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'Wearing of the Green' Brings Special Menu

By Ina Fried

When Bob O'Connell was growing up in Pennsylvania, his family served green beer at the big annual St. Patrick's Day party at O'Connell's Kingston House restaurant.

O'Connell's plans for Dietary Services, which he heads, will lack the foamy brew but nonetheless should turn Duke Hospital into a little bit of Ireland next Thursday, March 17.

Patients and employees can start the day with Maggie Murphy's waffles and Irish oatmeal.

Callahan and Leprechauns

Lunch will feature Callahan's Platter of traditionally Irish corned

beef, cabbage and parsleyed potatoes or Irish country-omelette with blarney sauce, Leprechaun's molded fruit salad, Emerald Isle jello, McMinted pear halves, lime cream pie, O'Chocolate cake and Irish mist limeade.

For dinner there will be Dublin's meat balls, MacLaughlan's baked ham, Patty's butterscotch pudding and lime sherbert.

Special decorations and table tents will carry out the green and white Irish theme. An Irish guessing game will be available from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4:30-7 p.m. in the Courtyard Cafeteria. Prize winners' names will be posted the next day.

O'Connell and his wife Peggy, a secretary at ERA Realty One in Research Triangle Park, both grew up in an area of Pennsylvania where St. Patrick's Day was "really big," O'Connell said.

Irish for the Day

Although their communities included Italians, Poles and Armenians as well as Irishmen, "everyone turned Irish for the day," O'Connell said. "There were 10,000 people willing to celebrate."

His brother may have overdone the celebration one year when he had the yellow line in the town's main street painted green from the edge of town all the way to the front door of the family restaurant. It cost \$1,000 to have it repainted later.

From the framed Irish Blessing on the wall and the Waterford crystal on the table to the Kelly green chair in

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IRISH ROOTS—The O'Connells reflect their heritage in their services for the hospital), Kerry and Erin. (Photo by Ina Fried) names: (clockwise) Peggy, Timothy, Bob (director of dietary

Patient Finds Special Meaning For What Hospital People Say

This column by Dennis Rogers appeared recently in the Raleigh News and Observer.

ELIZABETH CITY — It occurred to me, lying here in my backless hospital gown with my mind whacked out on pain killer, that for every brilliant doctor who graduates at the top of his class from the nation's best medical school, there is a yo-yo who graduates from the bottom of his class at the nation's worst medical school.

Think about that the next time your doctor gives you a prescription.

I did a lot of thinking about doctors and hospitals last week. I had to spend three days in the hospital here when my lung went "psssst" and collapsed on me. There is very little else to think about at such times, other than trying to remember how to breathe. And, by the way, I'm fine now, thank you.

I have, for instance, finally figured out why nurses wake you up every two hours during the night. They pretend they want to take your blood pressure and stuff like that, but their real reason is very simple.

They want to know if you're still alive.

Hospital beds are at a premium these days, and think of the waste to have a dead body taking up a \$100-a-day room. At that price, you want to make sure the guy still is able to pay his bill.

And I have learned how to understand what hospital people mean when they talk. Not what they say, what they really mean.

"Now you might feel this is a little," the doctor says, when what he really means is, "Sharpen your fingernails, hoss, 'cause this is gonna make you hang from the ceiling."

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