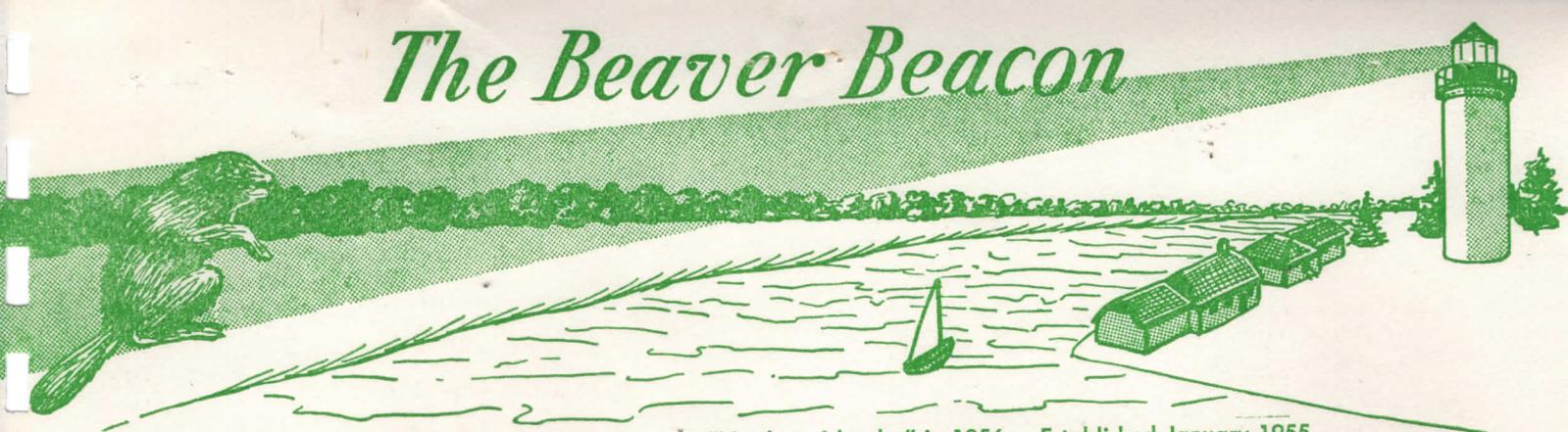


# The Beaver Beacon



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

July 1961

**WARM RECEPTION FOR DAWN PATROL PILOTS:** The Fourth Annual Beaver Island Dawn Patrol, held July 2, could hardly be called a tremendous success. Although the Island weather was clear and sharp, the lower peninsula of Michigan had rain and low ceilings, limiting the number of pilots to 78 as compared to over 350 at our biggest Dawn Patrol in 1958.

To add to the problem of much food and few people, at about 10:00 A.M., one of the ladies on the Activities Committee discovered a roaring fire inside the wall of the Parish Hall kitchen. Pilots, food and tables were quickly moved to the street, and garden hoses were put into use until the fire truck could be brought in from the airport where it was stationed in case of emergency. Once the truck arrived, a bucket brigade was formed to keep the truck filled with water so that it would not be necessary to move it from the hall until the fire was under control. Thanks to the fliers, to the Coast Guard for their equipment, and to everyone who helped prevent this fire from becoming a major catastrophe.

The King Strang Hotel and the Beaver Lodge offered their dining rooms for the serving of the remaining breakfasts, and food and pilots were transported from the Hall. After a short delay, the Dawn Patrol pilots were soon being fed in the usual generous fashion of Beaver Island.

No estimate has been made as to the amount of damage to the 65 year old Parish Hall, main meeting place on our Island, but it is quite extensive, and some other arrangements may have to be made to serve the Annual Homecoming Dinner in August, as it is doubtful that repairs can be completed before that time.

