

The Beaver Beacon



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

May 1961

WEATHER: Beaver Island's weather had almost reached a point where it could be called delightfully monotonous - clear, blue skies, warm breezes, sunshine - but May 1st was a bit of a surprise. We had a March type snowstorm with big wet flakes of snow accumulating to over two inches. Fortunately, the sun came out again and melted it all before evening.

WAGON TRAIN: Each year, about the first of May, the Beaver Island Wagon Train is made up in St. James. Homesteaders who have lived in town for the winter pack up their belongings, children, dogs and cats and start the perilous journey from civilization into the wild and woolly south end of Beaver. This year the train will be shorter. Ralph Rutt, self-appointed wagon master (because he's usually the first to leave) will wend his way down the East Side Drive alone. The Strombergs have sold their property on Pt. Lapar to Rogers Carlisle, while Milt Bennett's cabin has been sold to Roger and Alice McCarthy of Ypsilanti, Michigan. The only other wagon during the first part of the month belongs to Bud and Skip McDonough who will leave the train just beyond McCafferty's and head down the old King's Highway to the stone house to begin operations at the Ponderosa Ranch (James Gallagher's farm).

FISH BOATS A'COMIN': Russell Jensen of Manistique, skipper of the Gloria, arrived in Beaver Harbor just after the Sundew broke the ice. He had a good catch of perch and menominees aboard and many of the Islanders met him at the dock and left with a purchase of the fish. An airplane flying low over the Island would have caught the delicious aroma of fish booyah that evening, because a good many of the tasty fish ended in that delightful stew.

Mr. William Bungardner, skipper of the Harriet H., out of Charlevoix, spent over a week netting in and around Beaver Harbor. He also reported good catches of perch and menominees, but the best news of all was that a number of whitefish were taken. It brought back memories of the days when the harbor was crowded with fishing boats, and when the catch of whitefish was the rule, rather than the exception. With the belief that the Conservation Department has the lamprey eel under control, we hope the future will again see Beaver Harbor active with the fishermen and their fishboats.

EMERALD ISLE FERRY arrived in St. James Harbor on her first trip of the season April 7th. Reinstatement of the ferry service marks the beginning of our tourist season - also brings a lot of things we've run out of, such as potatoe chips, pretzels, nuts and certain brands of that golden liquid that cause the boys to shout out, "Put a head on it, Archie!" We're glad to see our "Queen Mary" back in service again.

HELP! FIRE! It has been an exceptionally dry spring and the burning of grass and leaves has been a dangerous practice this past month. Our Volunteer Fire Department has been called on five missions where grass fires have gone out of control. With woodpiles catching fire, siding on houses smouldering, pine trees exploding into flame, there is cause for alarm. This, added to the fact that our volunteer firemen are called from their jobs and places of business to put out these fires, should be good reason to use extreme caution when lighting fires. It might be of interest to know that the U.S. Department of Agriculture states that constant and continual burning of lawns and fields will kill the fine grass roots and destroy beneficial organisms in the soil, but will not effect the hard-shelled weed seeds. Eventual result - all weeds and no grass. Let's keep Beaver Island green. Remember - if you must burn off the grass, get a permit from the Conservation Department. You are subject to a fine if you fail to do so!

YACHT DOCK: Pete Rennie of Traverse City was the first to use our Municipal Yacht Dock this year. He and friend Ralph Matthews arrived on April 20th in a 36 foot LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle, Personnel).

At the annual joint meeting of St. James and Peaine Township, Phil Gregg was appointed Harbor Master for the year of 1961. Mr Gregg is also Commodore of the Beaver Island Yacht Club.

CHIEF ANTOINE PARK: A special appropriation of \$500.00 has been granted by the County Board of Supervisors for the improvements to Chief Antoine Park. The park has been named for Chief Antoine Peaine, the last Indian Chief on Beaver Island - and still remembered by many of the Islanders. A special vote of thanks to the County Board for this assistance. Since Beaver Island is becoming more popular each year as a camping area, we found ourselves in dire need of additional improved camping sites. Karl Kuebler has the well drilled, and next in line of business will be to erect the shelter.

NOTE TO THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT: We have available, several turkey feeders purchased by the Game Club. Turkey feeders are normally used for feeding turkeys. But we don't have any turkeys. Do you think ducks and chickens would mind eating out of turkey feeders? Or would it have some psychological effect on them - like perhaps making them cannon ball shy? Gentlemen - we have a problem!

