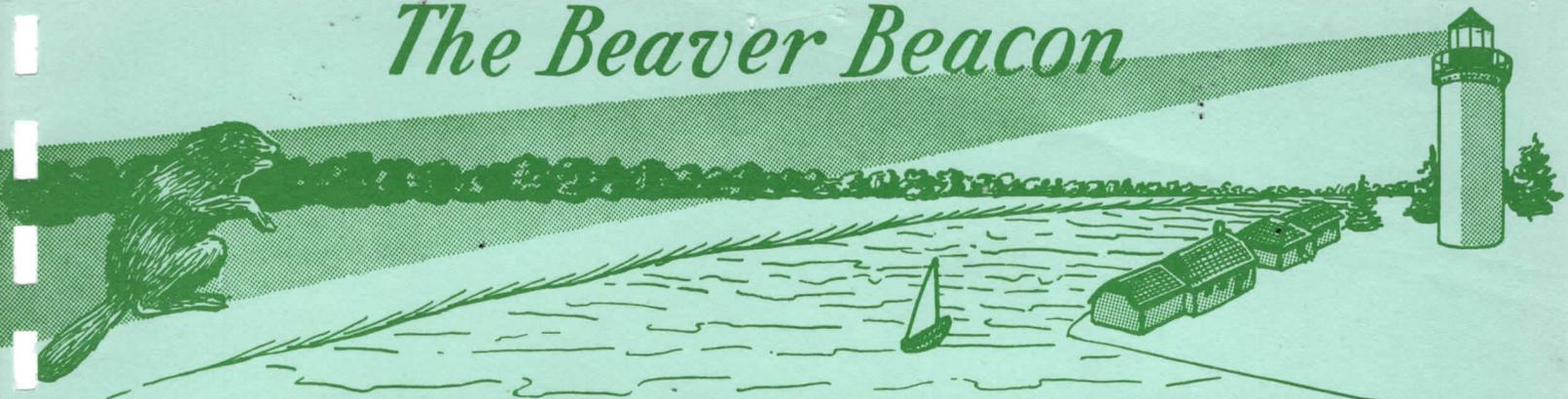
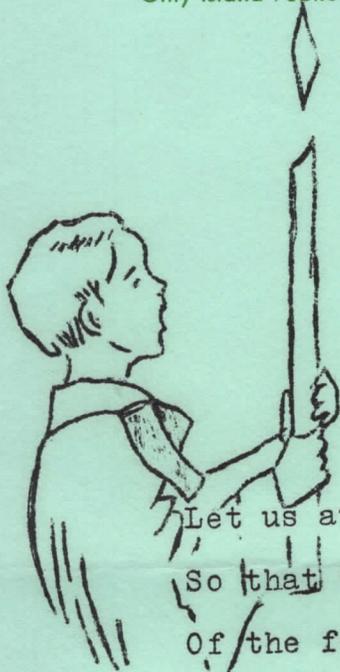


The Beaver Beacon



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

DECEMBER 1964



FACING CHRISTMAS

Let us attend to our little errands of love
early, this year,
So that the brief days before Christmas may be
unhampered and clear
Of the fever of hurry. The breathless rushing
that we have known in the past
Shall not possess us. We shall be calm in our souls
And ready at last
For Christmas; "The Mass of the Christ."

Let us take time to watch the beautiful light
of a candle's flame;
Let us have leisure -- let us go out alone,
from our roof and our door;
Let us not miss the silver silence of stars
as we have before;
And, oh, perhaps -- if we stand very still,
and very long --
We shall hear what the clamor of living has
kept from us;
The Angel's Song!

Merry Christmas



P.S.G.

The scene is now set for winter on the Island, with the evergreens flock-
ed in snow and mounting banks along the roads. Youngsters skiing behind
cars and ice skating in the harbor has already begun. Christmas catalogs are becoming dog-eared as the Yuletide season draws
near. Here, it doesn't take the fancy decorated department stores or
colored lights hung across the streets, to arouse the spirit of Christ-
mas. It just seems to be in the air at this time of year.

WEATHER: Weather report of Beaver Island for the month of November as
recorded by Fire Officer Bill Wagner.

Highest temperature 66 degrees on November 1st.
Lowest temperature 13 degrees on November 30th.
Average daytime temperature was 47 degrees.
There were 3 days in the 60's; 12 days in the 50's; 7 days in the 40's;
5 days in the 30's and 3 days in the 20's.
The total rainfall for the month was 2.46 inches.
We had $\frac{1}{4}$ " of snow on the ground on November 29th and 30th.

