



Leonard Bivens, Almena, and his granddaughter, Jessica Bivens, 8, looked over some of the plants already stocked in the new greenhouse at Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# All things Irish...

Collector Chat  
*Liza Deines*



With St. Patrick's Day upon us, it seems only fitting to indulge in one of my favorite collectible topics — anything Irish.

My background is a peculiar mix of Pennsylvania Dutch, Scot and Irish, which is a combination my father often referred to as slop-bucket genealogy. The Scot shows up in the love of a bargain and the Pennsylvania Dutch probably accounts for that streak of stubbornness that runs through the family, but Mama always said the Irish added the spice to the recipe.

When I was in high school a favorite pastime was searching lawns for four-leaf clovers and the few we found were pressed between the pages of our Bibles and kept for good luck.

How many teen-agers today have the leisure to even notice clover, much less search for a mutated leaf? If your boyfriend gave you a four-leaf clover he was entitled to a kiss, or so rumor had it. The four-leaf clover was also a favorite motif for the little charm bracelets we all wore and set in plastic for a keychain tag. You don't see the clover theme often now days but it was used extensively in jewelry design as well as wallpaper and fabrics in the 1940-'50 era.

On a much more elegant note, an Irish collectible that has been popular for years is Belleek porcelain. Created in the mid-1850s, this delicate, creamy white porcelain was named for the village in Ireland where it was produced. Many patterns were originally made but Shamrock and Thorn are the most often found today.

Fragile cups and saucers and dainty woven baskets hand painted with green shamrocks and gilt make a lovely display, particularly when given a spot where the sun catches the pearl luster that is distinctive to this period tableware. Belleek is still produced and is even available by mail order, so it is wise for a collector to become familiar with the colored marks that identify the age of the piece. The older the item, the higher the value. Certain vintage patterns and

designs can run as high as \$2,000 to \$5,000. While collecting Belleek is not for us Scot bargain hunters, the joy and pleasure of owning it is, no doubt, worth the investment.

Waterford Crystal is another Irish pleasure that, while still available today, has a slightly older history than Belleek. Original Waterford was only produced between 1700 and 1851. Not much of the original line still exists these days and, if found, the price is prohibitive for most of us. In the 1950s, however, a new Waterford Glassworks factory was established in Ireland and most of us can manage to enjoy a few pieces of the line of lovely cut crystal they produce using the old patterns and designs. There is nothing quite as romantic as the beautiful glow cast from a Waterford lamp or the sparkle of candlelight reflecting through Waterford goblets on a dinner table.

A bit more available to the average collector are the "little people" that are supposed to inhabit the green hills and valleys of Ireland. One of my most treasured possessions is a wee brass Leprechaun my husband gave me years ago on March 17.

These little elfin creatures are enticing as figurines and are also often found as cast concrete yard ornaments. Legend has it that if you can capture one of these little fellers, grab their beard and hold on for dear life, they must lead you to their pot of gold. Quick and clever by tradition, I would say you're not too likely to nab one, but I wish you all the luck of the Irish!

FROM THE COOK — Enjoy your corned beef and cabbage dinner but watch out for that Irish whiskey.

## Norton flower shop celebrates eight years

Gardening is America's favorite pastime.

Helping fill the need in Norton for all things green over the last eight years has been Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse. Owner, Annette Overlease, bought the business in 1996, and has been providing fresh flowers, silk arrangements, wedding and funeral flowers, plus an ever-expanding gift line ever since.

She said she has always loved

flowers and she felt it was only natural for her to open a flower shop. She admitted that she has no formal training, but just learned the business as she worked.

The latest addition to Norton Flowers is a 36-foot-by-96-foot greenhouse that Mrs. Overlease says will be packed with plantings and seedlings for spring.

"I guarantee," she said. She has already started tomatoes and peppers from seeds and

has potting tables full of petunias andimpatience.

The shop is ready for the gardener with Ferti-Lome additives, benches, statuary, bird baths, stepping stones and bulk seeds.

Other employees are Lavon McCormack, Sylvia Wright, Arlene Spresser (Mrs. Overlease's mother) and part-timer, Renee Schaefer.

To celebrate the store's eighth anniversary, Mrs. Overlease will

be offering eight roses for \$8 on Friday.

To accommodate gardeners the store will begin staying open until 7 p.m. at the end of April. It will also be open all day Saturdays and Sunday afternoons, 1-5 p.m. through May.

Mrs. Overlease and her husband Greg, who owns Overlease Construction, have four children, Nathan, 21, Matt, 20, Aaron, 17, and Amber, 15.

## 'SHARE' deadline is this Thursday

The deadline for ordering the March Heartland SHARE food package is noon Thursday. To order, call the Norton Senior Center at 877-5352 or Ermalea Mason at 877-3098 or H&R Block at 877-4096.

Distribution will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, March 27, at the Norton Senior Center.

The March Heartland SHARE food package contains one pound bacon, one pound sweet Italian sausage, one and a half pounds fully cooked shredded roast beef, 14 ounces breaded chicken breast fillets, four 4-ounce pepperoni hot pips, broccoli, romaine lettuce,

two pounds onions, potatoes, four Fuji apples, four oranges, two grapefruit, five bananas, and a 16-ounce bundt cake.

For \$17.25 plus two hours of volunteer work, you can receive all of the food or "SHARE" listed. You can order as many shares as you want.

You can also order a meat only (first five items) package for \$10.50 plus one volunteer hour.

This month there is the Easter Bunny Bonanza available for \$15 plus one volunteer hour. It includes 3 1/2 pounds of fully cooked boneless turkey breast and 3 pounds of fully cooked boneless

Glen Rock Holiday ham.



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