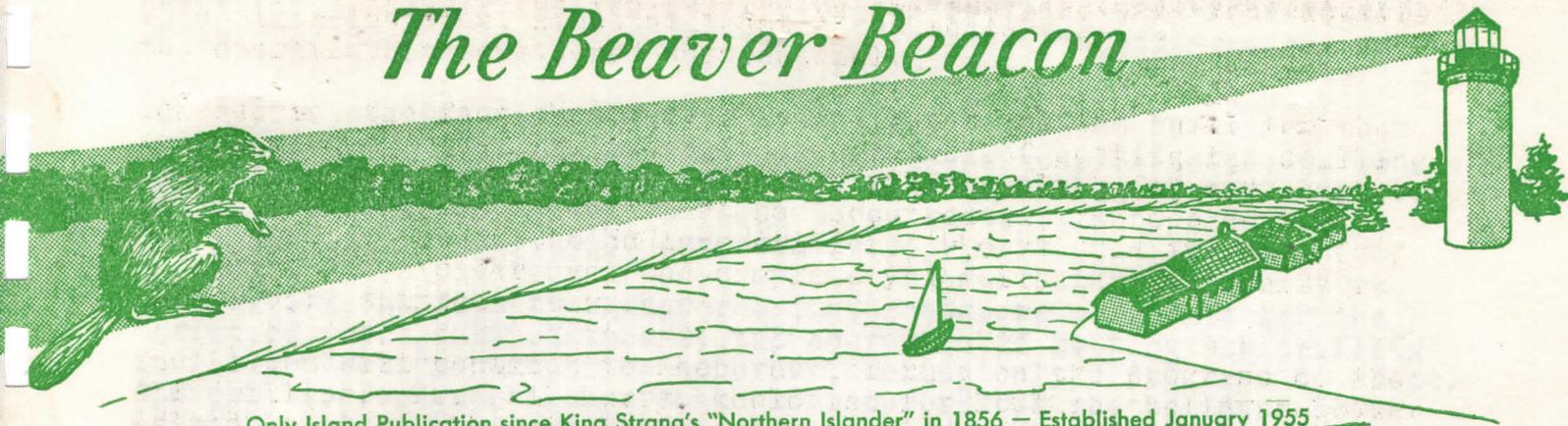


# The Beaver Beacon



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

August 1961

**DREAMS OF BLACK GOLD ON BEAVER:** The McClure Oil Company of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan began drilling operations on July 27th. The MACKINAC ISLANDER made four trips from Charlevoix to Beaver Island with a 40 by 100 foot barge loaded with supplies, bringing the largest trucks and equipment seen on Beaver since the last locomotive left the Island at the end of the logging industry.

All the equipment has been moved to an area about 100 yards south of the Patterson farm (Hannegan's Corner). The derrick has been mounted on a ten foot high platform and towers an additional 133 feet in the air. Drilling is a 24 hour a day process, with electricity supplied by a large generator.

The four hundred gallons of fuel needed daily will be moved by the Emerald Isle on her regular runs. McClure planes will be used for transporting personnel and small equipment.

While emotions of the Islanders and visitors were somewhat mixed on the benefits of oil wells on Beaver, no one can deny the tremendous interest the operations have created. At this writing (August 5th) the McClure operators have informed us they have gone down 2050 feet, intending to go at least to 4500 feet or until they hit granite. Should they encounter granite, they will move all the machinery and supplies to another location, since at least three tests will be made before the operation is considered unsuccessful.

Considering the fact that Beaver Island roads are not built for the moving of such heavy equipment, the operation of getting the drilling facilities set up went quite smoothly, taking only a few days to erect. The only misfortune to date that has occurred was the accident of Jerry Moravy, one of the McClure drillers, who skidded in the soft sand, rolling his car over and completely demolishing it. Jerry received only skinned elbows.

The Beacon will continue to keep you informed on the progress of the oil drilling. Mr. Phil Hurry, geologist for McClure, believes Beaver Island is in an oil belt located beneath this area, and if he is correct, the black gold will soon become a valuable addition to the economy of Beaver.

