. Brutnell

44th Annual Parade

March 19, 1995



FINE WEATHER BLESSES HOLYOKE AS 300,000 SPECTATORS OBSERVE THE EVENT

St. Patrick set the pace by providing a flawless day for the thousands of marchers and spectators who filled 2.6 miles of the city's streets. Continuous sunshine with little wind, and the 53 degree temperature throughout the day was perfect.

Parade officials estimated that our country's second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade attracted more than 300,000 spectators, creating a new attendance record, in the history of this event.

"I think it went perfectly. The day was beautiful and the music was magical," said parade President John Ferriter, while watching the 36 bands, 18 floats and 15,000 marchers led by Grand Marshal Charles W. "Bill" Dinn.

Nearly everyone received a perfect score in Holyoke's annual celebration, including participants from the seven surrounding communities, a world class road race that featured over 2,000 runners and our award recipients that are pictured here. It was great to be in Holyoke to honor St. Patrick on such a huge scale, on such a grand day.

GOD SAVE IRELAND



1995 Parade President
Atty. John J. Ferriter



1995 Grand Marshal
Charles W. "Bill" Dinn



1995 Rohan Award
Joseph Paul, Jr.



1995 Ambassador's Award
William J. Flynn



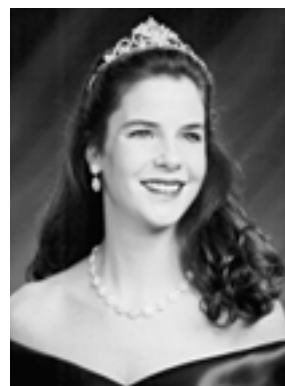
1995 Gullivan Award
Daniel C. Gallagher



1995 John F. Kennedy Award
Eoin McKiernan



1995 O'Connell Award
Atty. Frederick L. Sullivan



1995 Grand Colleen
Marikate Moriarty



1995 Citizenship Award
HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPT.
Rep. by Commissioners: James P. Lavelle
Atty. Neil J. Moriarty, Jr. and Kenneth W. Seyffer



45th Annual Parade

THE WEATHER TRULY REFLECTED

"THE LUCK OF THE IRISH"

The 45th Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade, held on a particularly magnificent and splendidly sunny March 17th, was brought to life by the warmth and love of the throngs of people lining the processional route. Fran Baker was proud to follow in the footsteps of his father as the Grand Marshal. Fran led thousands in the parade which featured nineteen floats, thirty-three marching bands, including three Mummers units from Philadelphia, and the usual grand contingent of Shriners. The Colleens of five communities, including the Grand Colleen Shaena A. Smalley rode proudly on floats built especially for them.

Perhaps Robert Stack, the JFK National Award recipient, and his lovely wife Rosemarie left the city a little tired, but they certainly felt buoyed by the love shown by the people of Holyoke. During their four days in Western Massachusetts, Bob and Rosemarie enthusiastically sought the numerous hands of friendship extended to them during their stay.

Milton Bradley's CEO George Ditomassi, the Ambassador's Award recipient and a native of Holyoke, along with his wife Michele had anticipated such a great time that Milton Bradley brought their Waterford, Ireland plant manager to Holyoke for the weekend.

Mary Lynch, the Rohan Award recipient; Jack O'Neil, the O'Connell Award recipient; and Ken Collins, the Gallivan Award recipient were all warmly greeted by the people along the parade route.

Parade president Mike Larkin and his wife, Christine, had a tumultuous but rewarding year that culminated with the parade. This successful parade was a credit to the efforts of many dedicated committee members and also to the love and support of the entire community.



1996 Parade President
Michael O. Larkin



1996 Grand Marshal
Dr. Francis M. Baker



1996 Rohan Award
Mary M. Lynch



1996 Ambassador's Award
George R. Ditomassi



1996 Gallivan Award
Kenneth Collins



1996 John F. Kennedy Award
Robert L. Stack



1996 O'Connell Award
Jack O'Neill



1996 Grand Colleen
Shaena A. Smalley



1996 Citizenship Award
Congressman John Oliver

46th Annual Parade



HOLYOKE EVENT CHILLS, DAZZLES 300,000.

The thump of marching bands, the waves of the Colleens and the thousands of smiling Irish eyes marked the 46th Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade here yesterday.

An estimated 300,000 or more gathered along the 2.6 mile parade route, which runs down Northampton, Beech, Appleton, High and Hampden Streets. The parade lasted almost four hours, concluding around 3:30 P.M. at High & Hampden Streets.