Pilots winning weekends on the Island are as follows: Earliest Arrival - Clarence Gerlach of Manistique, Mich.; Youngest Pilot (20 yrs.) R. D. Green of Nashville, Mich.; Farthest Distance - Robert Powell, Geneseo, Illinois; Oldest Pilot (56 yrs.) Kenneth Powers of Monroe, Mich.; Lowest Golf Score - Dr. C.H. Turner of West Branch, Mich.; Last Pilot to arrive before Closing of Dawn Patrol (this award was changed from 100th pilot) - Rex Beckwith, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Congratulations to the winning pilots. We hope you will enjoy your weekends on Beaver and that all of you will return again.

Our many thanks to the volunteers who helped transport the pilots, to those of you who helped sell raffle tickets, to the Activities Committee for the excellent job they did in spite of their difficulties, and to all of you who worked so hard on this project. Although the profits from the breakfast are less than \$10.00, Irish eyes are still smiling. Some profit is always better than a loss!

**REPUBLICANS INVADE THIS DEMOCRATIC STRONGHOLD:** Michigan Republicans under the chairmanship of George Van Puerson invaded Beaver Island on June 23rd. The Emerald Isle brought 52 of these brave souls on a pleasure cruise to Beaver. Edward K. Shanahan, Charlevoix county chairman, was host to the group. The Emerald Isle left Charlevoix at 10:30 A.M. returning at 6:30 P.M. While on the Island, the group enjoyed a luncheon meeting at the Beaver Lodge. It is believed that this was the largest number of Republicans ever gathered on Beaver in many a moon!

**CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR:** Doctor Frank E. Luton, who has served as physician for Beaver Island since 1956, completed his 60th year in the active practice of medicine on May 31, 1961. The State Council of Health, official advisory group to the state health department officially saluted and paid highest tribute to the doctor as he approaches his retirement from active practice and extended to him most bountiful good wishes for the years ahead.

**ARRL FIELD DAY:** The members of the Chain of Lakes American Radio Relay League, Inc., under the supervision of their President, Mr. Orville Miller of Bellaire, Michigan, held their Annual Field Day at Beaver Island on June 24th and 25th. With emergency preparedness as the theme of their day, they brought to the Island their complete equipment for transmitting under emergency conditions. While many of us are not at all familiar with "ham radio" as it is commonly known, we were told that there are over 10,000 of these operators licensed in Michigan. Several of the Islanders visited with the operators at Sand Bay, where they had set up their emergency station. Much to our surprise, we found they had talked of Beaver Island to such far-off places as Labrador, Ecuador and Okinawa, as well as many of the United States. While we listened they made their contacts with other operators. When requested to identify themselves, they replied that they were sitting on a cool, screened porch, overlooking sand dunes and blue Lake Michigan on beautiful Beaver Island! What we found quite funny was the reply from the contacted operator, ie., "Where the heck is Beaver Island?" Thanks for the publicity, boys! Now for a follow-up on this advance publicity, perhaps we can get some Ecuadorian to visit us for a while. We hope the ARRL boys will return next year.

**CHIEF ANTOINE PARK:** Our hopes to raise sufficient funds for the park have not been immediately realized. The bad weather that kept the pilots from the Dawn Patrol contributed to our park problem as the profits from the breakfast were earmarked for this fund. Our appeal for cash contributions was answered by Mr. Rosario Fragala of Chicago, Mrs. Leona McLane of Pontiac, and Brother J. Richard of Plano, Ill. Many, many thanks to these friends. Anyone still wishing to make a donation, send to PARK, c/o Secretary, Beaver Island Civic Association. We need your help.

**BIRD BANDING:** Mr. C. C. Ludwig of East Lansing, a visitor to the Island this past month gave us an interesting story. Mr. Ludwig is well known to many of the Islanders, having been banding birds here for many years. With his assistant, he has banded over 37,000 herring gulls, and to date has banded approximately 55,000 birds. There are about 2200 licenses granted in North America and no one is allowed to band birds without this license. Mr. Ludwig has had a permit for many years with the assistance of the Coast Guard and under the supervision of the U. S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service.

He told of one bird, banded as a Caspian Tern on Hat Island on July 5, 1960 that was found washed on the ocean beach at Columbia, South Carolina three months and 18 days after it was banded. This bird was banded before it was able to fly.

