February 1965

Old man winter has been busy blowing his frigid breath over the Island these past few weeks, but already it can be noticed that he is slowly losing his grip. With the days getting longer and the sun a little brighter, spring is now a downhill run.

WEATHER: The following January weather was compiled by Bill Wagner, Our Fire Officer.

The weather on Beaver Island for the first 9 days was warm and sunny with the daily temperature between 30 and 40 degrees, but dropped into the 20 degree temperature for the next 10 days. On the night of the 17th the mercury dropped to a minus 18. Temperatures hovered below zero all day on the 16th with a high of minus 2.

Snow piled up in small amounts until at the end of the month we had 11 inches of nice clean snow covering the ground.
Total snowfall for January was 16 inches.
Total snowfall for the winter was 40½ inches.

The temperatures were as follows: 11 days in the 30's; 3 days in the 40's; 9 days in the 20's and 8 days below 20 degrees.
The average daytime temperature was 27 degrees and the average nighttime temperature was 13 degrees.
The highest temperature for the day was 41 degrees on the 7th and 8th.
The lowest temperature for the night was minus 18 degrees on the 17th.

FEBRUARY 1955 NOTES: The following weddings were noted in this Beacon.
Miss Rosemary Mackerman of Beaver Island to Mr. Harold Smith of Detroit.
Miss Louise Ellen Treadwell of Rogers City to Mr. Arthur McCafferty of Beaver Island.
Miss Elsie Webb of Toledo, Ohio and Mr. Glenn McCafferty of Beaver Island.

GAME NEWS: Reports of recent activities are slow coming in, however, our small army of ice fisherman report fair catches of Bluegills from Barney's Lake. Perry Catiff, Doc Haynes, L. Z. Reigle and Don Cole have kept well beaten paths to their favorite ice holes.
A check on our Turkey population was planned for this past week-end, but bad weather prevented it, so perhaps we can give a report next month. 

Late Flash! About 40 turkeys were seen on the way to the airport, near Earl Boyle's farm.

Last week a coyote hunt was organized, headed up by Archie LaFrénierie and Roy Chambers, of Indian River. Bill Gilbert, a writer for Sports Illustrated, along with Hugh Staples, a companion, also took part in the coyote hunt. They discovered a new thrill, that of riding through the woods at 30 m.p.h. on a snowmobile. Especially, when they frequently tipped over in the deep snow.

With the mercury hanging at 4 below and a brisk wind out of the northwest the dogs were released and the hunt was on. Soon, a cold trail became a hot one and the hunters were in pursuit aboard two snowmobiles. The dogs chased the coyote out onto the ice of Lake Michigan, where a clear shot was offered. Only wounded, the coyote continued, with Roy Chambers right after it. The only hitch was that beyond the ridge of ice the coyote went over, was open water, so into the water went the coyote and Roy. Much to the displeasure of the coyote, Roy grabbed his tail and gingerly avoiding snapping teeth, dragged one mad coyote out on the ice, where the hunt came to an end. With his clothes frozen like a suit of armor, Roy made a hasty trip to town and a dry change. Thus is recorded the first dip of the 1965 season. This by the way, was the only coyote taken, but some were seen heading for High Island. They aren't so dumb.

Sub-zero weather and harsh winds have left most of the rabbit hunters sitting close to the stove and the rabbits appreciating the solitude of their habitat.

Be sure and read this article in the February issue of Fur, Fish and Game on your local newstand. Bass on the Rocks by John B. Gleason. It is a wonderful article about fishing on Beaver and Garden Islands.

HOLIDAY ON ICE: For many years Beaver Island's version of an ice review was the task of putting up ice for the coming season. This is a sight seldom seen anymore and it hadn't been done here since 1956. With the gradual return of Whitefish in Lake Michigan, Charlie Martin decided to prepare for the coming season with an ice supply. With his crew, consisting of Patsy Doney Gallagher, Joe Mafro, Gene Burke, Perry, Robert and Edward Palmer and his sons, Emmett and Ernie, the cakes were sawed, trucked to a shed and covered with sawdust. Perhaps some will remember the last time this was done and a painting was made of the operation, which was used for the cover of the now deleted, Collier's Magazine. At that time the ice was scored with an ice plow and after the first few cakes were sawed out, the rest were split off along the scores. The cakes were then drawn up a chute into the icehouse, using a team of horses and tackle. The last of the old ice houses was torn down in 1961. This stood at the foot of James Gallagher's Dock.

MARCH OF DIMES PARTY: Under the Chairmanship of Archie LaFreniere and his committee consisting of Vera Wojan, Mary Minor and Loy Malloy, and along with the generosity of most of the Island residents, the party was a huge success. Donated prizes were auctioned off in a flurry of bids, prompted by the astute auctioneering of Lawrence McDonough. Lawrence furthered the ante by offering to dance with the ladies for 25 cents a dance or for 50 cents, they didn't have to. By the time the crowds had dispersed and the money counted, a grand total of $148,52 had been raise.

