

LST534 Newsletter

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Every year on March 17, millions of people gussy themselves up in green attire, hold big parades and drink lots of beer, all in the name of an old Irish saint. But what's the history of this emerald-hued holiday, and why do we celebrate it with shamrocks and alcohol?

Who was St. Patrick?

St. Patrick was a Christian missionary, bishop and a patron saint of Ireland. He was born in Roman Britain to a wealthy family near the end of the fourth century. At age 16, he was captured by Irish raiders and brought to Ireland, where he spent six years in captivity, working as a shepherd. He became a devout Christian and, it's believed, began to dream of converting the Irish to Christianity. He then escaped back to England. He wrote that a voice — God's — spoke to him in a dream telling him to leave Ireland.

After reaching England, Patrick described having a second dream in which an angel told him to go back to Ireland as a missionary. He started religious training to

become a priest. He was later sent to Ireland on a mission to convert the Irish to Christianity and minister to Christians already there. Rather than replacing pagan Irish rituals, he incorporated them into his teachings. For instance, the Irish used to honor their gods with fire, so Patrick used bonfires to celebrate Easter. He died in A.D. 461 on March 17, which became St. Patrick's Day.

Why green clothes?

Wearing green has become a staple of St. Patrick's Day, but the holiday was originally associated with the color blue. It's thought that the shift to green happened because of Ireland's nickname "The Emerald Isle," the green in the Irish flag and the shamrock, or clover. Green ribbons and shamrocks were worn as early as the 17th century. During the Irish Rebellion of 1798, an uprising against British rule in Ireland, Irish soldiers wore full green uniforms on March 17 to make a political statement. Legend has it that wearing green makes a person invisible to leprechauns that will pinch someone if they see them.

In Ireland, some people still adhere to the tradition of Catholics wearing green and Protestants wearing orange, the colors that represent their respective religious sects on the Irish flag.

Where the shamrock came from

According to folklore, St. Patrick used the shamrock, the familiar three-leafed clover, to explain the Christian Holy Trinity. The word "shamrock" comes from the Irish word "seamróg," meaning "little clover." It is the symbol of Ireland, and wearing and displaying shamrocks has become a widespread practice on St. Patrick's Day.

Why so much beer?

Beer is one of the most widely consumed beverages on St. Patrick's Day. While the Irish beer Guinness remains a top St. Patty's Day choice, a disturbing trend is the consumption of green beer, dyed with food coloring. Some studies have linked food coloring to cancer (at least in lab animals) and headaches, though revelers would probably have to drink a lot

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more dye than the beers contain to cause health problems, according to nutrition expert Keri Glassman, founder and president of a nutrition practice based in New York City.

It's no surprise that imbibing beer or other alcoholic beverages affects brain function, and a new study helps reveal what's going on. The ethanol in these drinks disrupts connections between the brain's visual and motor areas, hindering muscle coordination, a recent study found.

Parades and celebration

Celebrations of St. Patrick's Day would not be complete without parades, festivals and Céilithe, a social gathering that typically involves Gaelic folk music and dancing. Céilithe, also known as Céilidh, has its origins in Ireland and Scotland, but has spread with the Irish and Scottish diasporas.

Many cities hold parades in honor of the holiday. The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade is the largest parade in the world. It was first held in 1762, 14 years before the Declaration of Independence, by a group of homesick Irish expats and soldiers who served with the British Army in the American colonies, according to the parade's website.

The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade is held in the Irish village of Dripsey. It lasts only 100 yards, spanning the distance between the village's two pubs.

Credit: Tanya Lewis, LiveScience Staff Writer at LiveScience.com

NEWS

Record-breaking lift adds deckhouse to *John P. Murtha* (LPD 26)



Ingalls shipbuilders set a new shipyard record Dec. 6 with the lift of the deckhouse on *John P. Murtha* (LPD 26).

"The team is always looking for ways to advance the program and integrate innovative build strategies into the plan," said **Hank Corcoran**, LPD 26 construction manager.

The heaviest lift recorded so far at Ingalls Pascagoula facility, the LPD 26 deckhouse, weighed 787 tons when it was raised Friday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m.

Lifting the massive mega block required the coordination of two 300-ton portal cranes and the 660-ton Goliath crane and affords unprecedented opportunities in pre-erection outfitting.

"We began developing the plan last year when we evaluated the crane capabilities so we could determine where to build the grand block," said **Cathy Kelly**,

LPD 26 production manager. "We were able to complete 10,000 man hours on the grand block that would otherwise have been done later on the ship, which made the work safer and more efficient."

