



The Library Lookout

March 2000

Tel: 474-9072

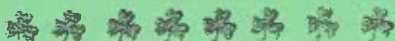
Wish List

ink-jet printer,
pc peripherals
greeting card software



Popular Selections

Chosen by Librarian Helen Shaw

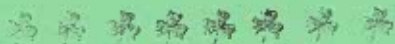


Children:

Skellio	<i>Almond</i>
Calabro	<i>The Donner Party</i>
Jacques	<i>The Legend of Luke</i>
Johnston	<i>The Barn Owls</i>
Jordan	<i>Path of Daggers</i>

Adults:

Demille	<i>Lion's Game</i>
Grisham	<i>The Brethren</i>
Morgan	<i>Gap Creek</i>
Sherman	<i>No Place for a Woman: MARGARET CHASE SMITH</i>



LATEST NEWS

Compiled by Mary Davies and Jim Foster

Many thanks to Dr. Gust Stringos for his gift of a computer, monitor and keyboard. We have one that's ill and this is just what the Doctor ordered. Our computers are very busy.

NEWS FLASH

Bill Laney will replace Warren Shay as Chair of the Library Committee for the Trustees of Bloomfield Academy. Warren has led us through to this point and been responsible for a great deal of the work. He will remain on the committee. For that, we give thanks. He is invaluable. We all welcome Bill and know he will carry the ball forward. Volunteer work is WORK and we are fortunate in Skowhegan to have generous people who answer the call.

Lots of hearts and flowers at the library St. Valentine's Day week. Wednesday & Saturday story hours were festive & fun and Friday everyone was welcomed to make valentines. Thanks to the story hour volunteers.

Important date coming up: March 13 Town Meeting We need your vote for funding for the next year.

There's Gold in your Attic on March 8 with Tim Gould. It'll be fun even if you don't have anything you want appraised. Last year we had a ball and sometimes had to be told what the object was. Antiques Road Show in your own library. We hope you can make it.

The railing has been extended to assist folks getting safely to the door. The door will be reversed and there is a safety rail all the way. It will make using the library easier.

We're asking all our members and everyone they know to start looking at their surplus to donate to the 7 mile lawn sale in May. This is our major fundraiser for the year to help raise money for the renovation. Isn't it time you cleaned out all that extra stuff? We'll pick it up if you need us to do

Continued on page 3

A Wee Bit O' Fun

Saint Patrick's Day (March 17th), is an Irish holiday honoring Saint Patrick, the missionary credited with converting the Irish to Christianity (in the A.D. 400's).

Saint Patrick was not actually Irish. Historical sources report that he was born around 373 A.D. in either Scotland (near the town of Dumbarton) or in Roman Britain (the Romans left Britain in 410 A.D.). His real name is believed to be Maewyn Succat (he took on Patrick, or Patricus, after he became a priest). He was kidnapped at the age of 16 by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland (I am not making this up). During his 6-year captivity (he worked as a shepherd), he began to have religious visions, and found strength in his faith. He finally escaped (after voices in one of his visions told him where he could find a getaway ship) and went to France, where he became a priest (and later a bishop).

When he was about 60 years old, St. Patrick travelled to Ireland to spread the Christian word. It's said that Patrick had an unusually winning personality, and that helped him win converts. He used the shamrock, which resembles a three-leafed clover, as a metaphor to explain the concept of the Trinity (father, son, holy spirit).

Legend has it that Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland — that they all went into the sea and drowned. Poor snakes. I don't know why he would want to do this, except that the snake was a revered pagan symbol, and perhaps this was a figurative tale alluding to the fact that he drove paganism out of Ireland.

In America, Saint Patrick's Day is a basically a time to wear green and party. The first American celebration of Saint Patrick's Day was in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737. As the saying goes, on this day "everybody is Irish!" Over 100 U.S. cities now hold Saint Patrick's Day parades, the largest held in New York City.

Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Leprechauns are also associated with this holiday, although I'm not sure why. Leprechauns of legend are actually mean little creatures, with the exception of the Lucky Charms guy. They were probably added later on because capitalists needed something cute to put on greeting cards.

What's good luck on Saint Patrick's Day?:

* Finding a four-leaf clover (that's double the good luck it

usually is).

* Wearing green. (School children have started a little tradition of their own — they pinch classmates who don't wear green on this holiday).

* Kissing the blarney stone.

An Irish blessing to take with you today:
May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

Glossary O' Terms

Erin Go Braugh
Ireland Forever



Leprechaun

Irish fairy. Looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes...they also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

Blarney stone

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry) — its walls are 18 feet thick (necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians and William III's troops). Thousands of tourists a year still visit the castle.

The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, but one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly.

It's tough to reach the stone — it's between the main castle wall and the parapet. Kissers have to lie on their back and bend backward (and downward), holding iron

A Wee Bit O' Fun

Saint Patrick's Day (March 17th), is an Irish holiday honoring Saint Patrick, the missionary credited with converting the Irish to Christianity (in the A.D. 400's).

Saint Patrick was not actually Irish. Historical sources report that he was born around 373 A.D. in either Scotland (near the town of Dumbarton) or in Roman Britain (the Romans left Britain in 410 A.D.). His real name is believed to be Maewyn Succat (he took on Patrick, or Patricus, after he became a priest). He was kidnapped at the age of 16 by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland (I am not making this up). During his 6-year captivity (he worked as a shepherd), he began to have religious visions, and found strength in his faith. He finally escaped (after voices in one of his visions told him where he could find a getaway ship) and went to France, where he became a priest (and later a bishop).

When he was about 60 years old, St. Patrick travelled to Ireland to spread the Christian word. It's said that Patrick had an unusually winning personality, and that helped him win converts. He used the shamrock, which resembles a three-leafed clover, as a metaphor to explain the concept of the Trinity (father, son, holy spirit).