Mr. Ludwig reported that gulls and terns banded in and around Beaver have been found washed ashore in Hawaii and other far-off places. He stated that the reason for this is that these birds follow the ocean liners and other ships and are often killed in storms at sea.

BITCO NEWS: Beaver Island Telephone Company was host to a District meeting of Michigan Independent Telephone Association held June 28 and 29. The main body of the group of 51 arrived Wednesday and returned Thursday night at 9:00 P.M. Some elected to stay longer with the latest date of departure being Monday noon.

Among those attending were Mr. & Mrs. Vern Hufford of Michigan Public Service Comm. staff, Mr. H. G. Iler, Manager, and Mr. C. V. Libke, District Manager of Independent Co. Relations Dept. of Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Mr. & Mrs. K. B. Sage, Pres. of MITA, and Mr. & Mrs. C. D. McClellan, Sec. of MITA, along with members of 13 operating and accounting services.

Best represented Company was Camden Telephone Co. with a party of seven. Newport Telephone Co. drew honors for those traveling the farthest distance. Among the highlights of the meeting held in the Parish Hall Thursday afternoon were the color movies of the Island shown by Rogers Carlisle, a visual aid demonstration on trouble tracing and clearing in Direct Dialing networks by Mr. Archie Black of Michigan Bell Telephone Co., and a showing of the movie "Operation Abolition" provided by MITA.

Joe Dillingham, Beaver Island's "Mr. Telephone" wishes to thank all those on the Island that had a hand in making the meeting a success for their outstanding cooperation. Joe is donating approximately \$40.00 to our Park fund. This is surplus money from the package deal collected from the members attending the meeting, and is being given in the name of the Michigan Independent Telephone Association. Thanks a lot, Joe, and thanks to your associates in the MITA.

OVER-ENTHUSIASM: On June 15th, six Navy Boats of the Naval Reserve arrived in Beaver Harbor to anchor for the night. The Naval Reserve boys were brought ashore and apparently had a pretty good time. We enjoy being invaded by the U.S. Navy, boys, and we like you and want you to have a good time. But we'd appreciate you much more if you had your fun in some other way than the smashing of lights on our Municipal Dock, or by dropping the moorings of the Emerald Isle, turning it loose.

We are a small community and welcome those of you who respect our Island, but we can well do without the damage inflicted by those very few who lack this respect.

SIGN LANGUAGE: A Michigan newspaper published the following sign, stating it had been found on Beaver Island: "NOTICE. When nobody is here, wait on yourself. Worms are 25¢ a dozen. Count 15 worms to the dozen. You will anyway! Leave money inside the cottage. Worm tub by pump. Do not take the tub with you!" Mrs. Ted Hine of Bay City informs us that she recalls having seen that sign some years ago on the cottage of the late Max Sonderegger.

ROUSE SIMMONS STORY. Mr. Theodore S. Charnney of Chicago, Illinois has informed your editor that he is writing a book about the ROUSE SIMMONS, the Christmas Tree Ship. The ROUSE SIMMONS was built in 1868 and took its name from one of the financiers whose family later founded the well known Simmons Bed Company.

The ship went into the lumber trade and remained on the run for four years when the depressed period of the seventies made it necessary to dispose of the vessel. The ship had several owners including Charles H. Hackley, richest of the forty-odd millionaire lumber kings of the great sawdust city, Muskegon. Hackley sailed her for 20 years and then sold her to John Leonard, who sailed her under a Grand Haven registry until she was caught in a northeaster in Torch Lake in 1903 and scuttled to save her from breaking up against the pilings. She was then bought by John Manus Bonner of Beaver Island, raised, and taken to Charlevoix for refitting and repairs. Bonner sailed her the rest of her life until her final charter under the Schuenemann family in 1912. John Bonner is listed as owner and operating agent from 1904 until she foundered in 1912. John was the brother of Pat Bonner, Island resident.

The Schuenemann family came to Schoolcraft County, Michigan from Chicago for evergreens, Christmas trees, boughs and grave coverings, sailing in schooners on the Great Lakes. As the old sailing vessels fast disappeared, Schuenemann found it necessary to charter the ROUSE SIMMONS in 1911 and 1912.

