

The Beaver Beacon



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

April 1962

WEATHER: Following is our weather analysis for the month of March as reported by Vernon Fitzpatrick:

Coldest night - March 2 -21 degrees

Warmest day - March 28 +55 degrees

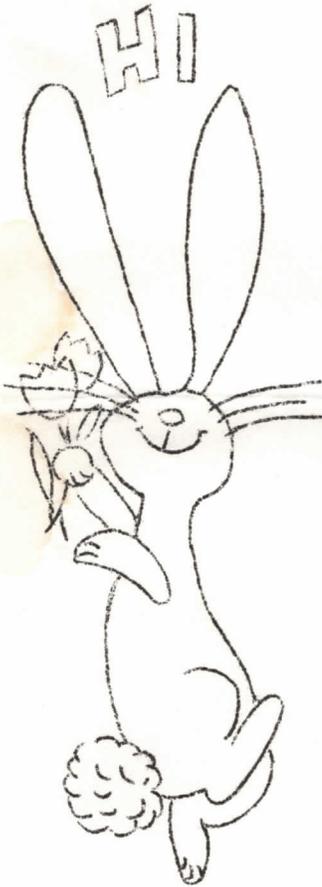
Average nighttime temperature +17 degrees

Average daytime temperature +34 degrees

Snow fell on 2 days with an accumulation of 5"

Rain fell on 4 days with a total of .7"

We started the month with 36.8" of snow on the ground and ended with 10" average on the ground with many clear patches where the snow had completely melted.



BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY has announced that negotiations are under way to lease the EMERALD ISLE to the Straits Transit Company. She will be on the run between Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island.

Our report on the length of the new boat BEAVER ISLANDER was in error. Instead of 95 feet long, she is actually 96 feet 4 inches.

HELP! MATT'S BACK: Matt Melville has returned to Beaver Island after spending the winter in Ireland. If his friends had any thoughts that Matt would return a more truthful man than when he left, they may as well forget it. Father Louis kept Matt's dog for the winter. Matt says that since his "Freckles" stayed with the good priest, the dog no longer swears!

HAPPY EASTER

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: Beaver Islanders sent winter on its way on St. Patrick's Night. The Altar Society served a delicious pot luck supper at the Parish Hall from 5:30 to 7:30. Immediately following the supper, the drawing for the TV set and Transistor Radio was held. Norbert Gallagher of Rochester, Indiana won the TV and Vernon LaFreniere of St. James won the radio. Betty Lockton reported that donations to the cemetery fund had netted \$981.00. Following the supper, the celebrants gathered at the Shamrock. You could almost see the snow melt from the roof of the bar as the evening progressed. The gayest music this side of the Soo was provided by several jolly Rogers from the Northwoods.

A special solo rendition of "Danny Boy" cheered Bruce McDonough at Charlevoix when Archie called him on the phone. Jewell Gillespie entertained with Irish singing and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when Ed O'Donnel finished his rendition of "Mother Machree". Larry McDonough and Coleen Nackerman won the applause of the crowd with their performance of the "Twist"- Irish version, naturally. We had a number of visitors on the Island for the occasion and they informed us that while they had seen St. Paddy's Day celebrated by the wearing of the green, never had they seen it celebrated so thoroughly as it was on Beaver Island.

George Egbert, President of the Beaver Island Club of Lansing, Michigan, reported their party held on March 10th was a real success. Beaver Island visitors at their party were Karl Kuebler and Archie LaFreniere, along with Theresa and James Gallagher from Charlevoix. A cake with a lone candle was brought in to symbolize the first anniversary of the club. Archie acted as toastmaster for the evening. Theresa Gallagher and Bess Haynes, wife of retired Dr. Howard Haynes from Traverse City, were given the honor of lighting the candle since they had come the farthest for the meeting. Miss Sandra Early, youngest club member present was called upon to blow out the candle and the cake was then presented to Theresa in token of her birthday anniversary.

A highlight of the evening was the modeling of a Beaver Island black beaver full length coat, very lush, by Mrs. Murray Wanty of Ann Arbor. The petite Wave Wanty stepped up front to display the coat and being called upon was quite a surprise to her.

Reports from the Chicago Beaver Island party showed a good attendance. The final tabulations were also taken here on the cemetery fund. Those in charge of this fund - Betty Lockton, Bob Delaney, and Musette LaFreniere want to thank all those who contributed so generously to this fund. The money will be used for the upkeep of the Holy Cross Cemetery.

ALTAR SOCIETY ELECTIONS: The annual election of officers for the Holy Cross Altar Society were held in March. The results were as follows: President, Eva McDonough; Vice President, Loretta Malloy; Secretary, Mary Minor; Treasurer, Vera Wojan.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS: Word has been received that the Christian Brothers will hold a twenty day retreat under the direction of Br. Frederick, who is in charge of the Retreat House at Plano, Illinois

OBITUARIES: Robert Gibson, Ludington, Michigan, died February 3rd as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident. Surviving are his wife, the former Margaret Lynch, and five children. Mr. Gibson was a distant relative of the Gibsons who ran the Gibson house on Beaver Island, now the home of the Beaver Island museum.

