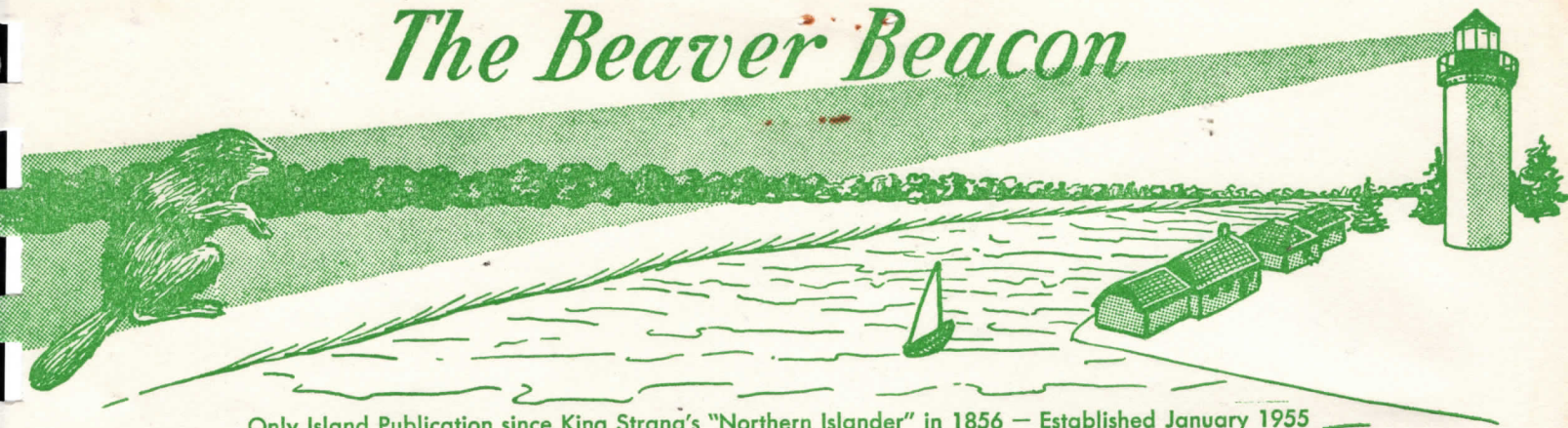


The Beaver Beacon



Only Island Publication since King Strang's "Northern Islander" in 1856 — Established January 1955

April 1961

WEATHER: As we told you in last month's Beacon, March crept in very quietly on Beaver Island. But the first Saturday, she got a little out of hand. We had snow, sleet, rain, thunder and lightning - and that's quite a handful of weather in just a few hours! Then she looked at what she'd done, felt ashamed, and gave us a great big smiling sun on Sunday to melt it all away. All in all, March has been pleasant. Most of the snow is gone. A little still remains in the woods, particularly at the South end of the Island.

BEAVER ISLAND'S FACE-LIFTING PROJECT has begun. Main Street (Beaver Island's Outer Drive!) has been widened from the King Strang Dock to the Killarney Inn. This will provide more off the street parking, particularly at the post office.

The old ice house at Henry Allen's dock has been torn down. There were some of the old timers who felt this should have been saved and become part of the restoration program. However, the building was in pretty bad condition, and was an "attractive nuisance" to youngsters, and it was felt that, for safety's sake, it was better to remove it.

Raymond Lewis has most of the cedar posts cut for the fencing on the harbor side of Main Street. Erection of this fence will take place as soon as the posts can be brought into town and the holes dug.

Visitors driving down the East Side drive will find the old barn at the Carroll residence (formerly the Shoemaker farm) torn down. Ralph Rutt has done an excellent job removing this old eyesore. The barn had been partly fallen down for many years, and Ralph's clean-up job was a great improvement.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS: We had to change our plans for the St. Patrick's Day party on Beaver Island. Instead of Friday, the Altar Society served a delicious ham dinner on Sunday, March 19th at the Parish Hall. Games were played after the dinner. Rose Connaghan won the drawing for the beautiful set of Ecko knives. Father Lewis says we now have a new attraction for the August homecoming dinner. Rose Connaghan will throw knives!

The kids had their fun on St. Paddy's Day, too. Walt Wojan loaded 26 of the Island youngsters on the back of his truck and took them to Mt. Pisgah for a day of sledding and tobogganing. The kids went on the trip happy, lively and dry. They returned home tired, hungry and many were soaked from the snow. They had lots of fun and no casualties!

The St. Pat's party in Chicago welcomed Rita and Jewell Gillespie, Eva and Lloyd McDonough and Frank O'Donnell. They reported the Chicago party was well attended and all had a good time.

The Beaver Island Association of Michigan, formerly the Beaver Island Club of Lansing, Michigan, were hosts at a dinner meeting March 15th in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Over 60 Island property owners attended the organizational meeting at Holiday Inn Motel. Mr. George Egbert was elected its first president, Keith Rasmussen was elected vice president, Charles C. Earley, secretary and Murray D. Wanty became treasurer. Henry Allen gave a speech "Today and Tomorrow" which dealt with recent developments and future trends of Beaver Island. Color movies prepared by Rogers Carlisle were shown.

