

Special Supplement to
The Palm Coast Historian

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*The History of
The Irish Social Club
of Palm Coast
1978 – 2013*

Guest Historian Mary Ann Murray

This special section of The Palm Coast Historian is part of an ongoing series in which we pay tribute to the Social, Civic, and Cultural Organizations which have played an important historical role in the growth of our community.

Palm Coast's Social, Civic, and Cultural Organizations

This supplement is part of an ongoing series in which The Palm Coast Historian presents information on the clubs which played an important part of our community's development. This issue was written by our guest historian, Mary Ann Murray. You may want to contact her if you have additional information about the club.

The History of The Irish Social Club of Palm Coast 1978 - 2013

by Mary Ann Murray, Guest Historian

In late 1978 a group of friends, Sue & John Dressel, Ethel & Joe Doyle, and Ed & Marge Staley, came up with an idea to form a social club where friends and neighbors could gather monthly for an evening of socializing. So, January 1979 a notice was put in the local newspaper that anyone interested in joining a social club should contact John. The response was very encouraging; the result, the Irish Social Club was born.

On February 8, 1979 the first Irish Social Club meeting was held at the yacht club with about 60 members present; the following were elected officers: President, John Dressel; Vice President, Joseph Doyle; Secretary, Marge Staley; Treasurer, Ed Kelly. Elected Directors were Joe Hennessey, Tom Kelly, and Ed Staley.

Muriel Moore was appointed to chair the By-Laws Committee assisted by Dot & John Gilbert and Peg Morris. On March 22 the first by-laws were unanimously accepted to read:

Name: Irish Social Club of Palm Coast

Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be primarily social and charitable within our community.

This organization shall operate on a non-profit basis.

Membership: Open to all

Initiation Fee: \$10.00

Dues: \$5.00 per year

Fiscal year to begin and end on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

The first St. Patrick's Dinner Dance was held on March 9, 1980 at Oceanside Country Club with 58 members in attendance.

The first golf tournament was held November 21, 1980 and continues today to raise funds for charity.

Since its inception in 1979, the Irish Social Club has been very active raising funds for numerous organizations in the community. The first were donations to the Volunteer Fire Department and the Flagler County Humane Society. The club has also granted scholarships annually to two graduating high school seniors.

One of its largest social events was hosting the St. Patrick's Day Parade from 2004 to 2010. Area Irish Americans and Ancient Order of Hibernians

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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club *(from pg 2)*

brought the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in all of Florida history to Palm Coast in March 1973.

Following is a list of presidents beginning with incorporation:

- 1979-81 – Ed Staley (John Dressel)
- 1981-83 – Dr. Lloyd McCormick
- 1983-85 – Mimi Glancy
- 1985-87 – Tom Kelly
- 1987-89 – Dick Mathey
- 1989-91 – Earl Kauffman
- 1991-93 – Marty Healy
- 1993-95 – John Crines
- 1995-97 – Charlie Hoey
- 1997-99 – Pat Denver
- 1999-2001 – Marie Courtney
- 2001-03 – Mike Donohue
- 2003-05 – Bernie Sheridan
- 2005-07 – Alice Callahan

2007-09 – Ned Clark

2009-11 – Mary Lou Clark

2011-13 – Jack Curran

2013- – Bettie LaMotte

Membership has grown to approximately 250. The club will be celebrating their 35th anniversary with a gala at the February 2014 St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Membership is open to all. There is an initiation fee of \$20.00; yearly dues are currently \$20.00 per person which include two free picnics, one in spring and one in autumn. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, excluding July and August.

For additional information and/or an application, contact member chair Mary Lou Clark, 447-0466.

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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club *(from pg 3)*

Irish Social Club Membership Is Open To All Who Are Irish ... Or Wish They Were

By BOBBIE BROWN
NEWS Correspondent

Unanimous approval was given to the formation of the Irish Social Club of Palm Coast on Thursday, March 22. Dozens of Irish descent gathered at the Yacht Club in support of President John Dressel and opened the membership of the club to "all people who are Irish and to those who wish they were."

The proposed bylaws were presented by Committee Chairman Muriel Moore. The proposals were amended and the revised edition accepted. They will be presented for final vote at the April meeting. The group will apply for a charter at that time.

Dues for the year per person are \$5, with a

\$10 per person initiation fee. The fiscal year is to begin and end, appropriately enough, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Marge and Jack Keegan will head the entertainment committee. Boots and Lin Linford will head the social committee; community projects will be the responsibility of Pauline and Francis Lagerman; membership and publicity will be handled by Sue Dressel with Ethel Doyle.