Truthfully, I guess we'll have to stop kidding the boys about their problems with turkeys for Beaver. Mr. Otto Failing, who has just retired from the Conservation Department as District Game Supervisor after over 25 years of service, informed us that twenty or more young birds will be brought to Beaver Island in August from the Pennsylvania Game Farms.

SMELT RUN began early on the morning of Friday April 28th. Real early. About 2:30 A.M. The delicious little fish were netted in sizeable numbers at the Jordan River. This event is looked forward to by the Islanders almost as soon as the snow begins to thaw. The enthusiastic dippers go without sleep, come home with wet feet and the sniffles, but buckets filled with the silvery fish make all of it worthwhile.

NEW ARRIVALS: Paul and Isabel Kenwabikisse announce the birth of a boy, James David, on April 12th at Charlevoix Hospital. The "Kens" are now the proud parents of six boys and nine girls.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Flynn of Los Angeles, California announce the birth of a daughter, Mary Pat, born April 29th. Mrs. Flynn is the former Eileen Gatliff.

Shirley and Emerald Gallagher announce the birth of a baby boy on April 15th. Emerald is the brother of Johnny A. Gallagher, engineer on the Emerald Isle ferry.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bonner announce the birth of a baby boy on April 23rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Runberg of Bay City are the parents of a son born April 9th. Mr. Runberg is the son of the former Margaret McCann.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Donnell of Chicago are the parents of a daughter, Maureen, born April 9th.

ENGAGEMENT: Mr. and Mrs. Elston Pischner announce the engagement of their daughter Barbara to Allen Adams. The wedding will be an event of July 15th in Mesa, Arizona. Mr. and Mrs. Pischner are former Beaver Island residents.

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS: The following new addresses have been received.

A/N Kenneth McDonough, VT-7, T/S, NAAS, Kingsville, Texas.

A 2/C Gary McDonough, AF16657202, 198 3rd AACS, Box 128, APO 23, New York, New York.

OBITUARIES: The body of Mrs. Nancy Waubininkee was returned to Beaver Island on April 7th for burial at Holy Cross Cemetery. Mrs. Waubininkee died at Grandview Medical, East Jordon, Michigan after an extended illness. She was born on High Island and was the mother of Mrs. Paul Kenwabikisee.

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. John McClory in Chicago. Mrs. McClory was the mother of Mrs. John (Rose) Hannon, a frequent summer visitor to the Island.

Edward Lewis Nestle, three month old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nestle of Beaver Island, died unexpectedly May 2nd. The body was returned to Bliss Cemetery, Bliss Township, Emmett County, for burial.

REV. W. BERNARD SCHEID celebrated his Silver Anniversary to the Priesthood on April 8th at Holy Rosary Church in Chicago. A Solemn High Mass was celebrated at 12:00 Noon, followed by a reception in the church basement. Many former Beaver Islanders and friends attended the ceremonial affair. Fr. Scheid was born and raised on Beaver Island.

DOMNIAN BROTHERS: Word has been received that on June 23rd Brother Cornelius Luke of Barrington, New York will arrive on the Island to open the retreat house at the Domnian Brothers Lodge. Forty more of the Brothers will arrive on June 27th.

CANCER BENEFIT: The party for the benefit of the American Cancer Society was held at the Shamrock on April 22nd. Once again the generosity of the Beaver Islanders was apparent, when it was found donations totaled \$130.75. Gifts were donated by the Islanders and auctioned throughout the evening. The party was under the chairmanship of Eva McDonough, who with her committee served a delicious lunch at the end of the evening.

MEDICAL CENTER NEWS: George Van Buren, President of the Civic Association, has appointed Rogers Carlisle, Jewell Gillespie, and Joe Dillingham as a committee along with himself to be responsible for the procurement of a new doctor. Joe has been elected chairman of the group and will serve in that capacity until the new doctor has been chosen.

ELECTION NEWS: Five years ago a 4 mil tax was voted by the electors of St. James Township for street lights, play ground, dump cleanup, etc. This was voted for a five year period which has now run out. It was then necessary to vote milage again this year at the April election which was 5 mils. Included in this was one mil for airport purposes. There has also been a 7½ mil tax spread for the new school each year since it was built, and we are happy to know that this debt is about paid off and will only have to spread 3 or 3½ mils next year to finish it.