GAME NEWS: This deer season proved to be as good as expected and many
happy hunters headed for home with their prizes. The opening day was dampened after 9:30 a.m. by a heavy rain but through-
out the season 427 hunters took 172 deer. 115 of these were bucks and
57 were does. 94 legal bucks were taken, those with at least 3 inch ant-
lers, and 40 fawns. The largest deer, a buck with a heavy eleven point
rack, weighed 196 pounds. During the season, one hunter became lost
but made his way out of the woods at Fox Lake and walked all the way to
Pat and Rose Bonners, north of the airport. He had entered the woods
at Nomad.

GAME CLUB HOSTS BANQUET: The Beaver Island Game Club played host to the
deer hunters with an Irish Stew dinner on November 16th. Principal
was Mr. Dave Jenkins, Acting Chief of Research and Development of the
Michigan Conservation Department's Game Division. A movie of the Island
rabbit hunting was shown afterwards. Though the turnout was below ex-
pectations, many hearty appetites were satisfied.

NEW FIRE ENGINE ARRIVES: The need of replacing the old fire engine has
been obvious since the last few times it has been used. It either had
to be towed to the fire or was so slow getting there that all was done
that could be, before it did arrive. The Townships of Peaine and St.
James decided on the purchase of a new truck before freeze up.
It arrived this past week and came off the boat with the siren announc-
ing it's arrival. The truck isn't new in the true sense of the word but
it is in excellent condition and has a larger capacity than the old one.
Naturally, we hope there will be no need for it but it is good to know
the fire fighting potential has had a real boost.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Word has been received of the promotion of
Joseph LaFreniere, son of Mrs. Elizabeth LaFreniere, from SP/4 to SP/5.
At the present time Joe is serving with the U.S. Army in Greece.

Alvin LaFreniere, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie LaFreniere left on Dec. 8th
for induction into the U. S. Army. Next month we will give his address.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonner of Kalamazoo announces the arrival of a daughter, Christina Marie, on November 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Bonner are the grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Johnson of Midland announces the birth of a son, Richard Thomas, November 16th. Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt are the grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cull of Bay City announces the arrival of a son, John Fitzgerald, on November 12th. Mrs. Mike Cull is the grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. Ladonas Mooney of Livonia are the parents of a daughter, Dawn Elaine, born in October.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Mrs. Patrick Bonner was a recent patient at Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey.

Also at Little Traverse Hospital, was Mrs. Russell Green.

Dr. Haynes was a patient in Munson Hospital in Traverse Hospital following a fall, which injured his back.

Gale Dillingham, daughter of Mrs. Olive Dillingham, was a recent Tonsillectomy patient at the Charlevoix Hospital.

George East way of Smyrna, Michigan, a frequent visitor to the Island, is hospitalized in Belding Hospital.

OFF AND ON: The following people have taken off for the winter from Beaver Island at this Beacon time: Mrs. Mary 'Duffy' Gallagher, Mrs. Kate Connaghan, Mrs. Art Larsen, Matt Melville, Ralph Rutt, Mrs. Nonie Gallagher, Mrs. Sophia McDonough, Mrs. Mabel Cull and last but not least Beaver Island's own Raymond Lewis. See you all next spring.

We do have a few people who return to the Island during the winter and this year they are Archie Minor and Ada and Jack Martin. Welcome Home, folks.

YACHT FACILITIES TO BE ENLARGED: On December 4th the bids were opened in the office of the Dunn Construction and Engineering Company at Port Huron, to determine who was low bidder on the proposed addition. Superior Sand and Gravel Company of Hancock, Michigan was low bidder at \$57,585.00. This will include the removal of the old Gallagher Dock and a 90 foot extension added to the present Yacht Dock. This will actually provide fourteen additional slips.

The Harbor Master's building will have an addition to include 2 shower rooms and a heating plant. Also, included will be a flag pole on a concrete base. The area behind the tee of the dock will be dredged to a 5.8 foot depth as far back as the abutment or approach. This past season 358 yachts were registered at the dock. During most of July, there were not enough facilities to accommodate all the yachts desiring dock space.

CONSERVATION MAN INJURED: Chester Belfy, of Charlevoix, who operates a landing barge, hauling equipment and supplies for the Conservation Department, fell from a upper bunk at the station here. He received a hair line skull fracture and is confined in the hospital at Traverse City. His condition is reported as improving.

