

# The Beaver Beacon



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

February 1964

Bright sun, blue skies and sea gulls, mixed with mild temperatures have made April out of January on Beaver Island. We won't go so far as to say that our winter is over, but what we have had so far could hardly be called winter.

WEATHER: Our weather as reported by Vernon Fitzpatrick for the month of January is as follows:

Highest Day	23rd	42 degrees
Average Daytime Temperature		32 degrees
	NOTE: 20 days	32 degrees or higher
Lowest Night	1st	0 degrees
Average Nighttime Temperature		18 degrees
	NOTE: 2 nights	32 degrees or higher
Heaviest Snowfall	8th	2.7 inches
	NOTE: 10 days of snow or rain	

Total snowfall was 11.1 inches.

Total precipitation was 1.77 inches.

4.5 inches of snow on ground first day of the month.

Patches of bare ground last day of month.

How about that for weather? We can't say this happens every winter as Phil Gregg positively states that last winter the wood burned in the stove before the snow melted off it. Also, last winter it was so cold that the squirrels moved out of the attic to a warmer location. That was last winter, this year it's spring on Beaver Island in January.

GAME NEWS: With so little snow on the ground it has been easy to keep track of the activities of game on the Island.

The deer, though they have gone to their winter yarding areas, are ranging about already. All indications point to another good year for the deer herd.

Fifteen of our wild turkeys have been seen by several people, along the road to the airport. Some corn was put out for them but they didn't appear too hungry. Two others are accepting handouts from Carlisle's feeding station.

Our ardent fishermen are rather secretive about their catches, so late news as to their success is nil.

Rabbit hunters are still having a great time. A group of six men from Baltimore, Maryland flew into try their luck and after 1½ days, had totaled 52 rabbits. They left disappointed, however. It seems they had promised to take their wives to Florida and wouldn't be back before

the season ended. Maybe next year, boys.

Mort Neff, Mr. Michigan Outdoors, spent a day hunting and picture taking. His Beaver Island pictures were shown on February 6th on his TV show in Detroit. While Mort Neff and his party were on the Island they were guests of the Beaver Island Game Club for lunch at the Circle M Lodge.

We have mentioned often these past few months, how plentiful the rabbits are on the Island. A story comes to us this week to prove the point. Leon LaFreniere was out hunting the elusive Snowshoes, when he spotted one sitting in front of a Juniper bush. He quickly drew a bead and shot; the rabbit dropped right there and Leon ran up to retrieve it. What he didn't know was that there was another rabbit on the other side of the bush that took enough shot to stop him where he sat. Two with one shot. That's a hole in one to a hunter.

**PARTY TIME:** It is getting near that time of the year when the mainland Beaver Island parties come into being. Any who have attended one of these get-togethers will certainly be planning on one or the other or both.

The Lansing Party will be held on the 7th of March at the Inn America Motel, 2736 E. Grand River, East Lansing, Michigan. Just 1 mile east of M.S.U. Campus on M-43 (old US-16). The price of the dinner is \$3.30 per person. There will be motel accomodation those who would like to stay overnight. The Cocktail and Social hour begins at 5:00 P.M. and the dinner is to be served promptly at 7:30 P.M. You may make reservations by writing to Charles C. Earley - RFD #2, Box 113 - Laingsburg, Michigan.

The Chicago Party will take place on the 14th of March at the Stelmaszck Walter Post #792, 8521 Commercial Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Co-chairman of this party is Rosie McDonough, daughter of Mary and Bert McDonough and Bernard O'Donnell, son of Elsie and James O'Donnell. The proceeds from this party goes to Holy Cross Church here on Beaver Island. Any one interested in a real good time should plan on attending one or the other, or both. This year there is a week between parties, but last year they were both on the same night. There were some last year with strong constitutions, who drove to Lansing and attended that party and continued on to Chicago to attend the other party. This year you can attend both parties and still make it to Beaver Island for St. Patrick's Day.

The word has been spread throughout the Island, and from all indications we believe there will be a delegation from the Island attending the parties.