THE COAST GUARD CUTTER SUNDEW arrived in St. James Harbor March 28th to break up the ice. The Islanders gathered in Dick LaFreniere's store and the Shamrock to watch the operation. It took the Sundew two and one half hours to open the harbor, with the ice almost three feet thick in places. Now we are anxiously awaiting the first trip of the Emerald Isle ferry. She is scheduled to make her first run on April 7th.

SIGNS OF SPRING: Donald Cole was surprised to find a ground hog under his truck. Don had parked the truck on the road near the Patterson farm and when he returned, he found the animal looking at him rather sleepily. It refused to leave until he chased it out.

The pussy-willows are in full bloom. The fat, furry blossoms are waving merrily near the McCafferty farm, and along the roads in other areas of the Island.

The first robin of the year was spotted in Stromberg's yard. He looked a little travel-weary and confused. He was found eating suet, still a little early for angleworms.

The Shamrock Bar has been redecorated. The color scheme will be a surprise to some. The ceiling is Champagne (light tan) and the walls are Fruitwood (light brown). Archie says the change from green to tan is due to the pressures put on him by certain Scandinavians now living on the Island, but he refused to change the color of the back bar. He remained firm in his decision to keep the green color there in memory of the old Irish ways!

DREAM TRIP TO IRELAND: Marie Gauthier, classmate of our Island nurses, took a trip to Ireland last summer along with two other girls, and on March 23rd, favored us with slides showing the tour taken by the young ladies. To the many of us who have never had the good fortune to visit Ireland, it was interesting to note how very much certain areas of the old country are like our own Beaver Island, including names on Irish stores such as Greene, Connaghan, and McDonough. Thank you so much, Marie, for a very pleasant evening.

HAVE YOU EVER VISITED BEAVER ISLAND IN MARCH? This is the time of the year when the natives get restless. Rabbit season is over. Beaver trapping has not yet begun. It's too early for the perch and smelt runs. So the local anglers and hunters congregate at the Shamrock Bar to begin the Beaver Island Liar's Season. No license is required for this sport. All you need is the ability to tell a lie with a straight face and see if you can get the editor of the Beaver Beacon to believe it. Following are some of the stories told as truth:

Edna McCann has sold the Beachcomber Bar. It's going to be a Bakery.

Ada Martin is getting married after Lent.

Archie Minor has a dog that catches rabbits and brings them home for supper.

A jet plane swooped down and chased Raymond Lewis all over the McDonough farm.

None of these stories are true. Now it's quite possible that Edna could sell the Beachcomber, or Ada could get married, and Archie Minor might like that kind of a dog, but the one about the jet plane was just too much!

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: A/2C Gary A. McDonough graduated March 7th from Electronics School at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, and after a two week's leave at home reported to McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey for assignment to a Greenland Radar Station.

Pvt. Joe LaFreniere completed his basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. After spending four days at home, he left for Fort Lee, Virginia where he will attend Quartermaster's School.

Andrew John Gallagher, Q.M. 2/C, formerly with the Coast Guard Cutter Woodrush, has been transferred to New York, from where he will be sent on overseas duty.

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Linn T. Rountree have purchased the R. P. Hoffman home, "The Junipers" in St. James.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnson, Ann Arbor, have purchased two lots in Sand Bay from Mrs. Margaret Hanley.

OBITUARY: Mrs. Edythe Kleinhentz, 71, died in Little Traverse hospital following a ten weeks illness. Services were held at the Erwin Funeral Home in Harbor Springs. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery at Harbor Springs. Mrs. Kleinhentz was a former resident of Beaver Island, living in the home now owned by Milt Bennett

HOSPITAL NOTES: Lizzie Gallagher, mother of Johnny Gallagher, has been in Charlevoix Hospital. She is on the mend and will return home soon.

Hattie Nanigaw is still in Charlevoix Hospital. Word has been received that her condition is improving.

Maureen Gallagher, who is in Nurse's Training at Grand Rapids, had surgery on her knee. Maureen is the daughter of Norbert and Jane Gallagher who own a home across from the light plant.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Belfy of Detroit announce the birth of a daughter, Alice, on February 16th.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Kohn of Grand Rapids are the parents of a son born Feb. 20th. Mrs. Kohn is the former Catherine Martin.

A baby daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hanley, Feb. 11th. She has been named Julie Ann. Jerry is the son of Mrs. Margaret Hanley and is teaching in Avondale Junior High, Auburn Heights, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Falting announce the birth of a baby girl, Suzanne Joy, on March 23rd. Mrs. Falting is the daughter of Erwin Belfy, Jr. and the late Dorothy Belfy.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McDonough of Grand Rapids announce the birth of a baby girl on March 12th. Bob is the brother of Lloyd McDonough of St. James. This makes an even dozen for Bob and Charlotte. Is it true that they're cheaper that way, Bob?

