The Museum Page

Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum

Connecting the Past, Present, and Future

MARCH
2021

When someone says to you:

"Top o' the mornin' !!"

Your reply:

"And the rest of the day to you!!!"

A few facts about St. Patrick's Day:

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain at the end of the fourth century. He was kidnapped at age 16 by Irish raiders and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest. After taking care of sheep for six years, he escaped and returned to Britain. He later returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. Irish legend says St. Patrick banished snakes into the sea, but there are no records of snakes ever being present in Ireland. *That's good news.*

Leprechauns (meaning small bodied fellows) are tiny men and women of folklore who had good and evil magical powers. They were grumpy souls and their job was to mend the shoes of the other leprechauns. *That explains the grumpiness!!*

The shamrock (seamroy), a three-leaf clover, has been associated with Ireland for centuries. It is a sacred plant that St. Patrick used to explain the Holy Trinity. It is also a symbol of the arrival of spring.

The beginning of the 1845 potato famine in Ireland, prompted millions of Irish people to come to the United States. They were looked down upon by the Americans as disease-ridden and unskilled. The women found work as maids, cooks and running errands for rich people. The men worked in the construction of canals, roads, bridges, railroads and working in the mines and quarries.

Today we celebrate the Irish on St. Patrick's Day with green beer and corned beef and cabbage. Originally corned beef was a cheap substitute for the poor immigrants that had eaten ham in Ireland. The leftover corned beef was purchased from ships returning from China. The Irish immigrants would boil the beef three times—the last time with cabbage to remove some of the brine.

Questions or Comments? Please contact us!

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Tuesday-Friday, and 10-2 Saturday

ON DISPLAY Now

Smoke Over Oklahoma: The Railroad Photographs of Preston George

From the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City

During the Great Depression Preston George purchased a cheap Kodak folding camera and took his first photographs of steam locomotives. George continued taking pictures using a Graflex camera that could capture moving trains. His photographs in black-and-white are a striking visual story of the brief steam-driven railroad era. Steam locomotives pulling long freight or passenger cars were his passion. Along with these trains, he also photographed The Frisco and Katy short trains and interurban transports.

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STORY OF THE CANNONS

In 1923 the government offered cannons used in World War I to cities and patriotic organizations as memorials. Charles Page was instrumental in Sand Springs receiving six of these cannons. In 1942 the United States entered into World War II. It was requested that the cannons be returned for the service of our Country. Subsequently, a check for $254.24 was received by T. E. Pafford, Chairman of the Sand Springs Chapter of the American Red Cross. This payment was from the Tulsa Iron and Metal Company, working for the United States Government. Any proceeds the War Department would allow were to be donated to the Sand Springs Red Cross chapter. The payment was for the 63,560 pounds of scrap metal from the six Sand Springs cannons.

Four Howitzers – 6,000 pounds each

Two muzzle-loading converted cannons – 17,000 pounds each

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