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Plaudits for Marshal of St. Patrick's Parade



Elected grand marshal of Newark's St. Patrick's Day parade, Acting Public Safety Director John B. Keenan receives congratulations and wish that the luck o' the Irish holds good on March 17. Left to right: Director Keenan, James J. Caffrey, chairman, the Rev. Joseph C. Lenihan, Deputy Mayor William L. Fox.

Irish
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Keenan Wins Chief's Post In Parade

Defeats Brophy In Contest; Will Name Staff This Week

Acting Director of Public Safety John B. Keenan was elected grand marshal of the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day parade March 17 by delegates representing Irish organizations of Northern Jersey at a meeting of the parade committee in St. Patrick's Cathedral School Hall yesterday.

Although his friends acknowledged he would be an easy winner, Keenan nosed out former Mayor Joseph A. Brophy of Elizabeth by only 23 votes in a contest for the honor.

Of 123 votes cast by the delegates, Keenan received 73. The name of Brophy, who withdrew as a candidate the previous year in favor of Assistant Prosecutor Donal C. Fox, was presented by Arthur J. Daly of Rahway, president of the Plainfield A. O. H. Division. Brophy was seconded by John J. Guinee, county secretary of the Union County A. O. H.

Two other names presented were those of Edward J. Ryan of the Leo McGee Association of Newark and Thomas J. O'Regan of Harrison, both of whom withdrew, leaving the field open to Keenan and Brophy.

WOULD BAR POLITICIANS

Prior to the closing of nominations a question was raised by a delegate as to whether the rules of the committee barred politicians and persons not present from being elected parade marshal.

Some of those present regarded this as directed at both Keenan and Brophy.

Called upon by Chairman James J. Caffrey for an opinion, James J. Plunkett, chairman of the 1938 parade committee, said no such rule now existed.

Plunkett explained that while that view had been held by parade committees in previous years, the minutes of the meetings had not been preserved. Plunkett intimated the rule was a sound one.

Speaking for Brophy as an eligible candidate, Thomas A. Leary, secretary of the Tevnan Association of Elizabeth, admitted Brophy had not been consulted about putting his name forward this year.

He declared Brophy's record as a leading Irish-American of Union County warranted the nomination. He also added the parade committee should give recognition to other communities than Newark.

The victory of Keenan, who was placed in nomination by James Owens of the Erin Society of Newark, followed.

Keenan, in an address appreciating the honor bestowed on him, said no one could be prouder than he to be chosen grand marshal of a St. Patrick's Day parade of 100,000 Irishmen.

"But," added Keenan, "there was a reference made to politics here and I resent it. I am not a politician but an employe of the city government and I obtained my appointment by Civil Service."

WILL NAME STAFF

Keenan told the Union County delegates and others who supported Brophy that Brophy would have a post of honor in this year's parade and said he hoped that in some future year the parade would be held in Elizabeth.

Keenan announced that he would name his personal adjutant and general staff later in the week.

James Tumulty of Jersey City, an instructor at Seton Hall College, delivered the principal address at the meeting, eulogizing the spirit of the Irish race.

Deputy Mayor William L. Fox announced that Mayor Ellenstein had received assurances from 173 mayors of cities in the state that they would come to Newark for the parade.

Caffrey announced that as St. Patrick's Day would be the 90th anniversary of the dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral and the 65th anniversary of its consecration, the grand marshal, staff officers and organization delegates would attend the solemn pontifical mass at the Cathedral that day.

He said the mass would be celebrated at 10:30 A. M. with Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh officiating.

Joseph McCoy, parade adjutant, said word had been received from John Coyle of Philadelphia, national commander of the Irish War Veterans, that Coyle and staff officers would march in the parade