Congratulations to the happy parents and their little ones!

AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT occurred to Mr. and Mrs. John Gallagher and their daughter, Mary Elizabeth near Petoskey. They were hit head-on by another car. Both cars were completely demolished. All were taken to the hospital. Johnny was released after examination. Lillian suffered three cracked ribs, severe cuts on chin and forehead and multiple bruises. Mary Elizabeth had severe cuts and bruises on her legs and body. They have been released from the hospital and conditions of both are improving.

JOHN KENNY, co-author with Margaret Cronyn on the "Saga of Beaver Island" has suffered a heart attack. Mr. Kenny is also editor of the Michigan Catholic of the Detroit Diocese. He is recuperating at the Beaumont Hospital, Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan. Everyone on the Island sends Mr. Kenny their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

A NICE BOUQUET for Joe Dillingham is the following reprint from a February bulletin of the Michigan Independent Telephone Association:

"Although one of the Association's newest companies, Beaver Island Telephone Company continues its progressive management policies that should challenge other independents. January 12th was the date of the cut-over of the St. James exchange to an enlarged c.o. and the use of all number calling with recorded intercept. Joe Dillingham, who is "Mr. Telephone" of the Island group deserves the plaudits of all independents for his progressive action and for the forward-looking actions of the Beaver Board of Directors."

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: Selection of a new doctor to replace Dr. Frank Luton who is retiring June 30, was discussed at the meeting of March 2nd. Dr. Heustis, Michigan State Health Commissioner, is sending his associate, Ted Ervin, to get pictures and information. This material will then be publicized in medical magazines, over television and radio, and in newspapers in a campaign to get applications from physicians who might be interested in becoming our resident doctor.

GAME CLUB NEWS: At the last meeting of the club, it was decided to plow up fields and plant grains such as rye and corn and some clover to provide food for game birds, deer, and geese. This will be quite a project for the game club, and will entail a good amount of work, but it should assure us of some excellent hunting this fall.

The deer hunters have obviously left us quite a few deer. Lillian and Phil Gregg reported seeing over 35 deer on a trip around the Island, while Donald Cole reported seeing 15 in one herd.

PROOF OF THE FACT that the coyotes do a little traveling was uncovered in Levering, Michigan this month. A coyote that was tagged on Beaver Island in August of last year by John Ozaga, Conservation Department agent, was shot in Levering this month. We can be fairly certain that Mr. Coyote didn't swim across, but his feet must have been quite cold after his long hike across the ice!

TURKEY TALK: Some of our readers may wonder why we have said no more about the wild turkeys that were to arrive on Beaver Island. Actually, we don't like to kid our Conservation Department. They have done a wonderful job to increase the hunting and fishing facilities on our Island. But since this has already been published in some Michigan newspapers we thought our out-of-state readers might like to know what happened. It was a difficult winter for trapping turkeys. With so little snow, the birds found plenty of food in the woods.

In order to capture wild turkeys, the Conservation Department uses this procedure. The turkeys are coaxed to a certain area by spreading food for them on the ground. Then three small cannons are set up. Cannon balls are attached to a large net. When the cannons are shot, the cannon balls spread the net over the feeding turkeys. Thus the turkeys can be captured without any harm to them. Unfortunately, when all the arrangements had been made, somebody overloaded the cannons! The cannon balls shot into the air like unguided missiles, tearing the net. The turkeys took off for parts unknown in the Allegan State Forest and have not been seen or heard from since. Better luck next fall, boys!

BEAVER TRAPPING SEASON opened April 1st. Rogers Carlisle was amazed to find a 20 1/2 pound otter in one of his traps. There were signs of otter on Beaver Island about five years ago, but this is the first one trapped here in many years.

Readers will recall the otter as the playful animal sliding down snowbanks in some of the Walt Disney outdoor films. The animal has webbed and clawed feet, eats fish, and has a dark brown fur.

Rogers is quite proud of his trophy, and don't be surprised if you see his wife, Jo, sporting some beautiful otter trim on one of her suits.

TOUGH WINTER FOR OWLS: Alvin LaFreniere, who has been named Chipmunk by some of his buddies, is convinced even the owls have heard about his new name. While lying on the davenport watching television one evening, he was startled to hear an owl fly into the storm sash, breaking it. Then the owl just sat there watching Chip with a real hungry eye. This is believed to be the same owl that attacked Don Cole's dogs some time ago.

WOULD YOU BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT of the 267 Civic Association memberships receiving the Beaver Beacon, Michigan rates highest with 181. 54 towns in Michigan receive the Beacon. Illinois is next with 30, followed by Indiana with 16. The Beacon is sent to 15 states and two foreign countries. We are mighty proud of the "biggest little newspaper of the North"!

Farewell, that word has broken hearts
And blinded eyes with tears.
Farewell, one stays and one departs,
Between them rolls the years.

Adieu! such is the word for us
'Tis more than word - 'tis prayer
They do not part, who do part thus
For God is everywhere!

Adieu! Farewell! Such is the word for us. See you in May.