

# The Beaver Beacon



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

December 1965

To Wish You

## "AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS"

"Backward, turn backward, O Time in thy flight"  
To an old-fashioned Christmas, just for tonight.  
Sleighbells aringing, folks at the door,  
Minstrels asinging for pennies or more.  
Candlelights gleaming out through the snow,  
Children just beaming at stockings hung low.  
Holly and Mistletoe, tinsel that shines,  
Winds that whistle low through the pines.  
Church bells intoning carols so sweet,  
Tables just groaning with good things to eat:  
Pumpkin and mincemeat, all kinds of pie,  
Cakes that you eat with a gleam in your eye,  
Baked ham and turkey, gravy and rice,  
Dressing that whispered of oysters and spice,  
Fluffy potatoes, succulent corn,  
Biscuits as light as a breeze in the morn,  
Baked yams and chestnuts. Oh! What a sight!  
Sillabub, foaming and frosty and white.  
And over it all, so loving and warm  
Stood Mother, the symbol of welcome and charm.

Dear Lord, that's a picture so hallowed and dear,  
A memory that quickens with Time in her flight.  
We'd give all our modern, commercialized cheer  
Just for an old-fashioned Christmas to-night.



With Christmas nearly here, an in-between season hush has fallen over the island, as everyone busies themselves in preparation for the holidays ahead. Old man winter seems to be behind on his snow deliveries but past experience assures us we won't be overlooked. If all the rain of the month past was snow, it would be just about to our eyebrows by now.

**WEATHER:** Beaver Island weather, as recorded by Fire Officer Bill Wagner, was for the most part, rainy, rainy with snow flurries, windy and overcast. Rain or snow fell on the 1st, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th and the 28th for a total of 4.23 inches of precipitation. The ground was covered with an inch of snow on the 28th and 29th, but was bare again by the 30th. High winds were recorded on the week-end of the 26th, 27th and 28th. 57 degrees, the high for the month occurred on the 3rd, with the low of 20 degrees falling on the night of the 13th. Average daytime temperature was 40.4 degrees and the average night time temperature was 30.3 degrees. Temperatures ranged in the 50's for 7 days, in the 40's for 11 days and in the 30's for 12 days.

**GAME NEWS:** Deer season, this year, was anything but spectacular, as was the case throughout Northern Michigan. Wet, cold weather kept the deer confined to the protection of the thick and inaccessible cedar swamps. Many hunters contend that the deer just aren't here but favorable weather, with a light fall of snow, at the end of the season made a big difference in the success of the few remaining hunters. 489 hunters hunted on the island this year, taking a total of 133 deer, divided about equally between does and bucks. Antlerless permits were issued for Area 15 (Beaver and Garden Islands), of which 139 were issued from Beaver Island Field Station, on a first come first serve basis. A party of six, hunted part of two days on Garden Island and from there they took off the largest buck of the year, from either island. A real nice 185 pound, 6 point buck. They had seen several deer, but only got the one. Our island doctor, Dr. Haynes, shot the oldest deer, a ten year old doe. The heaviest taken off of Beaver, was a 180 pound buck. Causing some controversy, was the taking of a 27 pound fawn. Cruel as it may seem, the chances of such a young deer to survive the winter struggle for food and to hold its own against Coyotes, would be nearly void. Many turkeys were spotted by deer hunters throughout the island and at a recent Game Club meeting, tentative plans were made for a limited season on turkeys next year. This will largely depend on how the crop looks in the spring.

**SOUTH ARM MIGRATION:** As winter closes in, the small settlement at Lake Geneserath's south arm, spreads in several directions. Ralph Rutt has put away his turtle traps and boats, closed his shutters and headed for the mainland. McClintic's rounded out a full season topped off with a deer tied on the top of their car, as they headed off the island for the winter. As the extreme quietness fell over the area, "Poor" Milt Bennett grudgingly lowered his cocktail flag, loaded Penny and Nip (his two dogs) into his Scout, and headed north to St. James for the winter. For our own protection, we had best mention that Milt broke away from his specialty of hunting rabbits, long enough to bag himself a deer this year.

