



March 2007

The American Society of Jalisco, S.A.

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Photo of Jack Holmes
courtesy of Carlos Ruiz
Checa, © 2006

AmSoc loses another friend

Jack Holmes, former commander of American Legion Post 3, died suddenly in at his home on February 6 of a massive heart attack.



Jack was instrumental in organizing the joint AmSoc-American Legion Independence Day picnic that has been such a success the past two years. This event brought together the two organizations for a day of fun and celebration, as well as successful fundraising.

I heard the news of Jack's demise the following day, and once I had absorbed it and somewhat recovered from the shock, I sat down and wrote the following to his fellow legionnaires:

"A man of honor died this week. A man who devoted the final years of his life to the survival of American Legion Post 3. Jack Holmes did not give up the struggle even though it ended up costing him his life. What man could stand up to all the attacks, lies, and slander being spread by his adversaries without it having a deleterious affect on his health? I hope those who persisted in their merciless persecution of this man will finally let him rest in peace, with his reputation intact.

I knew Jack for about two years, but in that time, I discovered he had a big

heart, maybe too big. He was kind and helpful to everyone he came in contact with; he lived the life of a true Christian, with integrity and generosity. I never once heard him say anything unkind about anyone, even those who were attacking him. Jack was incapable of doing the things he was accused of. What caused him even deeper pain than the attacks on himself were the attacks against his wife, Lucy.

Whether you know it or not, we have lost a true friend and a good man."

Accidents happen!

It pays to be prepared

I'm writing this both as an apology and a warning. I'm sorry this month's newsletter may fall short on creativity. I have lost the use of my right hand due to a fractured humerus. I fell and broke my arm on February 6—the same day I heard of the death of my friend, Jack Holmes. The day I call bloody Tuesday.

Of the remedial options open to me, I initially chose surgery, but when I discovered the cost—way out of my reach—I settled for a removable cast. This seems to be working satisfactorily and I am feeling much more comfortable and optimistic.

I don't know how I would have survived without the help of concerned friends. I want to thank everyone who called, brought food, took me shopping and gave me the pleasure of their company, for their kindness and love.

I was only half prepared for this event. In a typical display of hubris, I had not bothered to get health insurance—my health was perfect, I didn't need it. I had, however, arranged for someone to be my emergency buddy, in case something unexpected happened. If I hadn't taken this step, I might still be sitting on my bedroom floor, freezing my butt off.

This person has been a true friend and an invaluable care-giver. His patience, sensitivity, and reliability are outstanding. These are gifts I can never repay and will never forget.

The moral of this story is: no matter how healthy you are, if you are alone, make some plans for the unexpected, and get health insurance; it's not expensive and it could save you a lot of grief and inconvenience, and maybe even save your life.

Vicki Wootton

Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon



Saturday, March 17 at the AmSoc clubhouse

Menu

Smoked brisket with cabbage and potatoes, salad, and strawberry shortcake with whipped cream.

Bar opens at noon - lunch served at 1:30

Tickets: \$120 pesos

Who was Saint Patrick?

By Jerry Wilson - Used with the author's permission.
[<http://wilstar.com/holidays/patrick.htm>]

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He trav-

eled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

Today, people celebrate the day with parades, wearing of the green, and drinking beer. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is that it takes place just a few days before the first day of spring. One might say it has become the first green of spring.

Celebrations around the world

Excerpted from Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org

Canada

The longest-running Saint Patrick's Day parade in Canada occurs each year in Montreal. The parades have been held in continuity since 1824. St. Patrick's Day itself has been celebrated in Montreal as far back as 1759.

UK

The largest Saint Patrick's Day parade in the UK is held in Birmingham over a two mile route through the city centre. It is billed as the third biggest parade in the world after Dublin and New York.

Germany

Munich is the only German city holding a St. Patrick's Day parade, having a large Irish community. Following the 2 km.-parade, which usually takes place the Sunday preceding March 17th, is an open air party with live music and dance performances.

Denmark

The St. Patricks Day 3 Legged Charity Race started in Copenhagen in 2001. All proceeds from the event are donated to a Danish charity for children with cancer.

Moscow

On 15th March 1992, thousands of Muscovites lined the Novy Arbat to witness the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Russian capital's history. Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, and Aer Rianta Chief Executive, Derek Keogh, were on the reviewing stand as a police escort led the way for a bizarre assortment of Russian marching bands, Cossack horsemen, and fifteen floats representing many Russian companies.

Book Sale

AmSoc will be holding a book sale on **Friday, March 16 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** (members only), and on **Saturday, March 17 from 11:00 AM to 3:PM.**

Quotes

Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.

Stephen Leacock

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Kubler Ross

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up.

Jesse Jackson

February Birthdays

Bob Letendre	March 7
Panos Apostolidis	March 12
Steve Goldsmith	March 29

Happy Birthday! ¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Bus Routes & Schedules Online:

<http://sistecozome.jalisco.gob.mx/rutas.html>

The Parrot Cage

Starting March 1st lunches in the Parrot Cage will be reduced to one per week with the cancellation of

the Monday lunch. We will continue to serve quality meals on Thursday and urge members to join us for this and the table games that follow.

Notices & Announcements

U.S. Income Tax

Marian Wellman will be at AmSoc every **Monday from 10:00 -1.00** until mid-April, and then afterwards by appointment. She will also see clients at her home in Riberas del Pilar, between Ajijic and Chapala. E-mail: mwellmanmexico@gmail.com, **Telephone Lakeside: (376) 765-5273** Marion is replacing Stan Wheeler.

Salud Integral

Physiotherapy · Massage Therapy
Anti-stress · Rehabilitation
Sciatica · Sprains
Reflexology · Bioenergetics
Pain Management · Post-surgery Therapy

Terapeuta: Leticia (Leti) Rodrigues

Tel: 044-333-103-2528

San Francisco 3332, Chapalita

March Parrot Cage Menus

Thursday, March 1: Pork filet stuffed with ham & vegetables, zucchini soup, cheese pie

Thursday, March 8: Chicken Caesar salad, vegetables soup, chocolate cake.

Thursday, March 15: Breaded fish, lentil soup, baked apples.

Thursday, March 22: Chicken divan, spinach soup, rice pudding.

Thursday, March 29: Crepes filled with meat, white sauce, pea soup, peaches.

The Memorial Society

Information desk open Mondays at AmSoc from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Enrollment: AmSoc Members: \$250 pesos
Non-Members; \$300 pesos

Costs of Services:

Donation of remains to Med School \$400 US
Cremation: \$500 US

Funeral Home: Capillas San Miguel

Notary: Ruben Alberto Santana

AmSoc Representative: Chuck Parsons

The Memorial Society needs volunteers to work the information desk on Mondays.

MARCH CALENDAR

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
			1 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	2 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
5 Aerobics 9:00 U.S. Income Tax 10-1	6	7 Aerobics 9:00	8 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	9 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
12 Aerobics 9:00 U.S. Income Tax 10-1	13	14 Aerobics 9:00 Board Meeting	15 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	16 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Luncheon				
19 Aerobics 9:00 U.S. Income Tax 10-1	20	21 Aerobics 9:00	22 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	23 Aerobics 9:00 Social Friday 7:00
26 Aerobics 9:00 U.S. Income Tax 10-1	27	28 Aerobics 9:00	29	30

* See this month's lunch menus on page 3.