

The Beaver Beacon

December



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



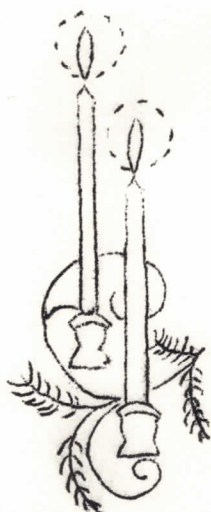
Blessed
Christmas

May the Joy and Peace
of Christmas be with you
today and always



WEATHER ANALYSIS FOR NOVEMBER:

Highest daytime temperature occurred on Nov. 3 at 67°.
 Average daytime temperature was 44°.
 Lowest Nighttime temperature was 25° on Nov. 27.
 Average nighttime temperature was 34°.
 Beaver Island had 2.61" of rain in November occurring on seven separate days. On November 16 we had the heaviest rainfall with .82". Two light snow flurries were reported on the 6th and 7th of November.



GAME CLUB NEWS: Our Hunters' Dinner was a great success. 134 Beaver Island Northern Fried Chicken dinners were served, and many compliments were received by the Club for its excellent menu. Archie LaFreniere served as Master of Ceremonies for the occasion. Rogers Carlisle gave an account of the Club's activities for the past year. Vernon Fitzpatrick showed films from the Conservation Department. Mrs. Nellie O'Donnell held the lucky ticket for the transistor radio. James Carpenter of Grand Rapids won the door prize of a year's membership and a Game Club Patch.

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT NEWS: Vernon Fitzpatrick reports that twenty-two deer were shot during the season. Beaver Island was host to 230 hunters including Islanders. There were five illegal deer reported - two were salvaged and given to needy families.

While our deer take was lower than other years, the belief is that the deer are very healthy. Ordinarily a 1-1/2 year old buck will have spike horns or forks (2 points on a side) and will weigh between 95 and 120 pounds dressed out, but a buck was taken this season that had eight good points and two more small ones, and dressed out at 144 lbs.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: At the Board of Trustees meeting held in November, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to give to Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Hoffman of Plymouth, Michigan and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Roy of Pontiac, Michigan, lifetime memberships in the Society. Mr. Hoffman was the first president of the Society and Mr. Roy was recently elected to succeed him. Both gentlemen have devoted much time and effort to the restoration of the old Mormon printing building which now houses the Beaver Island Museum, and have done much to promote the preservation of other historical items on the Island. Their names will be included in the engraved scroll listing the lifetime members who have donated \$100.00 or more.

Members will be interested to know that the Society was able to pay \$400.00 on the mortgage of the building this year.

MANY THANKS to Dr. Paul Nelson. Dr. Nelson did some dental work on the Island and asked that the payment for his services be donated to some worthwhile cause on the Island. The money has been placed in the Medical Center fund and is much appreciated, as this fund has been nearly depleted due to the need for supplies and improvements at the Center.

TRIP TO THE AULD SOD: Matt Melville, Beaver Island's golf pro, recently flew by Jet from New York to Shannon Airport, Ireland to spend the winter with friends and relatives. His winter address is Byways, Green Park, Limerick, Ireland. Recently, Father Lewis received a letter from Matt from which we quote: "I have just visited the gallows where my uncle was hung. It is a beautiful spot. He must have enjoyed it". As those of you who have met Matt know, he is a "story-teller" and to



hear him tell it, he has many uncles who were hung! Incidentally, Matt's dog "Freckles" is boarding with Father Lewis for the winter. We hope our good priest can put some manners on the pooch, since no one has been able to do so with Matt. Have a good time, Matt. We'll see you again in Spring!

GOOD NEWS: Bud Knight, fish culturist from Oden Hatcheries at Oden, Michigan, along with Vernon Fitzpatrick, our conservation officer, planted 2000 (450 lbs.) of brook trout on December 6th at Fox Lake. The average length of the fish was 8-1/2". With the exception of about two dozen, the fish survived very well their trip in a tank aboard the Emerald Isle Ferry. Mr. Knight informed us that the trout released were about two years old. Full grown trout in Michigan average about 15 to 17 inches. The male trout is more colorful than the female. Does the thought of brook trout sizzling in the pan tempt you? If it does, the season opens the last Saturday in April.

