

The Beaver Beacon



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

April 1964

The mild winter just past is now being paid for in large installments of frigid temperatures, sparsely mixed with sunny days. Signs of spring are showing, however, as several shivering robins have been spotted about the island. The deer are out of their winter yards and look very well this spring.

WEATHER ANALYSIS: The following is the last report we will receive from Vernon Fitzpatrick, our Conservation Officer. (Read on for more details)

Highest Day	March 2nd	47 degrees
Average Daytime Temperature		36 degrees
Lowest Night	March 6	4 degrees
Average Nighttime Temperature		21 degrees
Snow fell on 8 days.		

The heaviest snowfall was on March 26th with 9 inches
The total snowfall for March was 18.7 inches.

SUNDEW VISITS: Early in the afternoon of the second of April, the U. S. Coast Guard icebreaker, Sundew, made her annual spring visit to break the ice out of the harbor. This is an event that attracts everyone to the ferry dock. Youngsters are let out of school and work in general, comes to a halt while the Sundew does her spring chores. Winds held the broken ice in the harbor, tho and freezing weather prompted a return visit on the eighth, bringing about a double feature this year.

ISLANDER READIED FOR SEASONS START: The crew of the Beaver Islander have left the island to do the spring fitting out on the ferry. The first trip was to be on the eighth of April, but ice conditions in the lake prevented the run. Empty shelves in homes and stores are mute evidence that it has been some time since the last trip in December. No severe shortages have occurred this year, but fresh supplies will be a welcome treat.

ROBINS RETURN: The earliest robin to return to Beaver Island is also our oldest resident. Mrs. Mary "Vesty" McDonough leads the list of Islanders to come home after visiting friends and relatives during the cold winter months. Also, returning is Maria Gallagher, Kate Connaghan, Mary "Duffy" Gallagher, Matt Melville, Mary and Bert McDonough, Sybil and Art Larsen, Sophia McDonough, Mary Green, Mary Gatliff, Perry Gatliff Ada Martin and Jackie, Stanley Floyd, Judy Palmer and last but not least, Raymond Lewis, with a beautiful tan from sunbathing in sunny Arizona.

AWAY FOR THE SUMMER - QUITE A SWITCH: With many returning to Beaver Island there are a few, not because they don't like it here but because of positions on lake boats, have to leave us until winter sets in again. Archie Minor was the first to leave followed by Mark Martin.

HISTORICAL WINDFALL: If all goes according to plan, the development of historic sites of interest on Beaver Island will get a shot in the arm. As a result of a meeting of the Interim Study Committee on State Parks and Public Lands, here on the Island last year, a bill has been presented to the Michigan Legislature for a \$20,000 grant. The bill was introduced by Charlevoix District Representative Don Gordon and Representative Riemer Van Till of Holland. Late word received, is that the bill has passed the House Ways and Means Committee, and now must be presented to the House of Representatives for a vote. If this comes into being, the grant will be used to restore Dr. Protar's property. The people of Beaver Island want to thank Representative Gordon and Van Till, for all of their hard work on this bill. A hearty thanks to Bill Wittenburg of Lansing, who took time to represent the Island in this matter.

BIRTHS: On March 25th, a new son arrived for Alice and Erwin Martin. Keith James, weighed in at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. We wonder if this year the race is not the time of arrival, but weight, as the Russell Green's new son weighed in at 9 lbs. last month.

HOME FOR EASTER: Colleen Nackerman, who attends Mary Grove College in Detroit and Mary Elizabeth Gallagher, who is attending Western Michigan University, were both home for Easter. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nackerman and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher.

ISLAND BIDS FAREWELL TO FITZ: After serving five years as the Island's Conservation Fire Officer, Vernon Fitzpatrick has been promoted to Assistant Park Manager at Fort Wilkins State Park, the northern most point in the Upper Peninsula. Fitz and his wife, Florence, have left the island to visit friends and relatives prior to moving. In the past five years, Fitz has made himself an active contributor in Civic affairs. Though Department protocol prevented him from holding any office in the Community, there was seldom a project that he wasn't a part of. His talents as a radio and television repair man will be missed, as will his efforts in promoting activities for the children. An informal get-together over coffee and cake, was held at the Holy Cross Hall on the 9th of April, to bid Fitz and Florence farewell and to present gifts of appreciation. We all wish them the best of everything in their new venture and hope they will be able to make many return visits.