Anyone interested in joining the group may complete the membership form below and return it to the club treasurer, Ed Kelly, Box 1103, Palm Coast, along with a check for dues and initiation fee.



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Wednesday, September 26, 1990 FLAGLER/PALM COAST NEWS-TRIBUNE

Irish Social Club plans member picnic in Flagler

By SID VENETIANER

PALM COAST — It was a fun filled social evening at the meeting of the Irish Social Club at Champion's Restaurant recently.

Items discussed on the short agenda included the upcoming picnic at Flagler Beach State Recreation Area open only to members and their guests. The picnic will feature a Chinese Auction, horseshoe pitching and other games of great skill. It was announced by Martin Healey, president, that bus ride excursion to the Keys is sold out.

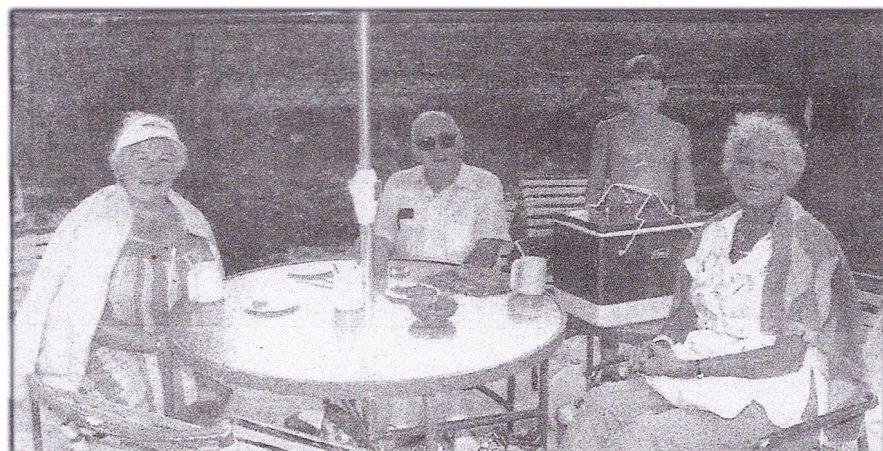
The Irish Social Club recognizes its responsibility as a member of the general community and have contributed generous funds raised by the club's social functions to various civic and social agencies in Flagler County.



Irish Social Club Socializes



OLD FRIENDS — Marge Keegan, Flo and Jack Miller with Mary and Howard Dugan enjoying the cool evening.