Not bad for an Island of 170 residents.
BEAVER ISLAND PARTIES: The Annual St. Patrick's Dinner of the Beaver Island Association of Michigan will be held on March 13th, at the Knight of Columbus Hall, 420 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan. There will be an informal reception at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Price per ticket is $3.75 and reservations may be made by contacting Charles C. Early, Secretary; Beaver Island Association; R.F.D. #2, Box 113; Laingsburg, Michigan.

The K. of C. Hall was decided upon for two reasons. It is centrally located and easy to find and it is large enough to accommodate up to 500 persons. It has a functional public address system, a bar where beer is dispensed and a nice dance floor. Parking nearby should not be too much of a problem and the Roosevelt Hotel and St. Mary's Church is also very near.

The Annual Chicago St. Patrick's Day Party will also be held on March 13th. It will take place at the Stelmaszek Walter Post #792, 8521 Commercial Ave., Chicago, Ill. Co-chairman of this party is Rosie McDonough Zajakowski, 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.

On Beaver Island there will be a Smorgasbord Dinner held at the Shamrock on March 21st. The dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Come on everyone let's celebrate. No excuse for not attending one of these parties.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Campbell of Howell, Michigan announces the arrival of Erin Elizabeth on January 31st. Mrs. Campbell is the former Karen Pischner.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Schmidt of Pontiac are the parents of a son, born February 2nd. Mr. and Mrs. William Schmidt are the proud grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Donnell of Dolton, Ill. announces the birth of a daughter, Shelia Ann, on Dec. 10th. This is the sixth child and all daughters for the O'Donnells.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Devis of Mesa, Arizona announce the birth of a son, Van Howard, on December 30th. Mrs. Davis is the former Sharon Pischner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elston Pischner, former Islanders.

Mr. and Mrs. Donus Welke of Archbold, Ohio announce the birth of a daughter, Donna Marie, born on February 13th.

Another Islander has arrived on Beaver Island this month. February 13th a boy arrived for the Donald Cole's, weighing in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. Mother and son are doing fine.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Karl Keubler has been a recent patient in the Little Traverse Hospital, where he underwent surgery. He has returned to Beaver Island and is again feeling fine.

Little Jimmy Cole, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cole, was a recent patient in the Charlevoix Hospital.

Arleen Malloy, daughter of Loy Malloy, just returned from Charlevoix Hospital, where she was sent for X-rays.
Claire Cull was recently hospitalized in St. Mary's Hospital in Bay City. We all wish you a fast recovery.

Our favorite announcer is now a patient in the Charlevoix Hospital. We wish you a fast recovery, Billy Supernaw.

WEDDINGS: Lt. Commander and Mrs. Fredrick DeCastro of Charlevoix, announce the coming marriage of their daughter, Susan to James O. McCann, son of Edwin and Margaret McCann of Charlevoix, on February 27th in St. Mary's Church.

On January 23rd, Miss Jeanne Host and Mr. Dale Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Brown, were married in Chicago. Dale is the grandson of Mr. L. J. Malloy of Beaver Island.

ALTAR SOCIETY NOTES: The following officers have been elected to the Holy Cross Alter Society. President - Rose Connaghan; Vice-President - Edna "Skip" McDonough; Secretary - Winifred McDonough and Treasurer - Elizabeth LaFreniere.

Beginning February 3rd, every other Wednesday, a sewing club will be held at the Holy Cross Rectory. Handiwork completed here will be sold at the Bazaar in the summer.

SCHOOL NEWS: This is the Honor Roll for the past 6 week marking period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student Name 1</th>
<th>Student Name 2</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Edward Wojan</td>
<td>Jeanne Wojan</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judith LaFreniere</td>
<td>Ronald Wojan</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Angie Wojan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Bill Gilbert, a feature writer for Sports Illustrated, gave an interesting talk to the High School pupils and grades 5 through 8 on February 5th. Mr. Gilbert, a graduate of Georgetown University, told of his experiences as a Peace Corps Survival Unit Director and his vast and varied experiences with animals. Mr. Gilbert was covering the coyote hunt on Beaver Island.

The High School Government Class is preparing a Panel Discussion for the P.T.A. meeting to be held on February 21st, at 1:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

School was dismissed Friday, February 12th while the Sisters attended a Teacher's Institute in Petoskey.

On page 5 of the Beacon we have printed an issue of the Newspaper "published" by grades one thru four. We thought you would enjoy reading it as much as we did.

NEW YACHT DOCK: Since our Beaver Tale pertains to the Gallagher Dock, we thought you would enjoy seeing what is replacing it. On page 6 of this issue there is a drawing of the new Dock, which will be completed by July 1st. We want to thank Archie LaFreniere for this drawing and Phyllis Gregg for doing the stencil.
"Winter Fun"

Winter is fine.
Winter is fun.
And when the sun
is shining bright.
It makes me dream
of snow ball fights.
And when I'm cold outside
I go in and warm up inside.

Julie Ann Gillespie

"Birthdays"

Yesterday was
my cousin's birthday.
His name is Timmy.
He had a fun time.
Today it is Pam's
birthday. She is
going to have a
party.