Thomas O'Conner passed away in Detroit on March 29th after an extended illness. Burial was in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Mr. O'Connor was the brother of Elizabeth Boyle.

John Kenny, 51, managing editor of the Michigan Catholic paper of the Detroit Diocese, died Monday, April 2nd at William Beaumont Hospital following a heart attack. Mr. Kenny was co-author with Margaret Cronyn of the book "Saga of Beaver Island". Surviving are his wife, Mary, and three sons and two daughters.

Elmer E. Olson, 53, passed away April 2nd. Mr. Olson was Secretary-Treasurer of the Olson Brothers Construction Company at South Haven, Michigan, and was a long time visitor to Beaver Island. Surviving are his wife, Gladys, and two sons and one daughter.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Joseph (Bud) McDonough has returned to Beaver Island following surgery at Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey.

Mrs. Marie Johnson is a patient at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. She suffered a heart attack in her home. Mrs. Johnson is the mother of Edna (Skip) McDonough of St. James.

NEW ISLAND DOCTOR: Several months ago, Dr. Sydney Schochet informed the Medical Board of the Civic Association that he had developed a serious cardiac condition which would prevent him from continuing as our Island doctor. Efforts to locate a replacement appear to have been successful. Dr. Raymond Maurer of Detroit has tentatively accepted the position and plans to take over his duties as soon as he has settled his affairs at Detroit. Dr. Maurer received his M. D. Degree at Wayne University in Detroit in 1931 and his degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland in 1940. We will be very happy to welcome Dr. Maurer and his wife, Florence, to the Island.

SIGNS OF SPRING: Mrs. Ada Martin saw the first robins on March 26th. They were in Russell Green's yard. There were a pair of them and Ada remarked that they looked a little lost sitting on a high snowbank.

Returning to the Island with the robins are several Island residents who left for the winter - Bert and Mary McDonough, Katie Connaghan, Maria Gallagher, and Art and Sybil Larsen. Our sailors are making their plans to leave us for the summer. Earl Boyle has already begun his duties aboard ship.

The cats are having kittens, the dogs are having puppies, and Bob Nestle has been a busy midwife delivering calves on the Jordon River Ranch.

Mr. George Danser of Petoskey was the first salesman to come to the Island this year. He must have left with a well-filled order book, as it has been a long winter.

The Coast Guard Ice Breaker MACKINAW came to Beaver Island on March 5th to deliver fuel for the County Road Commission. At this time measurements of the ice were taken and showed twenty seven inches of blue ice. On April 2nd, the Coast Guard Tender, SUNDEW, came to open the harbor for ferry service. Ice in the harbor then measured twelve inches and less in some places. This was quite a surprise as we had expected it to be much thicker. The EMERALD ISLE will make her first run within a week.

NEW ISLAND BOOK: Mrs. John (Amo) Ludwick of Jackson, Michigan has announced that her book "Island Doctor in Paradise" will be ready for distribution by May 1st. The book is an authentic history of Dr. Protar's escape from Siberian exile and also contains other heretofore unpublished Island stories. Mrs. Ludwick has done much research for this book, and we are sure it will be very interesting and a worthwhile addition to the books already published about Beaver Island's history.

ANTI-COLONIALISTS, UNITE! With the strong movement for self-rule continuing all over the world, certain groups in the Upper Peninsula are making plans to become the 51st state of the Union. It is their intent to then legalize gambling as a means of supporting the depressed area. Now, of Beaver Islanders we ask the following - to secede or not to secede, that is the question. Shall this former Mormon kingdom become an Island Las Vegas? Shall Main Street become an avenue of million-dollar hotels with the jingle-jangle of one-arm bandits in the lobbies? Can you imagine the sight of a fisherman with a creel full of trout from Fox Lake betting his catch on one turn of the wheel? The possibilities are fascinating, interesting, but perhaps somewhat impractical. However, did you know that there is a question that Beaver Island has ever been a part of the United States? The Treaty of Washington (1836) which set up the lands included in the State of Michigan, is said to be full of loopholes which leave some doubt as to just where Beaver Island's loyalties should be. Maybe we should start a country within a country. Now - there's food for thought!

PHEASANTS ON BEAVER: Bruce Meixsell is going to bring ringneck pheasants to Beaver Island sometime this summer, but his new stock will have company. There have been several reports of pheasants on the Island, but some doubt has always remained that the pheasants could very well be sharp-tailed grouse. Ralph Rutt, however, said there was no doubt about the bird he saw in his back yard. He saw it at close range. Mr. Gabriel M. Campbell of Howell, Michigan, who purchased the Mooney farm reported seeing a male ringneck on his property and the sighting of two more on the East side drive was reported by Island visitors last summer. Ralph has since checked the tracks of the bird and is assured they are pheasant tracks. He has been placing feed out for the bird, hoping to get an even better view and perhaps a picture.

MORE TURKEY TALK: Last month we published portions of a letter from Bruce Meixsell regarding his attempts to aid the Conservation Department in their efforts to plant turkeys on Beaver Island.