Legend has it that Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland — that they all went into the sea and drowned. Poor snakes. I don't know why he would want to do this, except that the snake was a revered pagan symbol, and perhaps this was a figurative tale alluding to the fact that he drove paganism out of Ireland.

In America, Saint Patrick's Day is a basically a time to wear green and party. The first American celebration of Saint Patrick's Day was in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737. As the saying goes, on this day "everybody is Irish!" Over 100 U.S. cities now hold Saint Patrick's Day parades, the largest held in New York City.

Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Leprechauns are also associated with this holiday, although I'm not sure why. Leprechauns of legend are actually mean little creatures, with the exception of the Lucky Charms guy. They were probably added later on because capitalists needed something cute to put on greeting cards.

What's good luck on Saint Patrick's Day?:

* Finding a four-leaf clover (that's double the good luck it

usually is).

* Wearing green. (School children have started a little tradition of their own — they pinch classmates who don't wear green on this holiday).

* Kissing the Blarney Stone.

An Irish blessing to take with you today:

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

Glossary O' Terms

Erin Go Braugh
Ireland Forever

Leprechaun

Irish fairy. Looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes...they also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry) — its walls are 18 feet thick (necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians and William III's troops). Thousands of tourists a year still visit the castle.

The origins of the Blarney Stone's magical properties aren't clear, but one legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly.

It's tough to reach the stone — it's between the main castle wall and the parapet. Kissers have to lie on their back and bend backward (and downward), holding iron

bars for support. Can you imagine kissing something that has had people's lips all over it for 500 years? Yuck!

THE FIDDLER OF DOONEY

WM. BUTLER YEATS

WHEN I PLAY ON MY FIDDLE IN DOONEY
FOLK DANCE LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA:
MY COUSIN IS PRIEST IN KILVARNEY,
MY BROTHER IN MOCHARABUIEE.

I PASSED MY BROTHER AND COUSIN
THEY READ IN THEIR BOOKS OF PRAYER:
I READ IN MY BOOK OF SONGS
I BOUGHT AT THE SLIGO FAIR.

WHEN WE COME TO THE END OF TIME
TO PETER SITTING IN STATE
HE WILL SMILE AT THE THREE OLD SPIRITS
BUT CALL ME FIRST THROUGH THE GATE.

FOR THE GOOD ARE ALWAYS THE MERRY,
SAVE BY AN EVIL CHANCE,
AND THE MERRY LOVE THE FIDDLE,
AND THE MERRY LOVE TO DANCE.

LATEST NEWS

Continued from page 1

that. There wasn't much left over last year and we raised \$1000. Let's try to do it again. This time we'll have more food as we did run short on that. Pots, pans, linens, appliances, stationery, books, toys, cribs. Clean out the cellar.
Your trash is worth cash for the library.

Volunteer readers from the Friends will be visiting schools this week in observance of Dr. Seuss' birthday. They will read to nursery school children and students in kindergarten and grade 1, approximately 350 children in all. Each child will receive a bookmark showing the Skowhegan Library hours and a sketch of the well-known Dr. Seuss "hat". Readers include: Kathy Dorko, Judy York, Jim Hastings, Kathy Hughes, and Corilla Hastings.

Some St. Patrick's Day Websites:

<http://www.heathersholiday.com/march/index.html>
<http://www.weekiwis.com/stpatrickwis.html>
<http://www.st-patricks-day.com/>
[http://www.sutter-home.com/dot/stpat1/ \(clipart\)](http://www.sutter-home.com/dot/stpat1/)

BECOME A FRIEND OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Friends of the Skowhegan Free Public Library, a not for profit group dedicated to supporting and improving the library for all members of the community, invite you to join us. Dues are \$10. individuals, \$8. Seniors & Students, and \$15. for families. We normally meet at the Library the second Wednesday of every other month, unless scheduling conflicts require another date. For more information, call Corilla Hastings (474-3949) or Mary Davies (474-7446).

Please complete this form and mail to Kathy Hughes, RR1, Box 2760, Skowhegan, Me 04976. Welcome.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
State _____
Tel. # _____
E-Mail Address _____

This newsletter is
Sponsored and Supported by



LIBRARY HOURS

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ADULTS	1-8:30	10-6	1-8:30	1-7:30	10-2
CHILDREN	3-5:30	10-5:30	3-5:30	3-5:30	10-2



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March is Women in History Month



Mar. 6 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Poetry



Mar. 8 7:00 p.m. Friends Meeting. Program: **There's Gold in Your Attic** Tim Gould



Apr. 3 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: Mystery



Apr. 9-15 National Library Week – Many Activities Planned



May 1 7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group: A play TBA perhaps a reading by all.



May 10 7:00 p.m. Friends Annual Meeting. Program: **Book Reviews** Skowhegan Readers of all ages.



Our Computer Classes at the Library, co-sponsored by the Friends and the Kennebec Valley Computer Society, will start a new series at the beginning of April if there is sufficient interest. For more information or to sign up, please call Jim Foster at 474-2589 or e-mail jfoster@somtel.com.



The Library Lookout

**Friends of the Skowhegan
Free Public Library**
c/o Skowhegan Free Public Library
Elm Street
Skowhegan, ME 04078

Your Librarians Are:

Helen Shaw,
Francoise Labonte,
Lois Moody
and Thelma Butler

Your Library Trustees Are:

Bill Laney, Warren Shay,
Mary Davies, Betsey Hall,
Kathy Dorko,
Toni Jo Blaisdell and
Rick Anzelc

Friends Officers Are:

Jim Hastings, Pres.;
Mary Davies, V.P.,
Marcia Granville, Sec. and Kathy
Hughes, Treas.