Schuenemann left Thompson, Michigan on the afternoon of Nov. 2, 1912 in a rising gale after filling the hold of the ROUSE SIMMONS with trees and greens and lashing a deck load on a cabin he had built upon the ship's deck. All night he kept her headed south but apparently the spindrift and spray from the heavy seas settled upon the deck load and ice formed in the cold temperature. She was last seen as she sailed past Kewaunee, five miles out in the lake, with distress signals flying. Two Rivers Coast Guard searched for many hours with no results. The ship was never seen again, but a few weeks later the fishermen off Two Rivers brought up Christmas greens in their nets and continued to do so from time to time. In 1925, 13 years later, Captain Schuenemann's wallet, with rubber band intact was picked up on the beach near Sheboygan with all his personalia, water-logged but intact. Mrs. Barbara Schuenemann, the captain's widow, and her children continued the work of gathering Christmas trees until the widow's death in 1933. In 1934 the Schuenemann girls sold Christmas trees in Chicago for the last time, rounding out fully 50 years of service in the yule trade by a single family.

In December of 1912 the U.S. Government Cutter MACKINAW made a search of the Beavers for some remains of the ROUSE SIMMONS, and John Bonner went along with the ship and is mentioned in government documents as the owner. No remains of her were found near the Beavers.

To quote from Mr. Charney's letter: "Feeling....that a sailing schooner should have some place in American literature considering the fact that 2500 of them sailed the Great Lakes....and since the Schuenemann story runs a risk of falling into obscurity....I have decided to combine the story of the schooner ROUSE SIMMONS and the Christmas tree activities of the Schuenemanns in a book, hoping it will have a place in Americana.... I would be especially pleased if you would instruct your readers who have any first hand knowledge of the ship or anyone associated with her to contact me and impart such knowledge to me for possible inclusion in my book."

If any of our readers have any knowledge of the Schuenemanns or of the sailing schooner ROUSE SIMMONS, please contact Mr. Theodore S. Charrney, 3737 Armitage Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois. Mr. Charrney has promised to keep us informed and when the book is released for publication, we will let you know. We wish Mr. Charrney much success in this venture.

LEAPING FROGS: Many fishermen like to keep their fishing secrets to themselves, but Dr. John E. Ludwick of Jackson, Michigan has had his secret for catching bass exposed. Each year his companions in angling order 200 small frogs for bass bait. This year the ordering of frogs was left to the doctor. When the order was received at the shipping house, the "M.D." after Dr. Ludwick's name was noticed, and they assumed the frogs were wanted for experimental purposes. Consequently, 200 large size male laboratory frogs arrived, along with a statement for same. We haven't been able to discover what happened to the frogs. We only know that Dr. Ludwick's secretary believes that bass fishing with frogs is quite an expensive hobby!

FOURTH OF JULY: Because of our need to raise money for our park, the annual fireworks display sponsored by the Civic Association was not held this year. The drawing of raffle tickets for the combination toaster and grill was planned to be held at the Parish Hall along with an evening of games. The fire, of course, cancelled out these arrangements, and our Activities Committee arranged a ball game between the now famous Has Beens and the Wanta Bees. Since your editor has a soft spot in her heart for the Has Beens, the information that follows is somewhat painful. The first game was won by the Wanta Bees, 9-0. The second game was won by the Wanta Bees, 11-1. It is the general consensus of opinion among us Has Been fans that a collection should be taken up to purchase eye glasses with magnifying lens for our umpires, because if those umpires could see better, this story would have a different ending!

Present plans are to use pretty young girls in shorts for umpires when the Wanta Bees are at bat. While we realize that the young girls will be prejudiced in favor of the Wanta Bees, we are hoping to divert the young lads attention from the ball!

The drawing was held at the ball diamond between games. Winner of the toaster-grill was Mr. Bruce Love of Lansing. A profit of \$130.00 was realized from the ticket sales. This money is earmarked for Chief Antoine Park, but leaves us still far behind in our efforts to raise the necessary amount.