**NEW ISLAND RESIDENTS:** Taking the big step this year is Ed and Jane Howland, with their children, Jan, Jeff and Westy. From Bartlett, Illinois, they moved to the island lock, stock and barrel and including the kitchen

sink. Ed and Jane raise several breeds of show dogs, and find that their business can be conducted here nearly as well as in a metropolitan area. We wish them the best of luck in their venture and a hearty welcome to the island.

**FIRE RAZES LANDMARK:** The fifth in a series of similar fires over the past couple of years, left the barn of Lester Connaghan's farm in ashes. The fire was first noticed just before sunrise, and at this time, was too far along to save it. These fires all seem to occur under the same circumstances - damp and windless nights. Perhaps, the party responsible feels he is eliminating eyesores on the island, but these old buildings, dilapidated as they are, are about the only visible link there is with a past era and at this rate the wording "Historic Beaver Island" will soon have to be struck from our brochures. The list, so far, is made up of Earl Boyle's barn and house, plus several small buildings, Perry and Henretta Crawford's barn, Jack and Rose Connaghan's barn, Johnny Green's barn and Lester Connaghan's barn. None were occupied or had electrical service to them, making coincidence hardly feasible. We have a problem and we had best do what we can to solve it before we run out of barns.

**SCHOOL NEWS:** This is the Honor Roll of the last marking period.

Grade 12	- Pamela Martin	Grade 5	- Joan LaFreniere
Grade 11	- Jeanne Wojan		Audrey Wojan
Grade 9	- Judith LaFreniere	Grade 3	- Patricia Wojan
	Ronald Wojan	Grade 2	- Gerald Connaghan
Grade 8	- Kevin McDonough		Kathie McDonough
	Mary Ann Palmer		Diane Wojan
	Angela Wojan	Grade 1	- Diane Kenwabikise

**HOSPITAL NOTES:** Linn Rountree is a patient at Munson Hospital, Traverse City, Michigan, after suffering a stroke on December 9th at his home.

Frank Neer has been released from Charlevoix Hospital and is now in Detroit. Frank has been in the hospital most of the fall, after suffering two heart attacks.

Clifford White, of Muskegon, was a patient in Mercy Hospital in Muskegon following stomach and gall bladder surgery.

Mary Kenwabikise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kenwabikise, was a patient at Munson Hospital, Traverse City, for ear surgery.

Clara Cull, of Bay City, has returned home from Mercy Hospital in Bay City following a bout with pneumonia.

Mrs. William (Florence) Wittenburg, of Lansing, is a patient in Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan, with pneumonia.

**FOUND:** Mr. A. J. Roy, this past September, found a ring of keys at the Harbor Hill Golf Course. If you lost your keys, please write to A. J. Roy, 4861 Cimarron Dr., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

**RETURNS:** Philip "Don" Burke and Archie Minor have both returned to the Island following the end of the shipping season on the Great Lakes. We want to say 'Welcome Home' to both of you.

**HUNTER'S FEAST:** On the 22nd of November, the annual "Hunter's Dinner" was held at the Parish Hall. Sponsored by the Beaver Island Game Club and prepared by Marge Wagner and Lil Gregg, the menu consisted of swiss steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, mixed vegetables, coleslaw, hot rolls, coffee and homemade apple and pumpkin pies. 131 hungry hunters were served on what happened to be a miserable rainy night. A fine talk was given by Dr. Dave Jenkins, Head of the Research and Development Division of the Michigan Department of Conservation. A lively question period followed and then a short movie of the four seasons in northern Michigan. All in all it was a success and nobody went away hungry.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** The 12th of December marked the date for the annual Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by the Holy Cross Altar Society. Here, many did some of their christmas shopping from the fine selections of homemade items. This is always a great day for the youngsters, with easily won prizes from the fish pond and other games. A wide variety of homemade fudge and all day suckers passed over the busy candy counter, until soon it was empty. Another rainy day still failed to dampen the enthusiasm for the whole affair.

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:** The following students returned from their respective college's to spend the holiday with their parents. Colleen Nackerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nackerman; Joe Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Evans; Edward Wojan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wojan; Pauline Kenwabakisssee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kenwabakisssee and Ronald and Danny Gallagher, sons of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Gallagher. Danny, by the way, just finished a meat cutting short course in Toledo, Ohio.