NEW ARRIVALS: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Armstrong announce the birth of a son, Robert, on July 16th. The Armstrong's are from Battle Creek and the mother is the former Marjory Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin of St. James.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Green of St. James announce the birth of a girl, Beth Ann, on July 25th. Mrs. Green is the former Joy McDonough, daughter of Lloyd and Eva McDonough who now boast of 21 grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Palmer, Jr., of Manistee, announce the birth of a son John Michael, on June 22. The Senior Palmers are residents of St. James.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Left of Charlevoix announce the birth of a girl, Connie Therese on July 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gatliff announce the birth of a boy, Perry, on August first. The Gatliffs are residents of Detroit. Dan is the son of Mary Gatliff, and Catherine (Georgie) is the sister of Jack Connaghan, both St. James' residents.

OBITUARIES: Requiem High Mass was held at Holy Cross Catholic Church for Mr. Dan Boyle was passed away July 29th at Grandvue Medical Facility for the Aged at East Jordan where he had been a patient for the past eleven months. Mr. Boyle was 90 years old and the oldest native born resident of Beaver Island. Rev. Fr. Lewis Wren officiated and Fr. Victor Gallagher said the eulogy. Interment was at Holy Cross Cemetery. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Bert (Mary) McDonough, Mrs. James (Theresa) Gallagher, and a son Jack.

Fred W. Herp, 83, father of Fr. Joseph Herp, former Beaver Island priest, passed away June 24th at Louisville Kentucky, after an illness of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years. Mr. Herp was a resident of the Island from 1951 to 1956.

Mrs. Anna McCann, 84, who lived on Beaver Island most of her life operating the general merchandise store now owned by Vernon LaFreniere, passed away August 5th at Charlevoix. Funeral arrangements at this writing are incomplete. Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Art (Mary) Pischner, and four sons, Edwin, Eldred, Giles, and Omar.

WEDDING BELLS: Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Bales of Indianapolis, Indiana announced the marriage of their daughter, Kathryn Ann, to Mr. James Everett Giege, July 6th at the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. The Bales family have a cottage on North Beach and have been summer residents for many years.

WELCOME BACK: Karl Kuebler and other Islanders were happy to share in the return visit of Dr. Leighton Bates of Petoskey. Two summers ago, Dr. Bates left the Island in his boat during bad weather. The boat capsized at Seven Mile Point near Little Traverse Bay. A friend with Dr. Bates, who could not swim, managed to hang on to a gasoline can which floated to shore, while Dr. Bates swam the distance. We are glad to report that no such incident occurred on this visit, since we hate to lose even one visitor to the Island!

TRADITION CARRIES ON: In 1945, Edward Burke of St. James received the contract to carry the mail to the country residents of Beaver Island. He held this contract until his death in 1960, carrying the mail in the winter by horse and cutter. After his death, his son Gene, finished the contract and continued to carry the mail to the South end of the Island. Recently the late Mr. Burke's contract expired and bids were received at the postoffice for a new mail man. We were glad to hear that Gene received the contract to carry on as his father had for over fifteen years.

INTERESTING ISLAND VISITORS: Kreigh Collins, who draws the "Kevin the Bold" cartoon was a visitor to Beaver this month in his 45 foot, two-masted sailing schooner, THE HEATHER. His wife, Theresa, and twin sons, Kevin and Glenn completed the crew. Mr. Collins draws many of his cartoons while sailing.

Mort Neff of "Michigan Outdoors" WJR-TV fame, was here for the Dawn Patrol activities and shot some excellent movies for TV of both the Dawn Patrol and the Parish Hall fire. He returned to the Island to complete the film and included pictures of the new golf course and Main Street. He also interviewed John W. Greene, 90, our oldest Island resident, and John's answers to some of Mr. Neff's questions were typical of his Irish humor. The film was shown on Mr. Neff's program. We want to thank Mr. Neff and his associates for the excellent photography and interesting commentary.

Mrs. E. M. Davis, now of Fletcher, North Carolina, visited Beaver Island in 1919 and returned this month to spend a week here. Mrs. Davis wrote articles about Beaver Island for the newspaper "Grand Rapids Herald". These articles, dated in the year 1919, have been donated by Mrs. Davis to the Beaver Island Historical Society. You will soon see them on display there, and will find them extremely interesting. There is a story of "Bowery Bill" Gallagher, Mr. Dunlevy, and Capt. Manis Bonner, who once owned the hotel. There are also pictures and a story of Elizabeth Williams, author of "Child of the Sea".

