

The Beaver Beacon



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March 1963

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH?

by Hal Boyle



WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? How can you put the wonder of it into words? If a psychiatrist stretched himself out on his own warm couch after his last customer had gone home, and he dreamed of the man he himself would most like to be - well, he might be perfect, but he'd still be only half an Irishman on St. Patrick's Day.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? It is to have an angel in your mouth, turning your prose to poetry. It is to have the gift of tongues, to know the language of all living things. Does an Irishman pause and turn an ear to a tree? It is because on this day he wants to hear what one sleepy bud says to another as it opens its pale green hands to the warm sun of spring.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? Oh, on this day it is music. Not just the cornet in the parading high school band, but the deep, deep music of living, the low, sad rhythms of eternity. The Irishman hears the high song of the turning spheres, the dim lullaby of the worm in its cocoon. All the world is in tune, and he is in step with the tune, the tune that only he can hear.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? It is to live the whole history of his race between a dawn and a dawn - the long wrongs, the bird-swift joys, the endless hurt of his ancestors since the morning of time in a forgotten forest, the knock-at-his-heart that is part of his religion.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? It isn't only the realization that he is descended from kings. It is the realization that he is a king himself, an empire on two feet striding in power, a strolling continent of awe.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? Why on St. Patrick's Day, to be Irish is to know more glory, adventure, magic, victory, exultation, gratitude, and gladness than any other man can experience in a lifetime.

WHAT IS IT TO BE IRISH? It is to walk in complete mystic understanding with God for twenty-four wonderful hours.



HERE'S WISHING YOU THE TOP OF THE MORNING!



WEATHER ANALYSIS: Vernon Fitzpatrick gives us the following analysis of our February weather:

Highest Day	February 6th	33 degrees
Average Daytime Temperature		19 degrees
Lowest Night	February 22nd	-19 degrees
Average Nighttime Temperature		25 degrees

There were 15 nights in February with temperatures below zero.
Snow fell on 12 days.
The total snowfall for February was 7".
Heaviest snowfall was on February 4th with a total of 2.5".

ICE HIKERS VISIT ISLAND: Sunday, the 24th of February, dawned bright and clear, prompting two Charlevoix brothers, Ivan Whitley, age 27, and Donald, age 25, to carry out a venture they had planned for sometime; to walk to Beaver Island. The thermometer hung at 5 degrees below zero and the wind was brisk out of the north west at 20 to 25 M.P.H. With their pockets loaded with candy bars and raisins and each carrying a one quart thermos of coffee, they set out from Charlevoix at 7:45 A.M. For the first two hours, the going was good, but then they encountered a stretch of rough ice and the snow had drifted deep. For 1½ hours, they trudged through crusted snow and piled ice, finally making it through to good going again. Word had reached the Island that the boys were coming and Joe McPhillips had reported their progress while on a flight to the Island. Walt Wojan set out from Sand Bay, with his snow scooter and headed south, looking for them. He spotted them about five miles south of Sand Bay, and brought them into town, where tired, wind burned, hungry but happy, they were made guests at a Smorgasborg the Civic Association was putting on at the Shamrock. They had covered approximately 26 miles in their feat, which, as far as we know, is a first. This route had been covered by car, years ago, but not on foot.

SMORGASBORG DINNER: On Sunday, February 24th, a Smorgasborg Dinner was held at the Shamrock, sponsored by the Beaver Island Civic Association. Eileen Martin and Loy Malloy were in charge and their committee consisted of Mary Minor, Lillian Gallagher and Grace Nackerman. A fine crowd was in attendance and a grand time was had by all. The Whitely brothers were guests of the Civic Association, and of course, travel by ice was the topic of conversation. Our Civic Association treasury was increased by \$70.00 and everyone enjoyed themselves so much that it has been mentioned of making this an annual affair.

SERVICEMENS NEWS: The following new addresses have been received by the Beacon editors:

Andrew J. Gallagher, Q.M. 1/c
M. I. O. Customs House
New York, New York

Pvt. Isabel G. LaFreniere WA 8521709
W.A.C. Co., U.S.A.M.T.C.
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

BEAVER ISLAND POLAR BEAR CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL OUTING. Last April, Archie LaFreniere decided to try out his boat and motor in Sand Bay, for the harbor was still blocked with ice. He rowed out aways in order to have plenty of water for the motor. Water was seeping through the seams, but

not at an alarming rate. Now, usually when a motor is started for the first time of the season, it takes some doing, but not so this time. It was just as though he had yanked the tail of a Tiger. The motor roared, the bow went up and stern went down and Archie was suddenly waist deep in ice cold water, 25 yards from shore.

Archie decided to start the season earlier this year and also to try something besides a leaky old boat. Driving his truck outside of a ridge of jammed ice, just north of Sand Bay, he finally found a soft spot of snow ice and drove in. Just the front wheels had gone through, so he climbed out to look the situation over. Slowly, the truck settled to the bottom in five foot of water. Archie was dry, but his spirits were damp as he and Karl Kaubler, who was out of the truck at the time of the mishap, hiked into town to summon a winch truck.