**SO NEAR, YET SO FAR:** During the get-togethers of many of the island families during Thanksgiving, Gary McDonough, son of Capt. and Mrs. Lawrence McDonough, passed within sight of the islands aboard his assigned vessel, the Reiss Bros. Though there was no chance for him to stop by, he was able to have a talk with his dad over the ship's marine telephone.

**BIRTHS:** Mr. and Mrs. Larry McDonough, of Grand Rapids, are the proud parents of a daughter, Laurie Ann, 6 lb. 11 oz., born on November 30th. This is the first grandchild for Capt. and Mrs. Lawrence McDonough. Our congratulations to the McDonough family.

Congratulations to another McDonough family. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McDonough, of Charlevoix, announces the arrival of a daughter, Lisa Beth, born on November 20th. Mr. Lloyd McDonough is the proud grandfather.

**JOB CORPS:** Paul Vernon LaFreniere, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon LaFreniere has joined the Job Corps and has the following address:  
Paul Vernon LaFreniere  
McCook Jobs Corps Center  
McCook, Nebraska

**NEWSY NOTES:** Margaret (Kenwabakisssee) and Albert Bolten are renting the old Willard Pischner house for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brown are spending the winter on the island this year. They have moved from the Sawmill into the Stone House on the King's Highway.

Bing and Madonna McCafferty have purchased the James Gallagher house in St. James.

NEW CONSTRUCTION: Giving the harbor of St. James a new look is the nearly completed summer home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Fenn of Jackson, Mich. Theirs is the first new building to be put up on the north side of the harbor. Walt Wojan and his band of Chippawa Timber Slashers have done a real nice job in making this a showplace in St. James.

Also, noteworthy is the sizable addition on Lawrence and Winnie McDonough's house. Between operating the Beaver Islander, Lawrence and his boys, Joe and Kevin, did a truly professional job on their place and it looks great.

WEDDINGS: Miss June Doreen Fredericksen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin C. Fredericksen, became the bride of Michael James Elms, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Elms of Ludington, on Saturday, November 27th at 2:00 p. m. in St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine in Manistee, Michigan. A reception was held at 8:00 p. m. at the C. A. Club.

POPULATION DECLINE: The island is loosing many of its Islanders as they leave for the cold winter months. The following people have left already and many more will follow later this month. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Roy, Ralph Rutt, Matt Melville, Gene Burke, Mary Vesty McDonough, Mary 'Duffy' Gallagher, Ada and Jack Martin, Nonie Gallagher, Elizabeth Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Bonner, Mr. and Mrs. James Carpenter, Maria Gallagher, Kate Connaghan, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neer, Elsie O'Donnell, Henretta Crawford, Evelyn Palmer, Patsy Gallagher and last but not least, Raymond Lewis.

BEACON MAILBAG: From the Alexander Barry's of Ann Arbor - "The Alexander Barry's are living on Key Biscayne, Florida until February 1st, then back to the cold and snow! It was 87 degrees here on Thanksgiving Day and we went snorkling for Conch Shells. The color of the water is almost as good as Paradise Bay, B. I."

From James B. Martin of East Chicago, Indiana - "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

GRANDVUE PATIENTS AWAIT YULE MAIL: Want to wish our Beaver Islander's at Grandvue a Merry Christmas? The following Islander's are patients there so why not say hello. Mary Greene, Peter Johnston, Telles O'Brien, William Ricksgers and Arthur Taft. The address is Grandvue Medical Facility, East Jordan, Michigan.

SUNNYSIDE ALIGHT: The old Sunnyside School house is lighted once more as the Frank Schnaudigels moved into the remodeled school house. Gladys and Frank have worked all summer on their project and just this week made the big move. Happy Holiday's to you both in your new home.

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CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP IS DUE. Business - \$25.00. Other - \$3.00

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

REMEMBER THE BEAVER BEACON MAKES A FINE CHRISTMAS GIFT

BEAVER TALES

CHRISTMAS - ISLAND STYLE

Eager and anticipating children, frustrated and bedraggled parents. Christmas preparations are pretty much the same throughout the country. There is one exception, however, and that is unless you are spending your Christmas Holiday's on an Island.

