



INTERNATIONAL FOOTPRINT ASSOCIATION
 ERNIE HARRIS RIDGECREST CHAPTER 60



We meet the 2nd
 Wednesday of every
 month at 6:00 PM at:

The Knights of Colum-
 bus Hall
 725 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 Ridgecrest, California

Dinner Cost
 Members: \$8.00
 Non-members: \$9.00

Desert Footprints

Board of Directors meets
 the last Wednesday of
 every month 6:00 PM at:

The Knights of Colum-
 bus Hall
 725 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 Ridgecrest, California

Members are encouraged to
 attend.

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 1, 2008

Organized by Law Enforcement in Fresno, California in 1929



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Officers

President

Jim Tooker

Vice President

Paul Hape

Secretary

Nicki Johnson

Treasurer

Nicki Johnson

Counsel

Ken Pritchard

Sergeant at Arms

Ed McIntire

Grand Director

Perry Patterson

Directors

Vince Avalos

Diane Guignet

Diane Grattaroti

April Halpin

Larry Quarders

Trivia

Where did the 1st St.
 Patrick's Day Parade
 take place?

Answer on Page 2

\$5.00 Reward Somewhere hidden within this newsletter is a membership number. If its your number, bring your copy of the newsletter to the dinner meeting and the \$5.00 is yours. If no one claims the reward \$5.00 will be added every month until claimed. Last month's winner was Director April Halpin who donated the money back to our chapter.

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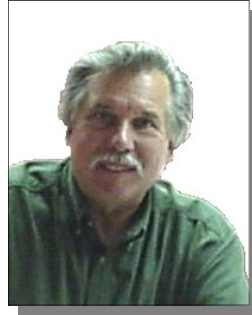
Be sure to visit our web site to keep current with
 Chapter 60's upcoming events: www.IFA60.org

Purpose

To foster good fellowship, mutual respect, and helpfulness between Peace Officers, Federal Law Enforcement agencies, Business and Professionals and all persons having a sympathetic attitude and understanding toward Law Enforcement and Law Enforcement Agencies and to promote the true spirit of Americanism.

President's Corner

The Board of Directors decided to shift the nomination of officers and board to March and the election to April to coincide with the Grand Chapter's reporting requirements. So come prepared to nominate someone to run for office or let us know if you would like to run for one of the positions. Ed McIntyre and Paul Hape are our Nomination Committee. Let either one of them know if you are interested. Ed can be reached at 375-3483 and Paul can be reached at 608-0301.



The Board of Directors decided to move the nomination of officers and board to March and the election to April...

Yours for Bigger and Better Footprints,

Jim



Vice Mayor, Tom Wiknich will be our guest speaker at the March dinner. Mr. Wiknich plans to talk about the "Roads Initiative."

Trivia Answer:

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.



Today in History Saint Patrick Died

March 17, popularly known as St. Patrick's Day, is believed to be his death date and is the date celebrated as his feast day. The day became a feast day in the universal church due to the influence of the Waterford-born Franciscan scholar Luke Wadding, as a member of the commission for the reform of the Breviary in the early part of the 17th century.



For most of Christianity's first thousand years, canonizations were done on the diocesan or regional level. Relatively soon after the death of people considered to be very holy people, the local Church affirmed that they could be liturgically celebrated as saints. As a result, St. Patrick has never been formally canonized by a Pope, but he is still widely venerated in Ireland and elsewhere today.

St Patrick's Day is celebrated by many people even those who are not Irish. It is primarily a time

when college students go on Spring Break and drink. Even though Boston has the longest running celebration, the parade in New York City is the biggest celebration. The River is dyed green with Fluorescein for the celebration in Chicago.

St. Patrick is also venerated in the Orthodox Church, especially among English-speaking Orthodox Christians living in the United Kingdom and Ireland and in North America. There are even Orthodox icons dedicated to him.