MUSEUM NOTES: Beaver Island Historical Society has just had printed "The Child of the Sea". This book was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Whitney Williams and related her early life and experiences living near the Mormons, who occupied Beaver Island in the year 1850. A most interesting book and is true history. Here is a real gift for a friend of yours, only \$1.95 for soft cover and \$2.95 for hard cover.

Also, we have been very lucky in getting a few copies of the 'Crown of Glory' by Reigal, also, two copies of 'Kingdom of St. James' by Milo Quair. These books are well written and tell about early life on Beaver Island with the Mormons, and are real collectors items. They would make real Christmas gifts, while they last, so get your order in early. Write Beaver Island Historical Society, St. James, Michigan. Attention: Bin Rountree.

MYSTERY SKULL: During the deer season Glenn Ingalls and Robert Somerville of Charlevoix, found the upper half of a human skull about a mile north of French Bay on the west side. Investigations by Sheriff Glenn Rose, Coroner Dr. Robert Martin and the State Police brought forth no other clues. All kinds of possibilities exist as to it's original ownership. It could have been from one of the men of the Carl Bradley, that sunk not far from this spot, six years ago. Its age hasn't been determined, so it leave the mystery far from being solved. Many have been lost in the waters of Northern Lake Michigan, through the years. It could be anyone of these. Perhaps, we will never know.

FROM EIRE: During the course of the year the Civic Association Secretary receives many letters and cards requesting information about Beaver Island and one such card listed a name and address in Mt. Charles, County Donegal, Ireland.

We recently received the following letter from Mr. Hugh Harley and we thought our readers, especially those of Irish decent, would be interested in it. Since Mr. Harley is interested in the Irish settlers, we will be happy to forward to him any information we might receive as to the part of Ireland that the Islander's came from. We know many came from County Donegal, but not the village names. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Tantallon
County Donegal
Eire
November 23, 1964

Dear Miss Gregg,
My mail this morning brought me an envelope stuffed with promotion literature for your resort Island on Upper Lake Michigan. I have no idea who provided my name and address but they may have done you a favor since I publish a newspaper column, which is widely read and quoted in Ireland. Maybe that is why you were given my address. I presume you will be able to provide information about the Irish part of the Island population, who were the original Irish settlers (by name as far as possible), and where they came from in Ireland (County or Town) what made them pick such a remote place and was it woodcutting for the Lake Steamers? Etc. You've provided an interesting background for the Mormon Community. For interest here an Irish background to match is in order and list the Priests who serve the congregation there and where they came from.

When I get that from you I shall either put it in "The Traveller" column or get it used after a bit of editing, either over your signature or using it with liberal quotes from your material. Some of my grandchildren were at Mackinac, a few years ago, and I had a close but sketchy acquaintance, on the west shore, over a considerable period before World War II. But I never saw your Islands. It is doubtful that I shall, now that I am 72 years old.

Yours very sincerely,

Hugh Harley

P.S. What kind of planes serve the Island and why such long runways? Are they surfaced? Usually small planes land on grass within a few hundred yards, in this area.

Mr. Harley also enclosed a beautiful picture post card of Mt. Charles from which we obtained the following information.

Tantallon, (Mountcharles) west of Donegal Town, has a fine situation on a steeply rising hill, from whose summit there are fine views over Donegal Bay and the pretty country around about. It is noted for its hand-embroidery work and the Mountcharles freestone quarried near-by which is used for building and ornamental purpose. A fine sandy beach is within one mile of the town, and good fishing is available on the Eany Waters and some near-by mountain lakes. The whole district is identified with the writings of Seamus MacManus who was born in Mountcharles.

We're planning an airfield on 777 acres of the flat peninsula with a hill at its left in the background across the Bay. The views from my own property cover 7 counties and as much as 70 to 80 miles on clear days.

On November 23rd temperature is 62 degrees, and there was not a day last winter when flowers did not bloom in my gardens. Yet we are so far north that first streaks of dawn come up about 8:30 and it is almost completely dark at 4:30. Gulf stream accounts for mild climate. There are dozens of sandy beaches and only a few are exploited. There is a 2 mile strand on the shore below my home. The area has had human habitation for at least 8,000 years and remains of a pagan temple of about 1700 B.C. are in a field at upper end of town. A stone axe found on my own land is said to be around 5000 years old.

