

The Beaver Beacon



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As we stand on the threshold of the New Year, it is our sincere wish that the coming days will bring peace and happiness to all the world.

The following poem was sent to the Secretary of the Civic Association by Capt. Charles J. Allers, well known to many of the Beacon readers. It seemed appropriate to print it at this time of the year.

"A Thought For Today"

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end;
But days go by, and weeks roll on
And before I know it a year has gone.

I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race;
But he knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell -
And he rang mine - we were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men.

Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired with trying to make a name
"Tomorrow", I say "I'll call on Jim,
Just so he'll know I'm thinking of him".
But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner, yet miles away -
"Here's a telegram, sir" - "Jim died today".

And that's what we get, and deserve in the end -
Around the corner - a vanished friend.

Our very sincere thanks to Capt. Allers!

WINTER NEWS: As in much of the country, Beaver Island has been a little colder than usual, though not as cold as some of the cities where our readers live. We have about eleven inches of snow on the ground, and the woods are beautiful. With the holiday season over, the boys are out after the snowshoe rabbits once more, and are having very good luck.

BEAVER ISLAND FAIRY TALE: Once upon a time there were two little pigs. One little pig made its home with Lawrence and Wini McDonough. The second little pig moved in with Bert McDonough and Archie LaFreniere. The first little pig was fed largely on a liquid known as milk from the cow. The second little pig was raised on the remains of a certain beverage known in polite circles as malt from the Shamrock. Herein lies the tale. The owners of the two little pigs were equally convinced that their own diet was the better of the two. But came the day of reckoning. The two little pigs had grown big and strong and now must serve their purpose as food for the table. They were duly weighed. The milk fed pig weighed 256 pounds. The malt fed pig weighed 252 pounds. A dinner was served. Lawrence and Wini laid claim to first prize, saying their pig was tastier. But Archie and Bert argued that the better flavored pig belonged to them. We must remember that the four judges in this contest were each somewhat prejudiced in their own favor. Now, if both of them feel that they had the tastier pig, this writer suggests that a perfect diet would be malted milk. A pig fed on such a diet would certainly win any future contest with tail curled, if pigs fed on malt and milk individually are as good as their respective owners claim.

HOLIDAY PARTIES: There were many lovely parties held during the holiday season. Christmas spirits of both the morally uplifting and physically refreshing types were abundant. Many former islanders and friends returned to spend the holidays here. Among them were the Joe Grossell family, Jack and Roland Cull, Betty Lockton and family, the Dave Pike family, the Buster Elms family and Jim Freeman (Classmate of Ricky Elms at Salestian Brothers School at Crown Point, Indiana). Margaret McDonough, Rosemary McDonough, Francis O'Donnell, Ronnie and Margaret O'Donnell, Beverly and Alex Walgus, the John Adams', and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith. Servicemen home on leave were Billy Pischner and Robert Palmer.

The annual New Year's Eve party held at the Shamrock was well attended. After the New Year had been thoroughly greeted and welcomed to the island, a delicious lunch was served, courtesy of Archie and Frances La Freniere.

SCHOOL NEWS: Three delightful Christmas plays were given by the Beaver Island school children - "The Vision", by the high school and intermediate grades; "Nancy's Christmas Dream" by the first four grades, and "The Gift of Christmas" by the entire school. Christmas carols were sung by the youngsters and the program was enjoyed by all who attended.

WEDDING BELLS: At 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, January 4, 1961, the wedding of Miss Mary LaFreniere of St. James and Archie Minor of Newberry, Michigan was solemnized at a Nuptial High Mass in Holy Cross Catholic Church of St. James, Father Louis Wren officiating.

The bride, daughter of Elizabeth and Patrick LaFreniere, was given in marriage by her uncle, Archie LaFreniere. She was lovely in a ballerina length white lace gown with a finger tip veil and crown of satin with seeded pearls. She carried a bouquet of yellow rose buds on her white prayer book, a gift of the groom. Her maid of honor, Loretta Malloy, wore ivory brocaded satin and carried yellow mums. Flower girl was little Joan LaFreniere, dressed in yellow cotton and carrying a basket of yellow baby mums.

The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Minor of Newberry, was attended by Matt Melville. Usher was Alvin LaFreniere.

A wedding breakfast was served to 25 guests at the Beaver Lodge. A reception was held in Holy Cross Parish Hall. Organ music was provided by Burdene Stromberg.

Mrs. Minor will be remembered by many readers of the Beacon as the pretty red-headed lass who served so well at the Shamrock. Mr. Minor sails for Pittsburg Steamship Company. After a wedding trip through the Northern Peninsula, Mr. and Mrs. Minor will be at home in St. James until spring.

WINTER IS HERE TO STAY: The north end of Beaver Harbor is frozen over with the south end remaining open. Many of the island residents have enjoyed the ice skating on brisk nights. The Emerald Isle mail boat made her last trip December 30, and is harbored for the winter in Charlevoix. Mail service is now being provided by McPhillip's Flying Service in Charlevoix, weather permitting.