**SPEAKING OF PARTIES:** For the first time since last fall, Patsy Doney Gallagher was released from the confines of the tall timber at the south end of the Island and spent the week-end as the house guest of Gene Burke, between the social hours at the Shamrock. Back at cutting timber again, we won't see Patsy again until St. Patrick's Day.

**SUNDAY OUTING:** With the clear and warm weather this past week-end, many took advantage of it to take a drive down the East side. Reports came back of deer and other game being seen. The Russell Green family reported they saw a rare sort of game for the second of February. They saw Ronald Gallagher knocking a golf ball down the fairway of the Beaver Lodge Golf Course.

A late bulletin states that Father Louis, observed by Rogers Carlisle, was also enjoying a game of golf on Tuesday, February 5th.

Florida hasn't much on us, although the swimming beach hasn't shown much activity yet.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: The following letter was received by your editors and follows right along with the above article.

"In my visits to Beaver Island in the last 17 years, I have seen many changes. Since Commercial fishing and lumbering are no longer possible, and since the Tourist Industry seems to be the most profitable source of income for the Island, any activity which attracts tourists should be promoted.

The once popular perch fishing in the harbor has been gone for about four years. Guided bass fishing tours around the other islands, from Beaver, have declined. Hunting is still good and we hope the fishing will come back, but these are largely dependent upon nature.

One sport which depends only upon man's work and money is golf. The Beaver Island Golf course has been well planned and developed. Many golfers have already played here and many more are talking about it. Golf adds a great deal to the lure of the Island as a family vacation spot.

I would like to see the islanders support this project as they always have hunting and fishing and believe that it can become a bigger and better attraction every year."

Dr. N. P. Sorensen, Greenville

HOSPITAL NOTES: Miss Mel Gallagher was found by Mussette LaFreniere after she had fallen in her home. She was transported via station wagon to the airport and by U. S. Coast Guard Helicopter to Charlevoix, Michigan. She is progressing well at the hospital and we know she would enjoy hearing from you.

Miss Mel Gallagher  
Charlevoix Hospital  
Charlevoix, Michigan

Art Larsen has been released from the hospital at Ann Arbor and is spending some time in Lansing, Michigan until he returns again to Ann Arbor on March 9th for a check-up. They plan to then visit in Holland and return to Beaver Island early in the spring.

Dick LaFreniere has returned from Charlevoix where he had his knee x-rayed after taking a fall a few weeks ago. They found that his knee cap was broken but was healing well, so no cast was necessary.

We received a lovely note from Sister Mary Clare and we would like to share it with all of you.

"I was so pleased to receive your thoughtful and newsy note before the holidays and now that the solemnities of the Christmas Season are over I must get a note to you and to compliment your very fine work and interesting news items in the Beaver Beacon. I thoroughly enjoy and read and re-read it. I also feel honored to be a member of the Beaver Island Civic Association, which was a thoughtful gift from my good friends Adelia Beeuwkes and Vivian Visscher of Ann Arbor. They also mailed me a beautiful Wreath made by Mrs. Fitzpatrick. This year was the second wreath I've had from the Island and I must let her know how exquisitely beautiful they have been made and arranged for mailing. I told our Sisters that Beaver Island alone could produce the aroma that exuded from the lovely pine, cedar and spruce.

I am progressing very well and able to be ambulating with the assistance of a cane for which I am very grateful. The prayers of my good relatives and friends together with the good send off by Dr. Haynes in providing

and arranging for transportation without delay was a great factor in my recovery this far.  
May the New Year bring peace, joy and blessings to you and to the Island Community.

Gratefully yours, Sister Mary Clare

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: Your Editors received a note of appreciation from Gerry LaFreniere, thanking the Civic Association for the Beaver Beacon and giving us his new address as follows:

Pvt. Gerald N. LaFreniere, US 55769789  
347th Trans. Co.  
Fort Story, Va.

Thank you, Gerry.