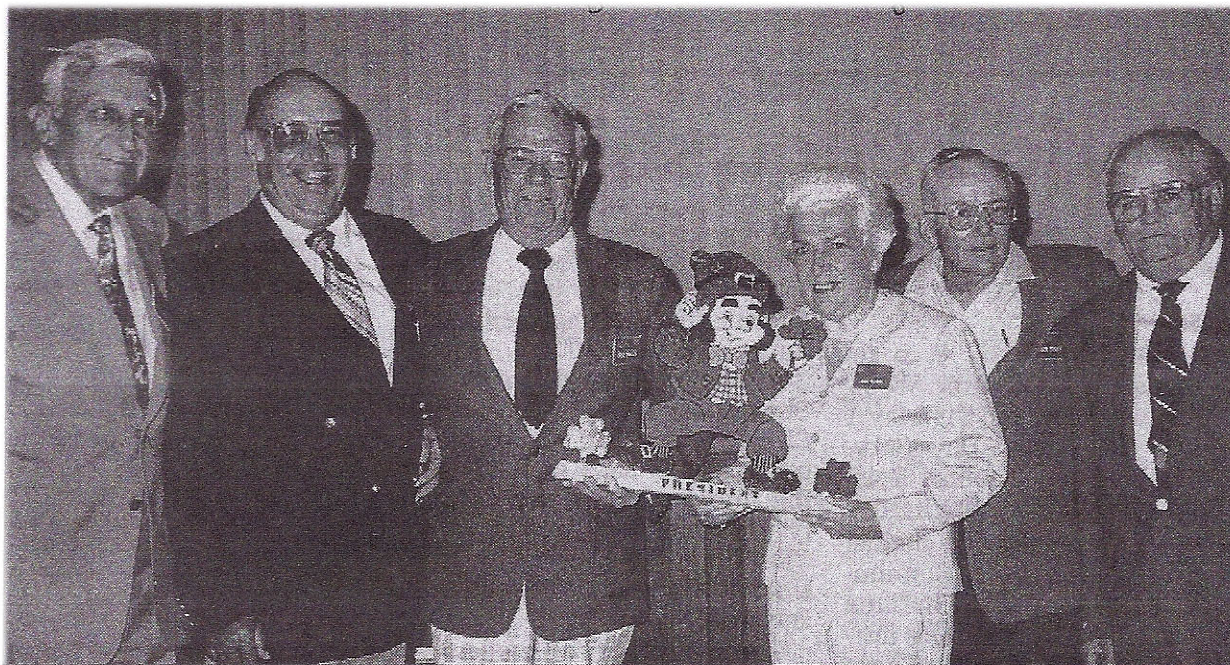


NEWS-TRIBUNE photos by Al Nadle
WINSOME FOURSOME — Dot Robbins, Frank Kichey, Christopher and Muriel Moller talk and sip.

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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club *(from pg 5)*

NEWS TRIBUNE 4-18-92 (April 8 meeting)



NEWS-TRIBUNE photo by Sid Venetianer

Past presidents — Honored at the Irish Social Club gathering were Dick Mathey, Earl Kauffman, Kenny Watts, Mimy Glancy, Tom Kelly and Marty Healy.

Irish Social Club pays tribute to 14 years of past presidents

By SID VENETIANER

PALM COAST — From a nucleus in 1978 of three couples — the John Dressels, the Ed Staleys and the Joe Doyles — the Irish Social Club of Palm Coast has grown to about 230 members with a long waiting list of prospective members.

From the original six, the first meeting drew 58 charter members and the Irish Social Club was ready to make its mark and influence felt in the then-smaller Palm Coast.

The ISC, organized as a social and charitable organization, has kept its word. Socially, every dinner, golf tournament, St. Patrick's Day dinner dance and picnic has been a sell-out. As a result of these successful fundraising activities, the ISC has given cash donations over the years exceeding \$15,000 to various civic and charitable organizations in Flagler County.

Each agency is investigated by a carefully

chosen committee to ensure the donation is needed and will be well spent.

At the last dinner meeting former presidents were honored. Among the former presidents honored were Mimy Glancy who fondly recalled receiving the gavel (and a kiss) from Kenny Watts as the first woman president. Earl Kauffman recalled he had a roving microphone and would bring it to the tables of members and guests and introduce them to the members.

"It brought people together," he said.

Dick Mathey recalled how much the members enjoyed themselves.

Tom Kelly remembered the growth of the club during his term and the very successful St. Patrick's golf tournaments and dinner dances.

Marty Healy thought of his term as president as "a lot of enjoyable work." The ISC is looking forward to its annual picnic at Bulow State Park from noon to 5 p.m. May 27.

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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club *(from pg 6)*



Irish Americans (Irish : GaelMheiriceanaigh) are citizens of the United States who can trace their ancestors to Ireland. A total of 36.2 million Americans -estimated at 11.9% of the total population-reported Irish ancestry in the 2008 American Community Survey. Another 3.5 million Americans identify themselves more specifically with Scot-Irish ancestry.

Irish Social Club of Palm Coast

St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshalls

- 2004.....Fr. Mark Waters*
- 2005.....John Healy*
- 2006..... Don Fleming*
- 2007.....Marty Healy*
- 2008..... Jim Canfield*
- 2009.....Tony Wade*
- 2010.....Celebration only*
- 2011.....Alice Callahan*



The 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee

Mayor Jon Netts Jim Canfield Alice Callahan

*Ted Clark
Bernie Sh*



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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club (from pg 7)

Mike Mastropietro cooked the hamburgers at the Irish Social Club picnic



Golfers swing at Irish festivities

By GEN DELVECCHIO
News-Tribune correspondent

PALM COAST — March 16 started out foggy and cold, but soon after the bagpiper serenaded the departing green and white balloon festooned golf carts, the day turned out so sunny that suntan lotion was a must for the Irish Social Club of Palm Coast's golf tournament.

The trophies, adorned with leprechauns, were awarded by Pine Lakes Pro Ken Van Leuven and co-chairmen Joe East and Ray Delaney to Dirk Pleug, men's low gross, 78; Jo Tantala, women's low gross, 100; Frank Sabatino, men's low net, 65; Mike Tobin, men's second low net, 68; Marge McKay, women's low net, 80 in a match of cards over Connie Lynch, 80, who took second low net; Mike Balseiro, men's low callaway, 73; Nancy Alassee, women's low callaway, 74.

The traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner was served on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at the festively decorated Italian American Social Club in Palm Coast. President Charlie Hoey and dinner-dance chairman Bob Aiken did a great job preparing the party. Door prizes were given and members enjoyed dancing to the music of Joe Mose.