OUCH! Beaver Island property owners will soon be receiving their tax statements for the year. A valuation increase for this area has been made by the State of Michigan Tax Commission, resulting in increased taxes for Beaver Island. Property in St. James Township last year was valued at \$446,000. The valuation for this year is \$534,000. Peaine Township received an even higher increase - from \$228,455 for last year to \$510,765 for this year.

A GOOSE STORY: Rogers Carlisle has played a part in several unusual hunting incidents this fall, and this month has another story to add to the collection. Rogers was hunting at the Northeast end of Round Lake where he found a small flock of blue geese, too far from cover to shoot. Believing that if he stepped into sight, they would fly away and light on some point on Lake Michigan where he could reach them, he walked into the open. The geese merely looked at Rogers and started walking east. Rogers walked toward them and managed to get within 70 paces from them before they rose. He fired. One dropped at the first shot, but the next two shots apparently had no effect. They flew Southeast. Don Welke and his family, standing outside their farm home about a half mile away, heard the shots and saw the flock flying toward them, the leader lower than the rest. It dropped dead just over the fence from their home. Don and family received their Thanksgiving dinner by Air Express!

JORDAN RIVER FARMS: The "Ponderosa of Beaver Island" has just had 68 white-faced Hereford cows and one bull brought to the Island. It was a difficult project as the weather was bad, and it was impossible to bring them on the boat for almost two weeks. But now that they are here, the owners are quite proud, especially of the bull. As Buddy McDonough says, he's built only a few inches from the ground and looks as if he would weigh a ton!

SCHOOL NEWS: There'll be a hot time in the old town one of these nights! Sister Euphrosine is teaching the high school students the finer points of square dancing.

Henry Allen of Ann Arbor, Michigan was the lucky winner of the transistor radio in the contest sponsored by the Junior Class. A candy sale was also held by the Juniors. Money collected on these projects is to be used to finance the cost of the Junior-Senior banquet.





CONGRATULATIONS: To Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt who celebrated their 34th Wedding Anniversary on November 23rd. Both Clara and Willie were born on Beaver Island and have spent their entire lifetime here. They were married at Holy Cross Church with Fr. McMannon officiating at the ceremony. They have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. William Parker of Pontiac, Michigan celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 26th. Mrs. Parker is the former Mary Schmidt of Beaver Island. The couple were married in LaCrosse Catholic Church in Manistique. They reside in Pontiac. They have six children, 25 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Parker is the sister of Mrs. James O'Donnell and Mr. William Schmidt of Beaver Island.

WEDDING BELLS: On November 4th, Miss Jeanne Klein of Ludington became the bride of Verl McCann of the same city. Verl is the son of Edna and the late James McCann of St. James.

November 18th was the date chosen by Alberta Gronke of Chicago for her marriage to Joseph (Bussy) LaFreniere, formerly of St. James. The couple were married in Chicago where they will make their home. The newlyweds spent a two week honeymoon on Beaver Island.

Mary Janice Supernaw and Donald O'Brien were wed in Charlevoix on November 25th. The new Mrs. O'Brien is the niece of Grace Cole and Jewell Gillespie of St. James.

BIRTHS: Douglas and Pat Burke of Milford, Michigan are the parents of a son, Christopher Joseph, born November 10th. Douglas is the brother of Gene Burke of St. James.

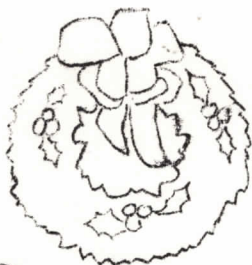
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Zimmerman of South Haven are the parents of a boy, Tyrone William, born November 19th. Mrs. Zimmerman is the former Eileen Martin, niece of Charles Martin of St. James.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS. Johnny and Lillian Gallagher of St. James have just received word that their son, Andrew J., serving on the Coast Guard Cutter Owasco out of New London, Connecticut, has passed the test for First Class Quartermaster. The rating was waiting for him when he returned from a thirty day Ocean Station assignment off Argentina, Newfoundland. Andrew joined the service when he was 17 years old and has been with the Coast Guard for six years.

