

SHILLELAGH SENTINEL

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THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER DIVISION

JIM HAMMILL, PRESIDENT

HELENA, MT

September, 2008

**Next regular meeting Tuesday, September 9th, 7:00 KC Hall
“Keep the Faith” and “Be proud of your Irish heritage”.**

TRIP TO IRELAND. Let's give the travelers and wives a great send off as they depart Helena on September 14th for the Ould Sod, landing in Dublin on the 15th ready for action. 10 will be making the trip including two couples, Dennis and his brother John Sheehy and wives. The others are Joe and Dan Calnan, Mike O'Connor, Doug Remick, Bill Winninghoff, and Hank Burgess. The itinerary is a dandy and includes Knock, Galway, Killarney, Cork, The Berehaven Peninsula, Cobh, Waterford and spots in between. A fair amount of time will be spent in Dublin where many important Irish history spots will be visited like the Guinness Brewery, Kilmainham Prison, The General Post Office. Looks like some will be heading to Downpatrick to visit and pray at the great Saint Patrick's grave. We'll visit Clonmel, Glendalough, and Newgrange as well. We'll be home on September 30th, worn out but with smiles on our faces. Wish 'em well.

A MEMORIAL FOR MEAGHER AT FORT BENTON

A fair amount of work has been done on this record of remembrance of Meagher at Fort Benton. After a first meeting in June, a number of things were done. A trip was made to the Missouri bankside where we met with Bentonites and successfully located an ideal place for the memorial, and were informed that they'll secure and deliver the black granite stone as a base for the monument. Now we obviously need to raise funds, beginning with our Division, with support from the other state divisions, then looking for general state financial support, finally looking for national and even international support. Presently a brochure is being created for fund raising purposes. After three Montana artists submitted bids, Ron Herron was selected as the committee's choice. Ron is a member of our Division. More on him later.

Our committee, is composed of Mike O'Connor, Dan Sullivan, Mike Ferriter, and Hank Burgess, with Advisory Committee members Bob Morgan, Gary Forney, Paul Wylie and Lenore Puhek We begin with an initial \$100 gift from Bob Morgan and like pledges from the other members. A letter will be sent out soon to all of our Division members with a sketch and design of the intended monument, requesting a contribution of whatever size one wants to remit. Stay tuned for developments on this really worthwhile project. After all, we are the “Thomas Francis Meagher Division” of the AOH.

CARROLL COLLEGE GROTTTO

A fine story appeared in the August issue of the Carroll College Alumni News regarding the beautiful Grotto to the Blessed Mother at Carroll that our Division plays such an important role in. Our guys really do a nice job each year to revive the surrounding grounds of the shrine. We're proud to be a part of the effort and pleased to get recognition

FAMILY PICNIC And what a picnic it was! A great gathering of Irish met at the Little Red School House to enjoy each other's company as well as fine food and yummy libations. With tons of kids, the “debacle in the hay” was fun to watch. Unfortunately, we were without the wonderful Brennans. The weather was highly accommodating and the palaver was delightful.

BOB MORGAN'S BOOK IS OUT (And is it ever awesome) This marvelous publication, titled: Bob Morgan's Montana: My Life and My Art, is loaded with Bob's Montana art, beautifully reproduced and with great narrative by Bob. It has been so well received that a second edition is being prepared, and we hope to get Bob at a future meeting so we can get a signed copy. Look forward to this occasion.

9-11 will be commemorated on Thursday, September 11th, beginning this year with a parade at 11:45 at the corner of 6th and Last Chance Gulch, proceeding to the park by the Library. Beth Foster is in charge this year. Our President, Jim Hammill really wants a big turnout of Hibernians. Let's show up for this occasion.

At this month's regular meeting on Tuesday September 9th, we will have a special guest, Paul Wylie, author of another great Meagher biography, The Irish General. This is another really fine biography of Meagher and Paul is an exciting guy. Don't miss this one. It'll be worth it.

And talk about excitement, Brother Jack Ward is running as a write-in candidate for House District **84**. It's been rather thrilling to watch this race. Of course, whatever Jack does is exciting. Keep an eye on it.

Our leadership contends that our Division will have a membership drive this fall. We do need some young, fresh, and dedicated Irishmen for our organization, and this will include a real effort at Carroll College and in the parishes. Think ahead! Perhaps it might be a good idea to encourage the return of some members who have dropped out and may want to return.

For those who would like to receive the Shillelagh Sentinel by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Mike O'Connor (mikeoconnor@hibernian.org). We'd like to reduce the number of mailed copies. Thanks for your cooperation and consideration.

Please remember Joe Strakal in your prayers. He has been one great Hibernian and the Lord is looking at him with a yearning heart.

HELENA HIBERNIANS
P O BOX 1916
HELENA MT 59624

Quiet the Worry Wheel
Pray a lot & be nice