ISLAND CHRISTMAS

Anyone spending their first Christmas on Beaver Island is bound to remember it as a treasured memory, as we do. It wasn't very long ago, just 1960, that we decided to move from the middle of the state to an Island, in the middle of Northern Lake Michigan. Most of our friends and neighbors felt we must be out of our minds and there were times we thought, perhaps they were right, but the die was cast and on July 17th we started our Island life. On the Island it doesn't take long to make friends and with a busy summer and fall, the time passed quickly. Perhaps, with a little apprehension we faced our first winter. Had we cut enough wood? Did we have enough staple provisions to last until the

boat ran again in April? Only time would tell.

With Christmas a week away, the harbor had frozen over like a sheet of glass, so ice skating was perfect for young and old. With the first snows, Mt. Pisgah became alive with speeding sleds, toboggans, skies and even old car hoods.

On the Saturday before Christmas we decided to set out to cut our first Christmas tree. Just think, we didn't even have to buy one. After attaching the trailer to the car and loading the family in, we headed down the east side. The snow sparkled on the trees, making all of the spruce, balsam and pines look like they were already decorated. We found it difficult to find a tree that the whole family would agree was perfect and before we did, we had gone almost to Lake Geneserath. At last we found one, a spruce, perfectly shaped and not on private property. I had sharpened my axe for the purpose and with the first blow shook all the snow off the tree, right down my neck. Two more and the tree was down. We dragged the tree from the woods feeling that this was the official start of the Holiday Season for us. Loading the tree in the trailer, we started for home.

The car began to sway suspiciously and I stopped to discover we had a flat tire, right rear. This normally isn't so serious, only I soon discovered there was no jack in the car.

The youngsters decided to walk ahead for something to do, while I pondered the dilemma. Kicking around in the snow, along the road, I found a variety of pieces of wood and placed them in front of the flat tire and drove the car upon the pile, and then with more pieces, blocked up the axle. I was able to get the flat tire off but the car wasn't high enough to get the spare on. The only tool available was my nice sharp axe. With this, I began chipping the frozen road from under the wheel. When the job was done, it was hard to tell which side used to be the sharp edge of the axe. Underway again, we picked up the kids, cold and hungry, about a mile and a half up the road.

We had nearly reached home when one of the girls asked, "Daddy, where is the tree?" It had bounced out of the trailer, how far back, we had no idea, but back we went, almost to the point where we had the flat. Our tree was there waiting for us and was soon loaded again, but this time a look-out at the rear window was posted and for home we headed once more.

The shadows were getting long when we finally reached home. The fire in the stove had burned out some time ago, but we had our tree and just think, we didn't have to buy one, but by heck, we earned it. The house was soon warm again and supper tasted especially good that night. A place was cleared in the living room and our tree was set up.

Our mail orders came in and every hiding place was utilized.

The oven was working overtime as fruitcakes, pies and seet rolls were produced.

Christmas Eve came and all of our previous apprehensions disappeared, as friends invited us to attend Midnight Mass and a huge breakfast afterwards.

On Christmas Day, it is the custom on the Island, after the pandemonium of opening gifts and the wrappings have been cleared away, to make the rounds of friends and neighbors, visiting and joining in Christmas Cheer.

Perhaps, none of this seems spectacular, but we felt it was a Christmas to remember.

NEW OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Russell Green have purchased the Dr. Vail home and plan on moving into their new home before Christmas.

SCHOOL NEWS: This is the Honor Roll for the past six weeks marking period.

Grade 1 Kathie McDonough
Grade 2 Patricia Wojan
Grade 4 Joan LaFreniere
Audrey Wojan

Grade 7 Angie Wojan
Grade 8 Judy LaFreniere
Grade 9 Dennis Wagner
Grade 10 Jeanne Wojan

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

WANTED: A used piano. Please contact Mrs. Bud McDonough, St. James, Michigan

DR. F. E. LUTON
wishes to extend to the residence
and all readers of the Beacon a
Very Happy and Healthful
Season's Greetings

The Beacon Staff wishes one and all
A Very Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

BEAVER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP IS DUE. ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DEC. 31ST.

THE BEACON IS SENT MONTHLY TO ALL MEMBERS.

MAIL WITH YOUR FEE TO BICA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, ST. JAMES, MICHIGAN.

NAME _____

STREET NO. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Husband and wife \$3.00
Business \$25.00 Includes Ad in BICA Tourist Guide Folder

REMEMBER THE BEAVER BEACON MAKES A FINE CHRISTMAS GIFT

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR