



LAPD Equestrian Officers patrolling the parade route



Celebrity Grand Marshal – Rene Russo



Richard Andrade, Captain I, parade founder.



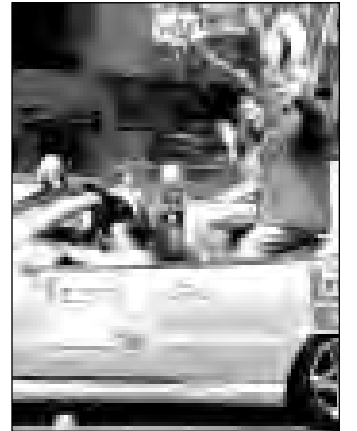
Father Mike's Desert Refuge for Peace Officers



Jan Perry, Councilmember District 9



Dennis Zine, Councilmember District 3



Honorary Consul of Ireland

4th Annual Los Angeles St. Patrick's Day Parade: March 14, 2003

Ever wonder how the **Los Angeles St. Patrick's Day Parade** got started? Well, we were curious so we decided to find out. Here's the scoop:

The parade was founded by Fire Captain Richard Andrade. He has been with the Los Angeles Fire Department for 27 years, of which 15 years were spent as a Captain at his current assignment at Fire Station 3 located in the downtown metro area.

Captain Andrade's effort began in 1999 when the local and national news featured extensive coverage of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. He realized that there was no major St. Patrick's Day Parade or celebration in Los Angeles. Since the major St. Patrick's Day Parades are on the East Coast, he decided to see if he could change that. He formed a committee of volunteers and on March 17, 2000, Los Angeles had its first ongoing St. Patrick's Day Parade. "We have become one of the most popular and exciting parades in Los Angeles and we're rapidly becoming one of the largest St. Patrick's Day Parades on the West Coast. Hopefully in the near future we'll be the largest in the country," says a very energetic Captain Andrade

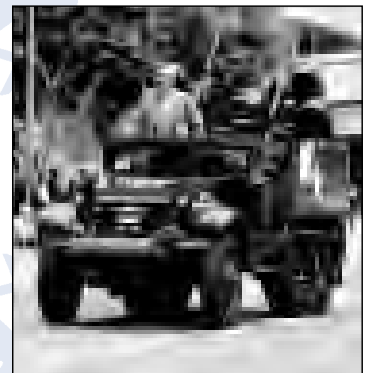
According to sources, there have been other parade efforts in and around Los Angeles, however none have been as successful as this effort. Captain Andrade sums the parade up by saying, "Our goal has been to reflect the pride of the Fire Department, the Police Department and the community at large. Our event also reflects the pride of Irish American Heritage and Culture. We take great care to ensure that this parade will be something that everyone in the community will be proud of. We also believe that this parade will stand the test of time." 🍀



Tom LaBonge, Councilmember District 4



Dave Williams from the LA Fireman's Relief Association



R. Lee Erney from the History Channel's popular "Mail Call" show



Honorary Grand Marshal, William Bratton, Chief of Police



Rio Hondo Preparatory School



A member of the "Fire Hogs," the LAFD Motorcycle Club



Deputy Chief LAFD, Dennis Keane & Jay Grodin, President of the Board of Fire Commissioners



Assistant Chief McDonnell, Deputy Chief of Operations



The Department of Water and Power's Electric Car



The U.S. Air Force