On a blustery afternoon with temperatures in the low 30s, many marchers and those in the audience shivered with cold. The Holyoke Magnet Middle School float was the grand prize winner in the float category, while the Shelton Conn. Alumni Senior Drum and Bugle Corps won for best musical unit.

About 40 marching bands participated in the parade playing Irish standards like "McNamara's Band" and "Irish Eyes Are Smiling." The floats in the parade included the Schermerhorn Blimp and five different floats featuring area Colleens and their courts.

A special thank you must go out to President Larry Griffin and the 200+ men and women of the St. Patrick's Parade who have given so much of their time and talent to ensure the success of the parade and its related events.



1997 Parade President
Lawrence M. Griffin

God Save Ireland



1997 Grand Marshal
Dr. John E. McHugh



1997 Rohan Award
James J. Tierney



1997 Ambassador's Award
Niall O'Dowd



1997 Gullivan Award
Michael M. Gordon



1997 John F. Kennedy Award
John J. Sweeney



1997 O'Connell Award
David B. Donoghue



1997 Grand Colleen
Mary Kate Cartier



1997 Citizenship Award
Joseph D. Lobello

47th Annual Parade

March 22, 1998

ST PATRICK'S PARADE PLOWS AHEAD.



A persistent snow storm cut down on spectators and participants, but Holyoke's show went on. For most, however, the weather was a minor irritant and the parade was just the same as any other year, filled with marching bands, Colleen contest recipients, politicians waving and crowds cheering. Organizers said they never considered cancelling the parade, which for 47 years has always been held as scheduled.

Winning the Harrington Award Grand Prize float were The Sons of Erin from Westfield. The Chicopee Parade Committee won the prize for Best Colleen Float, and the West Springfield Parade Committee won first prize for Best Irish-themed Float. First place for patriotic theme went to the Northampton Parade Committee.

The many award recipients pictured on this page are to be congratulated for helping to foster their Irish Heritage. The dedication of the 200 parade members under the excellent leadership of President Jack O'Neill was deeply appreciated by all communities in Western Mass.

God Save Ireland



1998 Parade President
Jack O'Neill



1998 Grand Marshal
Daniel E. Tierney



1998 Rohan Award
Edward J. Sears



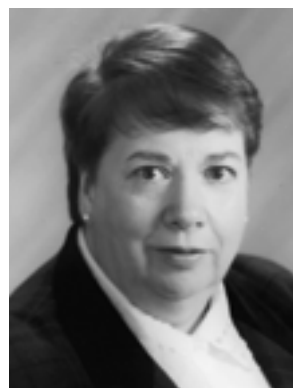
1998 Ambassador's Award
Tommy Makem



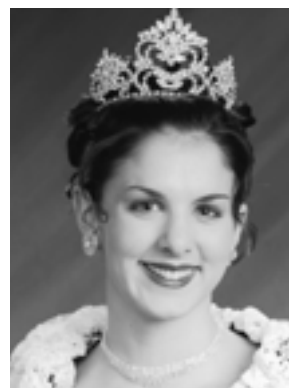
1998 Gullivan Award
James J. McVey



1998 John F. Kennedy Award
General Richard I. Neal



1998 O'Connell Award
Patricia McNiff



1998 Grand Colleen
Kimberly Lyn Willis



1998 Citizenship Award
Peter Picknelly, Sr.

48th Annual Parade

March 21, 1999

CROWDS CHEER ST. PATRICK'S PARADE.



Gray skies and tolerable temperatures marked the day as Western Mass Irish strutted their stuff through the streets of this proud city for the 48th time. Parade Grand Marshal Francis M. Kane & 1999 Parade President Patricia C. Devine led the line of march that included units from many surrounding municipalities, local state and national figures, floats, bands, marching units, military and law enforcement groups.

Crowd estimates varied from 200,000 to 300,000 and they threw out a massive Holyoke welcome for New York City police detective Lt. Steven McDonald, his wife & son who were recipients of this year's John F. Kennedy National Award for people of Irish descent.

Among the big hits in the parade were the Melha Shrine Temple of Springfield's marching motorized units. The bagpipe bands; the three mummers units from Philadelphia all contributed to the success of the parade, as well as the award recipients that are pictured on this page. It was a grand day to honor St. Patrick!