BIRTHS: A girl, Sharon Jean, born on February 21st - 7 lbs., 6 oz. - to Mr. and Mrs. Hal Smith. Mrs. Smith is the former Rosemary Nackerman.

Also, on February 21st, a great-grandson for the James O'Donnells. A boy, James, for Sally and Morris Boyle.

On February 22nd, a girl, Mary Beth was born to Terry and Mary (Malloy) Hallaran.

Mrs. Maria Gallagher received word of a great-grandson born January 19th. A boy, Jeffery Scott, the parents are Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sauber. An unusual note to this announcement is that Jeffery has three brothers, all born in January. A brother, 2 years old and a set of twin brothers, 1 year old.

GAME NEWS: The first of this month saw the end of a most successful rabbit season. Poor Milt's trade marks can be seen throughout the Island, that of rabbit pelts hanging in the trees and bushes. Smiling. Milt had the thrill of his life when his young beagle brought one rabbit right to him instead of burying it in the snow.

Vern Fitzpatrick reports that he spotted the group of turkeys by the airport and that they appeared to be getting along alright despite the severe winter.

The coyote population was decreased by one this past month. Frank O'Donnell and Lawrence McDonough spotted the coyote from Frank's house and called Archie LaFreniere to put his dogs on the track. Shortly, the dogs were off and running on the hot track. Archie and Perry Gatliff headed for the shore as this was the usual route Mr. Coyote took. The coyote, however, circled back to the King's Highway again, with the dogs on his heels and was forced into a hole in a snow bank. Rogers Carlisle, who was rabbit hunting in the area, heard the commotion, went to investigate and bagged the coyote.

Eddie Wojan has been trying his hand at coyote trapping, though his traps haven't caught any coyotes as yet. He did catch 3 fox, one of which had been killed in the trap by a coyote. Keep trying, Eddie, we all wish you the best of luck.

The Cable's Bay fishing safari, that was described in the last Beacon, lifted their nets and brought up some very large perch.

The Civic films have been returned. Mr. L. G. Zimmerer of Kingston Products Corporation in Kokomo, Indiana presented them at a P.T.A. meeting and the Metropolitan Kiwanis Club. If you have a group to present the films to, please write to the Civic Association stating when you would like to have them and for how long you would need them.

SCHOOL NEWS: The following students were on the Beaver Island School Honor Roll.

Grade 1	Doris Kenwabikise	Grade 6	Judy LaFreniere
Grade 2	Richard Gillespie		Buddy Martin
	Joan LaFreniere		Ronald Wojan
	Audrey Wojan	Grade 7	Joseph McDonough
Grade 3	Susan Nestle	Grade 8	Phyllis Gregg
Grade 4	Gale Dillingham		Sandy LaFreniere
	Daniel Gillespie		Jeanne Wojan
Grade 5	Kevin McDonough	Grade 9	Pamela Martin
	Mary Ann Palmer		William Gillespie
	Angie Wojan	Grade 10	Edward Wojan
		Grade 12	Evelyn Palmer
			Carol Ann O'Donnell

FIRST CLASS: Starting last month, we sent the Beaver Beacon 1st class mail instead of 3rd class. In this way, we hope to correct any irregularities in the arrival of your Beacon. If you do not receive your Beacon at any time during the year, please, write and we will replace the one you did not receive.

SHOWERS: Not rain but stork. On February 13th, Skip McDonough, Joy Green and Vera Wojan were hostesses at a shower for Lillian Gregg.

Loy Malloy, Eileen Martin, Mary Minor and Rose Connaghan were hostesses at a shower for Lillian Cole on March 3rd.

The Island is waiting now to see which new resident arrives first. The Cole's or the Gregg's. Perhaps, we'll have some real excitement and have both Lil's at the Medical Center at the same time.

CONGRATULATIONS: On Sunday, March 3rd, Mussette and Vernon LaFreniere celebrated their 26th Wedding Anniversary. Best Wishes from all of us.

GIRLS AND BOYS CLUBS: Working with the girls this year is Olive Dillingham, Vera Wojan, Loy Malloy, Eileen Martin, Mary Minor, Joy Green, Skip McDonough and Lil Gregg. This week the gals have planned a sleigh ride on Lawrence McDonough's sleigh.

With the boys this year is Jack Martin, Bud McDonough, Joe Dillingham, Phil Gregg, Archie Minor and Vernon Fitzpatrick.

A group of young people sorta rushed the season of picnic's this year with a wiener roast held out on the ice. Everyone had a wonderful time and what is better than a roasted hot dog on a cold, cold night?

1963 BOAT SCHEDULE: Starting June 15th and extending thru Sept. 22nd, the Beaver Islander will be running everyday, including Sunday's. Next month we will reproduce the full schedule for your convenience.

WEDDINGS: On March 3rd, to the back ground of soft music, Miss Patricia Schroeder of Muskegon and Mr. Richard Capek of Whitehall were united in marriage by Judge Conley of Charlevoix, at the Shamrock. Mrs. Orville Kamp of Muskegon was Matron of Honor and the Best Man was Mr. W. Max Klaus, Jr. of Montague. Also attending the wedding from Whitehall was Mr. and Mrs. Winton Dahlstrom. The bride wore a mint green bolero suit with matching hat and a white lace blouse. Mrs. Kemp was attired in blue. Cake and coffee were served at a reception held immediately following the wedding.