The Island continues to attract the interest of Scout troupes. A group of 18 boy scouts and four leaders from Royal Oak, Michigan were Island campers for one week.

HURRAY FOR OUR SIDE: The Beaver Island baseball teams are at it again! While we sadly reported the news last month that the Wanta Bees had soundly whipped the Has Beens, the artistic and skillful playing of the Has Beens was shown again on July 30th, when they beat the youngsters 9 - 3. There was a nasty rumor spread around the field that day that the Has Beens had imported a semi-professional pitcher, with a promise of golden brew for pay if he could beat the Wanta Bees, but proof of this accusation has not been shown. Those young kids just refuse to believe that age and experience will tell in those tight spots!

The raffle for improvements to Chief Antoine Park was held at this game. Winner of the electric fry pan was Mr. Mike Walch of Chicago. Receipts from the raffle showed a net profit of \$104.00, bringing our fund to #308.00. Congratulations to both the winner of the fry pan and to those wonderful baseball players, the Has Beens!

IN MEMORY OF BILL WHALEN: On July 19, when the Macinac fleet was in Beaver Harbor, and the crews were gathered at the Shamrock, notably missing was the longtime "King of Beaver Island", Bill Whalen of Chicago. Mr. Whalen passed away January 28th, 1961.

Some of the celebrants recalled that for many years, Bill had treated the Island youngsters to ice cream on each of his summer visits, and one of them left a contribution to carry on this tradition in Bill's memory. Word got around the next day, and in the afternoon about 70 of the small fry appeared at the Rustic Villa Grill to enjoy their "Whalen Cones".

Our thanks to the donor, who would not let his own name be used. We hope he will be pleased to know that his donation more than paid for the ice cream and that the surplus went to the fund for the development of Chief Antoine Park.

The late Mr. Whalen was also honored in ceremonies which dedicated "Commodore Whalen Drive" in Jackson Park in Chicago to his memory.

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING: Mr. and Mrs. Walker Hill have the Rustic Villa Grill in full operation, with a juke box for the teenage dancers along with sandwiches, cold drinks, ice cream and coffee.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Roy have opened the Harbor Hills Golf Course and the Historical Building and Museum, along with their sandwich and ice cream stand.

The King Strang Hotel operated by Ruth and Olin Wanty is again serving Beaver Island turtle soup after the fine recipe of "Jimmie", their excellent chef.

Lovers of delicious, home-cooked meals are keeping Grace Cole and staff busy at the Killarney Inn.

The Beaver Lodge Golf Course is open to avid chasers of that little white ball, and the cocktail lounge at the lodge is expected to be in full operation sometime this month.

The Municipal Yacht Dock has been filled to capacity for most of the month.

BITCO NEWS: The first Long Distance Direct Dialing phone call has been received on the Island. Mr. Donavon A. Langford, Jr., of the Indiana Bell Telephone Co., and owner of property on Lake Genesareth made a test call from his office. The code number for this area is 616.

TOURIST TALES: Following is a story that has been going around - it is stolen from Reader's Digest with just a few minor changes.

A scantily clad summer visitor entered one of the stores on Beaver Island and said to the clerk, "I'm here on my vacation, and would like to see some real Beaver Islanders. Could you tell me where to go to see them?" "Yes, ma'am," said the clerk without hesitation. "You go down to the post office and watch the people going in and out. Those with clothes on are real Beaver Islanders."

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS: Mr. Don Bachman, new postmaster of Ann Arbor, together with Mr. Schemberberg, Dr. Metty and friend, Mr. John T. Green, all of Ann Arbor, have purchased Jewell Gillespie's house on the harbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Melville R. Bissell, III, have purchased the Dean Blackburn-Dorothy McGregor cottage at Sand Bay. Mr. Bissell is President of Bissell, Inc., of Grand Rapids, manufacturers of the Bissell carpet sweeper, and the third generation of Bissells to be president of the company.