The longest-running Saint Patrick's Day celebrations in the U.S. are:

- Boston, Massachusetts, since 1737
- New York City, since 1756
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, since 1771
- Morristown, New Jersey, since 1780
- Buffalo, New York, since 1811
- Savannah, Georgia, since 1813
- Carbondale, Pennsylvania, since 1833
- Chicago, Illinois, since 1843
- New Haven, Connecticut, since 1845
- San Francisco, California, since 1852
- Scranton, Pennsylvania, since 1862
- Cleveland, Ohio, since 1867
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, since 1869
- Kansas City, Missouri, since 1873
- Butte, Montana, since 1882



Spring has Sprung

You don't have to look far to see signs of spring. From the budding of the trees and the warming of the temperatures to the animals coming out of their winter hideouts, there seems to be a promise of new birth and color in the springtime air.

The first day of spring is around March 20 or 21, depending on what day the vernal equinox occurs. This is when the sun sits directly above the equator on its apparent trip northward. Of course this sun isn't moving; Earth is. As Earth revolves around the sun, the top half, called the Northern Hemisphere, becomes tilted more toward the sun as winter turns to spring. Meanwhile the bottom half, the Southern Hemisphere, becomes tilted more away from the sun. The beginning of spring for us is the beginning of autumn for people in Australia and the southern parts of Africa and South America.

Unequal equinox

The word "equinox" comes from Latin and means "equal nights." Around March 20, sunrise and sunset are about twelve hours apart everywhere on Earth. Because of that, a lot of people think that day and night are of equal length on March 20. But actually the day is a little longer than the night on this date. There are a few reasons for that. Sunrise occurs when the top of the sun (not the center) is on the horizon. But the sun actually appears to be above the horizon when it is in fact still below it. That's because Earth's atmosphere refracts or "bends" light coming from the sun, so we see the sun a couple of minutes before it actually rises over the horizon. If you add the daylight that persists after sunset, you'll find the day on the equinox is several minutes longer than the night.

Variety in Spring Weather

In the United States, spring is a time of transition not only for plant and animal life, 51873 but for the weather too. It can mean weather extremes from very cold and snowy days to humid and stormy days. Some of the country's biggest snowfalls have occurred in March, and the period from March to May is the time of year when much of the south is most likely to get severe thunderstorms with hail and even tornadoes. This is why the beginning of spring is a good time to put together a plan for what you and your family would do in case of a severe thunderstorm or tornado.

The Yolk's on You!

Has anyone ever told you that you can balance a raw egg on end on the first day of spring? They think that somehow the pull of gravity is more equal on this day because the sun is more directly overhead. There is no scientific support for this. The egg legend apparently got its start in 1945 when a reporter for Life Magazine wrote a story about a Chinese ritual in which people stood eggs on end on the first day of spring. But the Chinese recognized the first day of spring in early February, or about six weeks before the spring equinox! Later, in 1983, one hundred New Yorkers got together on March 20 to balance eggs, and an article about the event appeared in the New Yorker magazine. A year later, five thousand New Yorkers repeated the tradition on the first day of spring, and the egg legend grew. The truth is that if you can get a raw egg to balance upright on the spring equinox, you can get it to balance any other day of the year. The pull of gravity or the position of the sun in the sky has nothing to do with it. So don't spread this unscientific rumor, or you'll end up with egg on your face!

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTPRINT ASSOCIATION
ERNIE HARRIS RIDGECREST CHAPTER 60**

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Ridgecrest, California 93555

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March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 9 - Daylight Savings

March 12 - Dinner meeting

March 16 - Palm Sunday

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - Spring Begins

March 21 - Good Friday

March 23 - Easter

March 26 - Board of Directors meeting

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 9 - Dinner meeting

April 20 - Passover Begins

April 30 - Board of Directors meeting

Announcement: For a monthly automatic meeting reminder send your e-mail address to **IFA.60@verizon.net**. Newsletter articles & questions welcome.

We're on the web
www.IFA60.org



Dinner Meeting - March 12, 2008

Dinner will be prepared with great skill by our own Iron Chef, Skip Bennett.