We also received the following new address:

John D. Pike, Jr. SA 694-56-82  
S K School NAVSCOLSCOMD  
Newport, Rhode Island

CHRISTIAN BROTHER'S LODGE: Word has been received by Archie LaFreniere that the Christian Brothers will again be with us this year. They will arrive in June for a retreat on Beaver Island. We certainly have missed them the past year and hope that this will mean that each summer from now on they will be back with us. Welcome Home.

We, also, received word that Brother J. Richard, the past Director of the Retreat, has been transferred from St. Mel's in Chicago to Tulsa, Okla. We have no definite address as yet.

SCHOOL NEWS: The students were on the Honor Roll for the past marking period.

Grade 1	Patricia Wojan	Grade 7	Judy LaFreniere
Grade 2	Julie Gillespie		Ronny Wojan
	Pamela McDonough	Grade 8	Sara Kenwabikise
Grade 3	Richard Gillespie		Joe McDonough
	Joan LaFreniere		Robertta Palmer
	Audrey Wojan	Freshmen	Jeanne Wojan
Grade 6	Kevin McDonough	Sophmore	Pamela Martin
	Mary Ann Palmer	Junior	Edward Wojan
	Angie Wojan	Senior	Ronald Gallagher

P.T.A.: On January 19th a Parent-Teachers Association was formed on Beaver Island with the following people elected officers:

President Mrs. Johnny Gallagher  
V. President Mr. Lawrence Mc Donough  
Secretary Mr. Jewell Gillespie  
Treasurer Mrs. Olive Dillingham

NOTES OF INTEREST: Erwin and Alice Martin have purchased the former Herman Pischner home and moved there February 1st.

It has been rumored that the same crew will be with us at the U. S. Coast Guard Station here on Beaver Island. We had such a conscientious crew last year that we sincerely hope the rumor is true.

Colleen Nackerman and Mary Elizabeth Gallagher were home visiting their parents during mid-semester vacations. Alvin LaFreniere has returned to Beaver Island from Central Michigan University.

Leaving us until spring is Grace Cole, Mary and Perry Gatliff and Mrs. Elizabeth Gallagher.

BEAVER TALES

The year of 1904 wasn't recorded in the history of the Islands as a year of any particular importance. This was a time of much activity. The commercial fishing was going great guns and the saw mills, too, were centers of activities. Business on the Island was good and showed promise of becoming better. Money was being made and more ways of spending it were being planned.

Johnny Green was a business man who dealt in real estate, a little politics and farmed, also. He owned a piece of property on the main street and had decided to put it to use. A two story building was to be built and William Boyle was to operate it as a saloon. The building was started on a Saturday and by the following Saturday it was completed. The building was soon referred to as the "Silver Top Saloon", for Silver Top was the name brand of the beer that was dispensed in the establishment. The upstairs living quarters was used for many a card game. For the convenience of the players, a scuttle was cut through the floor so refreshments could be passed up from the bar below via a box with a rope attached. Prohibition came into being and the days of the Silver Top Saloon came to an end.

The building was then used as a Tailor Shop for a few short years. Frank Nackerman recalls that this was where he was fitted for his first pair of long pants. After the Tailor moved out of the building, it stood vacant and neglected for some time. The downstairs doors were either removed or fell off. Cattle, dogs and cats passed in and out and needless to say, the building soon was a shambles.

In 1923 the building was pressed into service again and has ever since been the Post Office of St. James. Willie Boyle, who had been the proprietor of the Silver Top, was appointed Post Master and served until 1939, when our present Postmaster, Frank Nackerman was appointed. It might be interesting at this time to give a complete history of the Post Office Department on the Beavers, as was compiled by David Colyer of Birmingham, Michigan.