Audrey Wojan

"Hermie's Cats"

Hermie has two big cats.
One is a fuzzy cat. The
other cat is fuzzy too.

Doris Kenwabikise

"Pam's Birthday"

It was Pam's birthday
Tuesday. She had lots of
children who wrote
birthday cards.

Steven Connaghan

"The Movie"

Monday we had a movie.
It was about birds. We
had a bird called a coot.
There were others too.
Some birds were pretty.
They were wild birds.

Pamela McDonough

"Homemade Icecream"

Yesterday Billy made
some homemade
icecream.
He made two gallons
of it. The second
batch got rock
salt in it and
boy it tasted awful.

Richie Gillespie

"Cutting Ice"

My dad is cutting ice.
Perry, Emmet, Ernie
are helping him. He will
put the ice in a shed.
He will put sawdust on top of
it so it won't melt in the
summer. He can use the
ice to keep the fish
cold when sends it on
the Beaver Island boat
to Jon Cross.

Michael Martin

"The Inauguration"

For many people today
is a busy day. Many
people are in Washington
to see the President.
It is Inauguration
day.

William Ross

"A Baby"

My mother is going
to have a baby.
She is going to have
it next month.

(Name Withheld)

"Pam's Book"

Pam bought a book to school.
It was about Pus and Boots.
Yesterday Pam read it.

Raymond Cole
Monday, February 8th, 1965. - With a rebellious creaking and groaning as the powerful winch on Jewell Gillespie’s truck, took up the slack of the cable fastened to the shed on the old Gallagher Dock, another decaying historic edifice met it’s doom, making room for the expansion of the Yacht Dock. With the old dock went many nostalgic memories of the fishing activities of the past.

The old dock, standing on over 250 pilings, was built at the turn of the century, by the Roe Brothers, to meet the docking needs of the many fish tugs working the waters of the Beavers.

Booth Fisheries bought the dock, which was managed by "Old" James Gallagher, who was the fish buyer for Booth. In 1917, the dock's age was telling and it was re-built on the original pilings. Fish, at these times weren’t measured in pounds only, but in tons. Exact records and facts of it’s history are rather vague, yet many of the Islanders recall watching the tugs unloading huge catches of Lake Trout, Whitefish and Perch. The largest catch remembered was that brought in by James "Shing" Marti on the big steam tug "Shamrock". The catch weighed in at over eight tons of Lake Trout. At today's prices, a catch of this size would be worth around ten thousand dollars, but needless to say, when the fish were plentiful the price was very low. Anyone desiring a nice trout dinner merely had to go down to the dock when the tugs came in and the fishermen would let you take your pick. In cleaning Lake Trout for packing, the heads were cut off and fed to the many gulls that followed the boats but along with it went a real delicacy, that being the Trout cheeks, a solid piece of meat on each side of the upper jaw. Island women would can Trout cheeks, providing many a fine meal during the winter months.

In 1933 "Young" James Gallagher bought the dock from the Booth Company. James continued to buy fish from the now dwindling number of fish tugs. More pleasure boats were finding their way to the Island by now, so James was always busy catering to their needs, as well as taking care of his farm.

Pleasure boaters coming to the Island prior to 1960, well remember "Young" James as their host to the Island, as this was the Yacht Dock, also. A great deal of color and character revolve around a busy dock. If only the old dock could have recorded the yarns spun by fishermen, recounting their battles with the sea of the northern lake, while sitting about the dock after the day of fishing had ended. It would certainly fill many volumes of mighty interesting reading.

The old Dock was nearly wrecked in the mid 30’s by a severe ice shove from a hard South-easter, and much repair work had to be done in order to keep it in service. Again in the early 1950’s high water threatened to float the dock off. "Young" James hauled tons of rock to distribute over it in order to hold it on until the water receded.

Now it's duty is done and has given way to development of a new dock. It long outlived the long list of colorful fish tugs that called it home, the Silver Moon, La Fond, C & C, Silvis S., Agnes S., A & M Link, Nautilus, Two Sisters, Catherine B., Gypsy, Shirley G., Meadow Mac, Lillian Mac, Silver Star, Lady Agnes, Elliot, Shamrock, Evelyn, Estonia, Irene,

Gone now is the early morning sound of the bangs and snorts of starting diesels and hissing safety valves of the big tugs, the intermittent smoke rings shooting out their stacks, quickly disappearing in the wind as they chugged out of the harbor. Gone are the big net reels, creaking in the wind, waiting for the boats to return. Gone is another reminder of the past, only to be recorded in memory and print. Perhaps, someday the fishing will be back, but we wonder, would it be as colorful as it once was?

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: A new address has been received by the Beacon Staff for Joe LaFreniere.

SP/5 Joseph W. LaFreniere RA 13710321
19th U S Army Missile Det
A.P.O. 09693
New York, N.Y.
U.S. Forces Greece

FOR SALE: Six room house on harbor. 3 bedrooms and bath, partly furnished. Large lot with waterfront property on St. James harbor. Write Mrs. Ada Martin, St. James, Michigan or call St. James 448-5831.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT MONTH