1999 Parade President
Patricia C. Devine



1999 Grand Marshal
Francis M. Kane

God Save Ireland



1999 Rohan Award
David O'Connor



1999 Ambassador's Award
Congressman Richard E. Neal



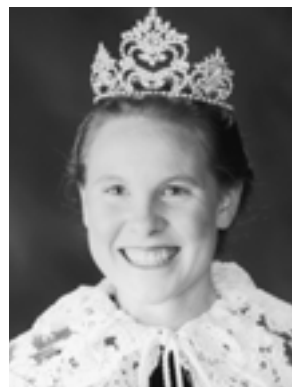
1999 Gallivan Award
Jack O'Brien



1999 John F. Kennedy Award
Steven McDonald,
Patricia Norris-McDonald
and son Conor Patrick McDonald



1999 O'Connell Award
Christine Mills Larkin



1999 Grand Colleen
Abby Gordon Woods



1999 Citizenship Award
Department of Public Works

49th Annual Parade

March 19, 2000

THE MARCH MUST GO ON.



In the words of our good friend, the late Bishop Leo. E. O'Neil—a distinguished Holyoker, "The March Must Go On."

His words challenge us to preserve our heritage. We salute the individuals pictured on this page for their exemplary contributions. It is a privilege to honor them. They are representative of our Irish tradition. They are symbols of our heritage. We thank our award recipients for their commitment to continue the journey of our forefathers.

May God bless them and reward them.

Bishop O'Neil's words challenge all of us to preserve our heritage. As we remember the stories of hardship and joy that have been passed down to us, we must never forget the journey of our grandparents—their search for a better life. They built this life on a foundation of faith, church and love of God. They worked hard and long to improve, not only their own lives, but the lives of their neighbors as well.

We are Irish and proud of it.

What an accomplishment. Two hundred and forty parade committee members, working as a team, brought a diverse community together, hoping that this spirit would show the way. Two hundred and fifty thousand people came together to celebrate their heritage as the parade stepped off, as always, on time. The hearts of our ancestors must be smiling as they watch our parade flow through the streets of Holyoke as the River Shannon flows through Ireland, as they see their own endearing qualities reflected in the St. Patrick's Day activities.

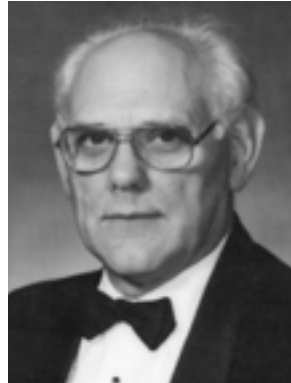
The March Must Go On.



2000 Parade President
Barry J. Farrell



2000 Grand Marshal
Rev. Francis X. Sullivan



2000 Rohan Award
Delfo Barabani



2000 Ambassador's Award
Peter T. King



2000 Gullivan Award
Senator Michael R. Knapik



2000 John F. Kennedy Award
Hon. Richard E. Neal



2000 O'Connell Award
Mark A. Pijar



2000 Grand Colleen
Abbey Louise McLaughlin



2000 Citizenship Award
Dr. Harold Ratchford

50th Annual Parade

March 18, 2001

A MILESTONE IS ACHIEVED



It was another windy, almost blustery, pre-parade morning in the K-Mart parking lot. But then, why should this year be different than any other?

John Victor Shea, the JFK National Award recipient, demonstrated his love for Western Mass. by talking lovingly about his days growing up in Springfield and attending Cathedral High School.

President Mark O'Brien was overwhelmed by the selection of Bishop Joseph Maguire as Parade Grand Marshal and was deeply appreciative of the naming of Sr. Joan Ryzewicz (Citizenship), Patti Devine (Rohan), Joseph Gosselin (O'Connell), and James O'Connor (Gallivan). These people were, and still are, near and dear to his heart.

Every year, we marvel at the fact that two hundred plus volunteers come together to bring one of the finest St. Patrick's Day Parades to the streets of Holyoke and the households of Western Mass and Northern Conn.

As we applaud ourselves, let us also congratulate the City of Holyoke for lending its support to our activities and enhancing the partnership that has grown and developed during the past half century.

May the Road Rise to Meet You!



2001 Parade President
Mark F. O'Brien



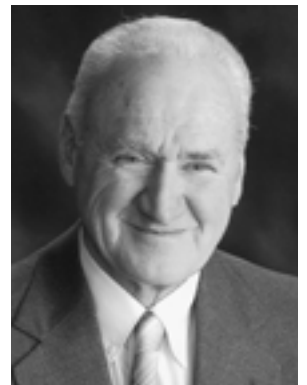
2001 Grand Marshal
Bishop Joseph F. Maguire



2001 Rohan Award
Patricia C. Devine



2001 Ambassador's Award
Professor Thomas F. Moriarty



2001 Gallivan Award
James L. O'Connor



2001 John F. Kennedy Award
John V. Shea



2001 O'Connell Award
Joseph V. Gosselin



2001 Grand Colleen
Elizabeth Ann Cartier



2001 Citizenship Award
Sr. Joan A. Ryzewicz