RETURN TO THE COUNTRY. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams of Chicago have moved to the Island. Mrs. Williams (Anne) is the daughter of Mary D. Gallagher and the Williams will reside at Mary's home. The Williams have four children. Mr. Williams is retiring from Cadillac Motors in September.

Other year-round families with children living in Peaine Township include Jack and Rose Connaghan with four, Joe and Olive Dillingham with one, Don and Dora Welke, one; Perry and Henrietta Crawford, five; Skip and Bud McDonough, four; and now Anne and Frank with four. Beaver Island seems to be following the national trend of moving the youngsters back to nature. We are creating a Beaver Island Suburbia!

A NEW DOCTOR FOR BEAVER ISLAND: The Doctor Procurement Committee has selected a doctor to replace Dr. Frank E. Luton. He is Dr. Sidney S. Schochet (pronounced "Sooshay") of Soo Sault Marie, Michigan. Dr. Schochet will assume his duties as Island doctor on September 1st of this year. He is a graduate of Tulane University, Louisiana, has taught in various medical schools and has taken post-graduate work in obstetrics at Walter Reese Hospital in Chicago. He has also served on the staff at Houghton, Michigan. Ceade Mille Falthe, a hundred, thousand welcomes, Doctor. We all look forward to meeting you.

AUGUST HOMECOMING. The Homecoming celebration will be held on August 13 this year. Due to the damage by fire to the Parish Hall, the kitchens will not be in complete operation. The Altar Society decided to serve a buffet-type supper which will include ham, roast beef, potatoe salad, baked beans, relishes, cake and coffee, serving to be at the Parish Hall. A dance will be held in the evening, with music provided by the same excellent group from Cheboygan that entertained us last year.

The raffle of the electric blanket donated by Dr. N. P. Sorenson along with other donated items will be held in the evening, during the dancing.

The Annual parade will be held in the afternoon, and we hope to have a large group participating in this event.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY will hold a meeting August 19th at the Mormon Printing House Museum at 3:00 P.M. This is a most important meeting as there will be an election of officers along with the transaction of other business. All are invited to attend and meet the officers and to better know our museum.

Many of our readers may not realize that our museum is the only one in Charlevoix County. We would like to make it the most outstanding in Michigan, but we need your help.

If anyone has articles associated with Dr. Protar or King Strang, we would appreciate your loaning them to the museum as we plan to set up separate display cases for each of these historical people.

Another plan is to arrange a typical old-fashioned kitchen. We have some antique items, but need an old coffee mill-either wall or table type, old crocks, dishes, old copper or cast iron tea kettle, wash boiler, butter churn, old tableware, and any other kitchen equipment from years ago. We want to point out that you need only loan these items to the museum. They will be returned at your request.

We want to thank Mrs. Ila Adams who has donated a basket made of sweet grass by the Indians who formerly lived on Garden Island, and for the purchase of a deed for a parcel of land at the Gettysburg battlefield. These items are now on display at the museum.

Also, thanks to Vern Fitzpatrick for the new flag pole from which each day we proudly fly an American flag that has flown over the Capitol of the United States. This flag was donated by U.S. Senator Wm. Bloomfield who sent it to our museum. Vern has also donated the mast from the FREE BOOTER sailing ship that sank, which he found on the shore of Beaver Island. It has been painted and placed at the museum.

Thanks too, to Walt Wojan and boys for putting the old jail on a foundation and to Jewell Gillespie for straightening the doors so we can close them (to keep the public out - NOT IN!)

If you have not visited the museum this year, why not take time out to do so? Many unusual items are coming in each week. If you have antiques we would appreciate your letting us display them for you as reminders of Beaver Island's fascinating, historical past.

DR. PROTAR'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT: Dr. Protar, Baron Perrot of Oroloff, Russia, whose Island tomb inscription reads "To our heaven-sent friend, Feodora Protar, who never failed us - in imperishable gratitude and admiration - his people of Beaver Island", wrote his will in 1919, six years before his death.

Mr. A. J. Roy, vice president of the Beaver Island Historical Society, has received an abstract of title of Protar's land furnished by Louis Fochtman, of the Fochtman Motor Co. of Petoskey, whose family purchased timber rights to Protar's land in 1922.