Here it is, two weeks before Christmas and the Sears and Montgomery catalogs look as though they had been through the Boer War. If you haven't ordered it yet, don't expect it before next year.

This is Frank Nackerman's time to shine as he spends late hours preparing huge piles of mail for tomorrow's boat - (weather permitting). Probably one of the most accommodating Postmaster's in the country, Frank, never seems to get flustered even though at this time of the year, he doesn't even have a chance to light his cigar.

After school projects for some of the children and grown-ups, alike, are trips to the woods to gather princess pine and cones for making wreaths. Always a critical eye is kept watchful for the tree that is just right.

As boat time nears, many gather at the Shamrock waiting for a sight of it through the steamed windows. While trading idle gossip, Archie is usually chided into dropping another block of wood in his stove. Several of the women have even volunteered to knit the darned thing a sweater. With a blast of the boat's whistle, the Shamrock is quickly emptied, leaving Archie with a hot stove and no customers.

A frigid, wind-swept dock is no place for lolligagging, and with no passengers to meet, why the big rush to the boat? Force of habit, perhaps, but these last few trips before Christmas are critical ones, as the many sacks of mail and boxes are loaded into Bert's old truck. Some times a new bike or a sled is put into the freight shed, or taken off to Dick or Lloyd's store for later identification. The secret of ownership of items of this sort is closely guarded by boat crew and storekeeper, alike. Like the Pied Piper, Bert's old truck leads the migration to the Post Office, where a constant vigil is kept while the mail is sorted. Eventually it is distributed and each with their own, go their separate ways, as the street lights illuminate sparkling snow swirling in the wind.

Kitchens become regular production lines of fancy cookies, cakes, fudge and home baked bread. The aroma of which makes us wonder, how many pounds we are going to add to our waists over the holiday's.

'Tis the season to be jolly', and the Irish of the Beavers aren't to be denied an opportunity to celebrate, whether it's fair weather or foul.

The cards have been sent out and the last mail order came in yesterday. Two notices indicating Susie's doll was out of stock and Jimmie's pair of skates are for the same foot. No running to the store for a quick replacement, but these are things we live with and in all the excitement of the many other items, they can be corrected later without too much notice. The tree has been cut and hauled from the woods and now fills most of the end of the living room.

Christmas eve and all that can be done has been done. Mothers breathe a sigh of relief, knowing their job is nearly done, with only the day of Christmas morning and preparation of Christmas dinner on her agenda. Dads, too, breathe a sigh but not always of relief. A little concern about those revolving charge accounts provides mixed emotions about the whole thing.

As this eve of our Savior's birth draws to an end, Protestant and Catholic, alike dress to attend Mass. The village is left to itself as the doors of the Holy Cross Church open to its inhabitants. The altar, gleaming bright and decorated with poinsettia's bolster the Spirit of Christmas, and as this reverent occasion progresses, we feel just a little closer to our neighbors and a lot warmer inside.

After Midnight Mass and after the youngsters are in bed, groups of friends and relatives often gather for Christmas breakfast. Breakfast at 1:30 A. M.? Actually this is a real fine idea for when morning comes, and presents are opened, wrapping papers are all over, toys are scattered hither and yon, chances then for a peaceful meal are nil.

The period between Christmas Day and New Year's is considered sort of an informal open-house throughout the island, as friends visit from house to house. It's during this period that the large quantities of cookies, cakes and candies are put to use. Not uncommon is the sharing of a cup or two, just to keep things in a festive mood.

Christmas on an island is pretty much the same as anywhere else but for some reason that little bit of difference makes it pretty unique and we like it.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE: Cottage for sale in Beaver Harbor. Contact Jewell Gillespie, St. James, Michigan.

FOR SALE: Lot for sale on Sand Bay, plus 3 lots on Beaver Harbor. 40 acres for sale at Beaver Island Airport. Other lots are available. Contact Vernon H. LaFreniere, St. James, Michigan.

TO: All Their Friends and Customers -

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM: McDonough's Store.

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MAY THE PEACE AND HOPE OF  
CHRISTMAS

BRIGHTEN YOUR COMING YEAR

The Beacon Staff