In positioning for future work, the program continues to seek build strategy efficiencies and opportunities to reduce the cost of the platforms Ingalls builds.

"This was a very complex lift but we had the utmost confidence in our experienced teams and leadership to accomplish any challenging task safely," said **Terry Hayes**, the craft director who coordinated the lift for Manufacturing Services.

"We're thankful for the efforts of naval architect **Mike Toris** and the Hull Technical group which conducted the lift evaluation and set up the rigging layout."

Rigging foreman **Donnie Smith** said that careful planning followed by constant communication and situational awareness were the key elements to success.

Comprised of 15 units, the deckhouse grand block includes the pilot house, crew's mess and galley, the combat suite, fan rooms and state rooms.

The lift takes the ship to 85 percent erected and the ship's physical progress is now 57 percent.

"Hank and all of our LPD 26 shipbuilders did an exceptional job and have raised the bar again for the program," said **Kari**

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Wilkinson, LPD 26 ship program manager. "Hank and I want to recognize the entire team for their dedication and diligence in making this event a success."

Source: *Ingalls Shipbuilding*



The Storis was the longest-serving cutter in the U.S. Coast Guard. It proudly served during World War II. The museum is in Alaska. I thought you might enjoy this good-bye.

Perhaps the hardest thing we ever go through in our lifetime is a loss of a loved one. Whether a parent, a sibling, a mentor or a loved one, the sense of loss is overwhelming. For STORIS supports and Coast Guard history enthusiasts since 1942, we felt a tremendous loss this week as we learned that the STORIS' new owner had the ship towed out of the temporary storage to Ensenada, Mexico for scrapping.



The above photograph was captured as a tow boat takes the helpless STORIS to a scrapping yard.

Since this past summer's GSA auction debacle, there have been numerous attempts to negotiate a possible deal with the STORIS' new owner in order to preserve the ship. The new owner demanded a price on the ship that was so outrageous that it made it impossible to

secure. Instead of having a heart to those interested in taking care of the ship and ensuring that this historic ship's legacy is shared to future generation of Americans, the new owner is having the ship torn apart, piece by piece. Not only is that a very difficult pill to swallow, but the real kicker that it is estimated that her new owner will proceed with tearing the ship apart at a loss. Meaning that, he'll have to operate at a financial loss once all the scrap metal is sold!

It should be noted that the STORIS fate of scrapping has also been met by three other members of the Coast Guard's "ROYAL COURT"--the Revenue Cutter Campbell ("*The Queen of the Sailing Cutters*"), the USS NORTHLAND ("*The Queen of the Arctic Seas*") and the USS WAKEFIELD ("*The Queen of the Fleet*"). Sadly, once gone these historic ships can never be replaced. Moreover, the void it fills in the historic record is so large that we begin considering our own mortality. Although it's a chilling and sobering thought, it prompts us to change for the better and become better people. After realizing our own time is limited, we look to leave a wave and impact people long after we are gone, just like these ships did.

With the loss of our Beloved Queen, the STORIS Museum intends on disestablishing as an organization and plan on shutting down their website, Facebook Page and official blog. Leaving TheCutterSTORIS.info as the last active website that pays tribute to the STORIS. A determination has not yet been made as to if this site will be shut

down as well.

Sold by the General Services Administration in July 2013 for \$70,100, The Cutter STORIS was towed to a Mexican scrapyards in October 2013.

www.thecutterstoris.info/storis-museum.html



January 4

Ed Overstake
Building 400 Room 131
3636 N Ridge Rd
Wichita, KS 67205

January 14

Frank Frame
PO Box
Jal, NM 88252

March 26

Willie Gunn
105 Bull Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401



HOLIDAYS

January

1 New Years Day
20 Martin Luther King Day



February

14 Valentine's Day
17 President's Day

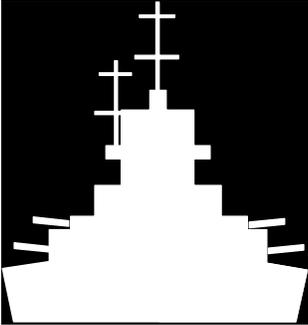


March

5 Ash Wednesday
17 St. Patrick's Day



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Just for Fun

I just took a leaflet out of my mailbox, informing me that I can have sex at 68. I'm so happy, because I live at 72. So it's not far to walk home afterwards. And it's on the same side of street.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

Nautical Terms

In memory of James Richard Drew who contributed to this column until his passing.

Down below - Any place below the main deck.

Hawser – A heavy line, or rope.

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