BEAVER ISLAND, MICHILIMACKINAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN

- Established as a fourth class office on January 13, 1849
- Re-located in Emmet County on January 29, 1853
- Name changed to Saint James on October 10, 1854
- Re-located in Manitou County on February 12, 1855
- Discontinued on March 6, 1868
- Re-established as a fourth class office on December 19, 1868
- Re-located in Charlevoix County on May 27, 1895
- Domestic Money Order Business established on
- Relegated from a fourth class office to a third class office on July 1, 1945

1850

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Dates of Appointment</u>
Charles R. Wright	January 13, 1849
Peter McKinley	September 19, 1851
Dennis Chidester	February 24, 1852
Edward Chidester	June 27, 1856
Bradner Curran	August 1, 1856
James M. McKinley	September 19, 1857
D. D. Lobdell	May 16, 1861
John O. Mala	December 1, 1862
Charles R. Wright	November 20, 1863
	December 19, 1868
George Miller	November 4, 1881
James Gibson	December 6, 1881

<u>Postmasters:</u>	<u>Dates of Appointment</u>
Michael J. McCann	April 2, 1903
William W. Boyle	July 3, 1903
	January 23, 1923 (acting)
	March 9, 1923 (commissioned)
Frank J. Nackerman	August 15, 1939 (acting)
	February 20, 1940 (commissioned)

FOX ISLANDS, LEELANAU COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 Established as a fourth class office on March 11, 1906  
 Discontinued on November 30, 1917

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Dates of Appointment</u>
John O. Plank	March 11, 1906

HIGH ISLAND, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 Established as a fourth class office on June 5, 1913  
 Discontinued on June 15, 1914

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Dates of Appointment</u>
Gladys Hill	June 5, 1913

NOMAD, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
 Established as a fourth class office on March 10, 1917  
 Discontinued on October 31, 1933

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Dates of Appointment</u>
Julia Cole	March 10, 1917

In order to keep our readers up to date on our present postal service, we will pass on this additional information.

The Zip Code for St. James is 49782.

In addressing mail to the Island, it should be addressed St. James, Michigan, not Beaver Island, Michigan. Putting Beaver Island on the address is permissible as long as St. James, Michigan is below it.

One last note is that our Rural Carrier here on Beaver Island is Gene Burke.

NOTICE: The following is an excerpt from a letter Dr. Haynes received from Dr. Albert Heustis:

"The conference also recommended that I should recommend to you that all sales of cigarettes, over-the-counter or by cart, also be stopped in health care facilities. However, we believe that this may not be wholly practical at this time, so instead would urge that you take appropriate measures to make sure that no cigarettes are sold to minors under the age of 21 who are patients in your institution or visitors. (I should add that immediately following the Surgeon General's report, cigarette vending machines were removed from offices and hospitals under the direct supervision of the state health department, and we also tightened restrictions on the over-the-counter sales of cigarettes.)

As well as recommending that you join in this effort to try to make sure that health institutions are not a source of cigarettes for young folks, I would also seek your help in taking every possible action to discourage cigarette smoking both by precept and example. The success of our efforts to help children and teen-agers resist the lure of cigarette advertising may well depend in the final analysis on the setting of a real example by the leadership groups of our society as well as by parents. If we are going to uphold the things we believe in, we have a job to do together to get Michigan on the move toward the eventual elimination of the use of cigarettes in our society. I ask for your help in doing this, and hope you will let me know of your action."

Albert Heustis, M.D.

1964 VACATION: Again this year we are offering a \$100.00 vacation. Any one interested? Just write to Eileen Martin, Activities Chairman, Beaver Island Civic Association, St. James, Michigan.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
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FOR SALE: Lake front lot for sale. 6 miles south of St. James on Sand Bay. Contact Bud McDonough, St. James, Michigan.

FOR SALE: The Beaver Island Telephone Company is now equipped for Mobil Radio Service, to be used in your car or home. Further information can be obtained by calling our business office, 448-5111.

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Before we leave you for another month, we have one small request to make. Why not pass the form below to one of your friends or perhaps, you would like to send a gift membership.

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JUST FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT WITH \$3.00 TO BICA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, ST. JAMES, MICHIGAN - 49782. GIFT MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED WITH A LETTER TO THE RECIPIENT SENDING YOUR GREETINGS.

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