HOLY CROSS PARISH NEWS: Mrs. Betty Lockton of Chicago has begun a project of importance to the Holy Cross Cemetery. Many visitors to the Island have questioned local parishioners about the lack of care to the cemetery. Mrs. Lockton has begun a campaign to raise money for this purpose. Letters will be written to families who have relatives buried at Holy Cross Cemetery requesting their support and donation to this fund in order that this sacred spot may give the appearance it should. She is being assisted in the project by Musette LaFreniere of St. James and Bob Delaney of Grand Rapids.

MC CLURE OIL COMPANY: The earth formations in Well No 3 at Iron Ore Bay have been found to be similar to Well No. 2 near the sawmill. In checking with the main office, we have been told that because there has been a small show





of oil in the present well, it is highly possible that the company will return to the Island next Spring to attempt a fourth drilling. Depth reached at Well No. 3 is 3798 feet. The McClure Company plans to discontinue operations for the season about the fifteenth of December.

Season's Greetings

THE CHANGING FACE OF BEAVER ISLAND: In 1878 the U.S. Government built a Life Saving Station Building at St. James Harbor. The building, 41' x 22', was well constructed in the design typical of its era. It was operated by a one man crew with local fishermen acting as volunteers when needed. The building played its part in the drama of shipwrecks and life saving adventures. In 1883 it was the center of activity in saving the three-masted schooner, J. I. Case carrying a load of corn from Chicago to Buffalo that became stranded on Hog Island Reef. In 1884, the schooner, Chandler Wells was wrecked near Whiskey Island. Attempts to save her were unsuccessful and ship and cargo of lumber valued at \$30,000 were lost. In 1886 another three-masted schooner carrying coal, the LaFinire, was wrecked off Hog Island. In 1887, the schooner, Frank C. Leighton, carrying a cargo of iron ore became stranded on the west side of Beaver and was saved by the keeper of the station and his volunteer crew.

Records show a number of fishing boats, including the Edna May, the Lillie and May, the steam tug Two Sisters, the Yours Always, the Nancy Alice, the Shamrock and many others have had their distress signals answered by the keeper of the station.

In later years the U. S. Coast Guard took over the rescue activities on the lake, and recently the U. S. Government put the Life Saving Station Building up for sale. It was purchased by Charles Martin of St. James. Mr. Martin was required to move the building from its location. Moving operations took about five days and the historical building now stands across the street from McDonough's store, just around the bay from its original site.

EDITORIAL: It is the general consensus of opinion on the Island that pictures of buck deer should be placed at various points around the Island. Buck deer do not have white faces, long tails, or feathers. Legal bucks have horns at least three inches long. However, there was a hunter (or hunters) who apparently did not know this, since a Hereford cow belonging to the Jordan River Farms, two does and one fawn were found illegally killed in the Farms pasture. One of the white domestic ducks also disappeared from the harbor during the hunting season. Efforts to locate the offenders proved futile.

This brings us to the subject of posting "No Trespassing" signs on property. For many years property owners have been discouraged from placing these signs on their property, and Beaver Island has been known as a place where a man could hunt in freedom where he pleased, without the worry that he may have trespassed on posted property. The incident of shooting cows may have the effect that in future years, more and more property will be posted. The loss of the cow, who was with calf, has easily cost the owners well over \$350.00.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: Again we remind you that unless you have renewed your membership in the Association, it expires with this issue of the Beacon. It is not too late to assure yourself of continued copies of the Beacon, or perhaps you would like to give a gift membership to friends or relatives who visited with you on the Island. Just fill in the form below and send with \$3.00 to Burdene M. Stromberg, Secretary, Beaver Island Civic Association, St. James, Michigan. Gift memberships will be acknowledged with a letter to the recipient sending your Holiday greetings.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
IS THIS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP? _____

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South Bend Malleable wood, coal or electric stove with two ovens. Like new. \$175.00. Contact Rogers Carlisle of St. James.



*May you have a very gay,
joyous and happy
Holiday!*