Protar's will is included in the papers making up the abstract. Excerpts from the will follow:

"John C. Gallagher of Peaine Township is sole executor. It is my earnest will and strict direction that no "wake" shall be held or any kind of ceremony transacted and that the funeral shall be executed in the simple manner as the funeral of sailors or other people who die on the ocean, that means in the water. A spot of deep water between Beaver Island and High Island would answer my wishes. No coffin, no black dress, no grave digging, no flowers. One strong bag and a heavy stone

will cover all requirements of preparation and four friends, - in summer to row, in winter to drive me on the ice out, and to let me slip in the water, is all what is necessary. Possibly Patrick Bonner, Dan P. Boyle, Francis McCafferty and Francis Mooney, will do this last service to me. Title papers and other documents....will be found at the right drawer of the oak-wood bureau. The key to the dresser is among the keys on the key ring..."

The value of Protar's personal estate was set at \$801.34, his real estate at \$810.00. Michigan laws do not allow marine burials, and Protar's last wishes could not be fully carried out. The complete will can be seen at the Beaver Island Museum.

SPORTSMEN'S NEWS: Dick Hough of Kalamazoo, Michigan caught a 42" Northern Pike weighing 16½ pounds. He was trolling with a flat fish lure in Lake Genesareth. Prior to catching this prize, he had hooked a 33" Northern, placed it on a metal chain-type stringer and upon starting the motor of his boat, the fish broke free. Dick's disappointment in losing the one was mellowed a good deal when he managed to hook the big beauty. He did not take any chances on losing the second one, however. No stringer for that pike. He finished his ride on the lake under the seat in the boat!

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Mr. Roy Chambers of Indian River, Michigan, didn't reach his goal of 100 turtles. Mr. Chambers is a turtle trapper and we were glad to see him arrive. He informed us that turtle trapping on Beaver Island was very good, and that seldom did he get the opportunity to trap in virgin territory such as Beaver.

He captured 99 of the snapping turtles from Lake Genesareth and Font Lake with a total combined weight of 1750 pounds. Some of these fellows Roy dressed out for use at the hotel, and in one of them he found the undissolved remains of a fish backbone that was the size of the average index finger. He stated that the bigger turtles will consume very large fish. The 99 turtles he captured could eat approximately 200 pounds of fish per day. Duck hunters are glad to see these turtles removed from Font Lake as they are known to capture the baby ducklings as they swim along the surface of the lake.

Roy stated that he plans to return to the Island next year. He said that the turtles have certain special places in the lakes that are preferable to other spots. While he feels that he has removed most of the turtles from these areas, he said that other turtles will lurk about these preferred areas, and once the occupants of the area have been removed, those on the "waiting list" will move into the area.

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Vernon Fitzpatrick, resident conservation officer on Beaver, reported that 28 disease-free ruffed grouse were released on Hog Island during the week of July 30.

The ruffed grouse population is very high on Beaver Island and should provide good hunting this fall. Mr. Schlatterer, Game Biologist, has been running a grouse census on the Island.

Garden and High Islands will be open to regular season (October 1 to November 10) and bag limit (5 per day, 10 possession, 25 for the season).

A test was run in Fox Lake and it was found that it is still toxic to fish. As soon as the poison disappears, the trout will be planted, and we are anxiously awaiting this report from the department.

Bass fishing has been excellent this year. Record catches have been made in the inland lakes, in the harbor, and at nearby Garden and Hog Islands.

The deer had an easy winter, the fawn crop is good - many twin fawns have been seen, and it appears that the Beaver Island deer herd is doing well. Jack Connaghan reported having seen a doe in his yard for some time, and a few days ago, she appeared proudly showing off her twins!

Speaking of deer, our motherless buck fawn, Jackie, has proved quite an attraction to Islanders and visitors alike. He has become quite tame and is eating solid food.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

Six room house with bath. Two large lots. Opposite power plant. Partially furnished. If interested, write to Norbert Gallagher, 920 Jackson Blvd., Rochester, Indiana

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O friend, wherever you may be,  
Will you not come to visit me?  
A heart may travel very far  
To come where its desires are,  
O, may some power touch your ear  
And grant you grace to make you hear!

.....Louise Driscoll  
Come to Beaver Island.

BEAVER ISLAND  
WICK  
TOWER