



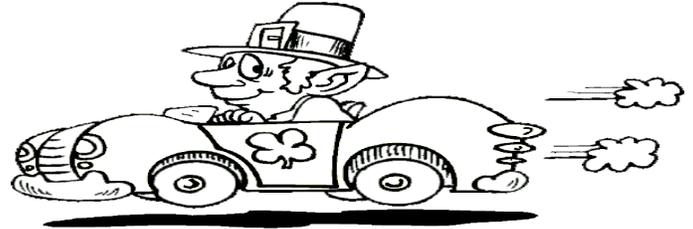
# Leprechauns

by Ronald F. Wolf



**W**hat exactly are leprechauns? Leprechauns are legendary fairies from Ireland whose main purpose is to make shoes for the fairies. Leprechauns stand 2 feet tall and according to legend, if you catch a leprechaun, you can force him to tell you where the pot of gold, which they hide, is.

## Blarney Stone



**I**n the Irish village of Blarney, lays a stone in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower, built in 1446. The stone is known to bring good luck to all those who kiss it. One local legend is that an elderly woman was saved from almost drowning by a king. She was so grateful that she rewarded him with a spell. If the king would kiss a stone on the top of the Blarney Castle, he would make a speech, so powerful, that it would win the souls of all the people in the land. The earliest method of kissing the stone proven to be unpopular. People were hung by their feet over the edge of the parapet. One day, a person fell to their death. Another method was soon introduced. A person would sit with their back towards the stone and then someone sit upon their legs or firmly hold their feet. Next, leaning far back and downward while grasping the iron rails, people would lower themselves until their head is even with the stone to be kissed.

## The Shamrock



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



**A** shamrock is a type of clover, which originated from Ireland. The shamrock became the country's national emblem when Saint

Patrick used the plant to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity (the father, son and holy spirit). A small-leafed white clover is considered by many Irish as a symbol

of good-luck. This superstition has been carried to many other countries and nationalities. Bababa