NEW CONSERVATION MAN COMING: At the farewell coffee for Fitz on the 9th, the new Conservation Officer and his wife were introduced. Bernard "Bill" and Marjorie "Marge" Wagoner, with their son, Dennis, 13 and daughter, Jody, 5 will be moving to the Island shortly. Their move will be made from Lake City, Michigan. We wish to extend a most hearty welcome to the Wagoner family. Note: The girls are most interested in the arrival of Dennis to the Island. One problem exists, however, and that is the need of a house for them. As a good share of property owners are not year-round residents, we are making an appeal through the Beacon, to anyone having a home on the Island, of sufficient size (3 bedrooms), and desiring to rent it, to please drop us a line.

\$100.00 VACATION
DRAWING JULY 4, 1964

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\$1.00 DONATION TO

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FIIMS PROMOTE TREK TO BEAVER ISLAND: Approximately 50 Explorer Scouts and leaders from the Southwestern Michigan Boy Scout Council are planning a trip to Beaver Island from June 12 through June 19th. Our Beaver Island films were shown by Edward Sorgel, South Haven scouter and conservationist, who has hunted on Beaver Island for 20 years. Capt. Justin J. McCauley, St. Joseph Great Lakes ship captain, who was born on Beaver Island told about Beaver Island's early days and his boyhood experiences at the meeting.

Remember the films are available to anyone by writing to the Beaver Island Civic Association stating dates required.

DEATHS: Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlap, former Island resident, died March 25th at Grandvue Medical facility. Mrs. Dunlap, the former Elizabeth Johnston, was born on Beaver Island March 23, 1883. She made her home in Boyne City for about 50 years. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Rosella Lee of Gaylord, 3 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren. One sister, Mary Johnson, of Orlando, Florida and one brother, Peter Johnston, formerly of Beaver Island and now at Grandvue in East Jordan, and several nephews and nieces.

Mrs. Mary Codden passed away at a Cadillac Hospital on April 1st. Mrs. Codden was the former Mary McCauley, daughter of the Dan McCauley's.

Fred J. Dubiel, son of Mrs. Alice Dubiel of Cross Village, was killed in an automobile accident on March 29th. The Dubiel family were former Beaver Island residents.

Our condolences go to Mr. and Mrs. Karl Baber, the new managers of the Beaver Lodge. Mrs. Baber's father passed away at Frankfurt, Michigan this past week.

GAME NEWS: With spring coming on, interest in the outdoors takes a decided jump. April is the month when the Beaver trappers head for the streams and ponds, hoping to fill their limits with prize trophy's of Canadian Black Beaver. Cold weather made trapping difficult at first, but conditions are better now and many nice ones have been brought in. Rogers Carlisle reports that he saw his first Blue Heron of the season and also, some Black Ducks in ponds along his trap line. While checking one of his traps, he noticed a Woodcock watching from a short distance away, and was so tame that even after Rogers splashed water on him, he just stood there and shook his ruffled feathers in a disgusted manner. Those that spend a lot of time in the woods, often see stories told in signs and tracks of forest animals. Rogers relates that he noticed Coyote tracks along a creek where he was trapping Beaver. Evidence showed that the Coyote had caught up with the Beaver, and no doubt felt that a meal was assured, but after studying the tracks, the story continued, to the effect that Mr. Beaver had planted his chisel teeth in the flesh of the Coyote, for he had taken off in haste, leaving a trail of blood, while the tracks showed the Beaver nonchalantly returned to the comparative safety of the stream.

Trout fishermen are readying their tackle for the opening of the season on the 25th of April. Fox Lake was re-stocked last fall, with legal sized Brook Trout and those planted two years ago should be a real catch by now. They will be mighty hungry after the long winter, so if you want some real fun trout fishing, come on up and join us.

Very soon now, smelt dipping nets will be glistening in the light of gas lanterns along Cables Creek and the Jordan River. Sucker spearing, too, is a great sport and are usually plentiful. These make a tasty meal, either smoked or fried.

Of course, as soon as the ground warms up, in May we hope, Mushrooms will be poking their heads up to look around. This, too, is a lot of fun and an enjoyable time to be out in the woods, for this is usually before the mosquitoes are out.

