

Bloomsday Celebration Blossoms On Day Preceding Father's Day

Father's Day this year falls on June 17. But fathers could have reason for celebration one day earlier, because of Leopold Bloom, father-figure to Stephen Dedalus in James Joyce's epic novel, "Ulysses."

The book is the chronicle of a day—June 16, 1904—on which the fictional Mr. Bloom walked the streets and visited the pubs of Dublin.

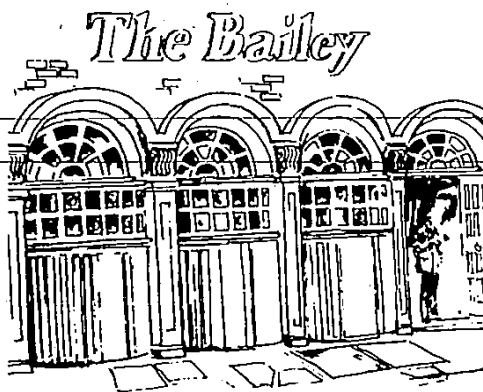
In 1924, ten years after the publication of the book, Joyce wrote from Paris: "There is a group of people who observe what they call Bloom's Day—16 June. They sent me hortensias, white and blue, dyed."

And Bloomsday still is celebrated—not so much with hortensias, but often with Irish whiskey—by admirers of Joyce's masterwork. In Ireland the literary cognoscente visit the pubs, reverently sipping the native Irish, out of respect for what is generally considered to be the most important of modern novels.

BLOOM'S PREDILECTION for "thick giblet soup, nutty gizzards... liver slices fried with crust crumbs..." was very much in the Irish tradition, dating back more than 800 years, when Irish, the original whiskey, was invented.

In the days of the High Kings of Ireland, at the time of festival, ritual offerings of food would be made by the Druids. According to ancient Gaelic manuscripts, one favorite probably would have made Bloom's mouth water: stuffed oxen. A young ox stuffed with small game—rabbit, pheasant, duck—was roasted on a spit over a great fire. The game stuffing then was served to the kings, and the oxmeat to the lesser warriors.

Stuffed ox has not been a popular dish in Ireland for centuries but for Bloomsday, or any



other day, you might want to prepare a more modern Gaelic Sirloin Steak, a recipe that owes much of its distinctive zest to the liberal use of Irish whiskey. Any one of the four Republic of Ireland whiskeys available in the U.S.—Jameson, Paddy, Power's or Tullamore Dew—will do the trick.

So why might fathers be grateful to Bloom?

Well, it may not be as well-known as Father's Day, but Bloomsday provides a good excuse to honor Dad a day early, and have a celebration too. Among Joyce devotees the world over there will be reading from "Ulysses," scholarly discussion, and thoughtful sipping of Irish whiskey in mixed drinks, in highballs, or on the rocks with a splash—which is the way the connoisseurs seem to like it.

SINCE BLOOMSDAY OCCURS the day before Father's Day this year, you can get a start on the festivities by presenting Dad with a bottle of Irish whiskey a day earlier.

He'll say: "What's this for?"

And you can answer, archly: "Bloomsday, of course."

You might even quote him Joyce's own tribute to the native spirit. The line about "the light music of whiskey, falling into glasses."

And he may be so pleased with the bottle of Irish—and the fact that you've discovered a new holiday for him—that he won't care what sort of necktie you give him the following day.

BLOOMSDAY RECIPE

Gaelic Sirloin Steak

2 sirloin (8 oz.) steaks
4 oz. mushrooms
2 oz. onions
½ glass Irish whiskey
¼ pt. cream
¼ pt. brown sauce
2 oz. butter
1 teaspoon French mustard
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
dash of Tabasco
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
1 teaspoon chopped parsley
salt
pepper

Beat steaks out very thinly Put the butter in a pan and allow it to get hot. Season steaks with salt and pepper, place them on pan and cook one minute. Turn steaks and continue cooking another minute.

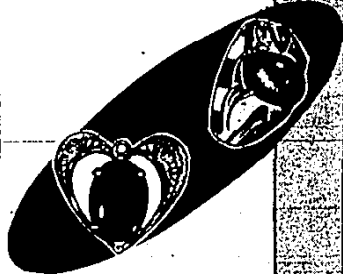
Add onions and mushrooms, finely sliced, and cook 30 seconds. Pour in Irish whiskey and set alight. Remove steaks and keep them hot.

To the pan, add brown sauce, French mustard, Tabasco, Worcestershire sauce, and cream. Bring to a boil and reduce sauce by half. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and pour over steaks.

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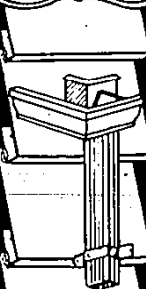
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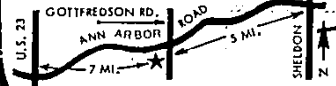
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