BEAVER TRAPPING: It's all over but they had fun while it lasted. Even the girls took to trapping this year, getting up at 5:30 to check traps with Tony McDonough. Rogers Carlisle and Walter Wojan trapped 40 of the beaver along with the one otter mentioned in last month's Beacon. Karl Kuebler got 8 and Tony ended with 7 pelts. Walt got the largest beaver, weighing 57 pounds, while Rogers came in second with an animal of 54 pounds.

DR. E. E. BALES of Indianapolis, Indiana visited the Island the first week in May. Dr. Bales is directly responsible for your Beaver Beacon. It was through his suggestion that summer visitors would appreciate news from the Island when vacations were over, that the Beacon was begun. He gave the Civic Association its first mimeograph machine and thus the "Biggest, Little Newspaper of the North" was born.

MISS MAUREEN GALLAGHER, daughter of Norbert and Jane Gallagher, received her cap at Mercy Central School of Nursing at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on April 9th.

PERKY, PURPLE POODLE PUP: The Pink Poodle Gift Shop got some live competition this past week in the form of one small purple poodle named "Frosty". The perky poodle came with his folks, Ed and Jane Howland, owners of the Bittersweet Kennels in Bartlett, Illinois, and breeders of miniature poodles and Kerry blue terriers. He had been given a new tinting job for his trip and arrived in glowing purple with a purple bow in his topknot. As you can well imagine, he caused endless comments during his visit.

GAME CLUB NEWS: The Game Club reports that the mineral blocks for the deer have arrived. Members will set out the blocks at various locations around the Island.

FOX LAKE: Some doubt and much confusion have arisen since the Conservation Department recommended that the existing fish population of Fox Lake be removed.

To briefly recap the story, at one time Fox Lake was an excellent bass lake, but perch were introduced into the waters and increased with such rapidity that it is believed they ate the bass spawn and now very few bass are left. Last fall, the Conservation Department took netting samples of the lake and found it contained mostly undersized and malformed perch and very little else. A vote was taken at the Civic Association meeting of February 9, 1961, and it was decided to completely eradicate the present fish. Plans at that time were to restock the lake with bass, blue gills, and crappies.

Recently a letter was received from Mr. Max Hunt of Fisheries Division, suggesting that we try a trout planting. With the thought in mind that a trout lake on Beaver Island would be advantageous, the Civic Association informed Mr. Hunt to proceed with the planting in the fall.

When some of our local anglers were informed of this decision, they were doubtful of its success in the belief that trout would not reproduce in the lake, that the waters were too warm, that fingerlings would be planted thus causing long delay before the lake could be fished again, and that since we knew bass could live in the lake, it was unwise to attempt an experiment that stood a good chance of failure.

On May 1st, Mr. Fukano, Conservation Department Biologist, and Mr. Jerry Meyers of Fish Division arrived and poisoned the lake. They offered to hold a discussion at Beaver Lodge with Game Club members and other interested persons to clear up the confusion. Following is the information they have given us on the trout planting:

In late summer or early fall, they will come to test the water of the lake. If the toxicant has completely disappeared, 2500 legal size rainbow trout will be planted. If traces of the toxicant remain, the first planting will be of brown trout since they are not as susceptible to the poison. Since neither species will reproduce in the lake, continual plantings will take place each fall, always using legal size fish. These fall planted trout will be nine to ten inches long in spring. Rainbow trout will stand warmer water temperatures than was formerly believed. The Department has experimented with these plantings in similar lakes and has had 80% success. Bass will not be planted with trout, since the trout lakes have individual fishing laws set up by the Department, and the seasons of the two species might conflict. A constant check will be kept on the lake to determine whether it is used enough to merit replanting and whether the fish survive through the season. Should the Department find that fishermen do not use the lake, or if dead fish appear on the surface, the trout plantings will be discontinued, and the lake will again be stocked with bass as originally planned.

On May 5th, the Civic Association voted unanimously in favor of the trout planting. We wish to thank Mr. Fukano and Mr. Meyers for their technical advice and wish the Department success in this endeavor. Small perch have already begun to rise and we are well on the way to having good fishing in Fox Lake once more. A trout lake on Beaver Island will be of value to diversify our fishing and we appreciate the interest and efforts of the Conservation Department.