There will be plenty to do this month and the Island offers lots of to do it, so if you are plagued with an acute case of spring fever, come to the Island, where you can really enjoy the ailment.

HOSPITAL NOTES: William Belfy has been hospitalized in Little Traverse Hospital for Cataract Surgery. While he was there he fell and broke one of his wrists. We certainly wish you fast recovery, Bill.

Mrs. Jeannette (Donald "Topper") McDonough of Charlevoix, formerly of Beaver Island, is recuperating from a broken collar bone.

We have had word that Ralph Rutt has been in the Hospital in Hammond, Ind. We hope everything is coming along fine and that you will be back up with us, shortly, Ralph. Late reports state Ralph will be here on May 9th.

Mrs. Lloyd McDonough suffered a Cerebral Accident on April 8th at her home. Eva is resting comfortably now, but will go to Little Traverse Hospital, sometime in the near future.

AIRPORT COMES TO LIFE: Another sign of spring is the sudden activity at the airport as week-end flyers are beginning to drop in as the weather warms. This should be another busy year for the airport. Karl Kuebler, the Airport Manager, reports that nine hundred planes landed on Beaver Island in 1963 summer season. As important as the airport is to the Island, the budget for its operation is comparatively small. We are all hoping to see some major developments soon.

Another very important item regarding the airport is the "Unicom" or 2-way aviation radio, operated voluntarily by Vernon "Dick" LaFreniere. Pilots can radio in to inquire about weather or call for transportation before coming across the lake.

A hearty thank you goes to Dick and Karl.

AVAILABLE: Adelia M. Beeuwkes, of Ann Arbor, Michigan recently sent us a bibliography of Beaver Island And The Mormon Colony. Anyone wishing a copy, may receive one by writing to the Beaver Island Civic Association, St. James, Michigan.

PARTY REPORTS: Reports of the outcome of the Chicago and Lansing Beaver Island parties are still coming in. All indications point to the fact that all of the participants had a real fine time.

The Chicago Party was attended by more people than ever before this year. Rosie McDonough and Bernard O'Donnell really deserve a big thank you for the excellent job they did. A three piece band furnished the music for dancing, and the dinner was buffet style.

An interesting report comes to us from the Chicago Party. Franklin Left, formerly of Beaver Island, flew from Jacksonville Beach, Florida just to attend the party and returned the following day to Florida.

George Egbert, of Lansing sent us a letter describing the Lansing party in detail, and it evidently was a huge success, too. The actual count was 216 but many more came in, of whom they couldn't get a record. The room was decorated with shamrocks and the supper was buffet style, also.

Charley Early did an excellent job with assistance from Ruth and Fred Annand, Delores Green, Doyle Fitzpatrick and many others.

James Gallagher was introduced as the man who sells the tickets to Michigan's own "decompression chamber." This, of course, is the Beaver Islander which takes the passenger tired, tense and worn-out from his job back home, and makes him relax, rest and unwind in a nice two-hour trip in the clean Lake Michigan air - so he can really be ready for his vacation on the Island.

PANTRY SHOWER: On April 12th, the annual Pantry Shower was held for the Dominican Sisters. Games were played and refreshments were served to the ladies attending. The Sisters were presented with a saw and ladder for the Convent.

We would like to inquire, if this is what Sister Eurphine is going to do battle with, against the garage door. This past week, the garage door was the victor, with Sister Eurphine suffering a black eye, cuts and abrasions. This coming week, Sister Eurphine can really saw it up in little pieces.

Her opening remarks to the class the morning after receiving her black eye was "We Tareyton smokers, would rather fight than switch."

We are all very grateful that Sister Eurphine was not more seriously injured, when the spring broke on the garage door.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE OR RENT: 6 room house on Harbor. Lot 100' by 440'. Comply. furn. inc. linens, G.E. Refrig. with large freezer. Semi-bas'm't. Contact Mrs. Walter Lyons, 7523 S. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Illinois - 60620. Telephone Radcliffe 3-4536.

FOR SALE: McDonough's Cabins on Sand Bay. Inquire, Lloyd McDonough, St. James, Michigan - 49782.

WE FORGOT: We listed reports of the parties and neglected to mention our own. We had a buffet dinner at the Shamrock with a record attendance. Over \$60.00 was made and we want to thank everyone who helped to make it such a success.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH! YMCA C.W.C.

1961-ENR