St. Patrick's Day Golf, Dinner Dance
March 16, 1996



The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club (from pg 8)

No parade this year.....

But ...we are having an

Irish Celebration



The Irish Social Club is sponsoring this event on
Saturday, March 20th at Noon
at the Elks Lodge

Music----Dancing----Singing----Bag Pipers- Etc-

FREE ADMISSION

Beer---- Food..... for details see any member
of the ISC committee: Alice Callahan-Chairman
Bernie Sheridan Mike Donohue Tony Wade
Ron Mowatt Jim Canfield Jon Netts



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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club (from pg 9)

THE IRISH SOCIAL CLUB OF PALM COAST

2013 OFFICERS

Table with 3 columns: Position, Name, Phone Number. Rows include President (Bettie LaMotte), 1st Vice President (Virginia Esposito), 2nd Vice President (Vera Krukemeier), Recording Secretary (Carol Dougherty), Corresponding Secretary (Mary O'Gara), and Treasurer (Jim Mays).



DIRECTORS

Table with 2 columns: Name, Phone Number. Rows include John Murray (439-2191), Maureen Salami (445-7269), and Regina Sheridan (447-8839).

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Table with 3 columns: Committee Name, Name, Phone Number. Rows include Membership/By-Laws (Mary Lou Clark), Golf Chair (Bernie Sheridan), Picnic (Ned Clark), Historian (Mary Ann Murray), Scholarship (Carol Sheridan), Chaplain (Norma Good), Entertainment (Bill & Kathy Byrne), Library Display (Dagmar George), and Baseball Party (John Murray).



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The History of The Palm Coast Irish Social Club *(from pg 10)*

Leprechauns Cross Over the Bridge to Hammock Dunes

The Irish Social Club was created in 1979 to offer social enjoyment and help to the needy. The club offered membership to those who were either Irish or would like to be. Even earlier than this formal organization, area Irish Americans and Ancient Order of Hibernians had brought the first St. Patrick's Day parade in all of Florida history to Palm Coast in March of 1973! The attached picture shows club members participating in the opening of the Hammock Dunes bridge parade in 1988.

From IMAGES OF AMERICA: PALM COAST by Arthur E. Dycke, Arcadia Publishers.



The City of **Palm Coast** Historical Society

Membership Form – 2014 (please print)

First Name/s _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

(you will be notified of meetings/Historical Society information via e-mail)

Single membership – \$15 Family – \$20 Lifetime – \$200 Renewal New Member

Payable to The City of Palm Coast Historical Society Mail to Palm Coast Historical Society
P.O. Box 352613
Palm Coast FL 32135

Contributions to The City of Palm Coast Historical Society are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

All members receive **The Palm Coast Historian**

A Full Gamut of Volunteer Opportunities

You've read THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN and now you're intrigued with the idea of taking a more active part in this organization that's enlightening citizens about the community's past. Your own professional and personal background equip you in a special way to provide help in the following areas: Data entry (Past Perfect software), inventory, scanning, identifying photos, filing, and photographing items such as framed pictures, trophies, maps, etc.

Or you might be that rare individual who's had experience with grant application and research. We really need you.



Scan this code with your smartphone/device to go to our website

Like working with your hands? You'd like to build map holders and exhibits? You would experience instant gratification as you see your project take shape. Please consider this.

More on the cerebral side, we need a volunteer to shine a light on the historical society via the news media or contacting local organizations with information about us. We're also looking for a "story teller" who would like to bring our past to life in the HISTORIAN.

Furthermore, we promise you a great group of people to call your new friends.

Society Mission

The collection, preservation, and dissemination of material related to the history of the City of Palm Coast and its people

City Historian

Art Dycke

Society Officers – 2013

Jim Canfield, President

Robert Evans, Vice President

Carol Lemieux, Treasurer

Norma Kendrick, Executive Secretary

Kay Stafford, Recording Secretary and

HISTORIAN Editor

Eileen Carter, Corresponding Secretary

Society Directors

Art Dycke, Patricia Eldridge,

Norma Kendrick, Ed Moore,

Jack Pitman, Bill Venne,

Debby Geyer (Honorary)

Society Chroniclers

Peter Kroeger, Gladys Moore,

Yerdis Trexler

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*email city historian at
artpchistory@bellsouth.net*

*visit us at
Activity Room B,
James F. Holland
Memorial Park,
Florida Park Dr.
2-4 PM Wednesdays*