ROSES FOR ROSIE: Remember the line in "Child of the Sea" about the pretty girls that come from Beaver Island?

Rosemary McDonough, daughter of Bert and Mary McDonough has proven she has both beauty and intelligence. Miss McDonough was selected as one of thirteen finalists from a group of over one thousand contestants in the Patricia Stevens' "Girl of the Year" contest.

At the finals held April 28th at the Patricia Stevens Studio in Chicago, Rosemary took second place, first place being given to a young lady from Germany. The girls were judged on poise, appearance and scholastic ability. Congratulations, Rosemary. Your family and many friends are very proud of you.

SENIOR CLASS OF 1961: On Friday, May 5th, Tony McDonough, Irwin Martin, and Larry McDonough left with their chaperone, Bud McDonough, for what sounds like a most interesting trip. They planned to arrive in Grand Rapids on Friday, where they were to spend the night, leaving on Saturday for Chicago. Saturday afternoon they were to be given a tour of the Windy City under the guidance of some former Beaver Islanders. On Sunday they will head for Comiskey Park to see a double header between the Detroit Tigers and the Chicago White Sox. Mr. Lin Rountree, new property owner on Beaver Island, has furnished box seats for the group just behind the catcher's box, and they are hoping to bring back a souvenir baseball or two. Monday the group is to drive through Wisconsin to the Soo where the Chaplain of Kenochi Air Base has given them permission to tour the base. Have fun boys, and you, too, Bud!

Lawrence and Wini McDonough were proud to learn that their son, Larry, had been accepted at Northwestern Michigan College at Traverse City where he will take a Liberal Arts course.

BEAVER ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS: At the meeting of April 6th, the Beaver Island Civic Association voted to accept advertising in the Beaver Beacon. Advertising will be accepted in the following categories: For Sale, Wanted to Buy, Lost and Found. Charge for an ad will be \$1.50, not to exceed four lines. If you wish to place an ad in the Beacon, contact the Secretary of the Civic Association. Deadline for accepting ads will be the 30th of each month. We felt this venture might be an added service, not only to local residents, but to our out-of-town readers. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to obtain wanted items or to sell articles you no longer need.

BITCO NEWS: Mr. Joe Dillingham informs us that the following new phones have been installed:

Jack Connaghan	448-5973
Mary Gatliff	448-5811
Arthur Larsen	448-5502
James O'Donnell	448-5610
Lin. T. Rountree	448-5733

MEANWHILE - BACK AT THE RANCH: Francis and Liz Mooney have done it again. Well, not exactly Francis and Liz, but the beautiful Belle gave birth to a lovely daughter. Belle is a sorrel mare and her pretty filly has been named "Little Liz".

Willie and Clara Schmidt will not be outdone by the Mooney's however. Their Suzie had ten! Suzie is a Yorkshire pig and her little ones came fully equipped with squeals and curly tails.

We certainly can't neglect Boots. She proudly presented Ralph Rutt with five - furry kittens, that is.

Fred Annand says there are turkeys on Beaver Island, but they are his! He brought one gobbler and two hen white domestic turkeys for breeding stock. He has no intention of competing with the Conservation Department and we forgot to ask him whether they show signs of being cannon ball shy!

Our two white ducks that graced the harbor last summer are back on duty again. They spent the winter on Patterson's farm. I believe we said something last fall about their returning with a family. We feel a little foolish in admitting this was quite impossible since they were both girls! However, plans are to bring some boy friends to keep them company during the summer - and who knows? Maybe you will see some baby ducklings later in the season.

Along with many new calves, Beaver Island's domestic animal population, at least, is on the increase.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

Slightly used 24" Toastmaster Electric heater. Cost new \$32.60. Will sell for \$20.00. Mrs. Vernon LaFreniere, St. James.

1948 Stinson Airplane. 165 HP, New license & fabric, 304 Hrs. SMOH, Hvy. case, X-wind Ldg. Gear, Based at Island, Make offer. Burdene Stromberg, St. James.

WOULD YOU BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT the Catholic Church that once stood on Garden Island was built by the Devil? The builder's real name was Hugh R. Gallagher and he was nicknamed "The Devil" by his friends!

And now it is time to follow the advice of Izaak Walton:

BE QUIET, AND GO A-ANGLING

(from "The Compleat Angler, 1653)

See you next month!