Mr. Ray Schofield, Game Division Supervisor, informs us that it is the desire of the Conservation Department to use Michigan reared stock in their turkey planting program. The Beaver Island Game Club has contacted two approved hatcheries and their names have been given to Mr. Meixsell with the possibility of supplementing the Island turkey population. The turkeys would be pure wild stock.

Every effort is being made by the Department of Conservation and the Game Club to prevent the introduction of diseased or undesirable stock. We appreciate Mr. Mcixsell's continued interest in our turkey program. Vernon Fitzpatrick reported that Game Division has terminated their turkey trapping program for the winter. They had no success in their efforts.

The four remaining turkeys brought here by the Department last fall have survived the winter and appear to be healthy. We are hoping they will make some effort on their own to increase the turkey population!

FOX LAKE: As most of you know, the trout season opens on April 28th. We are looking forward to some fine trout fishing there this season. Vernon Fitzpatrick has asked us to request fishermen at Fox Lake to not use minnows for bait. Any other live bait or artificial lures will be acceptable. Minnows seem to do very well in Fox Lake. It became overpopulated with them in past years, and this necessitated the poisoning of the lake last summer.

BEAVER ISLAND FILMS: Rogers Carlisle, President of the Beaver Island Game Club, has asked us to let our readers know the films of Beaver Island are available, free of charge, to any organization or group wishing to help us promote hunting and fishing on Beaver Island. Just write to Rogers and the films will be sent to you.

DEER CHECK: Ronald Grant of Lansing flew over Beaver Island in March and from the air saw two dead deer on Lake Genesareth. This prompted Vernon Fitzpatrick and several Game Club members to don snow shoes to check on the dead deer.

Attempts to drive were thwarted by deep snow near Sand Bay. Vernon, Larry McDonough, Archie LaFreniere and Don Welke snowshoed to the lake where they found the remains of the deer, obviously killed by coyotes, and evidences of coyotes chasing deer leaving trails of blood and hides. Since this first check, a number of other dead deer have been found, all obviously killed by coyotes. Bob Nestle reported that one of his cows gave birth to a calf that disappeared. It, too, is believed to be a coyote casualty. Estimates of the Game Club members are that the coyote population on the Island has reached at least 35.

Roy Chambers, Roy Vincent, and his son, Roy, Jr., of Indian River are bringing their hunting dogs on the first boat to help diminish the coyote population. The coyote is a wary animal, hard to hunt, and hard to kill. Mr. Chambers hopes to capture some of the young coyote pups in their dens, and we wish him much luck.

Milt Bennett and Lawrence McDonough checked the deer yards west of the Shoemaker farm and found no evidences of starving deer. The deer have started coming out of the yards and according to reports appear to be in good condition.

Mr. Ray Schofield, Game Division Supervisor from the Gaylord office, visited the Island on April 5th and 6th and spoke at our Civic Association Meeting. Mr. Schofield gave us some interesting observations on both the deer and coyote on Beaver Island. He said there was no doubt

the coyote were on the increase. He suggested we promote coyote hunting as a winter sport on the Island in an effort to keep them under control. He also remarked that the Island was fortunate in that owners of dogs kept them out of the woods, and dog-killed deer were nil as compared to the extensive dog kills on the mainland.

Mr. Schofield pointed out to Game Club members that deer fared best in woods and areas of bushy cedar and popple. He suggested we make attempts to promote more commercial logging and controlled burning by the Game Club in cooperation with the Department to create better feeding areas for the Island deer.

The controversy continues as to the advisability of antlerless deer seasons. As most of you know, there are two sides to this story. There are those who believe that the killing of does and fawns will eventually completely eradicate the deer herd. Then there are those who feel that controlled hunting of does and fawns will leave more winter feed for the deer that remain, bringing out a healthier, stronger herd in Spring.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Schofield and the Department for the help they continue to give us in our game programs on the Island.

BEAVER TRAPPING: The Island trappers are having good luck again this year. The road is open to the South End Light House giving trappers the opportunity to reach more of the trapping area than they had hoped for earlier. At this writing, Walt Wojan has trapped the biggest beaver of the season. It weighed 53½ pounds. The average animal weighs around 35 pounds. However, fossils of prehistoric beaver have been found giving evidences that they once weighed over 500 pounds! It would be quite a task to haul one that size out of the swamp!

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: The 1962 Beaver Island Courtesy Guides with the 1962 ferry schedule are available. Anyone wishing a copy may write the Secretary of the Association. We also want to again remind you that gift memberships are available throughout the year. Send your friends the BEAVER BEACON. Extra copies of each issue are also available for 30¢ each.

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6 room house on harbor. Lot 100' x 440'. Completely furnished inc. linens, G.E. refrig. with large freezer. Contact Mrs. Walter Lyons, 7523 Winchester Ave., Chicago 20. Phone Radcliffe 3-4536

A proverb haunts my mind
As a spell is cast -
The mill cannot grind
With the water that is past!

-Sarah Doudney

See you in May!