GONE TO THE MAINLAND: Mike and Mabel Cull have left the island to spend the winter in Chicago. Mr. Donald (Topper) McDonough is spending the winter in LaPere, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. James (the Bay) O'Donnell (who left the island in November for the winter) flew by jet from Chicago to Temple, California to spend the winter with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck (Teresa) Archer. Kate Connaghan has also left the island for the winter.

BACK TO BEAVER FOR THE WINTER are Don Burke, Bob Malloy and Earl Boyle.

BEAVER ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT once again proved its worth when it was called upon to fight the fire in the Albert Lewis home. Through the bravery and stamina of the island men on a mighty chilly night, the home was saved from complete destruction. Mrs. Lillian Gregg kept the men encouraged with hot coffee until the fire was under control.

BOY THERE! COME ABOARD AND LISTEN: Bill Whelan is known to most Beacon readers as "King of all the Beavers". He was honored recently with the distinction of being "Yachtsman of the Year" and was awarded a trophy by Mayor Daley of Chicago. Bill has been our biggest booster with visiting yachtsmen. Our Best Wishes to you: Bill, and your Queen, Mrs. Whelan.

BIRTHS: Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Billie Bennet, happy parents of a baby girl, Teresa Lynn, born December 20th at Kansas City, Mo. Billie is the grandson of Kate Connaghan.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Martin. Mrs. Martin presented Jimmie with a very special Christmas present, a new son, James Leo, born December 25th at Grand Rapids. The proud father is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin of St. James.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McDonough, proud parents of a new baby daughter, Judith Eva, born January 1st at Charlevoix hospital. Little Judith was the first baby born this New Year's at the hospital. The happy father is the son of Lloyd and Eva McDonough of St. James.

Our best wishes to the parents and their little ones.

MANY, MANY THANKS to Mr. D. J. Angus of Indianapolis, Indiana for his \$500.00 contribution to the Medical Center. Mr. Angus has been more than a friend to the center, and his generosity will long be remembered.

CONSERVATION NEWS: The Game Division of the Conservation Department has announced plans to bring approximately twenty wild turkeys to the island the second week of January. One flock will be planted near Bonner's Bluff and the other flock will be placed in the Green's Lake area.

The turkeys will come from the Allegan State Forest.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: Arthur Souter, grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Art Larsen enlisted in the Navy in June. He left the first of the year for Norfolk, Virginia, and will be assigned to the U.S.S. Galveston. He is attached to the Medical Corps.

NEW CHURCH: The St. James Episcopal Mission is planning a new church building on the island. Plans are being distributed and bids received for this work, which is scheduled to begin in the spring.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER: All 1960 BICA memberships expired Dec. 31. Unless you have paid your 1961 dues, this issue of the Beacon is a complimentary one and will be the last you receive. Renew your membership now by sending your check to the BICA Membership chairman at St. James. Personal memberships are \$3.00. Business memberships are \$25.00 which includes an ad in the Business Guide. We hate to lose you - we've gotten used to you now!

BEAVER ISLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY NEWS: Joe Dillingham informs us that the new switchboard is installed and that new directories will be out this week with the changes in phone numbers. Because of the many inquiries received regarding new phones, Joe has given us the following information:

	Monthly rate	Seasonal Rate (9 mo.) in advance
1 party business	\$8.50	\$76.50
2 party business	6.50	58.50
4 party business	5.00	45.00
1 party residence	7.00	63.00
2 party residence	5.00	45.00
4 party residence	3.75	33.75
rural multi-party	3.75	33.75

Installation charge \$5.00 - All rates plus tax

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: The Annual Meeting and Election of the Board of Directors was held January 5th. One of the main items discussed at the meeting was the plan for the "Beaver Island Workshop" to be held February 3rd and 4th, with both out-of-town and local business men along with the college representatives and representatives of the Conservation Dept. The intention of this gathering is to find better ways of attracting tourists, more ways of entertaining them, methods of improving our hunting and fishing facilities, and better use of our forests. Letters and questionnaires have been sent out to the heads of the various departments and to interested business men. It is our sincere hope that this meeting will have a great response and will prove fruitful to both the island and its visitors.

The final results of the election were as follows: George Van Buren, President; Archie LaFreniere, Vice President; Burdene Stromberg, Secretary; Lillian Gregg, Treasurer. The other directors elected were Joe Dillingham, Loretta Malloy, Walter Wojan, and Rogers Carlisle. Grace Nackerman was not up for re-election as she still has a year to serve.

A WORD OF THANKS: Archie La Freniere, who has resigned as president of the association, and Rogers Carlisle who has resigned as treasurer would like to take this opportunity to thank the various committee chairman and their aides, the former board of Directors, and the members of the Civic Association for their cooperation and assistance in the past years. They also wish the best of luck to the new board and its officers.

WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW that back in the 1840's the white population of Beaver Island was greater than the Northern Peninsula and the Northern half of the lower peninsula of Michigan combined which enabled King Strang to be elected to the Michigan State Legislature?

Since all things must eventually come to an end, this ends your January issue of the Beaver Beacon. See you next month!