ROCK COLLECTION: Mrs. Elaine Smith, wife of Dr. Robert B. Smith of Grand Rapids, has her display of Petoskey stone at Lloyd McDonough's store. Mrs. Smith had an excellent display of Beaver Island rocks at our museum last year, and has done much study in minerology. Her display was shown at the East Grand Rapids Junior High School and at the Second Annual Mineral Show at the Grand Rapids Museum, where over 5000 visitors saw the beautifully cut and polished Petoskey stones and Beaver Island stones. Elaine has made many attractive pieces of jewelry in the forms of rings, bracelets, tie clasps, etc. The Smiths are the owners of the summer home known as Isle a While near the South end of the Island.

SPORTING NEWS: Islanders and visitors have reported large numbers of snowshoe rabbits have been seen. With all the rabbits taken last winter, particularly by Milt Bennett, we thought the population might have decreased, and are glad to hear this is not so!

Many deer have been seen in the woods. Speaking of deer, the Conservation Department has granted us the exhibition permit to raise the little buck fawn found motherless in the woods last month. It has been named "Jackie". There is a note of humor to this. Perry Gatliff has been assigned the duty of feeding the little fellow, and until his shelter was erected at the Municipal Dock Park, Perry had the deer at his home. His mother, Mary Gatliff, thought the deer was a doe and wanted to name it after Jacqueline Kennedy. When Perry informed her it was a buck, she was disappointed, but the name "Jackie" still stands. Perry has proven to be a very good foster parent, as Jackie is thriving on the bottles of formula.

Fishermen have reported sizeable catches of bass since the season opened. Lake Genesareth and Barney's Lake on the Island have given the fishermen some good luck, along with those venturing out to Garden and Hog Islands. Reports are that the bass season will be even better as the season progresses.

Milt Bennett is still tracking down turtles for soup. He doesn't say how many turtles he has found, but he's been a little snappy lately, so we think he may have had good luck.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Memberships in the Historical Society expired on July 1st. New members are always welcome and needed. We need your support and would like to have you visit the museum and see the interesting articles on display, some of them over 100 years old. If you have items you think might be of interest to visitors, you can have them displayed at the museum. They are only loaned by you, and can be returned to you whenever you so desire. If you have an article of interest, contact Mr. A. J. Roy of St. James.

The Museum is open through July and August from 11:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Admission is 50¢.

Regular Membership.....	\$3.00	Sustaining Membership.....	\$50.00
Contributing Membership.....	10.00	Life Membership.....	100.00

If you wish to renew your membership or know of someone interested in having a part in saving the historical items on Beaver Island, fill out the form below and send to Vera Wojan, Treasurer, St. James, Beaver Island, Michigan

Enclosed find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: N. P. Sorenson, D.D.S. wishes to announce that he will be in his Island office from August 5 to August 19 and will take appointments at that time.

GIRL SCOUTS: Ten Girl Scouts along with their three leaders camped at the State Forest Camp Grounds on the East Side Drive the second week in June. These scouts were members of Troop 361 of Lansing, Michigan.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

19' Thompson Runabout. Clinker style hull. 2-30 HP Johnson outboards. 18 gal. long cruise tank. Elec. start. Dual cont. Full cvr. Conv. top. Side curtains. Boat Ladder. Fire ext. Tachometer for ea. eng. Rng. lights. Horn. Ex. cond. Price, \$1600 cash. Avlble. imm. Call Beaver Lodge. May be insp. at Dick's dock.

14' Fiberglass runabout. Never Used. Rec'd by mistake. For desc., see Sears Spring catalog, pg. 649. Cat. #6A6825N. Call Frank Nackerman 448-5661.

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Some of you are reading the Beaver Beacon for the first time, as a number of complimentary issues have been given this month. Each issue contains hunting and fishing news, local happenings on the Island, and news of our guests and visitors. If you would like to have this monthly publication sent to you, join the Beaver Island Civic Association and receive your Beaver Beacon. You may either give your name and address along with \$1.50 to any of the business men on the Island, or fill out the form below and send it along with your check to the Secretary, Beaver Island Civic Association, Beaver Island, St. James, Michigan

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

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!