BEAVER TALES

A very few people have visited the Island without ever entering the Shamrock Tavern, for the Shamrock isn't just a tavern in the usual sense. For its entire history, it has been a public meeting place for young and old. To relate in detail, all the events that have transpired here, would fill a book, but we will present a thumb nail sketch of its history.

The Shamrock was originally built as a dance hall in the late 1920's and was located on the opposite side of the street. With the repeal of the 18th amendment in 1933, it was licensed to serve beer and operated under the name of Village Inn. In 1936, the building was moved to its present site, and turned around to face the street. Nels LaFreniere sold it to his sons, Archie and Vernon, in the fall of 1937. Lawrence McDonough was also a partner for a short while. On St. Patrick's Day, 1938, the tavern was opened for business under the name of The Shamrock.

In the 30's the life of a bartender was a rough one, as Archie now relates. This was well before T.V., but the Saturday night fights were already on the schedule. Trying to keep order among celebrating Irish fishermen was no easy task.

Following World War II during which, Archie and Dick's father, Nels died, Dick sold out to Archie in order to run his father's store.

In the spring of 1936, a murder hearing was held in the Shamrock, against Claude Swafford vs. the State of Michigan for the murder of William Thomas, a High Island Indian. Swafford was an employee of the House of David on High Island, and had found Thomas's squaw rather attractive. He paid her more attention than Thomas wished. A scuffle followed and Swafford hit Thomas over the head with a buggy spoke, killing him.

Nels LaFreniere, the presiding Judge, was at that time Justice of the Peace of St. James. From Charlevoix came Sheriff Floyd Ikens and a young Prosecuting Attorney by the name of C. M. Eice. The court recorder was from Traverse City.

The Jurors named were Pat LaFreniere, James W. Gallagher, George Trude, Andy Gallagher, Buddy White, Wilford O'Brian and Ket Gillespie.

With a beer bottle for a gavel, Court was brought to order and the defendant was cross examined by the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney. The jury retired to Nels's store, where after some time and refreshments, returned and presented the verdict as self defense and Swafford was acquitted.

In December of 1946, with the death of Charlie Anthony O'Donnell, the Shamrock was pressed into service as an undertaking parlor for two days.

On one occasion the Shamrock was used by a Social case worker to interview old age clients.

Governor Williams, on a visit to the Island, received word of the death of Blair Moody, Democratic nominee for the Senate seat. The Governor took a back table with his press secretary, and made the decision to run Pat McNamara in his place.

On several occasions, the Shamrock was the site of wedding receptions, showers and community activities of all sorts, but in March of 1963 an actual Wedding was performed, making the events of the Shamrock truly unique.

Richard Capek, of Whitehall, Michigan, visited the Island on two occasions this past year, and immediately became attached to the Island way of life. He decided this is the place where he, and after some convincing, his fiance would like to come to be married. Arrangements were made and on March 2nd the Wedding party arrived, including Judge Conley of Charlevoix. The Bride-to-be, Miss Patricia Schroeder, was very pretty and nervous, but with much poise, impressed us all. Other members of the party included Joyce Kemp of Muskegon, Max Klaus of Montague and Mr. and Mrs. Winton Dahlstrom of Whitehall. The Wedding was performed at 2:30 p.m. and a gala reception was held immediately following. The bride and groom remained on the Island for two days and are planning to return for St. Patrick's Day.

We doubt very much if there is another establishment in the country with a past and present such as this.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: The celebration will start on the Island on Saturday March 16th with a party at the Shamrock. O'Mally's Band from Wisconsin will play many an Irish jig for those attending and a lunch will be served late in the evening or should we say early in the morning.

On Sunday a real old fashioned dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. by the ladies of the Holy Cross Alter Society. Following this a movie will be presented - Irish, of course, we hope.

CHICAGO - On March 9th the annual St. Patrick's Day party for Holy Cross Church will be held at the American Legion Post #792, 8521 Commercial, Chicago, Illinois. Dancing, lunch and door prizes. Donations - \$2.00 per person, \$1.50 per child. A delegation of Islanders plan on attending this party and if you live in the Chicago area, do come and join us.

LANSING - The Annual meeting of the Beaver Island Association of Michigan will be held at Dines Terrace on March 9th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7.00 p.m. following refreshments from the Shamrock Bar. The price is \$3.50 for either a chicken or ham dinner. Please contact Charlie Earley, RFD #2, Box 113, Laingsburg, Michigan or call Fred Annand, IV42531 for reservations. A group from the Island is attending this party also, and everyone in that area is invited to attend.

THE MOTELS WILL BE OPEN FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND WE WILL BE SURE AND FIND A BED FOR YOU, SO COME ALONG UP AND CELEBRATE THE OCCASION WITH US HERE ON THE ISLAND.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH